

EVENTS END SEPTEMBER – BEGINNING DECEMBER 2020

Compiled by **Living Spirituality Connections**

www.livingspirit.org.uk/

Most events are online. For in-person events, please check with the relevant centre.

End of September

Sun 27 September 6pm Eco Contemplative Liturgy on Zoom. Led this month by **Petra Griffiths**.

We will draw on the inspiration of Hildegard of Bingen whose Feast Day is in mid-September. If you are in the fortunate position of having some outside space, please do Zoom from outside, or from a window/door with a view. Alternatively, you might like to collect a leaf, flower, twig or stone before the liturgy. Participants will be invited to speak about their garden, view or object if they would like to (in breakout groups).

The session will be open from 5.45pm. Arriving before 6 will enable any glitches with audio or video to be sorted. The liturgy lasts between 30 and 40 minutes. You are welcome to stay a while afterwards to chat with others. This liturgy is a monthly event run by St James's Church Piccadilly's Eco Church team. All are welcome to join.

<https://www.sjp.org.uk/ecochurch.html>

For the Zoom link and liturgy sheet please email petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk

29 September 10.30 - 12. Experience of the Spirit. Poetry and Spiritual Practice. Online event run by Woodbrooke.

How can reading poems help us deepen our spiritual practice? Poetry can open up new understanding through the power of its language. We will read a couple of poems together and, using creative and contemplative practices, explore what they might be telling us about our relationship with the divine. This session is for anyone, whether you have never read a poem, gave up on poetry a long time ago or read and enjoy poetry regularly.

£20. Booking: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/item/poetry-1-poetry-and-spiritual-practice/>

Mary Ward - A Woman for our Times. 29 September/6 October/13 October. Tuesdays 9.30-11.30. Led by Sr **Marion Bettenworth** CJ. Zoom event. (£30) St Bede's Pastoral Centre.

This mini-series will explore the life and spirituality of Mary Ward – and how this extraordinary woman has a lot to say to us today! We will explore the political and religious

situation in England around the time of Mary Ward's birth. We will then look at how discerning and following the will of God was the central focus and motivation of Mary Ward's life. This enables us to explore our own understanding of the will of God – and how we can discern it in our own lives. The just soul, and freedom, justice and sincerity were key values for Mary Ward and major characteristics of her spirituality. We will look at how these played out in Mary Ward's life and their relevance in our own lives in the 21st century.

Booking: <https://mcusercontent.com/9c564c1f57/files/78cfe2ff-590c-40a9-bac8-2e07736b52e9/First Offerings for the Autumn Term 2020.01.pdf>

October

The Wisdom of Wild Grace. 3-4 October, 2-4pm and 6-8 pm on Saturday and Sunday. with **Christine Valters Paintner**, PhD, REACE. Live from Ireland: Virtual Weekend Zoom Retreat.



“I crave a wide sea of wordless moments that allow me to express myself in another language, one more ancient and primal. I want to become a disciple of silence and hear in that shimmering soundlessness the voice of the One who whispers in stillness, whose singing vibrates in stones, who out of the silence calls forth a radical commitment of which I do not yet know the shape.” Christine Valters Paintner in *Earth Our Original Monastery*.

Join us for this two-day live, virtual retreat over the Feast of St Francis where we will explore the gift of Earth as our original monastery. In these days of climate crisis and global pandemic, how might we grow in intimacy with the elements and creatures? How might we listen more closely to Earth's wisdom for us?

Course fee: Circa £98 (\$125). Go to www.abbeyofthearts.com to book.

Mon 5 October 7.30. Our Journeys to the Holy Land by members of the **Oxford Three Faiths Encounter team**. Zoom event. **Speakers:** Imam **Monawar Hussain**, The Oxford Foundation, **Heather-Jane Ozanne**, Spirit of Peace, Rabbi **Michael Hilton**, Leo Baeck

College. A conversation on Jewish, Christian and Muslim encounter in the Holy Land. Followed by interfaith prayers.

Live link to make the registration process easier:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hIHTQdE8QqWUtz7DJ3zr8A

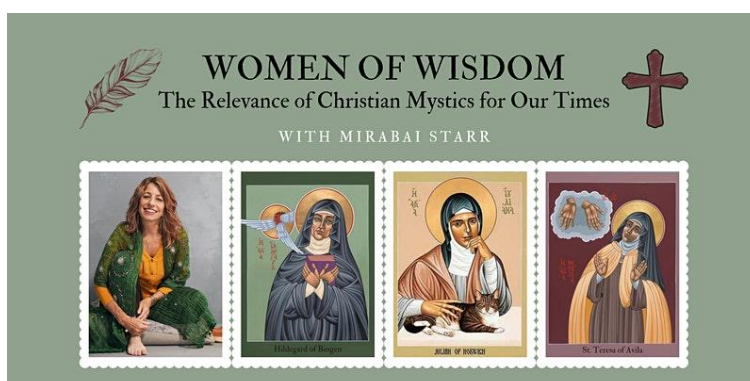
Guided Prayer 5 October - 7 December 5-5.30 pm On Zoom. St Bede's Pastoral Centre. (£5 per session or £30 for all 10 sessions).

An opportunity to be guided through the Ignatian 'Prayer of Examen', a practice which helps us to reflect on how and where we are encountering the life of God in our everyday experience. Quietly guided meditations are also offered, using an ancient monastic prayer form, Lectio Divina, with scripture and inspirational music.

For details and to book go to: <https://mcusercontent.com/9c564c1f57/files/78cfe2ff-590c-40a9-bac8-2e07736b52e9/First Offerings for the Autumn Term 2020.01.pdf>

Fri 9 Oct 4pm – Sun, 11 Oct 7pm Embracing the Divine through the wisdom of the mystics with **Mirabai Starr**. Online event. £32.93.

https://www.norwichmeditation.co.uk/Articles/586755/Norwich_Meditation/Speakers/Embracing_the_Divine.aspx



Three afternoons of silence, reflection, and teaching on the tender wisdom of Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, and Hildegard of Bingen. The mystics of all traditions claim that their love-encounter with the Holy One defies all description and yet their experience of longing and union pours out in the form of ecstatic, luminous and richly descriptive poetry and prose. In this gathering, Mirabai shares selected passages from the great Christian mystics, Teresa of Avila, Julian of Norwich, and Hildegard of Bingen, engaging these evocative words as objects of Lectio Divina (sacred reading). She tells stories from their lives and offers her reflections on their essential wisdom teachings, paying special attention to their unique relevance for our times. After contemplative readings, along with meditations to support us, we can respond to evocative writing prompts to access our own words to deepen our personal journey.

continued over

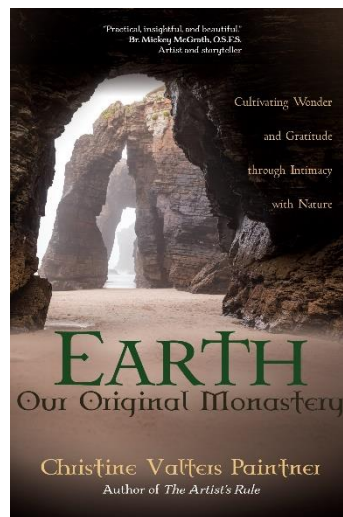
"By saying yes to the best of our own heritage and entering the holiest grounds of one another's faith traditions, we may be able to usher in an age of love within our own lifetime."

Sat 17 October 2-5pm or Mon 19 October 9.30am-12.30pm. The Absence of God. Online event led by retreat leader **Donna Worthington**. £20.

What is happening if we feel God is absent? Negotiating our way through this - for our own faith and also to help others going through this experience.

Bookings: email mdrworthington@live.co.uk

30 October 10-2:30 start of **"Earth, Our Original Monastery"** series with **Linda Courage**, continuing on the following Fridays: 27 November, 18 December, 29 January, 26 February, 26 March, 30 April. A seven month journey through the book **Earth, Our Original Monastery** by **Christine Valters Paintner**, Benedictine Oblate, and Abbess of the virtual global online monastery, The Abbey of the Arts (www.abbeyofthearts.com).



This book helps us to find and know our rightful place in relationship with Earth. Each chapter engages our senses to penetrate, sink into, and rest in this finding and knowing. With time together, and individual space, we'll explore and experience Earth as Cathedral, Scripture, Saints, Spiritual Directors, Icons, Sacraments, and Liturgy.

Linda Courage is Coordinator of the Arts and Spirituality Special Interest Area of Living Spirituality Connections (www.livingspirit.org.uk/), where she is a member of the Work and Discernment Group. Her primary spiritual home is in the Abbey of the Arts.

Zoom will be used to deliver the first and last hour of our time together each month via St Bede's Pastoral Centre in York. You will need to buy your own copy of the book to use throughout the series. For the course fee and to book contact St Bede's Pastoral Centre: email: admin@stbedes.org.uk Tel: 01904 464900 Website: www.stbedes.org.uk

14 October 6-8 pm Black Feminist Prophetic Attention. Zoom event. Led by **Brontë Velez** with **Jiordi Rosales**. <https://stethelburgas.org/event/black-feminist-prophetic-attention/>

Through this workshop participate with us in practising attention as taught by black feminist prophetic traditions. We will learn how to re-weave connection with ecological modes of listening, noticing patterns, and caretaking through the wisdom of our attention.

Mon 19 October 9:30 am - Wed 21 October 5:00 pm. Introduction to Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC). Online course run by Woodbrooke. £86.00.

This course teaches the core principles and practices that will enable participants to respond to difficulties in their lives with kindness, care and understanding. The course is based on the eight week training programme designed by Drs Kristin Neff and Christopher Germer to cultivate the skill of Self-Compassion.

Details & Booking: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/item/introduction-to-mindful-self-compassion/>

23 - 25 October Music, Spirituality and Well being. Retreat with Revd Professor **June Boyce-Tillman** MBE. North Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

Tues 27 October 6.30-9pm Resurrection Angel. Online event led by retreat leader **Donna Worthington**. £20.

Sitting on the tomb's stone, playing a banjo, laughter in her eyes... we explore the joy and humour in a Resurrection Gospel text and create our own resurrection angel.

Bookings: email mdrworthington@live.co.uk

31 October 4-7 pm Retreat for the Feasts of Samhain and All Saints & All Souls **Listening at the Threshold: Voices of Saints and Ancestors.** A Zoom online mini-retreat from Ireland. With **Deirdre Ni Chinneide** and **Christine Valters Paintner**. £39 approx (\$50).

A 3-hour retreat into time outside of time. The days around late October and early November are especially sacred in the Celtic tradition, when the veil between worlds is thin. It is a threshold time, when the old falls away and the new is coming into birth. When heaven and earth kiss. As the nights grow ever darker in the northern hemisphere we are invited to listen for the voices of the saints and ancestors.

Through song, poetry, meditation, reflection, writing exploration, small and large group sharing we will gather in a virtual sanctuary space and honor those who have passed before us and what guidance we might receive in these lengthening nights for the challenging times we live in. Our ancestors have lived through their own times of plague and unrest.

We can hear their whispers in our blood and bones. Come receive the wisdom they offer to us as we open to the heart of who we most deeply are.

Limited enrolment. We will record the session and make it available on our course platform for those registered but encourage you, if possible, to join us live.

Booking details: <https://abbeyofthearts.com/programs/online-classes/ancestors-retreat/>

Deirdre Ní Chinnéide is a licensed psychotherapist, spiritual director and has composed two albums of music: Celtic Passage and I will Sing for you. She facilitates concerts and retreats at home and abroad. **Christine Valters Paintner** is the online Abbess of Abbey of the Arts, a virtual monastery and global community integrating contemplative practice and creative expression. Christine is the author of 15 books including two collections of poetry. She lives in Galway, Ireland with her husband John, where together they lead online and live retreats to the wild edges.

November

1 November 6:00 pm – 8 November 10:00 am 8-Day Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat with **Jill Benet**. Surrey. christian-retreat.org 6 participants only.

2 - 27 November Wisdom of the Christian Mystics. Led by **Tessa Bielecki, Carl McColman**. E-course. \$59.95. (Circa £46). Offered from Canada. Details & booking: <https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/ecourses/course/view/10266/wisdom-of-the-christian-mystics>

In every generation, those who enter deeply into the mystery of life are known as mystics, wisdom-keepers who help us along the way. They celebrate union with God and manifest love and compassion in action. Their writings give us inspiring poetry, visionary wisdom, prophetic insight, and guidance for bringing justice and mercy more fully into our world.

This e-course explores the life and teachings of some of the great mystics of the Christian tradition, revealing how their ancient — and sometimes recent — wisdom can inspire and transform our lives today. Each of the twelve emails we send will introduce you to a mystical teaching and invite you to savor its wisdom in the ordinary rhythms of your daily life.

You will meet both classical and contemporary mystics such as Hildegard of Bingen, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, Meister Eckhart, Howard Thurman, Aelred of Rievaulx, Evelyn Underhill, Dorothee Soelle, and several others. Over the course of our journey together we will consider the relationship between contemplation and action, the earth and the body as sacraments of Divine Presence, the breath as our guide to deep

meditation, personal touchstones, mantra prayer, the sorrowful mother, soul friends, the code of chivalry, healing the sacred wound, the mysticism of resistance, and more.

Be careful: the words of the mystics have been known to change peoples' lives!

3 and 17 November and 1 December Holding Real Hope. 'Finding the Way with Wisdom'. A series of online Zoom events with **Helen Warwick. Tuesdays.** Choose between 10-11.30 am and 6-7.30 pm. Topics: **3 Nov: Divine Wisdom. 17 Nov: Wisdom of the Self. 1 Dec: The Wisdom of Community.** Donations per session between £10 and £15. Maximum of 12 people per session. Booking: www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

6 - 7 November Hildegard Lecture '**Public Theology and the Common Good**'. With keynote speaker and workshop. Professor **Elaine Graham** gives the 20th Anniversary of The Centre for the Study of Theology and Health. North Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

Wed 11 November, 10 - 4. Befriending Death? Led by **James Woodward**. Sarum College, Salisbury. You can participate online or in person.

How do we consider mortality and prepare for death? This day aims to facilitate a conversation about this aspect of our shared ministry and introduce some resources to equip us all to continue to develop and grow in wisdom in our area of pastoral and spiritual work. Ideally suited for spiritual directors and anyone, lay or ordained, engaging in pastoral ministry.

Book your on line or in-person place by emailing courses@sarum.ac.uk 01722 424800. Cost details at: <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/learning/booking-information-2>

Fri 13 November, 10 - 4. The Church as a Hub for Health and Healing with Gillian Straine. Sarum College, Salisbury. You can participate online or in person.

Lockdown and the effects of the pandemic have left in their wake deeply traumatised individuals and communities who live with ongoing uncertainty. In what ways can the church be a place of healing? How can leaders, both lay and ordained, build confidence in developing ministries that bring hope and health, and do so as part of their mission? Building on clear theological and missiological foundations, Gillian will offer participants teaching in both the theory and practice, with time to reflect on context while underpinning well-being not only for those in leadership but for the communities which they serve. Book an online or in person place: courses@sarum.ac.uk 01722 424800. Cost details at: www.sarum.ac.uk/learning/booking-information-2

16 Nov 2020 - 10 Jan 2022 at 17.30. Unpicking the legacy of colonialism: A space for learning. Online event run by St Ethelburga's Centre for community resilience in times of ecological and social emergency, through practical collaborative action.

This regular gathering space will be for those committed to better understanding racial injustice and the legacy of colonialism. We will be using relevant books, films, articles and videos as a starting point for learning and discussion. Community, Environmental Peacebuilding, Peace & conflict, People on the move, Refugees, Restorative practice, Sacred Activism, Spiritual ecology, Storytelling.

Open to all. Dates, times and speakers will be announced soon. For more information contact us. <https://stethelburgas.org/contact-us/>

Saturday 21 November GreenSpirit Annual Gathering 2020 By [Zoom](#)

Something different! Due to the ongoing uncertainties with Covid-19, the GreenSpirit Annual Gathering is changing this year. We will be presenting a guest speaker, (break out rooms) World Café and the GreenSpirit AGM For details go to <https://www.greenspirit.org.uk/events/>

23 November 2020 - 2 January 2022. Practising Spirituality with Thomas Merton.

Led by **Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat**. E-course offered from Canada. \$59.95 (circa £46). <https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/ecourses/course/custom/49/practicing-spirituality-with-thomas-merton-2020> This e-course consists of 40 daily emails.

As a spiritual master, Thomas Merton (1915 - 1968) has proven to have real staying power. Each year new books are added to the ever-expanding library of his published works — prose and poetry, letters and journals, photographs and drawings, social criticism and cultural commentaries. Many of us return to his writings again and again, and new generations of seekers discover him every day. This extraordinary Trappist monk, writer, civil rights activist, and peacemaker processed all his reading and encounters with others through daily journals. He was a master of everyday spirituality, finding meaning and things to celebrate in everything he experienced. Merton was one of the first contemporary Christians to find a balance between contemplation and social action. He believed that they had to go hand-in-hand, making him a forerunner of the modern-day emphasis on spiritual activism. Merton was also a pioneer of what Wayne Teasdale has called "interspirituality." He explored and reveled in the bounties of Buddhism, Judaism, Sufism, Taoism, and Hinduism.

28 November Advent Retreat Day. '**Entertaining Angels**' Responding to the othering of you, me and our environment. With Revd Dr **Tiffany Conlin**. N. Yorks

www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

Mon 30 November 2:00 pm to Thu 3 December, 2:00 pm. Embodying Wisdom. Led by **Karen O'Donnell**. Sarum College, Salisbury. Participate online or in person.

This module introduces the key philosophical and psychological issues of the last 100 years that have shaped contemporary understandings of spirituality. Students will be encouraged to examine contemporary concepts of 'experience' and 'self' in the light of some seminal thinkers of the twentieth century, whose works can be directly related to issues of religious subjectivity. Students will also be enabled to assess the impact of the work of Carl Jung on Christian thought and practice, including in pastoral care and spiritual direction.

Karen O'Donnell is a feminist, ecumenical, practical theologian whose interdisciplinary research interests span theology, spirituality, and pedagogy. Guest lecturers include Rachel Mann, an author whose research and writing interests include poetry, literature and spirituality, as well as trauma, gender and sexuality.

Book your place by emailing courses@sarum.ac.uk or phone 01722 424800.

Cost details at: <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/learning/booking-information-2>

December

Saturday 12 December 2-5pm or Monday 14 Dec 9.30am-12.30pm. Advent: a way of seeing. Online event with retreat leader **Donna Worthington**.

The Shepherds kept watch in the silence of the night, the Magi saw a vision in the sky and began to search, Herod's mind violently saw threat, the Roman Empire viewed people as numbers to count... and then, one night, a man and a woman arrived in a crowded Bethlehem, a vision of hope burning in their hearts...

Bookings: email drworthington@live.co.uk

Many December events are currently being re-arranged, so we will send a further mailing when we know more.