

EVENTS RUN BY MANY CENTRES AND ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE UK

October – December 2016

Compiled by *LivingSpirituality*

www.livingspirit.org.uk/events

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

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

END OF SEPTEMBER 2016

25 September – *LivingSpirituality* annual partnership event with St James’s Piccadilly
(1.45 – 3.30 pm)

Book launch of *Experiencing Music – Restoring the Spiritual: Music as Wellbeing* by Rev Dr June Boyce-Tillman

This launch of *Experiencing Music* will explore the variety of ways that music can put us in touch with the spiritual. It is dedicated to making the musical experience accessible and understandable to people with and without musical expertise. It will include a variety of activities and discussion that will help participants to understand the place of music in their own lives and that of the wider cosmos. This will enable those present to understand the relationship between music and spirituality and find ways to cross musical borders with understanding and respect. Rev Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James’s, will chair the session.

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.”

June Boyce –Tillman is Professor of Applied Music and Artistic Convenor for the Centre for the Arts as Wellbeing at the University of Winchester, and Extraordinary Professor at North-West University, South Africa.

We hope you can join us. The event will include refreshments, so **please book** by emailing petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk. Donations to the work of *LivingSpirituality* are welcome.

A further event we didn't include in the July-September listing is:

30 September-2 October – How to be the heroine of your own life. SE Wales.

www.llansor.org

We'll explore local Arthurian myths from the Mabinogion as well as the legends of the great Celtic saint, Brigid. Hosted by a professional storyteller, **Cath Little**, we will link them to our own experience and faith journey.

OCTOBER 2016

1 October – Living Compassion: The Opening of the heart in Julian of Norwich's Revelations of Divine Love. Led by Revd **Robert Fruehwirth**. Cambridge. 10am-4.45pm.

www.stjamescambridge.org.uk

2 October – Julian of Norwich: Revelations of Divine Love. A talk by **Robert Fruehwirth**.

London EC1. 1-2pm. www.stpauls.co.uk/learning-faith/adult-learning/sunday-forum

Julian of Norwich was a 14th century woman whose mystical experiences led her to believe in a God of unconditional love, of merciful compassion and honesty, and a radical belief in the goodness of creation and humanity. Deeply challenging to medieval ideas of a God of wrath, they can speak to us in the 21st century with startling immediacy, love and hope. The event is free and unticketed.

3-5 October – Deepening the life of the spirit led by **Ginny Wall**. Birmingham. Exploring prayer and spiritual practice. www.woodbrooke.org.uk

3-6 October – Theology and Human Culture. Wilts. Explore the relationship between theology and culture using creative and critical perspectives. www.sarum.ac.uk

4 October – Start of Exploring Spiritual Direction. County Durham. Groundwork and ongoing discernment for accompanying others. 3 terms plus two residential.

www.stantonspriory.co.uk

7-9 October – From wild man to wise man. Retreat with **Richard Hann**. Looking at the male journey. East Sussex. www.penhurst.org.uk

8 October – Coming home to ourselves. The challenge of Christian meditation in a confusing world with **Bridget Hewitt**. Northumberland. www.shepherdsdene.co.uk

8-15 October – Brian McLaren tour of the 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

The tour includes:

Sat 8 Oct – London, Oasis Church, Waterloo, SE1 7QP. Day session 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.

9-11 October – Men’s spirituality retreat. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

10-12 October – The Rebirthing of God: Christianity’s Struggle for New Beginnings with John-Phillip Newell. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

14-16 October – Finding a Life-Giving Path through Chronic Illness with Helen Warwick. North Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

15 October – Do we need a new Reformation? Reclaiming faith for the people. Modern Church South West Day Conference. Bath. 10.30am-4pm. www.modernchurch.org.uk/mc-events/new-reformation

Lead speaker: **Dr Lorraine Cavanagh**. Organised Christianity is today facing serious challenges. The faith is widely regarded as not credible, Anglican church attendance has halved over 50 years, and most young people grow up without basic knowledge of the Christian stories.

This Day Conference aims to:

- explore this situation and to seek positive ways forward,
- seek support for a South West regional group of lay and ordained people who would identify with Modern Church's liberal outlook, and would like to meet regularly.

15 October – The Garden of the Heart: a Place to be Alone with God. Speaker: **Esther de Waal**. Small Pilgrim Places Network. "Breathing Spaces on the Pilgrim Journey." Monmouthshire. 10.30-4pm. www.smallpilgrimplaces.org

To book or for further details contact enquiries@smallpilgrimplaces.org or, if not possible, phone 01495 270436.

18 October – The Church's Ministry of Healing: Building on Firm Foundations. Hereford. 10am-4pm. www.gohealth.org.uk/events.html

Workshops include:

- Wholeness, Health and Healing in the parish or church community led by Canon Stephen Evans
- Meditation, Contemplation and Healing led by the Revd Dr Helen Leathard
- Listening Skills and other 'hard skills' around good practice in healing led by the Revd Elizabeth Baxter
- Compassionate Communities led by Elizabeth Bayliss
- Healing at the Shrine of St Thomas of Hereford led by the Very Revd Michael Tavinor.

20 October – Community Reconciliation: Working creatively with division. London EC2. www.stethelburgas.org

Three-day intensive course, developed jointly by St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace and the University of Winchester, offering a grounding in how to devise a strategy for reconciliation in a divided community.

Topics include:

- The realities of division: what creates and holds divisions in place, the role of leaders, the importance of social identities, and the ethics of reconciliation.
- Managing dis/agreement: dialogue, narrative, cultural and concrete strategies to create new conversations in divided communities.

- Constructing a different future: identifying opportunities for stimulating cross-community contact, engaging divided parties, dealing with the past, and envisioning the future

20-22 October – Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy with John Shelby Spong. NE Wales. www.gladstoneslibrary.org/events/events-courses-list/biblical-literalism-a-gentile-heresy

In this short course, based on his latest bestselling book, Jack Spong uses the Gospel of Matthew as a guide to explore the gospel story's grounding in Jewish culture, symbols, icons and story-telling tradition to explain how the events of Jesus' life, including the virgin birth, the miracles, the details of the passion story, and the resurrection and ascension were never written to be understood literally. Jack Spong liberates the gospel to provide a blueprint for a new Christianity in a new world by casting off the church's often leaden and, he would argue, heretical reading of the of the story of Jesus.

Includes free entry to *Matthew's Passion Story: It's Not History!*, a public lecture by Bishop Spong.

21-23 October – From loneliness to aloneness. Devon. www.millhouseretreats.co.uk

21-23 October – GreenSpirit Annual Gathering 2016. Somerset. For full information and how to book, go to www.greenspirit.org.uk/ag2016.

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.

22 October – Meeting with Meister Eckhart (part 2). Led by **Mary Haynes.** London NW6. 10.30/11am–4pm. Booking essential. Email: jennysandlerq008@firenet.co.uk or telephone: 020 7328 6718.

Meister Eckhart is well known. His writings and his teaching are, for various reasons, not so generally familiar. Taking passages from his preaching, Mary will treat them in a manner in some ways similar to *Lectio Divina*, reading them aloud, with explanations where appropriate; pondering on his meaning, with silences as well as opportunities for exchanges of response. There will also be a brief introduction to his milieu and life.

24 October – Start of “**Exploring Christian Spirituality**” course led by **John-Francis Friendship**. **Monday afternoons 2-4.45pm**. London EC1. www.spiritualitycentre.org

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. This Course is intended to be experiential rather than academic – to complement personal journeys in spiritual development.

26 October – **The Embodied Contemplative** with **Terry Doyle**. County Durham. www.minsteracres.org

28-30 October – **Living in the Power of Now**. County Durham. Exploring the Way of Christian Mindfulness with **David Mahon** at Minsteracres. www.tumbletrust.org.uk

30 October-1 November – **Learning to Nourish our Souls**. Led by **David Mahon**. Crewe. Embracing the Grace of our Female Mystics. Relaxation: Body, Mind & Soul. www.tumbletrust.org.uk

NOVEMBER 2016

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

4-6 November – **Exploring spiritual experience** with **Marianne Rankin**. Near Bath. From the mystics and founders of religious traditions, to ordinary people’s experience. www.ammerdown.org

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 on 3 November, but the retreat day will be an opportunity for more intense practice.

8-15 & 19-26 November – Reflection for Action. Iona, Scotland.

www.iona.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2015/10/ISLAND-PROGRAMME-2016-single-page1.pdf

Two separate week-long courses giving an opportunity to pause and reflect before we step out on the next part of life's journey.

9 November – The Riddle of the one and the many: Reflections on spirituality and the brain. With **Iain McGilchrist**. London W8. 6.30-9pm. Lecture and buffet reception.

www.worldfaiths.org/youngusband-lecture-2016

11 November A day conference **exploring the spiritual in music, its meaning and its place in contemporary life. Launch of the new Taverner Centre for the Study of Music and Spirituality with Professor June Boyce-Tillman.** Winchester. 10.30am-4.30pm. To book, email maureen.cheong@winchester.ac.uk.

11 November – A Day with Margaret Silf - 'Remember Me' Near Perth. 10am-4:30pm. www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk/2016-programme-by-date.html

18-20 November – Reawakening the sacred with Justine Huxley and Viviana Esse. Near Bath. How can we individually and collectively rebuild our relationship with what is sacred? www.ammerdown.org

18-20 November – Sacred agnosticism with Harvey Gillman. Oxon.

www.charneymanor.com

What is left when we have put aside what we cannot believe and yet feel that something precious and almost nameless remains? Can we be finders as well as seekers without hardening insight into dogma? The language of the negative way is paradoxical, playful, poetic, and contours silence. This weekend will offer time for meditation, poetry, paradox, and reflection.

19 November – The Spirit of the Margins. Led by **Chris Bemrose and Mike Mullins**. London EC1. 10.30-4.30pm. www.meditatiocentrelondon.org

“The Gospel of the marginalised is where our credibility is found and revealed” – Pope Francis. What do we push to the margins – at the level of the individual, community, organisations and society as a whole? How can we integrate the margins into the centre? In what ways do we encounter God in the margins?

19 November – Living Flame of Love: Mystical theology for today. St John of the Cross. Led by **Julienne McLean**. Surrey. www.christian-retreat.org

19 November – A Retreat for those who have made or give the spiritual exercises. Led by **Sr Marie-Christine Berg**. SE London. 10am-4pm. www.sisters-of-st-andrew.com

22 November – Multiple choices – when to say yes, when to say no. Led by **Sr Diane Reynolds**. 10am-4pm. SE London. The day will include input and exercises in discernment using the Ignatian tools. www.sisters-of-st-andrew.com

23-25 November – Religion and Violence led by **Timothy Peat Ashworth**. Birmingham. www.woodbrooke.org.uk

Associating religion with the causes of violence is commonplace. But in Karen Armstrong's recent book *Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence*, she argues that the true reasons for war and violence often have little to do with religion. Yet a strong religious commitment can sit close to potentially aggressive words and actions. Aware that in the 17th-Century Quakers themselves used the vivid imagery of war, we will seek deeper clarity on this serious issue.

25-27 November – John O'Donohue's Celtic Wisdom. With **David Mahon**. Merseyside. Learning to kindle our contemplative heart: our spiritual longing to go deeper. www.tumbletrust.org.uk

28 November–1 December – Embodying wisdom. Introduction to the key philosophical and psychological issues of the last 100 years that have shaped contemporary understandings of spirituality. Wilts. www.sarum.ac.uk

30 November – Journey into Healing with **Robin & Lesley-Anne Pratchett**. Near Perth. www.bieltatblackruthven.org.uk/2016-programme-by-date.html

DECEMBER 2016

3 December – Christians reflecting theologically among Muslims. Notts. www.sacristaprebend.wordpress.com

3 December – Simplifying the soul. An Advent Day with **Sue Cash**. East Sussex. www.penhurst.org.uk

9-11 December – Still Before Christmas. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

16-20 December – Retreat in preparation for Christmas. NE Wales. www.beunos.com

22-27 December – Christmas Houseparty with worship, spiritual input, fun, good food and companionship. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

22-28 December – Week of Christmas celebrations. Devon. www.leeabbey.org.uk/devon

23-27 December – Christmas Houseparty and **30 December – 3 January – New Year Houseparty.** N. Yorks www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

23-27 December – Christmas in community and **29 December-2 January – New Year in community.** Dorset. www.othona-bb.org.uk

ADVANCE NOTICE

May 2-7, 2017 – Awakening the Creative Spirit with **Christine Valters Paintner** PhD REACE and **Betsey Beckman** MM. The Bield at Blackruthven – Perth, Scotland.

www.abbeyofthearts.com/programs/live-classes-and-retreats/awakening-the-creative-spirit

This programme integrates the arts and imagination into spiritual direction and other healing ministries. Only a few places are left (5.9.16) so early application is advised.

Our encounters with the holy are rooted in symbol and image and speak the language of dreams. Spiritual direction tends to these encounters and can be deeply enhanced by tools that invite listening to and engaging the inner symbolic life. The focus of this program is on developing the skills of working with the arts and imagination to deepen the work of spiritual direction.

Together we will explore how the healing power of such tools as guided imagery, body awareness, dream work, ritual, poetry, journal writing, visual art, movement, song, and storytelling enrich our own spiritual lives and our work in spiritual direction by giving us access to another language with which to encounter the divine presence within.

Participants will develop comfort and skills in using these tools. The program consists of didactic input and time for discussion and reflection on how we see using the arts concretely in our work as spiritual directors.

Anyone working in the field of soul care (spiritual direction, chaplaincy, pastor, educator, counseling, etc.) may register. If you are not working in any of these areas, either paid or as a volunteer, please contact us to discuss whether this might be the right program for you. We do sometimes accept folks who are discerning a call to these ministries. Absolutely no previous art experience necessary — only a willingness to awaken the creative spirit within!