



Living Spirituality Connections
Resources for the spiritual journey

EVENTS RUN BY CENTRES AND ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE UK

July – September 2017

Compiled by Living Spirituality Connections

www.livingspirit.org.uk/events

If you wish to let others know about these events,
please give them a link to our website: www.livingspirit.org.uk/events.

For events that are put on regularly, see
www.livingspirit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/regularevents.pdf.

JULY 2017

To end July – Women Dancing with Gaia. Feminist Theological Visions. Link Gallery, University of Winchester. To arrange to visit the exhibition email Joanna.Wilson@Winchester.ac.uk or phone 01962 826 421.

This latest exhibition arises from the Cosmic Walk project on which Professor Lisa Isherwood and Dr Megan Clay are working at the Institute for Theological Partnerships. The Cosmic Walk attempts to place the divine on a wider canvas and understands women as agents within the evolutionary process, from the genetic level of the mitochondria, to the cultural and religious aspects of lived experience.

Emerging scholarship is showing how women have throughout our evolution danced with the energies of life rather than attempting to contain and master them. The contributing artists are Megan Clay, Jill Coughman, Angie Devereux, Annette Esser, Deborah Ireland, Jana-Faye Jakumeit, Christine Kinsey, Heike Knops, Eilean Lavelle, Silvia Martinez Cano and RKP with Rhian Jones (potter) and Elizabeth Ursic (musician).

1 July – Sexuality and Spirituality led by **Andrew Walker**. London W1.

www.pathwaystogod.org

3-7 July – Northern Spirit Pilgrimages with **Tess Ward** in Durham and Northumberland.

www.stantonypriory.co.uk

3 July – start of Reflection for Life. Edinburgh. A small group exploration of faith and life over five summer Mondays, 10.30-12noon. www.reflectivespaces.org.uk/groupwork

For people who have some experience of one or more of the following: A Retreat in Daily Life; spiritual direction; quiet days; growth in prayer course or similar, exploration of their own prayer life. Group of between 3 and 5 people.

6 July – Christianity and Transformation led by **Keith Jones**. Suffolk. www.otleyhall.co.uk

7-9 July – Mary Oliver: finding a new song to sing. South East Wales. www.llansor.org

Mary Oliver's words invite us to silence and transformation. Come and enjoy listening and being heard, and together... "Are there trees near you, and does your own soul need comforting? Quick, then— open the door and fly on your heavy feet; the song may already be drifting away."

7-10 July – Centre for the Study of Theology and Health Summer School, celebrating 25 years of the Ministry of Healing. With Right Rev Dr **Rowan Williams**. N. Yorks.

www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

10-12 July – A Bad Christian's Creed. Faith in the 21st Century. Led by **Dave Tomlinson**.

Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

10-12 July – God: None, One, Three or Many? Modern Church Annual Conference. Herts.

www.modernchurch.org.uk



What do we mean by the word 'God'? Or, for that matter, lower-case 'god' or 'gods'? A majority of people in Britain claim to believe in 'God', but is this 'the Christian God'? And what is 'the Christian God' anyway?

There are plenty of definitions, including the doctrine of the Trinity, which for some has lost its potency with the death of the

metaphysical systems in which it emerged, whilst for others it remains the best approach we have. But all the definitions can be and have been contested.

Theology cannot ignore the ideological currents and conflicts of our time. Scientific naturalism, new forms of nature mysticism, postmodernism and feminism all pose their own challenges. What remains of 'God' and how much can remain unchanged? Even the assumption that God must be 'personal', 'One' (or 'Three in One') is a matter for debate.

This conference will ask hard questions about Christian understandings of God, what they actually amount to, and whether they have been or need to be supplanted by other ways of thinking and relating to 'God'.

We will review traditional and contemporary theologies and philosophies, and contributions from the human sciences and the arts. There will be plenty of room for honest discussion, probing questions, and exploring relationships between theology, liturgy, spirituality and everyday life.

Conference Chairs: **Prof Linda Woodhead & Revd Prof Jane Shaw**

Conference Chaplain: Revd Dr Lorraine Cavanagh

Speakers (subject to change): Rt Revd David Stancliffe, Dr Dominic Erdozain, Dr Rachel Muers, Dr Nicola Slee, Prof Adrian Thatcher, Hugh Rock, Revd Jonathan Clatworthy.

8 July – Walking: Guide my feet in your way. A pilgrimage day in the byways of Kent. Aylesford. www.thefriars.org.uk

10-14 July – Sensing God through Creativity. With **Rev Anna Garvie**. Near Bath. Through uninhibited creative exploration that comes from within, we let God speak through the process. www.ammerdown.org

10-16 July – Creation spirituality retreat: Glimpses into the mystery of the unfolding universe. Antrim, Northern Ireland. www.drumalis.co.uk

14 July – Retreat Association Summer Event. Limehouse, London. www.retreats.org.uk/summerevent.php

Revd Dr Andrew Walker on 'Soul Matters'. **Emily Walker** (experienced musician and liturgist) will lead us in worship. Artist **Tim Wainwright** will be showing a short film **About Soul**, a consideration of soul in the everyday lives of Londoners. The film is part of a series of works examining the four elements of what it is to be human – mind, body, heart, soul. There will be opportunities to share responses to the film during the day. Enjoy the lovely grounds and Chapel of St Katharine's. Hear about the work of St Katharine's precinct and innovative projects at the venue. Join us for a wonderful summer's day of talks, film, discussion, worship and networking!

14-16 July – Neighbour or Stranger: A Christian Response to Forced Displacement in our World with Dr Sr **Sheila Curran**, Professor **Lisa Isherwood** and Dr **Megan Clay**. University of Winchester. www.winchester.ac.uk/itpsummerschool

This theological summer school is an opportunity to engage with the reality of displacement, referencing social, cultural, political, theological and personal studies and resources. Institute for Theological Partnerships.

14-16 July – Simplicity led by **Jennifer Kavanagh**. Near Bath. Explore what a simple life is, how we can live one, and gain clarity and focus in the process. www.ammerdown.org

15-21 July – Change Without Decay. Iona Abbey, Scotland. To apply, please contact the Wild Goose Resource Group in Glasgow – 0141 429 7281 or at wildgoose@wildgoose.scot. www.iona.org.uk/island-centres/abbey-and-macleod-centre-programme

For many people in churches, change is a no-go area, a source of stress and the cause of major disagreement. Yet change is the central dynamic of the Christian faith: Jesus both changes people and in the resurrection moves from being a corpse to a living body. The **Wild Goose Resource Group** will draw on and explore what we have seen and enabled, such as the redesigning of space; solo performer ministries becoming shared endeavours; reluctant assemblies becoming oases of song.

19 July – Ecology and Spirituality. Lecture by Professor **Ursula King**. Institute for Theological Partnerships, University of Winchester. 6.30pm for 7pm. Please email Jo Wilson: Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk if you would like to go.

21-23 July – Welcoming Mary Magdalene. A women's spirituality retreat with Rev Elizabeth Baxter and team. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

21-23 July – Taste and See. A Semi-silent retreat for beginners with Rev **Cathy Davies**. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

22 July – The Silent Garden with **Judy Cannan**. As we seek God within we find a radiant garden where our true self flourishes. Sussex. www.penhurst.org.uk

22nd July – Behold the Stillness & Beauty Garden Workshop with **Kenneth Boyd Browne**. 10.30am for 11am-3.30pm. London NW6. Booking: jennifer.sandler109@gmail.com or phone 020 7328 6718.

28-30 July – The Neglected Desert Mothers led by **Michael Woodward**. Berks. www.douaiabbey.org.uk

28 July – Who has your back? A reflective practice group for people looking for support in a variety of work roles. Led by **Elizabeth White** (spiritual director, trainer & pastoral supervisor) Evening monthly sessions on Friday evenings, 7.15 - 9.15pm. Following dates: 25 August, 29 September, 27 October Edinburgh. www.reflectivespaces.org.uk

AUGUST 2017

4-6 August – All Creatures Great and Small led by **Abbott Paul Stonham**. Herefordshire. Reflecting with the Scriptures and Saints on how God's creation draws us closer to heaven. www.belmontabbey.org.uk

5-11 August – Prophetic Art course/retreat with Bhari Long. Gower Peninsula. www.nicholastonhouse.org

13th August – Realization of Oneness. Workshop with **Martin Nathanael**. London NW6. 11am-4pm. Booking: jennifer.sandler109@gmail.com or phone 020 7328 6718.

18-20 August – Inner Path, Outer Journey led by **Ian and Gail Adams**. Near Bath. Drawing on the wisdom of contemplative Christianity and the gift of landscape. www.ammerdown.org

19 August – Poetry and prayer for all seasons of life. A day for reflecting on our spiritual journey. Led by Sr. **Felicity Young**. Aylesford Kent. www.thefriars.org.uk

20-24 August – A story to live by – a story to die for? Retreat with **Margaret Silf**. Devon www.sheldon.uk.com

21-25 August – In the footsteps of St Hilda, Whitby, North Yorks. <http://www.journeying.co.uk/journeys-2017?id=667653>

27 August – Reflective Living Workshop with **Rosas Mitchell**. Tending to the emerging stories of our lives. A restorative and sharing day for those whose lives are touched by dementia. 10:30am-4:30pm . Chapel Service at 9:30am. Near Dundee. www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk

28 August-4 September – Living from our True Self – a journey of transformation led by Sister **Margaret Taylor**. Berks. www.coldashcentre.org

SEPTEMBER 2017

1-3 September – Dare to dream: Journeying with God. Cornwall. 10:30am-4:30pm.

www.thehouseofdoves.co.uk

1-4 September – Rugged Spirituality: Praying the psalms. Led by **Peter and Dorothy Nielson**. Lindisfarne, Northumberland. www.aidanandhilda.org

4-7 September – Ebb and Flow: The Rhythm of Life. A Free to Believe retreat at Launde Abbey, Leicestershire led by **Alison Reed Richards** and **Peter Varney**.

www.freetobelieve.org.uk/uploads/3/4/5/7/34574639/ftb_2017_retreat_flier.pdf

An opportunity to be inspired by the colours and landscape, the abbey, the gardens, the forces of nature. We'll suggest creative ways to respond, and we will have the use of a dedicated space for art and other creative work. We'll have the opportunity to experience creativity, stillness, silence, meditative practices, and different ways of worship, reflection and sharing.

From September 2017 – Training in Spiritual Conversation course in Edinburgh on Thursday evenings – www.epiphanygroup.org.uk/training-courses/spiritual-conversation. And in Glasgow one weekend a month – www.iscglasgow.co.uk/sc.html. Please check with the organisers as to who can take part in these courses

8-10 September – Men's Spirituality Retreat. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

9 September – Journey into Healing. The purpose of the workshop is to be open to ourselves, to each other and to God for growth and healing. Near Dundee.

www.biellatblackruthven.org.uk

11 September – Anchoring Prayer When the Billows Roll: How prayer helps us lead a steady life with **Judith Sweetman**. Suffolk. www.otleyhall.co.uk

15-17 September – Anam Cara : exploring spiritual friendship. Birmingham.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk

An 'anam cara' is a soul friend, offering companionship, support and spiritual nourishment. This weekend offers an opportunity to explore what spiritual friendship is and how we can initiate and sustain such relationships. We will spend time together as soul friends reflecting, sharing and listening, beginning to know one another better in the "things that are eternal" and deepening our spiritual lives. We will practise deep, attentive listening to one another and gather ideas for framing spiritual friendships.

18-21 September – Sacred Circle Dancing: Breath of Life. The joy of dancing as a unit until a sense of oneness and peace enfolds you. Led by Judy Harvey. Near Bath.

www.ammerdown.org

19 - 22 September – CANA Gathering: Sacred Incarnation. Holland House, Worcestershire. Exploring our connections with Nature, our individual ecological niche on the Earth and our collective level of service to the wellbeing of the Planet and its cargo.

Full information on cost and booking: www.christiansawakening.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/HH4xA5Flyer-copy.pdf.

22 - 24 September – Christian Animism: the Christian faith as an earth-based, creation-focused spirituality. Led by **Noel Moules**. Run by Swarthmoor Hall at Woodbrooke in Birmingham. Book via www.woodbrooke.org.uk.

Animism is such an exciting concept! It describes the traditional lifeways of indigenous people, stressing their commitment to live in relationship with all persons, of whom only some may be human. This is identical to the biblical vision of shalom and Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God. We will explore all this, plus the radical eco-spirituality required to be a Christian animist in an urban-secular world, while seeking its transformation. The course will use teaching, reflections and outdoor activities.

22-24 September – Hymns for Healing with Rev Jan Berry, Workshop and Hildegard lecture. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

24 September – Day of Blessing after 9:30am Service. With Robin and Marianne Anker-Petersen. Near Dundee. 11 am-4 pm. www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk

25-29 September – Mystics, Rebels and Prophets. Retreat for Women led by **Edwina Gateley**. Exploring women of spirit who have gone before us and walk with us today. North East Wales. www.beunos.com

25-29 September – Rediscovering the Ministry of Blessing led by Rev Dr **Russ Parker**. Gower Peninsula. www.nicholastonhouse.org

26 September – Start of Growth in Prayer course in **Glasgow**. A one year programme (30 x 2½ hour sessions) for those who want a closer relationship with God, who struggle with prayer, who want to make choices that are in tune with God's dream for the world. No expertise in prayer or reflection is required. The course is open to all, of whatever

denomination or none. So come along, whether you have a specific reason for doing the course or simply want space to explore and reflect on your life in relationship to God, self and others. Course application deadline is 15 September 2017. For further details go to: www.iscglasgow.co.uk/gprl.html.

The course is also offered on Wednesday evenings in **Edinburgh**, Thursday evenings in **Fife** or residentially near **Inverness**. www.epiphanygroup.org.uk/training-courses/growth-in-prayer

29 September – 1 October – Welcoming the Soul. Cumbria. www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk

29 September-1 October – The Cradle of Christianity led by **Dom Brendan Thomas**. Discover the beginnings of Christianity in the saints, apostles and spiritual riches of Syria. Herefordshire. www.belmontabbey.org.uk

ADVANCE NOTICES

Sunday 8 October – Eco Fun Palace Day at St James’s Church Piccadilly – All welcome.

“Everyone an artist, everyone a scientist.”



What is a Fun Palace? A campaign for culture at the heart of community – an annual weekend of arts and science events created by, for and with local people.

What do ‘local’ and ‘community’ mean at St James’s? We have an amazing range of science and arts organisations very close by, and many talented individuals and groups in our geographically dispersed community.

Why an Eco Fun Palace? To celebrate planet Earth on Harvest Sunday through cultural engagement with the natural world. St. James’s achieved an Eco Church Bronze Award in 2016, and this celebratory day is part of the journey towards Gold.

What's happening? Activities such as pavement geology; drumming; minibeast hunts; dance; DNA science and conservation activities; singing; the Universe Story timeline; competitions; community artwork; labyrinth walking; bio-media meltdown; fossils; knitting and much more as the programme develops.

Further info: www.sjp.org nearer the time. The day is free of charge.

13-15 October – GreenSpirit Annual Gathering - Restoring Balance: Learning from Nature.
Holland House, Worcestershire. www.greenspirit.org.uk/ag2017

At our Annual Gathering Working with Nature, our main speaker **Nicola Peel** will tell us about some of the many incredible projects that she has worked on in the Amazon. She will explain how we can learn from nature to produce solutions to help both people and the environment through biomimicry. The intention is that this will re-invigorate us to find more ways of living in harmony with the Earth and help us to develop solutions for some of the problems that face the planet now. As well as a talk, Nicola will facilitate a Workshop deepening our engagement with the elements (Earth, Water, Air and Fire) through movement and meditation and challenge us to learn from the elements and identify with them in practical ways. We will be able to give our individual responses and hopefully we will each come away with more ways in which we can make a significant difference in the world.

Nicola Peel has been working for most of her adult life on finding solutions. Since 2000 she has been working in the Ecuadorean Amazon. She travelled from the headwaters in Ecuador down the Amazon River to Brazil researching the effects of the oil industry on the environment and indigenous people who live there. Looking for solutions to help the people she met, she co-founded The Amazon Mycorenewal Project (using fungi to clean up contaminated sites), built rainwater systems for families drinking contaminated water and she has also initiated the clean-up of villages using eco-bricks (empty plastic bottles filled with rubbish). Nicola built the first ecological restaurant in the Amazon (built from 3,200 eco-bricks) and the first place to serve local coffee. Find out more at www.nicolapeel.com