

# EVENTS RUN BY MANY CENTRES AND ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE UK

Compiled by *LivingSpirituality*

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

For events that are put on regularly, see  
[www.livingspirit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/regularevents.pdf](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/regularevents.pdf)

## JULY – SEPTEMBER 2015

### LAST PART OF JUNE 2015 – additional events

**19-21 June Pilgrimages to Our Lost Worlds** Yorkshire. Leader: **John Harley**, Chair of the Art & Spirituality Network. [www.artandspirituality.net/other-resources-to-explore](http://www.artandspirituality.net/other-resources-to-explore)

**27 June Moving towards a post-materialist paradigm.** Speakers: **Professor Bernard Carr** and **Rev Professor Jeff Astley**. Oxford. Scientific and Medical Network  
[www.scimednet.org/events](http://www.scimednet.org/events)

Prof. Bernard Carr says “Modern physics claims to be close to a ‘Theory of Everything’ and this would underlie all science in a reductionist perspective. Since this neglects consciousness, mental and spiritual phenomena are usually assumed to be beyond science. However, there are some indications from physics itself that consciousness is a fundamental rather than incidental feature of the world.”

**29 June-3 July Returning to our Spiritual Roots** led by **Esther Aronsfeld** near Bath  
[www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

This hands-on retreat takes us back to the spiritual roots of Christianity as we engage at a heart and soul level with some of the universal themes shared by Christians and Jews (freedom, revelation, renewal and abundance), and how they relate to our own lives and the lives of those around us.

**30 June 7 pm Contemplatives and Mystics as Prophets and Visionaries.** Talk by Rev Dr **Cynthia Bourgeault** at Westminster Cathedral Hall  
[www.silenceinthecity.org.uk/programme.html](http://www.silenceinthecity.org.uk/programme.html)

## JULY 2015

**1 July 10-4 Harnessing the Power of Love - Unveiling the New Breed of Trinity** seminar with Rev Dr **Cynthia Bourgeault** [www.silenceinthecity.org.uk/programme.html](http://www.silenceinthecity.org.uk/programme.html)

**1 July 7pm Awakening to a New Consciousness Lecture: Beyond the Science Delusion.**

Speaker: **Dr Rupert Sheldrake**. Winchester University

[www.winchester.ac.uk/theologicalpartnerships](http://www.winchester.ac.uk/theologicalpartnerships)

What does it mean to look at the world 'scientifically'? What actually is science? Is it itself 'scientific' or does it rest on its own beliefs and dogmas? And if so, how does one set of beliefs (religious) relate to the other (scientific)? Biologist Dr Rupert Sheldrake will talk though the nature, foundations, limits – and future – of science, and what it means for belief and for religion. To book email [Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk).

**3-5 July Britain's Religious Crisis.** Led by **Professor Linda Woodhead**. Flintshire.

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

Linda Woodhead will highlight the growing values gap between religion and society. She will look at ritual innovations and explore the rise of those who have 'no religion' and the secularious. She will review the deathly battles for the soul of traditional religion and the role of politics and the media. Finally, she will contemplate how to resolve the crisis and move forward.

**3-5 July Being Peace** with **Lesley Collington, Janet Entwistle** and **Marion Mills**. Birmingham.

[www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk) in partnership with the Community of Interbeing, who live by and communicate the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh.

Whether a beginner or experienced in eastern spiritual practice you will taste something of the deep peace that can be discovered through simple practices of being present and with the support of a group. Guidance will be given on a variety of practices to encourage a sense of mindfulness. You will be invited to experiment with silence as part of this.

**4 July Consider the Lilies of the Field** with **Kenneth Boyd Browne** London NW6

Ken uses poetry, silence and flowers to illustrate how we can cultivate our connection to the Divine within. He will explore how they enhance our awareness of what 'breathes' life into us. As the 'Lilies toil not', we ourselves are encouraged to move towards stillness by remembering that we are Human Beings not Human Doings!

**Booking:** [jenny.sandlerq008@firenet.co.uk](mailto:jenny.sandlerq008@firenet.co.uk) or phone Jenny Sandler on 020 7328 6718

**4-10 July Choose Life.** Led by **Cara Riley** and **Rick Stott**. Iona Abbey Centre, Scotland.  
[www.iona.org.uk](http://www.iona.org.uk)

The invitation during this week is to creatively explore our relationship with ourselves, others and the environment as ways of reaching a deeper understanding about who we are and what we are called to become in the One who loves us.

**4-10 July Glimpses into the Mystery of the Unfolding Universe - Creation Spirituality Retreat** with **Anne Harnett CP & Margaret Rose McSparran CP**. County Antrim, Northern Ireland. [www.drumalis.co.uk](http://www.drumalis.co.uk)

**4-11 July In Search of the Sacred Feminine - a Retreat for Women** with **Sr Joann Heinritz CSJ** County Antrim, Northern Ireland. [www.drumalis.co.uk](http://www.drumalis.co.uk)

**8-12 July Male rites of passage** near Perth, Scotland, [www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk](http://www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk)

A 5-day life changing programme for men devised by Richard Rohr OFM. This is not about religion, but about spirituality; about age-old traditions that guide men into manhood; about coming to trust that there is something much greater at work in your life than you could ever imagine; and about taking you sometimes OUT of your comfort zones, but more deeply back into your own life.

**10 July 6.30-9 pm LivingSpirituality Journeying Together Group.** London W8  
[www.livingspirit.org.uk/journeying-together-group](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk/journeying-together-group)

This month's theme: **Spirituality and the messiness of everyday life**. Discussion and lay-led liturgy. To book: email [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk)

**10 July Celebrating Female Images of Christ (Christa)** at Winchester University. Opening night reception starts at 6 pm followed by 7pm lecture **Examining the Christa Heritage** by Dr **Nicola Slee** of The Queens Foundation in Birmingham. To book for the opening night email [Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk). [www.winchester.ac.uk/theologicalpartnerships](http://www.winchester.ac.uk/theologicalpartnerships).

**10-12 July Christian-Jewish Dialogue weekend. Visions of the other.** Led by **Fiona Hulbert** and **Rabbi Mark Solomon**. Near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

Jews and Christians have co-existed, often in great tension, for two thousand years. We will explore some of the ways in which we have seen and spoken about one another and learned, often without acknowledging it, from one another's beliefs and traditions – and how we can create a more open dialogue for fruitful co-existence in the future.

**10-12 July Blue Sky God weekend** with **Don MacGregor** Gwent [www.llansor.org](http://www.llansor.org)

**Fri 10 July 5pm until Sat 11 July 10am .The Fire of Life with John Harley and Nicky Teverson.** Keston, Kent Art & Spirituality Network

[www.artandspirituality.net/forthcoming-events](http://www.artandspirituality.net/forthcoming-events) Discovering the energy and inspiration of fire through ritual and art-making. Camp fire, fire ritual, storytelling and relaxation.

**11 July Learning to Walk in the Dark. 7 pm.** Book launch with **Barbara Brown-Taylor.**

Truro. [www.pcnbritain.org.uk/groups/programme/cornwall/learning\\_to\\_walk\\_in\\_the\\_dark](http://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/groups/programme/cornwall/learning_to_walk_in_the_dark)

In dark places and times it can be possible to begin to see the world and sense God's presence around us in new ways - guiding us through things seen and unseen, teaching us to find our footing in times of uncertainty and doubt, and giving us strength and hope to face life's challenges. Could it be that, like seeds buried in the ground, darkness is as essential to our growth and flourishing as light? Barbara Brown Taylor is an American Episcopal priest, professor, author and theologian and is one of the United States' best known preachers. Her new book is **Learning to Walk in the Dark.**

**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

**17 July 7 pm. The Bosnian Christa.** Speaker: **Professor Lisa Isherwood.** University of Winchester. [www.winchester.ac.uk/theologicalpartnerships](http://www.winchester.ac.uk/theologicalpartnerships). To book email [Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk).

**18-24 July Struggling to be Holy.** Led by **Judy Hirst.** MacLeod Centre, Iona. [www.iona.org.uk](http://www.iona.org.uk) This is a week of looking at some of the obstacles to encountering God, and how we might overcome them to grow in holiness.

**20-25 July For God's Sake Relax.** A week of summer fun and spiritual renewal with **David Mahon.** Freshfield, Merseyside [www.tumbletrust.org.uk/events](http://www.tumbletrust.org.uk/events)

**22 July 7pm Female Images of Christ through History.** Speaker: **Rev Professor Dr Angela Berlis.** At Winchester University. [www.winchester.ac.uk/theologicalpartnerships](http://www.winchester.ac.uk/theologicalpartnerships). To book: email [Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk).

**28-30 July Ancient Paths: a retreat with the labyrinth.** Led by **Jan Sellers.** Birmingham. [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

Time to be; time to rest; time to walk the labyrinth, to find 'a different way of knowing.' Labyrinths have just one path to the centre and back again, a path that offers space for prayer, reflection, meditation, release. We'll learn about labyrinths as a spiritual resource and explore their patterns through reading, music, images and silence. We'll experience labyrinths indoors and outdoors, including a labyrinth we'll create ourselves in the garden – a pattern to take home.

## **AUGUST 2015**

**3-7 August Voices of the Earth: exploring the spirit and the natural world creatively.** Led by **Philip Gross.** Birmingham. [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

An opportunity to explore the intimate relationship between the natural world and spirituality, by way of creative responses in written and visual form. Prompted by poetry, visual arts, music and Woodbrooke's extensive gardens, we will pursue ideas through writing and making, experimenting across art forms, conversation, listening and quiet reflection. Bring your passion and curiosity, and any experience and skills, or none.

**6-13 August Abiding in the Diamond Heart** with **Julienne McLean, Viv Stacey, Judy Barber & Rev Michael Gartland.** Holy Island, off the Island of Arran, Scotland. [www.holyisland.org/index/courses](http://www.holyisland.org/index/courses)

A week of silence and deep engagement with the mystical writings from the Christian contemplative tradition.

**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.

**14 August 6.30- 9 pm LivingSpirituality Journeying Together Group.** London W8

[www.livingspirit.org.uk/journeying-together-group](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk/journeying-together-group)

This month's theme: Debbie O'Brien leads a session on **Margaret Silf's approach to Ignation Spirituality and her Landmarks book**. To book: email [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk)

**14-16 August Sacred Economics: developing our personal responses to economic issues.**

Led by **Lucy Faulkner-Gawlinski**. Birmingham. [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

This workshop is based on the book by Charles Eisenstein and will offer opportunity for discussion with the author. The aim is to explore the ideas not as economists but as participants in economic frameworks which have theological origins and spiritual implications. You will need to read the book or excerpts on Charles Eisenstein's website. What new vision opens up when we give ourselves permission to think afresh?

**15-22 August Isle of Man** [www.journeying.co.uk/isle-of-man.html](http://www.journeying.co.uk/isle-of-man.html) Book well ahead.

The Isle of Man lies in the middle of the Irish Sea between England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Based in the cathedral 'city' of Peel, we shall explore the island's fine coast and mountain scenery, using public transport both vintage and modern. There will also be opportunities to visit sites of early Celtic Christianity.

**17-23 August GreenSpirit Wild Week**, Connecting with Nature at Cae Mabon, North Wales

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

A week of living close to each other and capturing the meaning of GreenSpirit: living in a loving consciousness of the interconnected world. We enjoy being in and celebrating our natural surroundings together, go walking, sing and tell stories around the fire in the round house and relax in the hot tub under the oak trees and stars. This holiday is like a retreat from our busy lives and is always nurturing. People who attend are invited to bring something they can share, like a workshop, stories, songs, recipes, musical instruments. Info& booking: Hilary Norton tel: 020 8470 3365, email [hnorton@greenspirit.org.uk](mailto:hnorton@greenspirit.org.uk)

**18-20 August Covenant: a revolutionary spirituality.** Led by **Ben Pink Dandelion & Doug Gwyn.** Birmingham. [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

Our world is increasingly fragmented. Is there a concept of faithfulness that can integrate personal spirituality, interpersonal relations, religious community, and social reform? Early Friends understood the light as a covenant that binds together all these dimensions. Their prophetic spirituality and witness manifested that integration. What can we learn from early Friends and from the ancient idiom of covenant in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures? Can a renewal of covenant consciousness contribute to a renewal among us?

**21-23 August Unfurling: Living out from our Inner Peace** with **Ian and Gail Adams.** Near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

We all dream of a better world - more peaceful, more harmonious, more caring and more celebratory - and that peaceful world must first take shape in us. This weekend will be an opportunity to explore how we might discover, nurture and then live out from our deep God-given inner peace - an unfurling into a life of imagination, adventure, and generosity. There will be a spacious mix of teaching, conversation, stillness and spiritual practice, with some of the session content outside where there will be opportunities to do body prayer, create earth-art, observe and enjoy the natural world.

**Sat 22 August Forgiveness** – part of the Well at Willen’s Outreach initiative. Bucks.

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

What is forgiveness? Why, how and when do we give and receive it? “Reaching Out” is a new outreach initiative aiming to bring people of all ages together to learn about community life.

## SEPTEMBER 2015

**1-10 September Come and See. Encountering Christ in the Land called Holy. Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** led by **John-Francis Friendship** and **Julie Dunstan.**

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

**4-6 September The Wisdom of Music** with **Rev Professor June Boyce-Tillman.** Thirsk, N Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html)

**11 September 6.30-9 pm LivingSpirituality Journeying Together Group.** London W8

[www.livingspirit.org.uk/journeying-together-group](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk/journeying-together-group)

This month’s theme: **Circles of belonging.** Discussion and lay-led liturgy. To book: email [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk)

**11-13 September Stand with your feet in the earth.** Weekend for men. Gwent.

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

**11-14 September Men's Spirituality** weekend with **Stanley Baxter, Stephen Wright & John Henning SSF.** Thirsk, N Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html)

**Sat 19 September A day of creative exploration for yourself.** Selby, N. Yorks.

Run by **Linda Pearson**, Coordinator of the **Living Spirituality Art & Spirituality Special interest group** [www.livingspirit.org.uk/september-art-event](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk/september-art-event)

Art experience not needed. The day is for people of any faith and none. A day led by Linda Pearson to explore our "heart's affections" and "imagination" using the arts. The day will begin and end with a short silent meditation, and will include: e.g. creative writing, collage, time to reflect and share thoughts, a table for you to bring and share ideas and resources

**To book for the day** (cost £15), please contact Linda on 01757 709667 or

[Lp2work@talktalk.net](mailto:Lp2work@talktalk.net)

**Sun 20 September A Day of Blessing** with **Marianne & Robin Anker-Petersen.** Near Perth, Scotland [www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk](http://www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk)

A day to reflect on what it means to bless others and to be blessed. Blessing is invoking God's life, wholeness, healing, light, strengthening, and protection. We are all called to be people who receive and give blessing. We will think together about blessings in the Bible and in Celtic spirituality to inspire us. You will also have the opportunity to write/ create your own blessings and share them if you so wish.

**21-25 September Women's Spirituality Week. "Exploring Liberating Christologies"** with **Rev Elizabeth Baxter.** Thirsk, N Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html)

**23 September 7.30 pm Rewording Worship** with **Rex Hunt.** Cheadle Hume.

[www.pcnbritain.org.uk/groups/programme/manchester/rex\\_hunt\\_evening](http://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/groups/programme/manchester/rex_hunt_evening)

One of the commonest pleas we hear from progressive Christians is a yearning for more progressive worship materials. Rex Hunt stands out as someone who is writing new hymns, prayers and liturgies. His soon-to-be-published book is **When Progressives Meet Together.**

Rex Hunt is a progressive 'grass roots' religious naturalist, liturgist, and social ecologist. Forty-three years ordained, first as a Presbyterian, he is today a retired minister of the Uniting Church in Australia.

**26 September 10.30-4 Wisdom and Imagination** conference. Speaker: **Rex Hunt** (see above). Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

[www.pcnbritain.org.uk/groups/programme/newcastle\\_on\\_tyne/wisdom\\_and\\_imagination](http://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/groups/programme/newcastle_on_tyne/wisdom_and_imagination)

Includes the place of prayer, the Bible and eco-theology, as well as the future of theological thought across Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

**27 September 1.45pm Wanderings in the Cosmic Garden.** Speaker: **Professor Lisa Isherwood.** Annual Joint *LivingSpirituality* and St James's Piccadilly event, and part of a series leading up to the Paris Climate Change summit.

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

We are creatures made from the stuff of the universe, creatures of belonging. Christianity has within itself a way to overcome the old dualisms and re-enchant the world. The Biblical Sophia or Wisdom will be key in our unfolding story, with her focus on relationality. We need a transforming vision allowing for hope. Institutions with Christian incarnation at their heart can be at the centre of the new radical thinking taking place in the face of our new understandings of the evolution of the universe, and of the crises facing us, including climate change. Liberation theologian Lisa Isherwood will address these issues in her talk, helping to stimulate reflection about the theological underpinnings of the planetary crises of our times.

Refreshments follow the talk and discussion. **Booking:** Please email [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk) to book a place. Donations of £5/£3 would be welcome.

**28 September - 1 October Illumination and Transformation Retreat.** With **Peter Varney** and **Zam Walker.** Ely Cambs. [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. 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 emerge. We will include guided reflections, journal writing, art work, including making prayer mats, and responding to our environment.

**28 September - 4 October Healing Silence** retreat with **Laurence Freeman OSB.** Bere Island, County Cork, Ireland. Book early. [www.wccmmeditatio.org/events](http://www.wccmmeditatio.org/events)

**September 2015-July 2016 Spiritual Accompaniment for Today.** Norwich Centre Unit for Spiritual Education. [www.norwichcentre.org](http://www.norwichcentre.org)

A Diploma Course in Spiritual Accompaniment. Spiritual accompaniment can be described as the art of providing the optimum conditions and personal qualities for the deepest form

of spiritual exploration with another person, whatever form their spirituality takes. The purpose of this course is to explore those conditions and qualities, and how they can be learned. Details and applications: [admin@norwichcentre.org](mailto:admin@norwichcentre.org).

## **ADVANCE NOTICE OF EVENTS**

**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/events](http://www.stmarkscrc.co.uk/events)

**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.