



Living Spirituality Connections
Resources for the spiritual journey

EVENTS RUN BY CENTRES AND ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE UK

April-June 2017

Compiled by Living Spirituality Connections

www.livingspirit.org.uk/events

If you wish to let others know about these events,
please give them the following link to our website: www.livingspirit.org.uk/events.

For events that are put on regularly, see
www.livingspirit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/regularerevents.pdf.

Living Spirituality Connections event

9-11 June – Living Spirituality Creative Conversations workshop. Thirsk, N. Yorks.

Booking: www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html.

In this workshop we will explore how we become aware of the creative nature of conversations in our daily lives and in the lives of those we engage with. Starting with our own story, we will use creative arts, liturgy and reflective engagement to find fresh ways of developing communities of creative conversation. The Holy Rood gardens will play a part in the event, as well as a visit to the hills at Sutton Bank.

Please bring poems, art, music and musical instruments to share so we can be enriched by each other. With Elizabeth Baxter and the Holy Rood Team. Linda Courage, the LSC North East regional contact, and Petra Griffiths, the national coordinator for LSC will be at this event.

APRIL

31 March-2 April – Sin, Sex and Salvation: Perspectives on Art and Faith led by **Deborah Lewer**, Head of History of Art at the University of Glasgow. North East Wales.

<https://www.gladstoneslibrary.org/events/events-courses-list/sin-sex-and-salvation-perspectives-on-art-and-faith>

1 April – Spirituality and Ecology: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Thomas Berry. Led by Professor Emeritus **Ursula King**. London EC1.

www.io-wccm.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=118

2-7 April – Northern saints pilgrimage with **Jane Easterby**. Northumberland.

www.shepherdsdene.co.uk

8-17 April – Easter: A drama in 3 Acts. Led by Helen Gron. Iona Abbey, Scotland.

Retelling the story of the three days, from sunset on Maundy Thursday to sunrise on Easter Day, afresh. Crafting words, creating objects, devising movement of bodies in sacred space and being open to challenging questions: what is old? what is new? what is changing?

Booking: www.iona.org.uk/island-centres/abbey-and-macleod-centre-programme.

9-16 April – Holy Week and Easter. Join the rhythm of prayer on Holy Island. Lindisfarne, Northumberland. www.aidanandhilda.org

11-14 April – Easter Retreat using the Paintings of Peter Clare and Ignatian Principles **with Carol Clare and the Bield Team**. Near Perth. This unique Retreat offers an opportunity to contemplate the powerful pictures in 'The Journey' exhibition by Peter Clare which have touched the hearts of so many and, with the support of individual guidance, to reflect on one's own journey with God. www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk

12 April – Stories of Near Death Experiences with **Jeff Olsen**. London W8. 10.30am- 4pm. Contact: Denise Moll via the CANA website: www.christiansawakening.org/event.

12-18 April – Holy Week and Easter retreat. N. Yorks. Transformative, reformative, restorative. With Rev **Elizabeth Baxter** and Holy Rood team, and Dr Carla McCowen and her art exhibition *Water of Life*. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

13-17 April – Easter Reclaimed. With **Mary Jo Radcliffe**. Kent. Book through Mary Jo Radcliffe by 30 March. Further details from maryjoradcliffe@icloud.com or call 020 7223 2917.

Would you like to experience a shared Cosmic Easter? Join us in spending Holy Week together, exploring the meaning of the Gospel story and how we understand it today in the context of the Universe story, and in the light of the visions of Teilhard de Chardin, Matthew Fox, Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme.

13-17 April – Easter at St Beuno’s. North East Wales. An opportunity to spend Easter in the beauty of the Vale of Clwyd and participate in the liturgy of Holy Week at St Beuno’s. There will be some talks, time for prayer and periods of silence, as well as the chance to mix and socialise with others on the retreat. www.pathwaystogod.org/org/st-beunos

13-18 April – Easter in Community. With Rev **Phil Wright**. Essex coast.
www.othona-bradwell.org.uk

14-17 April – Carafest. Ballycastle, Northern Ireland. Music, talks, storytelling, worship.
www.corrymeela.org

14-17 April – Simplicity: A Way of Life. With **Jennifer Kavanagh**. Birmingham.
www.woodbrooke.org.uk

18-21 April – GreenSpirit Spring Walking Retreat. Wild Woods and Walking the Shropshire Way. www.greenspirit.org.uk/html/events.shtml

21-23 April – Just passing through. Workshop with **Sue Brayne**. Near Bath. Connecting with our inner wisdom and talking about life, death and what matters in the end.
www.ammerdown.org

21-23 April – Creative Celts with David Cole. Dorset. The Celts’ creativity was a natural expression of the Creator’s image within them. Discover that creativity within yourself. No need for artistic experience. www.the-greenhouse.org

22 April – Dreaming Another Future. With **Margaret Silf**. A day of imagination, challenge and encouragement in considering a future for all creation. Cheshire.
www.retreathousechester.co.uk

22 April – Wisdom Dances in Delight. Led by Revd Dr **Jan Berry**. Manchester. A workshop exploring feminist images of Wisdom/Sophia using creative writing, liturgy, images and symbol. www.lutherkinghouse.org.uk/2017/02/28/wisdom-workshop

22 April – Pilgrimage To Now/Here: *Walking The Emmaus Road* - A Walk with Disappointment and Discovery. Led by **Di Williams & Jane Johnston**. East Riding of Yorkshire. 10am-3pm. www.contemplativefire.org

22-23 April – Parables: Teaching through Storytelling. A workshop with **Jim Pym**. London NW6. Booking: email jennifer.sandler109@gmail.com or phone 020 7328 6718.

22-29 April – Iona Pilgrimage with Philip Newell. St Columba Hotel, Isle of Iona, Scotland. (Event repeated 10-17 June) www.heartbeatjourney.org/events

Each day on Iona begins and ends with the rhythm of prayer and meditation together, either at the Abbey or elsewhere on the island. In the mornings John Philip Newell teaches on themes related to the sacredness of the earth, interfaith relationship, and commitment to practices of contemplation and action as the basis for transformation in our lives and world.

The afternoons are given to hiking, conversation, and rest, and the early evenings to further reflection and embodiment practices of chant and meditative movement. On at least one of the days we walk the seven-mile island pilgrimage route together to pray for the journey of our lives and world. The Columba Hotel's organic gardens, eco-friendly policies, and welcoming staff are an important part of our community life together.

26 April – Goddess and God in the World: Why Feminist Theology Matters.

Speaker: **Carol P Christ**, Director of the Ariadne Institute, theologian and leading feminist historian of religion. Institute for Theological Partnerships, University of Winchester. Free event. 6.30 pm for 7pm. To book: email Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk.

“The story of a shift from Goddess spirituality to God consciousness is a complex one which encompasses many social and psychological changes as well as religious and theological ones. The main change was a move from relationality and the web of all living things to a dualistic view of the world and the exclusions that follow from such a view. We would like to take this opportunity to bring some of these issues to your attention and to advocate a reconnection with what has been lost. Contemporary theologians suggest that when Goddess spirituality is embraced there is not only a protest against the exclusions of women, nature and other marginalised ‘others’ but a different way of thinking and acting is embodied that lends itself to the flourishing of all life.”

28-30 April – Learning to Be at Home. Self discovery in God, drawing on the wisdom of the five great religions. With Sr **Monica Butler**. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

28-30 April – Mary Oliver: Finding a New Song to Sing. South East Wales. www.llansor.org

This Spring weekend will be full of new life celebrated through Psalm, poetry, and music. Mary Oliver's words invite us to silence and transformation. Come and enjoy listening and being heard, and being nourished by each other and the mystery of things... Come and sing a new song together...

29 April Memories, Metaphor, Myth: Talking of God in the 21st Century with Australian theologian Dr **Val Webb**, author of *Testing Tradition and Liberating Theology: finding your own voice*. Sheffield. www.stmarkscrc.co.uk/event/memories-metaphor-myth-talking-of-god-in-the-21st-century/

Val Webb is also speaking at venues across **Scotland, England and Wales**. Go to: www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/val_webb_speaking_tour_of_the_uk.

MAY

2-7 May – Awakening the Creative Spirit with **Christine Valters Paintner PhD Reace** and **Betsey Beckman MM** at The Bield at Blackruthven, near Perth, Scotland. This programme integrates the arts and imagination into spiritual direction and other healing ministries. (Only one place is left – 16.3.17). www.abbeyofthearts.com/programs/live-classes-and-retreats/awakening-the-creative-spirit

3 May – The Great Challenge of Our Time: Defining a New Story. Speaker: **Anne Baring**, MA Oxon, author and Jungian analyst. Institute for Theological Partnerships, University of Winchester. 6.30pm for 7pm. To book, email Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk.

3 May – The Splash of Words: Believing in Poetry with Rev **Mark Oakley**. Bucks. www.stmichaelspriory.org.uk

5-7 May – What does spiritual metamorphosis mean to you and how to nurture your inner butterfly. With **Margaret Silf**. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

6 May The Need for Contemplation in a Post-Truth World with **Laurence Freeman OSB**. London SW1. www.silenceinthecity.org.uk/programme.html

Contemplation opens the human to the well of wisdom and compassion in the mystery of our common ground. It has flourished in times of cultural transition, conflict and chaos just as it can after trauma in individual lives. It is a source of hope and vision for us today. It needs only to be acknowledged and practised. On this day Laurence Freeman will help us to do both.

6 May – Journaling as Prayer with **Andrew Kerr-Jarrett**. London. www.pathwaystogod.org

8-10 May – On Earth as it is in Heaven: a journey with the Aramaic Jesus. Led by **Mina Tilt**. Birmingham. www.woodbrooke.org.uk

A course, exploring the deeper meaning of the Lord's Prayer through the Middle Eastern culture and language of Jesus of Nazareth and his earliest followers. Using the Mystical Tree of Life as a path, the course will offer participants an opportunity to journey alongside the Aramaic Jesus and discover his teachings afresh. This is a chance to experience his ancient wisdom in ways that are relevant to modern lives and provide insight into the challenges faced in the contemporary world.

8-12 May – Growing into tomorrow. How we can grow into greater fullness of life. With Margaret Silf. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

8-11 May – In this moment: exploring a mindful life with **Rev Mark Godson**. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

10-12 May – Science and Faith with **Ruth Bancewicz** (from the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion). Dorset. www.the-greenhouse.org

12-14 May – Learning to Live with Earth as our Common Home. With **Paul Maiteny**. Berkshire. www.douaiabbey.org.uk

12-14 May – Building a Sacred Economy: in our hearts, in our lives and in our communities. Led by **Lucy Faulkner-Gawlinski** and **George Gawlinski**. Birmingham. www.woodbrooke.org.uk

We can all feel the wrongness of our economic system yet remain trapped in it. What are the possibilities for more sacred relationships with other people and the riches of the world? We will investigate some of the more hopeful ways of framing economic action. Through worship, journaling and supportive conversations, we can each seek to clarify our testimony, finding what we may need to resist as well as celebrating the beauty and strength of gifts, simplicity and community.

13 May – How I Became A Heretic - With Help From Jesus. The second Marcus Borg Memorial Lecture by **Robin Meyers** (see 18-20 May event below). Bristol. www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/robin_meyers

13 May – Finding Stillness through the Seasons: Blooming where we're planted. Led by **Maria Garvey**. Near Belfast. www.drumalis.co.uk

13 May – Spirituality and Trauma: An Embodied Approach. Training Day. With Rev Elizabeth Baxter. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

15-18 May – Celtic Spirituality Retreat. With Julie Hopkins. North West Wales. In the footsteps of Celtic holy women and men - Meditation, music and pilgrimage to sacred sites. www.noddfa.org.uk

16-18 May – No More Scapegoats: Exploring the thought of René Girard
Led by Stuart Masters. Birmingham. www.woodbrooke.org.uk

Why is religion so often associated with violence? How should we understand the bloodshed and brutality described in the Bible? Why does scapegoating seem so embedded in human culture? Is it possible to find a way out of this endless cycle of murder and violent conflict? These are all key questions addressed by the thought of René Girard. This course will enable you to explore Girard's ideas and consider how they might contribute to the search for a more just and peaceful world.

17 May – The Soul of Humanity Awakens through World Crisis with William Meader. Coventry. A CANA event. Contact: Martin Paine via the CANA website. www.christiansawakening.org

18-20 May – Above Us Only Sky: Discovering a God That is All Around Us led by Robin Meyers. North East Wales. www.gladstoneslibrary.org

Organised religion is not only in crisis because it is perceived as irrelevant and its adherents hypocritical, but because the language and liturgies of faith posit a God that no longer makes sense in the age of science, or is confounding, even deadly, in its partisan logic. It is often said that we are made in the image of God, but in practice, many of the faithful have made God in their own image. For millions the patriarch of Heaven is dead, and violence in the name of a deity that has been conscripted for every cause and conflict must be replaced by what Tillich called the 'Ground of Being', and Barbara Brown Taylor called 'The Luminous Web.' This requires new ways to worship, pray, and be faithful in the world. Atheists are coming out of the closet, including Rev. Robin Meyers

This course includes entry to **God as The Luminous Web** – A Public Lecture with Robin Meyers. **Robin Meyers** is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, Professor of Social Justice at Oklahoma City University, and best-selling author.

20 May – Embodied contemplatives. With Terry Doyle. Practical workshop exploring a relationship between meditation and the body, and using Tai Chi. Cheshire. www.retreathousechester.co.uk

20 May – God is in the Garden. With Reverends **Andrew Walker, Lucy Winkett** and **Philip Roderick**. Celebrating 25 years of the Quiet Garden movement, as Philip Roderick retires. London SE1. www.quietgarden.org

The day includes sessions on: Prayer and the Art of Gardening - exploring the parallels between the garden and the spiritual life; In Quietness is Strength? How can we re-discover the wisdom that hides in quietness and silence?; and Body prayer as a resource for Quiet Garden participants.

21 May – Reflective Living: Writing the Inner Path. With **Merryn Glove**. Near Perth. Spiritual Journaling in a Busy Life - A day to step aside, still the mind and nourish the soul through this rewarding discipline. www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk

23 May - The Meaning is in the Waiting: Absence and presence of God in RS Thomas's poetry. With **Eilish Heath**. Suffolk. www.otleyhall.co.uk

23-27 May – In the Footsteps of David and Patrick. A journey to sites in Pembrokeshire. www.journeying.co.uk/journeys-2017.html

23 May-27 June – Nonviolent Atonement: Peace church perspectives on the death of Jesus led by **Stuart Masters** and organised by Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. Open to all (20 places). £50. www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses.php?action=course&id=11532

During the course we will consider the meaning of the death of Jesus and engage with contemporary nonviolent theories of atonement that are rooted in a peace church perspective. Does the crucifixion really imply that God demands violent retribution in order to forgive human sin? Can the church liberate itself from past associations with violence and persecution and embrace a faith that in the words of James Nayler “outlives all wrath and contention and wearies out all exaltation and cruelty”.

This course involves a time commitment of approximately 1.5–2.5 hours per week. This series of six webinars runs from 7pm to 8.30pm every Tuesday evening. Only basic computer skills are needed for this course, together with access to email and the internet. The course takes place in Woodbrooke's online learning website, for which easy registration details will be provided. Full guidance will be given on how to access the course's material, and help is available if you get stuck at any point.

29 May- 2 June – Discovering the Northern Saints, including visits to local sites. With **David Cole**. Holy Island, Northumberland. www.aidanandhilda.org

JUNE

3 June – Reconciling the Theory of Evolution and Creationism: A new proposal with Brother **Martin Sahajananda**. London NW6. Booking: email jennifer.sandler109@gmail.com or phone 020 7328 6718.

3-9 June – World Encounter. Conversation and creativity. Led by **Alison Swinfen & Gameli** and **Naa Densua Tordzro**. Iona Abbey Scotland.

With story tellers, musicians, poets and artists from the Global South. Opportunities for learning about culture, faith and creativity from tradition bearers and from those who accompany and witness first hand to the plight of refugees and asylum seekers. Booking: www.iona.org.uk/island-centres/abbey-and-macleod-centre-programme.

5 June – Talk on Eco Peace Middle East by Rabbi **Frank Dabba Smith**. NW London. 7.30-9pm. www.londoninterfaith.org.uk/calendar

9-11 June – Living Spirituality Creative Conversations workshop. Thirsk, N. Yorks. Booking: www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html.

In this workshop we will explore how we become aware of the creative nature of conversations in our daily lives and in the lives of those we engage with. Starting with our own story, we will use creative arts, liturgy and reflective engagement to find fresh ways of developing communities of creative conversation. The Holy Rood gardens will play a part in the event, as well as a visit to the hills at Sutton Bank.

Please bring poems, art, music and musical instruments to share so we can be enriched by each other. With Elizabeth Baxter and the Holy Rood Team. Linda Courage, the LSC North East regional contact, and Petra Griffiths, the national coordinator for LSC will be at this event.

9-11 June – Communion, Contemplation, Conversation: Thomas Merton's prophetic practice with Rev **Gary Hall**. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

10-17 June – Iona Pilgrimage with **Philip Newell**. St Columba Hotel, Isle of Iona, Scotland. See 22-29 April for details. www.heartbeatjourney.org/events

13-15 June – Elemental spirituality retreat. With Rev **Ruth Scott**. London. Working imaginatively through the elements, including praying through them. www.thekairoscentre.co.uk

16-18 June – Intentionally grounded. With **David Cole**. Sussex. Seek how to live a life journeying towards and from the ground of our being. www.penhurst.org.uk

19-23 June – Inner path, outer journey. With **Ian and Gail Adams**. N. Yorks. www.scargillmovement.org

Our desire to help shape a better world has to be rooted in our inner life. The inner path shapes the outer journey. When the two come into alignment wonderful things may begin to happen. This retreat will be an opportunity to rediscover your deep sense of belonging, of peace and of purpose. And then to explore how we might bring good to the world. Ian & Gail Adams of the Beloved Life project will draw on contemplative Christianity, the gift of the beautiful landscape around Scargill, and insights into human possibility. There will be a mix of teaching, conversation, stillness and contemplative practice. Also poetry and photography workshops, and the opportunity for one-to-one mentoring.

19-23 June – Understanding Islam. With Dr Chris Hewer. Near Bath. The history and inner dimensions of Islam and the way it shapes the lives of Muslims. www.ammerdown.org

ADVANCE NOTICES

3-7 July – Northern Spirit Pilgrimage with **Tess Ward**. Visiting sacred sites in Durham and Northumberland. www.stantonspriory.co.uk

7-10 July – Centre for the Study of Theology and Health Summer School, celebrating 25 years of the Ministry of Healing. With Right Rev Dr **Rowan Williams**. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

10-12 July – God: None, One, Three or Many? Modern Church Annual Conference. Herts. www.modernchurch.org.uk



What do we mean by the word 'God'? Or, for that matter, lower-case 'god' or 'gods'? A majority of people in Britain claim to believe in 'God', but is this 'the Christian God'? And what is 'the Christian God' anyway?

There are plenty of definitions, including the doctrine of the Trinity, which for some has lost its potency with the death of the

metaphysical systems in which it emerged, whilst for others it remains the best approach we have. But all the definitions can be and have been contested.

Theology cannot ignore the ideological currents and conflicts of our time. Scientific naturalism, new forms of nature mysticism, postmodernism and feminism all pose their own challenges. What remains of 'God' and how much can remain unchanged? Even the assumption that God must be 'personal', 'One' (or 'Three in One') is a matter for debate.

This conference will ask hard questions about Christian understandings of God, what they actually amount to, and whether they have been or need to be supplanted by other ways of thinking and relating to 'God'.

We will review traditional and contemporary theologies and philosophies, and contributions from the human sciences and the arts. There will be plenty of room for honest discussion, probing questions, and exploring relationships between theology, liturgy, spirituality and everyday life.

Conference Chairs: **Prof Linda Woodhead & Revd Prof Jane Shaw**

Conference Chaplain: Revd Dr Lorraine Cavanagh

Speakers (subject to change): Rt Revd David Stancliffe, Dr Dominic Erdozain, Dr Rachel Muers, Dr Nicola Slee, Prof Adrian Thatcher, Hugh Rock, Revd Jonathan Clatworthy.

15-21 July – Change Without Decay. Iona Abbey, Scotland. To apply, please contact the Wild Goose Resource Group in Glasgow – 0141 429 7281 or at wildgoose@wildgoose.scot. Supplementary charge £45 per adult, £20 student/low income. www.iona.org.uk/island-centres/abbey-and-macleod-centre-programme

For many people in churches, change is a no-go area, a source of stress and the cause of major disagreement. Yet change is the central dynamic of the Christian faith: Jesus both changes people and in the resurrection moves from being a corpse to a living body. The **Wild Goose Resource Group** will draw on and explore what we have seen and enabled, such as the redesigning of space; solo performer ministries becoming shared endeavours; reluctant assemblies becoming oases of song. If, after this week, you go away unchanged, ask for your money back.

13-15 October – GreenSpirit Annual Gathering - Restoring Balance: Learning from Nature.

Holland House, Main Street, Cropthorne, Pershore, WR10 3NB.

www.greenspirit.org.uk/ag2017

At our Annual Gathering *Working with Nature*, our main speaker Nicola Peel will tell us about some of the many incredible projects that she has worked on in the Amazon. She will explain how we can learn from nature to produce solutions to help both people and the environment through biomimicry. The intention is that this will re-invigorate us to find more ways of living in harmony with the Earth and help us to develop solutions for some of the problems that face the planet now.

As well as a talk, Nicola will facilitate a Workshop deepening our engagement with the elements (Earth, Water, Air and Fire) through movement and meditation and challenge us to learn from the elements and identify with them in practical ways. We will be able to give our individual responses and hopefully we will each come away with more ways in which we can make a significant difference in the world.

Nicola Peel has been working for most of her adult life on finding solutions. Since 2000 she has been working in the Ecuadorean Amazon. She travelled from the headwaters in Ecuador down the Amazon River to Brazil researching the effects of the oil industry on the environment and indigenous people who live there. Looking for solutions to help the people she met, she co-founded The Amazon Mycorenewal Project (using fungi to clean up contaminated sites), built rainwater systems for families drinking contaminated water and she has also initiated the clean-up of villages using eco-bricks (empty plastic bottles filled with rubbish). Nicola built the first ecological restaurant in the Amazon (built from 3,200 eco-bricks) and the first place to serve local coffee. Find out more at www.nicolapeel.com.