

**EVENTS End March – June 2021**  
Compiled by **Living Spirituality Connections**  
[www.livingspirit.org.uk](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk)

Events are online, unless otherwise mentioned.

**LAST PART OF MARCH** (events not in our previous listing)

**19 – 30 March 6 - 8.30 pm Retreat in daily life: resilience and renewal in uncertain times.**

Four Zoom sessions from St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace.

How can we grow a shared resilience that heals social wounds and elevates our spirits, calling out the best in us? Join us to journey through the four stages of St Ethelburga's unique resilience model. Prompts for solo enquiry and reflection are provided.

<https://stethelburgas.org/>

**Sunday 21 March 4 - 5.20 pm New Beginnings.** An online open house event, with a short programme of multicultural music, poetry, participatory arts and reflection, for local (Sevenoaks) and wider communities. There will be time for conversation at the end. Contact [info@spiritofpeace.co.uk](mailto:info@spiritofpeace.co.uk) for details and Zoom link.

**Wednesday 24 March 7:30-9:30 pm. The Great Regeneration: Protest, Protect, Build – and Love!** Eminent environmentalist and author **Satish Kumar** discusses his new trinity of Protest, Protect and Build as a basis for a holistic and transformative ecological movement around the world. Satish will also suggest that this holistic environmental movement can be successful only if it functions at three levels: the first level is to “Protest” against what is ecologically, socially and spiritually destructive. Following in the tradition of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, we need to speak truth to Power – we need to protest peacefully and non-violently against environmental and social injustice. But that is not enough. We also need to “Protect” what is good in our culture. We need to protect indigenous wisdom, arts and crafts, beauty and integrity, biodiversity and cultural diversity. This is the second level. Together with Protest and Protect there is a third level in the holistic environmental movement, which is to “Build”. We need to build new, regenerative and sustainable ways of agriculture, economy, education and many other systems which set good and positive examples of living in harmony without harming, whilst living creatively and imaginatively.

£12/£5 concessions. <https://mysticsandscientists.org/index.php/tickets-2020/>

**Sunday 28 March 3pm Eco Contemplative Liturgy** (non-denominational). March theme: Weeds and Wilding. Zoom event arranged by St James's Church Piccadilly. Monthly event, hosted by Petra Griffiths. For Zoom link and details email [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk)

## APRIL

**2 April and 4 April Covid & the Cross. 10:00 am** Live via Zoom from Holland House chapel in Worcestershire. <https://www.hollandhouse.org/product/covid-the-cross-good-friday/> Priest & Warden of Holland House, Revd **Ian Spencer**, is offering two on-line events to mark Good Friday and Easter Sunday. These events will connect our experience of the pandemic with the tragedy and triumph of Easter. Both events last 2hrs, with an address, shared silent meditation, small group discussion and plenary time. Free of charge.

**Saturday 3 April 10 – 11am and 6pm - 7pm. Easter Saturday Online Retreat.** With Revd **Elizabeth Baxter, Helen Warwick** and the Holy Rood Community.

<http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html>

**Sunday 4 April 7:00 - 7:50 am. Easter Sunrise Prayer.** Hosted by Contemplative Outreach Yorkshire & North-East.

With 20-min centering prayer, Gospel reading, visio divina and prayers.

All are welcome. To take part, please email Mel King: [york@contemplativeoutreach.org.uk](mailto:york@contemplativeoutreach.org.uk) by Thursday 1st April latest.

<https://contemplativeoutreach.org.uk/event/easter-sunrise-prayer>

**Tuesday 6 April 7 - 8pm. Living Spirituality Connections Midlands Group.**

Topic: **“Waiting for the Spirit”**. Via Zoom. All welcome. Please email the LSC regional contact Anne Gardener for further information and for the Zoom link:

[a.gardner@icloud.com](mailto:a.gardner@icloud.com)

**10 April 12 am – 11 April. Journey to COP26** (U.N. Climate Summit). An invitation for people of all faith communities and none to join together remotely and share our belief in the sacredness of all life, ahead of the UN climate talks, COP26. This is a crucial time for building the movement for climate justice. People in Britain and beyond want radical action to prevent climate breakdown. We must make sure that the UK government knows that.

Many people in the UK share a deep concern for the damage being done to the Earth, our home. In our concern, we recognise that every place is sacred and that we all have a responsibility to protect the Earth and all its inhabitants. We are a group of Quakers calling on all concerned communities in the UK, including people of other faiths and people of no faith, to join us our journey of awareness, understanding and action ahead of the climate talks.

On Saturday 10 April and Sunday 11 April. We invite you to participate in a celebration of our environment by making a short journey to any place that is sacred to you. This action is a way for us to strengthen our collective sense of purpose in protecting the Earth and all its inhabitants. Your journey could be to your garden or local park, or a day long hike! If your

sacred place is your own living room it could even be a spiritual or virtual journey. It could be taken as a group or individually. Anyone can participate in the Journey to COP26. Here are some steps you can take:

Start organising your journey. You could do this with friends, family, your faith community or on your own. Think about which places are sacred to you and how you might want to travel. Your journey could involve an event at the end, such as a meeting for worship, a community art exhibition or planting a tree together. It could also be an opportunity to get local politicians or local media to respond to the issue of climate change and draw attention to the COP26 negotiations.

**Email us for bespoke help.** If you want advice, support or ideas for what to do for your Journey to COP26, please get in touch! Email Oonagh Ryder, Activism Support Coordinator: [oonaghr@quaker.org.uk](mailto:oonaghr@quaker.org.uk). **Join our mailing list.** We will share information about preparing an action in the run-up to 10 April, and share news of who else will be participating.

**Booking Details:** <https://quaker.org.uk/events/journey-to-cop26-un-climate-talks>

**Saturday 10 April Online 7.00 - 8.30 pm Contemplation and the Gentle Life with Martin Laird**, O.S.A. World Community of Christian Meditation.

<https://io-wccm.org/civicrm/event/info?id=367&reset=1>

In the desert tradition 'gentleness' was not so much a character trait like being mild mannered. It was the fruit of ordeal. During this evening's presentation Fr. Martin will speak of focusing our attention within and meeting without comment, the trip-wires of our own anger, fear, aggression - no matter the affliction. Here we discover that the ordeal itself, becomes the place of enlightenment, the bright awareness of an open heart. By way of the ordeal we are gentled.

A recording will be available afterwards for those who have attended.

£15/ £10 concession (OAP, student, low or unwaged)

**Sunday 11 April 3pm Water:** next in the series leading up to the **UN climate-summit**, **focusing on solutions** to major issues, and starting with Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Speaker: water engineer **Lisa Barrott**. Monthly Zoom series from St James's Piccadilly on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 3pm. For details and Zoom links email [ecochurch@sjp.org.uk](mailto:ecochurch@sjp.org.uk)

**Mon 12 April, 2:00 pm to Thu 15 April, 2:00 pm Re-imagining Church in a Changing Culture.** Online and possibly in person at Sarum College. Salisbury. [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

The Church in the UK will be 'read' in the wider context of social, religious and cultural change, and compared with the situation in Europe, America and the developing world.

Both the challenges facing the contemporary church, and the responses offered, will be critically examined; with particular reference to patterns of community, mission and ministry. This module will enable students to acquire the necessary tools to understand the Church in mission in contemporary culture. It will offer the opportunity to appraise new ways of being Church and assess different types of Church growth both past and present. Students will be encouraged to learn about different cultures and explore different theologies in relation to mission e.g. liberation theologies, black theologies, green theologies and the contemporary missional conversation.

£300 for online place. Email [maadministrator@sarum.ac.uk](mailto:maadministrator@sarum.ac.uk). You don't need to be an M.A. student in order to join.

**Tuesday 13 April 7.00 - 7.45pm Resurrection. Rowan Williams** in conversation with **Paula Gooder**. Via Zoom.

Jesus' resurrection is at the very heart of Christianity. The Easter stories tell of him meeting with his disciples, women and men, teaching anew the great message of God's transforming love, and also doing the most ordinary things: he and his disciples walk, talk, cook and eat together. But as Rowan Williams says in his new book, 'the resurrection of the Lord is a beginning, not an end – an event which changes forever the landscape in which we live'. How can we live the story of the resurrection this Easter, in such a time of loss, uncertainty and suffering?

**Rowan Williams** is a poet, theologian, Honorary Professor of Contemporary Christian Thought at Cambridge University, the Chair of Christian Aid, and was the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury. His latest book is *Candles in the Dark: Faith, Hope and Love in a Time of Pandemic* (SPCK 2020).

Free event. <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/learning-faith/adult-learning>

Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/resurrection-tickets-139827556987>

**Tuesday, 13th April 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Drink Deeply – Live Abundantly! Augustine of Hippo and St Ignatius of Loyola** are the focus of this session via Zoom from Pleshey Retreat House. Speaker: **Ann Coleman**

<https://www.retreathousepleshey.com/event/drink-deeply-live-abundantly-2/>

In all that we have journeyed through over the past 12 months and in the uncertainty of what still lies ahead, how can we be resourced in our faith journey this New Year? Even in Lockdown, the riches of the Christian spiritual tradition encourage us to drink deeply from the living water Christ offers and so live life abundantly in Christ! This session gives opportunity for corporate prayer, being fed, and space for personal and shared reflection. Online. £10. To book: email [retreathouse@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:retreathouse@chelmsford.anglican.org)

**Long Covid – Exploring Healing in Body, Mind and Spirit.** With **Helen Warwick.**  
**Tuesday 13 April, 10 - 11.15 am.** Start of three session course from Holy Rood House, with a repeat from 6 - 7.15pm. **Tuesdays 13 April and 27 April and 11 May.**

These retreats will be suitable for anyone suffering the effects of Long Covid (having symptoms from the Covid virus after several weeks). We will be offering healing ways to find a life-giving path through fatigue, physical and psychological symptoms and change of lifestyle. Sessions will include information, creative ideas and wellbeing exercises. There will be space for your own reflections.

**Helen Warwick** is a Creative Therapist and Chaplain at Holy Rood House. Suggested donation: £15 per session. To apply please email [enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk)  
[www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

**Tuesday, 20th April 10:00 am - 12:00 pm** via Zoom from Pleshey Retreat House.  
**See I am doing a New Thing. Stories from an Area Dean.**

One of a series of sessions to explore how people have seen and found hope in these troubled times, and how this hope may resource ourselves and our communities. Come and share in the Good News stories from Church, NHS and parish communities, and see how we are being called to be part of a 'new thing'. The session includes corporate worship, a talk and some time in breakout rooms to reflect and discuss in smaller groups.  
£10. To book: email [retreathouse@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:retreathouse@chelmsford.anglican.org)

**Fri 23 April 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Precariousness and Human Flourishing** with  
The Revd Canon Dr **Rachel Mann**, a priest and an author whose research and writing interests include poetry, literature and spirituality, as well as trauma, gender and sexuality.

Learning to live with the precarious nature of our world has been one of the big lessons of the pandemic. If it has been challenging, it also offers fresh opportunities to discover new ways of flourishing. This study day gives us a chance to reflect on how we can find ways to use our personal and corporate fragility to recommit to cherishing the world as God's pilgrim people.

Via Zoom from Sarum College, Salisbury. £60.

<https://www.sarum.ac.uk/event/precariousness-and-human-flourishing>

**Saturday 24th April 10:00 am - 3:30 pm Sing to the Lord a New Song.** With Rev **John Francis Friendship.** Zoom event from Pleshey Retreat House.

In times of distress the Psalms have long provided a source of encouragement. They reflect so much of our human experience whilst setting that in the context of God's workings with creation – not avoiding the darkness by focussing on the light but enabling us to hold them

together in the Divine Will. This Quiet Day will utilise psalms to guide us through Fear and Trust, Loneliness and Abandonment, and Thankfulness and Praise. The day will begin and end in Prayer and there will be various spiritual exercises offered in which participants can share.

£20. <https://www.retreathousepleshey.com/event/sing-to-the-lord-a-new-song/>

**Saturday 24 April 10.30 – 12.30 pm. Our Life and our Death as Two Great Adventures.** CANA Zoom event with **Janice Dolley**.

**Janice Dolley**, a co-founder of Christians Awakening to a New Awareness, will share her experience of ongoing communication following the death of a close friend. She will explore how a shift in our perception of the continuity of consciousness through death and beyond brings us an expanded understanding of the new reality of which Jesus spoke and which we are beginning to experience now in our present life adventure. She will refer to her book, published last April: ***Awakening to a New Reality: Conscious Conversations across the Horizon of Death***. This will be followed by an opportunity to explore in small groups how our own understandings are also expanding and enabling us to gain deeper insights into the nature of death, both our own and that of our loved ones.

If you would like to join, please email [admin@cana.org.uk](mailto:admin@cana.org.uk) for a Zoom link, which will be sent a couple of days before the date.

<https://www.cana.org.uk/2021/03/cana-conscious-conversations-ccc-saturday-24th-april-2021/>

**Tuesday 27 April 2021, 7.30pm How can we secure climate justice and trade justice together?** Talk via Zoom. By **Ed Johnson-Williams**, Senior Campaigns Officer at Traidcraft Exchange. Series organised by St Columba's by the Castle, Edinburgh.

<https://www.stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk/learn/change-in-a-time-of-chaos/>

Trade and trade agreements are responsible for huge amounts of the world's carbon emissions. The climate crisis is hitting the poorest countries the hardest – the countries that have created the fewest emissions. So how can we change the rules of trade to tackle both climate change and poverty? Ed will be talking about the impact of climate change on people in the world's poorest countries, international trade's role in the climate crisis, and how we can campaign together to make trade and trade agreements greener.

Registration link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cvLqgzJYSDe3wea0DYqDZQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cvLqgzJYSDe3wea0DYqDZQ)



**Wed 28 April 10:00 - 4:00 pm When God's Face is Hidden: Theology in Times of Crisis**  
Led by **Melissa Raphael**. Via Zoom from Sarum College Salisbury.

This interactive day course will use art and photography, as well as ancient and modern literary sources, drawing specifically upon the Jewish tradition and the Hebrew Bible, to discuss the rich interplay between God's hiddenness and self-revelation in the theological imagination. Our study will be prefaced by an overview of the relation between voices of protest and praise in the Hebrew Bible and wider Jewish tradition; between God's personal attributes as one who, in the rabbinical literature, weeps and jokes with us – is even outwitted by us – and the one of whom one can say only what he is not.

There will be some reflection on the meaning of God's presence specifically to the Jewish people figured in rabbinic, mystical and feminist texts as the feminine Shekhinah. The course will go on to explore the difficult theology of a God who sometimes hides his face/presence from those who seek him. Sometimes God's absent presence is simply an unknowable aspect of the mysterious being of God; at other times, especially biblically, it is an act of withdrawal that is a punishment for sin. Modern Jewish and Christian theologians have often understood God's hiding as making way for human freedom and becoming.

The group will be invited to draw on their own faith (or none) to explore the (dis)appearance of God in classic and more contemporary post-Holocaust Jewish thought, whose dominant theme has been the deafening silence of God.

**Melissa Raphael** is Professor Emerita (Jewish Theology) at the University of Gloucestershire and teaches Jewish religious thought at Leo Baeck College, London. She is the author of a number of books including *Rudolf Otto and the Concept of Holiness* (Oxford University Press, 1997); *The Female Face of God in Auschwitz* (Routledge, 2003) and *Judaism and the Visual Image* (Bloomsbury, 2009). Her most recent book is *Religion, Feminism and Idoloclasm: Being and Becoming in the Women's Liberation Movement* (Routledge 2019).

£60. <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/events/2021-04>

## MAY

**Mon 10 May, 2:00 pm to Thu 13 May, 2:00 pm Art, Belief and Spirituality** with **Karen O'Donnell**. Via Zoom from Sarum College, Salisbury.

This module will enable students to understand the relationship between Christian Spirituality and art. This relationship is explored from historical, cultural and theological perspectives, and students will be encouraged to develop their own aesthetic and spiritual

awareness. The module also encourages students to appreciate the place of art in Christian worship and in the life of the Church. **Karen O'Donnell** is Programme Leader for the MA in Christian Spirituality at Sarum College. She is a feminist, ecumenical, practical theologian whose interdisciplinary research interests span theology, spirituality, and pedagogy. Guest lecturers to be confirmed.

<https://www.sarum.ac.uk/event/2021-art-belief-and-spirituality>

**21 - 23 May Men's Spirituality Retreat.** Holy Rood House, Thirsk, N. Yorks. With **Revd Andrew De Smet, Nick Warwick and Urs Mattmann.**

<http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html>

## JUNE

**Sat 12 June, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm An Introduction to Trauma Theology led by Dr Karen O'Donnell.** Zoom session from Sarum College Salisbury.

In this course we will explore the development of 'trauma' as a human experience and consider the ways in which this intersects with theological ideas and beliefs. We will examine some of the key concepts at the heart of trauma-engaged theology and what such theology is aiming to address today. We will consider together some of the key writings in this field and reflect on what the implications of this kind of theology might be for theology more broadly and in terms of pastoral care.

Dr **Karen O'Donnell** is Programme Leader for the MA in Christian Spirituality at the Centre of Contemporary Spirituality, Sarum College. She is a feminist, ecumenical, practical theologian whose interdisciplinary research interests span theology, spirituality, and pedagogy.

Comment from previous participant:

*'I learned much more about the way practical theology really make an impact on how we might approach life issues with a real compassion and to witness and hear these issues from a truly person-centred perspective.'*

**Further details and booking:**

<https://www.sarum.ac.uk/event/an-introduction-to-trauma-theology>



## ADVANCE NOTICES

**13-14 July 9:00 am - 5:00 pm** Zoom Conference – **Climate Emergency: the search for hope beyond denial and despair.** <https://modernchurch.org.uk/events/climate-emergency-conference>

The 2021 Modern Church Conference addresses the greater emergency that sits at present in the background of the coronavirus pandemic – the progressive impact of climate change. But it will not be two days of doom and gloom. Grave as the emergency is, we shall be looking for positive directions in which to think, act, and pray. The programme will include:

- \* the best current scientific information – by Anna Harper (Univ. Exeter)
  - \* questions of disagreement and climate denial – by Mike Hulme (Univ. Cambridge)
  - \* theological dimensions in Climate discussions – by Celia Deane-Drummond (Univ. Oxford)
  - \* prophetic-political dimensions in Climate discussions – by Michael Northcott (Univ. Edinburgh)
  - \* a view from the Buddhist tradition – by Paul Fuller (Univ. Cardiff)
  - \* positive stories for the future – by Gaia Vince (freelance writer on science and culture)
  - \* exploration in 'godly longing and hope' – by Christopher Southgate (Univ. Exeter)
  - \* 'workshops' on themes of lament, contemplation, and prayer
- A final panel discussion

This is a full and high quality programme, and is very timely given the international UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) gathering in Glasgow in November. The cost is £30.00 for the full or any part of the programme.

**23 - 25 July Women's Spirituality Retreat 'Celebrating Mary Magdalene' With Revd Elizabeth Baxter.** Info and booking: [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

**Autumn 2021. The Artist's Rule - *nurturing your creative soul with monastic wisdom.*** Based on the book by Christine Valters Paintner, spiritual director and Benedictine oblate. Zoom series led by **Linda Courage** (LSC Arts & Spirituality Contact). 12 monthly Zoom sessions. Dates and details to follow.

The series might be of interest to those who have already expressed an interest in The Arts and Spirituality Special Interest Area of LSC, and others who feel drawn to explore how their own creativity can deepen a contemplative path.

To register your interest in the series, email [linda.courage60@gmail.com](mailto:linda.courage60@gmail.com)

Christine's book invites readers to discover and develop their creative gifts in a spirit of prayer and reflection. The zoom series will explore a chapter each month, drawing on the insights and practices of Benedictine, Celtic and Desert spirituality to explore the interplay between contemplation and creativity.

**Comments on the book:**

**"The Artist's Rule** is a rich and meandering walk that ends with a surprise. The wisdom uncovered in each chapter comes together as something to guide us onwards".

"In a world that lives in the shallows, hungering for depth, meaning, and beauty, **The Artist's Rule** entices us to plunge into the riches of a contemplative, creative life. With hospitality, wisdom, and grace, Christine returns us to ancient monastic practices that have preserved the soul of spirituality across the ages and can restore us in our own time."