

# EVENTS

## April-June 2023

Arranged by many centres and organisations across the UK

Compiled by **Living Spirituality Connections**

[www.livingspirit.org.uk](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk)

### April

**Sat 1 April 1.30-5, Living and Meditating with Persistent Pain with Chris Hurley.**  
London. <https://meditatiocentreondon.org/>

We will look at a modern scientific understanding of chronic pain. Then we will consider how these insights can be applied in everyday life and how as meditators we might adapt our sitting practice. The day will consist of some talking and listening, meditation and gentle movements done from a chair or standing. You won't be asked to do anything which you are not happy to do.

**Chris Hurley** has been a member of the World Community for Christian Meditation for 30 years and is an experienced Yoga teacher. Chris is interested in how a simple Bodywork practice can inform and support our sitting meditation.

**Mon 3 April 7-8 pm Contemplative Prayer Service for Holy Week with Christine Valters Paintner, Simon de Voil, and Te Martin.** <https://abbeyofthearts.com>

Join us on the first Monday of every month via Zoom for a contemplative prayer service. Simon de Voil and Te Martin will be leading music and Christine Valters Paintner will be leading reflection and lectio divina practice. Come be with community in real time. Deepen into this moment together through song, poetry, prayer, and silence.

There is a fee for attendance. Details from the above website.

**4-9 April Holy Week and Easter at the Friary.** With Members of the Hilfield Community Dorset. <https://www.hilfieldfriary.org.uk/>

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Journey through Holy Week and Easter with members of the Hilfield Community: experiencing its depth of loss, mourning and joy together.

For more information and booking please contact Suzi at Hilfield on 01300 341741 or email [hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk](mailto:hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk). Please contact Suzi to check availability before registering for the week.

**5 - 11 April. Holy Week and Easter Retreat** with Revd **Elizabeth Baxter**. Includes ‘**Divine Light and Love**’ Icons and Landscapes by Revd **Andrew de Smet** of the Diocese of York. N. Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

**6 - 9 April. Easter Retreat** with **Bishop Peter & Dee Price**. Near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

‘We are living between Good Friday and Easter Day in our lives’. Reflecting on the promise of God’s kingdom ‘come on earth’ through the events of Holy Week and our present realities in a spirit of faith and hope.

**6-10 April Now the Green Blade Riseth. What do we make of Easter now?** Bargain holiday weekend for families. Led by Othona's warden, **Tony Jaques**. West Dorset. <https://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk/>

Easter is weird. Its date changes each year, based on phases of the moon. The first Easter is central to all of Christianity – and yet in English it’s named after a pre-Christian goddess, Eostre. It’s a commemoration of betrayal, despair, violent death and then reports of a miraculous return and fragile hope renewed. Serious stuff, which then all gets mixed up somehow with bunnies and bonnets and chocolate eggs!

We’ll enjoy traditional Othona family activities: games, music, meals, creativity and fun outdoors. But also there will be food for thought about what we make of Easter today. Why do some people find it a profoundly counter-cultural event – something that questions the norms and delusions of our muddled world? Not forgetting that this is also the great spring festival for the northern hemisphere. As a beloved hymn/song says “Now the green blade riseth.” In community together let's celebrate Easter, while accepting that we won’t all understand or value it in the same ways.

**14-16 April. Finding God in the garden.** North Wales. [www.beunos.com](http://www.beunos.com)

In the Bible spiritual growth is likened to the natural development processes of plants, and the part played by gardeners, whether human or divine. Through working, praying and reflecting in St. Beuno's beautiful grounds and gardens, we will explore how we might cooperate with the movement of the Spirit within our lives. Jesus, the teller of parables, invites us to hold the mystery of creation in mind and heart, like seed in the hand of a sower. 'Look', he says. 'See what happens if you are grounded in God's good soil. Behold the wonder of who you are and what you might become.'

**14 - 16 April. Laudato Si - Hearing the Cry of the Earth and the Poor** led by **Minnie Fraser**, Diocesan Environmental Lead (Hexham and Newcastle) and CAFOD. County Durham. <https://minsteracres.org/>

We invite you to this profound and thought provoking retreat, where we look closely at the Pope's Encyclical and reflect on our own Passionist charisms of Prayer, Hospitality and Environment. During this retreat we will have an opportunity to engage with CAFOD and our Minsteracres Team to reflect upon our eco-friendly strategies, and collaborative and sustainable developments, echoing a Laudato Si transferable strategy for community life.

**Sat 15 April 5-8 pm. Howard Thurman and the Healing Power of Mystical Love** with **Lerita Coleman Brown**. Online. <https://abbeyofthearts.com>

This retreat is part of our 10 month series ***The Mystical Heart: Love as a Creative Force***.

"Love does that for us, for it inspires in an individual what was sleeping, a relaxed sense of worth and value and meaning, and when this slumbering thing awakens, the kind of radiance that circulates through all the corridors of one's life makes the individual see in [themselves] what [they] had never seen before. It is the discovery of a new centre around which increasingly all of the details of life are more and more organized." – Howard Thurman

Do you long to transcend the din of daily life, to move beyond the relentless accounts of violence or personal, social, and physical disasters? Do you wonder how to live in the world and not be overcome by it? As spring settles in, allow the power of new spiritual growth to catapult you into a transformative Love. The love we experience during a mystical moment or what mystic and theologian, Howard Thurman (1899-1981) calls a creative encounter leads to an expansive sense of love, of being cared for by God and caring for others at the deepest levels. Bring your favorite music (any genre) for some holy dance, a journal for sketching, reflective writing and responsive readings, space for guided meditation, and a desire to

connect with others through large and small group sharing. This retreat is open to all spiritual seekers who wish to take a dip into the living wisdom of Howard Thurman as he introduces us to and challenges our common notions about mysticism and love.

The retreat will be recorded for those who register and made available within 48-72 hours of the program.

**Friday 21 - Monday 24 April The Big One.** Westminster.

<https://christianclimateaction.org/2022/10/22/the-big-one/>

**Christian Climate Action** invite you to join them this April as they take a stand against fossil fuel company greed and government inaction – which is fuelling both the cost of living crisis and the climate crisis. ***The aim is to make this the biggest climate protest ever, with 100.000 people surrounding Westminster.*** There are many opportunities to join others for worship:

- On **Friday 21st April** we are gathering at St John's Church, Waterloo at 11am for worship at noon led together with Christian NGO's such as Green Christian and Operation Noah. This will be followed by the [Pilgrimage of Power](#) to the protest outside Parliament.
- On **Saturday 22nd April**, we are gathering at the protest at Parliament at 11am for worship at noon focused on racial and climate justice, led by our friends from Black Majority Churches. There will also be a Catholic mass at 3pm.
- On **Sunday 23rd April** we are gathering at the protest at Parliament at 11am for worship at noon led by young people whose future is in the balance. There will also be an Anglican Eucharist at 3pm.
- On **Monday 24th April** we are gathering at the protest at Parliament at 11am for worship at noon led by Christian Climate Action looking to the future.
- Each day there will be community and creativity, prayer and song and care for Creation

If you want to join up with others for the worship at 11 am on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, email

[petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk)

**21-23 April. Being And Doing In A Climate Crisis.** Leader: **Val Freeman**

Sussex. <https://www.penhurst.org.uk/>

How do we respond to the devastating climate events taking place on our planet? Do we engage in frantic activity or disengage in overwhelmed paralysis? Or is there another way, a God-centred way of being and doing that we can learn together? Drawing on contemplative

spirituality we'll spend time together and individually with God, looking for and following this way.

This retreat is ideal both for those just starting to think about climate issues, as well as for seasoned travellers. All strugglers welcome! The retreat will feature a walk which will cater for different mobility levels e.g. Penhurst has a `wheelchair friendly walk` on the roads. The menu will be predominantly vegetarian for the weekend, with meat options available if requested in advance.

**22-29 April. Iona Pilgrimage.** With **John Philip Newell** on the sacred Isle of Iona for a week of study, spiritual practice and community hosted by the St Columba Hotel.

<https://www.earthandsoul.org/> Repeated on 10 and 17 June.

**24 - 28 April. Soul Journey.** Led by **Margaret Silf**. Devon. <https://www.sheldonretreat.com/>

This retreat offers space and time to look back over your own spiritual journey and to take stock of where you find yourself and how you hope to continue. We will reflect on what has invited us into this journey, what signposts we have found, what obstacles we have encountered, where we have discovered refreshing springs, and some of the rocky crags that are challenging us personally and collectively. Our reflections will be guided by scripture and story.

The retreat will be conducted in silence with two daily presentations. Each day there will be a bounded opportunity for those who wish to share our responses and explore the theme together. **Margaret Silf** is a writer and speaker, committed to working across and beyond the denominational divides, accompanying others on their spiritual journey.

**24 - 27 April. Western Christian Mysticism.** Led by **Dr Michael Hahn**

Salisbury. <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/>

A deep-dive into some of the key movements and writers in the Western Christian Mystical traditions. This course will look at the development of mysticism in the history of Christianity, focusing on in the Western church and will examine scholarship around mysticism as well as a range of primary texts written by and about mystics.

This is a postgraduate course open to 'auditors' e.g. those not enrolled for academic credit.

**Wed 26 April 10 - 3. Creative Connections. Summer.** Led by **Linda Courage**. York.

<https://www.stbedes.org.uk/>

Similar in structure and purpose to Renewal Spaces, these full days will give the opportunity to focus more fully on participants responses to a guided meditation at the beginning of each day. The creative activities will focus mainly on using fabric to explore the theme of “My story”.

Each session has a similar structure and uses a range of creative activities for different purposes. No experience of using the arts is necessary. The session will feature heart-centred meditation alongside some input, time for creative activities, and gentle reflection and sharing. Those already familiar with the approach are welcome to simply come along and use the activities to explore whatever is in their hearts and minds.

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

**Sat 29 April 10.30-12.30 by Zoom.** Cana Conscious conversation led by Green Spirit **Loving the Living Earth: being inspired by Green Spirituality** with **Ian Mowll** plus **Grounding Green Spirituality in Practical Ways**, including seasonal celebrations and shared devotions – with **Hilary Norton**. There are break-out groups for sharing and discussion after each talk.

Please email Bill at [admin@cana.org.uk](mailto:admin@cana.org.uk) if you would like to participate.

## MAY

**1 May 10-4. Quiet Day: Mother Julian’s Vision of Love.** Led by **Chris Webb**. Leicestershire.

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk>

Towards the end of the fourteenth century Mother Julian of Norwich had a vision of Christ crucified which shaped the rest of her life – and has been deeply influential on the lives of countless others since. She came to understand her vision as a revelation of God’s boundless and irresistible love for all creation: “He has made everything that has been made for love.” During this Quiet Day we’ll ponder together a few small parts of Julian’s vision and explore

the impulse of love underlying them all. And we'll take time to pray and worship, and immerse ourselves in plenty of silence and stillness.

**2-7 May Risking Delight.** Led by **Sarah Bachelard**. France. <https://bonnevauxwccm.org>

This retreat is an opportunity to contemplate what it means to rejoice always, living, working, leading and loving from a renewing and refreshing place—risking delight. The more conscious we are of the suffering of the world, the more joy seems like a luxury we can't afford. How can it be responsible to sing the Lord's song in such strange and difficult times? Yet children, poets and sages, together with some of the world's poorest communities, witness to its presence in simple things and difficult places. Dare we believe that joy is not only permissible but an ever-present reality? For according to the wisdom of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, joy is what happens when God is near. We look to recognise joy within and around us, and to explore how we might enjoy, rather than simply manage or survive our lives—for our sake and the sake of others.

**Sarah Bachelard** is a theologian, retreat leader and founder of Benedictus Contemplative Church in Canberra.

**4 May Weaving with the Holy Weaver.** Creative Day. Led by **Helen Warwick**.

N. Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

**Fri 5 May 10-12.30. Finding Life in an Era of Change.** York. <https://www.stbedes.org.uk/>  
With **Anne Harrison**.

A monthly space for reflection, meditation, creativity & gentle wellbeing exercises to help us reconnect with our own deep spiritual resources at this time of planetary & global upheaval. At a time of increasing threat to life at many levels, whether global pandemics, war, strains in our national support infrastructure, and ecological crisis, we would be forgiven for sometimes feeling overwhelmed. We can also often feel the vicarious trauma of too much bad news!

These gentle two and a half hour sessions offered on a monthly basis, create space for quiet reflection and mindful body movement for recharging, healing and finding joy in everyday life. Through focus on an aspect of creation during these sessions, we can be nourished by a renewed sense of our own strength and wisdom, in harmony with our planet Earth. We will use simple and effective practices to promote healing, healthy balance and self-care: \*Simple Tai Chi and visualisation, \*Meditation and the power of intention, \*Gentle energy and body work, \*Various other spiritual practices from different traditions. **Anne Harrison** offers spiritual accompaniment and is qualified in therapeutic and energy work. The next

session is on 9 June. **To book** go to the website above.

**5-12 May. Journeying to Anglesey and Holy Island, Wales.** <https://www.journeying.co.uk>

Situated on the West coast of North Wales is the beautiful Island of Anglesey. Anglesey has its own "Holy Island" separated from mainland Anglesey by the Cymyran Strait. It is so called because of the high concentration of standing stones, burial chambers and other religious sites on the Island and a rich Christian Heritage, some of which we hope to visit during our stay there. Walks and Excursions include the coastal footpath of 125 miles and many areas of outstanding natural beauty right on our doorstep.

**Thurs 11 May 10-1. Creative Connections – A Renewal Space for Summer with Linda Courage.** York. <https://www.stbedes.org.uk>

Each session has a similar structure and uses a similar range of creative activities for different purposes. No experience of using the arts is necessary. The session will feature heart-centred meditation alongside some input, time for creative activities, and gentle reflection and sharing. The creative activities typically include making a collage, creative writing, using timelines, capturing responses to nature...Those already familiar with the approach are welcome to simply come along and use the activities to explore whatever is in their hearts and minds.

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

**12-14 May Creativity through the arts**, a Quaker Universalist Group conference at Woodbrooke, Birmingham. <https://qug.org.uk>

The theme of Universalism and Creativity: how creativity expresses and enhances spirituality across the world will be developed with input based on the principle that spiritual awareness can come from any or no religion. One speaker will give a general introduction to art and spirituality. Others will reference the visual arts in a variety of contexts, including the Nordic tradition, the spirituality of colour, Daoism and Shamanism. One speaker will talk about poetry and the space between us.



**13 - 21 May. A spiritual journey toward ecological conversion.** North Wales.

[www.beunos.com](http://www.beunos.com)

How can our Christian faith help us to respond to the ecological threats the world faces? This retreat, in the beautiful rural setting of St Beuno's, will invite you to connect with the natural world and deepen your sense of God the Creator.

**18 May 10-4.30 The Spirit of the Wild Goose.** Led by **Valerie Allen.** Near Perth.

<https://www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk/> Contact The Bield to book and for details of what to have with you for this day.

*"The Spirit is wild with the rhythm of life."* Chung Hyun Kyun. Whether true or legend, in the Celtic tradition the Holy Spirit has been represented as a bird, but not the peaceful and serene dove landing on Jesus at his baptism. Rather, for their symbol of the Holy Spirit, the Celtic church resonated with the wild goose, An Geadh-Glas. This day retreat is an invitation to contemplate the wild goose as a symbol of the Holy Spirit and to ponder how that might speak into your spirituality. After hearing a little background about the wild goose as a symbol for the Holy Spirit, we will explore this wilder image through lectio divina, creative expression and embodiment.

The day will be balanced between time together, time for personal prayer and sharing with others. At lunch, we may even walk to the Smallholding to observe some real geese (optional – and weather dependent)!

*"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sounds, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. That's the way it is with everyone 'born from above' by the wind of God, the Spirit of God."* John 3:7-8

**13 May 11.30 - 3. Pentecost. The divine fire and the call to go forth into a life based on freedom and hope.** Led by **Donna Worthington.**

Day retreat at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Gerard Majella RC Church, Browndedge Rd, Lostock Hall Preston PR5 5TA. To book, contact the Parish office: 01772 335387 or email – [office@saintgerards.org.uk](mailto:office@saintgerards.org.uk)

**Sat 13 May 5-8 pm Julian of Norwich: All Shall Be Well, for Love is All** with **Carl McColman**  
Online event. <https://abbeyofthearts.com>. This retreat is part of our 10 month series ***The Mystical Heart: Love as a Creative Force.***

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“Before God made us, God loved us — a love which never failed, and never shall.”  
— Revelations of Divine Love, Julian of Norwich.

Julian of Norwich lived in the fourteenth century — during the time of the Bubonic Plague, peasant uprisings, the hundred years’ war, and violent religious persecution — and yet, despite these harrowing circumstances, her sixteen mystical “showings” of Divine Love inspired her to write a book of luminous, poetic spirituality — in fact, the first book written in the English language by a woman. Centuries later, her book of “Showings” or “Revelations of Divine Love” remains one of the greatest expressions of the spirituality of love, not only within Christianity, but indeed throughout the world. Her spirituality is joyful, optimistic, realistic yet shimmering with hope and trust in the healing and transforming power of Divine Love — an energy that can and will make “all things well.”

Julian proclaimed “The fullness of joy is to behold God in all.” Join us on May 13th, Julian’s feast day, to bring Lady Julian’s words to life, through shared lectio divina, contemplative silence, and imaginative prayer drawing on the rich nature-based imagery that dances through Julian’s writing. We will reflect what on how Julian found meaning in Love, and how the love and joy she encountered in her visions led to a deeply healing new way of encountering the God who is “surely our mother.” Our time together will also include an opportunity for sharing both in small groups and in the larger gathering.

The retreat will be recorded for those who register.

**16 – 18 May. The Quest for the desert in the ocean.** Led by Dr Julie Hopkins  
North Wales. [www.noddfa.org.uk](http://www.noddfa.org.uk)

An opportunity to explore our life journeys as we voyage with four early Celtic saints on their spiritual quests.

**17 May 6.30 - 9 pm. Metanoia: How to Accept Reality** with Laurence Freeman OSB. London and online. <https://meditatiocentreondon.org/>

It’s often hard to change our mind once we’ve made it up: on Brexit, God or how to grow spiritually. In this talk Laurence Freeman will suggest that change is not only necessary but inevitable simply because we are mortal and always changing – something to recognise and rejoice in. The question is ‘how to overcome our resistance to the inevitable’?

**19 - 21 May. Finding God in the Labyrinth.** North Wales. [www.beunos.com](http://www.beunos.com)

Surrounded by fields and trees, in the safe, holding space of the labyrinth, this retreat offers time to slow down, walk a pathway of prayer, listen to the creation around us in all its aliveness, be attuned to the freeing movements of the Spirit within. Following the path of the labyrinth, we will mindfully journey inwards towards the centre and then walk back out into the world. Releasing, receiving and renewing, this is time to find sanctuary, to deepen our spirituality, to be prompted by the movements of the creative, wild Spirit, to find God in all things...

The labyrinth is an ancient walking meditation, used in Christian cathedrals, churches, hospices, schools, gardens etc. During the retreat, there will be an opportunity to walk a guided labyrinth together once a day, but also with the opportunity to visit the labyrinth in your own spare time if you wish. The weekend will also include a presentation on labyrinths on the first evening, a time of sharing our experiences of our walks, personal quiet time for journaling and some social time.

**Sat 20 May 2-4.30. The Art of Creation: Art, Theology and Ecology** with **Tina Beattie**. London. <https://www.stpauls.co.uk>

In Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, he writes that 'The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.' How can art help us to rediscover our relationship with creation, so that we begin to cherish anew the capacity of nature to speak to us of God's incarnate and creative love? We consider our changing relationship to the natural world through art, and ask how we might rediscover a spirituality of beauty, resistance and hope through reflection on creation as God's great unfolding work of art.

**Tina Beattie** is Professor Emerita of Catholic Studies at the University of Roehampton in London. She has written extensively on sacramental theology and art, and she is now researching for a book on Pope Francis's environmental theology.

**Mon 22 - Fri 26 May. Northern Saints retreat.** County Durham. <https://minsteracres.org/>

Spend a week at Minsteracres following in the footsteps of the Northern Saints such as Aidan, Cuthbert, Oswald, Hilde and Bede. Find out about their spirituality and motivation, early Celtic spirituality and visit the iconic places where they lived out their faith. Includes visits to Holy Island, Bamburgh, Durham and Hadrian's Wall.

**22 - 26 May. Finding Nazareth.** Led by **Richard Carter.** Devon.

<https://www.sheldonretreat.com/>

Nazareth is the hidden place of formation where Jesus himself discovered his relationship with God and his calling. We know very little about what happened in Nazareth but we do see all that was nurtured and grew within Jesus. Before he spoke his message, Jesus lived it in Nazareth. In this retreat we will be discovering together this "Nazareth time" - the time and space and stillness that we need to let the seed that is planted find the soil it needs to grow within us. The retreat will be based around the simple contemporary rule of the Nazareth Community:

\* Silence \* Service \*Scripture \* Sacrament \*Sharing \*Sabbath \*Staying With.

The aim of the retreat is to find within our own lives that contemplative space in which we can listen and grow. This will be a silent led retreat with daily addresses and liturgy - a meditation on meeting God in our everyday lives and the lives of one another.

**Richard Carter** is Associate Vicar for Mission at St Martin-in-the-Fields. His ministry includes working closely those who are homeless and refugees. Richard is the founder of the Nazareth Community- whose members gather from everyday life to seek God in contemplation and to learn to live generously.

**25 - 28 May The Engaged Spirituality of Jesus.** Led by **John Bell.** Includes a day of Iona and world church songs. West Dorset. <https://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk/>

**John Bell** is the composer of many original hymns and songs. His passion is for congregations all to sing together, rather than the training of choirs who can read music. So please don't let any doubts about your singing voice inhibit you from booking. Space is available on this event as a non-resident.

**26 - 28 May. Attending to True Self in Turbulent Times** with **Deborah Haskew and Will Johnson.** Birmingham. <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/> in partnership with the Centre for Courage & Renewal <https://couragerenewal.org/>

Feeling unsettled in our turbulent world? This weekend retreat offers nourishing and guided space to deepen your connection to true self, re-establish a greater sense of inner integrity and discover what truly wants to flow through you. This Circle of Trust® retreat provides spacious time to follow your own thread, alongside others in a supportive community of

fellow enquirers. You will have opportunities for solo reflection and journaling, deep listening in small groups and sharing in the larger circle. We will use images, poetry, prose, music and time in the more-than-human world, to deepen our conversation and connection with true self and true nature.

**27 May 10 - 1 online. Befriending the Flame Within.** With Sarah Prime. [www.stbedes.org.uk](http://www.stbedes.org.uk)

A quiet morning to honour Pentecost. During our time together we will create space to explore and more deeply befriend our unique 'inner treasure' - the 'flame within'. The morning will include some input, space for reflection and invitation into some gentle sharing.

**29 May - 3 June. St David's Way, Pembrokeshire.** <https://www.journeying.co.uk>

Join us for the 900th anniversary of the St David's Way pilgrimage on the wild and wonderful Pembrokeshire National Park Coast Path. In 1123 Pope Calixtus urged pilgrims who couldn't travel to Jerusalem because of the Crusades to go to Santiago in Spain or St David's in Wales instead. This 60km pilgrimage is an experience of a lifetime, with ancient Celtic churches, holy wells, stone circles, and amazing wildlife on what Lonely Planet describes as the finest coast path in the world. We walk on white sandy beaches, wild Celtic clifftops and holy hills with connections to St David, St Patrick and St Aidan. The pilgrimage culminates with a tour around St David's cathedral - one of Europe's oldest and most impressive medieval cathedrals dating back into the sixth century.

**30 May – 2 June. Clouds and Caves in Castleton.** The **GreenSpirit Spring Walking Retreat** staying in the Youth Hostel at Lose Hill Castleton situated in the heart of the Peak District National Park. <https://www.greenspirit.org.uk/events/>  
Booking deadline: **12 May.**

## June

**4 June 2-5. Online. Learning from nature. We seek the Divine through Creation...** Led by **Donna Worthington.** <https://christianretreats.live/online-retreats/zoom-retreats/learning-from-nature-we-seek-the-divine-through-creation>

**5-8 June Embodied Encounters with the Divine.** Led by Dr Michael Hahn.

Salisbury. <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/>

This course is an introduction to perspectives on Christian Spirituality that resist Neo-Platonic dualities. With a focus on the place of the body in Christian Spirituality, we will explore the nature of embodied experience in the Christian spiritual tradition. The course covers Christian Materialism and analyses the contribution this can make to Christian spirituality. The course also draws in sacramental and ecological perspectives on the spiritual body.

This is a postgraduate course open to 'auditors' i.e. those not enrolled for academic credit.

**5 June 10-4. Quiet Day: Tools for Digging. Finding wellsprings of hope in a parched land.** Led by Rev James Shakespeare. <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/>

'The Lord says, "For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground." ' (Isaiah 44.3)

Against the backdrop of the overwhelming of contemporary life & global currents, and our ever greater risk of spiritual aridity, this Quiet Day will explore 'Tools for digging', including contemplative prayer, Lectio Divina, Kingdom praying, and various spiritual disciplines for contemplative living, drawing on the spiritual practices of Jesus of Nazareth, as well as centuries of Christian spiritual tradition. The metaphor of digging relates to Jesus' parable of treasure hidden in the field, and the approach of Gerard Hughes SJ, in '*God of Surprises*'.

This Quiet day will reaffirm opportunities to live more deeply rooted in prayer, contemplative practice, and recovering a more prophetic spirituality.

**6-11 June. Radical Regeneration: Christ Consciousness and Sacred Activism.** Led by Andrew Harvey. France. <https://bonnevauxwccm.org>

This retreat offers the maps and the practices from the Christian, Hindu and Buddhist traditions which will demonstrate to the participants how much sacred power and illumination they always have at their disposal.

Drawing on his two latest books, *Love is Everything: A Year with Hadewijch of Antwerp* and *Radical Regeneration* (written with Carolyn Baker), Andrew Harvey will present his vision of the global dark night crisis we are now plunged into. He will suggest the way through it by aligning with the power of Love and putting that power into wise, sacred, urgent action on every level of our world. Andrew Harvey believes that the very extremity of the crisis contains

an extraordinary possibility, the possibility of seeing the dark night as the birth canal for a new embodied divine humanity and a new world rooted in the vision of the Beatitudes and in the calm and burning compassion of Christ Consciousness. In this retreat he will share five things:

- \* An overall map of the dangers and opportunities of our predicament.

- \*The five laws that govern the dark night process taken from Hadewijch and Saint John of the Cross.

- \*His experience of the visceral and blissful power of Love

- \*Five simple and powerful practices that enable anyone of good will to experience both the peace and the focused passion of Christ Consciousness

A clear detailed account of what Sacred Activism is and how to start from wherever you are

- \*to become a Sacred Activist in the name of Divine Love.

**10 June 10.15 - 4. God is not a White man and other revelations.** A quiet day with **Chine McDonald**. London. <https://www.rfsk.org.uk/>

This quiet day will explore the impact of white supremacy on the Christian faith, including reflecting on the concept of the imago Dei and imagery of Jesus and God throughout the centuries. It will also explore theological responses to Black Lives Matter and anti-racism within the Church

**Chine** is the director of Theos think tank and prior to that headed up community fundraising and public engagement at international development charity Christian Aid.

**10 June 10.30 - 2. Living with Long Covid.** Led by **Helen Warwick**.

N. Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

**10 June online 10-1. Being Agents of Active Hope.** With **Julia Ling-MacDonald**

[www.stbedes.org.uk](http://www.stbedes.org.uk)

Drawing on the work of Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, this half day workshop offers the opportunity to explore what it means to be an 'agent of active hope' in these pivotal and challenging times of climate breakdown. Through input, exploration of our human capacity for creativity, and discussion, we will:

- reflect on the idea of being 'agents of active hope' in service to a guiding vision of the future we wish to create

Continued over.....

- explore what being an ‘agent of active hope’ might look like in our own specific life contexts
- discover what can help to inspire and sustain us as we seek to make a positive contribution to the ‘Great Work’ of our time – transitioning into a sustainable future for all life on Earth.

Aiming to cultivate a hope-filled future for the whole community of life on Earth, this workshop will be helpful to both individuals and to those working to generate vision and inspire others.

**12 Jun 2023 to 15 Jun 2025 The Soul of Leadership with Margie Buchanan-Smith and Margaret Benefiel** Near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

Soul of Leadership is an inspiring and enriching 18-month programme for anyone in a leadership role who wishes to deepen their inner resources to lead with long-term effectiveness and integrity. Leaders today face particularly difficult challenges. The commitment to inspire others while also increasing productivity and balancing the needs of their organisation can leave leaders feeling depleted. Long hours and countless demands often result in a deep need for renewal.

This programme is for anyone facing difficult leadership challenges, and for those who are looking for a fresh approach to leadership amidst longer working hours and increasing demands. Dates: 12-15 June 2023, 8-11 January 2024, 3-6 June 2024, 6-9 January 2025.

Please email [admin@ammerdown.org](mailto:admin@ammerdown.org) for more information.

**20-23 June. Free to Believe Reading Party** centres on *Keeping Alive the Rumour of God* by **Martin Camroux**. Cambridge. Details from <http://www.freetobelieve.org.uk/conferences>

**22 June 6.30-9 pm. Carl Jung and the Mystical Dimension of the Psyche** with Sr **Marie Claude Teer**. London and online. <https://meditatiocentrelondon.org/>

In his work *Psychology and Religion: West and East* C.G. Jung writes, “No matter what the world thinks about religious experience, the one who has it possesses a great treasure, a thing that has become for him a source of life, meaning, and beauty, and that has given a new splendour to the world and to mankind” (para. 167). Jung’s understanding of religion as based on personal experience of the God within, was made evident in a 1959 BBC interview in which



John Freeman asked Jung if he believed in God, to which Jung replied, “I don’t need to believe... I know.” This talk will explore Jung’s relationship to religious experience, the mystical or, what Jung refers to as, the numinous.

**23 June 10-4.30. Retreat Association Summer event.** London. <https://www.retreats.org.uk>

**The Still Centre: Searching for Peace in the midst of the world.**

Guest Speaker: **Richard Carter**, author of *The City is My Monastery*.

## Advance Notices

**17 - 19 July I have a Dream: Deconstructing Racism in the Church.** Modern Church 2023

Conference. Herts. <https://modernchurch.org.uk/>