WCCM
IN THE UK

SOUTHWEST 2026 RETREAT



Developing the Contemplative Mind

- Going Deeper

Canon Christopher Blanchard

Friday 18th Sept. – Sunday 20nd Sept. 2026

At the Ammerdown Centre,
Radstock, Somerset BA3 5SW

Developing the Contemplative Mind - Going Deeper

The Retreat will offer an opportunity to renew our contemplative experience with a beginner's mind and will include an introduction to the new WCCM Four Week Course which Chris has recently trialled for Laurence Freeman. It will aim at helping meditation groups to renew their practice as well as going deeper, by examining how meditation creates community. We shall have an opportunity to deepen our own contemplative path as we examine the rediscovery of the tradition by John Main. We shall look at our own journey in the light of Christian contemplatives from John Cassian onwards, particularly focussing on English women mystics like Mother Julian and Evelyn Underhill. It is hoped that the retreat will enable us to come afresh to our meditation practice and grow our own meditation communities.

Canon Chris Blanchard has worked for many years in parish ministry where he has led WCCM meditation courses and groups. He has also led Meditation Retreats at the Bonnevaux Centre pour la Paix and helped develop the new Learning to Meditate course. During this time he has developed a deep interest in the power of contemplative prayer in everyday life.

The retreat is an opportunity to deepen our meditation practice.
We welcome experienced meditators and newcomers alike. There is an introduction to the Christian meditation practice at the beginning of the weekend. Accordingly, central to the retreat will be several periods of meditation, and one period of lectio divina. To be further open to the presence of God we will be silent from Friday night until supper on Saturday…but there will also be times to discuss and to relax.

Venue The Ammerdown Centre is a Christian foundation dedicated to hospitality, spirituality and growth. It is located alongside a stately home, surrounded by gardens, parkland, and woods – steeped in tranquillity. The loudest noise is that of birdsong. There is plenty of scope for strolls and longer walks. The Centre has a beautiful chapel, a well-deserved reputation for good food, and a bar which will be open on Saturday evening.

Ammerdown is located 12 miles south of Bath. We will send directions to you prior to the retreat, but guidance is available at www.ammerdown.org

Accommodation

Ammerdown has well-appointed modern bedrooms with ensuite facilities, situated on the first floor. There is a lift. The rooms are a mix of double, twin-bedded and single. Sharing a room will attract a £10 per head discount.
There are three "accessible" rooms, two of which are on the ground floor, one with a toilet and bath for the disabled.

On site camping (informal) and caravanning are possible.

Costs

The standard cost for the weekend is £295 per person. A shared room is £285. Caravanners and campers £215.

Way outside your budget? Well, we can help. **We want all to come who wish to do so, irrespective of means**. We have a fund to enable substantial concessions for those who need them. Please do contact John to discuss.

Booking

Please use the booking form on the next page and this year we have introduced an **online booking form-Just click on this link Booking: Developing the Contemplative Mind- Going Deeper**
and this will take you to a booking form that will send your details to me and you will get an email confirmation that you have a place(s)
If you do not have access to the internet or prefer to use pen and paper please contact me and I help you book.

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis once John has received your deposit of £25 per person. John will acknowledge your booking. If you could pay by BACs, it would be appreciated as it considerably reduces admin. Joining and travel guidance will be sent to you later.

Please send to John the balance of your fee by August 1st. **We cannot refund any money after that date unless we can find someone else to take your place.**

Enquiries to:

John Roberts, Sanctuary Cottage,Newtown Lane, West Pennard,Glastonbury BA6 8NL 07970 039007

john.wilcott@gmail.com

WCCM SOUTH WEST MEDITATION RETREAT

The Ammerdown Centre, Radstock, Bath BA3 5SW
Friday 18th September - Sunday 20th September 2026

Booking Form

Name_____Title (Rev.Mr.Ms..Etc)_____

Address_____

_____ _____ Postcode _____

Email_____

Tel. No. _____

Room requirements – please tick as appropriate:

For single bookings [ ] £295 per person. You will be allocated a single room or a two person room for single occupancy.

If you are booking to share a twin room (£285) per person) tick here [ ]
If you have agreed to share with someone, state his/her name……

For couples booking a double-bedded room [ ] £285 per person

Disabled room [ ] Easy access room [ ] £295 per person

Camping place [ ] Caravan place [ ] £ 215 per person

Food for special diets has to be pre-ordered. To do so please tick the appropriate box below:

Vegetarian [ ] Vegan [ ] Dairy Free [ ] Gluten Free [ ]

Wheat Free [ ]

Ammerdown will do its best to cater for these special diets at no extra charge. However, there may be a charge for diets it considers highly complex.

Summary of Payment Details:

A deposit of £25 per person is payable with the booking form, non-refundable after 1st August, unless we can fill your place. The balance is due by 1st August - please make a diary note to make this payment.

If you wish to donate (say, £20) to the bursary fund to enable others to come, please tick here [ ] and include the donation with your initial payment.

Please return your completed form to: John Roberts, Sanctuary Cottage, Newtown Lane, West Pennard, Glastonbury BA6 8NL, Tel :07970 039007 email john.wilcott@gmail.com
***Paying by Bank Transfer (BACs)* is the preferred method of payment** details: WCCM South West Retreats, sort code 089299 account no. 65786796, indicating here [ ] that you are doing so. Or you may prefer to by cheque, made payable to WCCM South West Retreats
An online booking form is available please contact John