



Newsletter

October-November 2025

New beginnings...

We were very excited to officially welcome our new Centre Director, Very Revd Richard Fermer, and his wife Giseli in person at the Centre with a small reception on Richard's start date, the 22nd September.

Richard and Giseli relocated only recently from Bahrain; they will need some time to settle in and establish their new home in Crockenhill before Richard can fully immerse himself in all that his new role at the Centre and in the parish of Crockenhill will entail. We will therefore remain in a period of transition for a little while as Richard settles into his new home and role.

Our programme for October and early November offers a lot of variation; we feel blessed to be hosting a few very well-known speakers at our themed reflection days, including author and spirituality adviser/tutor Christopher Chapman, Rev'd Professor Chris Cook, and Canon Dr Neville Emslie.

As always, you are warmly invited to come and refresh and renew your spiritual life by a visit to the St Benedict's Centre - be it at one of our events or by simply spending a quiet day with us.

Please do read the newsletter to see what may be of interest to you and get a date or two in the diary. We look forward to welcoming you here!

With every blessing,

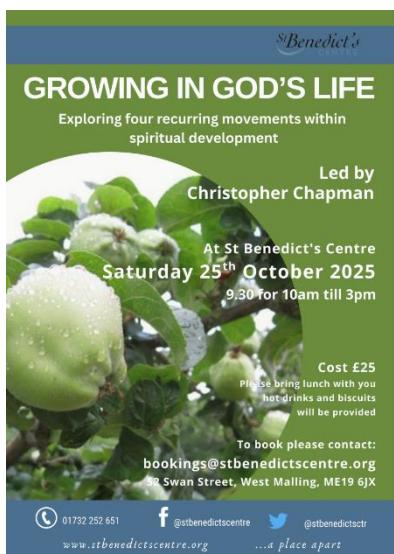
Rt Revd Adrian Newman

Acting Chair of the St Benedict's Centre



Events coming up

Growing in God's Life Saturday 25th October, 9.30 for 10am-3pm



In the Bible spiritual growth is likened to the natural development processes of plants, and the part played by gardeners, whether human or divine. Growing in God's Life will explore four recurring movements – rather than stages - of our spiritual development:

- Becoming rooted and grounded in God
- Emerging into being in response to God's invitation
- Struggling towards abundance through resistance
- Bearing fruit and being willing to fall

Christopher Chapman is an experienced retreat leader and spiritual director. He is the author of 'Doorways to Hope', 'Seeing in the Dark', 'Earthed in God' and 'Send My Roots Rain'. He is also a regular guest director at St. Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre.

The cost for the day is £25. Tea and coffee will be available all day but please bring a packed lunch.

Please book via our website or email
bookings@stbenedictscentre.org

Clothed in your Right Mind

Saturday 1st November

The poster features a painting of Jesus and a demon. Text on the poster includes:

- CLOTHED IN YOUR RIGHT MIND**
- A deeper exploration into the meaning of the phrase
- at St Benedict's Centre
- Saturday 1st November 2025
- 9.30 for 10am till 3pm
- Cost £25
- Please bring lunch with you
- Hot drinks and biscuits will be provided
- To book please contact: bookings@stbenedictscentre.org
- 52 Swan Street, West Malling, ME19 6IX
- 01732 252 651
- www.stbenedictscentre.org
- [@stbenedictscentr](https://www.stbenedictscentre.org)
- ...a place apart*

This day will explore the intersections of faith, mental health, and healing in the presence of others on a shared journey.

Taking inspiration from the powerful story of the Gerasene Demoniac (Luke 8), Revd Professor Chris Cook, theologian, psychiatrist and Anglican priest, will help us to understand the profound meaning of the phrase 'to be clothed in our right

minds' through Lectio Divina and deeper exploration of the passage.

The cost for the day is £25. Tea and coffee will be available all day but please bring a packed lunch.

Please book via our website or email
bookings@stbenedictscentre.org

A Practical Introduction to Benedictine Spirituality

Saturday 15th November



StBenedict's

BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY
A Practical Introduction

at St Benedict's Centre
Saturday 15th November 2025
9.30 for 10am till 3pm

Cost £25
Please bring lunch with you
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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www.stbenedictscentre.org *...a place apart*

Bishop Laurie Green will lead this reflective day on how Benedictine Communities can be a model for our everyday lives, our spiritual awareness and our prayer.

We will consider the structure of abbey life, St Benedict's intentions, and how these can be incorporated into a busy modern life – offering plenty of time for personal reflection.

The cost for the day is £25. Tea and coffee will be available all day but please bring a packed lunch.
Please book via our website or email
bookings@stbenedictscentre.org

Quiet Day and Book Launch Wednesday 19th November

Margaret Wooding Jones will lead a quiet day followed by an early evening book launch event of her new book 'Quiet'. Further details TBC; please check our website for updates.

Further ahead: December

4th December – Advent Quiet Day: Developing your Emotional Intelligence – Led by Canon Dr Neville Emslie

13th December – Creative Day: Unwrapping Advent – Led by Mary Chamberlin

**All our event information and updates can also be found on our website, where you can book your place at one of our events, or a quiet study room for the day:
<https://stbenedictscentre.org/>**



General event information

Our events tend to start at 10am, with coffee available from 9:30am, and normally finish by 3-3.30pm to ensure everyone has the full benefit of the day's programme.

However, participants are very welcome to stay beyond this time to enjoy the Centre's beautiful grounds, quiet spaces, and a quiet room (if available) for further reflection.

Coffee, tea and biscuits are always included, but you need to bring your own lunch.

Need to cancel your booking?

When you book a room or place at one of our events, we ask for payment in advance. If you need to cancel, your payment will be refunded in full if cancellation is seven days or more before the event; if cancellation is within the seven-day period you will instead receive a voucher to be used for another one of our events.

Event cancellations

While we are always reluctant to cancel an event at short notice, we may have to do so in case of illness, bad weather conditions or low take-up. You will be contacted as soon as circumstances require us to cancel an event.

Day Guests



Our 10 individual quiet day rooms offer the space to rest, reflect or work in solitude at the Centre.

You can book a room for £18 (full day) or £12 (half day).

This includes hot drinks; the use of the beautiful grounds; the opportunity for private prayer in the pilgrim chapel and of joining the Sisters in prayer in the Guest chapel.

Your booking can be changed or cancelled at short notice, if need be, at no cost.

We offer gift vouchers for individual quiet days – the perfect gift for someone in ministry.

Visit our website to find out everything about the Centre:
<https://stbenedictscentre.org>, where you can also book your room online.

Alternatively, book your day of rest and retreat or purchase a voucher by emailing us: bookings@stbenedictscentre.org

We look forward to welcoming you at St Benedict's!