

EVENTS

July-September 2022

Put on by many centres and organisations across the UK

Compiled by **Living Spirituality Connections**

www.livingspirit.org.uk

JULY

2 – 8 July: Pilgrimage at the margins: dignity, agency and power with Niall Cooper

Iona Abbey, Scotland. <https://iona.org.uk/visit-and-stay/iona-abbey-centre/iona-abbey-programme-bookings/#2022-programme>

Celebrating Church Action on Poverty's 40th anniversary. We will listen to and amplify the truths revealed by people and communities on the margins of British society, sharing their vision for the future and standing in solidarity with them, speaking truth to power about the changes needed to bring this about.

Monday 4 to Thursday 7 July. Summer School - Behold I Make all Things New

<http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/> N. Yorks.

Speakers: **Revd Prof June Boyce-Tillman, Helen Warwick, Dr Alison Jasper. Revd Prof David Jasper, Revd Becky Roberts, Revd Liz Crumlish.**

Come and join our learning and discussions, set within our healing gardens and social spaces, as we find ways through our current climate, accompanied by good food and laughter. Residential and day guests welcome.

5-10 July Pleroma, or the fullness of being. Come and Deepen Your Meditation Practice at Bonnevaux with Laurence Freeman. Bonnevaux France. <https://bonnevauxwccm.org/>
World Community for Christian Meditation.

Fr Laurence's theme will be 'Pleroma' the New Testament word for the fullness of being in Christ which grows in us. This will also be a grace filled time to meet some of our meditators from the UK. All our events taking place at Bonnevaux offer an opportunity to discover the rich cultural and historical French and European heritage of the 12th-century Abbaye de Bonnevaux, as well as to explore the varied and natural beauty of the land which we cultivate as a model of ecological responsibility.

6-10 July Mindfulness, Nature & the Environment. Dorset

<https://www.thonawestdorset.org.uk/> *continued*

Meditate and get down-to-earth with former forest church leader **Tim Stead**. In these few days we will spend our morning sessions in the chapel learning simple mindfulness practices. Our afternoons will be outside in the grounds of Othona; there we can practise bringing what we have learned into our relationship with the rest of nature. Finally in the evenings we will reflect further with the help of films by John O'Donohue and Bruce Parry, also celebrating our relationship with the season around a fire with song and simple ritual. In the end, it will not be new knowledge which saves us, but a shift in perspective. Come and experience what this might feel like as we enjoy this beautiful part of the world.

Thursday 7 July 8pm-9pm. The Wisdom Jesus Path. Talk by Rev Don MacGregor via Zoom. – four breakthroughs in recent understanding, the role of Jesus as Wisdom teacher and the Cosmic Christ. Don is a retired Anglican priest living in St Davids, Pembrokeshire. He is passionate to find a new way forward for Christianity which incorporates twenty-first century science and worldviews, blended with the wisdom teachings of all ages. Details from <https://www.cana.org.uk/>

Friday 8 July 10-4 From Lament to Action: Resourcing Inclusion course. Salisbury. www.sarum.ac.uk

This study and reflection day with The Rev Canon **Dr Chigor Chike** will explore how we deal with racism, diversity and inclusion within our congregations and local communities within the context of the Church of England's "From Lament to Action" report.

The day will consider the following questions:
How has the Christian tradition been used to support racism?
How can the church and its people come to a fuller understanding that racism is a problem for everyone, and how can we challenge systems and structures that are racist?
What are effective strategies for congregations and communities for anti-racism?
What are micro-aggressions and how might we address them?
How does the Church of England think of its identity in relation to this issue?
What can parishes comprised of people who are solely white do?
Where does modern-day slavery fit into all this?
What skills or ideas are beneficial for clergy working in diverse area?

The Revd Canon Dr **Chigor Chike**, a Sarum College Trustee, is the vicar of Emmanuel Church, Forest Gate, London – an inner-city Church of England church serving a vibrant, diverse community in East London.

Fri 8 July. Deadline for applications for the St Bedes' Pastoral Centre two year course in **Personal & Spiritual Development**, starting in September, Thursday evenings 7–9.15pm.

* Growing in personal awareness, spiritual practice & reflective living

* providing a safe space to deepen our relationship with God and explore its creative expression in our everyday context

* primarily experiential and grounded in Ignatian spirituality

* rooted in the premise that the deepening of our awareness of God and ourselves go hand-in-hand and enabling greater wholeness and integration in our own lives, in our community life and in the life of creation.

Details and booking: [St Bede's Pastoral Centre \(stbedes.org.uk\)](http://stbedes.org.uk)

Sat 9 July from 12 noon LSC Midlands Group meeting looking at **Hildegard of Bingen**, In Solihull. All welcome. For details contact Anne Gardner: a.gardner@me.com.

Sat 9 July 10-12. Wisdom on the Way: Connecting with the Divine through the beauty of needs. Online session with **Jenny Tipping**, Certified Trainer in Nonviolent Communication and Quaker. Part of the series: *Dwelling Deep with Mystical Christianity*.

<https://contemplativefire.org/>

Nonviolent communication calls us to connect with ourselves and others on the level of universal human needs. Using a combination of group exercises and guided meditation, we will connect with our deep humanity through needs consciousness, and through that open our hearts to a sense of divine abundance.

For the Zoom link email info@contemplativefire.org

12 July 7.30 – 9 pm online. The Faith Experiment. <https://gohealth.org.uk/> Guild of Health.

We will be exploring the intersection of science and religion through the perspective of healthcare science. You might be a doctor, nurse or allied health professional, or you may be just curious about this field – whatever your interest, this workshop, led by experts, will be of interest to you. The course will also be of interest to church leaders who want to explore science and religion with their church.

This is a programme dedicated to exploring the interface of science & faith in a fun and approachable way, through the lens of Healthcare Science. The programme Directors,

Davinder and Matthew Gardner, are both registered Clinical Scientists who trained and worked in the NHS. They will also give an overview of the Faith Experiment (a novel course for church communities). Matt & Davinder founded The Faith Experiment to explore the interface of science and faith. The aims are to educate and prepare Christians for scientific conversations and open the hearts & minds of non-Christians to the idea that science and faith need not be in conflict. They hope to take Faith Experiment sessions out to churches and organisations willing to host these events for their members and communities.

14-16 July. Free To Believe National Conference: Keeping Hope Alive.

Herts. <http://www.freetobelieve.org.uk/>

Speakers:

Fiona Bennett - Moderator Elect of URC General Assembly.

Karen Campbell - URC Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries.

Alex Clare-Young - Pioneer URC minister, author of '*Being Human, Trans and Christian.*'

Helen Garton - Minister of St Columba's, Oxford.

Iain McDonald - Founder member of URC Gay and Lesbian Caucus.

18-20 July. Modern Church Conference: Living in Faith, Hope, and Love. Herts.

<https://modernchurch.org.uk/>

Living in Faith, Hope, and Love partially mirrors the title of the ***Living in Love and Faith*** (LLF) project of the Church of England. The Conference will provide constructive theological approaches to the chosen themes of LLF ('identity, sexuality, relationships, marriage'), and make good some of its omissions (e.g., gender, history, 'abusive theology'). The presenters are well known experts in their fields of study. There will be seven presentations over two days, and each presenter will also provide a follow-up seminar. While LLF is an Anglican project, the topics will be of interest well beyond the Church of England.

Speakers:

The Revd Dr **Christina (Tina) Beardsley** SMMS, **Susannah Cornwall**, **Helen King**,

The Revd **Jarel Robinson-Brown**, **Rachel Starr**, **Johanna Stiebert**, **Adrian Thatcher**.

24-28 July "Dying to Live" Creation Spirituality retreat with **Sr Margaret Rose McSparran CP**, **Sr Anne Harnett CP**, **Sr Nellie McLaughlin RSM** and **Sr Coirle McCarthy RSM**. Near Belfast. For leaflet go to <http://www.drumalis.co.uk/programme>

AUGUST

5-7 August. Breathe Deep. Led by **Gail and Ian Adams.** Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

An opportunity to pause and breathe deep, to reorientate and move forward. With a spacious mix of teaching and practice, Gail and Ian will open up ways to be present and to pray. Drawing on stories from the life of Jesus, exploring insights around how we truly flourish as human beings, and giving attention to the beautiful landscape around Ammerdown, we may rediscover the gifts of peace, belovedness and purpose - enabling us in turn to help bring renewed hope to our world.

Sat 20 August 9.30-4. Quiet Day led by **Christine Clinch and Rev Narinder Tegally.**

Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

Welcome to the table! We reflect on the unconditional love of God and the hospitality we offer others. We gather together in the quiet space of Ammerdown to reflect on our lives and our spiritual journey, through readings, prayer, music and meditation. There will be plenty of time to walk the labyrinth and the grounds, as well as the opportunity to be creative through art and writing.

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 1 September 2-4 God of the Oppressed: The Revolutionary Theology of James H. Cone. Led by **Anthony Reddie.** Near Bath. www.ammerdown.org

James Hal Cone (1938-2018) was the 'Grand Patriarch' of Black Liberation theology. While there has been a form of Black theology in existence since the era of transatlantic, chattel slavery of Africans, James H Cone is credited with creating the modern, systematic dimension of the discipline. His book *'Black Theology and Black Power'*, first published in 1969, paved the way for the further, scholarly development of Black theology. His early classic texts, *'A Black Theology of Liberation'* (1970) and *'God of the Oppressed'* (1975), helped to define the development of a revolutionary new approach to academic theology and the task of the theologian. Cone's indefatigable fight to expose 'Theology's great – silence in the face of White Supremacy', was his life's project, in which the task of theology was to align itself with the liberationist dimensions of the God revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It can be argued that the 21st century creation of the 'Black Lives Matter' movement was the vindication of his radical approach to theology that spoke out in defence of the sanctity of Black human experience. This workshop will explore the central ideas of James Cone's work and legacy.

3 September 10-4. Sitting at the feet of the Carmelite Mystics. Surrey.

<https://www.christian-retreat.org/>

Teresa of Avila famously described prayer as nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends, taking time to be alone with Him who we know loves us. She, and the other great Carmelite mystics, have much to teach us about how beloved we are and the grandeur of our calling. They also help us to be authentically ourselves in the reality of our daily lives. Join us as we sit at their feet and enter the mystery of God's transformative love.

2-4 September. Her Story. Led by **Valerie Allen.** Near Perth.

<https://www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk>

We will reflect on our own stories and the women who have influenced our journeys, both those we have known and those we have never met. We will also wonder about the stories of women whose names are absent from history and women whose stories we have never heard but perhaps should have. During the weekend we will balance time for personal reflection and group sharing with time to breathe deeply, relax, rest, and enjoy the beauty of our surroundings. We will use creative expression, wellness practices and simple movement—integrating body, mind and spirit.

A Woman's Eyes. HerStory uses a feminist lens, inviting us to look at life and the Christian faith through a woman's eyes. We will privilege women's voices and draw wisdom and inspiration from contemporary, historical and biblical women. **Valerie Allen's** passion is women's spirituality and creating spaces in which women can meet, share, and be spiritually nurtured and empowered.

"A quiet space to hear God speak to and through the wisdom of women" - Christine

"Imaginative and creative, always full of wonderful inspiration and connection." - Sarah

9 Sept 10-4. Contemplative Prayer and Visual Art. Two Masters of Wonder: Vilhelm

Hammershøi and Marc Chagall. Led by Revd **Luigi Gioia.** Salisbury. www.sarum.ac.uk

9-11, September. The Embodied Contemplative with Terry Doyle.

County Durham. <https://www.minsteracres.org/>

This retreat will explore how the practice of meditation can also be encountered through the language of the body using breathing exercises, gentle stretching and slow Tai Chi movements to complement the seated meditation periods. "Be Still Like a Mountain, and

Flow Like a Great River” as the workshop and retreat will be about exploring how to discover the strength and stillness within ourselves that helps us to flow and engage with life more fully.

Sat 10 September 10.30 – 4.30. Creation, Creature, Creativity with Peter Brennan.

Kent. <https://www.quietview.co.uk/>

This innovatory course explores how poets across the ages have sought to understand and evoke the creation and the creative principle itself. After considering scriptural accounts, we shall read and discuss distinctive works by major poets representing the development of thought and feeling about creation and creativity across several centuries. Throughout, we shall be concerned to acknowledge the particular qualities of the poems as well as to appreciate the ideas emerging from them. No previous knowledge or study of religion or of poetry is necessary. The only requirements are an open mind and an open heart.

Please book by emailing Peter at brennos@hotmail.com . Peter has run courses at the City Lit and many other educational establishments.

10-17 September. Place, Presence and Prayer: A retreat on Ynys Enlli (the island of tides) - Bardsey Island. Run by:

<https://www.beunos.com/retreat/place-presence-and-prayer-a-retreat-on-ynyss-enlli-bardsey-island>

Join us for a week’s retreat in this unique and beautiful setting. Two miles off the tip of the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales, Bardsey has been an ancient religious site from the 6th century onwards. In medieval times an Augustinian Abbey there became the end point for thousands making pilgrimages across North Wales and it is said that 20,000 saints are buried on the island. Until a hundred years ago the island had a population of up to 200 and several farms. Now there are only a handful of permanent residents, but many people still make the journey there to stay for a week – some just to relax, some to watch the many and rare birds (the island is a Bird Observatory, National Nature Reserve and SSSI), some to write or paint or make music, and others on pilgrimage or to make a retreat. These days the island is very carefully managed by Ymddiriedolaeth Ynys Enlli/The Bardsey Island Trust.

The early monastic island dwellers believed that nothing was secular because everything was sacred: nothing is outside God’s love and grace. They believed that the presence of God infuses daily life and thus transforms it, so that any moment, any relationship, any object, any job of work, can become an encounter with God. They focussed on the seeking of God who is ‘the one thing necessary’ – the very foundation of life. Our hope is that a week spent on Bardsey in retreat will underscore this foundation in us and help us, once back on the

mainland, to refocus our daily lives accordingly.

This structured retreat organised by St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre will be spent mostly in silence to help us engage more deeply with the inherent holiness of the island. There will be shared evening prayer, usually in the 19th century chapel, and one-to-one spiritual accompaniment will be offered in the tradition of St Beuno's. Living a simplified life for a week will connect us to the spirituality of the island - a spirituality earthed in the ordinary, but amid great beauty and (sometimes) quite harsh weather. If you are excited by all this, please make an initial enquiry about this retreat by phoning St Beuno's on 01745 583444 and completing the St Beuno's retreat application form. We are assuming rooms with single occupancy. Please return forms to info@beunos.com. Once we receive your application we will be in touch with further details to help you decide finally if this is the right retreat for you.

12-16 September. A journey with the Northern Saints. <https://www.minsteracres.org>
Spend a week at Minsteracres (County Durham) following in the footsteps of the Northern Saints such as Aidan, Cuthbert, Oswald, Hilde and The Venerable Bede.

17 September. Autumn Quiet Day **Celebrating Hildegard of Bingen.** Thirsk, N. Yorks.
– The Earth as Mother, as part of the Quiet Garden Movement. With Helen Warwick and Mike Hall. <http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/>

19 –23 September Religious Leaders' Programme. Iona Abbey, Scotland.
<https://iona.org.uk/visit-and-stay/iona-abbey-centre/iona-abbey-programme-bookings/#2022-programme>

(a partnership between the Iona Community and Interfaith Scotland). A time for religious leaders from diverse traditions to come together share in community on the island of Iona where we'll learn about the island's significance to the spirituality of Scotland and explore its natural beauty. Reflecting on the purpose of the Scottish Religious Leaders' Forum, we will plan for the future, enjoy meals and life in community, and share collective wisdom about facing and responding to the challenges in twenty first century Scotland. We will co-create a multi-faith 20th Anniversary Service of Commitment, Celebration and Re-dedication in Iona Abbey (live-streamed globally).

24 Sept 10-3. The Nature of God. Led by **Jo Musker-Sherwood.** Near Sheffield.
<https://www.whirlowspiritualitycentre.org/>

continued.....

Nature reveals the nature of God, nurturing and renewing our faith. But what does this revelation mean in a time of climate change and biodiversity loss? In a day-long retreat we will draw close to God through nature, seeking sustenance for the challenges of living in a world of increasingly complex and interconnected crises.

Tue 27 - Thu 29 September. The Prayer Journey – The Retreat

Led by Sister **Anne Dunne** and Sister **Melanie Kingston**. Surrey.

<https://www.christian-retreat.org>

‘The Church of tomorrow will be contemplative or not at all’ Karl Rahner.

Don’t we want to pray? Is prayer a chore or a joy for us? How much do we want to pray? During this weekend we will explore how we might find a sustainable life of prayer in our daily lives that brings us closer to God.

27 - 30 September. Journey into Silence. Near Perth.

<https://www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk>

“I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there too - your reassuring presence, coming and going”. - Psalm 139: 4-5

Most people have an unsatisfied yearning for tranquillity and peace. By taking part in a silent retreat, you will give yourself the opportunity to draw back from the normal business of living, reflect on your walk in life and open yourself to God. This retreat will introduce ways of stilling yourself and prayer material. All ways of praying are a means to developing your relationship with God. Hopefully you will find and deepen one or more that support your inner journey. You will be able to avail yourself of a retreat guide who may see you each day and help as a sounding board for you to listen for God’s presence in the circumstances of your life. There will be a chance to share some of your experience at the end of your retreat if you so wish but otherwise participants are in silence. There may be other guests around who are not in silence, but you will have support to stay in silence.

Thursday 29 September Thomas Merton, the Man, the Monk, the Artist, with Esther de Waal. Worcestershire. <https://www.hollandhouse.org/>

Esther will bring to light some little-known elements of Merton’s life, namely his fascination with his Welsh roots, his wonderful poetry, beautiful calligraphy, and his genius for photography. Indeed we’re exceptionally lucky that Esther will be bringing some original photographs with her – usually only available to be seen during exhibitions.

29 September – 2 October Silence by the Sea. Dorset.

<https://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk/>



A mainly silent retreat for those who already meditate to go deeper, drawing on the Wisdom Tradition underlying many faiths. This retreat 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. This retreat, whilst largely silent, will include inputs and mutual sharing as we explore the Wisdom Tradition, along with daily periods of meditation and chants, mindful work, and time to appreciate the beautiful setting.

Retreat leaders are **Janet Lake and Richard Sloan**, both inspired by the Wisdom Schools of Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault.

30 September - 2 October "See, I Am Making Things New..." County Durham.

<https://www.minsteracres.org>

In the Old Testament we hear God say, “But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:18-19). During this retreat we will have an opportunity to explore and reveal the pathways through our wilderness, to notice where we have life and energy. To discern what God is making new in our lives.

ADVANCE NOTICES

Mon 3 October 7.30. Launch of *Holy Anarchy* by Rev Dr Graham Adams (free of charge) Manchester. <https://www.lutherking.ac.uk/>
Dismantling Domination. Embodying Community. Loving Strangeness.

At the heart of Jesus’ vision is a reality he called the kingdom of God. It’s close at hand yet

eludes our grasp; the ultimate goal to aim for, but often emerging unexpectedly – under the nose of prevailing systems and beyond the church’s control. So what is it? Unlike other kingdoms, it is best understood as Holy Anarchy – a realm in which all dynamics of domination, not least in the church, are subverted. It cuts across the loyalties and boundaries of religion and fosters the greatest possible solidarity amongst the different. Even the divine power which gives rise to it is not like the usual power of kingdoms; instead, it is symbolised by childlikeness, the significance of what is small and awesomely weak. Throughout this book, the thread of **Holy Anarchy** bears witness to the possibility of doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with your God.

Described by Anthony Reddie as 'a brilliant text that seeks to help us interpret the world differently'. Email learning@lutherking.ac.uk to register your interest.

Sunday 9 October 1.30 pm to be confirmed. Joint event run by **Living Spirituality Connections** and **St James’s Church Piccadilly**. Details will be circulated when the speaker has confirmed.

14 – 16 October. The Universe, Gaia and Us. GreenSpirit Annual Gathering. With a presentation by **Dr Jude Currivan: A unitive new narrative of the Universe, Gaia and Us.** Worcestershire. Full details at: www.greenspirit.org.uk/greenspirit-annual-gathering-2022/

27 October 10-1. First of the occasional **Renewal Spaces** with **Linda Courage** One Thursday morning each term. Next dates: 16 February and 11 May 2023 At St Bede’s Pastoral Centre, York. This is run in partnership with Living Spirituality Connections. To book go to: <https://www.stbedes.org.uk/>



Renewal Spaces
with Linda Courage
One Thursday morning each term
27/10, 16/02, 11/05
10am-1pm
In-Centre at St Bede's
£15
Please note spaces are limited

Creative Connections
Some time apart to gently reconnect to ourselves and restore our vitality and aliveness.
Each session will have a similar structure and use a similar range of creative activities for different purposes. No experience of using the arts is necessary.
Those familiar with the approach are welcome to come along and use the activities to explore whatever is in their hearts and minds.
Each session will feature heart-centred meditation alongside some input, time for creative activities, and gentle reflection and sharing. The creative activities typically include making a collage, creative writing, using timelines, capturing responses to nature...

For further details or to book a place contact:
St Bede's Pastoral Centre
www.stbedes.org.uk 01904 464900 programlead@stbedes.org.uk

Some time apart to gently reconnect to ourselves and restore our vitality and aliveness. Each session will have a similar structure and use a similar range of creative activities for different purposes. No experience of using the arts is necessary. Those familiar with the approach are welcome to come along and use the activities to explore whatever is in their hearts and minds. Each session will feature heart-centred meditation alongside some input, time for creative activities, and gentle reflection and sharing. The creative activities typically include making a collage, creative writing, using timelines, capturing responses to nature...

3 November 3-4 and 5-6 via Zoom. Start of *The Artist's Rule* with Linda Courage.
 Twelve Thursdays fortnightly 03/11, 17/11, 01/12, 15/12, 29/12,
 12/01, 26/01, 09/02, 23/02, 09/03, 23/03, 06/04. £150.00. This course is run in partnership
 with Living Spirituality Connections. Booking: <https://www.stbedes.org.uk/>



THE ARTIST'S RULE

led by Linda Courage

Twelve Thursdays
fortnightly

03/11, 17/11, 01/12, 15/12, 29/12,
12/01, 26/01, 09/02, 23/02, 09/03,
23/03, 06/04

Online via zoom

3pm-4pm and 5pm -6pm

£150

Drawing on the insights and practices of Benedictine spirituality we will explore together the interplay between contemplation and creativity.

Each two-part session will be offered on zoom with the hour between for private reflection and creativity. An information sheet giving more detail about the program is available from the St Bedes office.

You will need to purchase a copy of our primary text for the programme:
The Artist's Rule by Christine Valters Paintner

Linda is a member of the Abbey of Arts and a coordinator for Living Spirituality Connections. She has a heart for guiding others in practices which help to reconnect us to ourselves and restore our vitality and aliveness.

Drawing on the insights and practices of Benedictine spirituality we will explore together the interplay between contemplation and creativity. Each two-part session will be offered on zoom with the hour between for private reflection and creativity. An information sheet giving more detail about the program is available from the St Bede's Pastoral Centre office. You will need to purchase a copy of our primary text for the programme: ***'The Artist's Rule'*** by Christine Valters Paintner.

Linda is a member of the Abbey of Arts and Arts & Spirituality coordinator for Living Spirituality Connections. She has a heart for guiding others in practices which help to reconnect us to ourselves and restore our vitality and aliveness.

For further details or to book a place contact:

St Bede's Pastoral Centre

www.stbedes.org.uk 01904 464900 programmeadmin@stbedes.org.uk