

## EVENTS RUN BY MANY ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE UK

Compiled by *LivingSpirituality*

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

For events that are put on regularly, see

[our regular events listing](#)

### Easter - June 2015

**APRIL 2015** (from 6 April – see [January-Easter events listing](#) for Easter events)

6-9 April **Women, Word, Spirit** retreat North Wales, Noddfa

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

8-19 April Australian author and theologian, **Dr Val Webb** speaks at ten UK venues from Stirling to Truro. Organised by Progressive Christianity Network groups. Val Webb's books include *Like Catching Water in a Net*; *Stepping Out with the Sacred*; and *In Defence of Doubt*. She first visited the UK in 2013.

[www.pcnbritain.org.uk/news/post/](http://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/news/post/)

[val webb tour to be hosted by pcn groups](#)

9 April **You're closer to God in the garden**. Suffolk. [www.clarepriory.org.uk](http://www.clarepriory.org.uk)

Rediscover Eden.

10 April, 6.30-9 pm. **LivingSpirituality Journeying Together Group**. London W8. This month's theme: Journeying Together - discussion and liturgy. Booking and info from [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk)

10-12 April **The Cloud of Unknowing**. Led by **David Mahon**. Near Liverpool.

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

The Cloud of Unknowing through the eyes of William Johnson SJ.

13-16 April **Mindfulness, self-compassion and ageing** with **Sue Howse**. Dorset.

[www.othona-bb.org.uk](http://www.othona-bb.org.uk) How non-judgemental self awareness can help transform the second half of life.

13-17 April **The greening of God** workshop with **John Bell** of the Iona Community. N. Yorks. [www.scargillmovement.org](http://www.scargillmovement.org)

17 April **Day of spiritual reflection.** Salisbury, Wilts. [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)  
In this post-Easter period, God delights in offering reminders of God's generous love.

17-19 April **Soul Sisters. An introduction to feminine archetypes,** rooted in the Christian tradition and exploring beyond it. With Mary Ashton and Julie Lunt. Gwent. [www.llansor.org](http://www.llansor.org)

17-21 April **Soul friendship. Introduction and basic training** in the art of walking alongside another in life's faith journey. Holy Island, Northumberland. [www.aidanandhilda.org.uk](http://www.aidanandhilda.org.uk)

18 April **Making Jesus Visible: Radical Discipleship Today.** St Marks' Centre for Radical Christianity, Sheffield. [www.stmarkscrc.co.uk](http://www.stmarkscrc.co.uk)

This Conference will begin with a lecture by the Rev Dr. **Ian Wallis** overviewing developments in Jesus studies since the Jesus Seminar of the 1980s and 90s as a means of making Jesus visible in his 1st century context. This will lead into a range of workshops exploring the implications for contemporary discipleship of following a radical Jesus and seeking to make him visible today. There will be opportunity to participate in workshops exploring the implications of following a radical Jesus today.

19 April **The Great Way is not difficult.** Workshop with Quaker spiritual healer **Jim Pym.** London NW6. For details and to book email [jenny.sandlerQ008@firenet.co.uk](mailto:jenny.sandlerQ008@firenet.co.uk) Tel: 020 7328 6718.

20-23 April **Art, Belief and Spirituality** Salisbury, Wilts. [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)  
Exploring the relationship between Christian spirituality and art.

20-24 April **Unfurling. Living out from our peace for a better world** with **Ian and Gail Adams.** N. Yorks. [www.scargillmovement.org](http://www.scargillmovement.org)  
We all dream of a better world. More peaceful, more harmonious, more caring and more celebratory. That peaceful world needs to begin in us. This workshop also takes place **in other venues across the UK.** See [www.belovedlife.org](http://www.belovedlife.org)

25 April **Pathways into contemplation. The wisdom of Teresa of Avila.** Surrey. [www.christian-retreat.org](http://www.christian-retreat.org)

27 April-1 May **Walking the creative path with God** with Esther Aronsfeld near Bath, Somerset. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org) Drawing inspiration from the arts, biblical texts, the labyrinth and nature.

## **MAY 2015**

1-3 May **Thomas Merton weekend** with Dr **Andrew Purvis**. Bucks. [www.thewellatwillen.org.uk](http://www.thewellatwillen.org.uk)

6 May **Taize study day**. Salisbury, Wilts. [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk) Reflecting on the legacy of prayer at the Taize community, in its 75th year.

8 May, 6.30-9 pm. **LivingSpirituality Journeying Together Group**. London W8. This month's theme: **The Holy Spirit**. Informal liturgy and discussion. For info and to book: email [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk).

13 May 6.30-9 pm **Christian-Muslim relations in a cold climate. Signs of hope in Britain**. Dr **Philip Lewis**. Sheffield. [www.stmarkscrc.co.uk/event/](http://www.stmarkscrc.co.uk/event/)

14 May **Open evening for the Encounter course**, London EC1. [www.spiritualitycentre.org/index.php/exploring/138-14-may-open-evening-encounter](http://www.spiritualitycentre.org/index.php/exploring/138-14-may-open-evening-encounter) Who trains as a spiritual director/companion? What does the course involve? The session will be led by Julie Dunstan, Encounter Director. For an article about this course, see [www.livingspirit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015-winter-newsletter.pdf](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015-winter-newsletter.pdf).

15-17 May **A radical encounter with Meister Eckhart** with **Brijji Waterfield** Surrey. [www.christianretreat.org](http://www.christianretreat.org)

16 May Trauma training series. **Embodied approaches to spirituality and trauma**. Thirsk, N Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

16 May "**Reaching Out**" is a new outreach initiative by the Well at Willen in Buckinghamshire, aiming to bring people of all ages together to learn about community life, The Well and The Society of the Sacred Mission, and also to have the opportunity to network, socialise, and reflect and share on important contemporary issues. [www.thewellatwillen.org.uk](http://www.thewellatwillen.org.uk) Theme of 16 May workshop: **Social & environmental change. Finding a safe and sustainable role and cause close to our hearts.**

16-22 May **University of the Highlands and Islands Summer School** Iona.  
[www.iona.org.uk/island-centres](http://www.iona.org.uk/island-centres)

Be guided through the historical and spiritual landscape of this beautiful island by **Prof Donna Heddle** and **Dr Victoria Whitworth** (UHI). Each day will feature academic lectures on the history, culture and folklore of Iona, on St Columba and the early Church, on Celtic sculpture and early Celtic literature, with escorted field excursions and much more.

22-24 May **Heart rhythm meditation** with **Alistair Beattie**. Near Bath, Somerset [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org) Introducing a universal practice bringing together heartbeat and breath, with physical, emotional and spiritual benefits.

22-25 May **Forgiveness in the World** with **Maud Grainger, Diana Lampen** and **John Lampen**. Birmingham. [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

People can't be made to forgive, yet how can there be reconciliation in large-scale conflicts if there is no forgiveness? This weekend will examine this dilemma and explore some moving stories where forgiveness has made a difference. This course is for you if you want to look at models and frameworks of forgiveness and how forgiveness and reconciliation has been approached in conflicts around the world

**23 May Feather on the Breath of God**. Thirsk, N. Yorks. **Guild of Health** day with Revd Lucyann Ashdown, midwife and hospice chaplain, who will "lead us further towards our healing and our concern for the healing of others, from her experience of working with people at both spectrums of life and death." [www.gohealth.org.uk/events.html](http://www.gohealth.org.uk/events.html)

29-31 May **Green Christian Gathering** Suffolk [www.ringsfield-hall.co.uk](http://www.ringsfield-hall.co.uk)  
Exploring a green Christian way of life as part of a committed dispersed community and working for cultural change.

30 May – 5 June **Many Paths, Many Crossings?** Iona. [www.iona.org.uk](http://www.iona.org.uk)  
An introduction to Interfaith Dialogue, looking at our common values and how we might work together for a more just and inclusive world. Facilitated by **Dr. Maureen Sier** and **Frances Hume** who are part of Interfaith Scotland.

## JUNE 2015

4 June **Silence and the desert** with **Dariane Pictet** Norfolk  
[www.guildofpastoralpsychology.org.uk](http://www.guildofpastoralpsychology.org.uk)

6-12 June **Honouring Columcille**. Iona Community. [www.iona.org.uk](http://www.iona.org.uk)  
The Book of Kells has been described as the “Great Gospel of Columcille”. This week will explore the richness of artistic work created in honour of St Columba (his Latin name). The week will be led by **Rosemary Power**, Iona Community member and Historian.

7 June **Jesus Christ: a marriage of Wisdom and Prophetic Traditions**.  
With Brother **John Martin Sahajananda**. London NW6. Brother Martin is a member of the Shantivanam ashram in South India, where he studied with Bede Griffiths. He is regularly invited to Europe, where he speaks on a unique form of spirituality that goes beyond religion and brings together the wisdom of the Indian sages and the revolutionary message of Christ. Information and bookings: email [jenny.sandlerQ008@firenet.co.uk](mailto:jenny.sandlerQ008@firenet.co.uk) or tel: 020 7328 6718.

12 June, 6.30-9 pm. **LivingSpirituality Journeying Together Group**. London W8.  
This month’s theme: who are our teachers? We will also have a lay-led liturgy. For info and to book: email [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk).

12-14 June **Workshop for men: living the archetypes**. Gwent.  
[www.llansor.org](http://www.llansor.org) Jung developed the concept of using ‘archetypes’ to make sense of the way humans behave. Not long afterwards, the idea was developed to consider gender-based archetypes. Find out what they mean, and how they work out in your life, whether you realise it or not.

12-14 June **You are my beloved. Come walk with me**. Weekend with **Jim Clarke**. County Durham [www.minsteracres.org](http://www.minsteracres.org) Recognising the many ways in which God speaks to us and loves us into wholeness.

13-19 June **Earth Encounter** at the Iona Community. [www.iona.org.uk](http://www.iona.org.uk)  
This week will open up the theological and political challenges of climate change in a world dominated by the power of fossil fuels. Prof **Michael Northcott** will offer alternative ways for Christians to live, echoing the priorities of early Christian and Celtic communities.

17 June 6.30 for 7 pm. **Evil, Feminism and a Philosophy of Transformation.** Speaker: **Dr Beverly Clack**, Professor in the Philosophies of Religion, Oxford Brookes University. An Institute for Theological Partnerships lecture at the University of Winchester.

[www.winchester.ac.uk/aboutus/lifelonglearning/Theologicalpartnerships/Pages/Theologicalpartnerships.aspx](http://www.winchester.ac.uk/aboutus/lifelonglearning/Theologicalpartnerships/Pages/Theologicalpartnerships.aspx)

18-20 June **Mystical Theology and Spirituality in the Carmelite Tradition.** St Mary's University, Twickenham, London. [www.stmarys.ac.uk/inspire/teresa-of-avila-1515-2015.htm](http://www.stmarys.ac.uk/inspire/teresa-of-avila-1515-2015.htm)

A **major International Conference** to celebrate the Teresian Quincentenary, jointly sponsored by the British and Irish Carmelites, Heythrop College, London University, Sarum College, St Mary's University, Twickenham, and the Mystical Theology Network. This conference will explore the mystical theology and spirituality of Teresa of Avila from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives. Arising in the context of the late medieval Carmelite tradition, the conference will pay attention to the origins of her interpretation of the tradition and how this has given rise itself to multiple new discourses. Leading academics and practitioners in the field will discuss the importance of Teresa from historical, philosophical, pastoral, ecumenical, psychological and aesthetic perspectives.

19-21 June **The Solas Festival.** Music and the arts. Justice and peace. At the Bield at Blackruthven Near Perth. [www.solasfestival.co.uk](http://www.solasfestival.co.uk)

20 June. A "**Reaching Out**" workshop at the Well at Willen, Bucks (see 16 May). [www.thewellatwillen.org.uk](http://www.thewellatwillen.org.uk) Theme for 20 June workshop: Non-violent conflict resolution. How to deal with everyday conflict more safely and effectively.

22-26 June **Introducing meditation and mindfulness. Christ-centred practices** inspired by desert and Celtic traditions with **David Cole** and **Jamie Cossar**. Holy Island, Northumberland [www.aidanandhilda.org.uk](http://www.aidanandhilda.org.uk)

Tuesday 23 June **Celebrating the Centenary of the Birth of Thomas Merton: Monk, Artist and Social Critic** with Dr **James Finlay**. Dublin. [www.newmonasticismsireland.com](http://www.newmonasticismsireland.com)

26-27 June **The Fire of Life** with **John Harley** and **Nicky Teverson**. Kent. [www.artandspirituality.net](http://www.artandspirituality.net)  
Discover the energy and inspiration of fire through ritual and art-making.

26-29 June **Living Theology workshop on Christianity for the modern world.**

Near Bath, Somerset. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

Ecumenical study weekend organised by the Jesuits, combining lectures, liturgy and worship.

29 June –2 July **A cosmological & ecological approach to healing** with Prof

**Mary Grey**, Rev Prof **June Boyce-Tillman**, Fr **Dominic White** and Rev **David**

**Osborne**. The **Centre for the Study of Theology & Health Summer School**,

Thirsk N. Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events)

## Advance notice of events

4 July Launch of new book **Radical Christianity**. Sheffield.

[www.stmarkscrc.co.uk/event/radical-christianity](http://www.stmarkscrc.co.uk/event/radical-christianity)

In association with Sheffield's Urban Theology Unit and Ashram Community, this day will launch a book of interdisciplinary essays, entitled **Radical Christianity**, written by members of the three sponsoring organisations. There will be a keynote address by one of the contributors, **Chris Rowland**, Dean Ireland's Professor of the Exegesis of Holy Scripture Emeritus at Oxford University and an internationally recognised authority on liberation theology. A selection of seminars covering issues and perspectives discussed in the book will be offered by other contributors.

13-16 July **Seeking the Sacred. Annual conference of Modern Church**, in association with the World Congress of Faiths. Herts.

[www.modernchurch.org.uk/index.php/mc-events/annual-conference.html](http://www.modernchurch.org.uk/index.php/mc-events/annual-conference.html)

Christian relationships with people of other religions can be both exciting and troubling. Exciting because we discover the presence of the sacred beyond Christian walls; troubling because we are made to face questions of how new discoveries and experiences fit with inherited ideas about Christian identity. This conference is designed on the basis that our encounters with people of other religions lead us to acknowledge the positive presence of the sacred in other traditions and movements. It will explore new relationships and insights into what dialogue with newly-found friends might entail. It begins with the emergent story of the universe itself and ends with far-reaching proposals

about the nature of the cultural and religious evolution in which we are all caught up. The conference will include:

- Journey of the Universe: a film exploring the origins of the universe in conjunction with the poetry of religious awareness from different religious traditions. Presented by Mary Evelyn Tucker, this is a unique and stunning adventure in critical cosmology and interfaith wisdom.
- Dialogues between people of different faiths on the theology of 'Revelation and Scripture'
- A study of the theology of religions and postmodernism
- Mysticism
- Rumi and erotic poetry

20-25 July **Tumble Trust Summer Week 'FOR GOD'S SAKE RELAX'**. A week of summer fun and spiritual renewal led by **David Mahon**. Near Liverpool.

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

6-10 August **Mountains to the Sea**. South Wales.

[www.journeying.co.uk/mountains-to-the-sea.html](http://www.journeying.co.uk/mountains-to-the-sea.html) Book well ahead.

Water is the central theme of the holiday and we'll be following its spiritual significance from the holy springs and lakes in the mountains down fast flowing streams and waterfalls to the rivers which wind through the landscape before finally meeting the sea. This holiday comprises spectacular mountain scenery of the Brecon Beacons National Park with a beautiful series of waterfalls - including the unique 'waterfall of snow' where the path takes us behind the water - along with the dramatic shoreline of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast from where Celtic missionaries sailed out to the rest of Europe during the Age of the Saints. The whole area has a rich history of Celtic Christianity from Llandaff Cathedral on the banks of the River Taff through to Llantwit Major which was once the site of Britain's first university and where the parish church of St Illtud has been a place of uninterrupted Christian worship for over 1,500 years.

The analogy of the water cycle from mountains to the sea and back again will help us to understand Celtic perceptions of circular time and will enable us to tune into the present moment where God can be revealed through nature, through imaginative prayer and through the people around us.

28 Sept - 1 October **Illumination and Transformation. *Free to Believe* retreat** at Bishop Woodford House, Ely. With **Peter Varney** and **Zam Walker**.

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

A time to discover the wide horizons of divine love by exploring how we may integrate our creativity and imagination, with opportunities for contemplative experience and periods of silence. Thomas Merton wrote: 'We are called to share with God the work of creating the truth of our identity' (New Seeds of Contemplation). Working with our creativity accesses different insights within us as a means of illumination and transformation. We will create a safe space to engage in the creative process, and listen for the invitations and discoveries that want to emerge.

24 October **Re-imagining Church: No Longer Male and Female, but One in Christ**. St Mark's Centre for Radical Christianity, Sheffield.

[www.stmarkscrc.co.uk/event/re-imagining-church-no-longer-male-and-female-but-one-in-christ](http://www.stmarkscrc.co.uk/event/re-imagining-church-no-longer-male-and-female-but-one-in-christ)

**Kathy Galloway, Emma Percy and Jenny Morgans** invite us to engage in conversation. Together we will dream dreams and explore strategies for the radical transformation of the church.