

# Spirituality Network for Gloucestershire

(A Body in Association with Gloucestershire Churches Together)



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## NEWSLETTER NO. 52

January 2016

Dear Network Member,

I trust you have had an enjoyable Christmas and on behalf of the Spirituality Network Core Group would like to wish you the blessings of peace, health and happiness in 2016.

The present members of the Core Group are Revd. Felicity Bayne (Anglican), Revd. Canon Michael Cozens (Anglican), Revd. Diane Daymond (Methodist), Revd. Dr. Alison Evans (Coordinator - Baptist), Revd. Pauline Green (Anglican), Mrs Penny Lidstone (Treasurer – Anglican), Revd. Liz Palin (Anglican) and Mr Jon Travers (Anglican). At the end of last year we said farewell to Revd. Brenda Dowie (Anglican) as a member of the group. Brenda is currently Chaplain at Cheltenham General Hospital but will soon be moving to a new appointment in Bristol. We are grateful to Brenda for all that she has contributed to the work of the Network during her time as a member of the Group. We are also delighted to welcome a new member, Mrs. Gay Robins (Roman Catholic) and we look forward to benefitting from her insights and experience. You can contact the Network through me at the above address or via our website [www.snfglos.org.uk](http://www.snfglos.org.uk)

As I write, we are in the Epiphany season. Epiphany is about revelation, about the moments in the Gospel story when the true identity of Christ is revealed. In the words of John's gospel, "The light shines in the darkness" (John 1: 5) and the Sunday readings reflect that theme. The Magi are the first to see the glory of God in the person of the baby of Bethlehem. Those who witnessed the baptism of Christ also saw God's glory as the heavens opened, the voice spoke and the Spirit descended. The disciples, present at the wedding feast in Cana saw it and believed. At a very dark time of year and in a period in the life of the world when the ways of God are often difficult to make out, it is comforting to be reminded that in Christ God makes himself known and that he is constantly seeking to bring his light to all people and all places in the world he created and which he loves with an everlasting love.

Enclosed is the **Network Programme for 2016** and I hope you will be able to come to some of the planned events. It would be very helpful if you could publicise our meetings 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 porch so please do let others know about the Network meetings even if you can't be there or feel they are not for you.

Our next meeting on Thursday, 25 February is a Quiet Day for Lent, *Drawing from the Well* led by Revd. Sian Collins. Sian is a minister of the United Reformed Church currently working in Bristol. She previously served as minister of Christ Church LEP, Nailsworth and during her time there was a member of the Network Core Group. We are looking forward to welcoming her back to Gloucestershire. The day will be

held at St. Lawrence Church Centre, Chesterton, Cirencester GL7 1UD. The cost is £10. To reserve a place, please contact me at the address above. Space is limited so advance booking is essential for this event.

On Saturday, 18 June we will be led in a day of prayer and reflection by Revd. Canon Mark Oakley, Canon Chancellor of St. Paul's Cathedral. 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). Booking opens on 1 April.

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 [mccozens86@btinternet.com](mailto:mccozens86@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.

Elizabeth Vooght is holding a number of **Retreat Days** in the early part of 2016 at her home in Thornbury. Days are planned on Thursday, 14 January; Friday 19 February; Friday, 18 March from 10.30 to 4 p.m. 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)

Our Advent Quiet Day held in Thornbury on 28 November last year was led by Gill Roberts. Some people who attended the day have enquired about the recordings she used and she has let me know that these were Christian Forshaw "Let all mortal flesh keep silence" and "Before the marvel of this night" recorded by the choir of St. Albans Abbey. These are available for download on YouTube or to purchase on CD. I know that those who attended the day were very touched by Gill's reflections on these pieces of music and others of you may find them helpful.

I look forward to seeing you at future Network events.

With every good wish and blessing,

**ALISON EVANS**

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