

EVENTS RUN BY MANY CENTRES AND ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE UK

July – September 2016

Compiled by *LivingSpirituality*
www.livingspirit.org.uk/events

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JULY

2-8 July – Changing Our Ways: How do we respond to the ecological crisis in the world?

Iona, Scotland. **Professor Tim Gorringer**, contextual theologian involved in researching the Transition Town Movement, will help us to find ways of treading more lightly and thoughtfully. Iona, Scotland. www.iona.org

4-6 July – Being Peace. In partnership with the Community of Interbeing. Birmingham. www.woodbrooke.org.uk

4-7 July – Shifting the Shadows of Sexuality. Speakers: **Rev Professor June Boyce-Tillman, Dr David McDonald, Dr Keith Sharpe.** Summer School N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

8-10 July – The spirituality of friendship. A weekend for women. Gwent. “I call you friend.” How do we, as women hear that invitation to friendship? A warm weekend of silence, music, visuals and sharing. Join us for the whole weekend if you can, just for Saturday if you can’t. www.llansor.org

8-10 July – Create a piece of glass art within the prayer rhythm of the Northumbria community. Held in Kent. In association with The Retreat Association. www.creativeretreatsandholidays.co.uk

8-10 July – A semi-silent retreat for beginners with Alison Christian. Leicestershire. Going on retreat for the first time can feel like a daunting experience. What am I letting myself in for? Will I enjoy it? What about the silence? Will I cope with it? What do I do with it? Many retreats are available at Launde Abbey. www.laundeabbey.org.uk/events

9 July – Teilhard de Chardin: Living in the Divine Milieu. Workshop with **Ursula King.** London EC1. www.meditatiocentrelondon.org

Teilhard de Chardin has been described as one of the great Christian mystics and spiritual-philosophical visionaries of the twentieth century, combining a deep faith with the evolutionary insights of modern science. He focuses on a Christic centre as a “fire” in all things, a “divine milieu”. The milieu radiates through all levels of the universe – matter, life and human experience. The day will explore how we can become part of it. **Ursula King** is Professor Emerita of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Bristol. Educated in Germany, France, India and England, she has lectured all over the world.

9 July – Celebrate God and Science with Rev John Allister. Notts. www.sacristaprebend.wordpress.com

10 July – Realizing Oneness with Martin Nathanael. An introduction to Joel Goldsmith’s the Infinite Way. 11am-4 pm. Martin will bring to life the power of Joel’s principles through contemplation and meditation in Martin’s own unique way. London NW6. Booking: email jenny.sandlerq008@firenet.co.uk or phone Jenny on 020 7328 6718.

10 July – The Roots of Modern Islamic identity. A talk by **John Parry.** London NW6. 6.00-7.30pm. www.londoninterfaith.org.uk/event

John Parry was ordained as a Presbyterian in the Church of Bangladesh and now serves as a minister of the United Reformed Church. He returned to the UK to become the Director of an interfaith project in Southall where he became immersed in the study of Sikhism, and the encounter of Sikhs and Christians.

11-15 July – Thinking with the soul retreat with **Dave Tomlinson.** Devon. www.sheldon.uk.com

11-15 July – Seasons of the Soul: Developing a spirituality for when life goes belly-up with **Ray Simpson.** Lindisfarne. www.aidanandhilda.org.uk

12 July – Day of deep silence to explore the healing power of silent prayer. With **Catherine Beaumont.** Suffolk. www.otleyhall.co.uk

13-14 July – Free Online Event: Global Compassion Summit The Global Compassion Summit is a no-cost event produced by The Shift Network in partnership with The Center for Compassion Altruism Research and Education (CCARE) at Stanford University as part of the 5th annual Summer of Peace — the largest online peace event on the planet! The Charter for Compassion is promoting the event. www.charterforcompassion.org

You'll hear from global leaders from around the world — teachers bringing mindfulness to at-risk youth, attorneys using mindfulness and compassion to shift our legal system, physicians putting “care” back into health care, and activists who are using compassion to anchor their communities together. **To book:** www.theglobalcompassionsummit.com.

18-23 July – ‘For God’s Sake Relax’. Tumble Trust Summer Week with **David Mahon**. Merseyside. A week of summer fun and spiritual renewal. www.tumbletrust.org.uk

18-19 July – Laudato Si – on care for our common home. A weekend with ecologist and theologian **Celia Deane-Drummond**. North East Wales. www.gladstoneslibrary.org/events/events-courses-list

‘The Earth herself... is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor.’ Pope Francis’s second encyclical ‘Laudato Si’ was typically forthright and challenging about the dangers of our indifference to this planet and is an appeal for a dialogue about its future. Far more accessible than traditional cyclical, ‘Laudato Si’ critiques consumerism and laments environmental degradation and global warming. Celia Deane-Drummond is a Professor in Theology at the University of Notre Dame and has published over 200 scientific and theological articles and 25 books including *The Ethics of Nature and Future Perfect: God, Medicine and Human Identity*.

20 July – A spiritual response to the refugee crisis? London EC2. 2.45pm. www.stethelburgas.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=839

In the face of so much human suffering, what would it mean to bring faith into a response to the refugee crisis? How can faith play a role? When the most fundamental needs for shelter, food and water are barely being met, is a spiritual response relevant? Could spiritual practices be a source of strength and resilience? Join us for an afternoon of discussion and conversation with **Bruna Kadletz** who has been working with refugees in Greece, Turkey, the homes of re-settled refugees in Brazil and South Africa.

20 July – Spiritual Ecology: Aliveness and the metamorphosis of science. London EC2. 6.30pm. www.stethelburgas.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=828

A special evening with 'eco-philosopher', writer and scholar **Andreas Weber**. In his new book *The Biology of Wonder*, scientist Andreas Weber reframes this fundamental enigma by arguing that all living beings, like humans, are not biological machines, but living, creative agents fuelled by meaning and expression. Andreas proposes a new approach to the biological sciences that puts the human back in nature. He argues that feelings and emotions, far from being superfluous to the study of organisms, are the very foundation of life. From this basic premise flows the development of a new approach he calls "poetic ecology" - which intimately connects our species to every being and underpins the entire range of human experience.

22-24 July – Introduction to the ancient tradition of Lectio Divina. Herefordshire. www.belmontabbey.org.uk

25-30 July – Journeying into wholeness. Experiencing Christ's healing presence and power, inspired by Celtic tradition and led by the Holy Spirit. With Rev **Sandi Kerner**. Lindisfarne. www.aidanandhilda.org.uk

26-29 July – Towards Abundant Life in the 21st Century: Feminist Reflections. 25th Annual Britain and Ireland School of Feminist Theology Summer School. University of Winchester. www.s608487333.websitehome.co.uk

29 July – Kick-start your own spiritual ecology hub! London EC2. www.stethelburgas.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=838

This is a one day practical workshop to experience some basic tools and learn how to facilitate spiritual ecology gatherings in your local community or context. Spiritual Ecology is a deeper response to the environmental crisis that goes beyond just a political, economic or event environmental response. It is an emerging field which joins ecology and environmentalism with an awareness of the Earth as alive, animate and sacred.

Since launching this work at St Ethelburga's at the beginning of the year, we have had an overwhelming response and strong engagement with the subject amongst our community and networks. Many people have asked us; 'what can we do?' and 'how can we take action in our own communities and contexts?'. In response to this need, we are offering a workshop for participants to experience some simple tools and to learn how to facilitate simple processes in Spiritual Ecology. Our hope is that this will empower

participants to kickstart their own local spiritual ecology hubs using the methodology we will share.

29-31 July – Is Heaven For Real? The significant implications of near-death experiences.

University of Winchester. 40 years on from the publication of Raymond Moody's *Life after Life*, a great deal of research has been undertaken on the near-death experience (NDE) and its implications for our understanding of consciousness and life.

This conference brings together some of the world's leading experts to consider the progress that has been made towards a new model of death, dying and religion.

http://store.winchester.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&catid=94&prodid=298

30 July – deadline for applications to join **Sacred Activists: Leadership & spirituality in action** at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace. London EC2. A nine month programme for young people who want to create a more beautiful world and be empowered to bring it into being. www.stethelburgas.org/sacred-activists-leadership-spirituality-action

Themes and explorations:

- Sacred activism and the interspiritual manifesto
- Leadership, calling and living spirituality through action
- The emergence of a new movement within the interfaith world
- The role of young people, religion and spirituality in the new era

Worldview and a 'new story' of inter-being

- Understanding the global crisis, its root causes and the future we face
- Exploring solutions: from hierarchical models to interconnectedness and reverence for life
- The power of grassroots movements

The inner dimension of sacred activism

- Inner resilience, spiritual practice and the nine elements of spiritual maturity
- The importance of shadow work in personal and systemic peace-making
- Discovering our calling and reclaiming our gifts: a vision quest

Action learning

- Using vision labs and the collective intelligence to evolve our ideas into projects
- Designing and hosting a fundraiser event
- Volunteering at a refugee camp for a week.

AUGUST

1-5 August – Discovering Divine Intimacy. Contemplative Christianity for everyone with **David Cole**. Lindisfarne. www.aidanandhilda.org.uk

4 August – Enjoying the fullness of the present moment. How to make the most of every day with **Philip Young**. Suffolk. www.otleyhall.co.uk

6 August – A well-watered garden. Our spirit must be well watered by God. Take a look at the inner garden of your life and be nourished. With **Judy Cannan**. Sussex. www.penhurst.org.uk

13-19 August – Tintern to Caldey: The Cistercian Way. The theme of the week is contemplative Christianity and how it can be applied to daily life today. Combines spectacular scenery and walks, from the atmospheric ruins of Tintern Abbey in the Wye Valley, made famous by the poetry of William Wordsworth, through to the unique spiritual island of Caldey in Pembrokeshire with its present-day Cistercian monastery, rugged cliffs, sandy beaches, seabirds, seals and a rich Celtic heritage. www.journeying.co.uk/tintern-to-caldey.html

13-19 August – Personal, Powerful, and Prophetic: Tools and Principles for Turning Churches into Change Makers. Led by **Keith Hebden**, priest, activist and author of a blog called *Compassionistas*, about seeking justice through radical compassion. Iona, Scotland. www.iona.org

14-19 August – Follow in the footsteps of St Cuthbert. Northumberland. www.shepherdsdene.co.uk

15-19 August – Voices of the Earth. Exploring the spirit and the natural world with **Philip and Zelig Gross**. Birmingham. www.woodbrooke.org.uk

15-21 August – GreenSpirit Wild Week in Wales. Connecting with Nature at Cae Mabon, Snowdonia. www.greenspirit.org.uk/html/events.shtml

19-21 August – Soulful: How we can live with authenticity, passion and compassion. With **Ian and Gail Adams**. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

SEPTEMBER

6 September – David Tacey: Dadirri - The Aboriginal Gift of Contemplation. London SW1. 6.30-9.00pm. www.silenceinthecity.org.uk/programme.html

Aboriginal elders in Australia wish to bestow the gift of dadirri, or contemplation, on the British, Europeans and others who have occupied their land. It is an intriguing situation, where those who have been colonised wish to redeem the colonisers by bestowing a spiritual gift. There is a powerful rationale to this: by insisting that the colonisers become contemplatives, the indigenous hope and pray that such a gift would inspire a new and fairer ethics, since they believe an activation of spirit would lead to responsible living and right action. What we see here is similar to Richard Rohr's idea that contemplation and action are inherently related, two aspects of the one liberation.

6-8 September – Soul Sisters. Women called to connect, bond and heal. Led by **Edwina Gateley**. Near Dundee. www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk

During this retreat Edwina will help us explore the feminine divine and the significant role women play in bringing balance and healing to our world. We will look at the role of some of the women in scripture as well as the experience of some contemporary women whose struggle for new life is a testimony to the resilience of the human spirit and the redeeming power of God's grace. The overarching theme is the call to personal and global transformation.

Edwina is a poet, theologian, artist, writer, lay minister, modern-day mystic and prophet, an advocate, and a single mother, described by the US *Publisher's Weekly* as "fascinating - an exceptional blend of contemplation and action".

To book, email info@bielsatblackruthven.org.uk.

6-8 September – Exploring New Insights of the Heart of Christianity with Janice Dolley and Kate Porteus. A CANA event in Worcestershire. For details, email janice.dolley@btinternet.com. www.christiansawakening.org/events

8 September – Ecology and Spirituality. Led by Prof **David Tacey**. London EC1. 6.30-9.00pm. www.meditatiocentrelondon.org

Deep ecological awareness is a spiritual state of consciousness, and without the activation of spirit it is difficult to achieve this awareness. Secular policies and green politics may not be able to work the transformation that is required. This talk will explore the entry into ecological awareness as an initiation into the transpersonal and universal dimensions of spirit. David Tacey is Emeritus Professor of Humanities at La Trobe University, Melbourne, and Research Professor at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Canberra. He is an interdisciplinary scholar and public intellectual who has written extensively on spirituality, religion, youth experience and mental health. He is the author of fourteen books, including *The Spirituality Revolution*.

10 September – Call to Personal and Global Transformation. One day event with **Edwina Gateley**. Dumfries. www.aigfois.co.uk/2016-annual-retreat-day/programme-of-events/2016-annual-retreat-day

See 6-8 Sept event above for details of Edwina Gateley.

16-18 September – Stand with your feet in The Earth: A weekend for men. Gwent. How does it work, smiting the rock and releasing the hidden water? Plenty of both rock and water and elemental experience on this weekend! Join us for the whole weekend if you can; just for Saturday if you can't. www.llansor.org

17 September – Science and Spirituality: Asymmetry of the Brain and Human Meaning with Dr Iain McGilchrist. London EC1. www.meditatiocentrelondon.org

“Almost everything you think you know about differences between the brain hemispheres is wrong. The topic was taken over and distorted by pop psychology, and hence understandably, but nonetheless irrationally, neglected by the mainstream. So why is the brain, an organ that exists only to make connections, divided and asymmetrical? What does it tell us about the structure of the world we inhabit? Iain McGilchrist will argue that lateralisation is now the topic in neuroscience of greatest significance for understanding the human condition.”

17 September – One Spirit Summit 2016. New Story: New Era. Responding Together to the Call of Spirit. London NW10. www.onespiritalliance.net/?page_id=2

Spiritually minded people and organisations working together to deepen our exploration of what we see as the challenging issues of the day. What is new is the number of people who are waking up to the 'new' that is pressing in on us and the realization that if enough of us 'respond together' to this growing impulse then we can, with the power of Spirit, make the 'new' our lived reality. So what do we mean by 'new story'? It is a move away from an era of separation and individualism towards a new era of inter-connectedness, from the old paradigm of scientific materialism and self-centred consumerism to a new paradigm of joined up thinking and a sense of wholeness and well-being.

Speakers will include:

- Prof. Ursula King – The Rise of the Spirit in an Evolutionary Universe
- Neville Hodgkinson – The Emergence of the New Science
- David Cadman – The Importance of Story - the Between Times
- Sister Jayanti – Living the Values of the New Story: New Era
- Rev Prof June Boyce-Tillman – Singing the New Story into Being
- Richard Olivier - Hamlet's Journey - Responding to the Call

19-22 September – Holy Spirit in autumn with John Rackley. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

22-26 September – Walking in the Footsteps of RS Thomas. Aberdaron, Lleyn Peninsula, North Wales. RS Thomas was a poet and priest who found his closest connection with God in the landscapes which inspired his poetry including his last parish of Aberdaron. The church of St Hywyn sits on the shore, the last resting place for early Christian pilgrims before making the treacherous journey across to Bardsey Island, the island of twenty thousand saints. www.journeying.co.uk/walking-in-the-footsteps-of-rs-thomas.html

23-25 September – Hildegard lecture weekend. Hymns for healing with Rev Dr Jan Berry. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

24 September – Imitating Jesus: how an inclusive approach to New Testament Ethics affects the way we live today. With Canon Professor **Richard Burridge**. Sheffield.

A day on how we need to pay attention not only to the demanding ethical teaching of Jesus, but also – and critically – to the model of inclusivity and acceptance found in his deeds and example, and in the early Christian communities. The morning will concentrate on the biblical material and method; the afternoon, in an ethical and generic challenge to reading the New Testament, on application to contemporary situations. Richard's is a radical and challenging interpretation. Booking: www.stmarksrcc.co.uk/event/imitating-jesus-how-an-inclusive-approach-to-new-testament-ethics-affects-the-way-we-live-today.

24-30 September – Pilgrimage of Life. Iona, Scotland. Author **Alastair McIntosh** will help us to explore the journey of life, its stages and spiritualities. www.iona.org

25 September – *Living Spirituality* annual partnership event with St James's, Piccadilly: launch of **Experiencing Music - Restoring the Spiritual: Music as Wellbeing** by Rev Dr **June Boyce-Tillman**. Rowan Williams has said: "This book is an astonishing achievement Learning to sing is connecting with the world we inhabit in a fresh and life-giving way. A deeply enriching study."

The event will include some singing and refreshments afterwards. 1.45-3.30pm. **To book**, please email petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk.

26-30 September – Borderland Spirituality. Exploring thin places where heaven comes into everyday life in Celtic times and today. With Rev **Ray Simpson**. Lindisfarne. www.aidanandhilda.org.uk

26-29 September – Silence by the Sea Wisdom School in Dorset with **Don & Jayne MacGregor and Janet Lake**. There is a real hunger for an authentic and living spirituality, emerging anew from its roots in the mystical heart of all the faith traditions, but reawakened and revitalised to be accessible and relevant for today. www.othona-bb.org.uk/event-pages-9-jan-to-dec-2016/event-376. This is a CANA event: www.christiansawakening.org/events.

29-30 September – Rest, Reflect, Flow: A Creative Arts and Spiritual Exploration. Near Dundee. www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk

30 September – Being a risen woman: doing feminist theology via poetry. Speaker: Dr Nicola Slee. 7pm. London SE1. Southwark Feminist Theology Group annual lecture. To book, email southwark.feminist.theology@gmail.com.

ADVANCE NOTICES

8-15 October – Brian McLaren tour of UK organised by the **Progressive Christianity Network**. London, Exeter, Cardiff, Birmingham, Largs, Manchester, Newcastle and Harrogate.

www.pcnbritain.org.uk/news/post/tickets_for_brian_mclaren_tour_go_on_sale

Sat 8 Oct – London, Oasis Church, Waterloo, SE1 7QP. Day sessions from 10am. Evening session: 7.30pm. Tickets (all sessions): £25, £20, £10. Evening alone: £8.

Sun 9 Oct – Exeter, Mint Methodist Church Centre, EX4 3AT. Afternoon conference from 2pm. Tickets: £10/£8/£5. Evening ‘Holy Ground’ service at the Cathedral starts 7pm, open to all.

People by the millions are migrating out of traditional religion - some into secularism. Some into experimental forms of non-religious spirituality. But even within religious communities, people are on the move, migrating in exciting new directions.

In his upcoming book *The Great Spiritual Migration*, McLaren explores three conversions or spiritual migrations. Spiritually, McLaren advocates a migration from Christian faith defined as a system of beliefs to a love-centred way of life. Theologically, he challenges people to move from defending God as a violent Supreme Being to experiencing and embodying God as the non-violent Holy Spirit. Missionally, he explores how congregations can move from being institutional outposts of organised religion to networked cells of organising religion. In *The Great Spiritual Migration*, McLaren invites readers to join a movement that can shift the direction of Christian faith to be more in sync with its founder, more life-giving for individual Christians and congregations, and more of a just, generous, and joyful resource for the whole world.

21-23 October – GreenSpirit Annual Gathering 2016. Somerset. The main speaker Philip Carr-Gomm combines being a leader of the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids, the largest Druid teaching order in the world with being an author in the fields of Druidry and psychology. Philip also draws upon the wisdom of other spiritual paths and is particularly interested in the ways in which we can preserve and protect the natural world for future

generations. With him we will learn about Druidry and he will help us find inspiration and guidance by drawing on the animal and plant lore of our (for many of us) native lands: The British Isles. For full information and how to book, go to:

www.greenspirit.org.uk/ag2016.

24 October – start of **Exploring Christian Spirituality 2016 - 2017**. Led by John-Francis Friendship. Starts October 24th, 2016 - 24th April: 19 sessions over two terms. Monday afternoons – 2.00-4.45pm. www.spiritualitycentre.org/index.php/exploring

The Course is open to people of all traditions, those of other faith groups, and any who are interested in exploring the theme of Christian Spirituality.

The Course aims to: help you reflect on your own spiritual journey; learn about different ways of praying, develop your own spirituality, introduce you to the art of Spiritual Direction, help you explore how to integrate prayer and life, learn about some of the great traditions of Christian Spirituality and reflect on Biblical themes and insights into the life of the Spirit.

3 November – **Centering Prayer and the Road to Non-Dual Awakening** with Rev Dr **Cynthia Bourgeault**. London SW1. 6.30 - 9 .00pm.

www.silenceinthecity.org.uk/programme.html

5 November Christian Non-Duality - Seriously? Workshop with Rev Dr Cynthia Bourgeault. London SW1. 10.30am-4.30pm.

www.silenceinthecity.org.uk/programme.html

The Saturday retreat day with Cynthia will be inter-related with the evening event, but the retreat day will be an opportunity for more intense practice.