

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

December 2024 January February 2025



The Order of the Cross

ORDER OF THE CROSS PUBLICATIONS

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Thoughts to Inspire



Man's Place in the Universe

MAN'S PLACE in the Universe as a unit does seem a small affair. So does our Earth in comparison with the Glorious Universe of Suns. So does our system in comparison with some of the greater Systems. Yet not one is without the Divine Purpose at the heart of it, and the fashion of the Divine idea in the Principle of it. So that when the full unfoldment of Sun, Planet or Soul takes place, the Divine Idea is perfected and the Sacred Fashion of our FATHER-MOTHER revealed in the unit.

Man's place in the Universe denotes that he is a sharer of the Mystery, and because he is, he has the capacity to grow in consciousness into the realization of that Mystery.

From *Herald XVIII*, p73

From the Teachings

A Gathering of Angels

IT MAY be that you have thought of Angelic Song only in a promiscuous way. You may have thought of the Angels simply as ministrants to a world like this, and unto communities of Souls and individuals. All of which is true in part. It may be that you have never thought of them in a general way, meeting as we meet ourselves for worship. It may never have occurred to you that even a gathering like this is provided for by the Divine Love and Wisdom; that when a house is specially consecrated to the Divine Service, and there is *real worship* in it – that is, Soul motion in which there is the understanding of what worship means as an expression of the Soul’s heavenward flight – the community gathered together is Encompassed from the Divine.

It is said that like attracts like. Souls cannot aspire unto the heavenly places without bringing the heavenly places to themselves. This House is full of Angelic presences. As we built up, through the motion of our worship, the conditions for our sacrifice to be offered unto our LORD, and our consecration to be made unto HIM upon the Altar, there is an upbuilding of a Spiritual Sanctuary and Altar through Angelic ministry. This Sanctuary became transformed. It became part of the great Sanctuary of the Heavens wherein, for the time being, our thoughts, our desire, and motion of our being have carried us.

The Mystery of the Light Within Us, pp207 and 208

Reflections upon A Gathering of Angels Richard Ashley

THE APPROACHING Festival of the Christ-Mass is a time when, in the public consciousness, Angels really come into their own. Images of them are everywhere, on postage stamps, on Christmas cards, on Christmas trees and even such things as Angel Chimes. Hymns are sung about them and the Gospels read in the churches at that time give them an important role in the birth story. Yet at other times in the Church Calendar, they receive very little mention. One of the Eucharistic Services used in the Church of England does contain the words “Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you...”. The traditional creeds of the Church do not require a statement of belief in Angels, except perhaps that belief in GOD as “maker of all things seen and unseen” may include Angels.

In spite of this a folk belief in Angels seems to remain strong among the general population; even among people who do not wish to attend places of worship. For this to be the case their ministry to the world must be of considerable potency and to reach out to people whom, perhaps, are unaware of it.

Fortunately the Teachings, as revealed through ‘Our Friend’, give us a great deal more information about the Angelic Realms, Angels and Archangels, and their role in Ministry to this planet. The theme of Angels and Atmospheres was chosen for the recent Western Area Gathering at Sheldon in Devon and it is certainly true to say that the study of some of these Teachings heightened our awareness of the Angelic presence and the atmosphere generated by it.

The passage selected from *The Mystery of the Light Within Us* reminds us that when we truly worship the FATHER-MOTHER the Angels are there to join us and link the Earth to the Heavens. As it is the season of the Christ-Mass I think that the last two lines of the Hymn “It came upon the midnight clear,” 106 in our Hymnal are particularly apposite “O hush the noise ye men of strife, And hear the Angels sing!”. That is my heart-felt prayer at this time of the year for as the first two lines of verse 3 of the Hymn state “Yet, with the woes of sin and strife, The world has suffered long:”.

Glenthorne May Gathering 2024

Bronwen Partridge

IN MAY we held our seventh Gathering at our beautiful venue of Glenthorne House in Grasmere in the Lake District. Our team of Paul Ellson, Fiona Everett, Richard Palmer, Bev Mills and I work together well!

Our May Gathering this year was a wonderful and peaceful time with great weather! There were beautiful services by Tina O’Sullivan, Trish Sherwood, Richard Palmer, Andrew Wilson and Paul Renshaw and morning retreats led by Sarah Palmer and Paul Ellson.

In the afternoons we were treated to walking meditations through the spectacular Lake district landscape led by Anthony and Charles Everett, singing with Annie and a deeply restful ‘sound bath’ from Sara Best.

The evening activities included an absorbing and expert presentation on ‘Reading the Lake district landscape’ by Sue Everett, singing and music evenings; a sharing of favourite art, poetry and music on a *Mountain* theme and finally a *Desert Island Disks* themed sharing of favourite books and luxury items!

Our studies were based around unfoldments within Herald XXIII which provoked many deep and profound conversations.

A most successful Gathering and we look forward to next year’s May Gathering, the exact dates of which will be decided soon.

Quotes from two Members

“The spiritual enhancement given us throughout the week was beautiful - the pebble painting craft activity was tremendous fun! For me, walking around Grasmere every morning was beyond words - lovely in its connection to the stunning environment.

The evenings spent together in fellowship and music were utterly charming and magical - the week has had an impact on us all in a very positive way.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart!”

“I was so grateful to be able to visit the hallowed Lake’s District for the recent 2024 Glenthorne gathering.

It was a completely new experience for me from the Ammerdown Gathering. Yet again, I felt that I was meeting family, even amongst so many new faces.

The highlight of the trip happened when I was having a happy quiet moment, sitting in solitude amongst the beech trees and blue bells. I was contemplating the beautiful gathering folk and surrounds when I received surprising news from Australia that our first ever little calf had been welcomed into the world by mum Patsy!” – Jane Bennett



Singing in the Glenthorne Grounds



Members and Enquirers in a Grasmere Cafe

LUNAR LANDSCAPE

Rosemary Smith

I saw the face of the Moon
like a mask in a play
shining her reflected light upon us
in her nightly vigil
troubled by earth's confusion
wondering why scientists
are seeking her waters
when they are here
awaiting their return
when the world is restored again
to her once Edenic state
her silvery glow reflects
her former glory
as she sails silently by
across the darkened sky
pursuing the path of destiny
that the heavens decree
drawing aside the veil
that once covered her face

Forthcoming Gatherings 2025
Please see our website for details

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2025

2025

Southern Summer Gathering

Aotearoa, New Zealand

Sat. 18th – Sun. 26th January

Spring Gathering at Sarum College

Fri. 11th – Tues. 15th April

Easter Gathering at Swanage

Tues. 15th - Tues. 22nd April

Glenthorne Spring Gathering

Wed. 14th – Wed. 21st May

Ammerdown Summer Gathering

Thurs. 24th July – Mon. 4th August

North America International Gathering

Wed. 10th – Wed. 17th September

Western Area Gathering at Sheldon Retreat Centre

Thurs. 2nd – Mon. 6th October

**Communal Sharing Circle:
Services and Studies by Phone**

THE COMMUNAL SHARING CIRCLE is international and open to all. Initially designed to link callers world-wide by phone, calls can now be accessed electronically from your computer, tablet or smartphone. See “GoToMeeting Teleconference System” p23.

Readings taken from the books are referenced on the schedule below.

Local call times, dial-in numbers and internet access link are listed on the following pages. Please call in before the scheduled hour.

INTERNATIONAL PHONE NUMBERS FOR COMMUNAL SHARING CALLS	
COUNTRY	PHONE NUMBER
Australia	+61 2 9091 7603
Canada	+1 647 497 9373
France	+33 430 001 242
Ireland	+353 15 360 756
New Zealand	+64 9 913 2226
Sweden	+46 853 527 818
United Kingdom	+44 808 178 0872
United States	+1 571 317 3116
ACCESS CODE: 506-112-581 #	

SCHEDULE

JANUARY TO APRIL 2025

JANUARY 2025

- 5 *Balak and Balaam* (H XXVI, p25) – Michael Armstrong
- 12 *The Prodigal Son* (Isaiah, p101/HXVI, p169) – Dawn Culverwell
- 19 See Spiritual Linking
- 26 *The Keys to the Kingdom* (HXXVII, p113) – Patrick Barnes

FEBRUARY 2025

- 2 *A Brief for GOD* (DRI, p75) – Jean Laverack
- 9 *The Pool of Mystery* (HXIX, p87) – Jan Holmes
- 16 See Spiritual Linking
- 23 *The Love Principle and Attributes* (LMU, p203) –
Lindajeane Stewart

MARCH 2025

- 2 *Reconstitution of the House of Israel* (HX, p10) – Patrick Barnes
- 9 *The Book of GOD* (HXIV, p205) – Elsie Danielsson
- 16 See Spiritual Linking
- 23 *White Light in its Seven-Fold Distribution* (HXVIII, p117) –
Lindajeane Stewart

APRIL 2025

- 6 *The Purpose of this School* (HXII, p201) – Richard Palmer
- 13 *Solomon's Porch* (XXVI, p94) – Elsie Danielsson
- 27 *The Holy Grail* (HXIX, p175) – Patrick Barnes

MEETING TIME IS: California time (PST/PDT), 9am Sunday morning, all year round regardless of standard or daylight time. (see Time Conversion Chart below).

FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, contact one of the Communal Sharing Coordinators:

Lindajeane Stewart • ljstwr_69@yahoo.com • 484-358-6681

Elsie Danielson • elsiedanielsson@outlook.com • 760-835-4579

Michael Arcese • arcesem@gmail.com • 425-531-178

Join from your computer, tablet or smartphone with the following link:

<https://meet.goto.com/506112581>

TIME CONVERSION CHART

A – Daylight Saving Time in Northern Hemisphere; Standard Time in Southern Hemisphere	B – Standard Time in Northern Hemisphere; Daylight Saving Time in Southern Hemisphere
I A: 00:00 UTC (= GMT) 5 pm PDT (Previous eve.) 8 pm EDT (Previous eve.) 8 am AWST 10 am AEST 12 pm NZST	I B: 00:00 UTC (= GMT) 4 pm PST (Previous eve.) 7 pm EST (Previous eve.) 8 am AWST 11 am AEDT 1 pm NZDT
II A: 16:00 UTC 9 am PDT 12 pm EDT 5 pm BST (UK) (12 am next day AWST) (4 am next day NZST)	II B: 16:00 UTC 8 am PST 11 am EST 4 pm GMT (U.K.) (12 am next day AWST) (5 am next day NZDT)

Spiritual Linking Christopher Nye

THE READINGS FOR DECEMBER ARE

“CHRISTMAS”

Herald 12 pages 19-26

and

Herald 13 pages 240-244

It will take place on Sunday 15

THE STUDY FOR JANUARY 2025 IS

“The Guiding Star”

Herald 15 pages 37-45

It will take place on Sunday 19

“Behold how closely you are allied to the Eternal One, and how you are encompassed and embraced by Him!”

THE READING FOR FEBRUARY IS

“Karma.”

Herald 10 part 1 pages 49-68

It will take place on Sunday 16

“The Karma of the Planet has been met and borne away by the Divine Love in the sacrificial ministry of the Oblation.”

The Readings will take place at **17h00 UTC (=GMT)** that is 5pm GMT in the UK, 9am PST, 10am MST, 11am CST, 12 noon EST in North America. *For phone-in numbers please see the Communal Sharing pages.*

**The next issue of the Spiritual Reflections
will be published at the beginning of March 2025.**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OTHER DETAILS

If you have changed your address or any of your contact details, please notify Ian Heathcote at:

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LONDON, WC1N 3AX

Email: membership@orderofthecross.org

This will ensure that Spiritual Reflections is sent to your correct address and that your contact details are updated on our database.

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