

Wendover Still Waters
"Mystery"



We were gently led, with times of deep stillness, through the four steps of **WISE**, to explore the meaning of 'mystery'.

First was the **w**ord 'mystery'. We spent some time writing down what it evoked for us, how did we understand it?

Secondly was the **i**mage. We were invited to spend time with a chosen image that depicted for us an expression of mystery. There were some pictures on display and others were spontaneously drawn.

Thirdly came the **s**tory. After the reading of a mystery story from the Old Testament we were invited to share a story of our own, listening in 2's, first one and then the other, respecting the space we each had in which to tell our story.

Lastly came the **e**nding. A simple read blessing and a shared grace left us all standing silently in a circle that felt it didn't want to be broken.

Helen Fitch-Hunter writes

"Merton had a stunning ability to transform ideas into words, particularly poetry and, even though I have not read all his classics, I have been blessed almost daily by his fresh lenses that give readers a new outlook on Christ.

I was recently asked by a Companion to share one of Merton's rarely published love poems. While the source of these was a brief affair in Merton's life, I understand from hearing James Finley speak personally of this time that this was crucial to Merton's theological understanding: that God's grace permeates everything in life."

Finley is a former monk, clinical psychologist and author of Merton's Palace of Nowhere. See also

<http://contemplativeway.org/about.cfm>

Louisville Airport, May 5, 1966

*Here on the foolish grass
Where the rich in small jets
Land with their own hopes
And their own kind*

*We with the gentle liturgy
Of shy children have permitted God
To make again His first world
Here on the foolish grass
After the spring rain has dried
And all the loneliness*

*Is for a moment lost in this simple
Liturgy of children permitting God
To make again that love
Which is His alone*

*His alone and terribly obscure and rare
Love walks gently as a deer
To where we sit on this green grass
In the marvel of this day's going down
Celebrated only
By all the poets since the world began.*

*This is God's own love He makes in us
As all the foolish rich fly down
Onto this paradise of grass
Where the world first began
Where God began
To make His love in man and woman
For the first time*

*Here on the sky's shore
Where the eternal sun goes down
And all the millionaires in small jets
Land with their own hopes
And their own kind*

*We with the tender liturgy
And tears
Of the newborn
Celebrate the first creation
Of solemn love
Now for the first time forever
Made by God in these
Four wet eyes and cool lips
And worshipping hands
When one voiceless beginning
Of splendid fire
Rises out of the heart
And the evening becomes One Flame
Which all the prophets
Accurately foresaw
Would make things plain
And create the whole world
Over again*

*There is only this one love
Which is now our world
Our foolish grass
Celebrated by all the poets
Since the first beginning
Of any song.*

Thomas Merton – from "In The Dark Before Dawn:
New Selected Poems"

SUGGESTIONS PLEASE

from Companions for speakers for the Hub to
consider to info@contemplativefire.org

*Tom Hinds is looking for Companions who might
be interested to explore and discuss what
"Resurrected Life" might mean – or "the
Resurrection of the Body" or "the
Transformation(s) to Higher Planes of
Consciousness" or.....If you might be
interested, please contact Tom at 145
Maidenhead Road, Windsor SL4 5EZ or
01753-858-123.*

The Hub, Saturday 29th April

*The Essence is energy and is creative
We Christians call it "Father"
The Essence is expressed and evolving as the world
We Christians call it "Christ"
The Essence is at home in our deepest Us, shining
and yearning
We Christians call it "Holy Spirit".*

(brought by Tom Hinds)



-Mount St Bernard Abbey, Leicestershire,
booked for Saturday 10th March 2018 for
WOTW or similar, with option of overnight stay
-possible emerging of CF in the Midlands
-CF North are planning a Pilgrimage to
Now/here on Sat 1st July at Longshaw, a NT
centre set in parkland and moorland,
Derbyshire, 4 miles from Whirlow, which will be
open to all Companions
-an annual recommitment card is planned for
the Community Weekend and for Companions
unable to attend
-ideas and planning for the Community
Weekend making good progress
-WOTW for 11th November planned
-different Retreat Houses were explored for a
possible Weekend Retreat in 2018 and for the
Community Weekend 2018
-next Hub meeting Friday 30th June at Whirlow,
Sheffield.



Southwark Cathedral

-At lunchtime, Ann Worrall led Hub members
along the Thames for a time of stillness in
Southwark Cathedral.

St Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly
where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite
possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have
received,
And pass on the love that has been given to
you.
May you be content knowing you are a child
of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones,
and allow your soul the freedom to sing,
dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.

The Trustees' discussions and decisions included:

- an advert in Church Times and various Diocesan Bulletins about Contemplative Fire to be explored as part of the Growth Strategy
- further discussion of foundational issues and ideas to be tested
- prayer card initiative progressed
- Companions to be emailed about new Trustees to be elected at the Community Weekend
- Offer and Expectations with regard to the new "Friends" of Contemplative Fire agreed
- the register of Companions was updated
- CF Canada's process for induction of new Companions and new Communities discussed
- proposal for visiting Companions
- policy review of Data Protection, Confidentiality, Health & Safety and Safeguarding.



The greening grace of a garden

"It is 25 years since the Quiet Garden Movement was conceived. Its founder, Philip Roderick, considers their spiritual importance at Eastertide."

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2017/13-april/features/features/the-greening-grace-of-a-garden>



The first Quiet Garden at Stoke Poges

To mark its anniversary, the Quiet Garden Movement has produced its new resource on stillness, Quiet25, with notes for leaders www.quietgarden.org/2017/quiet25-course/.

On 20 May, there is an open invitation to join "God is in the Garden" at St John's, Waterloo, London, from 10.30 am until 5 pm, with the Revd Lucy Winkett, the Revd Andrew Walker, and the Quiet Garden founder the Revd Philip Roderick, among others, to give thanks for the past, walk in the garden, and look to the future www.quietgarden.org/event/annual-gathering-2017/.



Quiet Garden, St Patrick's RC primary school, Kentish Town

“The Covenant of Community, profound as it is, can never guarantee that a certain person will always stay physically close to another. It guarantees only that there will always be someone there, inspired by the same Spirit.”

Jean Vanier, Man and Woman He Made Them (in Celtic Daily Prayer, Northumbria Community)

Saturday 1st July

Wisdom on the Way in July will be a Pilgrimage to Now/here
Longshaw, Derbyshire

Led by Jacky Stride & Ruth Iantorno

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/longshaw-burbage-and-the-eastern-moors>



Community Weekend “Return to the Heart”



**Fri 8th, Sat 9th – Sun 10th Sept
Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead**



CANADA

Contemplative Fire Canada
19 Don Ridge Drive, Toronto, ON M2P 1H3
416-834-3400

info@contemplativefire.ca
www.contemplativefire.ca

CF in Australia

During our time in Australia visiting Phi's family, we met with a lovely young woman by the name of Meeray.

I was put in touch with Meeray by Anne, Contemplative Fire Canada's Community Leader, as it seemed that we had quite a bit in common. Anne was right. Meeray and I hit it off right away, and after our first conversation (which lasted for almost two hours) I felt like I had known her forever. It was amazing to finally 'meet' Meeray in person after many Skype and text conversations. During our meeting we talked about her discovery of Contemplative Fire, and specifically how Anne explained to her about becoming a Companion on the Way about a year ago. It was like a dandelion was blown to Australia and the seed was planted to grow a community there which feels called to Travelling Light and Dwelling Deep.

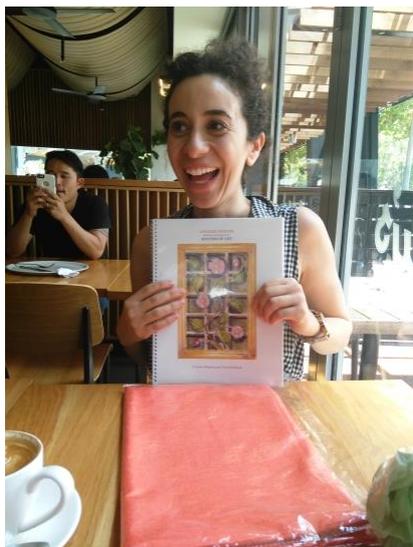
Phil and I encouraged Meeray, let her know that although we are what seems to be a world away, we (as a community) are here to support her. During our visit Meeray became our first Australian Companion on the Way. She said that she felt very blessed by our visit with her, and we encourage her as she moves forward.

There is a need for real connection, compassion and openness beyond the walls of traditional church expression and for those of us who carry wounds in this area, but also for those who are also deeply drawn to the wisdom traditions and contemplative spirituality, healthy and growfull relationships, creativity and nature.

Meeray prays, and I would like to ask you to pray along with us, that she is able to say yes to the call that she feels has been placed in her heart to a rhythm of life that is led by the Spirit and speaks to authentic truth that she has gotten to know in Anne, Phillip Roderick, Phil and myself. That she feels our prayers as she gardens the seeds that have been place in Australia to grow a beautiful contemplative garden.

Manuela Cheney (Administrator)

Meeray after becoming a Companion on the Way



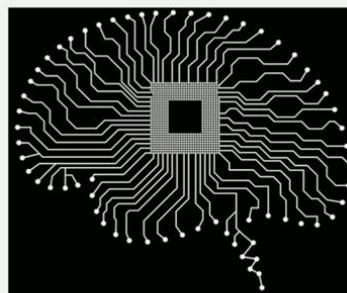


Hi Gill

I really enjoyed the articles in the recent CF Post. I'm really delighted that CF continues to seed, nurture and harvest creative talent and commitment. As you look to (and for) future copy, I wonder if you could mention the Hidden Houses of Prayer event on Saturday 28th October in Liverpool Cathedral? There are fuller details on the Liverpool Diocese website: <http://www.liverpool.anglican.org/Hidden-Houses-of-Prayer---October-28th-2017>

Thanks. Grace for the journey into the mystery of Holy Week and Easter,
Philip

Contemplation for an Age of Artificial Intelligence



Led by Dr Marco Schorlemmer

Can AI and research in other techno-scientific fields be valuable for humanity if done with a contemplative mind?

Saturday 20 May
10.30 am—4.00 pm

£30 Concession £20
Please bring a packed lunch.

themeditatcentre

St Mark's, Myddelton Sq, London EC1R 1XX
T 020 7278 2070 E meditatio@wccm.org www.meditatiocentre.london.org

"I am emailing because I thought that you and your contacts in Contemplative Fire might be interested in what looks to be a fascinating day here on 20 May: *Contemplation for an Age of Artificial Intelligence with Dr Marco Schorlemmer*.

Among other questions, Dr Marco will ask can Artificial Intelligence and research in other techno-scientific fields be valuable for humanity if done with a contemplative mind?

I wonder if it might be possible for you to pass this information on to your contacts? I would very grateful.

Click on the picture for online booking or call Kate on 020 7278 2070.

Hope to see you!"

Kate Coombs
Centre Manager

The Meditation Centre, WCCM
St Marks, Myddelton Sq
London EC1R 1XX
020 7278 2070
Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9.30 am – 5.30 pm
