



**Living Spirituality Connections**  
Resources for the spiritual journey

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

**July - September 2019**

Compiled by **Living Spirituality Connections**

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

[Event not in April- June listing:](#)

**Sunday 23 June 1.30. Hope of the World. Living Well as Children of God. Speaker: Steph Bryant** of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion. Exploring science, religion, environment and the roles and responsibilities of faith groups.

This participatory session is an Eco Church event in partnership with Circus Spirit (20s and 30s group). Free of charge. All (of all ages) welcome to this session.

Venue: St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL.

**July**

**3 July 10-4.30 How Icons speak to us in our contemporary world.** London.

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

**4-7 July Summer School in Public Theology.** Ballycastle, Northern Ireland.

<https://www.corrymeela.org>

Exploring the **theology of inclusion**, particularly as it relates to human sexuality and building on the "Blessed are the Brave" work of Corrymeela over several years.

There will be FIVE streams for the Summer School:

1. Conflict dynamics in dialogue
2. Reading the Bible
3. Story-telling (a film-making project offering opportunities for telling your story)
4. Advocacy for Inclusion
5. Supportive space for LGBTI people

The programme will enable participants to engage with theologians and activists as well as the classic literature of religious history and provide space to explore faith and vocation through theological thinking, study and action. All are welcome but if you are between 18 and 30 years old we have a limited number of scholarships available.

**5-7 July Love was his Meaning with Dom Brendan Thomas.** Leicestershire  
[www.belmontabbey.org.uk](http://www.belmontabbey.org.uk) Non-residential places only are available.

A weekend with Julian of Norwich, one of the most wonderful Christian voices.

To many, Julian of Norwich is the greatest of the English mystics. On the 8th May 1373, after a near-fatal illness, she experienced a series of revelations or “showings” of God’s love that she would reflect on for the rest of her life. Julian is a mystic and a theologian, but for us a warm and down-to-earth companion for the spiritual journey. Her images of God speak to the heart. God is full of the tender care and compassion of a mother, as well as a father. She glimpses God holding the whole world in his hands, enfolding it in love. Julian’s writings convey a great sense of joy and a realistic optimism that sees so much hope and promise for the human creature. She helps us see ourselves through the eyes of God. In this weekend, through talks, prayer and reflection we hope, with the help of Julian, to come to a better understanding of God and of ourselves embraced by God’s love.

**6 July 10.30 am. The Bradwell Pilgrimage and Gathering**, a yearly event that takes place at St Peter’s Chapel, Bradwell-on-Sea, that has happened for nearly 100 years. Essex coast, at a place where Celtic Christianity was introduced. <http://bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk/>

**6 July 10 – 4. The path of descent is the path of transformation.** Truro  
<http://www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk/events/>

A Contemplative Quiet Day based on the teachings of Fr. Richard Rohr OFM. Join Rev Canon Olive Stevens for a quiet day of contemplative teachings, practices and reflections using video footage from the CONSPIRE conference 2018 at the Centre for Action and Contemplation, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**7 July 1pm Every Tribe: Diverse Saints in a Diverse World.** Speaker **Sharon Prentis.** London. <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/learning-faith/adult-learning/sunday-forum>

The Bible visualises a new heaven and a new earth with people of every language and nation, so why are all the saints in our paintings and stained glass windows white? The bias in the church’s storytelling means that many are surprised to discover that St Augustine is North African and St George is an immigrant with Turkish and Palestinian parents.

**Sharon Prentis** is Dean of Black and Minority Ethnic Affairs and Intercultural Mission Enabler in Birmingham.

**10 July Rethinking Security.** Led by: **Diana Francis.** Near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

What does the word security mean to you? What do you think it means to other people in our country and elsewhere? What are the experiences, values and assumptions that underlie your first, instinctive responses? Are current approaches to security working for us in the UK and for people in other countries? If not, are there other ways of addressing the multiple security challenges that humanity is facing? What can we ourselves contribute and what are the spiritual resources that can sustain us?

It will be led by Diana Francis, for Rethinking Security, an initiative born at Ammerdown when a group of 'peace professionals' met to discuss the need for a radically different approach to human security (see [www.rethinkingsecurity.org.uk](http://www.rethinkingsecurity.org.uk)): one which acknowledges the reality of human and ecological interdependence and is created by people thinking and working in solidarity with each other: a shared conversation for a common purpose.

**11 July 10-4. A Day with Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe.** Led by **Laura Kalas Williams.** Salisbury. [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

This interactive workshop will uncover the depth of meaning and imagery in Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich's visionary writings. It will also introduce some aspects of medieval medical understandings to illuminate what it might mean to attain 'spiritual health'. Two mystics speaking from the depths of their spiritual experience to offer unconventional wisdom.

**12-14 July The Holy Grail – a storytelling event for men and women.** South East Wales [www.llansor.org](http://www.llansor.org)

This special event offers an introduction to the events that happen at Llansôr. Men and women familiar with what happens here, are inviting others to join us for a relaxed, enjoyable time together. We've invited Cath Little, an experienced and gifted storyteller, to unlock for us the powerful, local Arthurian legends held within the Mabinogion. Here's your chance, in good company, to explore the quests and precious things in your life, and to answer for yourself that greatest of questions: "what do you seek?"

The story begins in nearby Caerleon, at Arthur's court, across the fields from Llansôr Mill...

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### **Living Spirituality Connections Event:**

**Saturday 13 July 10-4 'CREATIVE CONNECTIONS'** day led by **Linda Courage** and **Julia McDonald.** York.

All with an interest in the arts & spirituality welcome - no prior experience necessary, just an openness to the value of creativity.

The day will include: Presentations and Exhibition space / Expressive art sessions / Time to discuss, share & exchange.

*Cont. over...*

**Key note speaker: Colin Black of Seek Art School.**

Colin will offer reflections on the theme of 'Creative Connections' and will facilitate one of the creative workshops exploring this idea.

Hosted by **St. Bede's Pastoral Centre** in conjunction with Living Spirituality Connections.

Venue: 21 Blossom Street, YO24 1AQ (5 min walk from train and bus stations).

**Cost:** £15 (£10 for exhibitors or those on a low income).

**To book**, or for further information, please contact St. Bede's Office:

[admin@stbedes.org.uk](mailto:admin@stbedes.org.uk) or phone 01904 464900.

*\*Please consider bringing a piece of your work to exhibit - for more information on exhibiting contact  
Linda: [linda.courage60@gmail.com](mailto:linda.courage60@gmail.com)*

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**15-17 July Awakening of the Sacred Feminine.** Led by **Gill Pennington and Lynne Sedgmore.** Birmingham. [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

**15-17 July Theology in the public square.** Herts. <https://modernchurch.org.uk>

This conference will address the relationships of religion and public life - the role and impact of faith in culture, economics, media, community organising and public policy. Speakers and workshops will explore questions of church and politics, secular vocations for lay people, grass-roots campaigning and representations of religion in popular culture, considering the challenges of engaging ethically and strategically with the media. Sessions and speakers (subject to change):

- \*The Church and Politics Today - Malcolm Brown, Mission & Public Affairs, Church of England
- \*Faith and Multi-Culturalism/Religious Literacy - Prof. Adam Dinham, Goldsmith's.
- \*Theology and the Media - Rosie Dawson, William Temple Foundation
- \*The Politics of Dissent - Dr Maria Power, University of Liverpool
- \*The Tradition of Community Organising - Anna Rowlands, University of Durham
- \*'Discipleship', Faith and Public Life - Panel: Jonathan Draper, Elaine Graham, Maria Power

**17 July 11-4 Soulfulness: Deepening the mindful life** with **Brian Draper.** London.

<https://gohealth.org.uk/events>

A day exploring mindfulness and the Christian faith with author and broadcaster Brian Draper, who will help us reflect on the role of meditation and stillness in our lives, and to reconnect with God's creation. In this gently welcoming and spacious day, Brian will interweave theory with times of stillness and personal reflection.

**19-21 July Allowing Forgiveness & Healing through the Spirit**

Led by **Marian Partington & Barbara Davey.** Lake District. [www.glenthorne.org](http://www.glenthorne.org)

Carrying anger and hatred around damages both one's own life and that of those around one. Becoming forgiving through the spirit, provides healing and enables one to move out

of the past and into the present. Marian's inner journey, writing, speaking, prison work ([www.theforgivenessproject.com](http://www.theforgivenessproject.com)) is in response to the murder of her sister Lucy. She and Barbara will offer a safe space in which to explore and encourage the vital, freeing experience of becoming forgiving in everyday life.

**19-21 July God in Nature with David Cole.** Dorset. <https://www.the-greenhouse.org>  
David Cole, founder of Waymark Ministries and member of the Community of Aidan and Hilda, brings a different perspective with his passion for the early Christian church and how seekers who perhaps find it difficult to do so in mainstream church, can be drawn to God through its more ancient traditions.

**20 July 10-4 Good God! Sexuality and Gender Equality in the Church: Impossibility or Imperative?** Sheffield <https://stmarkscrc.co.uk/events>

**20 July 10.30-4 A Darkness All of Light with Martin Laird OSA.** London  
<http://meditatiocentreondon.org>

'A Darkness all of Light' - a line from a poem by Franz Wright - serves to focus our Day, dedicated to the practice of contemplation – through conference and discussion. Silence itself has no opposite. For the silent mind, sound is as silent as no sound. For the decluttered mind, despair and delight manifest the very same silence we incessantly body forth by the simple fact that we are. But for the cluttered mind, such things seem to be at odds. To explore this, among other things, Fr. Martin will consider such challenges as: the inner noise generated when we try to use contemplative practice to acquire something we think we lack; or get rid of something we would rather not have in our lives; or how the practice of 'mindfulness' risks leaving us fixated on ourselves as our own contemplative projects; as well as other special challenges for the maturing contemplative.

**23 July Cader Idris. Paradoxes in a mountain landscape.** Led by Rev Canon Dr **Mark Clavier.** Near Brecon, Mid Wales. [www.llangasty.com](http://www.llangasty.com)

Drawing on his own overnight walks up Cader Idris, Mark Clavier uses its paradoxes to explore the deep paradoxes of the Christian faith. The first day will be devoted to the concepts of time and timelessness and what they tell us about God. Then we will turn to the spiritual idea of finding wonder and delight in the ordinary. Includes worship, talks, time for reflection and meditation, and (weather permitting) opportunities to find similar paradoxes in the landscape of Llangorse Lake.

**26-28 July The Northern Lights.** A retreat with Bede, Cuthbert and Aidan. Led by Dom **Alistair Findlay.** Leicestershire. [www.belmontabbey.org.uk](http://www.belmontabbey.org.uk)

**26-28 July Creative Spirituality 2019 Retreat with Melitta Bosworth & Katie Low.** Near Perth, Scotland. <https://www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk/>

Travelling through the seasons reflecting on the questions: Who does God invite me to be? What is this the season for? Using creativity & nature to stimulate our curiosity, exploring with a wide variety of inspirational resources -poetry, scripture, a large variety of creative materials & the natural environment.

**29 July – 2 August Fresh Water from an Ancient Well.** Led by **Kenneth McIntosh.** Lindisfarne. [www.aidanandhilda.org.uk](http://www.aidanandhilda.org.uk)

**29 July – 4 August Music workshop with Monique van den Hoogen.** County Durham. A week-long singing workshop full of music, which invites us to look at the world and appreciate the beauty of God's creation. <http://www.minsteracres.org/come-on-retreat/>

**29 July – 2 August Can We Find an Original Interpretation of Genesis 1 - 4?** Led by **Lyn Bechtel.** North East Wales. <https://www.gladstoneslibrary.org/>

Many people assume that there are two very different stories of creation which contradict each other and that the 'Sin and Fall' interpretation of Genesis 2 - 3 is the original one. However, the 'Sin and Fall' interpretation was developed in the Middle Ages by the western Christian Church Fathers, while the Eastern Church Fathers perpetuated the original interpretation, stemming from the Persian Period (ca. 450 - 350 BCE). In that interpretation Genesis 1 - 4 are an integrated unit that deals with human maturation and perceptions of reality and God, against Deuteronomic theology's perception of reality and God, which became the dominant theology in Israel from the late Persian period onward.

Lyn Bechtel is a feminist Hebrew Bible scholar.

## August

**5-9 August Looking at the World: CARM Painting and Prayer Retreat.** Truro. <http://www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk/events/>

A residential art retreat led by **Pam Bowen** and **Revd Roger Clifton** from the Creative Arts Retreat Movement ([www.carmretreats.org](http://www.carmretreats.org)). Suitable for all levels of ability, from beginner to more experienced artists. The retreat includes painting and sketching tuition, spiritual accompaniment and plenty of free time for painting, prayer and relaxation.

**5-8 August The Wisdom of St John of the Cross.** With **Matt Blake** OCD. Oxford. [www.carmelitepiorioxford.com](http://www.carmelitepiorioxford.com)

## September

**2-8 September Walk the Cornish Celtic Way.** Truro.

<http://www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk/events/>

A week-long walking retreat in Cornwall, led by Revd. **Nigel Marns**, author of 'A Cornish Celtic Way'. Explore the Way with a series of guided walks visiting some of the highlights of the 125 mile route, returning each night to enjoy the peaceful comfort and home-cooked food of Epiphany House, Truro. Visit the iconic St Michael's Mount. You can expect to cover around 6-8 miles per day over terrain which includes stunning and sometimes steep coastal walks, taking in churches, holy wells and other special places along the way. Evenings will be relaxed and informal, and include an optional short act of worship with reflections on Celtic saints.

**6-8 September Where Do We Come From?** Led by **Alex Wildwood & Meri Goad**. Lake District. [www.glenthorne.org](http://www.glenthorne.org)

Where do we come from? Who are we? Where are we going? The title of Gauguin's painting invites consideration of essential questions of religious life. We will immerse ourselves in a spiritual understanding of the new universe story being revealed by contemporary science. In experiencing our long evolutionary journey, we can discover a spirituality born of this age.

**6-8 September Life before death. The psychology of flourishing.** With **Roger Dawson SJ**. North East Wales. [www.beunos.com](http://www.beunos.com)

**6-8 September Prayer and Poetry** with **Edwina Gateley**. Near Perth, Scotland. <https://www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk>. We will explore how poetry can enrich prayer, and prayer poetry.

**7 September. Flourishing.** Led by **Peter Parr and Heather-Jane Ozanne**. Sussex. [www.penhurst.org.uk](http://www.penhurst.org.uk) Explore the shift to a spirituality that leads to appreciation of the interconnectedness of all life and deeper engagement with humanity.

**9-12 September To be a pilgrim. A walking retreat** with **Sally Welch**. Leicestershire [www.laundeabbey.org.uk](http://www.laundeabbey.org.uk)

The word 'pilgrim' is full of adventure – it conjures up images of roads and paths, new places and companions, challenges and surprises. In this retreat we explore what it means to be a Christian pilgrim and how a pilgrim spirit can transform our lives. We will learn about the historic context of Christian pilgrimage in Europe and beyond, before venturing further, looking at both the inward and outer journey. We will reflect on the way in which pilgrimage spirituality helps us to understand better our landscape, ourselves and God, using periods of stillness and silence, as well as activity and discussion.

**9-13 September Playing in the presence of God.** Paying attention to what happens during the creative process. Near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

**13-15 September The price and promise of vulnerability. A weekend for men.** South East Wales. [www.llansor.org](http://www.llansor.org)

Join us to explore and experience this topic, so central to men's work and one which we are gradually finding the vocabulary to inhabit. What are the perceived, and real, risks of being open and honest about our weaknesses – and our strengths? What has been our experience of taking these risks and what has this taught us? We'll use our own wisdom, informed by the insights offered by Brene Brown and Joanna Macy. The weekend will be led by **Chris O'Donnell**, well known in the Male Journey network.

**15-20 September Gift of life: life and living; death and dying.** Led by **Jill Benet**. Surrey. [www.christian-retreat.org](http://www.christian-retreat.org)

**16-20 September Encountering the Divine in Nature** Led by **Terry Winterton & Margaret Calvert**. Lake District. [www.glenthorne.org](http://www.glenthorne.org)

**18-25 Pilgrimage with St Francis of Assisi.** Led by Rev Canon **Andrew Hawes**. Italy. [www.umbrianretreats.com](http://www.umbrianretreats.com)

**20-22 September In Search of the Historical Jesus.** Led by Professor **Helen Bond**. North East Wales. <https://www.gladstoneslibrary.org>

Around the year 30AD, in an insignificant province of the Roman Empire, a Jewish prophet, teacher and healer met a shameful and brutal end on a Roman cross. 2,000 years later, this obscure figure has over two billion followers and is acknowledged as the most influential person ever to have walked the earth. As people of faith, we know Jesus through the Gospels. But scholarly enquiry into the historical figure of Jesus has brought new insight and illumination. In this study weekend you will look at Jesus in his historical context: his Jewish heritage, the turbulent political climate against which he lived his life, his message, friends and enemies, his execution, and ask what difference this understanding makes to us as Christians in the 21st Century. Helen Bond is Professor of Christian Origins and Head of the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh.

**21 September Joy in Creation**, looking at the poetry of **Thomas Traherne** and others. Led by **Penny Young**. Notts. [www.sacristaprebend.wordpress.com](http://www.sacristaprebend.wordpress.com)



**27-29 September The way of the embodied contemplative with Terry Doyle**, Benedictine Oblate with the World Community for Christian Meditation. County Durham  
<http://www.minsteracres.org/come-on-retreat>

Exploring how the practice of meditation can also be encountered through the language of the body using breathing exercises, gentle stretching and slow Tai Chi movements to complement the seated meditation periods. Suitable for all ages and abilities.

**27-29 September Artist as co-creator.** With **Jen and Annie Bromham** IBVM. Llandudno, North Wales. [www.loretocentre.org.uk](http://www.loretocentre.org.uk)  
Using art to recover the child within and become co-creators with God.

**28 September. Visions of the living light. Hildegard von Bingen.** Led by **Julie Hopkins**. Surrey. [www.christian-retreat.org](http://www.christian-retreat.org)

**30 September – 3 October Creative Pathways to Wholeness - A Painting & Prayer Retreat**  
Led by **Keith & Maggie Hitchman**. Cheshire. [www.foxhillchester.co.uk](http://www.foxhillchester.co.uk)

**30 September – 3 October Silence by the Sea.** Dorset. [www.othonawestdorset.org.uk](http://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk)

A mainly silent retreat to help you draw on the revitalised spirituality that is now emerging afresh from the mystical heart of the faith traditions. You should have an existing meditation practice of some kind and a desire to go deeper. Retreat leaders are **Janet Lake, Jayne MacGregor and Richard Sloan**, all inspired by the Wisdom Schools of Dr Cynthia Bourgeault.

## ADVANCE NOTICES

**25-27 October GreenSpirit Annual Gathering. Reclaiming the Wild Soul.** Main speaker **Mary Reynolds Thompson**. Holland House, Worcestershire.  
<https://www.greenspirit.org.uk/annual-gathering-2019/>