

Open Gate Retreats and Events 2008

March 3rd to 7th - The God who Speaks – based on the Celtic understanding of the voice of the Spirit heard through Scripture and Nature. Retreat fee of £110 applies.

March 17th to 23rd - Holy Week on Holy Island

Join in this special festival week on Holy Island. Share in the island services and activities, holy week talks and take the opportunity for vigil and pilgrimage. A Retreat fee of £125 in addition to the B&B rate covers evening meals Monday to Saturday and Easter Sunday Lunch.

May 26th to 31st - Celebrating Saints and Sea Birds

A relaxed time enjoying and learning from the wonderful history and natural history of Holy Island and its surrounding area. Retreat fee of £110 applies + cost of trip to the Farne Islands.

July 7th to 11th - Place, Perception and Passion – a reflective week for artists.

Celebrate your gift and share your vulnerability with fellow artists in a gentle and supportive environment. Retreat fee of £110 applies.

July 26th to August 2nd - God in Nature Holiday Retreat (Week One)

A relaxing week with space for birding, photography, art, prayer and lots of fresh air. Retreat fee of £165 includes evening meals. Led by Paul Swinhoe & Graham Booth.

August 9th to 16th - God in Nature Holiday Retreat (Week Two)

As above, but led by Graham Booth & Charlotte Wright.

August 25th to 31st - Aidan & Hilda Week

Daily talks on Celtic Spirituality plus local churches special events.

October 6th to 10th - Savouring the Seasons on Holy Island: Migrations, Meanderings and Meditations

A week in which to lose yourself in the glory of the island. Walks, bird watching, silence, teaching and prayer in a relaxed and homely environment. Retreat fee of £110 applies + cost of trip to the Farne Islands.

October 27th to 31st - In the Steps of the Celtic Saints

Learn from the godly lives of these men and women of faith in the context of the beauty and stillness of this 'thin place'. Retreat fee of £110 applies

Other Retreats

January 29th to February 1st - Whirlow Grange, Sheffield; Retreat open only to CA&H Voyagers

Tuesday guest speaker: David Runcorn

February 8th to 9th - **How to find and be a soul friend** - Kristiansand, Norway

Led by Ray Simpson

Details from Frode.fjeldbraaten@frikirken.no

February 13th to 15th - **Desert in the City- London**

'Help us bring the desert into the city' Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Woolwich.

The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, an oasis of tranquillity in the centre of London between the City and Canary Wharf www.stkatharine.org.uk

Arrive 10.0 am Wednesday 13th; depart 5.0 pm Friday 15th.

Talks on the early desert fathers and mothers; meditation that creates inner deserts in the fast lane;

Reflective worship and music. Spaces for optional spiritual direction, resources stall.

Leader: Ray Simpson

Cost of £215 includes food, session content and accommodation. Half price for non residents.

Send a deposit of £50 to The Community Office

March 12th to April 30th - **Australia and New Zealand**

A tour by Ray Simpson of major cities with workshops, lectures, day retreats, gigs. On the theme of his new book 'The Emerging Down Under Church' co-authored with Brent Lyons-Lee.

Itinerary details from brent.lyonslee@urbanseed.org

Saturday May 3rd - **The Transforming Church Experience**

How we may re-connect with Sacred-Soil, Silence, Scripture & Soulfriend.

Red Hill Christian Centre, near Stratford-Upon-Avon.

Led by Ray Simpson

Book through office@redhillcentre.fsnet.co.uk

Tel: 01789 731427

Saturday May 23rd - An Aidan and Hilda Day-

With news, worship, stories, & teaching. 10.00am – 5.30 pm at 137 Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham. B11 4PU

Book with gjholt@ukonline.co.uk Tel: 0121 773 6063

June 3rd to 5th - A Heart for Scotland

Churches House, Dunblane

For ministers and church members: workshops on Re-Imagining Christianity

- The Circle and the Cross
- Re-connecting with Scottish church roots
- Weaving together the justice, biblical and charismatic strands
- Restoring godly rhythm to our common life
- Leadership that breaks out of the box.

Easy access by train and car.

Ray Simpson, Andrew Dick and Scott Brennan.

Cost: £175 full board in single room or £155 sharing a room.

Send a deposit of £75 to The Community Office

June 13th to 15th - The Community Week-End

Red Hill Centre, Near Stratford-Upon-Avon

With news, entertainment, workshops, worship, stories, teaching & Third World stalls.

This year's theme: Transforming Poverty

Friends and members welcome.

Cost: £30 (not including accommodation)

Send a deposit of £15 to The Community Office

July 8th to 11th - 21st Century Ireland - A Land Of Saints, Scholars and Transformers

Glencree and Glendalough, Ireland

How we can:

- learn the stories of God-guided personalities and allow God to write His story with our lives
- re-light the fire
- live our dream
- explore our own wild places
- walk the pilgrim paths at Glendalough

For young adults and older people who are young at heart; mostly shared bedrooms.

Facilitated by Ray Simpson and Shane Tucker with the Irish chapter of Dreamers of the Day www.dreamtoday.org

Cost: £99/ €144 (unwaged) £149/€216 (others)

Cost includes food, session content, accommodation at Glenree Centre for Reconciliation Co. Wicklow, www.glenree.ie There will be an offering to cover other costs.

To book pay a deposit of £50 by credit/ debit card via the telephone at The Community Office

August 8th to 9th - Sacred Space Weekend

Near Dalbeattie, Solway Firth

Friday supper meeting, Saturday talks on Celtic

Christianity, Sunday worship in the parish church at Colvend, Dalbeattie with Rev. James Gatherer on this glorious coast with its link to Saint Adomnan

To book and get details of local B&B contact jamesgatherer@btinternet.com Tel: 01556 630255.

September 15th to 26th - Holy Land Pilgrimage

We visit the traditional biblical sites from bases in Bethlehem & Nazareth and will meet both Palestinians and Israelis. Led by Martin Warren.

For full details and costs contact martin.warren@homecall.co.uk Tel: 01409 281424

October 6th to 9th - Renewing Sacred Roots

Chalice Well, Glastonbury UK

Drawing from the Celtic Christian tradition we explore how we may re-connect with Sacred Silence, Soil, Spirit, Signs, Seasons, Struggle, Scripture.

Led by Ray Simpson.

Cost: £220 B&B (Including B&B in the Chalice Well Lodge or Little St Michaels, session room and content, access to the world renowned sacred well gardens and upper room)

Day participants £18 per full day (concessions £12)

Lunch & Evening Meal costs are extra

Send a deposit of £60 to The Community Office

November 14th to 18th - Saint Hilda's Tide Retreat

At St Oswald's Centre, Sleights, Whitby.

Theme: **Wisdom for our Journey - The Spirituality of Hilda**

We also join the Sisters of the Holy Paraclete for their special St Hilda's tide celebrations.

Leader: Ray Simpson and Community members.

Cost: Send a deposit of £25 to The Community Office. Suggested donations for board and lodging to be paid direct to the house before departure.