

Spirituality Network for Gloucestershire
(A Body in Association with Gloucestershire Churches Together)

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NEWSLETTER NO. 49

Spring 2015

Dear Network Member,

A very happy New Year to you from your Core Group! May the Lord bless you richly every day of the year ahead.

2015 is a special landmark year for the Network because it is our 20th Birthday! A year of celebration and thanksgiving for all the Lord has led us into and bestowed on us in the last 20 years, from that first meeting in the garden of St. Alban's Church in Stroud, through countless adventures with spiritual leaders of every denomination, into the gathering of a register of established spiritual directors across the County and the formation of a two-year course for the training of new directors as more and more people began to ask for someone to accompany them on their spiritual journey. In the last two years, in addition to our annual programme of Speaker-led Day meetings and Quiet Days, we have taken over from Glenfall House, the work of producing Individually Directed Retreats. There will be three this year, all at The Monastery of Our Lady & St. Bernard, Brownhill near Stroud –

A Taster Retreat from May 11th to 13th led by Revd. Felicity Bayne

Summer 4-Day Retreat from July 21st to July 26th led by Sr. Winnie Morley

Autumn 4-Day Retreat from October 9th to October 14th led by Rachael Willard

For further details please contact Rachael Willard – 01242 530051 email r.willard15@btinternet.com

The year ahead is packed with good things. The programme is attached, but our first event is open for booking now. This is our Lenten Quiet Day –

“Catching the Breeze”

A Quiet Day for Lent

led by Rt. Revd. Bob Evens

retired Bishop of Crediton

on Thursday 26th February 2015

from 10.0am to 3.0pm

at

Holy Ascension Church, Oddington

nr. Stow on the Wold

Cost of the Day - £10

To Reserve your place Contact Mrs. Penny Lidstone

penny@lidstone.net 01452 741410

Bring a packed lunch – drinks provided

Other dates for your diary are –

Sat. 25th July – Birthday Meeting at Gloucester Cathedral – speaker Revd Nick Helm
Sat. 10th Oct. – Autumn Meeting – “Desiring God”– speaker Revd. Dr. Anne Phillips
Sat 28th Nov. – Advent Quiet Day – “Before the Marvel of the Night” – leader Gill Roberts
The Programme with all details is enclosed.

A new two-year Training Course for those who feel themselves called to the ministry of Spiritual Directing will start in September 2015, at The Marist Centre, Nympsfield, nr. Stroud. The Course is open to clergy and laity of all denominations. A Taster Day will be held on Wednesday 15th April at the Marist Centre, Nympsfield nr. Stroud. Early booking is advised. To book or for further information, contact Liz Mitchell Tel. 01242 241311 or Anne Solomon email annevsolomon@hotmail.com

Elizabeth Vooght is offering a new programme of Soul Food Days at her home, 62, High Street, Thornbury, BS35 2AN on the following dates –
Thurs. 22nd January – The Water of Life
Fri. 20th February – We Reflect on Time – Chronos and Kairos and our relationship with Time
Sat. 14th March – Armenian Christian Spirituality
Fri. 10th April – The Orthodox Easter Icon

I know how much these days are appreciated by our members living near Thornbury. Elizabeth’s accommodation is small, so do book early.
Tel: 01454 414915 email: elizabeth@vooght.com .

We have gained two new members to the Core Group over the Autumn – Revd. Brenda Dowie, Chaplain to the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Rev. Liz Palin, who we all know from her work as director of Glenfall House. A big welcome to them both. We look forward to working with them and to benefitting from their talents and experience.

I would like to end with something I have recently heard on a dvd of an interview between J John the evangelist and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

When asked what priorities he had for the Church of England, the Archbishop enumerated three –

1. Renewal of Prayer and the Religious Life (a group living together or separately, under a common discipline, and meeting regularly for prayer.) –
2. Reconciliation (to set an example of love in diversity) –
3. Evangelism (the overflow of the love of God, living the Gospel so others see it, and explaining what the Gospel means to them)

J John asked the Archbishop what we should pray for him. He answered very simply, “wisdom to know what to do, patience to know when to do it and courage to do what is right even if it is difficult.”

May we make this our Network prayer for him and for ourselves, throughout the year.

Every blessing from your Core Group,

Pauline