



Quiet Garden Movement
sharing outdoor space for the inner journey

01494 578909
info@quietgarden.org
www.quietgarden.org

Hosting a Quiet Garden experience Affiliate Information Pack

We are delighted that you are exploring joining the Quiet Garden Movement.

Each Quiet Garden experience is unique and responds to local needs and circumstances, and has its own particular identity, rhythm and charism. Be it through day retreats, “drop-in” times or led quiet mornings, they provide space for sharing prayer and stillness, learning and laughter.

There are two Quiet Garden schemes:

- **Affiliate Scheme** - This is for those that have a **garden they would like to open to the public as a quiet space**, as well as **for individuals who lead and organise retreats and quiet days in the outdoors**. The hosts, or host organisation, will self-identify as Christian and are likely to be part of a church community for support.
- **Associate Scheme** is for gardens that are usually within **organisational settings** such as **schools, hospitals or community gardens**. The host organisation may be unconnected to any faith tradition, but they recognise the value of the provision of space for quiet and stillness for their staff, clients and students.

Enclosed are more details about becoming a Quiet Garden Affiliate – including details of how to apply, as well as background information about the Movement.

Before applying...

Before applying you might also like to look at our **latest newsletters and news** at www.quietgarden.org/news/ - and explore affiliate and associate **Quiet Gardens are near you**, perhaps visiting or speaking to the host (find your nearest at www.quietgarden.org/find-gardens/).

We strongly recommend that there is a small supporting team for each Quiet Garden, which will support the host, practically and with prayer – and they may help design the format and programme for that particular Quiet Garden experience. It may be appropriate to form this group before applying.

Questions...

There is a growing list of answers to Frequently Asked Questions on our website (see www.quietgarden.org/join/hosting/#FAQs). If you have any further questions about joining please do get in touch using the contact details below or complete the online form at www.quietgarden.org/join/hosting/questions/

Ready to apply...

The process of joining the Movement as an affiliate or associate begins when you complete the application form. It is a process of mutual discernment and discussion.

When you are ready to proceed with joining please complete the online application form at www.quietgarden.org/join/hosting/#apply - or if you would prefer use the paper-based application form at the end of this pack and return it to us.

Patrons: Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Margaret Magdalen Evening, Richard Foster, Terry Hershey, His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Professor Sir Ghillelan Prance, Rt Revd John Pritchard, Margaret Silf, Revd Lucy Winkett

Reg. Charity No.1038528

About Quiet Garden Affiliate Scheme

The Quiet Garden Affiliate Scheme is for those that have a garden they would like to open to the public as a quiet space, as well as for individuals who lead and organise retreats and quiet days in the outdoors.

Affiliate gardens are usually within private homes, churches and retreat centres. The hosts, or host organisation, will offer primarily an outdoor space for contemplation and reflection. The host may organise events in their garden space and host retreat days, and as an affiliated garden you will be part of a worldwide network of gardens promoted on our website.

Affiliate individuals organise and lead retreats and quiet days for people primarily in the outdoors, but not necessarily in the same place each time. You may have access to a garden, a nature reserve or other outdoor space for your led events focussed on contemplation and reflection, but they may be different locations and are not necessarily designated 'quiet gardens'. As an affiliated individual you will be part of a worldwide network of like minded people, with your events and services promoted on our website, and you may choose to work with other affiliated Quiet Gardens as venues for your retreats and events.

Affiliate individuals and hosts will self-identify as Christian and are likely to be part of a church community for support.

The values

Affiliate Quiet Garden hosts will usually provide simple provision of hospitality and prayer drawing on the spiritual resources of the Christian tradition. It is important that as a host you are in agreement with our core values of **hospitality, contemplation, nature connection** and **creativity**.

The space

Quiet Gardens vary greatly in size and design. They can be large or small, manicured or wild. The key feature is that the space is set aside, even just for a few hours, for quiet reflection.

The outdoor space will act as both a context and focus; in which to share the inner search for wholeness, natural beauty and silence, and in which ancient Christian wisdom and the contemplative tradition can be explored.

A private home may offer Quiet Garden space by appointment, or at set regular times with or without teaching or 'input'. Churches may consider how they can make best use of the space around their building, developing the grounds with vision and imagination to become an attractive space available to the local community, for led quiet days, or individual reflection. Retreat centres, who welcome guests for residential stays, may also make Quiet Garden space available for local people or for events and teaching around the core values and theme of Quiet Gardens.

To help people feel welcome and comfortable, a Quiet Garden usually has some shelter and access to toilet facilities, as well as the possibility for visitors to receive simple refreshments.

A supportive team

At the heart of every Quiet Garden we suggest there is a small group of people who will support the host, practically and with prayer. They may help design the format and programme for that particular Quiet Garden.

This small group will be made up of people who understand what the Quiet Garden is about, and pray for the work of the Quiet Garden. They can also welcome visitors, make the coffee, and set the tone of what is offered in that Quiet Garden. Visitors may bring their own needs and emotions so someone from the host team may be available for support and to listen should the need arise. We also recommend enlisting the support of local clergy, particularly as Quiet Gardens can act as a resource for them and their congregations.

Affiliate Agreement

When affiliating, hosts, and members of the supporting group, are asked to agree to the Affiliate agreement statement of intent that can be found in the application form.

About The Quiet Garden Movement

The Quiet Garden Movement nurtures access to outdoor space for prayer and reflection in a variety of settings, such as private homes, churches, retreat centres, schools and hospitals – and creates opportunities for people to experience silence, restfulness and contemplative practices, with regular quiet days and retreats being offered in many Quiet Gardens. There are over 300 Quiet Gardens worldwide.

The Quiet Garden Movement flows from the example of Jesus's withdrawal to natural places to pray and his invitation to, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest' (St Mark's Gospel 6.31). If Jesus regularly and consistently needed such space to just 'be', then so do we.

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest"
Mark 6:31

Those involved in the Quiet Garden Movement come from a variety of traditions, churches and cultures, and as such we express our heritage in many diverse ways and welcome the diversity of fellow travellers on the journey. All are welcome to Quiet Gardens, to rest in the presence of God, whatever spiritual path they follow.

Quiet Gardens vary widely in their size and situation, but at the core is the provision of outdoor space intentionally set aside for prayer, silence and refreshment. This can be a permanent space, such as in a church, retreat centre or school setting, or a provisional space set aside for a particular time, such as the use of gardens in private homes. A key feature is setting aside a sanctuary space and time for stillness, prayer and contemplation. Quiet Gardens are enjoyed in solitude and with others, with some gardens being open as part of regular 'quiet days' and retreats and others by appointment only.

Quiet Gardens provide hospitality and a safe, quiet space for coming home to oneself, for spiritual contemplation and reflection.

Uniquely Quiet Gardens are a local initiative and resource for people from your area. They operate in a low-key way with low-costs and charges, and are situated in town and country.

Quiet Gardens are accessible, friendly and adaptable to local needs, and aim to be places where people can find welcome, stillness and spiritual refreshment. The outdoor space and garden act as both a context and focus, in which to share the inner search for wholeness, natural beauty and silence, and in which ancient Christian wisdom and the contemplative tradition can be explored.

Core values of Quiet Garden experiences

The core values of Quiet Garden Movement include:

Hospitality – the offer of a warm-hearted, simple welcome to all. Quiet Gardens are places of hospitality, which is offered to all who wish to visit from any faith background or none. Such hospitality draws on the deep wells of Christian spirituality and the monastic past as well as the gifts of the host team. In a home setting this may begin with listening to guests, as Jesus listened to those he encountered, before responding to individual needs whether those needs are a cup of coffee, a warm corner or a niche in the garden just to be.

Contemplation – the practice of silence, stillness, meditation and prayer. Quiet Gardens are rooted in the Christian contemplative tradition as expressed in the Scriptures and the wisdom of the desert tradition, as well as the Christian mystical tradition and Celtic spirituality. Quiet Gardens provide a context for learning about these sources and resources, and enjoying silence, attentiveness and contemplative prayer.

Nature Connection – the opportunity to deepen our relationship with the natural world. Time in a Quiet Garden can be helpful for our health and wellbeing, as well as our spiritual journey. Deep restfulness and refreshment within the beauty of creation can often take place, and there will be many opportunities for attentiveness and moments of wonder and transcendence to occur. All these restore body, mind and soul. Our care for the environment creates balance for daily life and inspiration for compassionate activism. Time in a Quiet Garden enhances our relationship with the earth and encourages care for creation.

Creativity – the provision of quiet outdoor space to inspire. Quiet Gardens are often spaces designed with great creativity. They are hosted by creative people and groups. And time spent in them allows moments of inspiration and creativity to come to the surface.

The History of the Quiet Garden Movement

The first Quiet Garden opened at Stoke Poges in Buckinghamshire, England in September 1992, but the story began long before that. Quiet Gardens were the vision of Philip Roderick, an Anglican priest at the time working in the Diocese of Oxford, England.

It began in South Wales when Philip, about 14 years old at the time, was on holiday with his family. He went for an evening walk alone up the cliff path and was suddenly aware of a different reality, a depth to things of which he had previously been unaware. This experience lasted for about half an hour. Afterwards he returned to his family, outwardly the same, but inwardly transformed. He later found out that it was the site of a monastic settlement.



Philip Roderick is the Founder of The Quiet Garden Movement.

The Seed is Sown

In 1974 he felt drawn to his Welsh roots and journeyed to St David's. Here, on the spray swept beaches, ancient cliffs and ruined St Non's Chapel, he was the archetypal pilgrim, trusting implicitly that "all shall be well", knowing simply that he was meant to be there and that God would work things out. Here he encountered an amazing woman, named Lilian Jones, who consistently opened the door of her heart and her home to individuals she met around the city. Here the vision slowly began to form within: a network of pilgrim centres, a lattice work of prayer and hospitality, comfort for weariness, laughter for enlightenment, nurture for the quest. The seed took eighteen years to bear fruit from the dark fertile earth of vocation, failure and success, aspiration and anxiety. A three month sabbatical, spent partly in India and partly in the USA, enabled Philip to articulate the vision fully.

The Vision ...

At the time he was Director of the Chiltern Christian Training Programme in the Diocese of Oxford and he shared his dream of such a community with students on a Contemplative Discipleship course he was leading. These students were busy people, who sensed that there had to be more to Christianity than activity and that there was indeed a beauty in the stillness they wished to realise. They knew they were ready to engage with the contemplative dimension of the gospel: the "being" part of "human being", or to put it more colloquially, "Don't just do something, sit there!" One day while enjoying the peace of his own garden it occurred to him that what was needed for this simple ministry of hospitality and prayer was a home and garden – there was no need for expensive premises.

... and the Reality

In the early Summer of 1992 Philip mentioned the need for somewhere to begin. Almost immediately a house was offered! The generosity of the owners in "lending" part of their gracious home provided the ideal context for the pilot venture at Stoke Poges in Buckinghamshire, near the church where Thomas Gray wrote his "Elegy in a Country Churchyard". He felt led to call this venture "The Quiet Garden", after a line in a poem he wrote as a teenager, "a falling flower in a quiet garden". It soon became clear that this simple idea of low-cost retreats or step-aside time in people's homes and gardens could be replicated anywhere in the world.



Stoke Poges in Buckinghamshire

Since that first Quiet Garden opened in September 1992, the ministry has grown steadily. Soon after, following visits to USA and Canada by Philip, a number of Quiet Gardens opened in those countries. Since then people in Australia, New Zealand, Africa and India as well as Europe have offered Quiet Gardens. The concept has spread to include quiet spaces in churches, schools, hospitals and prisons.



Affiliate Application Form

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Affiliate individuals and hosts will self-identify as Christian and are likely to be part of a church community for support.

Before completing the form...

Please have read the details about the [Affiliate](#) Quiet Garden Scheme, as well as the background information about the Quiet Garden Movement that can be found at www.quietgarden.org/join/hosting/

AFFILIATE AGREEMENT

In becoming affiliated to The Quiet Garden Movement, as host and members of the supporting group, we agree to the following statement of intent.

- Inspired by the dynamic theology of the Trinity we are committed to weaving the creative, caring and contemplative threads of the Christian Gospel into the fabric of everyday life. We offer a ministry of welcome, and a space for quiet reflective prayer in a nurturing context.
- We are committed to the continuing development of our own spiritual journey, particularly exploring more deeply the riches of silence, contemplative prayer and retreat.
- We agree to the suggested annual affiliation donation (currently £40 / €60 / \$100 - or similar) to the Quiet Garden Trust, to help cover the costs of running the Movement, and we note that, where applicable, the Trust asks that any surplus funds from Quiet Garden days (after deducting expenses) are donated to the Trust to help cover the costs of running the Movement worldwide.
- Our Quiet Garden will be financially and organisationally independent.
- We understand that affiliation is at the discretion of The Quiet Garden Trust, whose Trustees have the right to withdraw it at any time. The Trustees' decision would be final.

Signed by host Date:

**Return completed form by email to: info@quietgarden.org OR by post to:
The Quiet Garden Trust, The Rectory, Dark Lane,
Ewyas Harold, Hereford HR2 0EZ, UK**

ABOUT YOU - THE QUIET GARDEN HOST

These details are so we know who the registered host is for your Quiet Garden.

Title:

First Name:

Last Name:

Public Host Name:

The name(s) you want listed publicly for your Quiet Garden if different from above).

Host contact details

These are your contact details – they are not public but used for our mailing lists and so we can contact you.

Email:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Mailing address:

Mailing preferences

Twice a year we usually send 10 copies of our Quiet Places Newsletter to hosts – if you'd prefer a different amount indicate here: _____

Join our news emailing lists?

You can change your mind at any time by clicking the unsubscribe link in the footer of any email you receive from us, or by contacting us. By clicking the boxes we will subscribe you to our news email list and you acknowledge that the information you provide will be transferred to our marketing automation platform MailChimp for processing in accordance with their Privacy Policy and Terms at www.mailchimp.com/legal/

Newsletter - twice a year

News and events - up to six a year

Gift Aid Declaration – multiple donation

If you are a current UK taxpayer you can boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate to the Quiet Garden Trust. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

The Quiet Garden Trust is a Registered Charity (No. 1038528)

To Gift Aid your donation please tick the box below

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to: The Quiet Garden Trust. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and /or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Date:

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Annual Donation

We ask each Quiet Garden Host for an annual donation to the Quiet Garden Trust, to help cover the costs of running the Movement.

Currently the suggested donation for Affiliates is: £40 / €60 / \$100 (or similar)

If you are in the UK we appreciate if this donation can be set-up as a regular annual donation on 10th April, ideally as a Standing order that you set-up as it saves us considerable resources.

If you are outside the UK: the most efficient way if you are in Europe is through a Euro Bank Transfer or Euro Cheque - and if outside Europe through a cheque (in your currency) or via PayPal.

Quiet Garden Trust - Bank Details:

Account name: **The Quiet Garden Trust**

Sort Code: **30 94 28** for A/C No. **00458345**

Branch details: Lloyds Bank, 27-31 White Hart Street, High Wycombe HP11 2HL

Standing order - I will set-up a regular standing order myself using the bank details above, making a donation immediately, and then on 10th April each year

Standing order - I want the Quiet Garden Trust to set-up a regular standing order for me – complete the following details:

Please pay **The Quiet Garden Trust** £ _____ immediately, and then on 10th April

each year starting on: 10th / April / 20__

from my account until otherwise notified

My account name:

My account number: Sort Code:

Signature: Date.....

My Bank/Building Society is:

Address:

..... Postcode

Cheque - I will send a cheque to the Quiet Garden office made payable to 'The Quiet Garden Trust'

Bank Transfer - I will do a bank transfer to the bank account details above

Paypal - I am outside the UK and would like to pay by PayPal (we will send you details)

No donation - I cannot make a donation at the moment

Data Protection and Privacy (required by all)

The Quiet Garden Movement & Trust will use the information you provide in the above form to contact you about your Quiet Garden, and to manage your affiliation/association with us. For more information about our privacy policies and practices please visit: www.quietgarden.org/privacy.

I consent to being contacted in accordance with the terms at www.quietgarden.org/privacy

ABOUT YOUR QUIET GARDEN

Name of your Quiet Garden:

Garden Affiliate Type: Private Home Place Of Worship

OR Retreat Centre Other:

Individual Affiliate Type: Retreat leader Other:

Garden opening: How will your garden be open to the public? You can change this at a later stage.

Seasonal All year Appointment only

Not open to public Other:

Description of what you offer: This is what will appear on your Quiet Garden page on our website. It can include as much or little detail as you would like. It can include details of what you do, who does it and what the space is like, as well as if it is available for groups to use etc. You can change it at a later stage.

Capacity: How many people can your Quiet Garden comfortably accommodate?

Do you offer accommodation (e.g. Retreat Centre, B&B etc)

Associated denomination (if any):

Public location of your Quiet Garden experience: This is the public location - it is up to you how precise or vague it is. It will be available publicly and used on the Quiet Garden website, so that people know roughly where your Quiet Garden experience is.

Full location address of your Quiet Garden: This is NOT public and is used by the Quiet Garden Trust to know precisely where you are based.

Public contact details for your Quiet Garden

It is up to you how people can contact you about your Quiet Garden experience. All the details you give here will be available publicly and used on the Quiet Garden website, so that people can make enquiries. Each field is optional but we do suggest you provide a telephone number and/or email address.

Telephone:

Email:

Website:

Facebook page:

Twitter:

REFERENCE FORM

Only applicable for those applying to affiliate as an individual / private home

If you are applying to affiliate as an individual / private home we will ask you for the name of two people who will act as a reference and support you. One should be your spiritual guide – perhaps your minister or priest, the other a person in your community who knows you well (but not a member of your family or a close personal friend). These can be people from the support group mentioned above, your local clergy or someone that is in agreement with our core values and work and has known you for a number of years.

This serves two purposes – firstly, to ensure you have support as a host (this could be practical support in the day-to-day hosting, or more hands-off support, such as a spiritual director or pastoral support), and secondly, to ensure we follow good practice in the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our communities.

Reference Person 1:

Title: Name:

Email:

Telephone:

Address:

Prefer to be contacted by: email / phone / post

Reference Person 2:

Title: Name:

Email:

Telephone:

Address:

Prefer to be contacted by: email / phone / post