



Newsletter

November-December 2023

Welcome from the Acting Chair

Welcome to the latest newsletter for the St Benedict's Centre. I have recently taken over as the Acting Chair of the Centre and I want to thank you for being involved with this wonderful place by your prayers and your presence. Our staff, volunteers and guests are the beating heart of a very special enterprise and we are so grateful for your support.

We are hugely grateful to Jane Winter for the way in which she led the development of the Centre over the past few years. Jane embodied the Benedictine qualities of prayerfulness, hospitality and welcome which have become a hallmark of this place, and as she returns full-time to a diocesan role we will do all that we can to build on the foundations that she has laid here. Our programme may be slightly slimmed-down until we have a replacement for Jane in place, but we hope to offer a range of opportunities for learning, retreat, spirituality and wellbeing in the weeks and months ahead.

Not long ago, in writing about the Centre, I used these words: *In the face of the prevailing cultural winds of contested truth, frenetic lives, material acquisition and the growing prevalence of mental ill health, the Centre offers counter-cultural gifts to weary travellers through life: silence, breathing space and the opportunity simply to 'be'.*

These are precious gifts, especially at a time when the endless bad-news-cycle challenges the Faith, Hope and Love at the heart of our Christian journey. As we move towards the great Christian celebrations of Advent and Christmas, they remind us that God is present and incarnate, even – perhaps especially – in the toughest of circumstances, from here to eternity.

All of us at the St Benedict's Centre wish you a very happy, holy Christmas

Rt Revd Adrian Newman

Bishop Visitor for Malling Abbey and Acting Chair of the St Benedict's Centre



Our events

God-shaped words: 'Remembrance' **Thursday 9th November, 9.30 for 10am till 3pm**

Canon Neil Thompson leads a Kingdom Season creative writing day. Come and experience God in the depths of love's imprints formed personally and collectively.

Cost £25.00 (pay on the day) which includes hot drinks, please bring your own lunch. To book:

bookings@stbenedictscentre.org



Benedict's CENTRE

GOD-SHAPED WORDS: 'REMEMBRANCE'

Led by
Canon Neil Thompson

At St Benedict's Centre
Thursday 9th November
2023
9.30 for 10am
till 3pm

Cost £25
Please bring lunch,
hot drinks and biscuits
will be provided

To book please contact:
bookings@stbenedictscentre.org
52 Swan Street, West Malling, ME19 6JX

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Benedictine wisdom: the Psalms

Tuesday 14th November, 10 till 4pm

The psalms are the lifeblood of Benedictine worship. Sr Mary John will help us to understand how they infuse our own spirituality.

Cost £25.00 (pay on the day) which includes hot drinks, please bring your own lunch. To book:

bookings@stbenedictscentre.org

St Benedict's

BENEDICTINE WISDOM: THE PSALMS

Inspiring our spirituality



With Sr Mary John

**At St Benedict's Centre
Tuesday 14th November
2023**

Coffee from 9.30am
starting at 10 ending at 3pm

Please bring lunch with you
hot drinks and biscuits will be provided
Cost £25

**To book please contact:
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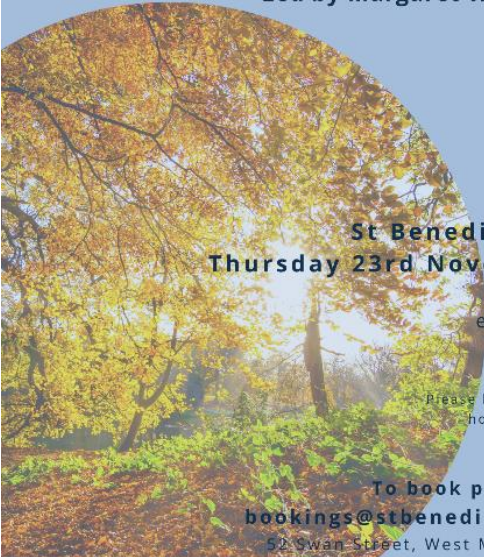
Walking with Jesus

Thursday 23rd November, 9.30 for 10am till 3pm

This month, as we enter the darkest part of the year, we will be thinking about Jesus' teaching about light.

Cost £25.00 (pay on the day) which includes hot drinks, please bring your own lunch. To book:

bookings@stbenedictscentre.org



St Benedict's
CENTRE

WALKING WITH JESUS

Reflecting on Jesus' teaching about light

Led by Margaret Wooding Jones

Meet at
St Benedict's Centre
Thursday 23rd November 2023
9.30 for 10am
ending by 3pm

Cost £25
Please bring lunch with you,
hot drinks and biscuits
will be provided

To book please contact:
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Luminous mysteries

Wednesday 6th December, 9.30 for 10am till 3pm

Fr Micheal Payne leads a day praying the Rosary using the luminous mysteries in this Advent season.

Cost £25.00 (pay on the day) which includes hot drinks, please bring your own lunch. To book:

bookings@stbenedictscentre.org

St Benedict's

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

Praying the Rosary

Led by Fr Michael Payne

At St Benedict's Centre
Wednesday 6th December
2023

10am till 3pm
Coffee from 9.30am

Please bring lunch with you
hot drinks and biscuits
will be provided
Cost £25

To book please contact:
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Walking with Jesus

Tuesday 19th December, 9.30 for 10am till 3pm

As we prepare for Christmas, we consider John the Baptist's proclamation of the coming Christ.

Cost £25.00 (pay on the day) which includes hot drinks, please bring your own lunch. To book:

bookings@stbenedictscentre.org



St Benedict's

WALKING WITH JESUS

In preparation for Christmas

Led by
Margaret Wooding Jones

Meet at
St Benedict's Centre
Tuesday 19th December 2023
9.30 for 10am
ending by 3pm

Cost £25
Please bring lunch with you,
hot drinks and biscuits
will be provided

To book please contact:
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Opportunities to work/volunteer at the Centre

In November we will be holding 2 sessions for potential new volunteers, and we are currently recruiting for a part-time Housekeeper. If you are interested in this role or volunteering, there is more information on our website: <https://stbenedictscentre.org/vacancies/>.

Lent course in 2024

Saying Yes to Life

Six Mondays from 19 February to 25 March 2024

This course is for anyone who wants to think more deeply about a Christian response to environmental issues. Led by Bishop Adrian Newman, Acting Chair of the St Benedict's Centre, the six sessions are based on Ruth Valerio's stunning 2020 Lent Book *'Saying Yes to Life'*. Copies of the book will be made available as a gift to participants on the course, which will be run on a donations-only basis. The sessions will start at 10.15am (coffee from 10am) and finish at 11.45am, in time to join the sisters at the abbey for their midday office. Further details will be released early in the New Year. To register interest in the course please contact bookings@stbenedictscentre.org.

Our quiet study rooms are available for a day of rest and retreat, costing £15. To book please contact bookings@stbenedictscentre.org