

THE VENUE The Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Selly Oak B29 6LJ, is based in the Grade II listed building which used to be the home of George Cadbury the Quaker chocolate manufacturer, and benefactor. The bedrooms are ensuite. They are mostly single with a few twin bedrooms. There is a conference room and 3 smaller rooms available for our use. Full board is provided using produce from the garden and ethically produced sustainable food products. For further information see Woodbrooke's website

www.woodbrooke.org.uk



Please specify any food allergies or special dietary requirements. The caterers at Woodbrooke will do their best to accommodate these:

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Please say if you need a room with ease of access, and specify your needs:

.....
.....

Donation (if any) enclosed to help the work of the speakers in their communities:

.....
.....

Donation (if any) enclosed to help other delegates who have severe difficulty in meeting the conference cost:

.....
.....

Please return completed form with either a deposit of £90 (*non refundable*) or the full payment. Cheque payable to **Bede Griffiths Sangha**. Final payment will be due by April 1st. It is possible to pay by via the internet, please contact Annie for details.

Send to: **Annie Cygler, 57 Wellington Road, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 7LJ**
Tel: 01344 772 496 email: bgsangha2014@gmail.com

THE BEDE GRIFFITHS SANGHA

Invite you to a Conference followed by
an optional silent retreat

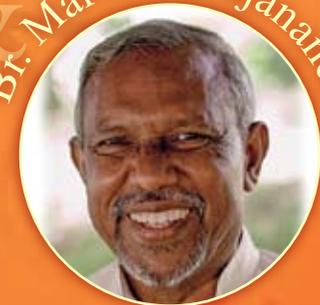
June 16th - 18th/19th 2017 at
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre
Birmingham. U.K.

LIVING from the GROUND of BEING:
Continuing the dialogue East & West

Fr. Brian Pierce



& Br. Martin Sahajananda



in contemplative conversation



www.bede.griffiths.sangha.org.uk

THE SPEAKERS We are very pleased that Fr Brian Pierce OP and Br Martin Sahajananda will be the speakers at this conference.

Brian is a Dominican friar now ministering as an itinerant preacher. He has spent many years in Latin America, and leading retreats worldwide, for contemplative Dominican nuns and interfaith retreats with Buddhists. He is the author of 'We walk the Path together: learning from Thich Nhat Hanh and Meister Eckhart' (2005) and 'Jesus and the Prodigal Son: the God of Radical mercy' (2016). He has spoken at the Eckhart Conference in the UK, and attended two of our Sangha conferences.

Martin is a disciple of Fr Bede Griffiths, and lives and works at Shantivanam in Tamil Nadu, the ashram where Fr Bede lived for most of his time in India. He is currently the spiritual director. Among many other books, Br Martin has written 'A brief comparative study of Sankara and Master Eckhart' (2005), and 'Fully Human Fully Divine: a meeting point between the Vedic Vision and the Vision of Christ' (2013). He has led meditation days at the WCCM Meditatio Centre in London, and in many other parts of the UK, Europe and USA. He has been a treasured speaker on Bede Griffiths Sangha retreats since it began.

THE CONFERENCE

God's ground and the soul's ground is one ground
Meister Eckhart, German Sermon 15 (tr. Quint)

Starting from their studies of the thought of Meister Eckhart, and from their dialogue with other faiths, the speakers will discuss their experience of 'The Ground'. On this subject, Fr Bede wrote in Return to the Centre (1976, p 36)

In meditation I can become aware of the ground of my being in matter, in life in human consciousness. I can experience my solidarity with the universe (...) with every living thing, with the earth, with these flowers and coconut trees, with the birds and squirrels, with every human being. I can get beyond these outer forms of things in time and space and discover the Ground from which they all spring. I can know the Father, the Origin, the Source, beyond being and not-being, the One without a second. I can know the birth of all things from this Ground, their coming into being in the Word.

Return to the Centre (1976) p 36

The speakers will lead us, and invite us into 'contemplative conversation' together. This sort of dialogue was described by Fr Laurence Freeman of WCCM in his 2016 Lent reflections:

The word 'conversation' usually evokes the sense of speaking together but this is a late meaning (...). Its original meaning is suggested by St Benedict's vow of 'conversatio morum', change in values and our way of life. (...) Conversation is primarily about 'turning towards' something together, training our attention on a common point and 'living together' in that way of looking and seeing.



THE PROGRAMME

The Conference Each day will follow the pattern as at Shantivanam Ashram, that is, three periods of silent meditation together with morning, midday and evening prayers. We end the day with Nama Japa (chanting the name of Jesus) and then keep silence until after breakfast. Integrated into this rhythm will be a programme of talks, contemplative conversation, and periods of meeting in small groups. There will be time to walk in the 10 acre grounds with a lake, a labyrinth and conservation area. The conference finishes after lunch on Sunday 18th.

Optional Silent Retreat We are also offering a 24 hour silent retreat at the end of the conference, at the same venue and at extra cost. The speakers will join in this, and the format will arise from the conference. It will not be possible to come to the retreat only. The retreat finishes after lunch on Monday 19th.

THE COST We have kept the cost of the Conference as low as possible, but as the speakers are coming from two different continents we need to help fund their travel. The conference fee solely includes the cost of Woodbrooke and a contribution to the speakers' travel. You are invited to give an additional voluntary donation, either at the time of booking or at the event, to help the work of each speaker in their respective spheres and / or to help other delegates who have severe difficulty meeting the conference cost.

Booking Form

Name

Address

Postcode Telephone email

Places you wish to book Number of people

Single room or couple sharing twin room – early bird; book before Feb 1st: £254 per person
If booked after Feb 1st : £275 per person

Twin room, shared with unrelated person (few available) - early bird: £244 per person
If booked after Feb 1st: £265 per person

Sharing with

Extra 24 hour retreat Sunday 18th /Monday 19th - £108 per person

All rates include accommodation and meals, drinks, etc. All meals will be vegetarian. PTO ☞