

EVENTS RUN BY MANY ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE UK

Compiled by *LivingSpirituality*

www.livingspirit.org.uk

January – Easter 2015

JANUARY 2015

The anniversary of Thomas Merton's birth this month is reflected in several of the events listed below.

10 January 2.30 – 4. **Remembering Thomas Merton.** Speaker: **Rev Dr Mark Bratton** Hampstead Christian Study Centre. Followed by reading group on Wednesday evenings. Info: Rev Jan Rushton 0207 431 4606 or 07894 559752.

10 January 2-4 **Eckhart Group** NW London. Meetings start with a "Lectio Divina" in several sections – just over an hour of meditation, contemplation and spontaneous contributions – followed by about 10 minutes reading of an Eckhart sermon, then silent meditation. Finally, tea... Free of charge. Newcomers to Eckhart are always welcome. Contact Jim Coakes on 07788 485086 or jim.coakes@btinternet.com.

12 January 7.30, start of **Living Together in a Multi Faith World** – a Certificate course in Inter Faith Relations. Mondays January 2015 - December 2016. London Interfaith Centre, NW6.
<http://londoninterfaith.org.uk> The course units can be taken separately. **Contact** Rev Laurence Hillel
E: laurence.hillel@londoninterfaith.org.uk T: 07801 286819.

13 January 6.30-9 **LivingSpirituality Journeying Together Group.** Informal liturgy and talk/discussion. This month's theme: **pluralism**. At Essex Church Notting Hill Gate. Further details of the group at: www.livingspirit.org.uk/journeying-together.

15 January, 11 – 4 **Understanding Dialogue - from theory to practice**, London EC1
www.stethelburgas.org A multi-disciplinary day workshop exploring how theoretical ideas about dialogue can be applied to create powerful new forms of communication and learning.

16 – 18 January A weekend of **contemplation and monastic prayer** led by Brendan McAllister, a Corrymeela member, including readings from and about **Thomas Merton**, at Corrymeela, Ballycastle, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. <http://www.corrymeela.org>. Corrymeela's strapline is: embracing difference – healing division-enabling reconciliation.

17 January 9.30 am **Thomas Merton: The re-making of a monk** Conference. All Hallows, Dublin. Speakers: Professor Michael W. Higgins, Mary T Malone (theologian), Richard Purcell OCSO. Booking essential. Email events@irishcatholic.ie or phone 3531 687 4095.

19 January 6.30 - 8 **Meet the Rev Ruth Scott.** London Centre for Spirituality, EC1.
<http://www.spiritualitycentre.org/index.php/discovering/120-inside-the-mind-of-the-author-the-rev-d-ruth-scott> Ruth Scott is the star of Good Morning Sunday, and author of The Power of Imperfection.

22 January 6 - 7.30 **Open evening about the Encounter course** (see LS Winter 14-15 newsletter) for those wanting to **find out more about training as a spiritual director** with Julie Dunstan, London Centre for Spirituality, EC1. www.spiritualitycentre.org/index.php/discovering/83-open-evening-training-as-a-spiritual-director

26 - 29 January **The nature of contemporary spirituality in the Christian tradition**, from the 19th Century to today. Sarum College, Salisbury, Wilts. www.sarum.ac.uk

27 January 10 - 4.30, **The Big Silence**. The Bield at Blackruven, near Perth. www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk/

30 - 31 January **The rough-edged Gospel** with Dom Brendan Thomas. Belmont Abbey Herefordshire. www.belmontabbey.org.uk "Mark's unpolished gospel is dark and intriguing. Is it not the Gospel for our modern age?"

30 January 10am **Living the new story of peace. London EC1** www.stethelburgas.org
A discussion-based workshop exploring new understandings of peace and systemic change. In the past, conflict and peace have been viewed through the lens of polarity. Parties with opposing views disagree and generate friction. Peace is about coming to understand 'the Other' and achieving resolution, which is expressed through the cessation of argument. In today's multicultural, diverse and increasingly interconnected world, new models of peace are emerging. Difference is often not about 'us' and 'them'. We are increasingly aware of multiple dimensions of diversity, and the tapestries of grey areas and rich complexity within any relational field. Alongside this we are coming to understand our fundamental interdependence with each other and our ecological systems. All of this alters in profound ways our understanding of 'self' and 'other' and so has important implications for how we approach peace work and community building.

31 January **Food, body and soul. Exploring the meaning of self and society as we relate to hunger and eating** with Rev Dr Keith Hebden. Southwell, Notts. www.sacristaprebend.wordpress.com

31 January, 10.30 – 4, **The Real You** with Davina Misroch, at Jenny Sandler's flat London NW6. Is it possible for the reality of who we truly are to emerge in the world? Is there a way to use each relationship, every job – in fact everything we do – as a means to let our Inner Being become more real to us and those around us? BOOKING ESSENTIAL. Email: jennysandlerq008@firenet.co.uk or telephone: 020 7328 6718.

31 January, 2.30 pm. **Merton's legacy: Why Merton Matters**. Speaker: **John Moses**, Dean Emeritus of St Paul's. At St James's Piccadilly www.sjp.org.uk/monthly-diary.html
Thomas Merton was a Trappist monk, peace activist, social justice campaigner and "perhaps the greatest spiritual writer of the 20th Century." A panel discussion chaired by Rev Lucy Winkett follows the talk. A celebratory tea concludes the event. A free unticketed event.

FEBRUARY 2015

1 February **Sundays at Six. Creative Arts Liturgy** at St James's Piccadilly.

www.sjp.org.uk/monthly-diary.html

3 February 7pm **Christianity and Political Engagement.** Speaker: Rt Hon Frank Field MP Truro Cathedral. Progressive Christianity Network. Info: Richard.gray@pcnbritain.org.uk

6 - 8 February **Jesus and Wild Nature** with Noel Moules and Chris Walton. Suffolk.

www.ringsfield-hall.co.uk Exploring scriptural roots to wilderness and spirituality, nurturing a Jesus-centred spirit in contact with nature.

6 - 8 February **Climate Change. The wellbeing of the community.** Dr Alastair McIntosh. County Antrim, Northern Ireland, www.drumalis.co.uk

7 February, 2-5 **Song of the Soul Set Free.** An afternoon of chant and song. Dublin. Booking necessary: <http://newmonasticismsireland.com/> Facilitators: Dom Richard Purcell, Abbot of Cistercian Abbey Roscrea, Co. Tipperary and Deirdre Ni Chinnéide Inis Mor, Aran Islands.

Tuesday 10 February, 6.30 – 9 **LivingSpirituality Journeying Together Group.** This month's theme: group members will share the **spiritual practices** they use and the benefits of them. At Essex Church Notting Hill Gate. For info about the group email petra.griffiths@livingspirit.org.uk or go to www.livingspirit.org.uk/journeying-together All welcome.

13-15 February **Becoming who you are** with Margaret Silf. County Durham. www.minsteracres.org.uk
The unique ways in which God invites you to become the person God dreamed into being at your conception.

14 February 9.30 – 4 **Journey of the Heart - Pathways and Blessings** with Libby Dobson and Sarah Chabowska at Ammerdown, near Bath, www.ammerdown.org

16 - 19 February. Lent retreat. **I arise today. We learn from the Celtic saints what it is to be pilgrims to the place of our resurrection.** Dom Brendan Thomas. Belmont Abbey, Herefordshire www.belmont.org.uk

24 February **The Island, my teacher** with Angela Ashwin. Southwell, Notts.

www.sacristaprebend.wordpress.com. A reflection on the slower rhythms, simplicity and challenges of life on Bardsey Island.

Tuesday **24 February** 18:30-20:00 **The Scandal of a Male Bible. Lecture by Professor David Clines** at Kings College, London WC2.

The Bible is a male book, written by men, to be read by men. That means that it is permeated by characteristically male values and ideals, some overt, others rarely noticed. Among these values are: the glorification of strength; the valorization of strength in action, which is violence; the approval of killing; the quest for honour; the tendency to misogyny. These embedded values continue to influence Bible readers, often subconsciously. They are most potent when they affect the language of religion, and shape the picture of the Bible's deity, the God of Christian and Jewish believers. The scandal is twofold: it is that the Bible is deeply compromised by its ubiquitous adherence to specifically male values, and that its masculinity is hardly ever noticed or mentioned, even in our much more egalitarian world.

Professor David J.A. Clines is "one of the most creative and influential biblical scholars in the world". Originally from Sydney, Australia, David Clines has spent his career in the University of Sheffield, including as Professor and Head of the Department of Biblical Studies. It is a measure of his distinction that he was President of the US-based Society of Biblical Literature in 2009, the first person from outside North America to serve the Society in that role.

Refreshments will be served after the lecture on the Terrace. To book for this free lecture go to Eventbrite: www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/trs/eventrecords/2015/ethel2015.aspx. Some members of *Living Spirituality* are going to this lecture. If you would like to meet us there, please email petrgriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk.

Saturday **28 February**, 10.30 (for 11am start) – 4pm. **Introducing Joel Goldsmith** with Astra Ferro. London NW6 3DY

Joel Goldsmith was a twentieth century Christian mystic whose life touched and inspired thousands worldwide. He believed in communicating with the Divine Power within, to help free us from our own limitations and restrictions.

An offering of £20 requested. Light lunch included. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**
Email: jennysandlerq008@firenet.co.uk or telephone: 020 7328 6718

28 February **Changing Times, Changing Rites?** With Jan Berry and Alex Bradley. Manchester. Creating alternative rites of passage. www.lutherkinghouse.org.uk/lkh-events/spirituality-events

MARCH 2015

1 March **Sundays at Six. Creative Arts Liturgy** at St James's Piccadilly.
www.sjp.org.uk/monthly-diary.html

4 - 6 March **New Horizons in Christian spirituality**. Sarum College, Salisbury, Wilts.
www.sarum.ac.uk How new understandings can be integrated into our life today.

6 - 8 March **Women 50+. Rhythms and thresholds in a woman's life**. Thirsk, N.Yorks
www.holyroodhouse.org.uk With Dr Althea De'Carteret and Ann Crean.

7 March **The Spirituality of the Living Water. Encounters with Christ in the Holy Land**. Marcus Armstrong and Margaret Moakes. Bucks. www.thewell@willen.org.uk

9 - 13 March **The Journey Home**. A retreat with Simon Parke at Sheldon, Devon www.sheldon.uk.com
For those seeking both psychological and spiritual wellbeing. We explore the difference between what Julian of Norwich called our substantial and insubstantial selves. Others speak of our true and false selves. When we become disconnected from who we are, it is a long journey home. This retreat joins with you on your path home. There will be guidance through teaching and meditations, but you will make your own retreat and truth will find you in particular and personal ways.

9 - 12 March **Western Christian Mysticism**. Sarum College, Salisbury, Wilts. www.sarum.ac.uk
An in-depth look at the riches of the mystical tradition.

11 March **Lenten Journey, walking the Labyrinth in a prayerful way**. Noddfa, North Wales.
www.noddfa.org.uk

11 March **Desert Day**. Llantarnam Abbey, Gwent. www.tycroesocentre.co.uk
A day of total quiet for individuals to "come apart and rest a while"

Friday **13 March** 6.30 – 9 pm **LivingSpirituality** Journeying Together Group.
Notting Hill Gate. **The Art of Pilgrimage, focusing on the inner experience of pilgrimage**. Talk and discussion plus informal liturgy. Please contact petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk for details and to let us know you will be coming. All welcome.

13 - 15 March **Love for the Future** with David Osborne. Suffolk. www.ringsfield-hall.co.uk
Living and working for environmental change can drain our energy. We will explore ways of opening up to the Spirit's hope, vision and refreshment.

13 - 15 **Men's spirituality weekend**. Thirsk, N. Yorks www.holyroodhouse.org.uk
With Rev Stanley Baxter, Professor Stephen Wright, Brother John Henning SSF.

14 March, 10 – 5, **The Universe Story Event**. London EC2. www.greenspirit.org.uk
"The story of the Universe is the epic unfolding of the world, an evolutionary tale of awesome scope. It speaks of unity and diversity, of desire and curiosity, of wonder and awe. It speaks of creativity and imagination, of death, destruction and transformation. It is the story of science. It is the story of spirit.....a sacred story of magical unfolding, a story that is still being born and told in you and me now.....that has the

power to inspire our species into becoming the species we were born to be." Greg Morter and Niamh Brennan.

Speakers:

- Greg Morter - A Brief History of Everything: from the origin of the Universe to the present day, in six surprising steps
 - Elisabet Sahtouris - The Evolution of Cooperation and Transformation
 - Maddy Harland - Transformational Heresy – Permaculture and beyond
 - Chris Clarke - Chair - Emeritus Professor of Applied Mathematics and author of "Weaving the Cosmos".
- Plus: discussions, World Café, creative activities and stalls.

Full information at: www.greenspirit.org.uk/uni-story-event or phone Ian Mowll on 020 8552 2096

16 - 18 March **From freedom to justice**. Sarum College, Salisbury, Wilts. www.sarum.ac.uk
In the 800th anniversary year of the Magna Carta, this Lenten retreat explores our inner freedom and our relationship to social justice.

20-22 March **Men's event – How to Walk with Your Shadow**. Llansor Mill, Gwent. www.llansor.org

Saturday **21 March**, 10am (for 10.30 start) – 4.30pm. **Look within: You are Christ** led by Martin Nathanael. London NW6 3DY

"Look Within: You Are Christ" represents a recurring theme within Gnostic Christianity during the first few centuries of this era. Martin will draw on teachings from the Gospels of Mary, Philip and Thomas, and other texts from the same period. The same invitation, although less apparent, can be found in the New Testament teachings of Jesus and the apostles, and the witness of Christian mystics up until the present time. Gnostic Christianity offers an experiential path of awakening from our mistaken "separate" identity.

An offering of £25 requested. Light lunch refreshment included. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**

Email: jennysandlerq008@firenet.co.uk or telephone: 020 7328 6718.

21 March **The Art of Letting Go** with Nick Thorpe. Near Perth. www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk

27 March 10 am **Co-creation and emergent design** London EC1, www.stethelburgas.org

How can we facilitate spaces that allow new, unexpected and collaborative solutions or responses to emerge? A shared inquiry into the principles of working with emergence and co-creation - key skills for our times. In the face of disastrous conflicts around the world, as well as deepening ecological and economic crises, it seems that if there is to be a future for us, we must make a momentous transition to an entirely new way of being, seeing, relating and organising. To discover this 'new story' and bring it into how we live and work requires new forms of partnership and collaboration. It requires being able to create from a space which is not hampered or pre-determined by old structures or ways of operating. We need to create

from a space that is new, where we recognise the need to go beyond our existing paradigms. This means being comfortable with not knowing, and being able to work with space as well as content. This one-day gathering is to offer a shared enquiry into the principles of how we can facilitate groups in this way.

28 March – 6 April **Easter Experience: From Wish to Hope** The Abbey, Iona

www.iona.org.uk/island-centres/the-abbey. Time to stop, be still, reflect, feel challenged, be energised and refreshed for the next stage of your journey.

29 March - 4 April Holy Week and Easter. **Join the rhythm of prayer for a week of quiet reflection on Holy Island.** The Open Gate. www.aidanandhilda.org.uk

1 April **Walking the Way at the start of Holy Week.** Noddfa, North Wales. www.noddfa.org.uk

As we begin Holy Week, walking can be a helpful way to connect with our outer and inner journeys. There will also be time for silence and reflection.

1-7 April **Easter houseparty** at Holy Rood House, Thirsk, N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

2-5 April **Cosmic Holy Week: Easter reclaimed** with Mary Jo Radcliffe at Ammerdown, near Bath. You are invited to join us in spending Holy Week together, exploring the meaning of the Gospel story and how we understand it today in the context of the Universe story. We endeavour to celebrate each day in ritual, music and words, in a creative group experience in which all contributions are welcome.

Info: Email maryjoradcliffe@icloud.com or telephone: 0207 223 2917.

Up and coming:

18 April 9.30 – 4, **Making Jesus Visible: Radical Discipleship Today.** St Marks' Centre for Radical Christianity Sheffield. 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.