



# Catholic Spirituality Network

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK

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SEND MY ROOTS RAIN

21-23 JUNE 2024

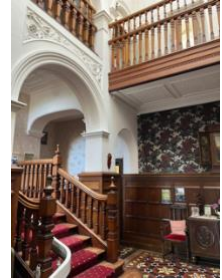


BOOKING OPEN!

BOOKING is now open for our 2024 Conference **SEND MY ROOTS RAIN**, led by keynote speaker Christopher Chapman and liturgist Avril Baigent.

**SEND MY ROOTS RAIN** will take place at **NODDFA SPIRITUALITY CENTRE**. We have booked the whole centre for the Conference. Noddfa is a beautiful house with a warm welcome! The ground floor has very large shared sitting rooms – including a library and conference room as well as the lovely hall, comfortable dining room and peaceful chapel. There are 2 labyrinths and a fountain in the extensive grounds that blend into the surrounding fields and countryside. Walks go up one way into the hills of Snowdonia or down the other way to the sea! But there is plenty of scope for walking around the house and garden too or curling up with the resident cat(s).

Do take advantage of the early bird booking and let us know of any special needs. Most of the bedrooms are on the first floor, some are in the annexe and in a separate house called Shalom in the grounds. There is a stairlift to the main house rooms.



## SEND MY ROOTS RAIN

The aim of the Conference is 'to explore ways of allowing the water of the Spirit to soak down to our roots', whatever ministry we are involved in or whatever the hardships of our daily life. It will be a chance to review, to renew and to be refreshed.

**Christopher Chapman** is a spiritual director, retreat leader, teacher and *writer*. He is associate tutor for St Augustine's College of Theology and a guest director at St Beuno's.



**Avril Baigent** is Pastoral Ministry Adviser for the Diocese of Northampton. She is a musician in her own parish and regularly leads children's liturgy. In October 2023 Avril gave the Crichton Memorial Lecture for the Society of St Gregory:

*'Enlarging the space of our tents: What new learning is possible from the dialogue between synodality and liturgy?'*

*Please contact Margaret in the office for more information or to book your place.*

[catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com](mailto:catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com)

[www.csnretreats.org.uk/conference.php](http://www.csnretreats.org.uk/conference.php)



# Catholic Spirituality Network

## CSN – who are we?



The Executive Committee spent some time last year pondering our 'mission' statement – trying to work out how to describe the Network now, given all the changes that happen gradually and organically over the years.

The result of our labours is on the website but, in case you haven't seen it, here it is in the newsletter!

THE CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK (CSN) IS A GROUP OF PEOPLE, OPEN TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS AND PRESENCE. WE GATHER IN A VARIETY OF WAYS PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE FREELY THE MYSTERY OF GOD AND ARE OPEN TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO ENTER INTO THAT MYSTERY AND GROW IN A DEPTH OF FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING. OUR GATHERINGS ARE IMAGINATIVE, INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING AS WE SEEK TO WALK ALONGSIDE ONE ANOTHER.

## What does CSN mean to me?

*This question was the focus of our sharing at the AGM. Here are some of the responses:*

We offer a space to connect with others on the same journey.

*We would like to create a meeting place for younger people.*

Zoom has really helped those who find it harder to travel due to illness and ageing, as well as those outside the UK.

*We are grateful for nourishing communications from CSN and the Retreat Association.*

We are a responsive organisation. There is a 'bond' between us.

*CSN gives me a place in the church as a single woman.*

We have long-term involvement, so being at Conference is like meeting friends – a group of like-minded friends!

*We value Ignatian spirituality and support in accompaniment. Also we are not exclusively Ignatian. Our charism is one of balancing different approaches to spirituality.*

We would like to reach out and let people know about us more.

*We benefit from networking and conversation...!*



# Catholic Spirituality Network



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Following our AGM in September, I am particularly grateful to the many members who joined us and who remain committed to our progress as a network. While it was time to say farewell to Sr. Magdalen Lawler and Mary Groom after long service to the Committee, it was a delight to welcome Christine Dodd and to find a younger generation represented and engaging in our vision. Thanks also to our Membership Secretary, Margaret Palladino, who offers further news on the AGM in her report.

Thank you to all who continue to support us individually or within the retreat houses and centres of spirituality. Seeking to remain relevant as a network, we each have a part to play in outreach through sharing our history and our vision. Please do direct others to our website: [csnretreats.org.uk](http://csnretreats.org.uk) and speak to them of your journey with CSN.

As the seasons change, we invite you to check your diaries and join us for an online Advent Day of Prayer on Saturday 16 December. This year members of the Executive Committee will lead our reflection and prayer on the return of justice to our living, inspired by the weekly Advent readings.

As world events continue to challenge our families and communities, Pope Francis has again asked us to renew our own prayer for peace between nations. Our hearts and minds remain with all who have lost their lives and whose existence is threatened in the unfolding global conflicts. We pray for an outpouring of healing, compassion and peace.

Looking ahead, our 2024 Conference will take place at Noddfa. With reduced numbers in attendance at Swanwick this year and in order to allay risks of financial penalties, we have opted to support one of our own centres. Many of you will know and love Noddfa and will understand that the change of venue means a difference in the accommodation available. We would recommend that you take advantage of the early bird bookings if you are able to join us 21 - 23 June 2024. We very much look forward to having time with Christopher Chapman who will lead us in his deeply reflective style through ***Send my Roots Rain***, a time to open to the life-giving Spirit at the depths of our selves. We will also welcome Avril Baigent to lead us in liturgy. Avril currently works as Pastoral Ministry Advisor in Northampton Diocese and is a skilled liturgist.



Finally, as we move towards Christ the King and Advent, I pray that our lives will be enriched as we await renewal in the One who is to come.

*Shirley Taylor*



# Catholic Spirituality Network



## AGM report

On Sunday 24 September 2023 we held our third AGM on Zoom and were joined by almost 40 members. I felt greatly encouraged and privileged to serve such an interested and responsive network. The level of participation was deeply encouraging despite an unprecedented time of major change at so many levels. The Covid pandemic has affected us all and CSN is no exception. We have seen the closure of some retreat centres and great loss for others. The network has been impacted financially with expenditure exceeding income during this time. However we were reassured that the Executive is seriously aware of these concerns and considering how to meet the challenges we face.

It was reassuring to hear in our sharing time how valuable members feel it is to belong to CSN. This year the Executive said goodbye to Sr Magdalen Lawler after many years of devoted service on the group. Mary Groom also stood down from the Executive and we were pleased to welcome Christine Dodd to the Executive for the first time. Members expressed their gratitude to Shirley for her sterling work as Chair over these years of change.

On my behalf (and I am sure on behalf of the Executive) I thank each and every one of our members for encouragement and support – you are the reason for our existence, and we encourage you to join in further events, have your say and be active in your membership. God bless all you are and do.

*Margaret Palladino*

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE

*Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!*

*We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.*

*Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.*



*Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us, and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.*

*Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! AMEN*



# Catholic Spirituality Network

## EVENTS

CSN ADVENT DAY 2023  
Saturday 16 December  
*Anticipating God's Justice*



## CSN CONFERENCE 2024



**SEND MY ROOTS RAIN**  
21-23 JUNE 2024  
**VENUE:** Noddfa Spirituality Centre  
**SPEAKER:** Christopher Chapman  
[www.csnretreats.org.uk/conference.php](http://www.csnretreats.org.uk/conference.php)

## WAYS OF LOOKING

Among twenty snowy mountains,  
The only moving thing  
Was the eye of the blackbird.

...It was evening all afternoon.  
It was snowing  
And it was going to snow.  
The blackbird sat  
In the cedar-limbs.

*from Wallace Stevens, Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird.*

## Catholic Spirituality Network

Executive Committee: Shirley Taylor (Chair), Eamonn Hamilton (Treasurer), Mary Nono, Fr Chris Thomas, Ruth Connor, Sr Marie Grogan FMDM, Fr Tomy Rockey CP (Passionist Spirituality rep), Jo Alstott (Youth rep), Canon Patrick Hartnett (Bishops' Conference Spirituality Group rep), Christine Dodd.

*Heartfelt thanks to Sr Magdalen Lawler and Mary Groom who have stepped down from the Committee following the AGM. Welcome to new Committee member, Christine Dodd.*

Membership Secretary: Margaret Palladino.  
Newsletter: Jill Keegan. Please send newsletter contributions to the email below.

Contact: Margaret Palladino, Membership Secretary, Catholic Spirituality Network (CSN), St George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7HY Tel: 07756 864784

[catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com](mailto:catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com)

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