

# Spirituality Network for Gloucestershire

(A Body in Association with Gloucestershire Churches Together)



From the Coordinator Revd. Dr. Alison Evans  
Britannia Cottage,  
High Street,  
King's Stanley GL10 3JD  
01453 824034  
[malcolm.alison@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolm.alison@btinternet.com)

+

## NEWSLETTER NO. 53

April 2016

Dear Network Member,

I trust you are enjoying the blessings of a happy Eastertide.

During the period after the Easter weekend, I had a short holiday with my husband. One evening we went down to the harbour in the place we were staying, and there we saw some fishermen mending their nets. It was a painstaking business, making sure that the nets were ready to use the next day. That timeless scene took me back to the resurrection appearance of Jesus to the disciples on the shore of Lake Galilee in John 21 and also to the call of the first disciples as they were going about their work as fishermen on the lake. In those call stories Jesus asks the disciples to leave their nets and follow him and do something completely new and different. Later, the risen Christ comes to commission Peter to take over his own role as Good Shepherd. Watching those 21<sup>st</sup> century fishermen, I was reminded that not all are called to leave home and hearth to follow the call of Christ, or even to undertake a special task. For some it will be that way but for many, the call is to be a faithful disciple at home, at work and in their local community. The aim of the Network is to provide means by which any and all followers of Jesus, whatever their circumstances or calling, might be encouraged and enriched in their walk with Christ.

Our Network **Summer Meeting** is on Saturday, 18 June when we will be led in a day of prayer and reflection by Revd. Canon Mark Oakley, Canon Chancellor of St. Paul's Cathedral. Canon Oakley has had ministries in London and Europe and is the author of *The Collage of God* (DLT, 2001) as well as compiling and contributing to several anthologies of readings for various occasions. He is in demand as a speaker at conferences and retreats so we are fortunate to have him with us for the day. The meeting will be held at St. Andrew's Church, Churchdown GL3 2JT and the cost is £12. To book your place, please contact Mrs. Penny Lidstone on 01452 741410 [penny@lidstone.net](mailto:penny@lidstone.net).

A poster for this event is enclosed. It would be very helpful if you could publicise this meeting at your Church and to anyone who you think might be interested. I have sometimes heard from people who have found out about our events through reading a poster they have seen in a church locally so please do let others know about the Network meetings even if you can't be there or feel they are not for you.

Looking ahead, on Saturday, 22 October we are to be led in a day of prayer and reflection entitled *Walking God's Rhythm* by Rt. Revd. Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester at Sacred Hearts Hall, Charlton Kings GL53 9AU. This will be Bishop Rachel's first visit to the Network and we are delighted that she can come to lead our day together. The cost of the day is £12. To book your place, please contact Revd. Pauline Green on 01454 311936 [pgreen@clara.net](mailto:pgreen@clara.net). Booking opens on 1 July.

On Saturday, 3 December our Advent Quiet Day will be led by Fr. Richard McKay, parish priest of St. Nicholas of Tolentino Roman Catholic Church, Easton, Bristol. The meeting will be held at the Gambier Parry Hall, Highnam GL2 8DG and the cost of the day will be £10. To reserve your place, please contact Revd. Canon Michael Cozens on 01453 546459 [mgcozens86@btinternet.com](mailto:mgcozens86@btinternet.com) Booking opens on 1 September.

All our meetings start with coffee at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. Please bring a packed lunch. Hot drinks will be provided. Please make any cheques payable to the Spirituality Network for Gloucestershire.

Other dates for your diary are the **Individually Guided Retreats** to be held at the Monastery of Our Lady & St. Bernard, Brownhill near Stroud GL6 8AL. The **Summer Retreat** runs from Monday, 25 to Saturday, 30 July. For details, please contact Revd. Rob Hingley 0121 777 2171 [rob.hingley@btinternet.com](mailto:rob.hingley@btinternet.com)

The **Autumn Retreat** is being held from Tuesday, 18 to Sunday, 23 October. For details, please contact Revd. Felicity Bayne 01242 237074 [felicity.bayne@btinternet.com](mailto:felicity.bayne@btinternet.com) The cost of each retreat is £315.

One of the purposes of the Spirituality Network Newsletter is to signpost events and places which provide opportunities for spiritual growth and the deepening of our Christian faith. Here are some, and others will be offered in future editions.

Elizabeth Vooght is again holding a number of **Soul Food Retreat Days** at her home in Thornbury in the coming months. Days are planned on Friday, 22 April; Friday, 20 May; Thursday, 23 June from 10.30 to 4 p.m. and include a simple lunch. A donation of £18 to Christian Aid is invited. Places are limited. For more information, contact Elizabeth on 01454 414915 [elizabeth@vooght.com](mailto:elizabeth@vooght.com)

On Saturday, 21 May from 10 a.m. for 10.30 to 3.30 p.m. the **WCCM (World Community for Christian Meditation) in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire** is holding a day at the House of the Open Door, Childswickham, Broadway, Worcs. WR12 7HH. Entitled "Let your inner self grow strong" (Eph. 3: 14-21) it will be led by Sr. Anna O'Connor and will include periods of meditation. Cost: £20 to include lunch. For more information, or to book a place, contact Barbara Jones 07957 945421 [bar\\_demi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bar_demi@hotmail.co.uk) For more information on the WCCM, go to [www.christianmeditation.org.uk](http://www.christianmeditation.org.uk)

Another opportunity for spiritual refreshment is offered by the Bernadine Sisters at Brownhill, near Stroud. A new series of **Quiet Retreat Days** is being held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, 21 April; Monday, 2 May; Friday, 20 May; Friday, 10 June; Monday, 27 June. There will be time to pray, time to be quiet, time to think, time to listen, time to 'be'..... with an optional talk by a sister. Suggested offering: £13 with cooked lunch; £8 bring your own packed lunch. In addition, a weekend Retreat for Pentecost is being held from 6 p.m. on Friday, 13 May to 3 p.m. on Sunday, 15 May. For further information and to book, please contact the Bookings Sister on 01453 883084 or [brownhillbookings@bernardine.org](mailto:brownhillbookings@bernardine.org)

You may be interested to know that from September 2016 to June 2017 an ecumenical one year introductory **Spiritual Direction Course** is to be held at Douai Abbey, near Reading, Berks. This comes from the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Spiritual Direction Network [www.soulfriend.org.uk](http://www.soulfriend.org.uk) For application forms and further information, contact Sue Sheppy on 01235 521092 [susan.sheppy@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.sheppy@btinternet.com)

I look forward to seeing you at future Network events.

With every good wish and blessing,

**ALISON EVANS**

[www.snfglos.org.uk](http://www.snfglos.org.uk)