

Spirituality Network for Gloucestershire

(A Body in Association with Gloucestershire Churches Together)



From the Coordinator

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NEWSLETTER NO. 58

January 2018

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 2018.

Every New Year is a new beginning and it is apposite that one of the first Sunday readings for this year (if you follow the Revised Common Lectionary) was the story of the baptism of Christ. For Jesus, this was a new beginning – the start of his public ministry. However, Mark makes it clear in the first verse of his gospel that the coming of Jesus marked a new beginning not just for him but for the world. His coming was the start of a new creation just like the first creation we hear of in Genesis 1. So as we begin 2018 we enter once again God's new world which came into being through his Son Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit and we start anew the discovery of what it means to be part of that new creation.

For the Network, the New Year is bringing some changes. Two long standing members of the Core Group will shortly be stepping down. Revd. Felicity Bayne has for several years been the holder of the list of Spiritual Directors and has also organised regular training events for Spiritual Directors. We are indebted to her for all her tireless work in this important ministry. I am delighted to let you know that her role is being taken on by Revd. Christopher Mason who was previously a tutor on the Gloucestershire Spiritual Direction Course. Also stepping down is our treasurer Mrs. Penny Lidstone who has faithfully managed the finances of the Network over many years. We are grateful to her for her work not only on financial matters but in the wider life of the Network. Mrs Anne Ewart has kindly offered to take over the role of treasurer and we look forward to having her as a member of the team. We will miss both Penny and Felicity who have both made important contributions to the work of the Network and we wish them God's richest blessing for the future.

I am very pleased to give you details of the **Network programme for 2018**. A leaflet is enclosed with information about the events for the year, together with a poster for the **Lent Quiet Day** and we do ask that you pass this on at church and to anyone who you think might be interested.

Saturday, 3 March

Our spiritual journey: insights from poetry and story A Quiet Day for Lent led by Revd. Dilwyn Edwards at the Parish Rooms, Highnam GL2 8DG. Cost £10.

Dilwyn Edwards is a retired Methodist minister living in Bristol who has experience of life in rural and inner city communities. Before his retirement, Dilwyn was minister of Christ Church, Nailsworth. His early studies were in mathematics and theology but he has developed a keen interest in spirituality and literature and is indebted particularly to the work of R S Thomas and Malcolm Guite.

To reserve a place, contact Revd. Canon Michael Cozens mgcozens86@btinternet.com 01453 546459

Saturday, 19 May

A still point in a turning world A Day of Study and Reflection led by Revd. Duncan and Mrs. Lesley MacLean at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Brockworth, Gloucester GL3 4HL. Cost £12.

Duncan and Lesley MacLean live in North West Herefordshire where their home is a house of hospitality. Duncan is a Baptist Minister and Lesley's background is in nursing and health visiting. They have a shared passion to encourage discipleship and transformation of the heart. In 2004 they left church ministry to set up House of Azar (meaning to help and to succour) from where they offer space, retreat, a listening ear and spiritual direction www.houseofazar.org.uk As Companions of the Northumbria Community their home reflects the rule and rhythm of the Community. They also travel taking the ethos of Community into many different settings.

To reserve a place, please contact Revd. Diane Daymond daymondrd@gmail.com 01242 524869.
Booking opens 19 March

Saturday, 13 October

Fools for Christ in a Challenging World A Day of Prayer and Reflection led by Angela Ashwin at Christchurch, Abbeydale, Gloucester GL4 5EQ. Cost £12.

Angela Ashwin is a writer and speaker on spirituality and is the author of several books about prayer and life with God, the latest of which is *Faith in the Fool: Risk and Delight in the Christian Adventure*. She was previously a member of the Church of England Liturgical Commission. She lives in Southwell, Nottinghamshire. Other details of her work can be found on her website www.angelaashwin.com

To reserve a place, please contact Revd. Liz Palin liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk 01242 575547. Booking opens 13 August

Wednesday, 5 December

Who do you think you are? The surprising women in Jesus' family tree. A Quiet Day for Advent led by Revd. Liz Palin at the Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing, Harnhill, Cirencester GL7 5PX. Cost £10.

Liz Palin is a vicar in North Cheltenham and is the Spirituality Adviser for Gloucester Diocese. She spent 28 years running retreat houses before entering full time ordained ministry in 2013. She is a member of the Spirituality Network Core Group and of the Gloucester Diocesan Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Group.

To reserve a place, please contact Revd. Dr. Alison Evans malcolm.alison@btinternet.com 01453 824034
Booking opens 1 October

All our events begin with coffee at 10 a.m. for a 10.30 start and finish at 3 p.m. Tea and coffee are provided but please bring a packed lunch.

After a very successful first 6 months, **Rudford Retreats** will continue next year, on **the third Thursday of each month** 10am – 3pm at Rudford near Highnam, just outside Gloucester. To book, complete and return the [booking form](#). If you have any questions please contact the team on rudfordretreats@gmail.com or phone 01452 306433. The cost of each day is £12 (including lunch) payable in cash, or cheque to 'Rudford PCC', to be brought on the day. Numbers are limited so early booking is advisable. For more information, go to www.highnamchurch.org/Rudford/

Elizabeth Vooght holds periodic Soul Food days at her home in Thornbury. For more details, contact her at elizabeth@vooght.com or on 01454 414915. Numbers are limited so prior booking is essential.

I look forward to seeing you at future Network events.

ALISON EVANS