

# Community of Prayer Newsletter

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*'All things have their beginning by the love of God. In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it'. (Julian of Norwich)*

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*Spiritual  
Accompaniment  
Refresher & Taster  
Day 11<sup>th</sup> October*

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Welcome to our third newsletter of this year. In preparing the September Mysticism day I have been rereading several well known books from English mystics over the summer. It is many years since I first read Evelyn Underhill's 'Practical Mysticism' and I was surprised at the topicality of her themes. In addition I have revisited Walter Hilton, the Cloud of Unknowing and Julian of Norwich. These mystics spoke to a society threatened by war and were coming to terms with a world devastated by a recent pandemic. In many ways their difficulties are the same as ours. In hearing their words to us we are reminded of the Gospel message to live in God's love, most especially in the most difficult of times, as Evelyn Underhill reminds us we are always rooted in love as shown to us by Jesus. *'A link of love now binds you to it for evermore: in spite of derelictions, in spite of darkness, your will is harmonised with the Will that informs the Whole'*. Cameron Butland

## Soul Friends Day

A day is being arranged for those interested in spiritual accompaniment.

**On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October at St Helen's Darley Dale** the Diocesan Spirituality Group have organised a day to be led by Cameron Butland exploring spiritual accompaniment and the nature of spiritual direction, to reflect on what it means to be a 'soul friend'. The day is provided for three groups of people:

- **Taster** Day for those interested in training as a spiritual accompanier.
- **Refresher** Day for existing Spiritual Directors or those who have previously trained.
- **Information** Day, for anyone wanting to know more about spiritual accompaniment.

There is no charge for the day, but please book into the day via emailing Cameron – [cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org](mailto:cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org)

### Soul Friend Day Programme

10.00am	Arrive, ( <i>refreshments available on arrival</i> )
10.30am	Opening Prayer
11.00am	First session, <b>'What is spirituality?'</b> , talk, activity, followed by time of reflection
12noon	Second session, <b>'What is spirituality direction?'</b> , talk, activity, followed by time of reflection
1.00pm	<i>Lunch, please bring your own packed lunch</i>

2.00pm	Third session, ' <b>What to expect as a Soul Friend</b> ', talk, activity, followed by time of reflection
3.00pm	Questions and Discussion
3.15pm	Closing Prayer
3.30pm	Depart

## Supervision Audit

During September all those currently on the matching list are asked to let Cameron know their current supervision arrangements. Many are in existing supervision groups or have individual supervision sessions which are working well, but some people have asked for a change to their existing provision. There are also new people coming onto the list and it is important to place them in supervision. Supervision is a requirement of all those offering spiritual accompaniment and therefore it is important to check that everyone has this support. Please could you answer the following simple questions:

- Do you have supervision?
- Who provides this support?
- Do you feel your supervision is working well?
- Who else is in your supervision group?

Please can **everyone on the matching list** contact Cameron by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

On **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am to 12.30pm** there will be a Supervision Refresher morning for all those currently on the list and for anyone who has been on ASA course at St John's Walton, Chesterfield. Please contact Cameron to book a place

## ASA 2026 course

The new Art of Spiritual Accompaniment (ASA) course is being planned for next year. If you are interested in applying for the course please let Cameron know or attend the Taster Day on 11<sup>th</sup> October at St Helen's Darley Dale. It is planned that the course will be twelve days, 10am to 4pm running from February to November with a summer break. Application forms as expressions of interest will be available from 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## Spiritual Directors Refresher Mornings

A third online meeting of current spiritual directors to place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 10am. This is an opportunity to catch up, to ask questions and to share information. Please book in with Cameron.

## Do you want a 'soul friend'?

Spiritual direction is where one person accompanies another in faith in the footsteps of the first disciples on the road to Emmaus. They accompany one another seeking to discern God's direction for their life. Often there is some confusion of the various names for this ministry but simply put it is where one Christian helps another in seeking to discern God in their life, is a partner in prayer, in short – a soul friend. Many Christians find being accompanied on their faith journey helpful. A spiritual director can help individuals explore their struggles and joys in

living out their discipleship. Spiritual direction is available to all and you are interested please contact Cameron to find out more. Information is available online, please follow the link -

<https://www.retreats.org.uk/spiritual-direction>

## Cycle of Prayer

Following this year's Thy Kingdom Come the first Sunday of each month is being used to remember those people who we prayed from Ascension to Pentecost. This provides a focus for praying for others to come to faith. Please prayer for the ministry and mission of the diocese, the parishes, churches and individuals. Many people still seem unaware of the diocesan Cycle of Prayer; this can be accessed via the Diocesan website: [www.derby.anglican.org/prayer](http://www.derby.anglican.org/prayer).



## Quiet Days

**'Mysticism'**, *a day of reflection on the writings of English Mystics*

This Quiet Day will look at various English Mystics and reflect upon the Mystery of God. The day takes place on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September at St Helen's, Darley Dale, 10am to 4pm**. The day itself will have three talks, time for personal reflection and two times of collective prayer. It will be a quiet day, silence will be maintained during the day, between the opening prayer and lunchtime. Then from the third talk until the discussion prior to the closing prayers. The day is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

## 2026 Quiet Days

The Diocesan Spirituality Group is planning to offer three Quiet Days around the county between Easter and October. Please let Cameron know if you have any suggestions of speakers or topics.

## Retreats

### Retreat Bursaries

The Association for Promoting Retreats provides a Bursary Fund to help and encourage more people to go on retreat, particularly if they cannot afford the full cost themselves. The APR relies on Member Retreat Houses to promote the availability of this assistance, hope that clergy and other ministers will highlight this support to those considering making a retreat, but who might be prevented from doing so for financial reasons. In September 2024, the scheme was extended to offer no-questions-asked bursaries for staff (teachers, headteachers, teaching assistants and pastoral/welfare staff) in Church of England schools to go on retreat at one of our APR member houses. To find out how to apply please go to: <https://promotingretreats.org/bursary/>

## Online Retreat - 'Living life to the full'

*Jesus says, 'if you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by*

*this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love'. John 15:7-9*

In John's Gospel Jesus tells us that he has come to bring us life, and life in all its fulness. Being a Christian should be a life of freedom held in the love of God. In this twenty-four hour retreat we will look at what it means, 'to live life in love to the full' through the writings of the teachers of the faith. We will also be reminded of the stories of the saints and faithful Christians who give us an example of living a full life.

Cameron Butland is leading a 24hour guided retreat online, following this theme. **The retreat begins at 6pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November and ends at 5pm on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November.** The format of this retreat will be five brief times of silent prayer with the talks and all the resources available from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November. **Please book your place with Cameron via email.** There is no cost for the retreat but participants are invited to make a donation according to their means. It will be good to share in this online retreat with you and many have used this retreat being unable to attend a retreat in person in preparation for Advent

## Notices

### Launde Abbey Part-time Role

Launde Abbey is looking for an experienced Anglican priest both to play an active part in the ministry and hospitality that is based at the Abbey and to be part of the permanent praying community, living in their own cottage onsite. They will share responsibility with the Warden, Deputy Warden and other team members for the ministry and mission of Launde Abbey, and for sustaining its character as a place of prayer, hospitality, community and sanctuary. This is a part-time post for 3 days work per week in return for self-contained accommodation with utilities allowance in a beautiful rural setting, and with many other non-financial benefits! With a deep personal prayer life, a good knowledge of spirituality as a subject of study, and experience of leading retreats and spiritual direction practice, for more information please go to: <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/vacancy/resident-chaplain/>

## Contact

For more information about spirituality in the diocese please contact  
The Revd Canon Cameron Butland  
The Bishop's Spirituality Adviser  
[Cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org)

## Useful links

Spirituality page on Diocese of Derby website:  
[www.derby.anglican.org/en/faith-and-life/spirituality-1.html](http://www.derby.anglican.org/en/faith-and-life/spirituality-1.html)

2027 Community of Prayer webpage  
[www.derby.anglican.org/2027](http://www.derby.anglican.org/2027)