

Christmas 2023

Dear friends,

As we have now entered the new liturgical year, we give thanks for the past year and for all the guests and visitors we welcomed. Many came for a day of silence or a few days of retreat, and groups used our house and grounds for their meetings. Our programme of events attracted old friends and new. The meditative prayers on the last Wednesday of the month were well attended and the refreshments afterwards proved to be a relaxed and friendly way to meet up.

For our 2024 programme we will be keeping the highlights of the past years: quiet days for Lent and Advent, the day on 'The Art of Ignatian Prayer' prepared by our friend Mary Chamberlin, 'Stations of the Universe' during the Creation season at the end of September with sister Regula, individually guided weekend retreats in February and October, and 3-to-8-day retreats at the end of July. We'll also be running our retreat in daily life during Lent.

New ideas have also emerged for next year, including several days led by friends: 'Meeting God through poetry' (Mary Lean), 'The Love of God in Julian of Norwich and Ignatius of Loyola' (Sheelagh Daly), an inner pilgrimage inspired by a visit to Skellig Michael, a Celtic spiritual island (Kathleen O'Sullivan). There will also be an individually guided retreat of 3 to 8 days in the Epiphany season, just after New Year. At the beginning of Holy Week it will be possible to come for a few days for a silent retreat, with an introduction in the morning and a prayer in the evening which everyone can join.

We will once again be welcoming the Icon of the Woman at the Well of the Retreat Association for a week at the end of October. The icon will be in the chapel for the Meditative Prayer on the last Tuesday and for a day on the theme of the Samaritan woman on the Saturday.

A big change for our regulars next year: the meditative evening prayer including Taizé songs will be moved from the last Wednesday of each month to the last Tuesday of each month. (No prayer end of July, August or December.)

The community of sisters sends you its greetings and wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sigrun, Regula, Marie-Christine, Christiane, Fiona



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