

Course fees

Introduction to Meditation Module 1 costs £90 (£50 concessions). This price includes the six week course, a meditation practice day, two CDs and several handouts, including a meditation diary.

Introduction to Meditation Module 2 costs £55 (£35 concessions). This price includes the six week course and several handouts, including a meditation diary.

Meditation practice day

This day is a popular addition to Module 1 which allows one to experience the benefit of more extensive meditation practice. The day lasts from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on either a Saturday or Sunday. It includes doing a walking meditation.

Participants are asked to bring along some vegetarian lunch to share (such as a bowl of salad or bread and cheese or quiche or fruit).

Booking

You need to book on a course module to ensure that you have a place. You can book by phone, mail or in person via the Centre office (38 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8DT, telephone 01223 577553). Bookings are not confirmed until they are paid for.

Payment can be done using a credit/debit card (on the phone or in person) or cash (in person) or cheque (made payable to 'FWBO Cambridge').

Each of the courses starts six times during the year. The courses run concurrently.

Other classes and courses

There are many other activities at the Cambridge Buddhist Centre including an *Introduction to Buddhism* course. See the newcomers' programme or online at www.cambridgebuddhistcentre.com.

Introduction

to

Meditation



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Overview of the course

Meditation provides a way to help you relax, become more focused, develop your relationships and understand yourself better. *Introduction to Meditation* provides a firm foundation in meditation, introducing both the mindfulness of breathing and development of loving-kindness (metta bhavana) meditations. It can help you to establish a regular meditation practice so that you can experience these benefits.

This leaflet describes the introductory meditation course on offer at Cambridge Buddhist Centre. It is also possible to learn meditation through drop-in classes or day events.

Format of the course

There are two modules making up *Introduction to Meditation*, each lasting for six weeks.

The first module introduces the two meditations and the second helps you to take them deeper. The two modules can be taken separately, but there are advantages in doing the second module shortly after the first to establish a regular meditation practice.

Each session runs from 7.30pm – 10pm on a Monday evening. There is a break during the evening for tea and biscuits. There is also a practice day near the end of the first module.

The sessions usually consist of instruction in meditation; short meditations; semi-formal presentations by the leader(s); discussion time for participants to relate the material to their own experience; and experiential workshop aspects.

Participants are asked to meditate at least four times a week outside the class. Two CDs are provided for module 1 containing guided meditations, and meditation diaries are provided for both modules, to help with this home practice. There is usually a review period during each session, providing an opportunity to discuss the home practice and ask questions about it.

Who the course is for

These introductory meditation modules are open to all regardless of belief and don't require any particular religious or spiritual orientation.

For the second module of the *Introduction to Meditation* course, it is necessary to be practised in the mindfulness of breathing and metta bhavana meditations. This practice could come from attending the first module, from an Introduction to Meditation day or from drop-in classes. You will benefit most from the classes if you have had a regular meditation practice for at least six weeks.

Aims

By the end of the two modules, participants should have:

- Become confident about practising both the mindfulness of breathing and development of loving-kindness (metta bhavana) meditations;
- Developed an exploratory attitude towards their experience during meditation;
- Established a regular meditation practice;
- Developed relationships with other participants by sharing experiences and ideas, in order to support their practice.

Course Outline

The content of the modules will be roughly as below:

Module 1

An introduction to the Mindfulness of breathing and Developing loving-kindness (Metta bhavana) meditations. Two CDs and a diary are provided to help with meditating at home.

What meditation is

Creating conditions for meditating

Four types of meditation

Directing attention

Posture

Mindfulness of breathing meditation

Developing positive emotions

Developing loving-kindness (Metta bhavana) meditation

Module 2

This module provides an opportunity to develop your meditation practice and take it deeper. A diary is provided with suggestions for meditating at home.

Preparing for meditation

Balancing being active in meditation with being open to experience

Developing focus while keeping a broader awareness

Developing more awareness of mental states

Dealing with difficulties in meditation

Deepening concentration

Setting down at the end of a meditation session