



Dear LSN Supporters

A friend is moving to Italy at the end of the summer. New work opportunities beckon for her and her husband, but the prospect of longer, hotter, sunnier summers has helped tip their decision to go. Our friendship grew from fleeting conversations at the gym; the exchange first of small talk, and then of work talk, books-and-film talk, and finally, recently, who-we-are talk. She is, she said, a summer person, energised in warmth and light, depleted in the dreary damp and darkness of the British winter. In contrast, I concluded, I'm more a winter person. Much as I love blue skies and sunshine, languorous summer days and long, balmy evenings, I feel more at home somehow, more settled, in winter's balance of dark and light, stark trees, drawn blinds and the comforting weight of wool.

For my last birthday, my friend gave me a copy of *Findings* by the Scottish writer and poet Kathleen Jamie. It's an exquisite book which defies categorisation, but it has something in common with another unique, poetically written book, which I, in turn, gave my friend on her birthday: Rebecca Solnit's *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*. There's a curious symmetry not just in their titles but in their themes – losing and finding, darkness and light, hidden-ness and discovery. Solnit challenges our fear of being lost while Jamie rails at our concern to banish the darkness. Neither are consciously religious writers – Jamie hints that she sees herself as a *secular contemplative* – but they deal in profoundly spiritual themes, symbols and experiences. Solnit begins her *Field Guide* with the blurry memory of a Passover meal. She was eight and got tipsy drinking the goblet of wine intended for Elijah, the Prophet for whom the door was, traditionally, left open. *Leave the door open for the unknown*, she writes in adulthood, *the door into the dark. That's where the most important things come from, where you yourself come from, and where you will go.*

Jamie frets that *our cherished metaphor of darkness is wearing out ... Pity the dark: she writes, we're so concerned to overcome and banish it, it's crammed full of all that's devilish, like some grim cupboard under the stair. But dark is good. We are conceived and carried in darkness, are we not?*

Darkness and lostness go together, disorientating, confusing, fearful, yes, but necessary, creative and transforming too. *To be lost is to be fully present*, writes Solnit, *and to be fully present is to be capable of being in uncertainty and mystery...Never to get lost is not to live, not to know how to get lost brings you to destruction, and somewhere in the terra incognita in-between lies a life of discovery.*

A few weeks ago another friend sent me a copy of a poem by John O'Donohue, called *For the Interim Time*. She rightly imagined I would find it consoling. The poem begins with a haunting evocation of that in-between time of day when the light has faded but the darkness isn't yet established, a time when we can find ourselves confused, lost, *unsure of what has been, or what might come*. Like Solnit, like Jamie, like all the mystics who ever lived, O'Donohue urges steadiness, patience, in the face of darkness and lostness:

*As far as you can, hold your confidence, he writes,
Do not allow your confusion to squander
This call which is loosening
Your roots in false ground,
That you might come free
From all you had outgrown.*

Go well

Eley

In This Issue:

**Opening Doors and Windows
by James Roose-Evans**

**The Journey so Far:
an invitation to share
your story**

**Beyond the Spirituality
Revolution – Beyond LSN**

**Beyond Science and Religion
by Frank Parkinson**

Opening Doors and Windows by James Roose-Evans

James Roose-Evans has lived a remarkable life by any reckoning. He's a renowned theatre director, the Founder of the Hampstead Theatre and the Bleddfa Centre for the Creative Spirit, an Anglican priest, and the author of some 17 books ranging from children's titles to classic texts on the theatre, to spiritual and autobiographical works such as 'Inner Journey: Outer Journey' and, more recently, 'Opening Doors and Windows – A Memoir in Four Acts' (The History Press, £12.99) and 'Finding Silence – 52 Meditations for Daily Living', with a Foreword by his friend Mark Tully (The History Press, £8.99). A pioneering figure not only in the world of theatre and the arts, but also in the area of spirituality, James continues to write, direct, teach and meditate. He has kindly allowed us to re-print extracts from his Fifth Bleddfa Annual Lecture, and to make the entire text available on our website at http://www.ctbi.org.uk/pdf_view.php?id=679. If you would like to hear James in person, there's a recorded interview at www.theatrevoice.com/2438/james-roose-evans-career

Asking questions does not always produce answers, but questions can clear a path through the brambles, so that we can then see the way forward or, sometimes, the way back. And so I want to begin with a question. What is art? There was a time when it was created not just by gifted individuals but by whole communities: what is sometimes referred to as folk, or primitive art. Today, however, we tend to think of art as something belonging solely to the world of the professional, the more so when art is viewed primarily as product, as it is now, something to be sold for the highest sum, to catch the headlines, and turn the artist into a celebrity. Collecting has become all about money which turns collecting into an investment and art into merchandise. But all true art has a different value system. All true art is a gift, the artist does not own it. Gary Snyder, the American poet, has written: *You get a good poem and you don't know where it came from. 'Did I say that?' And so all you feel is humility and gratitude. And you'd feel a little uncomfortable, I think, if you capitalise too much on that without admitting at some point that you got it from the Muse, or whoever. Every poem I've written has been like a surprise.*

I recall sitting one summer afternoon with Robert Frost in his log cabin at Bread Loaf in Vermont when he told me how he came to write what is perhaps his most celebrated lyric: *Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening*. He had been up all night labouring over a long piece of blank verse that wasn't going anywhere. Then, as dawn broke, he put down his pen and stood at the window to watch the sun come up. And at that moment, entirely unlooked for, there came into his head this entire poem and all he had to do was write it down. *That, he said, is what I call the luck of the work. And perhaps, if I had not been labouring over that other poem, this might never have happened!*

Of course all artists work to acquire and perfect the tools of their craft. But this mastery of craft is a secondary task to being open to the inspiration of the muse. A craftsman is not the same as an artist. Art is a way of relating to the world. Each time an artist has a new and unique image of the world, the invisible is made visible, and that which is wordless is given expression. But how to express the seemingly inexpressible? Throughout the first half of the 20th century painters, in particular, understood this need to create a language that would, in the words of Franz Marc, break the mirror of life so that we may look being in the face. Marc, like Chagall, Kandinsky, and Klee, sought to give expression to the mystical content of art. *Therefore, wrote Kandinsky, the artist's eye should always be alert for the voice of inward necessity.* In this way, and in this way alone, as Paul Klee observed, *could the secretly perceived be made visible.*

But somewhere along the way, in the past century, art took a wrong turning, as that great and visionary Russian film maker, Tarkovsky, observed: *What purports to be art begins to look like an eccentric occupation for those who maintain that any personalised action is of intrinsic value simply as a display of self-will. But in true artistic creation the personality does not assert itself but serves another higher and communal idea. The artist is always a servant.* For Tarkovsky, art in the 20th century, and especially visual art, began to lose its way when it lost touch with the spiritual. Of course it can be argued that much modern art simply reflects the de-spiritualised and fragmented state of the world in which we live. To this extent, therefore, we can see how Tracy Emin's unmade bed can be seen as a metaphor for so many unmade lives today. But I would argue, as does Tarkovsky, that all true art should nourish the soul, the inner being of each of us. Art should not merely observe, but also transcend, for it is part of

the function of all true art to bring a spiritual vision to bear on reality. [As] Robert Frost once said: *Every poem that I write is one more stay against confusion.* It is the function of the artist to bring order out of chaos. The greatest art does exactly this: it lights up the surrounding darkness. As Michael Mayne, the late Dean of Westminster Abbey, wrote in his last book, *An Enduring Melody: I have learned much more about human nature and, I believe, the transcendent, about good and evil, sin and grace, from the novelist and the poet than from the theologian, where only rare writers combine the insights, the humanity, and sheer readability, that draws you back to them.*

I recall sitting with Barbara Hepworth on a winter's afternoon in St Ives, and listening to her describing how she always knew whether or not visitors had experienced her work, as they went round the garden, by the way they would touch or caress her carvings, or the way they would look shyly at her. *They might not be able to go home and write an intellectual analysis for The Times, she said, but you know that the works have touched them in a very deep part of themselves.* Up in the Barn Centre at Bleddfa, in the reception area, are some words by the Spanish poet, Federico Garcia Lorca, painted on wood by the calligrapher, John Hencher. These are the words:

*The poem, the song, the picture,
Is only water
Drawn from the well of the people
And it should be given back to them in a cup of beauty
So that they may drink
And in drinking
Understand themselves.*

Those words sum up what for me the *Bleddfa Centre for the Creative Spirit* represents. True creativity is closely linked with the inner, spiritual life of each one of us. It is, as our patron Rowan Williams has observed, *by encouraging creative expression in everyone, that we help them to become fully human.*

This year's Bleddfa Annual Lecture will be delivered by Lord Melvyn Bragg on 22nd October. Tickets £25. See www.bleddfacentre.com for further information and full details of the Bleddfa programme. Contact 01547 550377 or enquiries@bleddfacentre.com

Beyond the Spirituality Revolution - an invitation to share your story, and to celebrate LSN's story on 21 April 2012

In recent weeks Eley has been recording conversations with some of the participants in a six-day course at Sarum College entitled *The 'Spiritual Revolution'*. The idea arose on the first day of the course, when people shared what had attracted them to the theme. The stories and experiences recounted were so resonant, and frequently so moving, that it seemed important to try to capture them in some way. They begin to provide a significant insight into the contemporary spiritual quest: the experiences, the questions, the joys, the dilemmas, the discoveries and the transformations in the lives of people who find themselves on the edge of institutional religion. If you would like to share the story of your own spiritual journey, to add to our picture of the contemporary spiritual landscape, we would love to hear from you. The following questions might help you to shape your response, but please don't feel constrained by them: How would you describe your spiritual journey up to this time? What have been the most significant experiences and insights along the way? How has your spiritual practice changed or developed over the years? Where do you find spiritual nourishment and encouragement? Where do you connect with people on a similar journey? How have your understandings of God, Jesus and Spirit changed or developed? How would you describe your relationship with the religious institution, and with the tradition? How has your spiritual experience impacted on your action in the world, your commitment to causes or campaigns? Who are the writers who have helped or inspired you?

Your stories will play a crucial part in a special final Gathering on 21 April 2012, in London. Many of you will know that LSN's future has been in doubt for the past year. It is now clear that our reserves will run out at the end of May 2012. We therefore hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for this day to celebrate the life of LSN. Plans are in the early stages and further details will be confirmed in the Winter newsletter, but please save the date!

Beyond Science and Religion

Where there is no longer time
or place,
No longer word
or even thought,
There in the silence
and the waiting,
There in the darkness,
in the longing and confusion
Seeps our true knowing –
Honey from the rock.



From **Frank Parkinson's** new collection of poems, ***On the Road – Songs of a Seeker***, available for the cost of post and packing (50p) from the author, at 14 Ryeheys Road, Lythan St Annes, Lancs, FY8 2HA or frankcparkinson@yahoo.co.uk

CDs of Eley's Talks now in Library

Recordings of Eley's talks on *Mysticism and Contemporary Spirituality*, from the Centre for Radical Christianity conference in Sheffield last November, are now available to borrow from the library, along with recordings of all the speakers (Marcus Braybrooke, Greg Barker and Eley) at the recent Alister Hardy Society conference in London on the relationship between spiritual experience and our response to the crises and challenges of the modern world. Eley's talk was called *From Contemplation to Compassion*. Marcus Braybrooke spoke on *The Fellowship of Faiths: A Communion of Spirit*, and Greg Barker's theme was *Faith and No Faith: The Contribution of Atheism to the Spiritual Quest*.

Other resources, newly available to borrow from the library:

The DVD of the extraordinary film ***Of Gods and Men***, the true story of a group of Cistercian monks in the remote mountains of North Africa. An award-winning film, rightly hailed as a masterpiece.

Recordings of Cynthia Bourgeault's recent talks on ***Encountering the Wisdom Jesus and Deepening the Encounter*** and ***Welcoming Prayer and Inner Awakening***.

Farewells

Judy Cannato and Adrian Smith

It is with a deep sense of loss that we mark the deaths of Judy Cannato and Adrian Smith, two leading figures in the spirituality world, each of whom has made a remarkable contribution to our expanding awareness and to the contemporary re-envisioning of faith. Judy is best known for her books *Radical Amazement – Contemplative Lessons from Black Holes, Supernovas and other Wonders of the Universe*, and *Field of Compassion – How the New Cosmology is Transforming Spiritual Life*. She died in May, at the age of 62, from a rare form of cancer. A moving tribute to Judy, by Sharon Abercrombie, in the American publication *The National Catholic Reporter*, can be found at <http://ncronline.org/print/24928>

Fr Adrian Smith was one of the pioneers of progressive spirituality in the UK and the author of some 15 books. Born in 1930, he was a Roman Catholic priest who spent much of his life as a missionary in Africa. He was instrumental in the development of *non-religious retreats for non-church people*. Delivering the eulogy at Adrian's funeral, his colleague Fr Patrick described him as a *prophet of an inclusive, caring and searching church that looked at the 'new creation' beloved of Paul*.

Both Judy and Adrian were particularly concerned with our new knowledge of the unfolding Universe Story and its huge implications for belief and practice in the 21st century. Speaking at her funeral, Fr Norm Comtois quoted Judy's own warning: *We cannot afford to be afraid. We haven't much time. All creation beckons us. Our planet is crying out to hear the voices of love*.

Bookshelf

Wherever possible, all the titles mentioned in Bookshelf will be available to borrow from the Willen Library. For further information, contact the LSN office, or the Librarian, Barbara Merrifield, on 01908 242693 or library@thewellatwillen.org.

First, in light of James Roose-Evans' remarks about the power of art, and particularly poetry, three poets who, each in their own distinctive and powerful way, *make the secretly perceived become visible*.

Micheal O'Siadhail: Tongues (Bloodaxe £9.95) Micheal O'Siadhail came to The Well for a reading organised by our much-missed colleague Alan Horner, shortly before Alan died. Although more directly concerned with language and metaphor than with theology, there's a powerful undercurrent of spirituality in this new collection. In his Foreword O'Siadhail writes that *we live in a new oral and visual culture* and he quotes Paul Ricoeur, who said: *through the capacity of language to create and recreate, we discover reality itself in the process of being re-created...language in the making creates reality in the making*.

Denise Levertov: The Stream and the Sapphire (New Directions £7.99) At a recent conference at Heythrop College, called *The Power of the Word*, Dr Sarah Law gave an excellent presentation entitled '*The Pulse in the Wound*', on the religious poetry of Denise Levertov. I've often drawn on Levertov's *New Selected Poems*, but until that lecture, I hadn't known about this small selection of poems on specifically religious themes. It's not new, but it's a rich and rewarding collection. My favourite is *Suspended*, on page 24.

Mary Oliver: Evidence (Bloodaxe £8.95) This latest collection from the increasingly popular poet has a subtly different mood from the two books which preceded it, *Thirst* and *Red Bird*. Here, the intensity of those collections is transmuted into something more mellow; grief becomes elegy, raw pain gives way to hard-won peace, faith deepens but, page after page, it's still full of those startling moments of recognition, in which Oliver sheds her penetrating, trademark light on the natural world.

Now three more related titles, each exploring, in different ways, the spiritual implications of our unfolding understanding of creation, evolution and the nature of the Universe.

Brian Thomas Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker: Journey of the Universe (Yale University Press £18.99 hb)

This book tells the epic story of the universe from an inspired new perspective, weaving together the findings of modern science with enduring wisdom found in the humanistic traditions of the West, Asia, and indigenous peoples. The book is part of a larger project that includes a film and dvd to be released this year. See www.journeyoftheuniverse.org

Bruce Sanguin: If Darwin Prayed: Prayers for Evolutionary Mystics

(contact www.IfDarwinPrayed.com Can \$22.95)

In this imaginative recent collection, the Canadian writer Bruce Sanguin fuses the wisdom of such diverse thinkers as Charles Darwin, Emily Dickinson, Leonard Cohen, Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme (see above), with the ancient wisdom tradition of Christianity, to create original prayers for the contemporary mystic. Diarmuid O'Murchu says of the collection: *Earthly, yet cosmic; scriptural, yet poetic; scientific, yet spiritually inspiring ... a compilation of immense liturgical worth*.

Louis M Savary: The New Spiritual Exercises: In the Spirit of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

(Paulist Press £15.99) When I embarked on the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola in a Thirty Day retreat in 2006, I wanted, among other things, to discover if it was possible to work with them in the light of a radical 21st century Christology, as opposed to a 16th century Catholic one. Thanks in large measure to a wonderfully creative and open-minded Director, as well as to the inherent wisdom and subtlety of the Exercises, this proved more than possible. Now Louis M Savary adds a further contemporary dimension by exploring how the Exercises might be re-envisioned for contemporary retreatants, using the transformative spirituality of the Jesuit palaeontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. *The formula is perfect*, according to one reviewer, *and has produced a dynamic, inspiring re-presentation of the Exercises for our time*.

Mark Vernon: How To Be An Agnostic (Palgrave £9.99) There is, it's true to say, a little debate about how much of this book is actually new, but that aside, Mark Vernon is one of the most interesting commentators in our field and this is a helpful and significant contribution to the literature on the

contemporary spiritual quest. As Madeleine Bunting says, Vernon is one of the few writers in England today who really understands the impulse to religious belief and how a faithless age can respond.

Brian Mountford: Christian Atheist: Belonging without Believing (O Books £9.99)

When Brian Mountford began to formulate his ideas for this book he was surprised to find that *Christian Atheism* was listed on the BBC website as a category within a range of descriptions of religious positions. It was, perhaps, a similar surprise to that felt by people who heard Greg Barker speak at the recent Alister Hardy Society conference (see above). In this fascinating and thought-provoking new book Mountford discovers – as has Greg Barker – a fertile and creative source of meaning and value in the ground between the atheist and the religious adherent.

Daniel O'Leary: Unmasking God – Revealing God in the Ordinary (The Columba Press £10.99 including cd)

A new book by one of our most popular writers on spirituality; loved as much for his humanity as his wisdom, here Daniel O'Leary takes his reader through the year in series of unassuming but profound meditations on the questions and experiences – happy and sad – that make a life. Writing for those who have given up on Christianity, or are tempted to, because it seems irrelevant to their hopes, fears, longings and struggles, he helps his reader return to what he believes is the true meaning of the incarnation.

Other titles recently added to the Library include two highly recommended titles featured in the Spring newsletter and now available: John Philip Newell's *Praying with the Earth – A Prayer Book for Peace*, the beautifully illustrated hard-back collection of morning and evening prayers drawing on the Psalms, the Koran and Matthew's Gospel, and John Philip's new theology book, *A New Harmony: The Spirit, the Earth and the Human Soul*. Other new additions are *A Wiser Politics* by Jean Hardy, recommended by Greenspirit (see www.schumachercollege.org.uk/community/a-wiser-politics-and-open-evening-with-jean-hardy), *The Intention Experiment: Use Your Thoughts to Change the World* by Lynne McTaggart and *Wisdom Seekers: The Rise of the New Spirituality* by Nevill Drury.



Pinboard

Advance Notice

7-10 April 2012: Findhorn: Into Christ Consciousness – co-creating our emerging future.

An Easter Gathering hosted by the Findhorn Foundation and supported by CANA, The Wrekin Trust, Contemplative Fire and Friends of Iona. See www.intochristconsciousness.net
Contact 01452 840033 or intocc@wrekintrust.org

12-14 April 2012: High Leigh, Herts: Beyond our Wildest Imagining – making real the love of God.

Free to Believe Annual Conference. Main speaker Gene Robinson, Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire, with David Peel, Elizabeth Gray-King and Kate Compston.

See <http://freetobelieve.org.uk> (no 'www.!'!) Contact 020 8643 0963 or m.camroux.t21@btinternet.com

14-17 May 2012: Swanwick, Derbyshire: Re-imagining Retreat: a spring in the desert.

The Retreat Association 4-yearly conference, with Brendan Callaghan, Graham Sparkes, Kenneth Browne and Gerry J Hughes. See www.retreats.org.uk Contact 01494 433004 or info@retreats.co.uk

28-30 June 2012: St Mary's University College, Twickenham: The Cave of the Heart: Contemplation, Mindfulness and Social Renewal.

International conference relating religious understandings of mindfulness and contemplation to recent explorations of mindfulness in psychology, education, social care and business. See www.smuc.ac.uk/inspire
Contact 020 8240 4082 or inspire@smuc.ac.uk

September 2011

2-4: Swanwick, Derbyshire: Begin with the Heart – a New Way of Seeing: a New Way of Being.

An invitation to experience God in the midst, the mess and mystery of our lives. Conference presented by Action and Contemplation UK, with Daniel O'Leary, Maggie Roux, Margaret Siberry and Adrian Scott. See www.ac-uk.org/news-events Contact 020 8785 3129 or beginwiththeheart@btinternet.com

9-10: N London: The Red Shoes – A Breathing Space Retreat. Space for women to explore and develop their inner life, with Amanda Miles and Heather Ellis, in a unique, hand-crafted yurt. See www.breathing-space.org.uk Contact 020 8441 8903 or amanda_miles@btconnect.com

10-16: St Beunos, N Wales: Nature, God and Us a retreat with Mary Colwell, combining practical experiences of nature with reflection and exploration of our relationship with the natural world. See www.beunos.com for details of this and many other very interesting events and retreats. Contact 01745 583444 or secretary@beunos.com

13-14: Silence in the City, London: James Finlay, author of *Christian Meditation – Experiencing the Presence of God*. The latest in an excellent series of talks and conferences on silent prayer and contemplative living in today's world. See www.silenceinthecity.org.uk Contact 020 7252 2453 or info@silenceinthecity.org.uk

16-18: Leeds: What the Gospels really teach about the birth and death of Jesus, with John Dominic Crossan. Conference organised by PCN Britain. See www.pcnbritain.org.uk Contact 01423 538798 or paul.onslow@pcnbritain.org.uk

16: The Ammerdown Centre, Radstock: Quiet Day. An opportunity to take time out to reflect and meditate, with Sr Theresa. (Also 28 Oct and 2 Dec). See www.ammerdown.org for this and other events. Contact 01761 433709 or centre@ammerdown.org

17: Tabor Retreat House, Preston: Dancing with the Mystics. Touching the hidden ground of love with David Mahon. See www.tabor-preston.org for this and other retreats and events. Contact 01772 717122 or tabor@carmelite.net

23-25: Mount St Bernard's Abbey, Leics: Pilgrimage as a way for Living (including building your own full size coracle). See www.monos.org.uk for this and other events. Contact 01509 506656 or ant@monos.org.uk

24: London Centre for Spirituality: Spirituality and the Natural World, exploring the poetry of Mary Oliver and Georgia O'Keeffe, with Anne Long. See www.spiritualitycentre.org for this and other events. Contact 020 7621 1391 or info@spiritualitycentre.org

24: Aylesford, Kent: The Power of Confidence – St Thérèse of Lisieux, with Sr Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. See www.thefriars.org.uk Contact 01622 717272 or retreat@thefriars.org.uk

28: St Bede's, York: Thomas Merton – his contemplative voice for today, with Bridget Hewitt. See www.stbedes.org.uk for more information about this and a wide range of one-off events, regular meetings and training series. Contact 01908 464900 or info@stbedes.org.uk

October

1: Turvey Abbey, Beds: Become Like Little Children. On the Feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux, we look at the scriptures that inspired her way of spiritual childhood. See www.turveyabbey.org.uk Contact Sr Johanna on 01234 881432 or day-events@turveyabbey.org.uk

7: Sarum College, Salisbury: Thomas Keating and John Main, a gentle day of stillness and quiet reflection, with Barbara Mosse. See www.sarum.ac.uk for information on a wide variety of courses and day seminars. Contact 01722 424800 or courses@sarum.ac.uk

7-9: Lake District: Rainbows, Ritual and Reflection – A Water-themed Gathering. Annual gathering of Greenspirit, with Maddy Harland, Editorial Director of Permaculture Magazine. See www.greenspirit.org.uk/ag2011/ Contact 020 8552 2096 or via website

13: Holy Rood House, N Yorks: Older People are Beautiful seminar with Diane Holmes, using images, art and clay to explore ideas of beauty and self-worth. See www.holyroodhouse.org.uk Contact 01845 522580 or theologycentre@holyroodhouse.org.uk

15: Oxford: The Universal Call to Contemplation - an evening with Cyprian Consiglio, organised by Stillpoint. See www.thestillpoint.org.uk Contact matt@thestillpoint.org.uk or Stillpoint, PO Box 788, Oxford, OX1 9HF

15: Edenbridge, Kent: Singing through the valley, quiet day using Psalms of Lament to reflect on different aspects of loss we may have experienced on life's journey, with Jan Larkins and Jan Newsom. See www.sisters-of-st-andrew.com Contact 01342 850 388 or thecentre@sisters-of-st-andrew.com

15: Dublin: New Monasticism and the Way of Wisdom with Cynthia Bourgeault. Early booking advised. Contact 087 203 3006 or sophiasociety@gmail.com

20-26: St Columba Hotel, Iona: Writing Retreat with Kenneth Steven. A writing retreat with the popular Scottish poet, which will help participants deepen their spiritual and creative paths, and their knowledge of Iona. See www.kennethsteven.co.uk and www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk Contact 01681 700304 or info@stcolumba-hotel.co.uk

28-30: Loyola Hall, Merseyside: Contemplative Scrapbooking, giving expression to moments that move the heart in a creative, reflective way, with Vron Smith. See www.loyolahall.co.uk Contact 0151 426 4137 or mail@loyolahall.co.uk

November

1-5: Islay: Group pilgrimage/retreat, including visits to Celtic sites on Islay for prayer, reflection and sharing. Organised by the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow. See www.iscglasgow.co.uk for this and a wide range of courses, day events and retreats, including a striking Advent series, beginning on 26th November. Contact 0141 354 0077 or admin@iscglasgow.co.uk

11-13: Centre for Radical Christianity, Sheffield: Reclaiming the Inheritance of Jesus, with Marcus Borg. CRC Autumn Conference. See www.stmarksccr.co.uk Contact 0114 266 3613 or info@stmarksccr.co.uk

16: London: Discovering Inner Ways to Truth. CANA (Christians Awakening to a New Awareness) study day with Anthony Deavin and Janice Dolley. See www.christiansawakening.org Contact 01628 529436 or catiesharples@onetel.net

December

7: London: The Core of Religion, the Annual Youngusband Lecture, delivered by Karen Armstrong. Entry by ticket only. See www.worldfaiths.org Contact 01935 864055 or enquiries@worldfaiths.org

The Living Spirituality Network

The Living Spirituality Network exists for people who are exploring the meaning of spirituality, both within and beyond the traditional churches. The Network provides supporters with information, encouragement and contacts as they seek to understand and deepen their spiritual lives. We work with a wide range of individuals, groups and communities, many of whom find themselves on the edges of mainstream church structures. For further information on the Network, and the groups and communities with which we are in contact, please contact the office for a copy of our leaflet.

Support:

The Living Spirituality Network relies on grants and donations from small communities, projects, networks, individuals and churches. Major support is gratefully received from the Society of the Sacred Mission.

Living Spirituality News is issued three times a year, and is available by post, by email or via the website. If you know of anyone who would welcome a copy, please contact the Administrator. **It is issued free of charge but donations of £10.00-£15.00 pa would help considerably in off-setting our costs and would be gratefully received.** Please make cheques payable to: 'CTBI – Living Spirituality Network', and send them to the Administrator at the address given. If you are a taxpayer and are willing to **Gift Aid** your donation, please ask for a form to sign.

A large-type version is available on request.

Contact us at:

The Living Spirituality Network, The Well at Willen, Newport Road, Willen, Milton Keynes MK15 9AA
Tel: **+44(0)1908 300559** email: spirituality@ctbi.org.uk
Web: www.livingspirituality.org.uk

Staff: Director: Eley McAinsh

Administrator: Win Kennedy

Design: Madeleine Frances

Printing: Murrays the Printers 01908 326560