

# EVENTS JANUARY - MARCH 2022

Compiled by **Living Spirituality Connections**  
[www.livingspirit.org.uk](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk)

Many events are online. Some are in-person.

## January

**Sunday 9 January 4-5.30. Growing through Stillness.** Zoom event. **Arts at the Intersection & Sevenoaks Unitarians** present an open house event.

The event will bring together members of local and wider communities to enjoy a short programme of multicultural music, poetry, participatory arts and reflection based on the winter season. After the programme (about 40 minutes), we will invite you to stay for a chat.

For further information and/or a zoom link to join please email [info@spiritofpeace.co.uk](mailto:info@spiritofpeace.co.uk) programme of multicultural music, poetry and arts. Then stay on for conversation. All welcome.

**Tuesdays 18 January - 13 December, 7.30-9.30 pm French time.** Online series: **Unified Consciousness: One Mind One Heart. The Common Insight of all Spiritual Traditions and of the Greatest Scientists.** Speakers include: **Laurence Freeman, Rowan Williams, Cynthia Bourgeault, Mary McAleese.** <https://wccm.org/events/unified-consciousness/>

10 Sessions. £140 for all sessions or £20 per session.

*"Unified Consciousness is our original home, our source of being, our quest and our true home."* Laurence Freeman OSB

The essential reality of the consciousness of mind and heart is a shared insight of all spiritual traditions as well as of the greatest scientists of the modern era. In a series of talks throughout the year, spiritual teachers, social leaders, thinkers and writers with contemplative wisdom will explore its meaning for us today. Each monthly session will be hosted by Laurence Freeman who will also open the discussion between the speaker and the audience. A Chat Room for further reflection among the participants will also be made available between the regular sessions.

The pace of climate change, like Covid 19, is helping humanity to awaken to its unity by showing how we can act for the common good, **overcoming dividedness with one mind and heart.** At the same time, a tide swell of nationalism and blind greed resists this crucial moment of evolution. This series of talks informs and supports the contemplative mission,

which calls us all beyond our self-created obstructions. To realise the common mind needed to **deal with the global crisis** a critical mass of contemplatives is needed who represent human diversity by **discovering oneness** within themselves. They will pilot a new way of seeing, thinking and acting. Different expressions of wisdom in this series will show why unified consciousness is both our top priority and a thrilling opportunity for human evolution.

If you subscribe to the whole series at a special rate then should you miss any of the live sessions, you may watch them later at your leisure. Over the year this unique series will build an enlightening, hopeful perspective for the future of humanity, and as soon as it becomes possible, a final, in-person conference will be hosted at Bonnevaux.

**21-23 January Healing God, Healing Self, Healing Earth. The Power of Divine Love in an Evolving Universe.** Online conference hosted in the USA. See website below for times.

We are a global people on a planet in crisis. Extreme weather, shortages of water and food, and a swiftly mutating pandemic reveal a climate emergency that is speeding up rather than slowing down. We find ourselves in a wounded world, desperate for healing.

These deep wounds begin with ourselves. Healing the Earth requires that we remedy our dangerous misconceptions: otherworldly spirituality, human superiority, and rampant individuality. Only the insights and practices of divine love can save our world: a spirituality of the Earth, a renewed togetherness with plants and animals, and a contemplative depth that brings us not only inward but that thrusts us into the very fabric of our living planet.

Join us online for our fourth annual conference, as together we seek healing for our God, for ourselves, and for our world in the depths of divine love. The Center for Christogenesis was set up by Ilia Delio. \$150 Website: <https://christogenesis.org/conference2022/>

**22 January, 5-8 pm, on Zoom. Ways to Tend the Wild Heart: Exploring Christianity through an Animist Lens** with **Lindsay Sudeikis**. <https://abbeyofthearts.com/calendar/ways-to-tend-the-wild-heart-exploring-christianity-through-an-animist-lens/> \$50 (circa £37). Hosted from Ireland.

We will come together to orient within the wild hearts of Jesus and Mary of Nazareth. We will immerse ourselves in an ancient mystic Love and contemplate the “living stones” and “life-giving water” through an animist lens. Animism experiences the world and all of its elements and creatures as pulsing with aliveness. It calls us into a deep and intimate relationality with all of creation. Our time will include simple ritual, diving into content, embodied practice, and discussion. Bring a journal, something to write with, a glass of water and a candle to our shared time. These two elements, life-giving water and the fire

of divine love will help to hold our virtual ritual container with one another via Zoom!

**Lindsay Sudeikis** is an animist, educator-activist, ancestral healing practitioner, and former Catholic nun. She is currently based between Brooklyn, New York and Cork, Ireland. She specializes in connecting folks to their inner-life and with their beloved ancestors for the overall health of the ecosystem.

The retreat will be recorded for those who pre-register but are unable to attend at the scheduled time.

**22 - 23 January. Liberal Christianities.** Led by **Ian Bradley** (Emeritus Professor of Cultural and Spiritual History at University of St Andrews) and **Peter Francis** (Warden and Director of Gladstone's Library). North East Wales. <https://www.gladstoneslibrary.org>

People often claim that they are 'liberal' Christians but it is a term that is difficult to define. No two liberal theologians think alike! Perhaps, of course, such diversity may be part of that definition. 'Honesty' is also a key word for liberal Christians – perhaps as a nod to the influence of John Robinson's *Honest to God* but also to expressing what is believed by an individual regardless of the constraints of creeds and tradition. This course offers an opportunity to listen to two 'honest' liberal reflections on the central tenets of Christianity and offers space for all participants to reflect on their own belief.

**Friday 28 January 2pm to Monday 31 January 2pm Hope in Darkness. The Wisdom Pattern.** Inspired by Richard Rohr's work. With Revd Ian Spencer, Dorothy Littlewood & Urs Mattmann. N. Yorks. [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

We'll be exploring what Rohr sees as the most pressing issue of our age, "crises of meaning ... so many people have lost heart today feeling both confused and powerless – many have lost any over-arching meaning to life". If you're looking at the world and feeling powerless to help heal it, or just feel hopeless – this retreat will put a spring in your step once again.

We will be following the current guidelines for Covid regulations. For more information please contact us through email [enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk) or phone (01845 522580).

**31 Jan - 03 Feb 10:00 - 4:00. Revelation and the Beginning of the End of the World.** Biblical Study Break. Led by **Dr Meredith J C Warren**. On line course from [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

This online course gives a tour of one of the most significant Books of the Bible for

understanding much of contemporary rhetoric and culture: The Apocalypse of John. The course will provide an overview of Revelation's literary and theological themes, the ancient context in which it was written, and some of its most enduring figures. By the end of the course, you'll be familiar with the literary and rhetorical techniques used by the ancient author, as well as with how Revelation's impact continues in the culture and politics of the present era.

Dr **Meredith J C Warren** is Senior Lecturer at the University of Sheffield, UK, where she is Director of the Sheffield Institute for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies.

## February

**5 - 13 February. An Intensive Silent Meditation Retreat** with **Fr Lawrence Freeman**, of the World Community for Christian Meditation. Bonnevaux, France. €1,240 (euros).

This retreat moves immediately into a sustained purifying silence for the whole week. There are eight periods of meditation without opening or closing words; a fifteen minute daily meeting with one of the retreat leaders; a short daily talk and a silent Eucharist. Retreatants will need a certain level of experience and will be expected to participate fully throughout.

<https://bonnevauxwccm.org/all-programmes/silent-meditation-retreat/>

**Mon 7 February 7pm** on Zoom. **Midlands Living Spirituality Connections group meeting.**

Further details from Anne Gardener: [a.gardner@me.com](mailto:a.gardner@me.com)

**Tues 8 Feb 10:00 - 4:00. St Benedict's Wisdom in the Modern World.** Led by Fr **Luigi Gioia**. Salisbury. [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

The Rule of St Benedict addresses the shortcomings of the modern world through a healthy spirituality that gives the right attention to body and interrelations. In this short course we will explore the ways in which the Rule of St Benedict might be applied today and what we can learn from this ancient rule of life that prioritises 'healthy' spirituality. The modern world is characterised by disembodiment and abstraction, which influence the ways we understand ourselves. Understood properly, the Rule of St Benedict respects and promotes the human flourishing of the whole person. Many modern readers are nonplussed by the extent to which a spiritual text like the Rule is far more concerned with the body than with inner life. Benedict spends most of his time talking about eating, sleeping, working, reading, talking, smiling, and especially about toiling in community life. And yet all these factors are deeply 'spiritual' in Benedict's mind. For him, the healthiest way of seeking God is through community life because he knows that there is no way to flourish, other than through interaction with our environment and others, and no relation with God other than

through the mediations of body, fellowship, history, and Scripture.

Fr **Luigi Gioia** was a Benedictine Monk for 25 years in Italy and France and is now Assistant Priest and Head of Formation at the Anglican Parish of St Paul Knightsbridge in London. Course code 2592 In-person day course. Cost: £60.

**Thursday evenings: 10, 17 and 24 February, 6.30-9pm** on Zoom. **The Parables?** Nice little stories or subversive arrows that turn things upside-down? Led by **Donna Worthington** (see entry for 8 March) <https://christianretreats.live/>

**Thursdays 10 and 24 February, and 10 March. 10-11.30 am** and repeated **6-7.30 pm. Finding the Way with Wisdom.** On Zoom, led by **Helen Warwick.**

Wisdom with all her attributes is a much needed perspective within the many changes that are going on in our world today. Through poems, prayers and creative ideas we will discover ways of opening and listening to Wisdom. As we explore within these creative spaces we will learn Wisdom's input for our own lives and those of our communities.

**Helen Warwick** is a residential chaplain leading creative retreats and working with individuals and groups at Holy Rood House. She has experience of on-line work. Helen is a trained Occupational Therapist and Spiritual Director and has published several books.

To apply please email [enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk)

**12 February 3-6 pm**, on Zoom. **Mary and the Wisdom of the Sacred Feminine with Christine Valters Paintner, PhD.** <https://abbeyofthearts.com/calendar/mary-and-the-wisdom-of-the-sacred-feminine/> \$65 (circa £48)

Join us for a mini-retreat to encounter the wisdom of Mary and the sacred feminine. Mary has been given dozens of names which express different aspects of her gifts for the world. We begin with Mary as Untier of Knots and will explore the places in our own lives which feel tangled, which get tighter the more we try to pull the threads apart. We will ask Mary to support us in loosening all the knots we carry. When we surrender control we may find more ease and clarity in our life direction. Once we soften these places of holding on, we are invited by Mary as Our Lady of Silence to rest into the fallowness, the still heart of incubation. It is in this silence that we are deeply nourished and where we release another layer of our need to control and yield more deeply into Mystery. Gather with us for a sacredpause as winter slowly moves toward spring. Make a commitment to slow down and listen, to wait for the

shape of what is ripening within you to emerge into fullness. We will engage in meditation, visio divina, song, gentle movement, writing explorations, and small and large group sharing to allow our bodies and hearts to speak with clarity around our deepest longings of the heart. Mary will be our companion in her various guises, empowering us and summoning us to live into the fullness of who we are.

**Christine Valters Paintner**, PhD is the online Abbess of Abbey of the Arts, a virtual monastery and global community which integrates contemplative practice and creative expression.

**14 - 17 February 9.30-5.30. Christian Spirituality in Dialogue.** Winter School at Luther King Centre, Manchester. An exploration of spirituality in today's world. Details and booking: <https://www.lutherking.ac.uk> Residential option available.

**16 February 10 am – mid afternoon. Discovering the Celtic World with Esther de Waal.** Worcestershire. <https://www.hollandhouse.org> £40.

Esther de Waal is one of today's most beloved spiritual writers drawing inspiration from both Celtic and Benedictine traditions. This day looks into the rich heritage of the Celtic tradition - an opportunity not to be missed for anyone perceiving the Divine Presence in the heart of Creation.

**16 - 18 February, Journey into Silence.** Midweek silent retreat near Perth, Scotland. <https://www.bieltatblackruthven.org.uk> £215.

*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.

**17-24 February. 8 day Pilgrimage Retreat: Contemplative Journey to the Holy Land** with Fr **Laurence Freeman**, Director, World Community of Christian Meditation. <https://wccm.org/events/contemplative-journey-to-the-holy-land/>

Life is a pilgrimage – as every meditator comes to discover through their inner journey. In going to the Holy Land as contemplative pilgrims we are strengthened in understanding

life's purpose. And so, we come to see our personal journey with deeper gratitude and wonder. To walk and to pray in the places where Jesus lived his human pilgrimage is a blessing and privilege.

**18 - 20 February. A Poetic Journey through the Psalms with Malcolm Guite.** Near Bath.  
<https://www.ammerdown.org/>

Poet-Priest **Malcom Guite** will take us on a poetic journey through the book of Psalms, exploring how these Scriptures both prophesy the coming of Christ and his kingdom and also give voice to our own inner life of prayer and longing for God. Poet-Priest Malcolm Guite was Chaplain for 20 years at Girton College, Cambridge.

**18 - 20 February Growth in Prayer:** Weekend Individually Guided Retreat. Surrey.  
<https://www.christian-retreat.org>

A silent individually guided retreat for busy people, those who have not made a retreat before, or for anyone who needs time away to stop, breathe, and pray. A retreat guide will be available for daily individual meetings to accompany you through the retreat. This is a time of listening to God who is present in the experiences of prayer and daily living.

**Weds 23 Feb - Mon 28 Feb Quiet Week: Wisdom and Hope in a time of pandemic and beyond.** A gentle time of relaxation and retreat led by **Liz Howlett & Jenny Warbrick.** Dorset. <https://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk/>

We live in unsettling, critical times – a pandemic continues to affect many aspects of our lives; climate change is a huge challenge to us all; and parts of the fabric of life which we have taken for granted are fraying at the edges. This Quiet Week is an invitation to explore approaches to spirituality that can offer wisdom and hope in such times.

**Liz Howlett and Jenny Warbrick** are the facilitators for this gentle, restful and spacious week, with options to visit a local Franciscan community and contribute to a cooperative arts project. Liz and Jenny invite you to be inspired and nourished by the medieval wisdom of St Francis and Mother Julian of Norwich, and to have your hope renewed.

N.B. Up to 50% bursary available if you work in the NHS or as a carer. Email us for details.

*March events are overleaf .....*

## March

**Sunday 5 March 3 - 5.** The 2022 **John Shelby Spong Lecture**. North East Wales.

<https://www.gladstoneslibrary.org/>

“I bear witness to the faith that leads me and the whole world to live fully, love wastefully, and be all that we can be. Shalom.”

This lecture is a tribute to John Shelby Spong, America’s preeminent spokesperson for an open, scholarly, and inclusive Christianity (1931 – 2021). With **Keith Ward** and **Peter Francis**. More details will be added to the website soon. Tickets are £12.

**Fridays 4 March - 15 July**, all day. **Journey of Hope**. London.

<https://stethelburgas.org/event/journey-of-hope/>

**A 6 month faith leadership programme** to support individuals as they seek to reconcile relationships between themselves, their faith, the Earth, and others in order to transform communities. Community, Environmental Peacebuilding, Peace & conflict, Restorative practice, Sacred Activism, Spiritual ecology, Training.

For more information contact Rebecca Brierley on 07453287925 or email

[rebecca.brierley@stethelburgas.org](mailto:rebecca.brierley@stethelburgas.org)

**7, 14, 21 and 28 March, 10 – 12 noon. Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People? And What Does It Do To Their Faith?** Online course led by Sr Patricia, a member of the York Congregation of Jesus community. <https://www.stbedes.org.uk> £20 for the course.

In four sessions on the Book of Job, one of the ‘Wisdom Books’ of the Old Testament, we shall explore how Job and his three friends faced these questions, how we find ourselves reacting from our own experience – and how God answers them and us.

**Tuesdays 8, 15, 22 and 29 March. 7-9 pm. Dreams course** on Zoom with **Donna Worthington**. £80. <https://christianretreats.live/>

Explore the mystery of being human through the wisdom of dreams. See how dreams can be a road to wholeness and personal development. We will seek to understand how dreams work, including the opportunity to reflect on our own dreams with others. **Donna Worthington** is an experienced retreat giver and worked at the ecumenical Tabor Retreat Centre in Preston, Lancashire, leading retreats, events exploring spirituality, contemplative



prayer/meditation and creative liturgy. Trained in Ignatian spiritual direction, Donna has accompanied many people during weeks of guided prayer and through one-to-one direction.

**10 Mar 10 - 1. Exploring Spiritual Pain in a Pandemic Age** Online course. Led by **James Woodward**. <http://www.sarum.ac.uk/> Course code: 2607. £35.

The hospice movement in the UK has pioneered some innovative and life-changing work in the area of spiritual pain. James Woodward first came across this concept when he worked as a nursing auxiliary at St Christopher's Hospice under the leadership of Dame Cicely Saunders. In this half day online course, we shall explore together some definitions of spiritual pain and explore how our search for meaning may have been shaped and changed by the Covid pandemic.

Rev Canon Professor **James Woodward** is the Principal of Sarum College, Salisbury.

**23 - 27 March. God, Creation and Us. From theology to action.** Cherwell Centre, Oxford. Residential/in-person event, also on Zoom.

This conference will include keynote speakers on climate change, as well as talks led by team members from Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions. We will include an eco-pilgrimage to the University parks and the opportunity to participate in prayers from each faith

Questions about this event? Please contact: [info@spiritofpeace.co.uk](mailto:info@spiritofpeace.co.uk)

**25 - 27 March. The Art of Living Soulfully. Led by Rev Dave Tomlinson.** Worcestershire. <https://www.hollandhouse.org> £305. Residential.

'Soul' is a confusing term – commonly bandied about in religious circles but seldom defined or much understood. It's also used in psychology, and popular culture where for example music, art, conversations, food, friendships, habits and rituals may be considered soulful.

Perhaps the great dilemma of our times is a 'loss of soul' – a dislocation from our deepest selves, from compassion, from nature – ultimately, from the divine. Yet when soul is neglected, it doesn't simply go away; it appears in obsessions, addictions, aggression, and loss of meaning. Drawing on music, art, poetry and biblical imagination, this weekend retreat will consider, not only the meaning of soul in theological and cultural terms, but importantly, explore tangible ways to foster soulfulness in ordinary everyday life, and in our world. **Dave Tomlinson** is an Anglican priest, and chaplain to the St Ethelburga's Centre for

Peace and Reconciliation. He is the author of many books including *How to be a Bad Christian - and a better human being* and *Black Sheep and Prodigals* – an antidote to black and white religion.

**Saturday 26 March 10.30. Thinking Science, Thinking Faith.** Keynote speaker: **Prof Tom McLeish** FRS, Professor of Natural Philosophy in the Department of Physics, University of York. Event location: York. Host: **Progressive Christianity Network**. Cost: £14 non-members/£12 members. Info and booking: email: [sarah.guilfoyle@pcnbritain.org.uk](mailto:sarah.guilfoyle@pcnbritain.org.uk)

**Sat. 26 March, 10 - 4. Poetry, Protest and Witness in uncertain times** led by **Ambrose Musiyiwa**. Near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org) Suggested Donation £25.

Covid has made us more aware of the injustices in our world. In these times of social unrest and Black Lives Matter protests, poetry offers a resource to explore the relationship between activism and connection. Join poet and editor, **Ambrose Musiyiwa**, for a poetry workshop (in the morning), followed by readings (in the afternoon). Participants will have the opportunity to explore poetry capable of influencing social change, through a series of reflections, exercises and writing prompts. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to be in conversation with poets from the Black Lives Matter: Poems for a New World anthology (2020).