

EVENTS

January - March 2023

Arranged by many centres and organisations across the UK

Compiled by **Living Spirituality Connections**

www.livingspirit.org.uk

JANUARY

6 - 8 January Epiphany Retreat with Rev **Narinder Tegally**. Near Bath.

www.ammerdown.org



St Benedict tells us to 'Run in the way of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love'. Come and join us on a journey to discover and enter the sacred space within us and respond to the God who dwells in our hearts. We will journey with Mary, Elizabeth and Anna who are central to the Christmas Story. Using the Lectio Divina practice, we will read the scriptures, meditate and pray. And we will reflect on the women who have journeyed with us thus far.

Rev **Narinder Tegally** is lead Chaplain at the Bath RUH Trust. Before ordination in the Anglican Church, she was a registered nurse working in palliative care and mental health for young people. She is also a qualified Psychodynamic Counsellor, Supervisor and Spiritual Director, particularly working with those who have experienced loss.

6 - 8 January Epiphany Retreat led by **Chris Webb**. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

At Christmas we declare Jesus to be the light that shines in the darkness. But it is the stories of Jesus traditionally read through January, in the season of Epiphany, that start to unpack what that might look like. In this darkest season of the year, we will reflect on the Light revealed both in these stories and in our stories, and explore what God's Spirit might be saying to each of us through them as 2023 begins. **Chris Webb** is an Anglican priest and

Benedictine new monastic community member. He is the author of *The Fire of the Word* and *God-Soaked Life*.

Thursday 12 January. 7.30 – 9 pm. Woman Wisdom and Christian Ecological Living. Led by Revd Dr **Robin Parry**. Malvern and via Zoom. <http://pcnmalvern.org.uk/>

This session aims to sketch a Christian approach to creation drawing on the insights offered by the ancient biblical character of Woman Wisdom (Prov 8:22–31), who is the very Wisdom of God. **Robin Parry** is a Christian theologian known for advocating Christian universalism (a school of Christian theology focused around the doctrine of universal reconciliation – the view that all human beings will ultimately be saved and restored to a right relationship with God).

Thursday 12 January 10.30 - 11.30am Taster session for the online course: **A Shift in Perspective**, an 8 week online **mindfulness meditation course**, for wholeness in ourselves and in our engagement with the world about us, led by **Tim Stead**. Course dates: **Thursday 2 February** (and the seven following Thursdays) 10.30 to 12 noon.

This eight week course in meditation focuses on developing our own meditation practice as a way of seeking wholeness both in ourselves and in the way we respond to the world. This course is for people with some experience of meditation (in whatever tradition), not for total beginners. The aims are:

- * To support people in developing their own daily meditation practice
- * To see how meditation can shift our perspective on life and enable us to respond from a different place
- * To explore the relationship between mindfulness and the non-dual spiritual traditions.

Tim Stead is author of *Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality*. The course is put on by Othona West Dorset – www.othonawestdorset.org.uk

13 January & 10 February 10 – 12.30. Finding Life in an Era of Change. Monthly. York. www.stbedes.org.uk A monthly space for reflection, meditation, creativity & gentle wellbeing exercises to help us reconnect with our own deep spiritual resources at this time of planetary & global upheaval.

13 - 15 January. Living with Loss. Led by **Abi and John May**. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

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Come and join with others who have also experienced life-changing loss through bereavement. The aim of this supported retreat is to help you cope with your life-changing loss. Through a creative variety of activities, including led sessions, discussions and quiet reflection, we explore the journey of grief, with a focus on finding a way forward in the changed circumstances that are the result of bereavement. It includes a special time of candlelighting remembrance. This is a gentle retreat with a Christian perspective, sensitively led by Abi and John May, suitable for those who have lost a husband or wife, children or other close family members, or who have suffered multiple losses.

Abi May runs the 'Living with Loss' project, which is a member of the National Bereavement Alliance. She is an experienced retreat leader, bereavement author and educator, as well as being a bereaved mother.

Sat 14 Jan 10 - 3.30 online. Gate of the Year with Marion Bettenworth CJ & Julia Ling-MacDonald. <https://www.stbedes.org.uk>

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be better than a light, and safer than a known way". – Minnie Haskins. At the threshold of a new year this quiet reflective day will create space to pause and prayerfully reflect back over the year that has been and to creatively look forward to the year ahead.

Sat 14 January. 5-8 pm St. Anthony and Desert Wisdom: Cultivating Love through Radical Simplicity and Solitude. Online event with **Christine Valters Paintner**.

<https://abbeyofthearts.com>

Christine Valters Paintner, PhD, REACE is the online Abbess for Abbey of the Arts, a virtual monastery and global community integrating contemplative practice and creative expression.

17 January - 12 December 2023. Metanoia: "Let your minds be remade" Special Series on Zoom. 7.30-8.30 French time . WCCM. <https://wccm.org/events/>

The ten speakers include: **Mark Carney, Jane Williams, Matthew Fox, Diane Tolomeo.**

In this series on the WCCM's theme for 2023, an international group of contemplatively oriented leaders, thinkers and activists bring wide-ranging perspectives to focus on how we can change our mind. With insights from religion, science, politics, economics and technology, this series will be a year-long discovery of hope and fresh insights into our future. Discussion groups will meet between the monthly online talks to allow participants

to share their insights with others.

The solutions to our global problems and their means are already within our reach. What we conspicuously lack is the common mind to make them effective and to change the disastrous course humanity is on. Metanoia is a Greek word that simply means change your mind. This is something that comes right from the heart of the Gospel. The call of Jesus at the beginning of his public teaching was to repent. The Greek word behind that is in fact metanoia: Change the way you're looking, don't beat yourself up for the mistakes you've made but understand where you are and change your perspective.

Fri 20 2pm – Mon 23 January 2pm. Dancing While Still Standing with Revd Ian Spencer, Dorothy Littlewood and Urs Mattmann. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

Refreshing Prayer Retreat inspired by Richard Rohr. Exploring the theory and practice of contemplative prayer.

21 January 10-4. Through African Eyes: enriching our faith journey. Led by Adrian Chatfield. Notts. www.southwellminster.org/sacrista-prebend-retreat-house



“This photo is evocative of a faith journey, and is the original road up the Sani Pass into Lesotho through the Drakensberg”.
Adrian Chatfield.

This day of silent reflection will use themes from African Christianity to encourage and challenge us to think about our own ways of expressing our faith in the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We will use music and visuals to help us in our journey, and end with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist using the liturgy of the Anglican Church in Kenya.

Adrian Chatfield is a West Indian priest-theologian who has worked in the Dioceses of Trinidad and Tobago, Christ the King South Africa and in various English contexts. His main focus in ministry and teaching is prayer and spirituality, with special interests in Afro-Caribbean Christianity and faith and the arts.

Mon 23 January 10 – 4. Quiet day on the theme: God is friendship. Leader: Revd Tom Lusty. Skipton. <https://www.parcvallhall.org.uk>

Aelred of Rievaulx said that God is Friendship. On this quiet day we will celebrate our friendships and how an understanding of friendship informs our friendship with God. Free of charge.

Wed 25 January 7.30-9 on Zoom. **Introduction to Deep Abiding Prayer.** Led by **Petra Griffiths.** A **Living Spirituality Connections** event in partnership with **St James's Church Piccadilly.** Free of charge.

Learn about the roots of this heart- and spirit-centred healing prayer in the Biblical and contemplative Christian traditions. We will practise the prayer together, and do some simple exercises to enable energy to move freely through our body with our breathing.

Once you've attended the introduction, and read the accompanying booklet, you are welcome to join the monthly Zoom practice sessions 7.30-8.30 on the second Tuesday evening in the month starting on 14 February.

For the Zoom link and to be sent the accompanying booklet please email: petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk To read a short **introduction to Deep Abiding Prayer** go to: <https://livingspirit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/What is Deep Abiding Prayer.pdf>

Petra is coordinator of **Living Spirituality Connections** www.livingspirit.org.uk and is Pastoral Care Coordinator at St James's, as well as being active in the Eco Church Group.

The evening of Wed 25 January is the first of a series of events **“Interfaith Harmony Week and Beyond”**, arranged by **Spirit of Peace**, which will enable informal sharing about diverse faiths and cultures, using the creative arts as a tool for connection, learning and bridge-building.

This project continues Spirit of Peace's community cohesion work bringing together multifaith groups and other majority and minority groups using music, storytelling and healing community artwork from Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and other traditions. The programme will involve local partners and include guest artist Hanna Jaffe, an acclaimed Jewish singer and storyteller from Jerusalem, and art therapist Catriona Alderton from Art for Health, who will lead participatory art activities. In each of the events the programme will vary as we are delighted to be joined by various local multicultural performers.

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Admission is free, but donations will be gratefully received. The dates are:

Wednesday 25th January, 7:30 pm, Crawley (Crawley Museum)

Tuesday 31st January, 7 pm, Abingdon (Unicorn Theatre)

Wednesday 1st February, 7 pm, Stroud (The Christian Community)

Sunday 5th February, 2:30 pm, Kensington (Kensington Unitarian Church)

For the posters for these events go to:

<https://spiritofpeace.co.uk/latest-news/f/events-confirmed-for-interfaith-harmony-week-and-beyond>

27 - 29 January. Defiant Imagination - Living Hopefully into the Future. Led by Rev **Dave Tomlinson**. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org.uk

This retreat explores hope not as an emotion but a bold commitment to reimagining faith in the 21st century. With talks, multimedia presentations and group work, we will reflect on what a progressive approach to faith looks like – for ourselves, our church communities, and our mission in the world. We have a choice between two attitudes toward the future – a choice between imagination and nostalgia, between facing the future and backing-into it.

Dave Tomlinson is author of *The Post-Evangelical* and *Re-enchanting Christianity: Faith in an Emerging Culture*.

Fri 27 January 10-4. About The Authority of Women Mystics course. Salisbury – in person and online. www.sarum.ac.uk Led by Dr **Michael Hahn**

The medieval Church was dominated by men. Male popes, bishops, abbots and founders controlled many aspects of the ways Christians were told to worship, pray and live out their theology. Even those women who were able to exert their authority often did so under the control of men. University masters of theology such as Thomas Aquinas claimed that women couldn't and shouldn't teach theology.

However, from the thirteenth century onwards, we see lots of examples of women who often lived outside the Church's expectations for women by leading semi-religious lives often called beguines or tertiaries. Many of these women also took advantage of the new possibilities of writing theological texts in vernacular languages. In the texts they produced they often made daring claims about the authority they had as writers and theologians.

This course will look at these women and their claims, particularly Angela of Foligno and Marguerite Porete, to explore how they set these out as well as the responses to these claims which often had very varied outcomes.

Sat 28 January 2-5 Exploring David Richo's thoughts on self care. London NW1 at the FCJ Spirituality Centre. **David Richo** is author of *Human Becoming*, and *You are Not What You Think: The Egoless Path to Self-Esteem and Generous Love*.

Phone 07508 661767 for more details.

FEBRUARY

3-5 February Finding Hope and Resistance in the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Led by **Alan Heeks** and **Jonathan Herbert**. Dorset. www.hilfieldpriory.org.uk

Using material from the Christian contemplative tradition, from Joanna Macy a Buddhist and deep ecologist, and from Jem Bendell's Deep Adaptation approach, the group will explore ways to grow through emergency. We will move from a place of gratitude to a place of lament, to a place of learning to see differently and seek inspiration to act for the common good. There will be time for listening deeply to each other, meditation, walks and space for silence.

Alan is a writer, group leader, social entrepreneur with a passion for well-being, resilience and learning from nature. **Jonathan** lives and leads retreats at the Hilfield Community, from where he works with Gypsies and Travellers and is engaged in non-violent climate protest.

Suggested donation £150 to include food and accommodation. Please let Suzi know if you have any dietary requirements. **For more information and booking** please contact Suzi at Hilfield on 01300 341741 or email hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk. Please contact Suzi to check availability and avoid disappointment before registering for the weekend.

Sat 4 Feb 10.30-12.30 by Zoom. **CANA Conscious Conversation**. Led by **Rupert Sheldrake**



Theme include: morphic resonance, rituals & festivals, including the revival of pilgrimage. Please email Bill at admin@cana.org.uk if you would like to participate.

Sat 4 February 10 – 4. The Cosmic Christ: A paradigm for our time? Led by **Malcolm Clayton**. Hants. www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together”. (Colossians 1:15-17).

What do we mean when we speak of the ‘Cosmic Christ’? At a time when many commentators consider western Christianity to be at a crossroads, can an understanding and appreciation of the Cosmic, or Universal, Christ help us as we endeavour to navigate and come to terms with the crises and challenges of our current age?

Malcolm Clayton, is a spiritual director and former counsellor. Malcolm is committed to exploring what some consider to be a new ‘Great Emergence’ unfolding in Western Christian thought and practice.

4 February 10-4. The Joys of Creation: creative journaling. Notts. Led by **Mike West**. www.southwellminster.org/sacrista-prebend-retreat-house

This day is an exploration of creation and creativity. It is for those of us new to spiritual journaling and those wanting to explore different ways of expressing our ideas. Through discussion, reflection, and activity we shall explore imaginative ways to use writing and various art forms to express unique personal reflections on spiritual experience and growth. The focus is on open curiosity and reflective creativity, not artistic ability!

We shall be using the upstairs conference room, so we apologise that it is not suitable for those with limited mobility as we have no stair lift.

Mike West was Head of English at the Minster School for ten years and since retiring, has been a ChildLine counsellor and involved with the Alzheimer’s Society. Mike will be sharing his own journaling journey, inspired by Christian and other world wisdom traditions.

Thursday 9 February 7.30 pm. Is Britain Still a Christian Country? (and why few people like the answer). Via Zoom. Progressive Christianity Network, Britain. <https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events>

Join renowned speaker, author and academic Professor **Linda Woodhead** MBE (“one of the world’s leading experts on religion”) to explore whether Britain is still a Christian country. **Booking:** email sarah.guilfoyle@pcnbritain.org.uk Free. Donations welcome.

13 - 16 February. About the Modern & Post-Modern Perspectives on Christian Spirituality (2023) course. Led by **Michael Hahn**. Salisbury. www.sarum.ac.uk

This course is an excellent introduction to the forms and types of spirituality in the Christian tradition from the Reformation to the present day. We will investigate the nature of Christian spiritualities during this period and consider the impact of modernism, postmodernism, feminism, and political theology on contemporary perceptions of Christian spirituality. We will also investigate the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of academic engagement with Christian Spirituality. This is a great overview module to understand the development of Christian Spirituality after the Reformation.

This is a postgraduate course open to 'auditors' e.g. those not enrolled for academic credit. **Michael Hahn** is Programme Leader for Christian Spirituality.

Thurs 16 February 10 - 1. Creative Connections – A Renewal Space for Spring. Led by **Linda Courage**. York. <https://www.stbedes.org.uk>. In collaboration with **Living Spirituality Connections**.



Some time apart to gently reconnect to ourselves and restore our vitality and aliveness.

Each session has a similar structure and uses a similar range of creative activities for different purposes. No experience of using the arts is necessary. The session will feature heart-centred meditation alongside some input, time for creative activities, and gentle reflection and sharing. The creative activities typically include making a collage, creative writing, using timelines, capturing responses to nature...Those already familiar with the approach are welcome to simply come along and use the activities to explore whatever is in their hearts and minds. See also 1 March Day event.

Linda is a member of the Abbey of the Arts and is Arts & Spirituality Coordinator for **Living Spirituality Connections**. She has a heart for encouraging and guiding others in practices which help to reconnect us to ourselves and restore our vitality and aliveness.

17 – 19 February. Spiritual Adaptation to the Climate and Extinctions Crisis. Led by **Rupert Read**. Lake District. <https://glenthorne.org/events-programme-2023/>

We need to accept that our way of life will be changed forever as a result of the climate crisis, which is now far too advanced for us to be able to prevent or entirely mitigate against. That means adapting to the new brutal reality of the changed Earth, which is no easy task. Partly material, partly spiritual, such adaptation needs to include grief-work plus a major change in values and what we hope for. It also includes a new humility. This short course focuses uncompromisingly on spiritual adaptation to the reality of our present and future. It does so in the context of the need for continued brave truth-telling, and of the possibilities opened up by the emerging movements and organisations, ‘radical’ and ‘moderate’, which are willing to start from there.

Rupert Read is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, former spokesperson for Extinction Rebellion and co-founder of the Moderate Flank Incubator. He is the author of several books, including ***This Civilisation is Finished*** and ***Parents for a Future***. He has been a Quaker for many years. His past and present teachers include Thich Nhat Hanh and Joanna Macy. Be prepared to be challenged.

17 – 19 February. Restoring Hope and Wellbeing. Led by **Stephen Smith** Dorset. <https://the-greenhouse.org/retreats>

The last few years have been tough on those who care for others. While the UK was locked down, NHS staff, teachers, carers and others kept going. As we care, we can get ‘chipped’ – but God’s grace mends and holds us together in our brokenness when we submit to His love. Held in the tranquil setting of The Greenhouse, this weekend is an opportunity to look honestly at ourselves and be ourselves in a safe environment and in God’s loving presence. We’ll look at issues such as resilience and healthy relationships, as well as the difficult emotions encountered while caring for others such as loss, guilt, anger, shame, depression, and anxiety. Course material is drawn from ‘**Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing**’ – the word Kintsugi refers to the Japanese art of repairing broken porcelain with golden resin, making it more precious than the original. ‘He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.’

www.kintsugihope.com

17 Feb - 17 March. Loving Earth exhibition at Portcullis House, Westminster.

Details: www.lovingearth-project.uk

Sat 18 February 2-5pm online. The Woman at the Well (John 4:1-42). Led by **Donna Worthington**. <https://christianretreats.live/>

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An invitation to journey to the well, to Christ the Living Water. At Jacob's well, Jesus had a conversation with a woman; that encounter would change the lives of many. We will explore the theology and spirituality of this intriguing Gospel passage, which helps to illuminate the inner soul journey and offers an invitation to walk to the 'well', to Christ the Living Water.

Thurs 23 February 6.30 - 9 pm. The Labyrinth for Peace with Dr Martin Garsed. London EC1. <https://meditatiocentrelondon.org>

On the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine we are offering this evening to walk the labyrinth as a prayer for peace in all nations.

Sat 25 February 10 - 4. Reimagining our Place in Creation. Led by **Alison Moulden**. Surrey. www.christian-retreat.org In-person event which you can join online.

As wildfire, flood, drought and devastating storms evidence the increasing instability of global climates, we take a moment to pause and reflect on the still small voice of calm, which calls us to make our response, both individual and communal. We will reflect briefly on the science and climate statistics; consider 'green' biblical analysis and theology; consider what paradigms have brought us to consume Creation so carelessly; and finally explore sustainability for our churches and our lifestyles.

Alison is the Environment Officer at the (Anglican) Diocese of Guildford, and a Licensed Lay Minister in her local church. In 2019 she saw a one-minute video by Rowan Williams which talked about the 'possible extinction of the Human Race' and her life has not been the same since. By 10am the next morning she was on the streets of London protesting, and has been a vocal advocate for climate mitigation and reparation ever since.

Sun 26 February 2 - 5 pm. Dance, Art and Spiritual Journeying. Led by **Donna Worthington**. Preston. <https://christianretreats.live/>

Attending creatively to the compelling Gospel text of 'The Woman Anoints Jesus', we will explore its themes such as the beauty of our gifts, loss and retrieval... through dance, movement and art. No dance or movement experience is necessary, just a willingness to engage your mind, spirit, body and enjoy working to a greater wholeness. Due to the nature of the retreat, there are only 6 places (now only 2 left).

MARCH

Wed 1 March 10 – 3. Creative Connections Day with a Spring theme, Looking for Beauty. Led by **Linda Courage**. At St Bede's Pastoral Centre, York. In collaboration with **Living Spirituality Connections**. Booking: <https://www.stbedes.org.uk/>



Similar in structure and purpose to the Renewal Spaces (see 16 February), these longer sessions will give the opportunity to focus more fully on participants' responses to a guided meditation at the beginning of each day. The creative activities will focus on using one main medium.

Linda is a member of the Abbey of the Arts and a coordinator for Living Spirituality Connections. Linda has a heart for encouraging and guiding others in practices which help to reconnect us to ourselves and restore our vitality and aliveness

Wed 1 March 7 - 8.30 pm. Online. Start of **Meditation in the Christian Tradition – A Six Week course** to introduce Meditation in the Christian Tradition. Led by **Chris Blanchard and Tina Jefferies**. <https://meditatiocentreondon.org>

This course teaches you how to meditate and helps you to establish it as a regular practice. It also tells the story of how meditation was rediscovered within the Christian tradition as a form of contemplative prayer and how it is practised by many Christians around the world. Come if you are new to meditation or if you would like to refresh your current practice.

Wednesdays 1, 15 and 29 March 10 - 4.30. Weaving a New Path. Led by **Liz Crichton**. Near Perth, Scotland. <https://www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk>

Days to reflect on the weaving together of our lives with God, working collaboratively on a giant loom in the grounds and on small individual pieces.

“My life is but a weaving between my God and me...” From The Tapestry poem by Corrie

Ten Boom, holocaust survivor. Come and join us for one day or several during lent, as we reflect on our individual relationships with God and where or what we might be being invited to.

Giant Garden Loom

There will be a giant loom hanging from a tree in the grounds, for which we will gather materials to weave together into the threads. Working collaboratively as a group, the weaving will continue to grow throughout lent and hang as witness to our shared thoughts and reflections.

Individual Weavings

“I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God’s great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else” Colossians 2:2-3

There will also be time for each person to make individual pieces to take home. Making their own loom on branches or round stones, you will be invited to spend time meditating on the mysteries of God as you weave. Perhaps in that space you will also discover something about yourself?

“Life is embroidered with threads of memory, loss forgiveness and hope.”
Collette O’Mahony – Tapestry of Life.

Liz is the Art Facilitator at the Bield. Trained in the Ignatian tradition, leading creative retreat days is part of her ministry here, and an integral part of her own spiritual journey. She is always excited by opportunities to create liminal spaces where, for a short time, perhaps the unimaginable becomes possible and the mysteries of God can be revealed through our own creative expression.

Thurs 2 March 10 – 4. Creative Day Exploring the Lenten Journey. Led by **Helen Warwick**. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

Come and enjoy a day at the peaceful centre of Holy Rood House and Juliet House, where we specialise in health and pastoral care.

3 - 4 March. The Wisdom of the Desert: Freedom to Change – an online Lent Retreat with **Laurence Freeman**. Online. WCCM. <https://wccm.org/events/>

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The season of Lent invites us to purify and let-go, which reminds us of an important lesson: we have the freedom to change. **Laurence Freeman** is a Benedictine monk and Director of WCCM.

3 - 5 March. Celtic Lent. Led by **David Coles**. Sussex. www.penhurst.org.uk

Lent is a significant period on the modern Christian calendar, just as it was for the ancient Celtic Christians. On this retreat, David Cole, author of the book ***Celtic Lent***, will be sharing aspects of Lent and the lead up to Easter as celebrated and focused on by the ancient Celtic Christians and monastic centres.

Come and join in and maybe discover something more to this season. The weekend will include times of teaching, guided contemplation, personal silence, and open discussion with questions. David suggests his book ***Celtic Lent*** is read or at least obtained before the retreat. It is available at <http://www.waymarkministries.com/celtic-lent.html>

Sat 4 March 10-1. Join the Great Turning! Online event with **Julia Ling-MacDonald**.

<https://www.stbedes.org.uk>

As we respond to the call to 'turn' through Lent, this half day workshop offers space to explore and connect more deeply with the great 'call' of our times. It will offer an introduction to what some are describing as the 'Great Turning' or the 'Great Transition'— the movement away from destructive modes of being on the planet into a life-honouring society where humans act as creative and generative members of the whole life community on Earth.

The workshop will provide:

- a 'deep time' perspective of our current position at this point in human history on planet earth
- a framework for how we can focus our faith, energies, gifts and talents to enable and support creative change.

There will be space for personal reflection and shared conversation as we explore both the current crises and the invitations presented to us at this unprecedented time in human history on the Earth. This workshop will be helpful to those in parish or community settings who wish to root practical local responses to the climate crisis in a bigger picture context and draw inspiration from a 'deep-time' perspective of our dynamic, unfolding Creation.

4 March 10 - 4. Julian of Norwich: Motherhood of God. Led by **Alison Millbank**. Notts.
www.southwellminster.org/sacrista-prebend-retreat-house

The **Revelations** of this fourteenth century woman are theologically very rich. We shall look at her key ideas on the nature of sin, the hope of universal salvation and especially her writings on Christ as mother. These will lead to a broader discussion about the maternal nature of God in the medieval period and what we might learn from it today. No knowledge of the **Revelations** text is assumed but you may wish to prepare by reading the Elizabeth Spearing translation in the Penguin edition, which is easy to read. The longer text has more about the theological ideas. Our Eucharist, while following canon law in all respects, will experiment with female imagery.

Alison Milbank is Professor of Theology and Literature at the University of Nottingham and Canon Theologian at Southwell Minster. She is currently writing on divine indwelling and the agency of nature in natural philosophy, poetry and art and a sequel to **For the Parish**, which she co-wrote with Andrew Davison in 2010: **The Once and Future Parish**.

Mon 6 to Thu 9 March. Jesus, Man of Sorrow, Man of Joy. Led by **Dave Hopwood & Phil Stone**. In person and online event. Details and session times from:
<https://scargillmovement.org>

A chance to explore the way Jesus was rooted in our troubled, earthy reality and yet full of the love and life of God. The Message Bible describes Jesus as the Word who became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood. The gospel writers tell us of Jesus fully interacting with the harsh realities of life, while bringing the wonder and compassion of God's kingdom to all those he met. A God who is well-acquainted with trouble and loss, and is able to bring light and the breath of God into the darkest places of life.

Dave uses film and contemporary stories to illustrate and illuminate the work of God in our lives, and **Phil** is the Director of Scargill.

7-12 March. A Benedictine Wisdom School led by Cynthia Bourgeault. Bonnevaux, France. The retreat offers balanced movement from prayer to work, from intellectual stimulation to silence—and back again. WCCM. <https://wccm.org/events/>

Cynthia Bourgeault is author of many books on the Wisdom and Contemplative traditions.

10 March 4:00 pm - 12th March 3:00 pm. Teaching spiritual practices: new possibilities for cathedrals, churches and church schools. Leader: Dr **Rupert Sheldrake**. Skipton.
<https://www.parcevallhall.org.uk>

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Recent scientific research has shown that, in general, people who have regular religious or spiritual practices are happier, healthier, and live longer. Rupert, who is a biologist, has written two books on the scientific study of spiritual practices: ***Science and Spiritual Practices*** and ***Ways to Go Beyond and Why They Work***, each of which explore seven different practices. Nowadays, a range of spiritual practices are taught in secular settings, like mindfulness meditation, yoga, and spiritual openings through to psychedelics. The participants in this weekend will explore how spiritual practices could be taught more widely through Christian institutions. Can churches, cathedrals and church schools help to promote practices which can give stronger personal experiences of spiritual connection?

In particular Rupert will be looking at new possibilities for pilgrimage, and for the teaching of prayer, Christian meditation, fasting, and chanting, as well as the revisioning of festivals and holy days. The event is aimed at leaders and teachers in churches, cathedrals and other holy places, as well as church schools

10 - 12 March. Silence. Stillness. Simplicity. Led by **Briji Waterfield**. Surrey.

www.christian-retreat.org

Meditation is a Way which incorporates these three essential qualities leading us into the Being of God which itself is essentially silent, still and simple. This will be a silent retreat particularly suitable for those who have established meditation as a contemplative practice but have never been on a silent retreat. There will be some input, meditation sessions, contemplative practices, and space for personal reflection. Spiritual Direction will also be offered.

Briji is a spiritual director, leads retreats and has had a life-long interest in meditation and the Christian mystical tradition. Recently retired as the Director of Meditatio outreach for The World Community for Christian Meditation.

Mon 13 March, 10-4. Seasons of Hope - Spring - Creative Poetry. Led by **Darren Harper**. County Durham. <https://www.minsteracres.org/retreats/>

What does 'Spring' mean to you? Is it the season of new beginnings? This day course, suitable for aspiring or more advanced poets, will begin by exploring exemplars of the season, including Emily Dickinson, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and Mary Oliver. Afterwards, we will begin crafting our own poems, inspired by the Spring setting of the beautiful Minsteracres.

17 - 19 March, Into Your Hands - Encountering the touch of God. Essex.

<https://www.othonaessex.org.uk/>

Did you miss hugs during lockdown? How do you feel about 'touch' now? In this season of Lent this retreat offers us an opportunity to pause and, through scripture, stories and nature, to find again the wonder of God's touch in our lives.

Touch is so important in our lives and the one thing that was missed most during the pandemic. In this retreat we will explore what touch means to us, through scripture, through Jesus' use of touch and our own personal stories of God's touch. Do we dare to think of God touching us? If we imagine it, what do we imagine? We will journey through the weekend with a new found wonder of God's touch in our lives.

17-19 March Beginners' Retreat. Led by Reverends **Chris Webb** and **Alan Humphrey**.

Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

Are you someone who has been away on a parish weekend, perhaps been to a quiet day or two, but never experienced a residential retreat? Are you unsure how you might cope with a retreat, what you might do with your time, or whether you can cope with the silence? Then this is the retreat for you!

The aim of this semi-silent retreat weekend is to help you enter the world of silent retreats gently and with plenty of support. There will be guidance on how to use the time; periods on your own and with the other retreatants, and the opportunity to share your experience with others if you wish to do so. During your stay you can join in with the community's rhythm of prayer and worship; walk, paint, potter or simply rest, as the spirit takes you.

Sat 18 March 10-4. Show us your ways: A Lenten Journey with Jesus, Martha and Mary.

Led by **Fiona Jenvey**. Hants. www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk

"But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.' (Luke 10:41-42). According to traditional interpretation, Mary, in the popular narrative of Luke 10 exemplifies the way of contemplation, the life of union with God. If you are a person with many responsibilities the traditional interpretation may be difficult to accept. How can we be prayerful within the demands of a busy life? This Lenten day explores how the contemplative life does not simply consist of being at the feet of Jesus. Instead, perhaps Jesus calls on us to understand what he asks of us. Finding God in our daily lives means transforming our activities into the context on which our Christian faith rests. There will be opportunities for contemplation and activity through creativity

and conversation.

Fiona Jenvey is programme manager at Wisdom Centre, an ordained Anglican Minister and Friend of Wisdom. To book this event email: [reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk/](mailto:reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk)
Tel: 01794830206. (leaving a message if we are unable to take the call).

Mon 20 - Wed 22 March. Caring for Creation with Sue Glanville. Near Bath.
www.ammerdown.org



If you have an interest in saving our planet, please join us. We are a group of ordinary people all doing simple things to make a difference. We share ideas, invite local speakers, and reflect on our responses.

Sue Glanville has been writing and organising courses and retreats at Ammerdown, as well as Dartmoor, Bardsey, Lundy and Iona Islands, and trekking in the Himalayas. Sue loves wild spaces and exploring the many ways that we can encounter God in our lives.

Fri 24 March 10 - 4. The William Blake and the Renewal of the World course. Led by **Mark Vernon**. Salisbury. www.sarum.org.uk

The English poet, illustrator, philosopher and visionary, William Blake, has never been more loved. His social comment, creative knack and quotable verse have proven irresistible. And yet for all the fascination and adulation, he is rarely read as he hoped. He promises to cleanse the doors of perception so that others might follow him and step into the domain he called Eternity. He provides a way to an utterly changed view of reality, which his works are designed to precipitate. This study day offers a way into his often deliberately taxing imagery and confusing poetry. It will engage with his precise analysis of modern ills, as well as his initiatory mythology, to foster the awakening he yearned to stir. It introduces the active delights of what emerges when, single vision and Newton's sleep confronted, eternity's sunrise dawns in our minds.

Mark Vernon is a psychotherapist and writer with a PhD in Ancient Greek Philosophy, and

degrees in Theology and Physics. His books include: ***A Secret History of Christianity: Jesus, the Last Inking***, and ***The Evolution of Consciousness: A Guide for the Spiritual Journey*** (2021). His new book is ***Spiritual Intelligence In Seven Steps***. See www.markvernon.com

24 - 26 March Finding God In Life's Liminal Spaces. North East Wales.

<https://www.beunos.com>

Are you in a liminal space in your life? In that strange place between an ending and the not yet? You may be in a time of transition and feel that you would welcome a safe comfortable space to step out of the daily rhythms to spend some time with God. There will be some input sessions in relation to waiting with all its discomforts, with a focus on Ignatian principles that may be of help as you discern possibilities and future choices. Time will be spent in the company of Biblical characters who know what it is like to wait for God to act. Though this is not an accompanied retreat with a spiritual director there will be opportunities for you to pray with resources, savour the silence of the house and enjoy the restful countryside of North Wales.

Sat 26 March. Praying with the four pathways to God in Creation Spirituality.

Day retreat at the FCJ Centre for Spirituality, London NW1. Phone 07508 661767 for more details.

27–31 March Listening To God Through Nature And Art. Led by Curie Scott.

Dorset. <https://the-greenhouse.org/retreats>

There is a Christian tradition that God has given us two books to learn from: the book of scripture and the book of nature. This week is an invitation to slow down, spend time in nature, looking and listening deeply to what God has to say. We will work with the many references in scripture to the four elements (earth, wind, fire, water) and nature-based metaphors. We will also be making and creating – giving glory to the Great Creator. There is no requirement to be creative or artistic, just an openness to hearing from God.

31 March - 2 April. From Desert to Daybreak – Exploring Lent and the coming of Easter.

Led by Alison MacTier. Surrey. www.christian-retreat.org

As we approach Holy Week we take time to look back over our Lenten experiences and prepare for the coming of Easter using scripture, guided meditations, images and music.

Continued...



This retreat will include regular input and prayer time together with space to reflect.

Alison is Director of the Retreat Association, a spiritual director and leads regular quiet days. She is passionate about the value of retreats and spiritual direction. She also enjoys walking and photography.

ADVANCE NOTICES

4-9 April Holy Week and Easter at the Friary. With Members of the Hilfield Community Dorset. <https://www.hilfieldfriary.org.uk/programme/>

Journey through Holy Week and Easter with members of the Hilfield Community: experiencing its depth of loss, mourning and joy together.

For more information and booking please contact Suzi at Hilfield on 01300 341741 or email hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk. Please contact Suzi to check availability and avoid disappointment before registering for the week.

5 - 9 April. Journey of Radical Love - an Easter retreat led by **Pat Marsh**. Sussex. www.penhurst.org.uk

Pat brings her powerful and much-loved Easter retreat to Penhurst. Experience the healing embedded in the events of Holy Week. Let yourself be impacted in a deeper way by the radical love that shines through the pain of Jesus` journey to and through the cross. **Pat Marsh** is passionate about facilitating healing. She is developing a series of scripturally based imaginative healing meditations on CD: Pathways to Healing. Pat has published four titles: three books of meditative poetry and a book of healing reflections on the psalms, *‘Dwelling in the Psalms’*.

5 - 11 April. Holy Week and Easter Retreat with Revd **Elizabeth Baxter** and the Holy Rood Community. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

6 - 9 April. Easter Retreat with **Bishop Peter & Dee Price**. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

'We are living between Good Friday and Easter Day in our lives'. Reflecting on the promise of God's kingdom 'come on earth' through the events of Holy Week and our present realities in a spirit of faith and hope.