EVENTS

October – December 2022 arranged by many centres and organisations across the UK Compiled by Living Spirituality Connections www.livingspirit.org.uk

OCTOBER

Sat 1 October 2-4.30. Hope and Grief: a Theology of the Climate. Speaker: Hannah Malcolm. London. <u>https://www.stpauls.co.uk/whats-on/hope-and-grief-theology-of-climate-crisis</u>

How do we navigate Christian hope in a time of climate crisis, when there are so many reasons to feel anxiety and grief about what is happening to our planet? An afternoon to explore together a theology of climate hope, grief and eco-anxiety, how they might shape our communities and churches, and also to explore how each of us can learn to live hopefully in a time of loss. The workshop will include input and discussion as well as time for reflection and prayer. **Hannah Malcolm** sits on the Church of England Environment Working Group and is training for ordination in the Church of England. She is the editor of **Words for a Dying World: Stories of Grief and Courage from the Global Church.**

Price: Able to be generous £15; Covering the cost £10; Limited means £7.50. We charge to cover our costs, but we want to ensure that cost is not a barrier to those who would like to come. If a bursary would make it possible for you to attend, please enquire by emailing stpaulslearning@stpaulscathedral.org.uk

Sat 1 October, 10.30 - 4 in person and online. "All Shall Be Well": The Gospel of Love according to Julian of Norwich. A retreat day with Mark S Burrows. London. https://meditatiocentrelondon.org/

Startling, courageous, wise, consoling: such words aptly describe the book of "showings" left by an anchoress living in the later 14th – early 15th century, known to us as Julian of Norwich. An "unlettered" woman, as she described herself, she received sixteen "revelations of divine love" in midlife, on May 8, 1373. During this day-retreat we will explore her witness to God's radically inclusive love and the compassion this calls us to embrace, for ourselves and others. Our probing of her visionary text will encourage us to see what it means that our lives are "oned" with God, and how we might live into her conviction that in every dimension of our lives "love is [God's] meaning." **Sunday 2 October 6.30 Soul Space** in Stirling (Scotland). Theme for October: **Shape.** Bring food to share and any music, poetry, short prose, art, short videos that have inspired you. Soul Space is a sharing time—everyone welcome, of all faiths or none, to share something that you have found stimulating on a theme.

To find out about the location and the meetings, or if you If you need multi media to display material, email <u>jon@cameroncape.net</u> beforehand.

Mon 3 October 7.30. Launch of Holy Anarchy by Rev Dr Graham Adams (free of charge) Manchester. <u>https://www.lutherking.ac.uk/</u> Dismantling Domination. Embodying Community. Loving Strangeness.

At the heart of Jesus' vision is a reality he called the kingdom of God. It's close at hand yet eludes our grasp; the ultimate goal to aim for, but often emerging unexpectedly – under the nose of prevailing systems and beyond the church's control. So what is it? Unlike other kingdoms, it is best understood as Holy Anarchy – a realm in which all dynamics of domination, not least in the church, are subverted. It cuts across the loyalties and boundaries of religion and fosters the greatest possible solidarity amongst the different. Even the divine power which gives rise to it is not like the usual power of kingdoms; instead, it is symbolised by childlikeness, the significance of what is small and awesomely weak. Throughout this book, the thread of *Holy Anarchy* bears witness to the possibility of doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with your God. Described by Anthony Reddie as 'a brilliant text that seeks to help us interpret the world differently'. Email learning@lutherking.ac.uk to register your interest.

Wednesday 5 October 7.15-9.15. Becoming Whole and Holy. Opening ourselves to receive God's grace. London NW1. Email <u>bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk</u> Events are by donation.

8 – 14 October Musing on the Miracles. Led by John Bell. Iona, Scotland.

There are over thirty of them in the Gospels; but a combination of science and scepticism seems to have diminished interest in the phenomena. In this retreat we will look at the miracles, not as puzzles to be solved, but as some of Jesus' most profound teaching blocks as regards justice, humanity and God's biases.

Sunday 9 October 1.30 - 4pm. Deep Time Walk at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London, following the Harvest service. Download this app to your smartphone to prepare, and you

will need headphones <u>https://www.deeptimewalk.org/</u>Join us on an awe-inspiring audio tour through 4600 million years of earth history. We will walk 4.6 km round St James's Park and Green Park, discovering milestones in the evolution of the earth, and gaining a unique perspective on Deep Time.

Meet in St James's Church courtyard before 1.30 pm at St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1V 9LL.

Wednesdays 12 October – 16 November, 7-9 pm. Soul Spark. Near Sheffield. https://www.whirlowspiritualitycentre.org

Offers a variety of approaches to prayer, providing context for reflection and sharing. Seeks to encourage people to open up to God. By donation.

Wednesday 12 October 7-8.30 pm. Beyond Words, Beyond Belief: an introduction to meditation. Norwich Contemplative Forum.

A talk on the contemplative way, followed by meditation practice with Jim Green - Oblate of the World Community for Christian Meditation and author of 'Giving Up without Giving Up: Meditation and Depressions'. This will be a chance to listen to a talk introducing the contemplative way to live our lives in the world. It will also be an opportunity to practice meditation together in the beautiful setting of the Cathedral Close.

Entrance is free, but please RSVP: <u>chrishull@phonecoop.coop</u> or ring 07530 783709.

14 – 16 October. The Universe, Gaia and Us. GreenSpirit Annual Gathering. Booking deadline: 30 September. <u>www.greenspirit.org.uk/greenspirit-annual-gathering-2022</u>/

With a presentation by **Dr. Jude Currivan** is a cosmologist, planetary healer, futurist and author, previously one of the most senior business women in the UK and a member of the Evolutionary Leaders Circle. In 2017 co-founded WholeWorld-View, seeking to empower the understanding, experiencing and embodying of unity awareness and a unitive new narrative to serve collective and planetary healing and conscious evolution. Jude will join us virtually, using zoom, and will share how scientific breakthroughs at all scales of existence and across numerous fields of research are now revealing a radical new view of reality. Presenting an emergent WholeWorld-View, its unitive new narrative converges with universal wisdom teachings to reveal a conscious Universe that meaningfully exists and purposefully evolves as a multi-dimensional, nonlocally unified and sentient entity. After

the talk, through a heart-centred devotional exercise, she will help us engage together with our conscious evolution, creating an opportunity for a deeper connection with Gaia.

Fri 14 October 10-4. About the Disaster. Divine Providence, and Human Agency: Christian Responses to Catastrophe course. Led by Roger Abbott. Salisbury. https://www.sarum.ac.uk

Christians struggle to make sense of catastrophic events. Is devastation God's will or human responsibility? This course considers Christian responses to cataclysmic upheaval in the light of natural sciences and theology.

Roger Abbott is Senior Research Associate at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, focusing on natural hazard related disasters. He has worked on projects in Haiti, New Orleans, the Philippines, and in Somerset, where he has explored the influence of Christians' faith beliefs on survivors' response and recovery, and their relationships with God, their community, and the natural environment.

14–16 October Stillness in Community Retreat. Northern Ireland. Led by **Kiran Young Wimberly,** Presbyterian minister, spiritual director and musician <u>www.kiranyoungwimberly.com</u>. Arranged by <u>https://www.corrymeela.org</u>

In this retreat we follow of rhythm of silence and gathering, finding stillness in the midst of community. As the pace of daily life picks up following these pandemic years, it is vital for our wellbeing that we find ways to quiet ourselves long enough to hear our own voice, and God's voice in our lives. Even in the busiest of times, we can develop skills to centre ourselves, pay attention to what is going within us, and listen for where we are being drawn in the days ahead. This retreat will be marked by times for gathering as a community for sharing, prayer, and creative expression, while setting aside time and space for silence. Our living space will be set aside for intentional silence and gatherings, and our meals will be held in the Main House as we link in with the community life at Corrymeela. This retreat is open to people from a variety of religious and spiritual backgrounds.

Sat 15 October 10-4. Extravagant Love. Meeting God through poetry. With Mary Lean. London. <u>https://sisters-of-st-andrew.com/</u>

Sat 15 October 10-4 Exploring Carmelite Spirituality: Hedgehogs, silkworms, wellspringsand fire. Led by Canon Angela Ashwin. Southwell, Notts.https://www.southwellminster.org/eventscontinued over

There have been some amazing and saintly characters in the Carmelite tradition down the centuries. Today we will pick up some of their favourite images: 'hedgehogs, silkworms, wellsprings and fire' which are all designed to help us grow in the love of God. Themes of the day will include: Teresa of Avila on 'Friendship with Jesus', John of the Cross on 'Praying when Suffering', Brother Lawrence on 'Prayer in the Kitchen', and Edith Stein (who died at Auschwitz) on 'Serving God in Political Turmoil'. We will explore ways in which they might speak to us now.

Wednesdays 19 & 26 October and Wednesday 2 November at 7.30. Thinking Science Thinking Faith. Online talks hosted by the Progressive Christianity Network.

19 October - Progressive Christianity & Climate Change led by Dr**. Richard Baker 26 October -** Current Issues in Medical Ethics led by Emeritus Professor Ian Cooke (Sheffield).

2 November - Thinking Science, Thinking Faith led by **Professor Andrew Steane** Professor of Physics (Oxford).

Free but donations welcome. <u>https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/science-faith</u>

Wednesday 19 October 10-3. Creative Connections Day. Led by Linda Courage in York in partnership with Living Spirituality Connections. <u>https://www.stbedes.org.uk</u>

The first of three days, this 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. The theme for this autumn day: "Before, during and after..."

We will use clay as a focus to explore this theme.

Linda Courage 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.

Friday 21 October 10-4. A Quiet Day for finding rest, rhythm and refreshment for busy lives and busy churches. Led by Revd Andrew Hill. Cornwall. <u>https://www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk/</u>

With so many demands on our time, so many opportunities, so many distractions what can

we learn from the rhythms of nature? How can we resist being swept along in a busy world? How can we make time to rest? The day will focus on Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verses 1-11 through sessions which will explore themes such as times and seasons in the natural world, times and seasons in the Liturgical Year and times and seasons in our personal lives.

Saturday 22nd October 10-3. Contemplative Fire Pilgrimage to Now/Here. A Ramble with Rilke. Leader: Jeremy Timm. E. Yorks.

On a silent pilgrimage walk we will pause at various points along the way to breathe deeply, take in the glories of the natural world and dwell on some words of the poet Rainer Maria Rilke, drawn from his Book of Hours. We will open our hearts to sense the "oneness" of the natural world which has been woven together from the dawn of time itself, with Divine Love and Light.

Please complete this google form to let us know if you'd like to come (numbers are limited) <u>https://forms.gle/meQZVLnoJ5FHLwiv7</u> Donations welcome.

Sun 23 October 1-2. A Feather on the Breath of God: Hildegard of Bingen. Speaker: Revd Dr June Boyce-Tillman. London. <u>https://www.stpauls.co.uk/whats-on/feather-breath-of-god-hildegard-of-bingen</u>

Hildegard was a composer, healer, preacher, theologian, mystic and visionary: a woman of her time and out of her time. Born in the 11th century, she was the founder and Abbess of a community of Benedictine nuns in the Rhineland, and her extraordinary range of writing includes revolutionary thinking about medicine, music, the Trinity, the interdependence of male and female and of all humanity with creation. She corresponded with the Pope, preached publicly against corruption in the church and public life, and in 2012 was declared a Doctor of the Church. June Boyce-Tillman will introduce her life, work, music and ideas, and why she is a theologian for our time as well as her own.

The Revd Dr June Boyce-Tillman is Professor Emerita of Applied Music at the University of Winchester and an Extraordinary Professor at North West University, South Africa. She is a composer, hymn writer and the convenor of Music Spirituality and Wellbeing International which brings together healing, the arts and theology, and author of numerous books including *Creative Spirit: Harmonious Living with Hildegard of Bingen.*

Free, but if you are able to make a donation to the continuing learning programme at St Paul's Cathedral when you register for the event we would be very grateful.

Monday 24 October 10-1. The Water into Wine. (John 2:1-11) Online with Donna Worthington.

The symbol of empty water jars and new wine: emptying ourselves, to offer a space for life lived in all its fullness.

https://christianretreats.live/online-retreats/zoom-retreats/waterintowine2

Thursday 27 October 10-1. First of the occasional Renewal Spaces with Linda Courage. York. Run in partnership with Living Spirituality Connections. <u>https://www.stbedes.org.uk/</u>



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

Each session will have a similar structure and use a similar range of creative activities for different purposes. No experience of using the arts is necessary. Those familiar with the approach are welcome to come along and use the activities to explore whatever is in their hearts and minds. Each 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...

Linda Courage 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.

Saturday 29 October, 10-4. Labyrinth Quiet Day. Led by Judith Jessop. Near Sheffield. https://www.whirlowspiritualitycentre.org



This day aims to help us explore the changing season as British Summer Time comes to an end and we move towards All Saints (Hallowe'en) and All Souls. *continued over*

Labyrinths can be found on beaches and in gardens, in public and private spaces. Labyrinths are sometimes confused with mazes until you walk round them. You discover that there is a safe path with no deviations or dead-ends. Walking a labyrinth has become a popular spiritual practice. The physical action of contemplative movement can enable a freeing of the mind and heart to receive wisdom.

NOVEMBER

3 November 3-4 and 5-6 via Zoom. Start of **The Artist's Rule** with **Linda Courage.** Twelve Thursdays fortnightly 03/11, 17/11, 01/12, 15/12, 29/12, 12/01, 26/01, 09/02, 23/02, 09/03, 23/03, 06/04. £150.00. This course is run in partnership with **Living Spirituality Connections**. Booking: <u>https://www.stbedes.org.uk/</u>



Drawing on the insights and practices of Benedictine spirituality we will explore together the interplay between contemplation and creativity. Each two-part session will be offered on zoom with the hour between for private reflection and creativity. An information sheet giving more detail about the program is available from the St Bede's Pastoral Centre office. You will need to purchase a copy of our primary text for the programme: *'The Artist's Rule'* by Christine Valters Paintner.

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

Fri 4 November 7.30pm. Gods and Monsters. Discovering the light in the shadows. Annual Hildegard lecture by **Revd Azariah France-Williams** MPhil, Author of 'Ghost Ship' (Institutional Racism and the Church of England) and member of the Heartedge Church network. N. Yorks. <u>http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk</u>

Sat 5 November 'Child's Play...Reclaiming our lost selves.' Workshop with Revd. Azariah France-Williams MPhil (see above). N. Yorks. <u>http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk</u>

11 - 13 November. Residential Retreat with Malcolm Guite. London. River deep, mountain high, a Poetic response to the Psalms. Join this 2 night residential retreat with Malcolm Guite, poet-priest and Chaplain of Girton College Cambridge.
https://www.rfsk.org.uk/events

11 - 13 November Psalming Our Souls Retreat. Led by Kathryn Darby, Juliet Fletcher and Maureen Slattery-Marsh. Salisbury. <u>www.sarum.ac.uk</u>

The Biblical Psalms express the raw emotion of human experience poured out to God, self and others whom the psalmist is addressing. Joy and ecstasy, anger and grief, sorrow and contrition, doubt and despair – these emotions find space and expression within the quest for a deeper and more trusting relationship with the divine. The soul is sometimes described as the True or Authentic Self where we meet the mystery of the Divine. Yet in the busyness of our often distracted lives we easily ignore the voice of our soul and its longing for expression remains hidden within.

Psalms give rich and vital expression to the voice of our soul. On this Remembrance weekend we will have space to create our own Psalms, giving voice to our laments and hopes. We will engage the context of our personal and global lives e.g. living with covid, climate crisis, the plight of refugees and asylum seekers, and listen to our soul's response. We will use a variety of creative approaches to express our psalms including the use of our bodies, to enter more fully into psalming our souls. In drawing springboard inspiration from selected Psalms, and daring to give voice to our souls, our hope is that we might discover together the safe shelter of the attentive and loving Mystery that is God.

Saturday 12 November at 2pm. Midlands Living Spirituality Connections meeting. Solihull. A chance to meet face-to-face and share our thoughts, struggles and experiences about our faith journeys. All welcome. Information from Anne Gardner: <u>a.gardner@me.com</u>

Saturday 12 November 2-5 Resting in God, Held by God. Supporting others...Online with Donna Worthington.

https://christianretreats.live/online-retreats/zoom-retreats/restingingod1

Saturday 12 November, 9.45-4.30. Journey into Healing Workshop. Near Perth. https://www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk

Participants are invited to visit the spring in their lives; to gather leaves that may have accumulated; to find some means to remove the blockage; and to do it together in a group

setting. We will invite you to do your work and come together to finish it. The purpose of the workshop is to be open to ourselves, to each other and to God for growth and healing. This is suitable for all who are looking for growth and insight in their relationships or in their inner, emotional or spiritual lives. It is not a requirement that group members be professing Christians, but this is the context in which the groups run.

Saturday 12 November 10 – 4. The Feminine Face of God. With Rev. Eluned. Romsey. https://www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk



Centuries of use of "God the father" and the pronoun "he" along with the oppression of women and other subjugated people in Christianity comes from a patriarchal/ hierarchical interpretation of Christian and Biblical literature. Judeo-Christian texts often refer to God in feminine terms. For example, Deuteronomy, states that God gave birth to Israel. Many of us, whatever our gender identity carry wounds from the feminine face of God being damaged, discarded or obscured from our view. Without disregarding masculine understandings of God, Jesus as male for example, we will reflect on passages of scripture which refer either explicitly or allegorically to God as female and these may help us dismantle wrong assumptions. There will be artwork and music to accompany our journey and times to reflect and create in different ways. The aim is to see if re-setting our filter to 'pick up' gendered language used for God helps us to notice and reflect on the narrowness of frame commonly presented. Through developing an inclusive vocabulary we may find ourselves moving more freely on our spiritual journey.

18-20 November. A Return to Ripeness After Wandering: Chant, Movement and Contemplative Prayer with the Aramaic Jesus. Led by Neil Douglas-Klotz. Worcestershire. https://www.hollandhouse.org

Neil writes "After a gap of three years, with all of the world's events that have intervened, we will touch base again with the eternal wisdom of the Aramaic Jesus and what it means

for our lives today. The retreat atmosphere of Holland House is the perfect home for a deeper contemplation of both our impermanence and our ongoingness, which Yeshua calls naphsha and ruha respectively. Neil will share some of the healing Beatitudes in Matthew and Luke, as well as a number of recent chants and contemplations that arose from the work on his new book, Revelations of the Aramaic Jesus, due to be released a month before we gather. Whether or not you have joined in these Aramaic retreats previously, this is a wonderful doorway into Jesus' native spirituality and way of meditation".

25 - 27 November. Celtic Advent. Leader David Cassian Cole. Sussex. www.penhurst.org.uk

Advent is a significant period in the modern Christian calendar, just as it was for the ancient Celtic Christians. During this retreat, David Cole, author of the book `Celtic Advent` (BRF), will be sharing aspects of Advent and the lead up to Christmas as celebrated and focused on by the ancient Celtic Christians and monastic centres.

Saturday 26 November 10.30 – 4. Advent reflection. Through Creation and even more by the Incarnation, everything is holy. London NW1. Email bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk Events are by donation.

Saturday 26 November 10-4. The Mind's Long Journey to the Trinity - spiritual insights from Evagrius. Led by Angela Tilby. Surrey. <u>https://www.christian-retreat.org</u>

Evagrius of Pontus was a 4th century pioneer of Christian Spirituality whose teaching has been obscured for many centuries. The recent discovery of his work shows him as a person of deep psychological insight, compassion and a surprising humour - all of which can help us to grow in self-knowledge and the knowledge of God. This will be a day of input, experiment and conversation.

Tuesday 29 November Waiting, Fearing, Hoping. This year's Quiet Day for Advent. Led by Father **Jeff Risbridger**. Cornwall. <u>https://www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk/</u>

The new way of living for many is Working From Home (WFH) but the earliest Christians also knew about WFH – Waiting, Fearing and Hoping – as they anticipated the End-times and the return of Christ to usher in the Kingdom of God. In the tradition of the Church, the weeks of Advent help us not only anticipate the coming of Christ as a babe in Bethlehem, but the return of Christ as Judge and Ruler of a Universe restored to a right relationship with the Creator. This Quiet Day will help us consider these ancient Advent themes of Waiting, Fearing and Hoping in the context of our lives today.

DECEMBER

2 - 4 December. An Advent Residential Retreat with John Bell. East London.

Come and stay at our Urban Oasis and find some space and inspiration this Advent. We are totally delighted to welcome back our dear friend John Bell, preacher, hymnwriter, composer, Resource Worker for the Iona Community.

https://www.rfsk.org.uk/events

3 December 10 – 4. Star of Wonder: An Advent Quiet Day with Revd **Vanessa Lawrence** Romsey. <u>https://www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk</u>



Psalm 147 tells us that God 'determines the number of the stars, he gives to all of them their names. Today is an opportunity to begin our Advent journey using the image of stars, the brightest, being the "Star of Bethlehem" which leads to the Christ child. As we reflect on the Star of Bethlehem we remember that it is part of a whole constellation; a universe lit by many stars. As this star of wonder led the magi and shone over the Bethlehem stable, so we will think about our own journey and how God leads us, knows us by name. As we reflect on the use of the image of the star in the bible, through creative prayer and silence, we will be drawn deeper into the mystery of God's incarnational love for us. When we follow the "Bethlehem Star" to Jesus Christ, we are connected as God's people and God's love lives in us. Because we are all loved by God, whose understanding has no limit, God frees us to connect with God's self through prayer and connect with one another through love.

Saturday 10 December Advent Workshop 10-3.30. Led by Colin Black. York.https://www.stbedes.org.uk/ continued over

Art is about using physical substances such as paint, paper, clay to encapsulate something more than just the physical. This reflective workshop opens up invitations to explore more deeply the mystery of the Incarnation ('God Spirit' embodied in human form) through the medium of art-making. No prior experience needed, just curiosity and openness to explore!

22 – 28 December: Christmas on Iona: celebrate the feast of Christmas in good company amid the winter beauty of Iona (Scotland). <u>https://iona.org.uk/</u>

23 - 27 December Christmas House party N. Yorks. http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

Fri 23 Dec - Tue 27 Dec Christmas in Community. Dorset. <u>https://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk</u> All ages gather for a Christmas with less 'stuff' but more heart.

Thu 29 Dec - Mon 2 Jan 2023. New Year Celebrations. Dorset. An all-age house party to welcome the new year. <u>https://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk</u>

29 December - 1 January. Walking with God into a New Year. Leader: **Tony Horsfall.** Sussex. <u>https://www.penhurst.org.uk</u>

Providing space and time for people to reflect on the past year and prepare for the year to come. It will be helpful for people who want to take stock of their life, perhaps because they are in transition, or simply seeking God's will for the future.

30 December – 3 January New Year House party. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

START OF JANUARY

Fri 6 Jan — Mon 9 Jan 2023. The Fourth Wise Man - an Epiphany journey with the labyrinth. Dorset. <u>https://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk</u> To find the Greatest Gift, walk an ancient pilgrimage-in-miniature. With Cost-of-Living offer: 3 nights for the price of 2.