

Contemplative Activists: living in God's heart for justice today



Saturday 25th April 2015- CRES Day at Ripon College Cuddesdon with Greg and Ruth Valerio

Dear All,

We have now fixed the programme for our CRES Day in April. These days are now opened up to a wider audience and are very pleased to welcome Greg and Ruth Valerio to be our speakers.

Greg will begin the day by looking at spirituality, and particularly Monastic and Celtic spirituality. Ruth will then explore an area that is one of her key interests- food and faith. Finally Greg will return after lunch to tell us about his work in Fairtrade gold and jewellery.

The themes explored will be highly relevant to those on the CRES course, but could be taken as a stand-alone day for all interested in justice, the environment and spirituality. Places are limited so book soon!

Best Wishes,

Dr. Martin J. Hodson (Principal Tutor, CRES)

PROGRAMME

10.00-10.30 Arrive and Coffee.

10.30-11.00 Welcome and Introduction to CRES (Martin Hodson)

11.00-12.00 Talk & Discussion – Greg Valerio on “*Putting Down Roots - earthing ourselves in the spiritual life*”

12.00-13.00 Talk & Discussion – Ruth Valerio on “*Food and Faith - eating well in a hungry world*”

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.00 Talk & Discussion – Greg Valerio on “*Making Trouble - fighting for justice in the jewellery industry*”

15.00-15.30 News and updates on CRES

15.30-15.45 Short service

15.45-16.00 Tea and depart.

THE SPEAKERS

Greg and Ruth Valerio live with their two gorgeous girls and a menagerie of animals - both fluffy and reptilian - on an estate in Chichester, where they have been very involved in community regeneration. Greg is a fair-trade jeweller with a background in human rights and environmental advocacy. He pioneered Fairtrade gold, and is a former winner of the Observer Ethical Awards as ‘Best Global Campaigner’. He is now focusing on developing ethical gemstones whilst at the same time working on setting up Columba’s Barn, a small, inclusive ecumenical retreat and prayer centre. Ruth is Churches and Theology Director for A Rocha UK and a passionate champion for integrating the whole creation into both our understanding and our practice of the Gospel. They are both a part of Revelation Church.

To see more about them visit gregvalerio.com and ruthvalerio.net.

BOOKS

If you borrowed books from the Principal Tutor travelling collection last time, please bring them back! You can only borrow further books if you do so! Greg and Ruth will be bringing along some of their books for sale. There will also be a variety of other relevant literature for sale.

TRAVEL

a) By Car

Ripon College Cuddesdon (RCC) is located in the small village of Cuddesdon about 4 miles East of Oxford. The postcode is OX44 9EX, for those of you who use on-line maps. Full directions are given on the RCC web site: <http://www.rcc.ac.uk/>

We want to use as little carbon as possible, so sharing cars seems sensible! If you can offer a lift, or would like one, let us know and we will see if it is possible. Students and Local Tutors might benefit from travelling together- lots of time to chat!

b) By Train to Oxford Station. We will arrange lifts from the station, but allow at least 30 minutes to get out of Oxford and over to Cuddesdon. So aim to arrive before 9.30 a.m. Let us know time of arrival.

c) Both the Oxford Tube (<http://www.oxfordtube.com/>) and Oxford Bus Company (<http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/espress1.shtml>) run many coaches out of London from Victoria station stopping at a few places in London on the way. You need to get off at the Thornhill Park and Ride just East of Oxford. We will arrange lifts if you tell us a time. Aim to be there before 9.45 a.m.

d) Emergencies on the day. Martin Hodson will base himself at RCC from about 9.00 a.m. on the day. He will turn his mobile on- 07794-631927. Note- he very rarely puts his mobile on, and messages left on it may only get picked up weeks later!! So it is not a standard route to contact Martin, but will be useful on this occasion.

e) We are in the Graham Room, which is the room we used for the residential and is near the common room. If you are coming from Oxford this is off the second car parking area- the one with the large beech tree!

BOOKING

This day is FREE (included in fees) for present CRES students, tutors and members of the CRES steering group and is £20 for everyone else. Lunch is included. Persons with special diets should let us know so that we can inform RCC. Please note that ALL who intend to come to Cuddesdon must book by 10th April 2015 (this means CRES students, tutors and steering group must book even though they will not pay). Bookings will be dealt with by the CRES administrator, Lynda McKeown. Please send a cheque made out to THE JOHN RAY INITIATIVE to: The CRES Administrator, THE JOHN RAY INITIATIVE (JRI), Wotton House, Horton Road, Gloucester GL1 3PT, UK
Telephone (mobile): 07583 481759. Email: cres@jri.org.uk