

Trees of Life

With Reverend Dr Romela Parish

A creative workshop exploring the symbolism of trees in the Bible and what it means to be rooted in Christ. Taking inspiration from the glorious setting of Hilfield and some of the Romola's own work, the retreat will use a variety of media for creative expression and exploration of faith. The emphasis is on a contemplative approach to creativity, and on the process of making rather than a finished product. Do not be put off if you don't consider yourself to be a 'creative' person! All that is needed is openheartedness and a willingness to experiment a little! Basic materials will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own to use, swap or share!

Rev. Dr Romela Parish is a former academic specialising in environmental change in mountains and deserts, and a former environmental lawyer. She trained in traditional hand embroidery at the Royal School of Needlework and studied poetry at Oxford and Cardiff. She is now a non-stipendiary priest in the Church in Wales and holds exhibitions and runs creative retreats and workshops all over the UK. She is also a spiritual director in the Diocese of St Davids.

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.

Your meals will be taken in the Refectory and participants are invited to help with both the preparation and washing up.

During the weekend you are welcome to share in the regular Services in the Community Chapel – although there is no requirement for you to do so.



Trees of Life

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.*

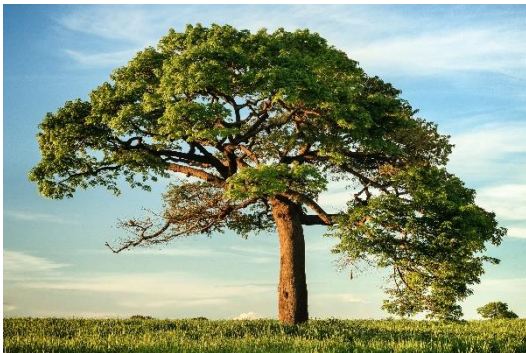
Please let us know if you have any dietary or other requirements.

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 ☐

* We do not make a charge for guests to stay with us but any donation towards our life and ministry is gratefully received. Our ministry includes our work with the poor and marginalised in our country, as well as promoting Franciscan values of justice, peace and integrity of creation. We estimate that it costs £60 to simply host a guest per night stayed (for courses this is a larger amount) but all your contributions enable our work to go on, and to welcome those with little or no income.

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.



Arriving by Train

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).

Arriving by car

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.



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Friday 23rd to
Sunday 25th October 2026