



Living Spirituality Connections
Resources for the spiritual journey

EVENTS RUN BY MANY CENTRES AND ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE UK

July – September 2018

Compiled by Living Spirituality Connections

www.livingspirit.org.uk/events

If you wish to let others know about these events, please give them a link to our website: www.livingspirit.org.uk/events.

For events that are put on regularly, see
www.livingspirit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/regularevents.pdf

Events at the end of June not in our last listing:

22-24 June Faith in Food County Durham www.minsteracres.org
A spirited enquiry into the future of our food, with help from the walled garden.

22-24 June Living Theology. Our parish as a place of divine encounter. With Dr Michael Kirwan SJ & Dr Clare Watkins. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

July

29 June – 1 July Universe Story Conference at Winchester University organised by **Greenspirit** in partnership with the Institute of Theological Partnerships. Speakers:

Professor **Brian Swimme** – by video link. Cosmogenetic Experience as a Foundation for a Reinvention of Homo Sapiens. *Continued over...*

Professor Emerita **Ursula King**. A Greater Love for the Earth and All Its People: Earth Literacy, Ecology and Spirituality as seen by Teilhard de Chardin and Thomas Berry. Professor **Jonathan Halliwell**. The Universe Story as a Modern Myth: A Physicist's Perspective. Dr **Jane Riddiford** and **Rod Sugden**. Exploring the Universe Story with Children and Young People.

Conference Website at: <https://greenspirit.org.uk/uni-story-conf>

29 June - 1 July. Anamcara. The Way of Friendship. A workshop for men.

SE Wales. <http://www.llansor.org>

How do you experience friendship? How do you cultivate and maintain it? If it is lost or betrayed, is it possible to restore it? In this weekend together we'll share experience, look for the patterns, and grow together as best we can.

1 - 6 July. Science, Faith and Human Flourishing. Faraday Institute for Science and Religion. Cambridge.

The conference addresses a number of big questions that have enormous impact on how we understand the world around us and how we learn to flourish in a changing environment. What is the nature of the physical universe? How do human beings grow spiritually and morally, even in extreme circumstances? What is the nature of religious experience? How does the impact of robotics and AI technologies affect our understanding of what it means to be human? How do religious scientists relate their scientific understanding to their scriptures and traditions? What does it mean to talk of purpose in biology and how is this relevant to ordinary believers? In this five-day course, we will explore the relationship between science and religion from a variety of perspectives – scientific, historical, theological and philosophical. A team of world-renowned speakers from a range of disciplines will contribute to the dialogue from their own experience and expertise in the keynote lectures. Additional workshops on a range of topics will enable us to explore specific scientific topics in more depth. There will be the opportunity to explore Cambridge's scientific heritage through a number of guided tours.

For details of speakers go to:

www.faraday.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/Short_course.php?CourseID=81

To see if there are still places available, please email events@faraday-institute.org

2-14 July Rob Bell - The Holy Shift Tour. Many locations.

https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/rob_bell_the_holy_shift_tour

Lending his mix of philosophy, comedy, theology and subversive insight, The Holy Shift Tour explores this ancient, complex, subtle, mysterious word HOLY and what it looks like for us to reclaim this word in all its hidden depth to help us make sense of the modern world.

Rob Bell is a paradigm shifter, sometimes spoken of as a heretic.

2-5 July Transition & Transformation. Identity & Integrity in Church & Society with Rev Dr Rachel Mann, Prof June Boyce-Tillman MBE, James Caspian, Prof Jackie Scully.

Holy Rood House Summer School, N. Yorks.

<http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/events.html>

2-6 July Tides and Seasons with Kevin and Lesley Downham. Lindisfarne, Northumberland.

www.aidanandhilda.org.uk

Explore the rhythms and seasons of our spiritual lives and how they echo the rhythms of the tides and seasons.

5-8 July Word & World, (Public Theology) Ballycastle, Northern Ireland.

www.corrymeela.org/events/152/word-world-public-theology-corrymeela

Corrymeela is delighted to run a summer school in theology. All are welcome but we are particularly interested in recruiting young people aged 18–25. How do we read the biblical texts and hold conversations between them and the modern world? How do we approach divisive topics about religion and conflict today? What is it that young people know about theology that needs to be learned by the wider community?

6-12 July Divine Wisdom to Nourish the Human Spirit. Sarum Summer School. Salisbury

www.sarum.ac.uk

13-15 July Women's event: Contemplation – healing the whole. SE Wales.

<http://www.llansor.org>

14 July 10.30 - 4. God is Your Centre with Martin Laird OSA London.

<http://meditatiocentreondon.org>

St. John of the Cross says it simply: “God is your centre.” Howard Thurman, the famous preacher and mentor to Dr Martin Luther King Jr, realized the very same truth: “There is in each of us an uncreated element.” Neither is saying anything original. Each is part of the great cloud of witnesses that has seen through the illusion of separation from God. This illusion is sustained by the egoic need to strategize, possess, and control. Typically we transfer these same egoic strategies onto a spiritual discipline so that we might possess and control our feelings about what spiritual people like ourselves should be feeling at any given moment. By means of self-forgetful release into the practice of contemplation, the illusion of separation from God falls away. We become so silent before God that the “before” drops away. Through silent prayer, conference and discussion, we shall consider the subtle difficulties we meet in something so simple as stillness and consider why the sense of being separate from God is so convincing.

16-18 July Ritual, Worship & Culture. 2018 Annual Conference of Modern Church Herts. www.modernchurch.org.uk/mc-events/annual-conference

Is there a basic instinct to worship? Church attendance is declining, but more and more people express an interest in what is spiritual. Everywhere we see evidence of people needing to ritualise their allegiance to something greater than themselves, whether in celebrity culture, politics or group identity. Enthusiasm (en-theos) appears to be one of the most important drivers of human happiness and fulfilment.

Speakers (subject to change): **Prof Douglas Davies** [Keynote], **Canon Angela Tilby**, **Dr Meg Warner**, **Canon Dr Sandra Millar**, **Rev Steve Hollinghurst**.

18 July 6.30 for 7 pm. Poverty and the Environment. The consequences for us all.
Sr. Dr. Sheila Curran.

Institute for Theological Partnerships, University of Winchester. Info: Joanna. Wilson
Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk

20-22 July The Daughters of Eve with **Abbot Paul** and **Dom Brendan**. Herefordshire.
www.belmontabbey.org.uk The daring, disreputable, defiant and devout women of the Old Testament offer us courage and insight.

30 July – 2 August Living Awake to the Spirit: Practices to Nurture the Soul. Birmingham.
<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/view-course-search>

What does it mean to live awake to the Spirit? To nurture this openness throughout the day? Join us as we explore these questions and discover practices for opening to the Spirit within our unique lives. All spiritual traditions offer such practices; they are prayer-full practices. We will consider what hinders our living more fully open to the Spirit, and we'll look at spiritual awakening in dark times. We will include individual reflection time and group learning and sharing.

30 July - 3 August Voices of the Earth. Birmingham.
<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/view-course-search>

This popular course explores the intimate relationship between the natural world and spirituality through creative responses in writing and artwork. Prompted by poetry, the visual arts, music and Woodbrooke's extensive gardens, with fresh starting points and stimuli offered each year, there will be abundant opportunity for working in a variety of media and forms. We will engage individually or collaboratively both with the places words can take us and where visual images and making art can lead to beyond words.

August

2-6 August Stones, Rivers and Islands. Pembrokeshire. www.journeying.co.uk

This holiday is about pausing from our busy daily lives to take time to listen for God in the glorious hills, woodlands and islands and to listen for God within ourselves, where we will learn about and practice silent prayer and meditation. We'll look at Celtic concepts of time and we'll follow some of John O'Donohue's writings on the meanings of water as we follow the water cycle from the springs of the Preseli Hills down fast-flowing streams to estuaries where fresh and salt waters mingle with the daily cycle of the tides. Then we'll travel by boat to a beautiful island that has been home to monasteries since the sixth century.

10-12 August Stories for our time: Storytelling as a Tool for Peace, a Tool for Change Birmingham <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/view-course-search>

A rich and exciting weekend, exploring the power of stories to change our world and gain some insights in how to tell them. We will share traditional heroic tales, historical stories from Quaker and Peace traditions and real life stories about those who build a better world, discovering what makes an inspirational story? All you need to bring is an open heart and a story that inspires and motivates you. No previous experience of storytelling is required.

10-12 August Breathe Deep. Led by: **Ian and Gail Adams** of Beloved Life. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org www.belovedlife.org

It's a demanding thing to be a human being in these times. This weekend will be an opportunity to pause and breathe deep - to imagine the divine breath Yahweh breathing life in us, and through us, to bring good to the world. *"Breathe deep and...love listen and check in hold what you cannot change change what you can and move forward..."*

We will draw on wisdom and experience from contemplative Christianity, on the gift of the landscape at Ammerdown, and on insights around human possibility and becoming. There will be a spacious mix of teaching, conversation, stillness, and contemplative practice.

10-12 August Seeds of Hope in Troubled Times- An Intensive Retreat. Led by **Margaret Silf** Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

Reasons for hope can be hard to find when so much that is happening in our world feels hopeless. During this weekend we will reflect on some of the many seeds of authentic hope waiting to be planted in our life's soil today. Where and how might we be part of that planting? There are many different ways in which seeds are carried to the places where they will grow. How might we spread the seeds of hope? Seeds need food and water if they are to grow. How can we help this fragile new growth to flourish, and protect it from what might threaten it? What fruits might it bear, and how can we bring these fruits to a hungry and desperate world? The weekend will offer time and space for quiet personal reflection,

as well as for gathering and sharing our responses to the challenge of holding on to hope in dark and difficult times.

15-18 August Storytelling for Change and Reconciliation, a summer school at the renowned reconciliation centre, Corrymeela, on the north coast of Ireland led by **Sara Cook** and Corrymeela Community leader **Pádraig Ó Tuama**.

<https://www.corrymeela.org/events/151/storywork-a-summer-school-in>

From healthcare to business, from congregational work to community work, it is being increasingly recognised that story is a key factor in personal and group wellbeing. When a person can know their story, can know that their story will be heard, can find words to share their story, and can find ways in which their story both resembles and differs from others', wellbeing is deepened. *"For 50 years, Corrymeela has been a place of story. We have been a gathering place where people from many sides of conflict and division have shared their story. While for many years we held much of this work quietly, we now offer training courses on using narrative practice in your personal, community and professional life."*

20-23 August. Hope for a time of transformation with Diarmuid O'Murchu. North Wales.

www.noddfa.org.uk

25 August – 1 September. Abiding in the Wisdom of Love with Julienne McLean, Judy Barber, Rev Michael Gartland and Roger Ferguson. Scotland.

This seven day retreat is being offered to gather together in prayer and spiritual friendship on this ancient, beautiful and sacred island. Each day we will meet for silent prayer, Holy Communion, lectio divina, chanting and spiritual conversation around Christian mystical writings that illuminate the deepest call on our life. There will also be opportunities for conscious work in the garden, walking meditation and a pilgrimage to the cave of St Molaise. At the Centre for World Peace and Health, Holy Island, Scotland www.holyisle.org. Booking at info@contemplativespirituality.org

31 August – 2 September Renew, Refresh, Restore. With the Scargill Community.

N. Yorks. www.scargillmovement.org

September

13-14 September 10 – 4. Female Theologians. Exhibition organised by the Institute for Theological Partnerships. Room 7, Winchester Business School, West Downs Campus, Romsey Road, Winchester SO22 5HT. Info: Joanna.Wilson@winchester.ac.uk

19 September 6.30 – 9 The Cosmic Consciousness Connection: Linking Science and Spirituality. London <http://meditatiocentrelondon.org>

Science has been successful in describing the smallest scales of particle physics to the largest scales of cosmology. It has also revealed an intimate link – or cosmic connection – between the microscopic and macroscopic domains, this culminating in the Big Bang. However, consciousness and the spiritual domain are completely absent, even though they are such fundamental features of our experience. So how can the ‘Theory of Everything’ be expanded to accommodate spirituality and nonmaterial realms? Bernard is Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at Queen Mary University of London. His area of research is cosmology and he has a long-standing interest in the relationship between science and spirituality and the role of consciousness in physics. His recent books include *Universe or Multiverse?* and *Quantum Black Holes*.

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
Joint event organised by Spirit of Peace and Radical Pilgrims.

21-23 September Exploring our Celtic roots in worship with Roy Searle. Cheshire
<http://www.foxhillchester.co.uk>

21-23 September “Light into Dark – Finding Balance” GreenSpirit Annual Gathering. Derbyshire.

The Autumn Equinox is a time when light and dark are balanced just before we start moving towards shorter days and the longer nights of winter. At this weekend we will honour the harvest and fruitfulness of the summer as we also enjoy the crispness in the air and the changing colours of autumn trees. We will focus on the need for balancing the opposite energies of light and dark by talking together, listening to our speaker, creating short rituals and devotions, being led in creative activities, workshops and a walk in the glorious scenery of the Peak District.

Main Speaker – Dr **Vivianne Crowley** - “Journeying inward with the Divine Feminine at Autumn Equinox”. Details and how to book at: <https://www.greenspirit.org.uk/annual-gathering-2018-home>

22 September 10.30 – 4. George Herbert as Christian Mystic. Led by **Rev Graeme Watson** London <http://meditatiocentreondon.org>

28-30 September Breathing Life of All: Chant, Movement and Contemplative Prayer with the Aramaic Jesus with **Neil Douglas-Klotz**. Worcestershire. www.hollandhouse.org

Since the publication of Neil Douglas-Klotz’s Prayers of the Cosmos in 1990, chanting and meditating with the words of Jesus in his native Aramaic language has become one of the leading methods of next-generation, community-based ritual. Using Aramaic (either aloud or silently) offers a direct connection through vibration, sound and breath to the spirituality of the person who used the words, as well as to the indigenous Christianity of the Middle

East, which predates the Western creeds and original sin-based theology. In the same way that Eastern mantra can, it bypasses the overly-busy, conceptual mind and allows one to enter deeply into feeling and body. This retreat will offer an experience with its originator, who will also offer suggestions for starting and leading one's own group.

Advance Notices

1-4 October Silence by the Sea. A mainly silent retreat in the Wisdom School tradition.

Dorset. www.othonawestdorset.org.uk www.christiansawakening.org

This workshop will 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, Jayne MacGregor and Richard Sloan, all inspired by the Wisdom Schools of Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault.

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

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?

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

16 November 2018: Tavener Centre International Study Day: Music, Spirituality 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, highlighting the value of lived experience, might be a piece by Sir John Tavener through the eyes of a particular person.

Further details forthcoming. For any queries, contact Holly.Pye@winchester.ac.uk

20 November 10 – 4pm. Creativity and Reflection – a taster day with Linda Courage. York.

www.livingspirit.org.uk/events Linda is coming to the end of a long and varied career in nursing. For thirty years she 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! Linda is now a bank Staff Nurse in

Outpatients, a member of the Abbey of the Arts www.abbeyofthearts.com, and co-ordinator for the Arts and Spirituality Special Interest Area within Living Spirituality Connections www.livingspirit.org.uk. She has run expressive arts workshops and spoken of her approach at health and spirituality conferences in the past. She lives in Selby with her son and cat, is a novice fell walker, and helps to run a monthly Contemplative service in a local church.