

Poetry Weekend

with Dr Elizabeth Cook

We shall be looking at the work of English-language poets of the 20th and 21st centuries who write from within or in relation to a Christian faith. We will think about how, if at all, faith informs the work of a poet, especially when the work is not overtly *about* that faith. Poets whose work we'll be discussing are likely to include W H Auden (1907-1973), Norman Nicholson (1914-1987), Denise Levertov (1923-1997), Elizabeth Jennings (1926-2001), U A Fanthorpe (1929-2009), Geoffrey Hill (1932-2016), Mary Oliver (1935-2019), Les Murray (1938-2019), David Scott (1947-2022), Gillian Allnutt (1949-), Philip Gross (1952-), John Burnside (1955-2024), Michael Symmons Roberts (1963-), and Rachel Mann (1970-).

In contrast to previous poetry weekends we will not be making an in-depth study of any single poet but thinking together about the connections between faith and poetry. Do they share a common impulse? Is all poetry implicitly religious? I shall bring copies of several poems to discuss but invite you, if you are able, to bring a poem that speaks to you to add to the mix.

Please contact Suzi to check availability and avoid disappointment before registering for the weekend.



Hilfield Friary

Set in 43 acres on the edge of the Dorset Downs and overlooking the beautiful Blackmore Vale; Hilfield Friary is a Community house of the Anglican Society of St Francis – who were founded here in the 1920s.

Since 2007, the Franciscan Brothers have been joined by lay men and women, including young people, who are sharing in the life, work and prayer of the Friary. Our particular focus is on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation arising from our Franciscan vocation.

During this weekend you will be staying in Bernard, Leo or Juniper House, named after the early Companions of St Francis. Your accommodation is quiet and comfortable, warm and well-appointed.



Poetry Weekend

To book: Send the completed booking form below to:

The Guest Co-Ordinator, The Friary, Hilfield
Dorchester, DT2 7BE

or contact us for further information:

Telephone 01300 341741

hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk

Name

Address

Telephone

E-Mail

I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £20 to secure my booking (please make your cheque payable to 'Society of Saint Francis').

The suggested donation for the weekend is £160 to include all food and accommodation. We are willing to accept less if this figure is not possible for you as we have a limited number of subsidised bursaries. We ask people to Gift Aid their donation wherever possible.*

Please let us know if you have any dietary or other requirements.

Please tell us your transport details.

I would like to be on the secure database to receive information about The Hilfield Friary Community and its programme ☐

Thank you for all your support and encouragement in many ways, however much you are able to give it is important to us that you come and share in our community life.



The nearest stations are Yetminster (request stop) from Bristol; or Sherborne from London Waterloo. We can collect you from these stations if you let us know (we ask for a £6 donation to cover the cost of petrol).

The best way to reach Hilfield is the following:

From Yeovil Take A37 Yeovil to Dorchester road. After approximately 8 miles turn left at Wardon Hill (Signposted Batcombe, Minterne Magna). At the T Junction turn right. Travel approximately 2.5 miles take second turn on the left. The friary is at the bottom of the lane.

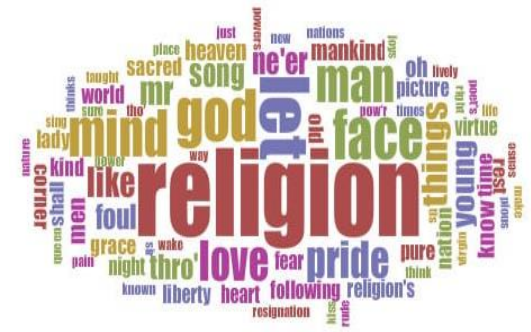
From Dorchester take the A 37 Dorchester to Yeovil Road After approximately 9 miles at Wardon Hill turn right (signposted Batcombe, Minterne Magna). At the T junction turn right. Travel approximately 2.5 miles take the second turn on the left. The friary is at the bottom of the lane.

Hilfield
FRIARY



Contemporary Poetry and Christianity

with Dr Elizabeth Cook



Friday 17th to
Sunday 19th July 2026