

Wild Goose *Flyer*



Forthcoming Events

From 30th November 2008. During the Christian Advent season our Sangha will also keep the Buddhist period of Ango. This is a time set aside to intensify our practice.

December 6, 2008. Zazenkai (a full day dedicated to Zen practice) will be led by Patrick at the Ammerdown Centre near Bath. To register please contact the Ammerdown Centre at 01761 433 709 or email centre@ammerdown.org This Zazenkai is as close as we can arrange to December 8th which the Buddhist keeps as an auspicious day - the traditional day of the Buddha's awakening, as the Morning Star rose into the sky in the early morning. The Japanese title of this feast is 'Rohatsu' celebrated typically by monks and lay practitioners keeping vigil all night through the 7th to 8th December so this would be a good times to join us.

February 7, 2009. Patrick and the Wild Goose Sangha lead a Zen Taster Day especially for Christians from 9.30a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Marist Centre, Nympsfield near Stroud. The cost is £10 which includes hot drinks and lunch. Please contact Edmund or Helen at helenium@care4free.net for registration.

August 27 – 30, 2009 *When God Disappears*
THE ANNUAL JOHN MAIN SEMINAR This will be a really big event promoted by the World Community for Christian Meditation. Hundreds of people from all over the world will attend it at Sarasota in Florida USA. This time the Seminar will be presented by Fr Robert Kennedy SJ Roshi, Patrick's Zen teacher. For more information and registration go to the website www.wccm.org

Patrick's Piece

WE HOPE that you will enjoy reading this first issue of our new occasional newsletter. In it we will be presenting news items and short articles for those interested in Zen practice. I suppose that I should start by explaining that this is a publication of the Wild Goose Sangha. The Sangha has been practising Zen together for about two years now and we are committed to promoting Zen in a Christian context here in the UK. To that end as well as holding our weekly meetings we promote Zen days and weekend Sesshins (retreats) in various locations. You can find out more about our forthcoming events by noting those listed here or by going to our website www.northwall.plus.com. Your comments, requests and contributions are most welcome and these should be sent to our editors Edmund and Helen Lee at helenium@care4free.net. Please let us know of others who would like to receive this Flyer and also if you no longer wish to receive it.

**United in the One breath/Spirit that unites
all creation**

Dharma holder Patrick Eastman

The Wild Goose Sangha meets weekly for Zen meditation on Thursday evenings from 7.45 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. in Cirencester at the Ashcroft Centre, Ashcroft Road. All are welcome. For further details and directions please contact Patrick via patrick@northwall.plus.com

Book Review

Jewish Dharma: a guide to the practice of Judaism and Zen by Brenda Shoshanna Ph D. Philadelphia: De Capo Press, 2008. 291pp

Brenda Shoshanna was raised in an orthodox Jewish family in New York and is currently a practising psychologist with over 25 year's experience. Over the years her studies and practice have lead her to an integration of her Judaism with a practice of Zen. She still lives in New York City.

Her book was something of an eye-opener for me, as Brenda lovingly describes her own experience of hearing the Torah from a deeply sensitive and prayerful family. It is moving to hear, from one of such experience, an aspect of Judaism that is a far cry from the political and media reportage we get elsewhere. The book is essentially down to earth and practical but above all it is full of hope, freedom and joy. We are presented with twelve chapters that take the reader through everything from prayer (Jewish and Zen) to the practical considerations of life such as relationships, death, self discovery, world peace, caring for others and sorrows. I was particularly touched by her anecdotal description of the Sabbath and how we need to heed the lessons of this and incorporate it into our frenetic lives today. Throughout the book there are many down-to-earth practical exercises to deal with real life situations which we are all faced with at some time. She includes an epilogue which gives some useful suggestions on how she combines her Judaism with Zen practice. These can be useful as pointers for Christians and others who wish to incorporate Zen practice into their lives. It's easy to read and well-worth the time and cost.

Reviewed by Patrick Eastman

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An extract

From "*The Renewal of Spirituality through an Encounter with other Religions*" by Canon A. M Allchin in 1978.

“Above all the encounter with the other religions will be of immense value to us, in helping us to understand that the truths of our Christian faith are not closed formulas to which we need defensively to cling, but formulas which open the way forward into the mystery of God’s loving purposes disclosed in Jesus Christ, at work throughout the world in the power of the Holy Spirit. We shall begin to glimpse more of the way in which God’s unfathomable loving kindness has never ceased to be at work among us. Recognised or unrecognised, named or unnamed, God is there. And as we learn to look at other religions not in their failures and distortions but in their saints and seers we shall begin to see more of the power latent in the human heart and mind to respond to the mystery and majesty of God. We shall come back to our own tradition refreshed and renewed and see again these things which had always been present but which we had, through over familiarity, failed to notice or appreciate. This is an experience to which the great pioneers of this movement, a Massignon or a Monchanin, a Merton or a Le Saux, a Bede Griffiths or Sr. Elaine McInnes, constantly bear witness. They have not lost their Christian faith in encountering the other. They have rediscovered it in all its fullness and depth as a mystery still unfolding in our own times. They have caught again a glimpse of the sovereign freedom of God who is never captured by our concepts or our images, and whose activities cannot be confined within the visible and historic limits of that universal people among whom God covenants to dwell. In recognising God’s presence and power in places where before we had not thought to look for them we see more not less of the glory of God’s love revealed in the face of Jesus Christ.”