

EVENTS

Arranged by many centres and organisations across the UK.

Compiled by **Living Spirituality Connections**.

www.livingspirit.org.uk

October - December 2025

October

Wed 1 October 10 - 1. On Zoom. **Journalling: Listening to the Soul.** Led by Dr Pollyanna Magne. <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/>

"A Spiritual Journal a tool for self-discovery, an aid to concentration, a mirror for the soul, a place to generate and capture ideas, a safety valve for the emotions, a training ground for the writer, and a good friend and confidant." (Klug). It is all these things and "written before God and in the awareness of the relationship he has established with us." (Osborn). This session will explore the notion of spiritual journalling, its intent, purpose, joys and challenges. We will consider several approaches that may help you to put pen to paper, write, create and reflect. You will be invited to immerse yourself in the act of journalling. You will take quiet time in the session to spill your words across the page, draw the images from your mind, and sit quietly with your creativity to see what you learn about yourself.

Wed 1 Oct 10 - 3.30. **Bless the Space Between Us.** York. <https://www.stbedes.org.uk/>
Together we will explore the sacred art of blessing inspired by Irish poet, best selling author and philosopher John O'Donohue.

Thurs 2 October 10 - 4. **What is Old Age For?** Leader: The Revd Canon Professor **James Woodward**. Salisbury. <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/>

As human beings we long for a good life which is purposeful and fulfilling. The lifespan is challenged by several factors, some of which we have no control over. This includes the inevitable processes of ageing as we become older adults. While age is inevitable, we do have some choice about how we think about, inhabit and live well in older age. This day will explore the nature of age in older age. We shall look at some of the blessings and burdens of 3rd and 4th age. We shall all have an opportunity to think about what our vocation might be as we grow older. What do we want to become? What do we want to do with these years? How do we wish to live well? What kind of legacy might we wish to leave behind?

Thurs 2 October 7.30 – 8.30 pm. **Deep Abiding Prayer practice group** on Zoom. Led by **Petra Griffiths**. A **Living Spirituality Connections** event. *Continued*

Deep Abiding Prayer is a healing prayer of the heart and of the Spirit. Its sources are in the Bible and in the Christian Contemplative tradition. The meetings on the first Thursday in the month (2nd Thursday in January), explore spiritual themes as well as practising the Prayer. For further information and the Zoom link go to: <https://www.livingspirit.org.uk/events/> or email Petra at petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk

Sat 4 October 10.30 - 12.30 on Zoom. **Cana Conscious Conversations (CCC).** **Simon Cross** from the Progressive Christian Network UK will talk on:

- 1 – What are the aims of PCN and how does it respond to our present challenges?
- 2- How does PCN respond to the evolutionary edge of Christianity moving towards universal spirituality?

Followed by break-out groups for discussion. Please email Bill at admin@cana.org.uk to participate in this event.

4 October 1 - 5.45 French time (CEST). Online. **Spiritual Intelligence in Education. Teaching from Within: An integral Approach to Education.** Leaders: **Tayna Malaspina, Lisa Miller, Danah Zohar, Cindy Wigglesworth** and **Laurence Freeman.** <https://wccm.org/>

Leading experts will explore the profound connection between spirituality and learning. In a time when youth mental health challenges are on the rise, this symposium brings together renowned speakers to share cutting-edge research, practical insights, and transformative strategies for fostering well-being, resilience, and deeper meaning in education. Thought leaders will discuss how spiritual intelligence enhances teaching and learning, supports emotional well-being, and cultivates a more holistic approach to education. Whether you are an educator, school leader, researcher, or simply passionate about the future of education, this symposium offers a unique opportunity to gain valuable perspectives and practical tools.

Mon 6 October 7.30 – 9. Modern Mystics: Dorothee Sölle. On Zoom. Led by **Dr Sue Yore.** <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/>

Political and liberation theologian, Dorothee Sölle wrote widely, including her 2001 ***The Silent Cry: Mysticism and Resistance***. She is often considered a postmodern mystical writer and someone who both continued and adapted the traditional mystical theological claims.

6 - 8 October. Seasons of the Soul: An Autumn Retreat of Reflection and Renewal. Led by **Sam Whiley.** Near Bath. <https://www.ammerdown.org/>

Continued.....

Autumn is a season of transformation, a time when nature gracefully transitions from the warmth of summer to the stillness of winter. This retreat, located in Christian spirituality and inspired by the Ignatian pathway and the practice of Visio Divina, invites us to reflect on our year and themes of harvesting, thanksgiving, change, letting go, and embracing new beginnings. Through poetry, quotes, and creative activities, we will explore the beauty and depth of autumn, drawing parallels to our spiritual journeys.

Sam Whiley is a Spiritual Director rooted within the Christian tradition. She is drawn to contemplative expressions of faith and love creating a safe and hospitable space for anyone looking to explore their spirituality and walk with God.

11 Oct 10.30 - 4. Between Mystical Thinking and Practical Experience; How Poetry Opens the Door with **Hilary Davies**. London. <https://meditatiocentrelondon.org/>

During this day we will be looking at how a variety of poets have approached mystical experience, and how they try to convey what is ineffable in poetic language. This will hopefully help us to think about how mystical thinking irradiates our everyday lives and experiences. Please join us for a wonderful day of input, discussion, reading of poetry, meditation with tea and cake, of course.

14 Oct 7pm Active Hope. On Zoom. Led by **Jenny Joyce and Hilary Norton**.
<https://www.greenspirit.org.uk/>

Are you alarmed by worsening conditions in our world? Would you like to strengthen and nourish your capacity to make a difference? Active Hope is about finding, and offering, our best response when facing concerns about our world situation. You are invited to join an online Active Hope session, based on the work of Joanna Macy.

The Zoom details are: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9011487379> Meeting ID: 901 148 7379. Passcode: 572511.

14 Oct 1 - 4. On Zoom. **The Uncontrolling Love of God**. Led by **Thomas Jay Oord**.
<https://www.sarum.ac.uk/>

To say that God cannot control anyone or anything has positive implications for thinking about suffering and evil. It helps when thinking about dramatic religious experiences, or the lack thereof. It helps us make sense of scripture, both the profoundly helpful and hurtful parts. It helps us consider issues of climate change, politics, the hiddenness of God, and deconstruction.

But can a God who can't control create the universe? Can this God "win" at the eschaton? How do we pray if God is uncontrolling? And what about miracles? This course lays out all of the implications and proposes constructive answers to the biggest questions we should ask about an uncontrolling love theology.

Thomas Jay Oord, PhD is a theologian, philosopher, and scholar of multi-disciplinary studies. Oord directs the Center for Open and Relational Theology.

17 – 19 October. Holy Wisdom - Bridging Life and Death. Led by **Helen Warwick**. N. Yorks. <https://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/>

Holy Wisdom and her way of healing, love and care for ourselves as we consider our own death.

Sat 18 Oct 10 - 3.30. Flowing in the River of Life. York. <https://www.stbedes.org.uk/>
Blending flowing movement and quiet sitting in the Divine presence.

Sat 18 October 10 - 4. Enacting Hope in a Ruined World: Annual Conference and AGM of Modern Church. Leeds. <https://modernchurch.org.uk/>

Hope-full, hope-filled God,
you sustain us through the darkness
and bring us to the light;
enable us through your Spirit
to be your co-workers
in bringing hope to the world
as you companion us
on your kingdom journey.

Amen (prayer by Andrew Nunn)

Join us for a day of worship and theological reflection as we take stock of our current geopolitical situation – its deep challenges and injustices – and consider how we can 'name the beast/s', lament, and organise for change. We will be led in worship by Andrew Nunn, and in theological thinking and reflection by Susie Snyder, Al Barrett, Charlotte Naylor Davis, and Jide Macaulay. We shall hear stories of 'hope in action' from a diverse group of leaders working for change locally through West Yorkshire Citizens.

19 October 7-9 pm. Online Zoom Forum: **Navigating Addiction and the Divine: Phyllida Anam Aire in Conversation with Anna Ross.** Full details overleaf:

<https://www.eicsp.org/events/event-details/1342-online-zoom-forum-navigating-addiction-and-the-divine-phyllida-anam-aire-in-conversation-with-anna-ross-19-october-2025/>

Sunday 19 October 2 - 5pm. Online. Living Prayer. Led by **Donna Worthington.**

<https://www.christianretreats.live/online-retreats>

A journey down the rabbit hole with Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) and his challenging book 'Living Prayer'. The journey of prayer is a road to self-awareness, a getting real, an enabling of the grace of transformation to happen. Anthony Bloom is a guide with fire in his eyes... let's journey with him...

Mon 20 Oct - Thurs 23 October. Stepping Into the Bible. Leicestershire.

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

This retreat explores the evolving message of the Bible. We step into the world of the Bible, with its different styles of writing and different levels of truth. We see how the Old and New Testaments relate to one another, and how ideas about God and Jesus, salvation and morality changed over the centuries. Led by **Peter Sills.**

20 – 24 Oct. Creative Flow in the Wilderness. A contemplative and creative retreat. Led by **Anna Robinson.** Cornwall. <https://www.livelightdwelldeep.org/>

A 4 night retreat to give time, space and creativity to process changing faith and shifting perspectives to bring about more freedom and flow. Engage in creative artist workshops, Anna's guided meditations, times of quiet solitude in the Cornish landscape and quality connection with others.

"An enabling and safe space to explore shifting perspectives in faith and life" For those on the journey of life and faith shifting - re-imagining, evolving, unravelling, expanding, deconstructing, grieving...

Discover and explore your own creativity. Bring your own tools, skills or interests, whether through writing, poetry, storytelling, journalling, drawing, painting, music, movement or something else... An opportunity to share your creative processing and expression, and to encourage one another too.

"A gentle and non-threatening place to revive the soul"

Tuesdays 21, 28, October and 4 and 11 November. Online 5-7pm Irish time. **The Work That Reconnects.** With **Lydia Violet Harutoonian and Te Martin.** <https://abbeyofthearts.com/>

Come learn and experience tools for transforming our grief, anger, paralysis, and fear into compassionate connections with our world and communities, understanding our place in the web of life, and gaining the motivation to act on behalf of life on earth.

In this four-part series, seasoned facilitator Lydia Violet Harutoonian, accompanied by community song leader Te Martin, will lead an in-depth immersion in the “Work that Reconnects” (WTR). WTR is Joanna Macy’s experiential group work that has helped thousands find clarity of vision and emotional sanctuary while living through this precious and precarious moment on our planet. For the last five decades, Joanna’s work has offered inspiration and guidance for living courageously in uncertainty. It maps ways into our innate vitality and determination to take part in the self-healing of our world.

Tues 21 October, 6.30 - 8. A Master Class on Being Human: bridging divides for a better world. Speakers: **Brad D. Braxton and Anthony Pinn.** London. Free with a ticket, donations welcome. <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/being-human>

Dr Braxton is a Christian, whereas Dr Pinn is a Secular Humanist. While their respective traditions have often stood in bitter opposition, in a deeply divided world, Braxton and Pinn demonstrate that constructive dialogue is essential. This “master class” offers a compelling model for engaging across religious, ethical, and cultural differences. Through frank, personal, and deeply informed discussion, Braxton and Pinn tackle urgent topics such as ongoing violence against historically minoritised communities, the rise of religiously unaffiliated groups, and the Black Lives Matter movement. They also delve into profound philosophical questions of religion, moral evil, and hope.

Discover how open exchange, respecting rather than masking differences, fosters the common good. This unique event invites us to learn how to be better people who can, in turn, transform our world into a more inclusive and loving place.

BSL interpretation will be provided at this event. Please let us know if you require seats in the area by emailing SPCI@stpaulscathedral.org.uk.

Brad R. Braxton is President of and Professor of Public Theology at Chicago Theological Seminary. **Anthony Pinn** is the Agnes Cullen Arnold Distinguished Professor of Humanities and professor of religion at Rice University.

Sat 25 October 9.30 - 4 on Zoom. Being and Doing: Finding the Balance with Jennifer Kavanagh. <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/>

Continued.....

How do we find the right balance between contemplation and action in our lives? How can we respond to George Fox's challenge to act faithfully both inwardly and outwardly, without feeling inadequate or burdened by guilt? A life devoted to an inward spiritual journey can appear disconnected or even self-absorbed. Meanwhile, those who fill their lives with action may also struggle with guilt, feeling too busy or not spending enough time in silence and solitude. This age-old dilemma is exemplified in Jesus' encounter with the sisters Mary and Martha in Luke's Gospel (10:38-42).

During this online day workshop, we will examine where we are on the spectrum of contemplation and action, put guilt aside, and explore ways to find a better balance.

Sat 25 October. 2-4. A warrior God: violence in the Bible. Speaker: Revd Dr Helen Paynter. London. <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/whats-on/warrior-god-violence-in-bible>

One of the most challenging features of reading the Bible is understanding the many texts that talk about violence as though this is something of which God approves. In this talk, Helen Paynter will explore the Bible's treatment of violence, but also how we can approach difficult passages but without making them harder than they need to be. Join us as Helen looks at some of the particularly difficult questions that arise when reading these texts, such as: why does my Bible contain accounts of sexual violence? Is God really a vengeful God? And what am I supposed to think about the conquest of Canaan on the command of God?

The Revd Dr Helen Paynter is Director of Theological Education, Tutor in Biblical Studies, and Executive Director of the Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence, for Bristol Baptist College. Her most recent book is ***Blessed are the Peacemakers: A biblical theology of human violence.***

Sun 26 October 1 – 4.30pm. Deep Time Walk, starting in the courtyard of St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly. Booking essential. A few tickets are still available.

A Deep Time Walk is a journey through 4.6 billion years of Earth history compressed into a 4.6km walk. Time is transformed into distance with every metre representing one million years. The walk is an invitation to view the world differently, encouraging positive action and advocacy for a regenerative Earth. We will walk 4.6km around St James's Park and Green Park, drawing out themes of peace and giftedness as we reflect on the history of our planet.

This event will be co-led by **Deborah Colvin** (St James's Earth Justice group) and **Heather Binney** (Paleo-ecologist) and is wheelchair accessible. Book your ticket here:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/deep-time-walk-tickets-1627697630429?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep_tld=1

Thursday 30 Oct 7 - 9pm and Saturday 1 Nov 4 - 6pm GMT. Online. Drawing on the Ancestors. Samhain and All Saints and Souls Retreat. Led by Anna Robinson.

<https://www.livelihoodwelldeep.org/>

Samhain derives from Old Irish, meaning Summer's end and mark the transition from light into darkness and marks the Celtic New Year. All saints and All souls in the Christian calendar remember those who have gone before us in life and faith. We spend time remember, celebrating and drawing strength from those we have loved and admired.

Sun 26 October 9.45 am. Eco Contemplative Liturgy (non denominational). Readings, prayers and contemplative time. Takes place on the fourth Sunday of each month. For the Zoom link and liturgy sheet email Petra at: ecochurch@sjp.org.uk

Friday 31st October – Sunday 2nd November. Being the Ancestors we can be – asking the future what it needs. GreenSpirit Annual Gathering. At Ammerdown near Bath.

<https://www.greenspirit.org.uk/annual-gathering-2025/>

We live at a moment of total transition. Everything we do, everywhere we turn the light of our attention matters. It always has done, but we can see now that the old system is breaking apart and the cracks are where the light gets in. How do we become the best ancestors we can be? How do we listen to the generations not yet born and what can they tell us?

Manda Scott <https://mandascott.co.uk/> will lead us in connecting all the way up and down the timelines so that we can garner the wisdom of all humanity to aid us in becoming the best ancestors we can possibly be, laying the foundations for a future in which humanity thrives as an integral part of the web of life. She will encourage and support us to look into the future to learn what we need to dream a resilient and abundant future into existence.

We will have a chance to connect with each other and the natural world with some ceremony and meditations, creative activities, informal conversations, and, after our AGM on Sunday, have the chance to share what we are taking away from the weekend. We will be guided in our thoughts, conversations and activities by the intention to leave behind a world our children, grandchildren and future generations can peacefully live in.

Everyone is very welcome to this event; you do not need to be a GreenSpirit member to join in. Our gatherings are a mixture of old friends and new and we look forward to meeting you.

31 Oct - 2 Nov Talking to Grief, led by **Rosie Miles**, poet, writer and gardener. N. Yorks.
<https://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/>

A weekend to explore how we negotiate different kinds of loss in our lives, using poetry.

November

1 Nov 2 - 3.30 UK time. Online. Earth Crisis Forum 8 : Ecojustice from the Heart. Facilitator:
Christina Leano. <https://wccm.org/>

This forum, led by members of the Laudato Si Movement, will share and reflect on the contemplative way being discovered across the world as an antidote to the climate and socioenvironmental crisis. Members will share their experience with meditation and contemplation practices. LSM believes that the more we contemplate, the more we understand the need to act and be involved at the social, political, and ecclesial level for climate and socioenvironmental justice.

Tuesday 4 November - Tuesday 25 November 7 - 8.30 pm on Zoom. Seasons of Our Souls.
Leader: **Alison Richards.** <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/>

The seasons can be used as a metaphor when considering our inner lives and spiritual journey without assumptions about our beliefs. Each of the four seasons will serve as a prompt for reflection on our lives, inviting us to share insights together.

Drawing on the writings and videos of Parker J. Palmer, American educator and founder of the Center for Courage and Renewal, each session will incorporate a variety of resources, including poetry, creative arts, and biblical texts. There will also be time for personal reflection and small-group sharing.

Whatever stage of life and faith you find yourself in, you are most welcome to join us.

Wed 5 November 11 am. Samhain Sacred Space, A CANA Online Gathering.
<https://www.cana.org.uk/>

Samhain (1st November) is one of the Celtic cross-quarter festivals between the solstices and equinoxes. It is when we enter into the dark of the year, the womb, the waiting place. Our ancestors brought in the flocks from the hills and feasted together over fires. It is the thin time when the old year hollows and sinks, turning over to darkness before the new year is born. This is an on-line ritual, an opportunity to engage with Spirit and with our own divine centre communally. It is not a eucharist, there is no wine, no blessing from a priest,

no Christian liturgy. But it does seek to embody some of the essence of the eucharist experience in creating a sacred space of communion but within a wider framework.

Please email Bill at admin@cana.org.uk to participate.

Saturday 8 November. 10 - 3.30. Wondering Our Way into the Future. York.

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

‘Wonder – our way into the future’: so says Cosmologist Brian Swimme at the end of the award winning documentary Journey of the Universe. On this day we will enter into the wonder of the Universe and our place within it to guide us back into right relationship with the Earth. This is a huge focus of much contemporary spiritual writing and indeed Papal Encyclicals. We will begin the day as we watch the one hour film ‘Journey of the Universe’ and then reflect, pray, discuss and gather stories of hope from those here in the UK who are reconnecting with nature.

Paul Golightly is Director of St Bede’s and an ordained Methodist Minister who is committed to offering a myriad of ways into the divine life and love, within all we do at St Bede’s and as national co-ordinator for the Capacitar Wellness network.

Linda Courage is involved with a community engagement project to identify and action projects to reduce her town’s carbon footprint in a bespoke way. Our Zero Selby has been named as one of the 30 Global Bright Spots addressing climate change.

Frances Cole has a lifelong interest in nature and its never-ending cycle of creation. The changing climate has led her to make many fruitful changes in her life.

6-9 November. Integral Christianity: The Vision of Celtic Christianity for the Crisis of the 21st Century. John Main Seminar. Balally parish Dublin and livestreamed.

<https://wccm.org/>

Celtic Christianity was one of the most vibrant expressions of the Christ-event in history. It developed its own distinct forms of worship and achieved a striking mystical relationship with its pre-Christian roots, especially in the experience of God in Nature and in art. It was monastic in character and organisation and challenged the more centralised forms of Roman Christianity which eventually – or so it seemed – absorbed it. But the spirit of a Celtic style of Christian living is by no means extinct. This Seminar will avoid historical romanticism but will explore the reappearance of Celtic Christian wisdom today at a critical moment for human evolution. We will do this through spirituality, poetry, art, the Celtic sense of the sacred in Nature, pilgrimage, monasticism – and meditation.

In highlighting and celebrating these delicious springs of hope, we will also be engaged in questioning what we can do, what we should do, in our crisis, once we have tasted its timeless wisdom. The Seminar will be hosted at the parish of Balally which is manifesting the potential that the Celtic Church strove – with much success for centuries – to make real.

This year's Seminar will be enriched by contributions from the key speakers but also from the participants. We want to let it be like an immersion in a stream of hope and the remembrance of a living legacy – recovering an inspirational form of Christian faith but for our very present needs today. This will come together as we conclude with a 'synodal' experience, sharing in small groups and as a whole what the Spirit has taught us and see more clearly where it is leading us.

Fri 7 November 9.30 - 4.30. Depolarising through Dialogue. London.

<https://www.stethelburgas.org/>

Across our social and political landscape, the fractures of polarisation grow deeper. Tribes form not just around ideas but identities, fortified by mistrust and fear. We hold different views to our family, friends and colleagues but are unsure how to voice them. Or tension builds in these relationships because of clumsy conversations. Fostering communities across difference becomes fraught and toxic. St Ethelburga's, believes another path is possible, rooted in our ongoing theme of Faith, Peace and Belonging. This is not about smoothing over difference. It is about holding the fire of disagreement in a container strong enough to withstand the heat; one shaped by resilience, values, and deep listening. We ask - what does it take to be a reconciler in an age of activism? What does it take to move from fracture to repair? What does it take to move from reaction to intention? What does it take to hold a radical centre across divides?

Rooted in peacemaking, this training equips participants to bridge divides with accessible language, tools for engaging echo chambers, dialogue skills and practices of belonging. It will include pair work, embodied exercises, conflict mapping, and deep listening. Participants will leave with practical exercises to implement in their personal contexts, suitable for families/friendships, faith communities, workplaces and social groups.

We invite those sitting in the discomfort of division, those seeking to understand rather than retreat, and those curious about how inner and outer transformation meet in practice.

14 - 16 November. Our common home: A Christian journey toward ecological conversion. North East Wales. <https://www.beunos.com/>

"I have set before you today life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life then, so that you and your children may live' (Dt30:19). This retreat, in the beautiful rural setting of St

Beuno's, will invite you to connect with the natural world and deepen your sense of God the Creator. How can our Christian faith help us to make good choices as we respond to the ecological challenges the world faces? Using some of the dynamics and insights of St Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises you will be offered meditations and exercises to support the journey toward ecological conversion. There will be opportunities for spiritual conversation in groups for those who wish – such groups help us to listen to the ways in which the Spirit is moving, in ourselves and in each other.

Sat 15 Nov 2.30 - 8.30 CET. Online. Born from the First Beginning. A webinar on The Gospel of Thomas. Leaders: **Neil Douglas-Klotz, Laurence Freeman, Michal Balcar.**
<https://wccm.org/>

"The single most important thing Christianity could do to completely renew itself would be to reclaim the Gospel of Thomas on an equal footing with the present canonical gospels for liturgical use, study and sacred proclamation. It would completely revolutionize our understanding of the religion we think we know so well". Cynthia Bourgeault

Please join us for an in-depth exploration of the 'hidden' Gospel of St Thomas online with three scholars including Neil Douglas-Klotz, author of *The Hidden Gospel: Decoding the Message of the Aramaic Jesus*. What lies hidden within these scriptures may surprise many: a visionary Christ who transcends the narrow and the dogmatic to offer us a grand cosmology based on the earthy wisdom of an ancient desert people.

Mon 17 – Thurs 20 November. Living, Breathing, and Moving: Connecting with God with Our Whole Body. Leicestershire. <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/>

During this four-day retreat, guests will experience a variety of body-based prayer practices and opportunities to grow in awareness and understanding of how our body's design and wisdom foster a deep and fulfilling prayer life with God. Led by **Hope Stockman and Rhona Knight.**

17 - 20 Nov. Spirituality, Health and Wellbeing: Spiritual Development in Context. Salisbury. <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/>

This course covers the variety of ways in which spiritual development takes place over the course of a lifetime. It includes study of various models of spiritual development and the theories that underpin them. Students will explore issues of particular concern for pastoral care in the contemporary context and engage with non-theological disciplines that provide pastoral care.

The course will engage with scholarly debates on the relationship between spiritual development, suffering, and trauma. Students will examine the nature of spirituality and spiritual development for both the very young, the elderly, those who are differently abled, and those who experience trauma.

Tues 18 Nov 6.30 - 9. Online. Exploring Advent. Leader: **Donna Worthington.**

<https://www.christianretreats.live/online-retreats/advent2025-retreat>

A golden space to 'breathe in', from the rich Christian calendar... An invitation to be counter cultural and stop the rushing around and the business for a while... a retreat to enter into the liminal mystery of Advent, a poignant and beautiful time of waiting and preparation...

Tuesdays 18, 25 Nov and 2, 9, 16 Dec, 7 - 8 pm on Zoom. Advent Zoom Bible Study. Course Leader: **Rupert Kaye** <https://www.ammerdown.org/> Free of charge.

This five-week Bible study encourages us to reflect on five passages from the Old and New Testament scripture that have something powerful to say about God's heart for justice and fairness for all. Each week includes reflective questions and a short prayer.

Wed 19 Nov 6.30 - 9. Memory, Consciousness & Faith: exploring the links between science, faith and memory. Speakers: **Rupert Sheldrake & Rowan Williams.** London.

<https://www.stethelburgas.org/>

How do science and faith speak to one another about the nature of consciousness? Rupert Sheldrake's theory of morphic resonance suggests that memory inheres in nature. What does this idea suggest to the Christian imagination? What are the natural parameters within which faith, culture and memory are transmitted? What does this suggest for our approach to inner life – particularly in our hyper-digitised age when much inner life now takes place through online interactions?

Join Rupert Sheldrake and Rowan Williams as they come together to explore what it means to be fully alive – and Christian! – in a time of rapid change, as well as scientific and technological advancement.

Thurs 20 Nov 12 - 2 online. Theology Catch Up: What, How and Why We Believe. Led by Dr Beth Dodd. <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/>

2025 is 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea, which established core tenets of Christian belief for the church of yesterday, today and tomorrow. A wealth of resources has been

produced in response to this anniversary, reflecting on crucial questions about what, how and why we believe today. This session gives a roundup of the most worthwhile, innovative and engaging work in this area. You will get a summary of key voices, have chance to reflect for yourself on what lies at the heart of Christian faith, and think about what this all means for the church in 2025.

Friday 21 November 4-6pm Irish time. Online. **Crossing Identity Boundaries: Where Hope Enlivens Us to Life** with **Luther E. Smith**. <https://abbeyofthearts.com/>

Beloved community relies on persistent efforts to enter another's heart and to offer our own. Our experiences of beloved community begin with crossing identity boundaries—our own boundaries, and those of neighbours, strangers, friends, family, and enemies. Beloved community relies on persistent efforts to enter another's heart and to offer our own. Crossing identity boundaries is a lifelong endeavour that deepens understanding, inspires trust, engenders respect, and enacts love. And yet, how we cross identity boundaries is also cause for conflict, violation, resentment, and increased alienation.

Our retreat will focus on crossing identity boundaries as a spiritual practice for personal fulfilment and beloved community. Whether we self-identify as an introvert or extrovert, our living faithfully depends upon us to nurture caring relationships and to engage hostile relationships with care.

Mondays 24 Nov, 1,8 and 15 Dec 10 - 12. Advent series looking at the Wisdom books. Led by Sr **Patricia Harriss** CJ. York. <https://www.stbedes.org.uk/>

The Books of Wisdom, Ecclesiastes and The Song of Songs will be studied.

26 Nov 2025 10 – 4. Touching God: Dementia and the Bodies of Christ Led by **Dr Peter Kevern**. Salisbury. <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/>

The dread of dementia has a unique hold over us, because dementia seems to eat away at what makes us human. If we lose our capacity to remember, to think, to act and even to speak, what is left of us? And where is the God who promised to be with us? These are profound theological questions that go beyond a need for better pastoral care or more welcoming churches: they hold up a mirror to what we really believe about human beings, about God and about dementia itself.

This workshop develops themes in the leader's recently-published book, ***Touching God***. Its purpose is to explore what the experience of dementia has to teach us, by reflecting theologically on the faith journey of people who live with the condition. It is a personal

theological pilgrimage, digging down into the theological meaning of dementia itself, looking for hidden pearls of insight. But it is also an attempt to look past the details, to see the “big picture” of God’s grace and faithfulness, embodied in the person and life of the crucified and risen Christ. It will speak not just to people who are challenged or troubled by dementia, but to anybody seeking to grapple with their faith in challenging times.

Dr **Peter Kevern** is Professor of Values in Health and Social Care at the University of Staffordshire.

28 – 30 Nov Advent Retreat – Hospitality and Sanctuary. Led by Revd **Inderjit Bhogal**. N. Yorks <https://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/>

Fri 28 Nov - Sun 30 Nov. Advent - “Worthy of the Promise”! Led by **Pat Kennedy**. County Durham. <https://minsteracres.org/>

Our Advent Retreat invites you to explore the concept of waiting on the Lord. As we prepare for Christmas, this retreat offers a chance to reflect on your spiritual readiness for the season. Through guided reflections, prayer sessions, and communal discussions, we will explore themes of hope, peace, joy and love—the four traditional themes of Advent.

The serene environment of the retreat centre offers a perfect setting for personal contemplation and spiritual renewal. Join us in this journey of waiting and preparation, embracing the Advent season with intentionality and grace.

Sunday 30 Nov 4pm and Monday 1 Dec 7pm GMT. Online. **Advent retreat.** Led by **Anna Robinson**. <https://www.livelightdwelldeep.org/>

Advent is a time of waiting, leading to the Christian festival of Christmas, marking the birth of Jesus Christ.

December

Sat 6 December 10:00 - 12:30. Reclaiming the Body for Prayer. York. <https://www.stbedes.org.uk/>

An experiential session of body prayer and movement to express worship and praise, prayer and concern – a drawing into stillness and silence.

6 Dec 10.30 - 4. Divine Disruptors: Mysticism and the Call to Wake Up. A day with **Dr Rebecca Stephens**. London. <https://meditatiocentrelondon.org/>

This day will explore some of the more controversial figures from the canon of medieval female spirituality:

Marguerite Porete, burned at the stake for writing boldly and without hesitation on how the 'simple soul' may join in the highest union with God, and for preaching and promoting her ideas in the street. Margery Kempe, a laywoman whose divine passion led her into physical manifestations of joy and lamentation wherever she went – whether out shopping, in church or on pilgrimage – frequently threatening her safety. Gertrude of Helfta, a Benedictine nun whose visionary experiences and claims of direct divine encounter reshaped the course of her life, bringing her to 'invisible stigmata' and bridal union with Christ. These mystics share a boldness of approach. Each sparked debate and controversy in their own time and, though their writings do not contravene Christian thought, all three experienced danger and disapprobation from their contemporaries and Church authorities. In them we find a disruptive power, a call to awake into the direct and unmediated presence of God, a courage to live from the heart.

Come and spend a day with these three passionate and brilliant figures, who have much to teach us about how we can live an engaged spiritual life today.

Tues 9 - Fri 12 Dec. The 'I Am' Sayings. Leicestershire. <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/>

In this retreat, we will pray with and through the I am statements of Jesus in John's gospel. Using the textile art of Jane Allen we will engage with each of the I am statements of Jesus in turn. This retreat will be led by **Chris and Rhona Knight**.

Fri 19 Dec 4-6 Irish time. Online. Winter Solstice Deep Rest Retreat – Stillness with **Christine Valters Paintner, Carmen Acevedo Butcher, and Te Martin**.
<https://abbeyofthearts.com/>

The God of winter invites us into a healing rhythm of rest and renewal, of deep listening in the midst of stillness, of trusting the seeds sprouting deep within that have been planted.

This mini-retreat is part of our four part Deep Rest series exploring the energy of seasonal turning points and the gifts of deep rest. We live in times when it often feels like everything is coming undone. The Celtic hinge points of Autumn Equinox, Samhain, the Winter Solstice, and Imbolc offer the wisdom of living into a rhythm that honours the importance of times of rest as essential to our personal and collective wellbeing.

The Winter Solstice is another profound moment of pause and turning in the great cycle of the year. We might think of winter as the season of entering into the gifts of earth and her stillness. After moving through autumn's release and surrender, winter enters a profound time of silence, darkness, rest, and incubation. The God of winter invites us into a healing rhythm of rest and renewal, of deep listening in the midst of stillness, of trusting the seeds sprouting deep within that have been planted. There is a harshness to this winter God as well, winter speaks to us of loss, it is the landscape of grief in all its beauty and sorrow.

Join us as we break open the invitations of winter's stillness, rest, and incubation through music, poetry, teaching, meditation, and reflection.

23 – 27 Dec Christmas Retreat. Led by The Holy Rood team. N. Yorks.

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

Tues 23 - Sat 27 December Christmas House Party at Ammerdown Centre near Bath.

Course Leader: Rupert Kaye. <https://www.ammerdown.org/>

Relax in comfort and enjoy - our famous Ammerdown hospitality, delicious yuletide food, great company and beautiful surroundings, fun Christmas entertainment. All activities are optional. Daily prayers and ecumenical Christmas services are offered.

ADVANCED NOTICES

Faith Shift Support Group starting in **January** led by **Anna Robinson**

Are you going through a shift in faith, a deconstruction, a re-examining and re imaging of a held belief system? Faith transitions and shifts can be painful, scary, disorientating and often isolating. You may have left a church or still be in a church, all are welcome to join these groups. Everyone's experience is different and each one is valid and we accept ourselves and each other just where we find ourselves with no judgement. Sharing our experiences can be helpful and freeing and even therapeutic as we can feel less alone, heard and understood.

These small online groups offer a safe, inclusive space for anyone re-examining their faith, deconstructing old beliefs, or feeling disoriented in a faith transition.

Each group meets for **six 1h45 Zoom sessions**, including a reunion session, giving plenty of time to share and reflect. One participant said:

"It's been so good to have a space to share experiences with people who understand..."

heaps of empathy and a carefully curated space where everyone gets to share as much as they are comfortable with."

- *"I would highly recommend this group to anyone considering it! Anna does an excellent job of facilitating deep, safe, interesting space for processing in groups."*

Next Group: Starts in **January**, Tuesdays **7 – 8:45 pm GMT**. Cost: £145

To book on or for more information: anna@livelightdwelldeep.org
<https://www.livelightdwelldeep.org/>