



Living Spirituality Connections
Resources for the spiritual journey

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

January – March 2020

Compiled by Living Spirituality Connections

www.livingspirit.org.uk/

January

Thursday 9 January 1pm Religion and the Art of William Blake. London

<https://www.stpauls.co.uk/history-collections/the-collections/activities-events>

William Blake is one of over forty artists commemorated in St Paul's Cathedral. Religion was profoundly important to him in a questing and questioning way - and it infused his artistic production. In this talk **Martin Myrone**, Senior Curator, pre-1800 British Art at Tate Britain, and co-curator with Amy Concannon of the William Blake exhibition, will elucidate the development of Blake's complex, often unorthodox, religious thinking using selected examples from the show. Admission is free but places must be booked in advance.

Friday 10 January 10:00 - 4:00. Visions of New Beginnings. Moments of divine revelation through the icons of the Epiphany season. A Quiet Day led by Rev **Rachel Monie**. Cornwall.

www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk

11 January 'Winter in the valley' day walk beginning and ending at Tintern Abbey in the Wye Valley, South East Wales. All welcome!

Walking in a spirit of pilgrimage. <https://www.journeying.co.uk/>

13-14 January Making church conflict creative. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk/

18 January 10-3.30 Gate of the Year with **Julia MacDonald**. York www.stbedes.org.uk

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

20-23 January The nature of contemporary spirituality Salisbury www.sarum.ac.uk
Introduction through theology, philosophy, psychology, politics and aesthetics.

25 January A spirituality of interruption. Led by poet and theologian **Padraig O'Tuama**.
Dublin. <https://newmonasticismsireland.com/>

25 January 10-4.30 A Quiet Day for Love of the Earth. Led by **Linda Murgatroyd** of the
Loving Earth Project. London SW18.
<http://lovingearth-project.uk/events/>

How can our creative and spiritual practice help us address the big challenges in life? Linda will lead a day using arts, crafts, guided meditation and optional textile work, personal prayer and reflection, writing and/or research, to help us address the challenges of environmental break-down, empowered by love. Most of the day will be in silence, with some introductions and suggestions during the day, and optional sharing at the end. All welcome; booking essential. Free but donations invited. Bring your own lunch. Enquiries: lovingearthproject@gmail.com

28 January Dag Hammarskjold. Life and legacy. Salisbury www.sarum.ac.uk
Explore the significance of his insights for today's conflict-ridden world.

31 January-2 February Unfolding the story. Led by Dom **Brendan Thomas**. Herefordshire.
www.belmontabbey.org.uk
Getting to grips with the Old Testament as a book of faith.

31 January-2 February Towards a spirituality of dementia. North East Wales.
www.beunos.com

February

2 February 1-2 Saying Yes to Life with **Ruth Valerio** London. Free of charge.
<https://www.stpauls.co.uk/learning-faith/adult-learning/sunday-forum>

As people made in the image of God, we are entrusted with the care of what God has made and also with sharing in the joy and creativity of making a difference for good. In her new book, **Saying Yes to Life**, Ruth Valerio draws on the creation stories from the book of Genesis to illuminate the most vital issues of our times. She relates their themes, including light, water, the seasons, other creatures and Sabbath rest to matters of environmental, ethical and social concern. She will challenge us to do the same this Lent, asking ourselves foundational questions about what it means both to be human and to be a follower of Jesus. *Cont. over...*

Dr **Ruth Valerio** is Global Advocacy and Influencing Director at Tearfund, and an environmentalist, theologian and social activist. Her latest book, **Saying Yes to Life** was commissioned by The Archbishop of Canterbury as his official Lent book for 2020.

8 February 10.30 - 4 Sunrise at Midnight with Martin Laird OSA London

<http://meditatiocentreondon.org/>

The purpose of this retreat day is to provide those who practise contemplation the time and space to deepen their practice (call it centering prayer, Christian meditation, great mindfulness – these labels do not go as deeply as we go). By sitting together in supportive silence at intervals throughout the course of the day, we deepen our contemplative practice by releasing ever more generously into it. By not attending to the powerful habits of our own inner noise that sustain the illusion of separation from God and create so much suffering, these habits gradually lose their gripping power. The immensely vast silence already within us continues to expand as we are un-selfed of self only to realize (not acquire) ourselves ever hidden with Christ in God (Col 3:3).

Through conferences by Fr. Martin we will consider some of the great stumbling blocks on the contemplative path: the noise of inner chatter; afflictive thoughts; judging our practice; the positive role of boredom; trying too hard to make something ‘spiritual’ happen; turning ourselves into our pet contemplative project; the spirituality marketplace, among other topics.

Fr. Martin has lectured and led retreats internationally. He is Professor of Early Christian Studies at Villanova and the author of **Into the Silent Land**, **A Sunlit Absence**, and his new book **An Ocean of Light**.

13-14 February Bridge-building. Salisbury. www.sarum.ac.uk

Tools, skills and insights for thinking differently about conflict.

17 February 10-3.30. The Desert Fathers and Mothers with Donna Worthington. York
www.stbedes.org.uk

The day will include presentations, stillness, prayer, music and discussion.

Donna’s workshops explore themes with energy and creativity opening them up in ways that touch and inspire.

17-20 February The contemplative heart. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk/

Learn how being comes before doing and that who I am before God is more important than how much I am doing.

17-20 February Grace space. Time to reflect on God’s grace and our response in the circumstances we face. Led by **Jack and Sandra Telfer**. Sussex. www.penhurst.org.uk

17-21 February Seasons of the soul. Led by **Graham Booth**. Lindisfarne.

www.aidanandhilda.org.uk

There are many different seasons in our journey through life. Times of joy and blessing, times of waiting, times when life goes belly-side-up, and times of re-orientation. They can be times of thanksgiving, times of frustration, times of pain, times of anger and complaint as well as times of renewed hope. We will address all these seasons and more as they really are, looking at how we handle them and how we grow in grace and faith.

17-21 February Painting & Prayer. Led by: **Martin Cottam and Margaret Stein**. Yorkshire.

<http://www.wydale.org>

Wydale stands amongst its own beautiful gardens, and is situated on the edge of the North York Moors National Park, within easy reach of the Yorkshire coast.

20 February Replenish Day. 'Finding Peaceful Rhythm' With **Helen Warwick**. North Yorks.

www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

For anyone wanting more refreshment in life. There will be relaxing and creative spaces with Helen, our chaplain, offering ideas and being there for you.

21- 23 February On the Way of Freedom. A weekend exploration of relationships, conflict and peace in the light of the work of **René Girard**. Led by **Duncan Morrow**. Corrymeela Community, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland. <https://www.corrymeela.org/>

Peace is always a question of relationships. How we live in our relationships and how we cope with and take responsibility for violence have therefore always been important questions in Corrymeela, impacting on central questions of faith, society and our personal lives. Over many years, some of us have drawn heavily on the work of René Girard, a French professor of literature, who came to the conclusion that our relationships decided what we desire and who we become and who further identified that our peace has been assured largely by making others, or another, our scapegoats, responsible for our violence.

This weekend will be an opportunity to explore some of these insights and their meaning for our faith, our lives together in society and community and our personal stories. It will offer an interactive opportunity both to understand some of Girard's thinking and to relate it to our own experiences.

22 February Living the wisdom of Celtic spirituality in 21st century.

London NW1. Bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk

24-27 February The Lent retreat. Can what is lost in us find its way home, so that we can sing again? Led by Dom **Brendan Thomas**. Herefordshire. www.belmontabbey.org.uk

Friday 28 February 10:00 - 4:00. Finding restoration in Christ - an art and spirituality day for Lent. Cornwall. www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk

This will be a creative day led by fine artist and printmaker **Caroline Marwood**. We will examine the theme of suffering and restoration through a variety of readings and reflections. We will then use the medium of relief printmaking to respond to this theme. Tuition will be given and all materials will be supplied. You will create an original piece art to take home with you.

28 February Insights of the women mystics. London NW1.

Bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk

29 February 12.30-5.30 Symposium and Roundtable: The Dark Side of Meditation:

Understanding and overcoming difficulties on spiritual paths and in mindfulness practice. Co-organized by Christine Kupfer with the Global Mental Health Network (Edinburgh University) and the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace. Edinburgh
<http://www.eicsp.org>

March

1 March 1-2. The Wind, the Fountain and the Fire: Psalms and the Christian Imagination with **Mark Barratt** OSB. London. Free of charge.

<https://www.stpauls.co.uk/learning-faith/adult-learning/sunday-forum>

The Book of Psalms puts into words the messy complexity of how we actually experience our relationship with God and one another, as well as naming so many of the longings, joys and wild places of our private emotions. Full of powerful imagery, these ancient poems of prayer have always formed the substance of daily prayer for Christians from cathedrals to monasteries. In his latest book, **The Wind, the Fountain and the Fire** (Bloomsbury 2019), Mark Barrett opens the Psalms as a gateway to scriptural prayer and offers a path through the five weeks of Lent. He will explore keys which can unlock both our understanding of scripture and insight into our own hearts and lives. Dom **Mark Barrett** is a monk of the Benedictine community of Worth Abbey, Sussex.

2-6 March In the shadow of your wings. The mothering of God. Led by **Jane Franklin**.

Lindisfarne www.aidanandhilda.org.uk

Explore the feminine nature of God through Scripture and beyond and respond in reflection and creative activities.

2-6 March An Astonishing Secret. Led by **Margaret Siberry**. Lake District

<https://glenthorne.org> *Cont. over...*

The Love Story of Creation and the Wonder of You offers a unique opportunity to explore Daniel O'Leary's video course. The ten episodes capture Daniels's passion for revealing that:

- *There is a divine beauty in your human heart
- *Your human presence is where God's incarnate presence is disclosed
- *Creation is the beginning of God's love story
- *Evolution is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Together we will celebrate Daniel's wisdom, let it transform our lives and learn how we can contribute to the evolving love story of creation.

3 March 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 of these ways in a gentle and reflective environment. No experience of using the arts is required (and can actually be a benefit!)

4-6 March Broken but blessed. Led by Rebekah Domer. Sussex. www.penhurst.org.uk

Journeying from pain to peace with unlikely guides. How we can be transformed through our pain to become a blessing to others.

6-8 March A timely retreat. Birmingham. www.woodbrooke.org.uk

On this unhurried interactive retreat we will feel into, explore and perhaps revitalise our relationship with time.

7 March Renewal and Rebellion: Faith, Economy and Climate. Derby.

<https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events>

Speakers: **Ed Miliband**, MP, **Katherine Trebeck**, Wellbeing Economist, **Christine Allen**, Director of CAFOD, **Ross Greer**, Green MSP.

Our environment is in crisis, inequality is growing, and yet our economic system seems fixated on endless growth, while politics is paralysed and coarsened by division. How do we need to change our political and economic assumptions in order to meet these challenges? How can we model new ways of living ourselves, and as churches? How does our hope in God's future empower us to live a hopeful, abundant life on a finite planet?

Cont. over...

This conference invites you to join in looking at the big challenges we all face – rethinking economic structures and taking radical steps towards climate justice, and how we can all act to change them – in faith, for people and for planet. Through panel discussions, workshops, poetry, art and conversation, we hope to inspire and resource people to speak, pray and act boldly for justice and peace over the next decade.

7 March 10.30-4. The Journey Home with Simon Parke. London.

<http://meditatiocentrelondon.org/>

This quiet day, unfolding gently, is concerned with the path back to who you really are. Using stories, meditations, interaction and silence, it will give space for the scars and misdirections, as well as the light, the love and the healing. When we become disconnected from who we are, however it happened, it is a long journey home. Based on his book of the same name, **The Journey Home** is a day to consider accurately our particular journey – and the pathway home to our authentic, truthful and beautiful self. Simon is an author, speaker and consultant. He is CEO of The Mind Clinic, author of **Solitude: Recovering the Power of Alone**, **The Secret Testament of Julian** and **The Journey Home**.

7 March. Adapting to our changing world. Led by Sue Brayne and Joe St Clair.

Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

Consider the scientific and spiritual actions needed to create a sustainable world – personally and globally.

8 March What is Eco-Spirituality? (session 2 of 3). London NW1.

Bookings.fcjcentre@fcjhouse-somerstown.co.uk

8-10 March Practising presence. A Woodbrooke retreat held at Swarthmoor Hall, in the Lake District. www.woodbrooke.org.uk

Come together to explore and experience various spiritual practices and ways of being present.

9-12 March Season by season. Lent retreat. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

Discover how the seasons of the soul mirror those in nature and explore the gifts each one brings.

10 -12 March The spiritual journey of pilgrimage. Led by Bishop Geoff and Jean Pearson.

Chester. www.foxhillchester.co.uk

13-15 March Touching the water. Praying with the Woman at the Well Icon.

County Durham. www.minsteracres.org

14 March 10.30 - 4. The Poetics of Space with **Michelle Charles**. London

<http://meditatiocentrelondon.org/>

Inspired by the book **The Poetics of Space** by Gaston Bachelard this drawing and mixed media workshop will help us to discover what it is to spend time looking at drawing the essence of objects and their relationship to space whilst creating moments for our own space, taking precious time to listen to ourselves and slow down. This is a practical workshop. Materials will be provided.

Michelle is an artist and a dedicated educator. Her work is held in public collections across the world including the British Museum and the Wellcome Collection.

15 March 1.30 -3.30 Hope, Prayer and Climate Change led by **Peter and Ruth Musgrave**

Organised by Eco Church at St James's Piccadilly London.

Based on the theology of Walter Wink, who said that history belongs to the intercessors and that we need to imagine the future we long for now. The workshop also draws on many years experience working in Bangladesh.

The workshop aims:

- *to acknowledge and explore our despair, grief, lament and hope amidst climate breakdown;
- *To give participants the chance to share their own involvement in working for healing of the earth;
- *To find ways of expressing hope in the face of the seemingly impossible task of stopping climate breakdown through the practice of prayer/meditation.

Free. Please book by emailing petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk

15-18 March Art Journaling with the Holy Spirit. Led by **Jenny Leahy**. Lake District

<https://rydalahall.org>

17 March Praying Differently Led by Revd **Ian Spencer**, Warden of Holland House.

Worcestershire. <https://www.hollandhouse.org>

This day is for folk looking for a richer experience of prayer. Many of us find prayer either difficult, less than satisfying, or have grown bored with it. However the Christian faith has a very rich heritage of prayer, for example prayer ropes, icons, meditation, rosary, nature-based, chanting, scripture-based, and more. This one day retreat explores a variety of prayer practices, and can be booked by individuals with a maximum of 4 people at any one time (more by prior appointment) which allows for personal discussion time with the tutor in the afternoon. *Cont. over...*

If your prayer life isn't as rich as you'd like it, book "praying differently" and see what other forms are available to you. See and experience prayer afresh, and regain your enthusiasm and commitment to the sacred and transforming practice of prayer.

20-22 March Breathing in, breathing out. Led by **David Cole**. Sussex www.penhurst.org.uk
Learn to gain a greater sense of self-compassion through contemplative practice, therefore becoming a more compassionate person.

25 March A contemplative response to the climate crisis. Led by Patrick Woodhouse. County Durham. www.minsteracres.org

27 - 31 March Seeking Stillness - Healing Tides (a journey of the heart) with **Sarah Chabowska and Libby Dobson** Gower, South East Wales www.nicholastonhouse.org.uk
...Sabbath Rest and a journey towards inner healing... Libby and Sarah invite you to take a journey of discovery into the spacious place of God's love. We will consider the importance of Sabbath rest, and experience its healing gifts, as we take a break from the busyness of life. Give your spirit a chance to breathe, and your body and soul a chance to rest and be restored as we reflect together upon the ebb and flow of our lives. Throughout this retreat we will offer original music and song, art work and visual images, poetry, reflections, Scripture, one-to-one, quiet times and personal space to support your journey.

30 March The faith journey of millennials. Salisbury. www.sarum.ac.uk

Advance Notices

8 - 14 April Easter Houseparty. North Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/

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

27 April - 4 May Journey to Mull, Iona and Staffa, Scotland. www.journeying.co.uk

The Isle of Mull lies just west of Oban. The main town, Tobermory, which takes its name from Tobar Maire (Mary's Well), is famous for its quaint coloured cottages lining the harbour. The island's scenery is magnificent, formed by cataclysmic primeval upheavals that have left ancient geology very close to the surface, particularly along the rugged coast line. It is home to a range of wildlife, from red deer, to otters and seals, sea eagles and golden eagles, and the puffins which are thoroughly at home in crowded nesting sites on the Treshnish Islands. Humans have left their traces of spiritual life and families and wars and agriculture woven into rocks and woods across the island.

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

Keynote speakers: Prof **Heather Eaton**, [St Paul, University, Ottawa], Prof **Agnes Brazal**, [De La 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, SA48 7ED. Early Bird Booking before 15th April, £175. Closing date for all bookings 30th May, 2020. *If you offer a seminar paper or workshop there is a £40 fee discount for full board participants and £10 fee discount for daily participants. All papers will be considered for publication in the international journal 'Feminist Theology'.* For further information contact: Professor Lisa Isherwood l.isherwood@uwtsd.ac.uk

Booking Form: for the above conference:

[Please return this form whatever payment method you use]

Name

Address

E-Mail

Full Attendance

Tuesday only

Wednesday Only [AM/PM]

Thursday Only

Food Allergies.....

Payment by cheque to BISFT, The Lodge, Cook Rees Ave, Neath SA11 1JT or by BACS transfer Britain & Ireland School of Feminist Theology Sort Code 16-24-64 Account 11265608. Your name as reference.

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.