

HOLY GROUND

Ecumenical Spiritual Direction Training



An Online Evening Course
September 2024 to May 2025

THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

This course is for anyone who finds themselves accompanying others on their spiritual journey; this may be in a formal capacity as a minister, pastoral assistant or mentor, or perhaps you have noticed that others turn to you as a listening ear. This course is ideal for all those who would like to train in the ministry of spiritual direction whether ordained or lay.

The course aims to:

- Explore the relationship of spiritual direction in the light of our own life experience and of the experience of being alongside others
- Develop skills, understanding and resources for accompanying and encouraging personal growth and fulfilment
- Nurture a growing competence and awareness of our own sense of vocation, in relation to the Christian tradition of spiritual direction

COURSE CONTENT

The course content will include:

- Experiences of different forms of prayer
- Experiential sessions in which an aspect of the practice of spiritual direction will be explored, including reflecting on our own experience, the use of role-play, and directing and being directed in small working groups
- Theoretical sessions in which the background to spiritual direction will be explored, which will involve:
 - Biblical and theological perspectives
 - Themes within Christian spirituality and spiritual direction
 - Issues concerned with human personality and growth
- Appraisals, which will take place twice within the year

A dedicated Zoom link for the teaching sessions, and a secure online Student Portal for course resources and materials will also be provided.

DATES & TIMES

The course will run over three terms, consisting of 25 sessions: 22 online evening sessions (Thursdays 6.30pm to 9.30pm), and 3 in person days (Saturdays 10am to 4pm) which will take place at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford. It is a requirement of the course for students to attend all in person days, unless in exceptional circumstances.

Term 1 (2024) Sep 26; Oct 3, 10, 17; Nov 7, 14, 21, 23 (Sat), 28

Term 2 (2025) Jan 11 (Sat), 16, 23, 30; Feb 6, 13; Mar 6, 13, 15 (Sat), 20, 27; Apr 3

Term 3 (2025) May 1, 8, 15, 22

STUDENT COMMITMENT

Participants are required to:

- Be receiving regular ongoing spiritual direction.
To request a list of spiritual directors, visit: www.spidirnetwork.org.uk/list-request
- Complete assignments and recommended reading to assist reflection and learning
- Be open and willing to working with their own experience within the group context, and in one-to-one spiritual direction practice sessions
- Participate in self, peer and course evaluation to assist constructive development of self and others

A Certificate of Completion will be presented at the end of the year to all students who the tutors consider to be suited to the ministry and vocation of spiritual direction, and have attended at least 80% of the course, completed all assignments, and paid all fees. In some instances a Completion Certificate may be awarded after the course has ended, once a period of further assessment has taken place.

COURSE TUTORS

The course is led by experienced spiritual directors and teachers both lay and ordained, and occasional guest tutors with specific expertise.

Nick Gallant

Nick is a spiritual director, tutor and supervisor, and was co-founder and Communications Director of Pelagos Spirituality & Retreat Centre from 2009-2019. He studied at the London Centre for Spirituality where he learned to give the Ignatian Exercises, and is currently writing a series of books on Ignatian spirituality. Nick has a passion for helping others deepen their spirituality and realise their true potential in God. As a former professional trombonist and singer, Nick still loves to minister through music.

Beryl Maw

Beryl is an Oblate with an Anglican Contemplative Community. She has a background in teaching, art and spiritual formation including offering retreat days and spiritual direction. She also enjoys walking, painting and nature.

Tutor TBA

COURSE FEES

The course fees will be between £850-970 depending on numbers, payable in full at the beginning of the course, or in three termly instalments. A non-returnable deposit of £100 is required on acceptance on the course which will form part of the full fees.

Some bursaries may be available from the SpiDir Network, and there are other sources of funding to explore.

AVAILABLE GRANTS

- Anglican clergy and LLMs may be eligible for CME grants, or their equivalent, to cover some of the costs
- The Society of Retreat Conductors – Apply at least 3 months prior to beginning of the course. For further details and application form email: redingtonkathy@hotmail.com
- The Women's Continuing Ministerial Education Trust – applications considered quarterly in February, May, July and October. For women in the Church of England and the Scottish Episcopal Church ordained or accredited lay workers including Church Army and religious sisters. Email tim.ling@churchofengland.org. Tel: 020 7898 1408
- The Retreat Association. www.retreats.org.uk – Contact them to enquire about bursaries for spiritual direction training

APPLICATION DETAILS

Closing date for applications:

Monday 3 June 2024

Interviews are planned to take place between:

10-21 June 2024

How to apply:

Visit www.spidirnetwork.org.uk/holy-ground to download an application and reference form.

Please email your completed application to Nick Gallant: info@spidirnetwork.org.uk

Please note:

All applications supported by a reference, will be considered as they are received and responded to as soon as conveniently possible; applicants may then be invited for an informal online interview.



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION NETWORK

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www.spidirnetwork.org.uk