



Living Spirituality Connections
Resources for the spiritual journey

**EVENTS RUN BY MANY CENTRES AND ORGANISATIONS
ACROSS THE UK**

April-June 2020

Compiled by Living Spirituality Connections

www.livingspirit.org.uk/events

Events in March that weren't in our Jan-March events' listing:

28 March 10 - 5. Called to be Reconcilers. Retreat Day with Theo Hawksley.
York. <http://www.stbedes.org.uk/>

How can our faith make a difference in a world of conflict? We will explore the good news of God's reconciliation and the Christian call to be reconcilers. Through input, activities, prayer and discussion we will explore what it means to be reconciled in relation to God, ourselves, others and creation and how we can live our calling as reconcilers in a divided world.

April

4 April Experience the wisdom of Lady Julian of Norwich. Near Perth.
www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk

5-12 April Holy Week retreat. Lindisfarne, Northumberland.
www.aidanandhilda.org.uk

Get involved with Holy Island's rhythm of prayer, with opportunities for discussion and reflection. The Open Gate team.

6-9 April Holy Week retreat. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

Enter more deeply into the last week of Jesus' life and discover the light and hope that emerges out of the darkness

8-14 April Holy Week and Easter retreat. Easter People Well on the Way.
With Revd **Andrew De-Smet** North Yorks. <http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/>

8-13 April 'Outside Holiness'. A journey through Holy Week led by **Kathy Galloway & Christian MacLean**. Iona, Scotland.
<https://iona.org.uk/island-centres/iona-2020/easter/>

Although our Abbey Centre on Iona will not re-open to guests until after Easter, we will be running a Holy Week programme in partnership with the St Columba Hotel which will provide the accommodation and food. Inspired by words in a prayer from George Macleod, the Community's current leaders will be exploring what it might mean for us today to follow Jesus 'outside holiness'. We will also be joining other residents and visitors in immersing ourselves in the drama of Holy Week as it unfolds through the different services held in the Abbey and in other locations on the Island.

9-12 April Holy Week retreat. Join the Minsteracres Community on their journey towards Easter. County Durham. www.minsteracres.org/

9-12 April Easter retreat. Near Bath. <http://www.ammerdown.org/>
Reflect on the meaning of the Easter story for us today.

9-13 April The Belmont Easter Retreat. Herefordshire
www.belmontabbey.org.uk

13-17 April Creative space. With **Jill Hoffman**. Sussex. www.penhurst.org.uk
Mainly undirected free personal space, a chance to "be" as well as to create. Bring any creative ideas you want to explore.

14-17 April Taizé Easter Retreat. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk
We consider a number of Taizé icons that take us on a journey from birth to death and resurrection and finally new life in Christ.

14-17 April GreenSpirit Spring Walking Retreat in the Peak District.
<https://www.greenspirit.org.uk/>

14-19 April Rest, work and play. Mid Wales. www.llangasty.com
Read, walk and be refreshed.

17-19 April Introduction to the Welcome Prayer practice. With **Jill Benet**.
Surrey. www.christian-retreat.org

22 April Day of Prayer. Experience different ways of praying in a beautiful setting, with time for personal prayer. County Durham.

<http://www.minsteracres.org/>

23-26 April The Dance of Life: Meeting Our Selves on the Path. With Tasnim Fernandez and Neil Douglas-Klotz. Edinburgh. <http://www.eicsp.org>

25 April Seeing in the dark. With Christopher Chapman. Surrey.
www.christian-retreat.org Meeting God in struggle and uncertainty.

25 April 10.30 – 4. Thinking Science, Thinking Faith. York. PCN Britain event. Keynote Speaker: **Prof Tom McLeish** FRS, Professor of Natural Philosophy in the Department of Physics, University of York. Progressive Christianity Network.

Participants can choose one of three topics: **Climate change**, facilitated by Martin Bassant and Jemima Parker, **Cosmology**, facilitated by Tom McLeish and **Issues in Medical Ethics**, facilitated by Prof Ian Cooke and Revd Dr Ian Lovett.

Book at https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/shop/product/thinking_science_thinking_faith

25-26 April Uncovering the Essence: A Journey of Spiritual Awakening. Led by Steve Taylor. Edinburgh. <http://www.eicsp.org>

Spiritual psychologist Dr. Steve Taylor will guide you through a weekend of exercises, meditations, and discussion designed to put you in contact with the spiritual essence of your being. Using some of Steve's poetic writings as a guide, we will experience the peace and harmony of our true nature. In particular, we will focus on dissolving our attachment to external things and realising an inner state of freedom that is independent of anything external. We will also explore the link between presence and creativity, and focus on freedom from fear of death.

29-30 April Now that I am free to be myself, who am I? With Andrew and Wendy Rudd. Cheshire. www.foxhillchester.co.uk

A creative space to reflect on the impact that change has on our lives.

May

1-3 May. Tune your ear to wisdom. With Dom Brendan Thomas. Herefordshire.
<http://www.belmontabbey.org.uk/>

An introduction to the ancient tradition of lectio divina, the art of holy listening.

2 May 10.30-4. Saving beauty: Recovering the heart of an abundance that can save us.
Led by Professor **Mark S Burrows**. London. <http://meditatiocentrelondon.org/>

Beauty is an abundance in the midst of want, a glimpse of wholeness among the fragments. It is that sense of fullness we sometimes glimpse that meets us in our longings. Together we'll explore Dostoevsky's bold claim that "beauty alone will save us" – because it has the power to awaken us to the depth of the "ordinary" in our lives, precisely in the midst of the struggles and disappointments we face. For beauty has the capacity to restore us to a way of seeing things "whole" and living into that wholeness in ways that might inspire and encourage us to lead more authentic and centered lives.

4-8 May Continuing the journey conference Derbyshire
<https://continuingthejourney.com/>

Speakers: **Rachel Mann, Pádraig Ó Tuama, Mark Oakley, Julienne McLean.**
This conference is an open temporary community, creatively exploring continuity and tension between the world and church, nature and grace, psychology and theology. There are still a few places left for latecomers to book for the conference (as at 1 March 2020).

5-8 May. Women in the Bible. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk
Discussion, poetry and music around five paintings of women in the bible.

8-10 May Practising Presence. Led by **Gill Pennington**. Cumbria
www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk

We will explore and experience spiritual practices and ways of being present from a variety of faith traditions; particularly those that encourage us to connect more deeply with 'that of God within'. We will be invited to try some things that are perhaps different from our usual practices, in the beautiful historic spaces at Swarthmoor Hall. There will be opportunities for individual work, group sharing and the freedom to go where each one of us is led.

9 May Bread of Heaven. With **Chris Chapman**. Kent.
<https://www.christopherchapmanspirituality.co.uk/events/>

Journeying with God through times of uncertainty. This day will help us explore how God desires to walk with us through the challenges and uncertainties of our circumstances. Through the day there will be a balance of input and quiet spaces for personal reflection and prayer.

9 May Evelyn Underhill. Drawing on the wisdom and insight of this early 20th century mystic to help our own prayer and growth. Bucks.

<https://stmichaelsconvent.sistersofthechurch.org.uk/>

8-10 May Seeing God in nature. North Wales. With Mary Colwell.

www.noddfa.org.uk

8-10 May Life before death. The psychology of flourishing. North Wales.

www.beunos.com

8-10 May Carafest, a Festival of Politics, Arts and Public Theology. Belfast.

<https://www.corrymeela.org>

We are delighted that Carafest is returning. Expect the usual mix of politics, art, theology, worship, cups of tea and coffee and plenty of surprises and quirky contributions. Keep an eye on this website where we'll be announcing more details of the lineup and how and where to get tickets.

11 May 7.30. 'Caring for People, Water and Earth'. Speaker: Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri. Manchester. <https://lutherkinghouse.org.uk>

The lecture takes up the World Council of Churches Pilgrimage Theme for 2020, expressing concerns for justice and care for creation in our world today. The World Council of Churches (WCC) is an international fellowship of churches seeking unity, a common witness and Christian service. Luther King House and The Centre for Theology and Justice are delighted to welcome Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, professor within the field of African Theology and is part of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians

11-15 May Thresholds. With Mark Godson. Devon. www.sheldon.uk.com

Inspired by the poets and timeless wisdom of the borderlands of his home, Mark will share a conversation with the uncertainty we encounter at threshold moments. We enter into silence so that dogma and certainty may dissolve in the embrace, flow and wonder of God. A silent retreat.

11-15 May Painting & Prayer. Leaders: Kay Andrews and Christine Dodd. North Wales

www.noddfa.org.uk

11-15 May Here is love, vast as the ocean. With Jennifer Rees Larcombe and Carol Bostock. Sussex. www.penhurst.org.uk

13 May Two doves on the chalice. Led by **Terry Doyle**. County Durham.

<http://www.minsteracres.org/>

Inner healing for compassionate outreach. Exploration of the need for a contemplative response to the problems of our society.

15-17 May Therese of Lisieux. The saint of love retreat. Berks.

www.douaiabbey.org.uk

16 May 10.30 - 4. Creation made for relationship: the holistic metaphysics of Saint Bonaventure. Led by Fr **Tom Herbst OFM**. London. <http://meditatiocentrelondon.org/>

16-23 May North Wales Odyssey

<https://www.journeying.co.uk/journeys-2020?id=797525>

North Wales has a combination of a beautiful coastline, valleys, hills, rivers and mountains. Steeped in Christianity - brought by the Romans and nurtured by hundreds of saints - the area has many "thin places". These are locations where many people sense the closeness of the spiritual. Based at St Augustine's Priory in Old Colwyn, there will be opportunities to explore the surrounding countryside, tasting a little of the North Wales Pilgrim's Way and discovering more about the early Celtic Saints.

18-21 May God, beauty and the imagination. Salisbury. www.sarum.ac.uk

18-21 May Celtic Retreat. With **Julie Hopkins**. North Wales. www.noddfa.org.uk

18-22 May Thomas Merton. Discover the relevance of his thought to the world today. With **David Cole**. Linsdisfarne, Northumberland.

www.aidanandhilda.org.uk

Tues 19 May 10-3.30. Creativity in Worship with **Sammi Tooze**. York.

www.stbedes.org.uk

Worship lies at the heart of who we are as Christians. In its many forms, worship connects us as individuals and communities to God - it allows us to speak, to listen, and to be transformed. This workshop will be a day of exploring creativity in crafting worship, and reflecting on how we weave theology into our worship, using creative prayer, icons, music, and silence. **Sammi Tooze** is an Adviser for parishes in the Anglican Diocese of York, with a background in liturgy, music and church growth. Much of her worship life is at York Minster, where she regularly contributes to both community and liturgical life.

20 May Carmelite spirituality. Salisbury. www.sarum.ac.uk

A dialogue between the spiritualities of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross.

22-24 May Loving Earth: creative spiritual responses to the climate crisis.

Birmingham. www.woodbrooke.org.uk

A weekend of creative exploration of the challenges of climate and environmental breakdown, engaging in spiritual practice and making textile panels to join the Loving Earth Project travelling exhibition.

27-31 May Prophetic Art Retreat 'Come Holy Spirit'. With **Bhari Long.**

Gower Coast, South Wales. www.nicholastonhouse.org.uk

This Prophetic Art Retreat led by Bhari Long, author of “Artists and Artisans Awake! Creativity & the Global Harvest” is a ‘hands on’ opportunity to get in touch with the creative gift you were born with and be inspired to paint! God loves to speak truth into our lives through images. Jesus Christ Himself used pictorial imagery as He taught.

Be inspired by nature and the coast in this area of outstanding natural beauty. Be filled afresh and led by the Holy Spirit, as you experiment, experience and explore prophetic art. Learn how to pray and worship God creatively as we approach Pentecost. Check website for items you need to take with you.

30 May Rediscovering Sabbath with **Christine Strohmeier.** Sussex.

www.penhurst.org.uk Explore the deeper meaning of entering into God’s Sabbath rest.

1-4 June Northern Saints. County Durham. <http://www.minsteracres.org/>

Find out about the world of the saints and their spirituality. Includes visits to Holy Island, Bamburgh, Durham and other early monastic sites.

5-7 June Meditative walking retreat. Longing and the Celtic spirituality of the journey. Led by **Andrew Peers.** Berks. www.douaiabbey.org.uk

Take a journey in the company of the Celtic hero Columcille, to find direction in your life. Celtic spirituality is your guide to the mystical realm of your inner world, where the fullness of personal calling becomes clear. This is no random journey, but an intentional exploration of landscapes rich with salmon, fiery halls and pillars of silver rising from the sea. There are also challenges, but each has its practical message for our lives today. To the sound of the drum, Andrew will guide you on the inner paths of these mystical landscapes that are unique

to you. This practical retreat will include Q & A sessions on What is Prayer? What is spiritual practice? And will explore the Celtic way of relating to nature. The practical aspect will involve silent walking in the woods, together with a journey to the inner self.

Andrew Peers has lived as a Trappist monk in silent communities. He leads workshops to guide others in spirituality.

5-7 June. Guide to the Grateful Way of Life with **Adam Dacey**. Cumbria
www.glenthorne.org

5-8 June Sunrise of Wonder: A Contemplative Prayer Intensive. Leicestershire.
www.laundeabbey.org.uk

Space and instruction to support those who engage in contemplative prayer to deepen their practice.

Tues 9 June, 10 - 3.30 Creative Connections Workshop with **Linda Courage**. York.
www.stbedes.org.uk/

This creative workshop offers a space to explore different aspects of life. Linda has for many years used the arts in her own spiritual journey as a way of accessing parts of herself that the intellect can't. Her workshops offer an opportunity to explore some these ways in a gentle and reflective environment. No experience of using the arts is required (and can actually be a benefit!) Linda is a member of the Abbey of the Arts and Co-ordinator for the Arts & Spirituality Area within Living Spirituality Connections.

12-14 June 'Touching the Earth Lightly'. Speakers: **Timothy O'Riordan, Dr. Carmody Grey and Patrick Woodhouse**. Swanwick, Derbyshire. <https://www.christianmeditation.org.uk>

The World Community for Christian Meditation in the UK (WCCM UK) invites all who want to deepen their understanding of the ecological emergency and find a contemplative response. Talks by the three eminent speakers will be integrated throughout the weekend into a rhythm of workshops, questions and discussion groups and meditation periods. Booking: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/cmtuk2020/318479/>

12-14 June. Tell it slant. Reading the gospels from the edges. Salisbury. www.sarum.ac.uk
Allowing queer, marginal and silenced voices to speak.

13 June 10 - 4. Quiet Day to explore meditation in the Christian tradition. Led by The Revd Dr **Nicholas Buxton**. Durham. <https://stantonypriory.org>

13-20 June and 20-27 June Iona Pilgrimage Weeks. Join **John Philip Newell** on the sacred isle of Iona for a week of prayer, learning, sacred practice, and community.

<https://heartbeatjourney.org/all-events/>

Each day on Iona begins and ends with the rhythm of prayer and meditation together. In the mornings, John Philip Newell teaches on Celtic themes of Earth and Soul as sacred and invites us into the holy work of contemplation and action as the basis for transformation in our lives and world.

15-18 June Contemporary Christian Spirituality. Salisbury.

<http://www.sarum.ac.uk/>

Focusing on recent developments, particularly writing on the “spiritual revolution”.

15-19 June Painting and Prayer Retreat Cornwall.

<http://www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk/>

An opportunity to explore spirituality expressed through painting, light and colour. Suitable for all levels of ability, from beginner to more experienced artists, the retreat includes one-to-one painting tuition, spiritual accompaniment and plenty of free time for painting, prayer and relaxation.

Tuesday 16 to Thursday 18 June 2020 Ecofeminist Theologies In the Age of Climate Crisis.

West Wales. <http://www.s608487333.websitehome.co.uk/>

Keynote speakers: Prof **Heather Eaton**, [St Paul, University, Ottawa], Prof **Agnes Brazal**, [DeLa Salle University, Manila], Prof **Catherine Keller**, [Drew University, USA], **Kara Moses** [Re-Wilding, Cymru]. Dr **Megan Clay** will discuss the art exhibition entitled ‘Women Dancing with Gaia’.

This is the **Britain and Ireland School of Feminist Theology** Summer School, held at University of Wales, Trinity St David, Lampeter. Early Bird Booking before 15th April, £175. Full fee £190 including all meals. Closing date for all bookings 30th May, 2020. For further information contact: Professor Lisa Isherwood: l.isherwood@uwtsd.ac.uk

19-21 June Living Theology. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

Deepen your knowledge of the Christian faith, with time for personal reflection.

20 June 10 - 4. An Alternative Orthodoxy. With Rev Canon **Olive Stevens** and

Rev **Sian Yates**. Cornwall. <http://www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk/>

A day of contemplative teachings, practices and reflections using video footage from the CONSPIRE conference 2020 based on the teachings of Fr. Richard Rohr OFM.

22-25 June. Summer School 2020: Spirituality in Contemporary Culture. Manchester.

<https://lutherkinghouse.org.uk>.

Examining and assessing the many forms of contemporary spirituality. Exploring the place of spirituality in such areas as visual art, film, music and in the urban context.

Thurs 23 June 10-3.30. Viriditas. Greening Power for all Creation. With **Lynn Nausner.**

York. www.stbedes.org.uk

“The earth which sustains humanity must not be injured, it must not be destroyed.”

- Hildegard von Bingen. Hildegard most certainly has a message for us today. It is amazing to discover that this 12th century visionary was already urging us to care not only for the earth but also for ourselves and to seek balance and moderation in our daily lives. We will be introduced to Hildegard and explore the relevance of Viriditas both for ourselves and for mother earth. Body prayer, meditation and music will be woven into the day.

24 June 6.30–9.00. The Compassion of the Mystics. Speaker: Professor **Bernard McGinn.**

London. <http://meditatiocentrelondon.org/>

As a central practice in the Christian life, compassio has a long history. Three mystics who provide rich examples of sumpatheia/compassio are Francis of Assisi, his contemporary the Belgian Cistercian Ida of Nivelles, and Francis de Sales. This talk will probe the contours of true compassion through the lives of the mystics and saints who illustrate this power to transform life.

Thursday 25 June Replenish Day. With **Helen Warwick.** North Yorks.

www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

27 June Flourishing through Prayer. With **Patrick Coyne.** Surrey. www.christian-retreat.org

New developments in positive psychology.

28 June - 1 July Beloved of God. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

Explore how the visions of Julian of Norwich and her lifetime of reflection on their meaning can reshape the way we think, pray and live.

Tuesday 30 June Day of reflection. South Wales. www.tycroesocentre.co.uk

By transforming our consciousness we participate in the transformation of our world (Robert Thurman).

Tuesday 30 June Pilgrimage - the inner and outer journey. Speakers: **Sara Maitland, Rev Dr**

Sally Welch. London. <http://www.retreats.org.uk/summerevent.php>

Advance Notices

6 July – 23 August Earth, Our Original Monastery. A Companion Retreat to the Book with Christine & John Valters Paintner and Betsey Beckman

Do you long to deepen your intimacy with nature?

Are you seeking a set of Earth-cherishing practices inspired by the mystics?

Have you experienced Earth as your primary place of connection to the divine?

Do you want to immerse yourself in a revolution of love to help transform ourselves and our communities?

Details: <https://abbeyofthearts.com/programs/online-classes/earthmonastery/>

Mon 6 - Sat 11 July. “Dying to Live:” Creation Spirituality retreat with Sr Margaret Rose McSparran, Sr Anne Harnett & Team. Northern Ireland. <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>

13-15 July Modern Church Annual Conference 2020 Herts.

<https://modernchurch.org.uk/mcevents/modern-church-conference>

Living in Love and Faith is the Church of England’s latest project on sexuality, due to report during the same month as this conference. Also in July the Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops worldwide will meet, and sexuality issues are again likely to cause disagreement. Set within this background, Modern Church is presenting a highly topical and timely conference, demonstrating how the Christian Gospel affirms, accepts and welcomes everyone, whatever their identity, gender or sexuality, and without reservation or ambiguity.

The speakers represent diverse sexualities, genders and theological outlooks, all of them pursuing a vision of sexual equality and gender justice in the light of faith. There will be eight presentations from well-known academics and campaigners, and each presenter will also provide a follow-up seminar.

Chair: Professor **Adrian Thatcher** Chaplain: The Revd **Dr Tina Beardsley**, SMMS

14-16 July Practical Theology as Ecotheology Conference. Glasgow.

<https://www.biapt.org/events/2020-annual-conference/>

In an era when scientists warn there is limited time left in which to reverse the most catastrophic effects of climate change, BIAPT (The British & Irish Association for Practical Theology) 2020 will turn its attention to this most urgent of issues and to wide ranging

engagement with ecological thinking. How do we interpret and respond to our contemporary ecological crisis in the light of our diverse faith traditions? What theological resources, practices and convictions will enable us to respond most creatively and prophetically to planetary changes? What kinds of conversations between science and theology do we need to encourage and enable?

Keynote speakers: Dr **Seferosa Carroll**, a Pacific theologian who is taking up a post at the World Council of Churches and Dr **Hilary Marlow**, a Biblical scholar and a freelance researcher and writer on faith and the environment. Author of ***Biblical Prophets and Contemporary Environmental Ethics***.

Panel on Activist Responses to Climate and Ecological Crisis involves three panellists engaged with climate justice activism who will share reflections on their practice and its intersections with religion, including discussion of faith as a motivation for action, how aspects of Christian theology may be deployed for activism in problematic ways, and decolonising the climate movement.

Dr **Anna Fisk** is Lecturer in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Glasgow, and an activist with Extinction Rebellion Scotland. As an academic, she writes and teaches on feminist theology and the intersection of religion with culture, weaving autobiography into her theological reflection and religious scholarship. As an activist, Anna is a member of Extinction Rebellion Scotland, who use non-violent direct action to pressure the Scottish and UK governments to act on climate.

Layla-Roxanne Hill and Zarina Ahmad are also panel members.

30 July - 1 August Liberal Theology: What is liberal faith and what does it offer to the world? Free to Believe National Conference. Herts.

Speakers: **Gary Dorrien, Peter Brain, Alex Clare-Young and Alison Micklem.**

<http://www.freetobelieve.org.uk>

The liberal option is of a faith that changes and develops to meet the needs of the contemporary world. It stands for a faith that is open, inclusive and socially radical. In our time it has been championed among others by John Robinson, Paul Tillich, Jack Spong and Martin Luther King. Without it theology too easily becomes a shrivelled, narrow, bigoted discourse. Instead it looks for a liberating faith.

Week beginning 1 August: 'Braving the Elements'. Iona, Scotland.

A week's immersion in the practice and purpose of creative, participative liturgy. Led by **Jo Love of the Wild Goose Resource Group**, with **Carol Marples and Jane Bentley**. Go to <https://iona.org.uk/island-centres/iona-2020/iona-abbey-centre-2020-programme/> for a special booking form for this week.