

CONTEMPLATIVE CHRISTIANITY – TODAY

Friday 11 May to Sun 13 May

Keynote speaker Prof Bernard McGinn

With Laurence Freeman OSB & other workshop leaders

Programme

Friday evening

4.00 pm onwards – Registration

- 6.30 Meditation
- 7.00 Supper
- 8.00 Welcome - MC
- 8.10 Welcome – Laurence
- 8.15 **Talk: Bernard McGinn – What is Mysticism?**
- 9.15 Refreshments

Saturday

- 7.45 Meditation
- 8.30 Breakfast

9.30 **Talk: Bernard McGinn - Contemplative Insights from Early Christianity**

- 10.45 Coffee

11.00 – 12.15 Workshops **Details below**

5 workshops will be offered which will be repeated in the afternoon so people will be able to attend 2.

- 12.30 Meditation
- Lunch 1-2 pm

2.00 **Talk – Fr Laurence**

- 2.45 Comfort Break

3.00 – 4.15 Workshops **Details below**

- 4.15 Tea
- Personal time

- 6.30 Meditation
- 7.00 Supper

8.00 **Talk: Bernard McGinn - Prayer in Meister Eckhart and Julian of Norwich**

- 9.15 Refreshments

Sunday

7.45 Meditation

8.30 Breakfast

9.15 UK Community News – Richard Broughton

9.45 – 11.30 **Panel Discussion** with all speakers & workshop leaders,
Coffee break
and concluding remarks from Bernard and Laurence

11.45 Contemplative Eucharist (and homily by Laurence)

1.0 Lunch

2.00 Departure

WORKSHOPS

1. Being a Contemplative Church Revd Dr Sarah Bachelard

Benedictus Contemplative Church is an ecumenical worshipping community based in Canberra, Australia. This workshop with the founder and leader of Benedictus focuses on this new expression of congregational life and worship, and explores what we are learning about the particular vocation of a contemplative church.

Revd Dr Sarah Bachelard is a theologian, retreat leader and priest in Anglican Orders. She is a member of WCCM and an honorary research fellow at the Australian Catholic University. She also leads Benedictus, an ecumenical contemplative community. Sarah is the author of *Experiencing God in a Time of Crisis and Resurrection and Moral Imagination*.

2. Penetrating beyond Explanations: Poetry as a Probing of the Depths Prof Mark Burrows

We will explore the ancient practice of *lectio divina* as a method of reading poetry, and turn to selected poems from a range of authors—from new poems inspired by Meister Eckhart to poems by Rainer Maria Rilke, Jane Hirshfield, Linda Gregg, Ellen Hinsey and Christian Wiman among others. Our intent is to find ways of opening the heart and mind to the silent voice one finds in such writings, which opens us to what we somehow know without being able to explain.

Prof Mark Burrows is a poet, teacher, and scholar of historical theology. He is also a lover of Rilke, cats and German pinot noir. He teaches religion and literature at the University of Applied Sciences in Bochum, Germany. His recent publications are *The Chance of Home* and *Meister Eckhart's Book of the Heart*.

3. Bringing the Body to Prayer

Chris Hurley

A Yoga Workshop

The workshop will consist of simple movements - standing, sitting and lying, done with compassionate attention. We will explore the question "How does this feel for me, now?"

Chris Hurley has been a member of WCCM for 30 years and is an experienced Yoga teacher. She leads Bodywork classes and workshops for meditators throughout the UK.

4. Christian Non-Dualism

Daniel Soars

Any theology of creation must attempt to articulate both 'the distinction' of God from the world and 'the relation' between them. This is, however, a delicate balancing act: over-emphasising 'the distinction' can easily lead to it becoming a 'separation' between two things - God and world (dualism); on the other hand, over-emphasising 'the relation' risks bringing God and world so close together that the distinction collapses entirely (monism). Given that most Christian believers would want to try to avoid both of these extremes, we will explore in this workshop the notion of 'non-duality' as a potentially fruitful middle-way. After a brief introduction to the problem, we will proceed by a comparative reading of certain texts from the Christian and Vedantic Hindu traditions.

Daniel Soars studied Modern and Medieval Languages, and Theology at Cambridge, and taught Religious Studies at secondary level. He has an MRes from Heythrop College in Christianity and Interreligious Relations. Now he returns to Cambridge for a PhD focusing on the possibilities of a 'non-dual' Christianity as seen through 20th century Catholic engagement with Vedantic Hinduism.

5. Evagrius on Creation

Dr Monica Tobon

For Evagrius the goodness and beauty of the visible world reveal God's love for us and invite us to seek him through it. Doing so reveals it to be his body, which he has entrusted to us and of which each of us is part.

Dr Monica Tobon has lectured on the history of philosophy and Christian spirituality at the Franciscan International Study Centre in Canterbury and is now an Honorary Research Fellow of UCL's Department of Greek and Latin. Her new book is *Apatheia and Anthropology in Evagrius of Pontus* (Routledge).