

PRAYER & ART

a creative retreat with bishop Stephen Cottrell

20-24 April 2012 Prayer & Art

Bishop Stephen Cottrell writes:

“The **Prayer and Art** retreat will be based around a series of paintings called *Christ in the Wilderness*, which the great English painter, Stanley Spencer, completed during the first few months of the Second World War. He planned to paint 40 portraits of Christ, one for each day of Lent, corresponding to Christ’s sojourn in the wilderness. He only finished nine. Each painting reflects upon some aspect of Christian discipleship, particularly focusing on Christ’s intimacy with God and his intimacy with the created world around him.

Through thinking about these paintings I hope we will be led to places of deep and healing reflection, and find our spirit awoken to the presence of God in each other and in the world around us. In the beautiful setting of Hacienda Los Olivos hopefully this won’t be too arduous. But these are challenging, and sometimes uncomfortable pictures. They confront us with the trials of vocation as well as its rewards. But we will learn a Christ-like way of prayer. We will also use these paintings as a stepping off point for personal reflection, some joint activities, and also look at some other contemporary paintings that resonate with these themes.”

€350 (shared) / €380 (single occupancy)

You can book additional days at the beginning or end of this retreat/course, at an Open House rate. Please, see the “Holiday” section of our website form more information.



RETREAT LEADER

Stephen Cottrell

Bishop of Chelmsford, theologian, prolific Christian writer, art critic and an inspirational retreat leader. Stephen’s interests include writing, reading, cooking and music. He is married to Rebecca, who is a potter. They have three sons and one dog.

Stephen has written widely about evangelism, the work of initiation and spirituality. His best selling *I Thirst* (Zondervan) was the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent book for 2004. His other books include *From the Abundance of the Heart: Catholic evangelism for all Christians* (DLT); *Do Nothing to Change your Life: Discovering what happens when you stop* (CHP); *Hit the Ground Kneeling: Seeing leadership differently* (CHP). His most recent book is called *How to Pray* (CHP). He has also written a book of children’s stories, *The Adventures of Naughty Nora* (BRF).



**Christ in the Wilderness
by Stanley Spencer**