
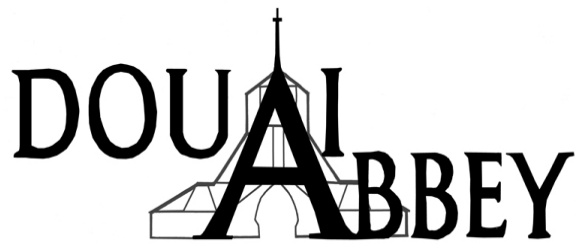


PASTORAL PROGRAMME

2009

- Retreats
- Workshops
- Healing Ministry
- Days of Recollection
- Talks
- Courses

DOUAI
ABBAY



PASTORAL PROGRAMME

The Pastoral Programme is a ministry of the monks of Douai Abbey which provides retreats and workshops at the monastery, and also courses and dayschools in partnership with the University of Reading.

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Guests are also welcome to come for a few days of private retreat or simply to have quiet space and time. Please contact the Guestmaster, by email guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk by telephone 0118 971 5399 or by letter, Guestmaster, Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading, RG7 5TQ

Douai Abbey is a member of The Retreat Association.

Douai Abbey Registered Charity no 236962

RESIDENTIAL RETREATS

PRAYING THE PSALMS

Gervase Holdaway OSB

Friday 13 - Sunday 15 February (4109)

An opportunity to discover the psalms, which have been used for prayer by Jews and Christians alike and were prayed by Jesus himself. We shall see how they can become our prayer too, as well as being musical celebrations of faith.

Cost for the waged £110, (£20 reduction for those willing to share a room).

SILENT RETREAT

Monday - Friday February 16 - 20 (2109)

A chance to have time to rest, pray, meditate, enjoy the countryside and simply to be, with the opportunity of participating in the monastic prayer.

Cost for the waged £120.

PANCAKES & ASHES

Christopher Greener OSB & Gervase Holdaway OSB

Monday February 23 - Friday February 27 (4209)

A retreat during Carnival (Shrove Tuesday) and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, during which we shall feast and fast, as we begin our preparation for the great celebration of the Paschal Mystery at Easter.

Cost for the waged, residential £185 (£30 reduction for those willing to share a room), non-residential £105.

MANAGING CONFLICT IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

The Benedictine Way

Fodhla McGrane PhD & Gervase Holdaway OSB

Friday - Sunday March 6 - 8 (8209)

Jesus says "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and get some rest" (Mark 6: 31). Come and spend some quality time looking at the friction we often experience with others in our lives (at work, at home, in the community, and at church). We'll discuss our typical reactions to conflict, and we'll equip ourselves with effective alternatives for preventing conflict, and for helping us and others to get through it. Our sessions will be based on direction given to us in the Bible and the Rule of St Benedict about peacefully living together.

This weekend retreat will include a range of options for you to dip in and out of, as you need and want. Our time together will include talks and discussions about the subjects already mentioned; we'll share our experiences of conflict, and we'll take a look at the conflict that occurred in 'The Monastery', the recent TV programme.

The weekend will also promise plenty of time and space for personal prayer and reflection. Reap the benefits from a specially designed, 'Peace-Full' prayer room created for your peace and quiet; take a gentle walk around the grounds in the Spring sunlight, and receive support from the retreat leaders through opportunities for one-to-one conversations and prayer. Leave rested and equipped to bring peace back home with you and in you.

If you are interested in this topic but cannot attend this weekend, please email Fodhla on fodhlaammcgrane@hotmail.com (or if you do not have email access, contact Fr Gervase at Douai) to inform us of your interest and to register your preferred choice from the following future options: a weekend, a one-day workshop, or an evening talk. We will endeavour to meet your needs.

Fodhla McGrane has a PhD in Interpersonal Dispute Resolution from the University of Ulster.

Cost for the waged £150, (£20 reduction for those willing to share a room).

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Simon Hill OSB

Thursday - Sunday April 9 - 12 (4309)

The Triduum is the climax of the church's liturgical cycle. Come and celebrate with the monastic community and have time for silent prayer and reflection. There will be talks on the spirituality and significance of the celebrations.

Cost for the waged, residential £165 (£30 reduction for those willing to share a room), non-residential £105.

LECTIO DIVINA - PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

Gervase Holdaway OSB

Friday - Monday May 1 - 4 (4409)

Experience a way of praying with Scripture, an ancient art at one time practiced by all Christians. It is a slow contemplative prayer which enables one to listen to God's word and to make prayerful response. There will be time for sharing, silence, solitude and reflection.

FULLY BOOKED

PENTECOST RETREAT

Nicholas Broadbridge OSB

Friday - Sunday May 29 - 31 (4509)

An opportunity to celebrate the liturgy of Pentecost with the monastic community, and to consider in depth the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Cost for the waged £110, (£20 reduction for those willing to share a room).

SILENT RETREAT

Friday - Sunday June 19 - 21 (2209)

A chance to have time to rest, pray, meditate, enjoy the countryside and simply to be, with the opportunity of participating in the monastic prayer.

Cost for the waged £90.

COME TO THE QUIET

Individually guided retreat

Elizabeth Rees OCV & Benedict Thompson OSB

Monday July 20 12.30 - Friday July 24 09.30 (2309)

A silent individually guided retreat. Relax in God's presence surrounded by natural beauty and supported by the community prayer.

Cost for the waged £180.

COPING WITH TRANSITIONS

Bernard Kilroy & Pamela Lee

Friday- Sunday July 24 - 28 (X109)

This retreat has helped others to work through a transition, even one that is past but still feels present - whether the ending of a relationship, an illness, disability or death, a change of role, promotion, retirement or redundancy.

You work on your own or in pairs with music, meditation, or perhaps, freestyle drawing, in a quiet and relaxed atmosphere, respecting everyone's privacy.

The weekend is open to those of any faith or none. Participants may attend the monastic offices. The programme allows time in the countryside. Optional massage is available at a nominal charge. Limited to 18 people.

Further details, or chat without obligation: bernardkilroy@uk2.net tel/fax 01252 843133

Course fee for the waged £70, cheque payable to Bernard Kilroy.

Accommodation cost for the waged £90, (£20 reduction for those willing to share a room).

QUO VADIS? (Whither goest thou?)

Individually guided retreat

Christopher Greener OSB & Gervase Holdaway OSB

Friday - Monday August 28 - 31 (2409)

A silent individually guided retreat. Relax in God's presence surrounded by natural beauty and supported by the community prayer. This retreat ends after lunch on bank holiday Monday.

Cost for the waged £160.

HEALING GRIEF

Nicholas Broadbridge OSB

Friday - Sunday September 18 - 20 (4609)

This retreat will provide a spiritual framework for helping those who have experienced the death of a loved one. Through sharing their stories, prayer and reflection participants will grow in their understanding of the grieving process and find a means of healing.

Cost for the waged £110.

TO GOD THROUGH MUSIC

Gervase Holdaway OSB

Friday - Sunday September 25 - 27 2009 (4709)

For many people music creates the atmosphere conducive to prayer. This retreat will give opportunity to grow closer to God through music. No expertise is needed, just an ability to listen.

Cost for the waged £110, (£20 reduction for those willing to share a room).

COME LORD JESUS!

Oliver Holt OSB

Friday - Sunday November 27 - 29 (4809)

The Church invites us to reflect on the wonder of a people waiting for the Lord. We prepare prayerfully to celebrate the gift of God-made-flesh by opening our hearts to the word of the Lord.

Cost for the waged £110, (£20 reduction for those willing to share a room).

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Romuald Simpson OSB

Friday - Sunday December 18 - 20 (4909)

An opportunity to take a weekend out before the festivities begin, to concentrate on what is really important about the coming feast of the birth of Christ, and to discern how we can celebrate it to our best spiritual advantage.

Cost for the waged £110, (£20 reduction for those willing to share a room).

MINISTRY OF HEALING WORKSHOPS

Nicholas Broadbridge OSB

A series of three practical workshops, which must be attended in order, and which explore the issues involved in Christian healing with emphasis on the importance of mutual forgiving, prayer for healing and for deliverance, and blessing of oil for use by the laity.

WORKSHOP I

Sat Jan 31, 9.45am - 5pm (6109)

Wed Apr 15, 9.45am - 5pm (6209)

Sat Sept 26, 9.45am - 5pm (6509)

WORKSHOP II

Sat May 27, 9.45am - 5pm (6309)

Sat Oct 17, 9.45am - 5pm (6609)

WORKSHOP III

Sat Nov 21, 9.45am - 5pm (6709)

HEALING FAMILIES

Often people need healing from ills or crises brought about through other members of their immediate families or the generations before, possibly unknowingly. This workshop will help participants identify these causes and allow God to heal them.

Sat July 18, 9.45am - 5pm (6409)

DAYS OF RECOLLECTION

for Ministers of Communion, Readers, Musicians etc

Sat Mar 14, 9.45am - 4pm Gervase Holdaway OSB (1109)

Sat May 9, 9.45am - 4pm Romuald Simpson OSB (1209)

Sat Sept 5, 9.45am - 4pm Boniface Moran OSB (1309)

Sat Nov 7, 9.45am - 4pm Simon Hill OSB (1409)

These days are designed to enable those engaged in ministry to be ministered to themselves and to deepen their relationship with God. Limited to 30 people.

For all workshops cost for the waged £15. Please bring some food to share at lunch-time, beverages will be provided.

EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF READING

Courses at the University

MONASTICISM THROUGH THE AGES

Abbot Geoffrey Scott OSB

Ten Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00 beginning January 13

The written word has always been crucial to the handing on of religious belief down the generations. This course will focus on the history and importance of books and writing to monastic life, from the Desert Fathers to the Lindisfarne Gospels, from the lost treasures of medieval monastic libraries to the continuing tradition of plainchant today.

The aim of this course is to introduce the history of monasticism through focusing on the importance of books and writing in the monastic tradition.

No previous knowledge is required.

The course will begin with the history of the monastic library from its origins in the classical world to the present library at Douai Abbey, taking in along the way great libraries of the middle ages, and the fate of libraries during the dissolution of the monasteries. This will be followed by three case-studies of important monastic writings: the writings of the Desert Fathers; the Rule of St Benedict; and the Celtic manuscript known as the Lindisfarne Gospels, one of the nation's greatest artistic and religious treasures. We shall then discover a wealth of monastic writers from St Augustine's *Confessions* to Thomas Merton and Basil Hume, including a special session on Dom John Turner, a late eighteenth-century Benedictine book collector. The course will finish with an exploration of plainchant, discovering why it has been central to the monastic life through the ages and why it is still so popular today.

C07 Fee £82. (£60 concession), this event can be booked only at The School of Continuing Education, The University of Reading, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ. tel: 0118 378 8347 email: continuing-education@reading.ac.uk

INTRODUCING THE PROPHETS

Gervase Holdaway OSB

Seven Tuesdays 13.30 - 16.00 beginning April 21

The books of the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible, are among the greatest of ancient literary works. We shall look at what is meant by biblical prophecy and examine the lives and preaching of many of the Old Testament prophets. Special attention will be paid to fulfilment of prophecy in the New Testament and how it can be understood.

This course aims to give students an awareness of the nature of prophecy, a knowledge of who the prophets actually were, their historical context, and what they were aiming to do. It will also attempt to apply the prophets' critique to contemporary affairs.

No previous experience is necessary.

During the course we shall look at each of the Old Testament prophets, and see how contemporary events determined what they said and did. We shall try to see what relevance this has for us today.

Set text: *Meet the Prophets* by John W Miller. Paulist Press ISBN 0-8091-2899-3

F21 Fee £82. (£60 concession), this event can be booked only at The School of Continuing Education, The University of Reading, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ. tel: 0118 378 8347 email: continuing-education@reading.ac.uk.

Also planned

ST PAUL & HIS EPISTLES

Gervase Holdaway OSB

October - December *days and time to be arranged*

We shall study the Epistles to the Romans, Colossians and Ephesians, as well looking at the Pastoral Epistles.

Details will be published later.

Dayschools at Douai Abbey

‘WORDS THAT CHALLENGE, WORDS THAT HEAL’

Myra Cottingham & Oliver Holt OSB

Saturday February 21 10.00 - 16.30

Following on from previous popular dayschools on Christian poetry, this year's will look at a variety of poems and images from the medieval period to the present which may help us when we are feeling challenged, need a challenge, or need healing.

The aim of this dayschool is to examine how words and images can help us explore our spiritual needs, and to share our responses to works of art and literature.

This dayschool will explore a selection of poems and images from the middle ages to the present. The title of the dayschool, 'Words that challenge, words that heal' is part of an 'inscriptional painting' by John Rowlands-Pritchard, created in 2002. Consisting of just words and colour, it is also a poem by local poet David Grubb, and also acts as a prayer. Fr Oliver Holt will concentrate on poetry and works of art from the medieval and modern periods, including the poetry of RS Thomas and Denise Levertov. Using the themes of challenge and healing, Myra Cottingham will concentrate on poetry from the seventeenth century, focusing on John Donne and George Herbert, with a short excursion into the nineteenth century.

F17 Fee £37 (£32 Concession) Lunch optional £12 to be booked at enrolment and at least one week before the event. This event can be booked only at The School of Continuing Education, The University of Reading, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ. tel: 0118 378 8347
email: continuing-education@reading.ac.uk

MONASTICISM & THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Alban Hood OSB PhD

Saturday May 16, 10.00 - 16.30

After the Dissolution of the monasteries in England in the sixteenth century, many English monastic communities found shelter in France, only to be destroyed later during the turmoil of the French Revolution and its aftermath. But today the Abbeys of Ampleforth, Downside, Stanbrook, Douai and others are alive and well, having repatriated to England. How did these monasteries survive the upheaval of the French Revolution and the wars that followed it?

This dayschool will begin with a background to the causes of the French Revolution, focusing on the events of 1789-1794 and the repercussions of these events on monasticism. The positions of both critics and defenders of the monasteries will be explored. The period 1789-1815 will then be viewed through the harrowing and often brave stories of individual English monks and nuns. Finally, the revival and reforms of the monastic tradition in nineteenth-century Europe after the French Revolution will be discussed, focusing on the English Benedictine tradition and its return from France.

The day will make use of some of the important pamphlets and other materials from Douai Abbey's Turner Collection, housed as a Special Collection in the library at the University of Reading.

C19 Fee £37 (£32 Concession) Lunch optional £12 to be booked at enrolment and at least one week before the event. This event can be booked only at The School of Continuing Education, The University of Reading, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ. tel: 0118 378 8347

email: continuing-education@reading.ac.uk

Douai Abbey is situated one mile north of the A4 at Woolhampton in Berkshire, about half way between Reading & Newbury.

For those coming by train, the nearest station is MIDGHAM, served from London Paddington, Reading and Newbury.

Our local bus route is 102, Reading -Newbury, alight at Woolhampton (The Angel).

Those coming by National Express bus should get off at Calcot and then catch local bus 102 (destination Newbury) alighting at Woolhampton.

BOOKING FORM

Except for events organised in partnership with the University of Reading.

Please book me for events no

Please send £30 deposit for each residential event.

on

Name

Address

.....

.....

Postcode

Email

Phone.....

Tick if you are willing to share a room £10 discount per night per person.

Please tick if applicable: *vegetarian no fish* *vegetarian with fish*

no wheat *no dairy* *other*

I enclose deposit of £30 for each residential event booked.

(cheques payable to Douai Abbey),

or I wish to pay by *Visa/Delta/Eurocard/Mastercard/Switch/Solo*

Card no - - - -

Issue no Security code.....

Valid from/...../..... expiry date/...../.....

Please enclose stamped addressed envelope if you wish for confirmation by post..

Programme Director, Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Berks, RG7 5TQ

e-mail douaiabbey@aol.com *tel* 0118 971 5333

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