

## EVENTS by region November 2013 – January 2014

Compiled by *LivingSpirituality* - [www.livingspirit.org.uk](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk)

Regular events and Christmas retreats are on page 5.

### North East

**Autumn's wildness. 28 October – 1 November.** Community of Aidan and Hilda. Holy Island.  
[www.aidanandhilda.org](http://www.aidanandhilda.org)

Explore Holy Island in this beautiful and unpredictable season and let God speak to you through the wonders of creation.

**Advent with Thomas Merton. 22-24 November** Shepherd's Dene Retreat House, **Riding Mill, Northumberland** [www.sheperdsdene.co.uk](http://www.sheperdsdene.co.uk) Silent weekend with Bridget Hewitt.

**Sounding the body, Moving the soul. 23 November.** St Antony's Priory **Durham**  
[www.stantonypriory.co.uk](http://www.stantonypriory.co.uk) Chant and simple body prayers. With Philip Roderick.

**Praying with the whole of our being.** 29 Nov-1 Dec. Holy Rood House, **Thirsk.**  
<http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk> Advent Retreat with Rev Jenny Williams (Church of Scotland).

### North West

**Christians of the future will be mystics. 1-3 November,** Crewe, Oblate Retreat Centre  
A **Tumble Trust** event [www.tumbletrust.org.uk](http://www.tumbletrust.org.uk) Stillness, silence, relaxation & dance.

**The spirituality of true self esteem 10-15 November** Hawkestone Hall Shropshire  
[www.hawkestone-hall.com](http://www.hawkestone-hall.com) with Fr Jim McManus.

**Creative Quiet Days at Luther King House, Manchester** [www.lutherkinghouse.org.uk](http://www.lutherkinghouse.org.uk)

1. **Waiting in Hope Saturday 14 December 10-4** – led by Jan Berry.
2. **Follow your Star Monday 6 January 10-4** – led by Jan Berry

### Midlands

**TOWARDS a THEOLOGY that LIBERATES THEOLOGY Sat 26 October,** Carrs Lane Church  
Birmingham. See <http://www.freetobelieve.org.uk/conferences.html> or ring 0121 643 6151

Much of what passes as Christian thinking in today's world has become 'a theology of displacement'. It speaks to the upright and uptight within us, but fails in its deeper task of setting us free. It leaves us with a withered vision of the Cross; an understanding of the 'atonement' under which much mainstream Christian belief perceives the death of

Jesus as satisfaction or substitution for God's punishment of human sin. We need to rethink the central Christian message. We need to liberate our theology so that it can break through and liberate our blockages. We need to trust that God wants us to take spiritual risks and to experiment; to balance sola scriptura (only by Scripture) with sola experientia (only by experience). This demands the radical leap of seeing the Cross not as an instrument of God's punishment, but as the supreme symbol of nonviolence and of God's violence-absorbing love. **Dr Alistair McIntosh** is a Scottish writer, broadcaster and activist on social, environmental and spiritual issues, raised on the Isle of Lewis. He is a Fellow of the Centre for Human Ecology, & a former Visiting Professor at the University of Strathclyde His books include Hell & High Water: Climate Change, Hope and the Human Condition on the cultural and spiritual dimensions of climate change, Rekindling Community on the spiritual basis of inter-relationship, and Soil and Soul: People versus Corporate Power on land reform and environmental protection.

**The Inward Teacher. 29 November – 1 December. Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham.**  
[www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk) with Ginny Wall.

## Wales

**Sexuality and spirituality. For caregivers and spiritual directors. 26-29 November**  
St Beuno's [www.beunos.com](http://www.beunos.com) with Brendan Callaghan SJ.

## South West

**Creative writing and journaling as spiritual practice. 2 November.** Epiphany House Truro,  
[www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk](http://www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk) with Chris Kingshott.

**Sarum College** [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk):

1. **Being Adult in our Faith Today. Monday 11 November** with Diarmuid O'Murchu, priest, social psychologist and author of Adult Faith, Christianity's Dangerous Memory, and God in the Midst of Change. Thanks to the information explosion many people today question and explore to a degree unknown in previous times. The implications for faith and spirituality are formidable, and through input and dialogue will be explored in this one-day workshop.
2. **God, Beauty and the Imagination. 9-12 December** M.A. module open to non-students.
3. **A Road Revealed, A Journey Made..** a series of ongoing formation workshops for Spiritual Directors January - June 2014 with Rev Tony Nolan msc Programme Leader: Spirituality in Everyday Life  
<http://www.sarum.ac.uk/learning/christian-spirituality/short-courses/a-road-revealed-a-journey-made> Tel: 01722 424804.

**Being Honest to God Conference, 8-10 November.** Progressive Christianity Network.  
Swanick. Non-residential places only are available.  
[http://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/being\\_honest\\_to\\_god](http://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events/detail/being_honest_to_god)

In challenging an understanding of God as an old man, enthroned above the clouds, an external deity remote from our everyday lives, Robinson threw down the gauntlet to his readers to think critically and creatively about God and the world. Honest to God had implications for theology and biblical study, for worship and liturgy and for moral decision making. Speakers:

- Prof Elaine Graham of Chester University is the Conference Chair and will begin the conference with a talk entitled "Being Honest".

- Richard Holloway, formerly Bishop of Edinburgh and well known for his writing and broadcasting as well as his work in the arts will give an after dinner talk on the theme “Being Honest about God”.
- Canon Dr Martyn Percy, Principal of Ripon Theological College, Cuddesdon will invite the conference to be Honest about the Church.
- Prof James Crossley, from the Biblical Studies Department of Sheffield University will speak to the title: “Being Honest about Jesus”.
- Simon Barrow, Co-Director of Ekklesia, will encourage discussion on topical ethical themes, with an invitation to be Honest about Ourselves.
- Rev Dr Jan Berry, is principal of Open College at Luther King House, Manchester, a writer and liturgist who will lead us in creative thinking about worship.

**Re-visioning incarnation. 29 November – 1 December.** Ammerdown Centre, near Bath  
[www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org) Growing in adult faith today. Advent retreat with Diarmuid O’Murchu (see Sarum College event above.)

**The Aramaic Prayer of Jesus – Dancing into Awareness Sunday 15 December** Othona West Dorset <http://www.othona-bb.org.uk/>

Take a spiritual journey into the timeless wisdom of Jesus, with *Philip O'Donohoe*. This danced prayer cycle uses words attributed to Jesus in his native Aramaic language and can allow one to experience the 'Lord's Prayer' in an entirely new way. Through heart-centred body prayer and devotional singing this prayer offers the opportunity to tune ourselves to God and helps us to live fully and intentionally in this awareness

*Philip O'Donohoe* is a master of spiritual dance and has trained in various forms of meditation over the last 25 years. Since 1988 he has studied continuously under the guidance of his teacher, Neil Douglas-Klotz. Philip is a leading exponent of the Dances of Universal Peace, a form of group meditation through sacred sounds and devotional movements.

## South East

**Meditatio Centre, St Mark’s Myddleton Square, London** [www.wccmmeditatio.org](http://www.wccmmeditatio.org):

**1. THE PERSON WHO LIVES IN THE MOMENT LIVES IN ETERNITY** Saturday 2 November 11-4

**Led by Peter Tyler and Hymie Wise**

This day will be exploring the theme of Spirituality and Mental Health which will be particularly useful for Spiritual Directors, therapists and Chaplains to be led by Dr Peter Tyler and Hymie Wise both psychotherapists and spiritual directors.

**Dr Peter Tyler** is also a Reader in Pastoral Theology and Spirituality at St Mary's University College, Twickenham.

**Hymie Wise** is a psychotherapist and has been practising for over 40 years.

**2. SPIRIT MATTERS. PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS** Saturday 21 December, 10.30 - 4.30.

**Led by Laurence Freeman OSB**

**Laurence Freeman** is a Benedictine monk and the spiritual successor of John Main. He is the Director of **The World Community for Christian Meditation**. Author, retreat leader and international speaker, Fr Laurence sees the contemplative as the essential dimension of all spirituality. Christmas dramatically transcends the dualism of Divine and Human or spiritual and material. This is the meaning of these particular days - that can renew us daily.

Meditation puts the vision into practice and so will be an integral part of this day of preparation for Christmas this year which Fr Laurence will again lead.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century CHRISTIANITY: Exploring Contemporary Faith, Science and Experience** 5/6 November with Janice Dolley, Don MacGregor & Tim Firth . [www.christiansawakening.org](http://www.christiansawakening.org)

A one-day workshop to explore a new understanding of the Christian message that is relevant for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and springs from both personal experience and also recent scientific theories. The day will include inner stillness, sharings, visualisation and time for exploring your own questions.

Horsham 5 Nov 10-4.30, Lingfield 6 Nov 10-4.30.

**Worth Abbey West Sussex** [www.worthabbey.net](http://www.worthabbey.net):

**1. Living Sanctuary retreat 11-14 November** with the monastic team

**2. Wisdom of the Desert 15-17 November** retreat with Michael Woodward

**St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, London**

<http://www.stethelburgas.org/events>

**1. Confronting Terror and Violence**

Saturday, November 16

Stories of Conscience, Conviction and Courage from Northern Ireland

**2. Re-imagining the Sacred: Economics**

Tuesday, November 19, 18:30

Money is often seen as the antithesis of what is sacred, and Western capitalism is often associated with greed. How might an understanding of the sacred change the way we relate to this fundamental aspect of life? With Charles Eisenstein (Author of Sacred Economics) and Mark Boyle (the 'Moneyless Man').

**3. Re-imagining the Sacred: Education**

Wednesday, December 4, 18:30

How can an understanding or experience of the sacred be included in how we educate our young people? What new approaches are informing the spiritual and moral dimension of education? With Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh (Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha) and Scherto Gill (Guerrard Hermes Foundation for Peace).

**The Wisdom Jesus and me. 16 November.** London Centre for Spirituality [www.spiritualitycentre.org](http://www.spiritualitycentre.org)

with Revd Mark Godson. Nurturing the contemplative tradition today.

**The Road Less Travelled. 30 November.** The Well at Willen Bucks [www.thewellatwillen.org.uk](http://www.thewellatwillen.org.uk)

Quiet day. In search of a personal God? Are you yearning for freshness, vitality and deeper meaning? With Marcus Armstrong and Margaret Moakes.

**New group proposed**

LS member David Carter (from London) writes: I'm interested in **prayer and meditation in the Judeo-Christian tradition** but giving overall **equal weight to male and female language and imagery for God/dess** – also theological issues in this area. I'd like to contact any relevant groups or, if there aren't any, be willing to start one. Please contact me on [drc.book1@gmail.com](mailto:drc.book1@gmail.com)

## Christmas retreats

There are a number of retreat houses offering Christmas stays, including The Abbey House Glastonbury [www.abbeyhouse.org](http://www.abbeyhouse.org), Ammerdown near Bath [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org), Holy Rood House Yorkshire [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk) and The Othona Community in Dorset <http://www.othona-bb.org.uk/>

## Regular events

**Soul Space** first Sunday in the month at 6.30pm held at Queen St Methodist Church, **Stirling**, Scotland. A sharing time—everyone welcome of all faiths or none to share something that you have found stimulating on a theme. Contact Jon Cape: [jon@cameroncape.net](mailto:jon@cameroncape.net)

**Holy City's** October to December 2013 programme **BODY... Flesh and bones and earthy faith** explores and celebrates ways that flesh, bone, spirit, senses, head and heart are understood in historical and contemporary, biblical and church experience. Each evening consists of participative, reflective workshops and liturgy engaging body, mind and spirit. These events are linked with the **Iona Community**.

The events are on the first Sunday of the month: 3rd November, 1st December 2013 @ 6.30-9.30pm in Renfield St Stephen's Centre, 260 Bath Street, **Glasgow** <http://www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk/>

**Breathing Space** meditation sessions, **Creative Spirit** workshops, and **Still Waters** reflective waterside walks at Tree of Life Retreat Centre, Chelmondiston, Suffolk [www.reshapers.org](http://www.reshapers.org)

“Tree of Life is a dispersed community based on the Shotley Peninsular in Suffolk. We offer a regular programme of events to foster our creative spirit and support our journey to find community and spiritual health. Our programme is inclusive for people of all faiths and none, is based on hospitality and mutual sharing and provides resources for daily living as well as time out for reflection and refreshment. For the past five years, we have offered a regular rotating programme on the third Saturday of each month.”