



# Update

Green Pastures

Resources for Life

Winter 09



snowfall at Green Pastures

## the true meaning of Christmas

11-15 December 2009

led by Marilyn Baker & Tracy Williamson

Treat yourself to what is going to be a very special time with Marilyn and Tracy. What could be lovelier, in the lead-up to Christmas, to step aside and take in the beauty of Marilyn's tender, yet inspirational, music? Her love of God is so infectious! Four days to indulge yourself in reflecting on God's amazing gift of Messiah, our Saviour, Jesus. However, many of us are still caught up in the other side of Christmas and if you do need to keep up with the Christmas shopping, Poole and Bournemouth offer you a wonderful choice of shops which are sure to generate lots of gift ideas.

From £225



**We would value your prayers - please refer to the enclosed prayer letter. Thank you and God bless you.**

### 2010 Programme

#### Food for the Journey

led by Ken & Heather Blackwell  
15-18 February (see over)

#### Music to Meditate by

led by Charles Timberlake  
12-14 March (see over)

#### Free to be me

led by Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson  
16-19 March (see over)

#### Myers Briggs workshop

led by Jane Gibbs  
26-28 March

#### Easter Encounter

led by Tony Horsfall  
1-6 April

#### Leadership Retreat

led by Tony Horsfall  
7-9 April

#### Prophetic School

led by David Betts  
7-9 May

#### God's peace in a busy world

led by Pamela Howarth  
28-30 May

#### Beauty for Ashes

led by Jennifer Rees Larcombe  
17-20 September

#### Creative Listening and Intimacy with God

led by Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson  
26-29 October

**01202 764776**

## Christmas is coming . . .

And have we got some beautiful retreats lined up for you?! Book some **ME-time** and come away for some stillness and refreshment. We have Marilyn Baker - The True Meaning of Christmas (see above) and Pat Marsh - Prepare to Welcome Him (see below) - what a fantastic way to start the Christmas season!



## prepare to Welcome Him

7-9 December 2009

led by Pat Marsh

Somewhere along the way, modern day society hijacked Christmas. The consumer-driven world urges us to find our happiness by spending more, eating more, drinking more. We can all find ourselves succumbing to enormous unspoken pressures, often at the expense of not only our bank balance, but also our peace of mind. And



Cards available to give to anyone who might enjoy or benefit from staying with us

quiet reflection time can be hard to come by, unless we intentionally make a space for it, mentally and physically.

We offer an opportunity to step aside and prepare your heart to welcome Christ in a fresh way. The retreat will be a mix of reflection, sharing and relaxation, and will include some times of space and silence. The retreat materials will be based on both published and new writing by Pat and will also include some work by other contemporary Christian writers. So why not give yourself a pre-Christmas gift? From £155.



## food for the Journey

15-18 February 2010

led by

Ken & Heather Blackwell

We often refer to our faith as a 'journey' as we endeavour to walk hand-in-hand with God. Many of us have probably found this is not always easy, and sometimes we need a little help along the way.

During the retreat, Ken & Heather will include topics such as resting places, the hazards we face, travelling companions etc. There will be an option of a writing workshop during this retreat.

Ken and Heather live in Garstang in Lancashire. They met at London Bible College, have a grown up family and 3 grandchildren. They have varied life experiences which include the pastoral ministry. In addition, Ken has been a mechanical engineer and a secondary school teacher. Heather enjoyed working in community health, writes and enjoys gardening in her spare time. From £200.



## music to meditate by

12-14 March 2010

led by Charles Timberlake

Be moved... be calmed...  
be inspired... be uplifted...

Charles Timberlake is a composer and performer of reflective, inspirational piano music, in the style of Margaret Rizza. His music is like soothing balm and this will be especially helpful for those who are struggling with enormous stress or loss of some kind. A weekend of quiet contemplation and meditation will sooth and quieten your spirit. Allow your heart and soul to be touched by Charles' music.

From £165.

# from the desk of our Chairman - Alan Field

We live in changing times, but we know there is One who is unchanging, whatever is going on around us.

We are very sorry to be losing Audri, our Centre Manager, who has been with us for five years or so. She has contributed hugely to the ministry of Green Pastures and has done an amazing job, particularly over the last year whilst we have been without a pastoral director. We shall miss her many skills and gifts, and her pastoral heart which has been so precious. Over the last year she has been more involved in the pastoral work here, in addition to coping with all her other duties as Centre Manager. I know that we all wish Audri well in her new role as she enters the world of Christian Publishing.

We have just heard that Dawn is also leaving, to take up a job near to her family home on the Isle of Wight. As one of her first tasks, she has the challenge of designing and managing the creation of a chapel. We wish her well for the future.

Please join with me in praying for these two special people, who have both contributed so much to the life at Green Pastures over many years.

We are starting to interview for a new Chaplain now and have a long list of enquirers, which is pleasing. The Centre Manager post is now being advertised and we hope that both new members of the team will, if possible, be able to get to know each other, before they start.

Meanwhile, I am very pleased to say that Jim and Ruth Price have agreed to lead the Christmas House Party, and we look

forward to welcoming them back to Green Pastures. We are also very pleased that Jim has agreed to 'hold the fort' as Centre Manager

for the two months until Christmas. This will give us time and space to concentrate on finding the right team of Chaplain and Manager for the future.

The New Year promises to be challenging, as we get the new team in place. We are also planning to close after the Christmas House Party until 14 February 2010. Any group bookings already made will go ahead as planned. During this time we are proposing to refurbish the kitchen, to bring it up to modern standards. We are also looking to undertake repairs and redecorating, etc. and we are putting a schedule of work together now. If anyone would like to give some time and energy to help with all this work we would love to hear from you.

In all these changes, our task as Trustees is to continue to facilitate God's work in the Centre, by encouraging people to come and be open to all that God wants to do. This will always remain our focus. In closing we hope you have a very blessed Christmas. Please do come and see us in the new Green Pastures in the New Year.



Alan Field  
Chairman



## Free to be me

16-19 March

led by  
Marilyn Baker  
and  
Tracy  
Williamson

Marilyn, Tracy and, of course Pennie, are blessing us with a retreat in the Spring - this time the theme is the freedom to be ourselves. When God made the trees and the flowers He made them all different. There are not even two trees or flowers which are identical. Sometimes we feel we have to conform to what people expect of us - but God wants us to be unique, as He created us to be.

From £200.

Green Pastures - a place to rest,  
Revive the soul, and do what's best.  
Enjoy the quietness, breathe in the calm,  
Everything here is a soothing balm.  
No pressure to be  
anyone other than yourself.  
Peace and quiet within lovely grounds,  
Amazing love which knows no bounds.  
Silence or laughter it's your choice,  
Total seclusion from outside noise.  
Under the Father we're cared for here,  
Relaxing and calming and full of cheer.  
Each member of staff is a joy to have met,  
Surely a place you'll never forget.

written by a grateful guest