

1000 YEARS OF POETRY AND THE CONTEMPLATIVE TRADITION IN england

KEY EVENTS EMBRACED BY THIS PILGRIMAGE:

*T.S. Eliot Festival At Little Gidding
(With Rowan Williams);
Shakespeare's A Winter's Tale At
The Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Stratford*

Photo: www.thegiddings.org.uk

Tour Host: Associate Professor Michael Griffith

Founder of the "Sacred in Literature and the Arts" network (Sydney Australia)

Michael Griffith has been teaching English, Australian and American Literature at Universities since the 1970s. He began at Sydney University and is now with Australian Catholic University (ACU Sydney Campus). His speciality is sacred poetry and the links between literature and religious traditions in the context of the visual arts. His PhD (1981) was on the Australian poet Francis Webb within the context of mid twentieth century culture. This was published by Harper Collins in 1991 as *God's Fool, The Life and Poetry of Francis Webb*. He was awarded a Teaching Excellence Award in 2016, a Vice-Chancellor's Staff Excellence Award in 2017 under the category of Mission Excellence; in 2017 he was also awarded an ACU Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning (Integrating Catholic Intellectual Tradition in Teaching Practice). Michael is also a regular tour leader and LIC for ACU students in The Literature and Drama of New York. Michael has been the lead organizer of many international conferences at ACU on the Sacred in Literature and the Arts. His most recent conference, held in Sydney in October 2019, was entitled "Sacred Silence in Literature and the Arts" with Fr Laurence Freeman OSB as keynote speaker.



“ I am truly excited to have this opportunity to take a group of like-minded pilgrims to some of the most significant and enduring expressions of contemplative traditions in England. I have been teaching, researching and writing in this field for nearly half a century and it is a gift to be able to share my enthusiasm for the ways our spiritual journeys can be deepened through contact with the arts, speaking to us from their historical environment and natural settings. I intend to share with you what I have found and learn from your insights. My wish is for us on this journey to deepen our collective understanding of the many creative expressions of the sacred- in poetry, prose, art and architecture. I plan to provide a prayerful, meditative start to each day with ample additional time to share our understanding and experience. This journey is open to all. There is no faith requirement - simply an openness to impressions of poetry, art and nature.”

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DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

30 JUNE 2020 TO 12 JULY 2020

DAY 1 LONDON

Welcome to London! Check-in time is 2:00pm and you are free to arrive at any time today. Tonight there will be an opportunity to meet your fellow pilgrims at a welcome meeting held by your tour host.

Meals -/-/
Overnight Melia White House Hotel

DAY 2 LONDON

London is the place where the pilgrims in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* began and ended their journey in the late 1380s. Today includes a short overview of the sacred roots of the English literary tradition (including William Shakespeare, William Blake, Virginia Woolf and Kathleen Raine). We will be coming back to London at the end of the pilgrimage to flesh out this tradition in situ. Today we will have a guided tour of the Globe Theatre, and the nearby historic South Bank Southwark Anglican Cathedral. Lunch will be at the George Inn, site of Chaucer's Tabard Inn from where the pilgrims set out. In the afternoon you will visit the Meditatio Centre (Centre for the World Community of Christian Meditation) for an introduction to the English Contemplative Tradition. Afterwards you will return to the hotel to refresh before a celebratory welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals B/L/D/BV
Overnight Melia White House Hotel

DAY 3 LONDON - BEMERTON - WILTON - SALISBURY

Today you will visit St Andrews Church, Bemerton Parish, The Old Rectory and Wilton House: Bemerton was the Parish Church of George Herbert (1593 to 1633) one of England's most revered 16th Century contemplative poets and priests of the Church of England.

Meals B/L/D
Overnight Grasmere Hotel

DAY 4 SALISBURY - TINTERN ABBEY - CHELTENHAM

After breakfast, you will tour of one of England's ancient places of worship, Salisbury Cathedral, with its famous George Herbert window. Afterwards you may take part in the George Herbert Walk from Salisbury Cathedral to Lower Bemerton. (3.5 km). After lunch we will head to Tintern Abbey in Wales to connect with the inspiration of one of the great English contemplative poems of the Romantic era, Wordsworth's "Lines Composed a Few Miles above T.A. On Revisiting the Banks of the Wye during a Tour, July 13, 1798". You may then take a walk from Tintern Abbey along the river Wye into Wordsworth country (3km). While here we will also acknowledge "the instress and charm of Wales" on the poetry of G.M.Hopkins.

Meals B/L/D
Overnight DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

DAY 5 CHELTENHAM - ASTON SUBEDGE (BURNT NORTON) - STRATFORD - CAMBRIDGE

After breakfast we will head to Burnt Norton (Norton House), inspiration for the first of T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* and from there to Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford upon Avon, where we will reflect on Ben Jonson's tribute to the "Swan of Avon" and enjoy a performance of Shakespeare's most mystical play *The Winter's Tale* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. In the evening we head towards Cambridge in preparation for Little Gidding tomorrow.

Meals B/L/D
Overnight Hilton City Centre Hotel

DAY 6 CAMBRIDGE - LITTLE GIDDING (T.S. ELIOT FESTIVAL) - CAMBRIDGE

Little Gidding is the last of T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*, arguably the greatest English contemplative poem of the 20th Century. Eliot's poem was inspired by the landscape and religious history of this site. Here you will also discover some amazing links with George Herbert. Today we will also take part in the annual *T.S. Eliot festival* with guest speakers and readers including the former Archbishop of Canterbury and Welsh poet, Rowan Williams.

Meals B/L/D
Overnight Hilton City Centre Hotel

DAY 7 CAMBRIDGE - ELY - NORWICH

From Cambridge we will travel to Ely Cathedral, built in 1083, originally one of England's most successful Benedictine Abbeys, most famous for its "Lady Chapel" built in 1321 (2 decades before the birth of Chaucer). Philippa Pearce's renowned children's novel *Tom's Midnight Garden* (1958) is partly set in Ely Cathedral. On arrival in Norwich the focus will be on Julian of Norwich, the greatest of England's mystics and the author of the earliest surviving book in the English language written by a woman *Revelations of Divine Love*. You will also discover Francis Webb, perhaps Australia's greatest religious poet, who spent some years here, pondering the sacred significance of the Norfolk landscape. You will also visit the church of St Peter Mancroft (A.D. 1430) and experience the genius of the Gothic in Norwich Cathedral built in 1096.

Meals B/L/D
Overnight Maids Head Hotel

DAY 8 NORWICH - COSTESSY - NORWICH

Today we continue our exploration in and around Norwich, visiting Stranger's Hall, now an amazing museum, one of the most historic Tudor buildings in Norwich and originally a place of religious refuge for Dutch textile weavers. We will also visit the Wensum Valley in and around Costessy and the Catholic Church of Our Lady & Saint Walstan. Francis Webb's poetry drew much inspiration from these locations.

Meals B/L/D
Overnight Maids Head Hotel

DAY 9 NORWICH - CANTERBURY

This morning you will visit Canterbury Cathedral (A.D. 597 / rebuilt 1070) and St Augustine's Abbey (A.D. 598) during which you will explore Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, especially the tales of The Parson & The Plowman & The Wife of Bath & the Conclusion. You will also visit the shrine of Thomas à Becket (1119- 1170) and connect with T.S. Eliot's "*Murder in the Cathedral*".

Meals B/L/D
Overnight Falstaff Hotel

DAY 10 CANTERBURY - LONDON

A leisurely morning in Canterbury, followed by our return to London – just as Chaucer's pilgrims did. Here we will anchor our pilgrimage more firmly in the sacred literature and art to be found in London. The rest of today will be a free day in London.

Meals B/L/D
Overnight Melia White House Hotel

DAY 11 LONDON

The following activities spread over the next 2 days: Visit Tate Britain with its Blake Collection and Turner's Tintern, Salisbury and Ely depictions. There is also an optional walk to Blake's Lambeth (2.5km return); visit Blake's House in South Moulton Street; Visit sites related to T.S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf and Kathleen Raine; a tour of the National Gallery on Trafalgar Square, contextualizing our exploration of contemplative literature in the traditions of British and European sacred art housed in London. Highlight will be the Wilton Dypitch (1395) housed for centuries in Wilton House which we visited in Salisbury.

Meals B/L/D
Overnight Melia White House Hotel

DAY 12 LONDON

Continuing activities listed under Day 11. Today you will reconnect with the Meditatio Centre for a debrief session about your English Pilgrimage into centuries of contemplative poetry. Tonight there will be a celebratory Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals B/L/D
Overnight Melia White House Hotel

DAY 13 LONDON

Today, our last day in London. Check-out time is 10:00am and you are free to leave at any time. For those who wish to take part there will be a concluding visit to the Quaker Friend's Meeting House in Westminster (11am), followed by a further browse through the National Gallery (which is virtually next door). We hope you leave with wonderful memories from the trip of a lifetime!

Meals B/-/-

AUD \$7695
PER PERSON

TWIN OR DOUBLE ACCOMMODATION

AUD \$9990
PER PERSON

SINGLE ACCOMMODATION



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

To register your interest please email
studytours@reho.com

CATHEDRALS VISITED

Southwark Anglican, Salisbury, Ely, Norwich, Canterbury.

CHURCHES AND ABBEY'S VISITED

Bemerton Parish Church, Tintern Abbey, St John's Church, Little Gidding, Lady Chapel, Canterbury St Augustines, Quaker Meeting House, Meditatio Centre.

LOCATIONS VISITED

London, Bemerton, Salisbury, Tintern Abbey, Burnt Norton, Stratford upon Avon, Cambridge, Little Gidding, Ely, Norwich, Canterbury.

EVENTS

T.S. Eliot Festival, Little Gidding; The Winter's Tale Performance, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford.

ART GALLERIES VISITED

Tate Britain, National Gallery.

LITERARY AND SPIRITUAL TEXTS EXPLORED

Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Poetry of George Herbert, William Wordsworth "Tintern Abbey", G.M.Hopkins "The Windhover", "God's Grandeur", T.S. Eliot *Four Quartets*, Julian of Norwich *Revelations of Divine Love*, William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*, Francis Webb, *Collected Poems*.

SUGGESTED BACKGROUND READING

- Kim Nataraja (ed), *Journey of the Heart: Christian Contemplation Through the Centuries*, Canterbury Press, 2011
- Laurence Freeman, *Jesus the Teacher Within*, Canterbury Press, 2010
- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, William Collins, 2016
- Bede Griffiths, *The Golden String*, Templegate, 1980
- Kathleen Raine, *William Blake*, Thames and Hudson, 1985, *Defending Ancient Springs*, Inner Traditions, 1985
- Phillippa Pearce, *Tom's Midnight Garden*, Oxford, 1958
- Michael Griffith, *God's Fool: The Life and Poetry of Francis Webb*, 2nd eBook Edition, 2014, [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

INCLUSIONS

- 12 x nights 4* accommodation
- Guided tours of all specified cathedrals
- Entrance fees for sightseeing activities
- Tickets to *A Winter's Tale* and to *T.S. Eliot Festival*
- Meals and beverages as specified (B Breakfast, L Lunch, D Dinner, BV Beverages incl. beer, wine and soft drink)
- Transportation by air-conditioned private coach for the entire duration of the program
- Local guides where specified
- All tips and gratuities
- Portage

EXCLUSIONS

- International Airfares
- Beverages with meals (unless specified)
- Entrance fees, sightseeing and meals other than those specified in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Any service not listed in the 'Inclusions' listed above

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