

# EVENTS LISTING

## November - December 2014

Put on by many organisations across the UK

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

**Sat 1 Nov 2 - 4 pm, Meister Eckhart Group**, London NW2.

Meetings start with a "Lectio Divina" in several sections – just over an hour of meditation, contemplation and spontaneous contributions – followed by about 10 minutes reading of an Eckhart sermon, then silent meditation. Finally, tea. Free of charge. Newcomers to Eckhart are always welcome. **Contact** Jim Coakes on 07788 485086 or [jim.coakes@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.coakes@btinternet.com) about this group that meets two-monthly.

**Mon 3 Nov 6.30 How to be a bad Christian.** Meet the Author. **Dave Tomlinson** at the London Centre for Spirituality, London EC3.

The bad Christian's manifesto is an argument for keeping faith with scepticism, making a virtue of pleasure & finding heaven in the ordinary things of life. Dave Tomlinson, author of *How to be a bad Christian*, thinks that a lot of our overly religious, formal ideas of God need to be reinvented - and a lot of our spirituality, too. What does it look like to live well and die happy - from an unapologetically generous Christian point of view?

**Dave Tomlinson** is Vicar of St Luke's Holloway, This is a free event. Register at [www.spiritualitycentre.org/index.php/discovering/107-meet-the-author-dave-tomlinson](http://www.spiritualitycentre.org/index.php/discovering/107-meet-the-author-dave-tomlinson)

**Tues 4 Nov – 30 June 7-9pm, Women's Spirituality Course for Women. Moving Forward Together.** Holy Rood House, Thirsk, N. Yorks. Details:

<http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk/Women's%20Spirituality%20Leaflet%202014-2015.pdf>

**Sat 8 Nov Faith in Search of Understanding.** Speaker **Rowan Williams**. St Mark's Centre for Radical Christianity, Sheffield. [www.stmarkscrc.co.uk/category/events/conferences/](http://www.stmarkscrc.co.uk/category/events/conferences/)

"We need to move beyond criticism to embrace the task of conceiving intellectually-engaging and spiritually-satisfying expressions of faith capable of shaping our living and informing our commitments. Rowan Williams takes up the challenge of describing the contours of the faith-filled life for our time. Rowan is now able to offer a fuller and franker exposition of his understanding of Christian fundamentals and their enduring relevance."

**7-9 Nov The little Big Silence Retreat.** The House of Prayer, East Molesey, Surrey [www.christian-retreat.org](http://www.christian-retreat.org)

**10-14 Nov Celtic Christianity and the Great Emergence.** The Open Gate, Lindisfarne with Rev **Ray Simpson**. Study week on the changing faces of community, spirituality and church. [www.aidanandhilda.org](http://www.aidanandhilda.org)

**10-14 Nov Sensing God Through Creativity** led by Rev **Anna Garvie**. Ammerdown near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org). An opportunity to sense God's presence through creative exploration.

**Tues 11 Nov Living Spirituality Journeying Together Group.** Notting Hill Gate 6.30 – 9pm. Lay-led liturgy on **Remembrance and letting go**, being mindful of the season of All Saints and All Souls as well as Remembrance Day. Also opportunity for participants to share what they choose of their own journey. £5 donation requested. Details and booking: [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk) For Group details go to: [www.livingspirit.org.uk/special-interest-groups/journeying-together-group/](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk/special-interest-groups/journeying-together-group/)

**15 Nov Meeting God in Pilgrimage.** Travelling Light House of Shalom, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire  
[www.travelling-light.org.uk](http://www.travelling-light.org.uk)

**14-16 Nov Then folk do long to go on pilgrimage** with **Harvey Gillman**. Charney Manor, Oxon.  
[www.charneymanor.com](http://www.charneymanor.com)

**14-16 Nov The Wisdom of the Desert** with **Michael Woodward**, Worth Abbey, W.Sussex  
[www.worthabbey.net](http://www.worthabbey.net)

**14-16 Nov Godley Mayhem**, residential conference with **Peter Rollins** at Swanick Derbyshire.  
[www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events](http://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/events) Progressive Christianity Network, in association with the Student Christian Movement.

Peter Rollins, author of *How (Not) to Speak of God* will suggest we are looking for God in the wrong places. He will critique the church for selling God as the answer to uncertainty and dissatisfaction.

**17-19 Nov Running Over Rocks** with **Ian Adams** Launde Abbey, Leicestershire [www.laundeabbey.org.uk](http://www.laundeabbey.org.uk)  
Retreat for pioneers. Ian Adams is author of **Cave, Refectory, Road & Running over Rocks. Spiritual Practices to Transform Tough Times.**

**17-21 Nov Walking the Mystic Path of our Inner Journeys** with **David Cole** The Open Gate, Lindisfarne [www.aidanandhilda.org](http://www.aidanandhilda.org)

**Wed 19 Nov 6.30 pm Journeying Together Group visit to Awakening the Sacred** session at **St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace**, London EC2. This evening's theme is **The Body** and one of the speakers is **Claire Henderson Davis**, a theologian, dance artist, and writer, author of *After the Church: Divine Encounter in a Sexual Age*. For more details see: <https://www.stethelburgas.org/civCRM/event/info?reset=1&id=675> Tickets: £11/£8 concessions. If you want to join the Journeying Together Group visit to this event, please email [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk)

**Wed 19 Nov 6.30 for 7pm. "The Witch and the Reformer: Exploring Images of Witchcraft in the World of Sixteenth Century Bibles".** **Dr Ann Jeffers**. Organised by the Institute for Theological Partnerships at St Edburga Building, King Alfred's Campus, University of Winchester. Dr Jeffers will explore the **representation of women and liturgy/ ritual in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century**. **Dr Ann Jeffers** is Senior Lecturer, Heythrop College, University of London; author of *Magic and Divination in Ancient Palestine and Syria*; and co-author of *Gender and Religion*. Info about the event from [www.winchester.ac.uk/aboutus/lifelonglearning/Theologicalpartnerships/Pages/ITP-Theology-Group.aspx](http://www.winchester.ac.uk/aboutus/lifelonglearning/Theologicalpartnerships/Pages/ITP-Theology-Group.aspx)

**Fri 21 Nov** Quiet Day led by **Sarah Chabowska & Libby Dobson** Ammerdown near Bath. Continuing this year's theme '**Journey of the Heart**' – **Travelling Home to Love**' [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

**21-23 Nov** **Awake to God. An exploration of the mystical way** with Canon **Melvyn Matthews**. Ammerdown near Bath. [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org)

**21-24 Nov** **Journey to the Centre**. An Applesseed course with **Kathleen Nelson**. Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham. [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

**22 Nov** **Exploring the richness of the old and the gifting of the new** Penhurst Retreat Centre E. Sussex. [www.penhurst.org.uk](http://www.penhurst.org.uk)

**Sun 23 Nov 1.45pm** **Launch of Rev. Professor June Boyce-Tillman's new book In Tune with Heaven, or Not. Women in Christian Liturgical Music**. The book aims to understand where women are situated within or outside the traditions of liturgical music, drawing on material from many interviews, and making women's often hidden contributions more visible.

The launch will be in Central London. Details to be confirmed – go to [www.livingspirit.org.uk/events](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk/events). All *Living Spirituality* members will receive an invitation by email to this event, which also marks **the launch of the new LS Music and Spirituality Special Interest Group**.

**24-27 Nov** **Embodying Wisdom**. M.A. module in Christian spirituality. Sarum College, Salisbury Wilts. Open to all. [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

**24-27 Nov** **Change and Conflict** M.A. module in Christian leadership. Sarum College, Salisbury Wilts. Open to all. [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

**27-30 Nov** **Advent Retreat. Giving Birth to God's dream in our lives** with **Margaret Silf**. St Antony's Priory Durham [www.stantonypriory.co.uk](http://www.stantonypriory.co.uk)

**29 Nov** **Advent Workshop The Welcoming Star** with Rev Liz Baker & Margaret Moakes. The Well at Willen, Bucks. [www.thewellatwillen.org.uk/includes/ProgrammeCurrent.pdf](http://www.thewellatwillen.org.uk/includes/ProgrammeCurrent.pdf)  
We will use thoughts from 'The Cosmic Dance' (Joyce Rupp) and 'Christ Our Morning Star' (Magdalen Lawler), and the art of Sieger Köder and Mary Southard.

**29 Nov** **Birthing the holy** with **Sue Cash**. A largely silent **Advent Day**. Penhurst Retreat Centre E. Sussex. [www.penhurst.org.uk](http://www.penhurst.org.uk)

**Tues 2 Dec 4pm** **Multifaith Prayers for the Middle East** St Ethelburga's London EC2 [www.stethelburgas.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=714](http://www.stethelburgas.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=714)

Vigil focused on trouble spots in the Middle East. Will include sharing, spoken prayer and silence. Followed by reflections on the need for prayer and meditation in interfaith work.

**8-11 Dec Re-imagining Church in a changing culture.** MA module in theology, imagination and culture. Sarum College, Salisbury Wilts. Open to all. [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)

**12-14 Dec Being Peace** Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)  
“You will taste something of the deep peace that can be discovered through simple practices of being present and with the support of a group. Guidance will be given on a variety of practices to encourage a sense of mindfulness. You will be invited to experiment with silence as part of this. Run **in partnership with the Community of Interbeing**, who live by and communicate the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh.

**Tues 9 Dec Living Spirituality Journeying Together Group.** Notting Hill Gate 6.30 – 9pm. **The birth of the divine into our world.** Discussion and lay-led liturgy. £5 donation requested. Group details: [www.livingspirit.org.uk/special-interest-groups/journeying-together-group](http://www.livingspirit.org.uk/special-interest-groups/journeying-together-group).  
Booking: [petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk](mailto:petragriffiths@livingspirit.org.uk).

**12-14 Dec Everyday Mysticism** with **Harvey Gillman**. Claridge House, Surrey.  
[www.claridgehousequaker.org.uk](http://www.claridgehousequaker.org.uk)

**Sat 13 Dec Listening to the Angels in Advent** at The Bield at Blackruven, near Perth, Scotland. A day of meditation and prayer on the angels in the Christmas Story. Considering the angels’ message “*Do not be afraid*”, a message that is as relevant today as 2,000 years ago. Led by **Maggie Lunan**. For further info visit [www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk](http://www.bielsatblackruthven.org.uk) or email: [info@bielsatblackruthven.org.uk](mailto:info@bielsatblackruthven.org.uk)

**Fri 19 Dec 7pm The Gift of Christmas** part 1 with **Rowan Williams**. Meditatio Centre, London EC1

**Sat 20 Dec 10.30-3.30 The Gift of Christmas** part 2 with **Laurence Freeman**. Meditatio Centre, London EC1. [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

**20-27 Dec Christmas House Party to celebrate the birth of Christ.** The Abbey Iona, Scotland.  
<http://iona.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2014/04/2014workingcopy22-04.pdf>

**23-27 Dec Christmas House Party & 30 Dec-3 Jan New Year House Party** Holy Rood House, Thirsk, N.Yorks [www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)  
Reflection & liturgy, creative arts, being part of community, outings, and much more.

**31 Dec-3 January New Year Retreat** with **Angela Schutz** and **John Harley** at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham. [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)

“The turn of the year invites us to look at what has been, what we want to let go of and what we take forward into the new year as well as what the new year brings to us .... we will use activities such as art, creative writing, movement, guided meditation and silence to facilitate this process. “

**Sat 10 Jan Eckhart Group** London – see 1 November.

## ADVANCE NOTICES

**14 March 2015 The Universe Story Event. London EC2. A Greenspirit event.**

**The science from the origin of the Universe to the present day - and its meaning.**

Speakers:

**Greg Morter** - A Brief History of Everything: from the origin of the Universe to the present day, in six surprising steps

**Elisabet Sahtouris** - The Evolution of Cooperation and Transformation

**Maddy Harland** - Transformational Heresy – Permaculture and beyond

**Chris Clarke** - Chair - Emeritus Professor of Applied Mathematics and author of "Weaving the Cosmos".

Plus: discussions, creative activities and stalls.

Full information at: [www.greenspirit.org.uk/uni-story-event](http://www.greenspirit.org.uk/uni-story-event) or phone Ian on 020 8552 2096

**Sept 28-October 1, 2015. Illumination and Transformation. *Free to Believe* retreat** at Bishop Woodford House, Ely. With **Peter Varney** and **Zam Walker**. [www.freetobelieve.org.uk/conferences.html](http://www.freetobelieve.org.uk/conferences.html)

A time to discover the wide horizons of divine love by exploring how we may integrate our creativity and imagination, with opportunities for contemplative experience and periods of silence. Thomas Merton wrote: 'We are called to share with God the work of creating the truth of our identity' (New Seeds of Contemplation). Working with our creativity accesses different insights within us as a means of illumination and transformation. We will create a safe space to engage in the creative process, and listen for the invitations and discoveries that want to emerge.