

# Programme, September – December 2023

The House of Prayer, East Molesey

<https://www.christian-retreat.org/our-programme>

## **Longing for God: Weekend Individually Guided Retreat**

Friday 8 – Sunday 10 September 2023

Led by the House of Prayer Team

A silent individually guided retreat for busy people, those who have not made a retreat before, or for anyone who needs time away to stop, breathe, and pray. A retreat guide will be available for daily individual meetings to accompany you through the retreat. Above all, this retreat is a time of listening to God who is present in the experiences of prayer and daily living.

Arrive in time for supper at 7pm on Friday and depart by 3pm on Sunday.

Cost En-suite room £220, Standard room £200.

## **Open House**

Saturday 16 September 2023 , 11am – 2pm

Retreats are for all people at any time of their lives. Our House of Prayer offers a breathing space and everything needed for a retreat. Call in, meet the community, and find out more about making a retreat at the House of Prayer. There will be the opportunity to explore the House and gardens and refreshments will be provided.

## **Sitting at the feet of the Carmelite Mystics**

Friday 22 – Sunday 24 September

Led by Audrey Hamilton

Teresa of Avila famously described prayer as nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends, taking time to be alone with Him who we know loves us. She, and the other great Carmelite mystics, have much to teach us about how beloved we are and the grandeur of our calling. They also help us to be authentically ourselves in the reality of our daily lives. Join us as we sit at their feet and enter the mystery of God's transformative love.

Local? We have limited spaces available for day guests. Cost: £110 (inclusive of meals)

## **Contemplative photography: a new way of seeing and praying**

Saturday 30 September

Led by Berenice Chan

Come and discover how photography can help you connect with yourself and with God. Spend time practising this new way of seeing and be guided in how to pray with your images. Please bring a smart phone or camera – we will be using point and shoot or fully automatic mode.

Starts at 10am and finishes at 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

Cost: £30

## **Going Deeper in Silence, Stillness and Simplicity**

Friday 13 – Sunday 15 October

Led by Brijji Waterfield

As we sit in meditation we put away our cares, expecting nothing, but simply attending and letting go of all that hinders us from being present in the now. In the spaciousness of meditation, we encounter God, the Source of All. A silent weekend for those who have an established practice of meditation as contemplative prayer and seek to journey deeper. There will be some input, meditation sessions, contemplative practices and space for personal reflection. Spiritual Direction will also be offered. Arrive in time for supper at 7pm and depart by 4pm on Sunday.

Cost: En-suite: £220, Standard: £200

## **Longing for God: Weekend Individually Guided Retreat**

Friday 20 October – Sunday 22 October

Led by the House of Prayer Team

A silent individually guided retreat for busy people, those who have not made a retreat before, or for anyone who needs time away to stop, breathe, and pray. A retreat guide will be available for daily individual meetings to accompany you through the retreat. Above all, this retreat is a time of listening to God who is present in the experiences of prayer and daily living.

Arrive in time for supper at 7pm on Friday and depart by 4pm on Sunday. Cost: En-suite: £220, Standard: £200

## **Canon, Community and handing on the Faith**

Saturday 28 October

Led by Rev Dr Bruno Clifton OP

What makes a text canonical and which version are we talking about anyway? The biblical texts have many authors and contributors and yet we do not have any of the texts they wrote, but copies handed down and reduplicated over generations. What does this transmission teach us about the nature of Scripture, God's providence, and the Bible's role in the Church's faith?

Starts at 10am and finishes at 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch. This retreat is available to attend online via Zoom and in-person.

Cost: £30

*Fr Bruno is Vice Regent of Blackfriars, Oxford where he teaches Old Testament and Biblical languages. His research interests are the nature of Scripture and its relationship to theology, Israel and the ancient Near East in the Iron Age and the socio-cultural contextualization of biblical texts.*

## **Advent: Lectio Divina**

Tuesday 28 November, 5 December, 12 December, 19 December

2pm – 3pm

Led by Helen Healy

An opportunity to join a small group meeting at the House of Prayer during Advent. Lectio Divina is divine reading, listening to Scripture with the ear of the heart. A short passage of scripture is read slowly and meditatively. There are periods of silence, letting the words penetrate deeper in our hearts, and listening to God and to each other. Places are limited and given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Donations welcome

***Helen** is a spiritual director and a member of the Lay Community of Saint Benedict, and is deeply attracted to Benedictine spirituality.*