



Living Spirituality Connections
Resources for the spiritual journey

EVENTS RUN BY MANY CENTRES AND ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE UK

October-December 2017

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.

New September 2017 events not included in the last events listing

25 September, 7-8.30. Start of series on the Reformation run by the St Martin in the Fields, covering Reforming Church, Reforming Marriage, Reforming Attitudes to Race, Reforming Attitudes to Islam In Partnership with Coexist House, reforming Scripture. Speakers include Nicholas Holtam, Alister McGrath, Lucy Winkett, Mona Siddiqui, Sam Wells. London WC2. www.smitf.org. To ensure a place please book a free ticket at stmartininthefields.eventbrite.com.

29 September, 7 for 7.30. The Annual Southwark Feminist Theology Lecture: Hagar and the Politics of Migration. Speaker: **Professor Yvonne Sherwood**. Location: Garry Weston Library, Southwark Cathedral. London SE1 cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/workshop/calendar-by-type.

October 2017

2 October Quiet Day in the footsteps of Thomas Merton, providing a helpful background for a deeper life of prayer. Led by **James Shakespeare**. Leicestershire. www.laundeabbey.org.uk

4 October 2-3.30 Religion and the Nation; start of a six week course looking at how Religion is interacting with Politics and Society in the UK. London NW6 <http://londoninterfaith.org.uk/calendar/>

4 October Celtic spirituality. Iona and St Columba. Deep silence. Led by **Jane Hall**. Suffolk.
www.otleyhall.co.uk

5-8 October Celebration! The sacred way to save the environment. Why faith-based environmentalism worldwide is vital and what we can all do. Led by **Martin Palmer**. Dorset
<https://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk/>

6-8 October 'Soundings and Signposts: what did the Reformation ever do for us?'
Epiphany Group Annual Conference. Guiding our reflection on the continuing impact of the Reformation - 500 years on - for our shared ecumenical and Ignation journeying. Speakers: **Elsbeth Strachan, Tim Duffy and Gero McLoughlin SJ**. Perth, Scotland. Payment needed by end September. Details from email: bbuda555@icloud.com

6-8 The October The Art of Gratitude. This weekend for women will be a journey into gratitude. Rich resources will inform us – from the parable of the ten lepers, to the Magnificat and more. A professional storyteller will weave traditional wisdom, while contemporary research will show us that the practice of gratitude is what makes us thrive. Gwent. www.llansor.org

6-8 October Creating a World Beyond Beliefs That Divide. With **Gretta Vosper** Leeds. **Gretta Vosper** is a post-theist author, founder of the Canadian Centre for Progressive Christianity and a United Church of Canada minister in Toronto. Her work bridges Progressive Christianity and atheism exploring beyond the boundaries of Christian thought. She has come into conflict with the United Church authorities over her writing and is currently awaiting a decision over whether she should be defrocked.

Organised by the Progressive Christianity Network and Carrs Lane Church in Birmingham. See 13-15 October for Birmingham event. <https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk>

7 October Eco Church and Shrinking the Footprint Conference London W1.

An opportunity for representatives from churches of all denominations to come together to share and learn about protecting nature and caring for God's earth as an expression of discipleship and mission through the Eco Church award scheme.

If you're looking for practical guidance on how your church can demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth, then the Eco Church conference is for you – whether or not your church has yet registered with the Eco Church award scheme. For the Northern conference see 21 October.

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eco-church-conference-south-tickets-36275965389

8 October Eco Fun Palace Day at St James's Piccadilly, London W1. 12.30 to 6pm ish. All welcome.

“Everyone an artist, everyone a scientist.”



What is a Fun Palace? A campaign for culture at the heart of community – an annual weekend of arts and science events created by, for and with local people.

What do ‘local’ and ‘community’ mean at St James’s? We have an amazing range of science and arts organisations very close by, and many talented individuals and groups in our geographically dispersed community.

Why an Eco Fun Palace? To celebrate planet Earth on Harvest Sunday through cultural engagement with the natural world. St. James’s achieved an Eco Church Bronze Award in 2016, and this celebratory day is part of the journey towards Gold.

What’s happening? Activities such as pavement geology; drumming; minibeast hunts; dance; DNA science and conservation activities; singing; the Universe Story timeline; competitions; community artwork; labyrinth walking; bio-media meltdown; fossils; knitting and much more as the programme develops.

Further info: www.sjp.org nearer the time. The day is free of charge. **Living Spirituality Connections** will be there with the Chartres Labyrinth, and an art stall.

9-12 October Silence by the Sea – Exploring the Wisdom Traditions: 2nd CANA Wisdom School retreat. Dorset. <http://www.christiansawakening.org/calendar/>

13 October Days of Fire and Grace. St. Fursey and Julian of Norwich in Conversation. 6.30pm reception; 7.30pm talk, discussion, reflective Fursey liturgy. With Father **Brendan Pelphey**. Norwich. www.juliancentre.org/events. See also 14 October.

13-15 October Restoring Balance: Working with Nature. Greenspirit Annual Gathering. Worcestershire. www.greenspirit.org.uk

13-15 October **Gretta Vosper** in Birmingham, as above, for 6-8 October.

14 October Cosmic Science: Julian of Norwich's Vision of Space, Time and the Apocalypse.

With Father **Brendan Pelphrey**. Norwich. www.juliancentre.org/events. See also 13 October.

14 October Skilful journeying with a soul friend. Led by Rev Prof **Peter Gubi**. Exploring the nature of one-to-one spiritual accompaniment. Chester. www.retreathousechester.co.uk

16-20 October Celtic rituals and ceremonies for every part of life. Creating ritual in the context of some silence and personal space. Led by **Richard and Maggi Deimel**.

Northumberland. www.aidanandhilda.org

20-22 October First weekend of **Learning to be at Home** Led by **Sr Monica Butler** focusing on 'coming home to the soul', the boundaries of the self, the masculine and feminine spirit within us. The second will explore the conscious and unconscious aspects of our being, and how we can recover our intuition and desire. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

21 October Eco Church and Shrinking the Footprint Conference Sheffield. See 7 October London conference for description. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eco-church-conference-north-tickets-36276079731.

21 October Wellbeing. The day seeks to explore how we can find Christ through our whole being: body, heart, mind and soul. Led by Professor **Peter Tyler**. Kent.

www.othonawestdorset.org.uk/

21 October 11-4 Meeting with Meister Eckhart led by **Mary Haynes**. London NW6. To book email jennifer.sandler109@gmail.com

21 October Breathing Spaces on the Pilgrim Journey. Small Pilgrim Places Network annual conference. Ali Green will speak on her reflections on Short Pilgrimages to Small Pilgrim Places. Peterborough. Booking: email Daphne Lynas at quarkerly@ntlworld.com.

23-27 October Celtic Wisdom for the Journey. Learning to grow in Christ like the Celtic saints. Led by **David Cole**. Northumberland. www.aidanandhilda.org

27-29 October Start of **HerSpace**, a series of three weekend retreats for women to journey deeply with other women who desire to live fully. Led by **Valerie Allen**.

27-29 October 2017 HerStory We will reflect on our own stories and women who have influenced us.

9-11 March 2018 HerPower We will explore our power and how to be true to ourselves.

1-3 June 2018 HerBeauty We will celebrate our beauty and goodness as those who embody the image of God.

Near Inverness, Scottish Highlands. <http://www.coachhousekilmuir.org/>

31 October 7.15 pm. Perennial Wisdom for Troubled times. Contemplative Awakening and Conscious Engagement. Speaker: **Cynthia Bourgeault**. Bristol.

To book, or for more information, email bristol@christianmeditation.org.uk or call Roger Layet on 01275 463727.

November 2017

1-3 November Praying with our lives. Journaling as spiritual practice. Birmingham. www.woodbrooke.org.uk

3-5 November Violence and the Sacred (Girard). Corrymeela, Northern Ireland.

Can we build experiences of communion with one another or must we continue with the ways of violence and exclusion? **Derick Wilson and Duncan Morrow** will be examining the thinking of René Girard, the renowned Stanford scholar whose work focused on scapegoating, violence, religion and belonging.

The Corrymeela Community has been uniquely influenced by the theories of Girard and the challenge it poses for reading and understanding the biblical texts, especially those of the New Testament. Corrymeela has fifty years of experience working alongside fractured communities and groups who are finding their relationships difficult, as well as addressing relational, societal, structural and power dynamics. www.corrymeela.org

3-5 November Seeds of Hope in a Dark World. Led by **Margaret Silf**. Jesus came to bring life in all its fullness. County Durham. www.minsteracres.org

3-5 November. Women's spirituality retreat. Saints, sinners and saviours. Liberating others and ourselves through our re-membering. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

3-5 November Alive to life, alive to death. With **Richard Reardon** and **Gordon Melvin**. Led by two powerful and experienced speakers, this weekend will look at the art of dying: both in small, everyday ways, just as much as in our final moments – and the vital connection between the two sorts of dying. We'll be highly sensitive to each other in matters both tearful and joyful. This time will challenge us, help us to be more real about the passing of time – and the joy of the present moment. It is less intended for the bereaved specifically, than for all of us who are mortal. Gwent. www.llansor.org

3-5 November A Weekend at the Threshold. With Susan Mansfield. Edinburgh.

There are few things as constant as change, whether we choose it for ourselves or find it thrust upon us. This non-residential retreat is for anyone experiencing a change, or considering one, dealing with the closing of a door or looking forward to a new door opening. It's a chance to pause on the threshold, value what has gone before, anticipate what might be to come.

To book, please contact Susan Mansfield on wordsmansfield@gmail.com, or 07803 620038.

4 November Seeing with the Eye of the Heart: Contemplation as a Path of Numinous Knowing. Led by Rev Dr **Cynthia Bourgeault**. London SW1.

<http://www.silenceinthecity.org.uk/booking.html>

11 November Creating Graceful Conversation in Groups. Led by **Shoreline Conversations**. Chester. www.retreathousechester.co.uk

11 November St Teresa of Avila. An exploration of Teresa's vision of prayer as truly apostolic in the world today. Led by **Sheila Grimwood**. Kent. www.thefriars.org.uk

10-12 November The Psychology of Flourishing. Led by Fr. **Roger Dawson**. North east Wales. www.beunos.com

12 November 11-4 Realization of Oneness led by **Martin Nathanael**. London NW6. To book email jennifer.sandler109@gmail.com

Living Spirituality Connections event:

12 November 1.45 – 4pm Searching a Communal Heart: Earth Literacy, Ecology and Spirituality. Speaker: **Professor Ursula King.** Living Spirituality Connections annual partnership event with St James's Church Piccadilly. London W1.

The contemporary understanding of spirituality is closely related to a new consciousness of the Earth and what Thomas Berry calls 'Earth literacy'. The Universe story, Earth story and human story are intimately interconnected. The whole planet and all life are understood as a vast eco-system linked to philosophical and spiritual dimensions. We will explore how this challenges us **to love and act differently in a global world that can reveal to us a common mind and heart, and a new sense of divine presence that pervades the whole universe.**

Professor **Ursula King** is Professor Emerita of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Bristol. She has published widely on gender issues in world religions, interfaith dialogue, spirituality, and on the resonance today of the work of Teilhard de Chardin.

Booking. Email Petra Griffiths, **Living Spirituality Connections** Coordinator, at petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk. Donations of between £10 and £3 to event expenses will be welcome on the day. Light refreshments will be served at 3.30pm.

If you would like to inform friends and colleagues about this event, please give them a link to our website livingspirit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ursula_king.pdf

13-15 November The Hidden Gospel. Jesus' message in his native Aramaic reveals depths and dimensions hidden when filtered through Greek and Latin. Led by **Neil Douglas-Klotz.** Dorset. othonawestdorset.org.uk/

14 November Step through the door. Exploring Teresa of Avila's interior castle. Led by **Angela Ashwin.** Nottinghamshire. www.sacristaprebend.wordpress.com

18 November Developing a personal theology of the heart. Led by Rev Prof **Peter Gubi.** Exploring how spiritually reflexive groups can help. Chester. www.retreathousechester.co.uk

18 November Reflective Living - Uncovering/Recovering our spiritual next of kin. For many people, traditional patterns of church life just don't cut it anymore. This day is for those who want to reclaim their own spiritual path in the company of other spirited nomads and pilgrims. Near Perth, Scotland. www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk

24-26 November Transpersonal Narratives in Eco-Psychology. Conference at the Eden Project in Cornwall. <http://www.confer.uk.com/eco-psychology.html>

Living Spirituality Connections event, in association with the Institute of Theological Partnerships at the University of Winchester and Spirit of Peace:

25 November Towards Human Flourishing. This is the start of a series of events exploring The Pathways to Human Flourishing. In the face of growing divisions in society – politically, socially and economically – we invite you to come and explore:

- what do human beings need to flourish?
- how do we create a culture of human flourishing for all?
- what is the relationship between human and planetary flourishing?

**Speakers: Diarmuid O’Murchu – *Human Flourishing: A New Evolutionary Threshold*
Professor Lisa Isherwood – *Earth Flourishing*.**

Winchester. Click here for the event invitation:

livingspirit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/flourishing_invitation.pdf

Donations of £15 will be requested on the day. To book your place, please contact brenda.sharp@winchester.ac.uk

25 November Advent Reflection – Wrestling, Resting and Waiting on God. Corrymeela, Northern Ireland. www.corrymeela.org

27 November Sacred activism: Faith-based change making without burning out. London EC1. <https://stethelburgas.org/event/sacred-activism-nov-2017/>

29 November Ageing: Blessing or Burden? Understanding the Spiritual Journey of Older People . The day will offer an overview of the thinking and practice in the area of spiritual care. It will be useful to those who are involved in Pastoral Ministry but also those who might want to step back and reflect on their relationship to age. Salisbury. www.sarum.ac.uk

December 2017

1-3 December A theology of reconciliation with God and each other for today. Led by **Stanley Hauerwas**. County Antrim Northern Ireland. www.corrymeela.org

1-3 December Exploring the Journey with Reflection, Rest and Response. Advent retreat with Revd **Elizabeth Baxter** and Revd **Dr Gillian Straine**. North Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

4-7 December Advent with the Saints. We try to make holy this season of longing and expectation to celebrate Christmas well. Leicestershire. www.belmontabbey.org.uk

8 December Guided Quiet Day - Journey of the Heart - Rooted and Grounded in Love Led by **Libby Dobson & Sarah Chabowska**. Near Bath www.ammerdown.org

11 December Homecoming with Andy Percey. Glastonbury. <http://abbeyhouse.org/events>
Deep within each of us there are parts that are searching; wandering, longing for a place to call home. Whether it is the Magi, the shepherds, Mary and Joseph or countless others throughout the centuries ... whether it is you ... Advent is a season for those searchers. Over the course of the day we will have opportunity to engage with poetry, art, scripture and silence as we hear the call of God to come home.

22-27 Christmas Houseparty. Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

23-27 December Christmas Houseparty. Cumbria. www.rydalhall.org

23-27 December Christmas in Community. Dorset www.othonawestdorset.org.uk

23-27 December. Christmas Houseparty. Dorset. www.the-greenhouse.org

29 December – 2 January New Year in Community. Dorset www.othonawestdorset.org.uk

30 December - 2 January New Year Houseparty. Dorset. www.the-greenhouse.org

30 December – 3 January New Year Houseparty. N. Yorks. www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

31 December – 4 January New Year Houseparty. Glamorgan. www.nicholastonhouse.org