



Friends Newsletter

The World Community for Christian Meditation

Easter 2020

Easter Message From Laurence Freeman

*Rise! Let us go forth; for you in
me and I in you, together we
form one undivided person.
(From an ancient homily)*

It took time for those who first experienced the presence of the Risen Jesus to find words to describe it – and even the faith to recognize him. They felt fear and incredulity before recognition fully dawned, the light became stronger and the sunrise of recognition broke over them. It is the same for us.

There are many things in life's mystery of which this can be said. But nothing of which it is as true as the Resurrection.



Laurence Freeman at this year's
John Main Seminar

He enters our room without making a noise. He is with us

without taking up space. He accompanies us without charging for his time. He is at the centre of everything without forcing our attention. He is invisibly visible.

He is a new way of being, which we are all heading for and which we are beginning to get glimpses of now. He wipes guilt from the doors of our perception.

He surprises us. He makes death transparent and life radiant. Lent has launched us. Easter is everywhere. We are allowed to say Alleluia again.

With love

(Easter message, 2018)

Dear Friends

We were recently involved in an online meeting of those who are involved in the work of MEDITATIO, described below, the active outreach of the WCCM. The generosity of these people was inspiring, reporting the many and diverse ways they were spreading the Good News about our way of prayer.

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Some of the topics discussed were: 1. How to offer a contemplative presence to the upcoming meeting of the United Nations environmental gathering in Glasgow, 2. The development of on-line training courses for those introducing meditation to the young, and 3. The embedding of contemplative practice in the training of doctors in Ireland.

These are a small sample of some of the areas that our Community is expanding into.

I couldn't help but feel that the practice of CM was like a GOOD VIRUS that was slowly but surely making the world a better place. In these times when COVID-19 seems to be dominating our news and how we relate to each other, it is indeed very GOOD NEWS to know how blessed

WHAT IS A FRIEND? A Friend provides vital personal and financial support to the Community towards sharing the gift of meditation worldwide. Friends support is critical to all our activities and helps us develop, nurture, and assist new and emerging communities with limited resources.

WHAT DOES A FRIEND SUPPORT? Some work that your contributions help support include: retreats, talks, visits and presentations by teachers in our community, including Fr. Laurence and many others across the world, The School of Meditation, Meditatio (which brings the fruits of meditation to developing new kinds of leadership, better business, education, health, science, the environment and interfaith friendship), translations of key texts, and the distribution of resource materials.

CONTACT Judi and Paul Taylor, International Friends Coordinators, for more information: friends@wccm.org or PO Box 127 North Sydney NSW Australia, 2059.

we are that there is a simple way that we can not only anchor ourselves in love, but also we can be part of the passing on of this great gift.

Catherine Scott, our new Director of Operations, explains beautifully (see below) how our contributions to the WCCM are used, while Fr. Laurence reminds us of the perennial gift of Easter in these unusual times.

Please, if you can, remember how important your financial contributions are to the WCCM, which like so many other organisations, is suffering a loss of income due to the cancellation of many events.

With love
Judi and Paul

WCCM Friends – Binding Together the Fruit

My name is Catherine Scott, I have recently begun to work with The WCCM team as the Chief of Operations. Part of this role is to ensure that the Community has the resources it needs to flourish into the future.

We are sometimes asked by our faithful and generous donors 'What does Friends support?' perhaps some would like an explicit answer – that their donation contributed to such and such an event or fare for a meditator to attend a seminar or some other very tangible object. When I try to explain that our Community donations go into a core funding stream which is desperately needed to fund our

overall operations, it helps me to invite you to think of WCCM as a fruit scone! The ingredients are the delicious sultanas, as well as the flour, margarine and sugar which binds it all together as an irresistible whole. As we know, meditation leavens every aspect of The WCCM.



When we look at WCCM's income and expenditure for 2019, we see that a lot of our income is derived from grants from donor trusts and foundations. When we make applications for funding from these kind of organisations, we need to include in the budget attractive events and tangible objects which they can fund. We can't put too much of a percentage of our overheads (rent, equipment, salaries etc) in these bids because most donors impose quite narrow limits on that kind of expense – 10% is not uncommon. It means we have to save the 'sultanas' the exciting bits for our grant bids. And so we look to our Community – our Friends and supporters – who do literally 'bind WCCM together' to cover the flour, sugar and margarine, so that those perennial essential costs are supported too. We are preparing pie-charts to give a visual picture of all this for the next newsletter

Because you are our people, 'insiders', we know you won't

mind about this because you belong to us and see the whole product and have tasted it too. You know that all ingredients in the end are equally valuable and equally needed. And there is no 'scone' without that which binds it together.

So the real answer is that your donations go towards all of our work. Thank you for your support! We need your friendship! Please continue to support The WCCM Friends program which allows us to go on working hard to nurture our Community through sharing the gift of meditation which we have been blessed to receive.

Catherine

A Contemplative Path Through the Crisis

The meeting between Father Laurence, Allan Wallace, and Eva Netanya which was planned for Bonnevaux in late March, has now become an online presentation. The link to this inter-contemplative online dialogue, is bit.ly/2WKPOQU. Please have a look.

'The purpose of this dialogue is not just to generate ideas for their own sake but to be better able to live better and to be able to live through this time of crisis which has a lot of suffering, of anxiety, sadness; but also is an important opportunity to reflect deeply, existentially, on the way we've been living, the way we've been treating each other, socially, politically, in terms of equal distribution of wealth. In all of these ways, this is a moment for us to take stock.' (Laurence Freeman)

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