



Living Spirituality Connections
Resources for the spiritual journey

**EVENTS RUN BY MANY CENTRES AND ORGANISATIONS
ACROSS THE UK
October - December 2019**

Compiled by **Living Spirituality Connections**
www.livingspirit.org.uk/events

September Events not in July-September listing:

14 September 10-3.30 Becoming Agents of Active Hope with Julia MacDonald
York <http://www.stbedes.org.uk>

Drawing on the work of Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone this day will offer the opportunity to explore what it means to be agents of active hope in these challenging & pivotal times of climate breakdown. We will reflect on what being an agent of active hope might look like in our own specific contexts and what might help to sustain us as we seek to make a positive contribute to the 'Great Work' of our time.

Julia is Director of St. Bede's with an interest in spirituality, cosmology & ecology and supporting society's 'Great Turning' into a sustainable future for life on Earth.

Tuesday 17 September 6.45 for 7 – 8.30 pm New Greenspirit West London Group

The first meeting will combine a simple earth based attunement to prepare for the Autumn Equinox with exploration of the kind of group we want this to be, including practical questions like 'How can we best support one another in living more sustainably?'

At Essex Church, 112 Palace Gardens Terrace, Notting Hill, London W8 4RT. Travel details at http://www.kensington-unitarians.org.uk/?page_id=36. For the Greenspirit vision see: <https://www.greenspirit.org.uk/about-us/>

Contact: Sarah Tinker E: sarah@kensington-unitarians.org.uk T: 020 7221 6514.

October

30 Sept – 3 Oct Silence by the Sea. A mainly silent retreat in the Wisdom School tradition. Dorset. <https://www.cana.org.uk/2019/01/silence-by-the-sea/>

A 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 and Richard Sloan**, inspired by the Wisdom Schools of Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault.

Book and see further details via www.othonawestdorset.org.uk

Saturday 5 October 10am. Lectures in Radical Christian Faith. Speaker: Revd Canon **Mark Oakley** Birmingham. <https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/>

Of *The Splash of Words* (2016), the poet Imtiaz Dharker said “Dipping in to this book, the spirit is cleansed in the sparkle of language”, and Andrew Motion said: “Mark Oakley has a strong sense of language as sacrament, a sharp eye for telling phrases and a warm heart with which to return echoes”.

4-7 October Parables: What do they mean to you? Lindisfarne. www.aidanandhilda.org.uk
Enter the realm of deeper understanding in the Spirit through creative writing.

Sun 6 October 1-2 We commend to you Phoebe: **St Paul, Women and the Church.** Talk by Dr **Paula Gooder**. Free and unticketed. London. <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/learning-faith/adult-learning/sunday-forum>

Sometime around 56 AD, the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome. The letter he sent was arguably his theological masterpiece, and has shaped Christianity ever since. And he entrusted it to Phoebe, a deacon of the church. Paula Gooder’s new book imagines her journey to Rome and her encounter with the early church there.

7-11 October Calligraphy & Prayer. Leaders: **Peter Walter & Roger Clifton.** Scarborough. www.wydale.org

Wydale is the Diocesan retreat centre for York, a prayerful community offering Christian service and hospitality. The house stands amongst its own beautiful gardens, and is situated on the edge of the North York Moors National Park, within easy reach of the Yorkshire coast.

Saturday 12 October 11:00 - 12:30 Healthy Healing Hubs Lecture by **Rev Dr Gillian Straine.** Birmingham. <https://gohealth.org.uk/events/>

In this lecture, which precedes the AGM of the Guild of Health and St Raphael, the Director The Revd. Dr. Gillian Straine will deliver a lecture on the latest project for the Guild: Healthy

Healing Hubs. Come along to find out how the project can support your church to become a place of health and healing for the whole community.

Saturday 12 October 10.30-3.30 Contemplative Ageing: Spiritual Growth and the Second Half of Life. Led by **Hugh Smith** and **Katherine Froggart**. Christian Meditation Cumbria. Penrith.

During this day, we will look at ageing as an opportunity - to re-orientate ourselves and deepen our inner journey. There will be an opportunity to explore:

What is God's invitation as I get older?

How am I praying as I age?

How might contemplative spiritual practices support my ageing?

There will be input, space for reflection and prayer and an opportunity to share with others.

Booking: email heatherandpeter@keoghfamily.co.uk Recommended donation: £20

14-18 October – Spiritual Well-being in Later Life. Led by **Rhonda Riachi**. Lake District <https://glenthorne.org/>

14-18 October Prayer, Nature and Gardening. Lancs. <http://www.bernardine.org/hyning-programme>

18-20 October Creative Weaving and the Holy Weaver. Womens' spirituality retreat with **Helen Warwick**. North Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

Sat 19 October 9-3 Borders and Belonging. Day Conference with **Padraig Ó Tuama**, poet, theologian and former leader of the Corrymeela Community, Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation organisation. A day of lectures, reflections and buzzgroups. Sheffield. <https://stmarkscrc.co.uk/events/autumn-day-conference/>

Sun 20 October 11-6.30 Harvesting Land, Harvesting Hearts. Spiritual Ecology in the Christian Faith. London. Free of charge. How to apply: <https://stethelburgas.org/events/>

Exploring the ancient and newly emerging field of spiritual ecology through the perspective of the Christian faith tradition. Spiritual ecology calls for a response to the ecological crisis that goes beyond politics, economics, and even mainstream environmentalism. It suggests that we need a deeper revolution, grounded in both an inner and outer reuniting of people, the living world, and the sacred. It asks how we can shift from a relationship to Earth based on domination, materialism and greed, to the intimacy of reciprocity, reverence and kinship. It seeks to apply spiritual values into practice in service to our future.

21-25 October Lindisfarne landscapes. Northumberland. www.aidanandhilda.org.uk
Explore the island and the relationship between art, prayer and spirituality.

23-25 October The Holy Mountain. With **Laurie Michaelis**. Deep non-violence and sustainability. Oxon. www.charneymanor.com

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/>

Saturday 26 October 'Well on the Way'. Special event. Led by The Rt Rev'd & Rt Hon **Rowan Williams** and Rev'd Dr **Barbara Glasson**. N. Yorks. <http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html>

Sat 26 October 10.30 - 4 The Sense of Wonder. Led by Prof **Mark Burrows**. London <http://meditatiocentrelondon.org/>

Wonder conjures a sense of mystery gesturing toward what it means to open ourselves to the world around and within us. It also suggests the energies of the imagination: we ready ourselves for what we do not yet know, and dare to imagine. We will explore poets and theologians, mystics and artists, some of whose works shaped the heart of the Christian tradition while others gave their witness at the boundaries. All were joined in Socrates' conviction that wonder is the beginning of wisdom and that mystery shimmers in the ordinary. Wonder holds the seeds of hope so needed today.

Mark Burrows is Professor of Religion and Literature at the University of Applied Sciences in Bochum, Germany.

28 Oct - 1 Nov Seeds of Contemplation. Led by **Ian Mobsby**. Devon. www.sheldon.uk.com

New Seeds of Contemplation is one of Thomas Merton's most widely read and best loved books. This book seeks to awaken the dormant inner depths of the spirit so long neglected by Western humanity, to nurture a deeply contemplative and mystical dimension in our lives.

Wed 30 October Sense and Stigma in the Gospels. Salisbury. www.sarum.ac.uk
A quest to reconfigure characters with sensory disabilities featured in the Gospels.

31 October - 2 November 10:00 - 12:00 The Gathering in Glasgow on Conflict and Faith. <https://stethelburgas.org/events/> Free of charge.

Change, conflict and the reconciliation are core to the journey of faith, to churches and to the world. Places for Hope and partners hope the Gathering will follow in the footsteps of other successful conferences exploring faith-based responses to conflict.

November

1-3 November Treasures of the Hidden Gospel with Neil Douglas-Klotz. Heartsong, Silence and Movement with the Aramaic Words of Jesus. Worcestershire.

<https://www.hollandhouse.org/>

The Aramaic words of Jesus provide a direct pathway to his experience of contemplative prayer, healing and the sacred. We will learn and chant together selected short phrases from his prayer, the Beatitudes, and other sayings in the Gospels. We will then use them in contemplative prayer and silence as well as experience simple body prayers in the form of Dances of Universal Peace linked to his Middle Eastern way of experiencing Alaha–Sacred Unity – as a force that moves through every aspect of our everyday lives.

Sun 3 November 1.30-3.30 Deepening Ecology: psyche and spirit in becoming aligned members of planet Earth. Workshop with **Paul Maiteny**. St James's Church Piccadilly London.

It is easy to neglect that the human species is a member of the ecosystem. What does this actually mean? What has blocked us from realising this, in our personal day-to-day lives and collectively? Could we contribute to stabilising the ecosystem by playing a part in the Whole Knowing Itself rather than as a resource pool that serves us? This is a basic but difficult choice we humans face - and it is the cause of today's ecocidal dis-integration.

Taking seriously what has been called the still, small voice within, is key to this discernment. It is an ancient choice that deepens the sense of meaningfulness in life and, in so doing, brings us and the ecosystem of which we are members back into stable relatedness.

Paul Maiteny is an Eco Psychologist and author, and has developed courses such as the Transpersonal Eco Psychology Open Learning Course <https://www.aleftrust.org/personal-development/transpersonal-ecopsychology/>.

Booking/info. Free of charge. Please book by emailing petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk

Sun 3 November 1-2 The Sacramental Sea: A Spiritual Voyage. A talk by Canon Dr **Edmund Newell**. London. Free and unticketed. <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/learning-faith/adult-learning/sunday-forum>

Why do so many people feel a spiritual connection with the sea? Edmund Newell's research shows that throughout history, the sea has been associated with religious experience and that the sea is highly sacramental, speaking powerfully of God. His new book **The Sacramental Sea: A Spiritual Voyage through Christian History** explores the sea in Christian history, theology and spirituality and moves from the Bible to the present day.

Friday 8 November Home by Another Route: Reimagining Today's Church. Led by **Paul Bradbury**. Salisbury. www.sarum.ac.uk

What might the identity and mission of the church be in a post-Christian context? The day will explore the future nature of the church, its leadership and mission through the lenses of story, literature and theology of the biblical exile.

The exile was a crisis in the life of the people of God, and a yet a period which elicited huge theological and practical reimagination. The exile provides a rich metaphorical story to explore our own sense of identity and purpose as the church in post-Christian Britain. Many argue that the longstanding assumptions and order of Christendom has gone. But it is hard to say what will emerge in its place. This course will use the story of the exile to probe this question of the place and purpose of the church in our current context. What form might it take? What leadership does it need? What might mission look like? How might we faithfully reimagine church for a diversity of contexts in a constantly changing world? The course will draw on material in my book **Home By Another Route** and on the stories and experience of those experimenting with new forms of church in the UK. **Paul Bradbury** is an ordained CofE Pioneer Minister and founder of the missional community Reconnect.

9 November 10-4. A contemplative day based on the teachings of Fr. Richard Rohr OFM from his book 'The Universal Christ'. Cornwall. <http://www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk/events/>

11-15 November Celtic Advent. Led by **David Cole**. Lindisfarne. www.aidanandhilda.org.uk
A new approach to celebrating the 40 days of Celtic Advent.

15-17 November "The vast solitude in which God will make himself heard."
Exploring St Teresa's The Interior Castle. Oxford. www.carmeliteprioryoxford.com

15 - 17 November Liquid Faith: The Spirituality of Water. Led by Professor Emeritus **Ian Bradley**. North East Wales. www.gladstoneslibrary.org/events/

Water plays a central role in all the world's religions – it has often been taken as a metaphor for faith – flowing and yet still, yielding and yet in full spate. Ian Bradley, who has written a spiritual history of water, leads a weekend which explores holy wells, sacred watery sites, Biblical and other images and metaphors and current theories about water's therapeutic and liturgical properties. **Ian Bradley** is Emeritus Professor of Cultural and Spiritual History in the University of St Andrews.

16-17 November Poetry for Faith workshop with **Margaret Silf**. Near Perth.
<http://www.bieltatblackruthven.org.uk/>

Thursday 21 November 2-5 The Church as a Healing Community. Edinburgh.
<https://gohealth.org.uk/events/>

Continued over....

Are you interested in developing your church as a place of community flourishing? Come along to a networking afternoon hosted by the Church of Scotland and The Guild of Health and St Raphael. We will be offering an interesting programme including hearing from Finn's Place, Capacitar, Dementia café, The Open Gate and more. The Guild will also be presenting an innovative new project called Healthy Healing Hubs which aims to resource all churches to develop their healing ministry.

22-24 November Sinking down to the seed with **Alex Wildwood**. Oxon

www.charneymanor.com

How do we heed the wise counsel of Isaac Penington to 'Give over thine own willing, give over thine own running ...'? If the heart of Quaker faithfulness is living an accompanied or surrendered life, what gets in the way of our fully trusting 'the promptings of love and truth in the heart'? This is an opportunity to explore a gentle process of self-examination designed to unmask buried hurts and often false beliefs that stop us being loving to ourselves – and therefore opening our hearts to others. Creating a safe space in which we can be honest with ourselves and one another, we can allow the possibility of healing and transformation.

22-24 November Music and Spirituality led by Rev Dr **June Boyce-Tillman**. Bucks.

<https://stmichaelsconvent.sistersofthechurch.org.uk/programme>

Comparing the spiritual experience involving music within Christianity with other faiths and religionless spirituality, through 'musicking' including singing, playing, moving, chanting, listening and improvising spirituality through music. No musical skills needed.

22-24 November Transitions of life. Quiet weekend. Near Bath. <http://ammerdown.org>

Be still and reflect on new beginnings, joys and sorrows, death and dying.

22-24 November The Psychology of Centering Prayer with **Jill Benet**. Surrey. <http://christian-retreat.org>

22 - 24 November Signs of Hope: A Green Weekend led by **Brian Davis and Kevin Durrant**.

Leicestershire. <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk>

Join us for a retreat offering reasons for hope in the face of contemporary environmental and ecological challenges, not only through our spiritual resources in worship, prayer and bible study, but also by seeing what is happening in the world around us, both politically and practically.

Saturday 23 November 10.30–4.00 A Day of Detachment: Being (and Unbeing) in the Modern World. Led by Dr **Rebecca Stephens**. London. <http://meditatiocentrelondon.org/>

Eckhart declared that: 'It is my wont to speak about detachment, and of how man should rid himself of self and all things.' It is so central a theme to his writing that he made it the topic of one of his 'Talks of Instruction', his treatise 'On Detachment' and in many of his sermons.

Yet to our modern ears his emphasis on detachment can seem off putting – confusingly Zen, passive, even nihilistic. This day-retreat will help us understand and embrace the joy of Eckhartian detachment through talks, reflection and meditation. We will explore how it impacts on our thinking about suffering and inequality, love and human relationships, pain and death.

Rebecca has spent the past 25 years in dialogue with Meister Eckhart, as a scholar, a teacher and in her daily life. She is Vice-Chair of The Eckhart Society,

29 November – 1 December Advent retreat. Reflections on the beauty, challenges and pain of all life and of our own in particular. Near Bath. <http://ammerdown.org/courses>

29 November – 1 December Poetry for Faith Advent Retreat. Near Perth. <http://www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk/>

30 November Quiet day drawing on the poems of George Herbert to explore the meaning of Advent. Notts. www.sacristaprebend.wordpress.com

30 November - 1 December Dreaming Dreams for Advent. Retreat with **Veronica Whitty**. N. Yorks. <http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html>

December

2-5 December The coming of our God. Finding meaning in Advent and Christmas. Herefordshire. www.belmontabbey.org.uk

6-8 December. Advent joy and transformation: praying with Handel's Messiah. With **Euan Tait**. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

6-8 December Advent Group Retreat Inverness. www.coachhousekilmuir.org

12 December 10-3.30 'Waiting for the light through the lens of Celtic Wisdom.' with **Ali Newell**. York. www.stbedes.org.uk

How do we become vigilant midwives of the Sacred? How do we listen and attend to the beat of Life and Love within us, among us and in the earth? Through Celtic music, poetry, song, history, and story, this day will explore attending to the presence of the Light deep within, that can heal and restore us personally, relationally and globally.

22-27 December Christmas House Party at Ammerdown. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org/.

23-27 December Christmas House Party. North Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

31 Dec-3 January New Year House Party. North Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk