



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

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

October - December 2018

Compiled by **Living Spirituality Connections**

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

### END OF SEPTEMBER

**16 September 1.30-3.30 Nicola Peel: Finding solutions to key ecological issues**, including plastic waste. **Eco Church event** at St James's Piccadilly (Church Hall).

<http://www.sjp.org.uk/news>

'Resilience is critical in finding solutions to the problems we face. Solutions are all around us. It's just knowing where to look.' Nicola has been working in the Ecuadorian Amazon for 18 years and is an award-winning environmentalist, filmmaker, speaker and 'solutionist'.

**20 September 7-9 Science and Spiritual Practices and how they contribute to Human Flourishing.** Talk by **Dr Rupert Sheldrake**. Tunbridge Wells. [www.spiritofpeace.co.uk](http://www.spiritofpeace.co.uk)  
Joint event organised by Spirit of Peace and Radical Pilgrims.

**29-30 September Spirituality: Daring New Horizons** with **Diarmuid O'Murchu**. Norwich  
[www.norwichmeditation.co.uk](http://www.norwichmeditation.co.uk)

### OCTOBER

**1-4 October Silence by the Sea.** A mainly silent retreat in the Wisdom School tradition. Dorset. [www.othonawestdorset.org.uk](http://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk) [www.christiansawakening.org](http://www.christiansawakening.org)

Continued overleaf.

A retreat to help you draw on the revitalised spirituality that is now emerging afresh from the mystical heart of the faith traditions. For those with 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.

**1-5 October Awakening to Wholeheartedness** with **Mark Godson**. Devon  
[www.sheldon.uk.com](http://www.sheldon.uk.com)

**1-5 October Finding God in the Dark** with Rev **Reuben Preston**. London  
[www.thekairoscentre.co.uk](http://www.thekairoscentre.co.uk) Ignation wisdom through the medium of cinema.

**1-5 October Finding Home** with **Russ Parker**. Lindisfarne, Northumberland.  
[www.aidanandhilda.org.uk](http://www.aidanandhilda.org.uk) A retreat exploring rhythms of home in the Bible.

**4 October 6.30 – 9 Paths between Head and Heart: The Seven Harmonies of Science and Spirituality** with **Dr Oliver Robinson**. London <http://meditatiocentreondon.org>

We will explore the notion that science and spirituality represent two overlapping halves of a whole, and can be characterised by seven pairs of complementary opposites (outer/inner, impersonal/personal, thinking/feeling, empirical/transcendental, mechanistic/purposive, verbal/ineffable, explanation/contemplation). As well as being different, science and spirituality have a key common source in the modern ethos of innovation, experience-based knowledge and valuing individual questing/questioning. Oliver suggests that balanced human development can be facilitated by simultaneous personal exploration of both science and spirituality, for each corrects the tendency of the other towards extremes or hubris.

**5-7 October. Women's event: Julian of Norwich – a woman for all time**. South East Wales.  
[www.llansor.org](http://www.llansor.org)

**3 October Day of reflection** with Sr **Bridget Pritchard**. The new scientific cosmology shows us a universe in which we have an origin, a home and a destiny. South East Wales.  
[www.tycroesocentre.co.uk](http://www.tycroesocentre.co.uk)

**4 October 7-9 The opening of the Heart. Reflections on the Spiritual Seasons of Life**.  
Speaker: **Peter Tyler**, Professor of Pastoral Theology and Spirituality at St Mary's University Twickenham. Location: Westminster. <http://www.silenceinthecity.org.uk/programme.html>

**5-7 October Finding fulfilment. Life is only real when I am**. With **Jill and Antonio Benet and Jacqueline Evans**. Surrey [www.christian-retreat.org](http://www.christian-retreat.org)

**6 October 11 – 3.15. The Future of Faith lecture series 'The Challenge of Liberal Theology in a time of declining liberalism'**. Speaker: **Paul Razor**. Rossendale, Lancs.  
[https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/future\\_of\\_faith\\_lecture\\_series\\_paul\\_razor](https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/future_of_faith_lecture_series_paul_razor)

**6 October 10.30-4.30 The Day of Trees. Wisdom & Nourishment in the Company of Leaves** With **Merryn Glover**. Near Perth. <https://www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk>

Spend a day drawing inspiration from trees. Through a series of guided activities, we will take time enjoying the great trees in the Bield grounds, contemplating the symbol of the tree in Scripture, and using the image of the tree as a tool for reflecting on our own lives, our growth and seasons, our blossoming and shedding, our roots and fruitfulness. This day is for encouragement; to remind us that we are 'rooted and established in love' and to nourish us for leading lives of abundance.

**11 October. Every place is hallowed ground.** Quiet day with Ven **Jonathon Smith** Essex. [www.retreathousepleshey.com](http://www.retreathousepleshey.com)

**13 October 11-1 Broken, Blessed and Shared: remembering the vocation of recovering bodies.** Lecture by **Jennie Hogan**. London <https://gohealth.org.uk/events/>

Jennie Hogan's recent publication *This Is My Body* tells a story of trauma, illness, recovery and transformation. It is a story that will mirror other tales of sickness, suffering and the search for making sense of such experiences. Jennie had brain haemorrhages as a child and subsequently developed sight-loss, paralysis and epilepsy. She will speak about the way in which the vocation of Christ forged a Way for her to tell her personal story of sickness and health.

**12-14 October The Way of Paradox.** Learning to live in the mystery with **David Cole**. Sussex [www.penhurst.org.uk](http://www.penhurst.org.uk)

A day drawing on the richness of the Christian contemplative tradition.

**15-19 October Spiritual Wellbeing in Later Life.** With **Rhonda Riachi**. Cumbria [www.glenthorne.org](http://www.glenthorne.org)

By exploring philosophy, literature, music, science, art and film this course will share potential inspirations for later life and draw on the rich Quaker sources and other books by those who have walked this path before us.

**19-20 October. Marcus Borg Memorial Conference - 'Days of Awe and Wonder: How we see makes all the difference'** with Rev Canon **Marianne Borg**. Sheffield.

[https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/the\\_2018\\_marcus\\_borg\\_memorial\\_lecture](https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/the_2018_marcus_borg_memorial_lecture)

Marianne will take extracts from the posthumous collection of Marcus's work entitled 'Days of Awe and Wonder' and will seek to explore with us what it means to be Christian today. What is the Christian story and how do we 'see' the world through the lens of Christian faith? Can our days indeed be filled with awe and wonder? Is how we see and pay attention what makes the difference?

**19-21 October The human side of the saints.** With **Dom Brendan Thomas**. Hereford [www.belmontabbey.org.uk](http://www.belmontabbey.org.uk)

**19-21 October The Grail – a storytelling weekend.** Dafydd Davies-Hughes and Cath Little will lead us on a wondrous quest to encounter this archetypal story ... South East Wales. [www.llansor.org](http://www.llansor.org)

**19-21 October Seeing in the Dark.** With Christopher Chapman. Sussex [www.penhurst.org.uk](http://www.penhurst.org.uk)

Meeting God in times of struggle and confusion. Drawing on imagery from Scripture and Christian spirituality to explore this hope.

**19-21 October Finding the Still Point. Exploring stability through the highs and lows of life.** With Helen Warwick. North Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

**20 October 10.30 - 3 'Night lovely as the dawn' - a day with John of the Cross.** Leader: Gillian Coxhead. Chester <https://retreathousechester.co.uk>

As nights lengthen, join us for an Autumn Soulful Saturday on well-loved Christian mystic John of the Cross, who explored in his experience and his writing what darkness might mean in relationship with a God of love and mystery – perhaps most famously in his 'Dark Night of the Soul'. This day will guide us gently through an exploration of this for ourselves.

## NOVEMBER

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### Living Spirituality Connections meeting for the Midlands

**Saturday 3 November 1.30 to 3.30pm Birmingham.**

Ann Gardner, our new Living Spirituality Connections contact for the Midlands is organising a meeting to discuss forming a group e.g. for Spiritual Journeying / Living Conversation / Spiritual Book Reading. The meeting is at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery Victorian Tea Room for tea and conversation. Contact Anne Gardner to book a place:

[a.gardner@me.com](mailto:a.gardner@me.com)

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**3 November 10.30 – 5pm. We are all one. Towards Universal Spirituality: Journeying with Christianity.** CANA conference. London.

Speakers: **Jude Currivan, Don MacGregor, Dairmuid O'Murchu, Marianne Rankin.**

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

**3 November Take my hand.** Gift, weakness and vulnerability in the work of Jean Vanier. Nottinghamshire. [www.sacristaprebend.wordpress.com](http://www.sacristaprebend.wordpress.com)

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**Living Spirituality Connections event, in partnership with St James's Church Piccadilly and Spirit of Peace:**

**Sunday 4 November 1.45 – 3.30 Incarnation: A New Evolutionary Threshold.**

Talk by **Diarmuid O'Murchu**

Incarnation signifies embodiment, reminding us that God's creativity throughout creation is mediated through bodies, from the vast universe right down to subatomic particles. This understanding requires a fresh appraisal of the conventional Christian understanding in which Incarnation focuses on the person of Jesus. How this expanded vision can be integrated with our Christian story is the topic for this lecture.

***"God's revelation is considered to be in the whole of creation. Divine revelation is mediated primarily through the embodied processes that facilitate growth and flourishing."***

**Diarmuid O'Murchu** is a member of the Sacred Heart Missionary Order, a social psychologist and educator. Most of his working life has been in social ministry, predominantly in London. He has worked as a couples' counsellor, in bereavement work, AIDS-HIV counselling, and with homeless people and refugees. As a workshop leader and group facilitator he has worked in Europe, USA, Canada, Australia, The Philippines, Thailand, India, and in several African countries. **Incarnation** is his most recent book.

**Booking.** Email [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk). A donation between £10 and £3 is requested on the day. Light refreshments will be served at 3.30pm.

**Location:** The Church Hall, St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL.

**Event Chair:** Revd. Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James's Church.

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**5-8 November Biblical Study Break: Love the Stranger – Migration, the Bible and our Societies.** Led by **Casey Strine**. Salisbury [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

**8-10 November Cracking the monolith. Liberating the Bible for contemporary life** with **Alan Cadwallader**. North East Wales [www.gladstoneslibrary.org](http://www.gladstoneslibrary.org)

**8-10 November Radical Faith. Free to Believe National Conference.**

Derbyshire [www.freetobelieve.org.uk/conferences.html](http://www.freetobelieve.org.uk/conferences.html)

**Trevor Dennis:** 'The Bible can be bad'; 'The Bible can be sad'; 'The Bible can be funny';

**Martin Camroux:** Radical God ; **John Churcher:** Radical Jesus;

**Kate Gray:** Radical Communities; **Fiona Bennett:** Inclusive Worship.

**9-11 November Shalom: The Peace that changes everything.** With **Noel Moules**.

Birmingham. [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

The Hebrew word 'shalom', understood from a Jesus perspective, distils into a single word the totality of his message, mission and hope. First and foremost 'shalom' is about relationships. Here is both the spirituality that contemplatives seek, plus the inspiration for assertive activism. During the weekend we shall explore both the biblical foundations and practical implications of 'shalom', discovering it as the peace that transforms everything. There is nothing vague about 'shalom', it is as practical as it is profound.

**9-11 November On pilgrimage while standing still.** With **John Bell**. County Durham.

[www.minsteracres.org](http://www.minsteracres.org)

Reflections on how we gradually move to deeper understanding of ourselves, our world and our Maker.

**12-16 November Celtic Advent** with **David Coles**. Lindisfarne, Northumberland.

[www.aidanandhilda.org.uk](http://www.aidanandhilda.org.uk) A new approach to celebrating the 40 days of Celtic Advent.

**15 November 6.30 – 9 Discipleship as Relearning Self and World - a healing vision of human life.** The Denis Duncan Lecture 2018 given by Revd. Dr. **Doug Gay**. University of Aberdeen. <https://gohealth.org.uk/events>

The lecture takes as its starting point Hans Küng's famous affirmation that "the kingdom is creation healed" and explores ways to integrate the theological concepts of salvation, discipleship and sanctification with the language of healing, therapy and growth which has wider cultural currency in western societies today.

**16-18 November I call you friends.** With Abbot **Paul Stonham**. Hereford.

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

Reflecting on friendship in the Scriptures and the saints' lives, and its place in our lives.

**Friday 16 November 10 - 4.30 International Study Day: Music, Spirituality and Wellbeing.**

Tavener Centre for Music and Spirituality, University of Winchester

We live in a culture filled with music, many of the former certainties of traditional religions have slipped away. However, there remains a search for the spiritual, exemplified in the music of Sir John Tavener. Diverse approaches to the spiritual are situated within the great faiths, how can this diversity inform our understanding of the role of music in various spiritualities and wellbeing?

The Study Day aims to examine the place of music in this complex world, especially its role in wellbeing, through the insights of musicologists, composers, listeners, teachers, therapists and performers. One example might be a particular piece of John Tavener through the eyes of a particular person, where lived experience is valued.

We welcome participants from a variety of backgrounds – both academic and non-academic. For details and booking email [Holly.Pye@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:Holly.Pye@winchester.ac.uk)

**17 November Hope in Conflict led by Pádraig Ó Tuama.** Exeter. The Corrymeela Community and the University of Exeter. Booking: [lizvizard@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lizvizard@blueyonder.co.uk)

**17 November 10-4 Good Disagreement with Professor Simon Keyes.** Near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

In a divided world, when consensus rarely prevails, the skill of disagreeing well can make an enormous contribution to personal and social wellbeing. But what does it involve?

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### **Living Spirituality Connections event at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, York Tuesday 20 November. Creativity and Reflection – a taster**

For thirty years Linda Courage has used the arts to access parts of herself that the intellect can't. She wonders if others might benefit from trying some of these ways and invites you to come and see. No experience of the arts is a benefit!

After a long and varied career in nursing, Linda is a bank Staff Nurse in Outpatients, a member of the Abbey of the Arts <http://www.abbeyofthearts.com>, and co-ordinator for the Arts and Spirituality Special Interest Area within Living Spirituality Connections [www.livingspirit.org.uk/sia/arts-and-spirituality](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk/sia/arts-and-spirituality) She has run expressive arts workshops and spoken of her approach at health and spirituality conferences.

Booking: <http://www.stbedes.org.uk>

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**21-23 November. Living in the Light of the Prophets.** Led by the **Revd Canons Jeni Parsons and Ian Davies.** Mid Wales <http://www.llangasty.com>

A time to reflect on our lives in the light of some of the Hebrew Prophets and find some renewed energy for action.

**24 November Theology for a Fragile Earth.** A study day with Professor **Celia Deane-Drummond** York. [www.stbedes.org.uk](http://www.stbedes.org.uk)

Through a combination of talks, workshops and periods of reflection, this day will introduce distinctive features of eco-theology, illustrating both its variety and its commonality across different Christian theological divides. The specific contributions of Catholic social thought and Laudato Si' to theology and environmental practice will be looked at.



**26-29 November Embodying Wisdom.** Led by **Barnabas Palfrey** Salisbury.

[www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

Introducing key philosophical and psychological issues of the last 100 years, that have shaped contemporary understandings of spirituality. Students will be encouraged to examine contemporary concepts of 'experience' and 'self' in the light of some seminal thinkers of the twentieth century, whose works can be directly related to issues of religious subjectivity. Students will also be enabled to assess the impact of the work of Carl Jung on Christian thought and practice, including in pastoral care and spiritual direction.

**27-29 November Is Christianity Wild?** With Mary Colwell. Near Bath.

[www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

Looking at the relationship between Christianity and the natural world.

**30 November – 2 December Praying with Handel's Messiah - Unto us a child is born.** Led by **Euan Tait**. Near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

As part of our Advent time of praying and preparation for Christmas, we will explore the joyful transformation of heart and spirit that Handel's Messiah's Part 1 Christmas music represents. The opening Symphony is both a solemn prayer and a release of joyful energy that foreshadows the Christmas music. The opening numbers reveal God reaching out to us afresh when we still long for redemption – touching those aspects of ourselves that are still struggling. The Christmas music sings of our new spiritual freedom, God calling to us to rediscover His love and salvation as a new gift, almost as if received for the first time.

## DECEMBER

**1 December Rekindling the Spirit of Community – Restoring Depth in an age of Screens.**

With **Matt Carmichael**. Rossendale, Lancs.

[https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/future\\_of\\_faith\\_lecture\\_series\\_matt\\_carmichael](https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/future_of_faith_lecture_series_matt_carmichael)

In an age of social contacts mediated by screens and algorithms, what is real community? And in an age when real community is threatened by globalisation and ecological destruction, what does it take to build community? Matt Carmichael seeks answers in the spheres of soil, soul and society. He finds inspiration in sacred texts, contemporary activists, and cultures which never forgot how to live in community.

**5 December Faith and older age.** Evening talk by **James Woodward** of Sarum College.

Institute for Theological Partnerships, Winchester. Booking: Email

[Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk)

**14-16 December Advent Retreat. Feast of your body** with **Fr Daniel O'Leary**.

West Yorks. <http://www.briery.org.uk/wordpress>

Christmas reveals the divine beauty of our bodies, senses, hearts and emotions.



**22-27 December Christmas House Party.** Near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

**23-27 Christmas in Community** Dorset <https://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk/>

**23-27 Christmas House Party** Cumbria [www.rydalhall.org](http://www.rydalhall.org)

**23-27 Christmas House Party** North Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

**24-28 December Christmas Retreat.** A quiet, peaceful, reflective time. Near Inverness.  
[www.coachhousekilmuir.org](http://www.coachhousekilmuir.org)

**29 December - 2 January New Year Celebrations** Dorset.  
<https://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk/>

**31 December – 3 January New Year house party** North Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

**31 December – 4 January New Year House Party.** SE Wales. [www.nicholastonhouse.org](http://www.nicholastonhouse.org)