

Exploring Celtic Spirituality

A Pilgrimage to Scotland & Northern England

Led by:

Sheryl L. Shenk, Spiritual Director
Ted Swartz, Playwright/Actor

May 6 – 19, 2016



DAY 1: Friday, May 6, 2016 – Depart **Washington Dulles Airport** on **KLM Airlines** for our trans-Atlantic flight into **Amsterdam** where we transfer to our **KLM Airlines** flight into **Glasgow, Scotland**. Dinner on board the aircraft. **M**

DAY 2: Saturday, May 7, 2016 – Upon arrival in **Glasgow**, we clear immigration, meet our coach driver and our journey begins as we travel through the beautiful Scottish countryside to the western seaport town of **Oban** where we board the ferry (about a 45 minute ride) to the **Isle of**

Mull. We board taxis that will take us on an hour ride from **Craignure** across the largest of the **Inner Hebridean Islands, Mull**. We continue through the moorlands to **Fionnphort** where we board another ferry for a short ride (10 minutes) to **Iona**, our home for the next five nights. **Iona** has been called the entry way of Christianity into Scotland and Northern England. We will check in at **St. Columba's Hotel** where we have dinner and, time permitting, meet at the **Iona Abbey** for 9 pm evening prayers. Overnight **Iona**. **D**



DAY 3: Sunday, May 8, 2016 – Today we begin our exploration of the enchanting **Island of Iona**. **Iona** is the preeminent historical site for Celtic Christianity. A monastery was established by St. Columba in the 6th century and he died here in 597. The island is a true "*thin space*" where pilgrims have prayed and worshipped and sensed the nearness of the Holy throughout the ages. After breakfast at St. Columba's Hotel, we will attend morning worship at **Iona Abbey** at 10:30 am. Following services, we will walk to the **Chapter House** where we participate in the introductory session "**What**



is the Iona Community?". The Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. In the afternoon, our leaders, Sheryl and Ted, will hold a group orientation/get acquainted session and introduce us to **Celtic Christianity**. They will provide an overview of the island and how our time here will be structured. There will be time over the next several days to explore the Iona Community Shoppe, a bookstore offering resources by Wild Goose Publications as well as other museums and shops. There will be time to meander and

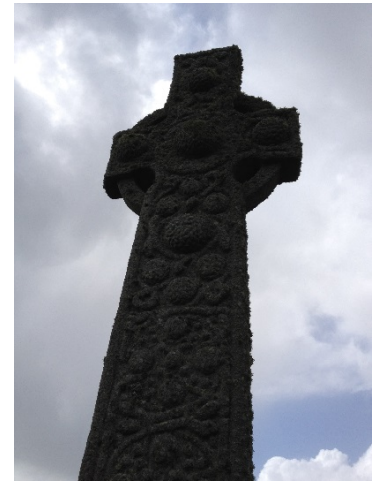
enjoy the natural beauty of this isle. Each morning and evening at 9 am and 9 pm, we are invited to join in community worship at the Abbey. Dinner and overnight **Iona**. **BD**



DAY 4: Monday, May 9, 2016 – We begin with breakfast and morning prayers at the Abbey followed by an open day to wander the island. Suggestions will be made by the leaders and some options to consider are to meet as a group at **St. Oran's Chapel**, built in the 11th century and surrounded by the **Reilig Odhrain**, the sacred burial ground which is said to contain the graves of 48 Scottish kings. We have the option to see some of the Celtic crosses including **St. Martin's**



Cross dating to the 8th century. *St. Martin's Cross* is the finest of Iona's Celtic crosses and is decorated on one side with the serpent-and-boss and on the other with to Holy figures. Other considerations are: Hike **Dun Aengus**, Iona's highest point with an Iron Age hill fort dating from 100 BC to 200 AD; explore a shore covered with lovely Iona rocks; stop at the quaint shops on the island or take time for tea. After evening prayers, we can attend the **Village Hall** for a **Ceilidh** (pronounced Kay-lee), the village dance get-together held at 10 pm. Dinner and overnight **Iona**. **BD**



DAY 5: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 – After breakfast we make our way to the Abbey for morning prayers. Every Tuesday the *Iona Community* hosts a pilgrimage walk around the island. This is an all day event that will be physically challenging as we visit places of both historic and religious significance. The **pilgrimage walk** begins from the **Abbey grounds at 10:15 am** and you must dress for all weather and bring sturdy boots. There is also an "On Road" pilgrimage that begins at 12 noon and returns around 3:30 pm. You may also choose to have a personal day exploring on your own. We attend evening services at the **Abbey**. Dinner and overnight **Iona**. **BD**



DAY 6: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – We have one day free to explore on our own. We may visit the **Nunnery**, the **Church of St. Ronan**, the **Abbey**, or **St. Martin's Cross**. This day, or if the weather seems preferable on Monday, we can enjoy an optional boat ride to visit **Staffa** and see the natural basalt beauty of **Fingal's Cave** where Felix Mendelssohn, in 1829, conjured up the sounds and sights of Scotland, composing his famous piece "The Hebrides Overture", also known as "Fingal's Cave". We attend evening services at the **Abbey**. Dinner and overnight **Iona**. **BD**



DAY 7: Thursday, May 12, 2016 – We say "goodbye" to **Iona** as we board the ferry back to the mainland and meet our coach driver. We continue on a day's journey crossing the border into Northern England to reach our destination, **Lindisfarne**, also known as **Holy Island**, the cradle of Christianity for England. This island, which has been inhabited since the Iron Age, will be our home for the next four nights. Christianity was brought to Holy Island by St. Aidan when he established a monastery here in AD 635. St. Aidan came from **Iona** where he was a monk in the monastery founded there by St. Columba. Over the next several



days, we will have time to visit the **Lindisfarne Heritage Centre** where a facsimile and interactive turning pages of the Lindisfarne Gospels is housed. The original Lindisfarne Gospels are located in the British Library in London. Other sites

include the ruins of the **Lindisfarne Priory** and **Lindisfarne Castle**. Our lodging will be at **Open Gate Retreat House** and **Lindisfarne Hotel**. Dinner and overnight **Lindisfarne**. **BD**

Note that access to and from the island is via a causeway and therefore governed by low tides.



DAY 8: Friday, May 13, 2016 – This morning we plan to meet with **Graham Booth**, a member of the **Community of Aidan and Hilda** who will provide an introduction to **Holy Island** and the northern saints and lead us on a village walk, weather permitting, from 10 am to noon. Graham is Chair of the Trustees for the Community of Aidan and Hilda and runs the Open Gate Retreat House where some of our pilgrims will be lodging. The Open Gate Retreat House is the Mother House of the Community. There will be free time to explore the isle in the afternoon. Overnight **Lindisfarne**. **BD**

DAY 9: Saturday, May 14, 2016 – For those who desire, in the afternoon, a group of us will board a bus to cross the causeway and meet with Graham who will lead us on a pilgrimage walk across the sands and mud flats, walking the ancient route via the pilgrim posts. The rest of the day we may choose to stroll the island or visit local shops or heritage sites, see the **Cuthbert Center**, walk to Cuthbert's Isle, or stop at the **Lindisfarne Scriptorium**. We may meet with **Mary Fleeson**, owner of the

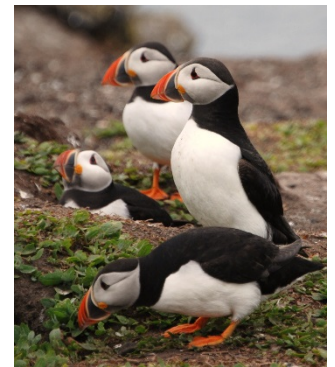
scriptorium, who will offer, to those interested, an opportunity to create Celtic knots. Pending confirmation, this evening we will meet with **Canon Kate Tristram**, a wonderful Anglican scholar and storyteller. Dinner and overnight **Lindisfarne**. **BD**



DAY 10: Sunday, May 15, 2016 – We gather for morning worship at the **Church of St. Mary the Virgin**. This afternoon we meet for an hour with Graham Booth regarding the topic of "Meeting God in Creation" followed by an afternoon nature tour led by naturalist **Mary Gunn** to discover the bird, plant and wildlife of Lindisfarne. Overnight **Lindisfarne**. **BD**

DAY 11: Monday, May 16, 2016 – This morning we say "goodbye" to **Lindisfarne** as we travel south to **Seahouses** where we board

a boat to the **Inner Farne Bird Sanctuary**. We cruise around all of the **Farne Islands**, viewing the sea birds on the cliff faces and visiting the Grey Seal colonies. This is nesting season for the puffin birds and arctic terns and we will have the opportunity to step on the island and view these birds in their habitat. In the year 678, **Inner Farne** was home to St. Cuthbert. After 12 years as Prior of **Lindisfarne**, St. Cuthbert retired to **Inner Farne** and stayed there until he became Bishop of **Lindisfarne** in 684. He returned to **Inner Farne** when his health deteriorated and died there on March 20, 687. We travel to **Durham** for dinner and overnight. **BD**



DAY 12: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 – This morning we will have time to meander the streets of **Durham** on our own. In the afternoon around 2 pm, we will visit **Durham Cathedral**, a Norman architectural masterpiece. Cuthbert's body was brought here during the Viking raids of 995. We will see the delicate and intricate stonework in the **Shrine of St. Cuthbert** and the simple tomb of the Venerable Bede, the

scholar and saint whose body was brought here in 1020. We will have a unique opportunity to meet with the **Rev. Canon Rosalind Brown**, one of the Canons of the Cathedral, for a half hour presentation on current Anglican worship in the Cathedral including praying the whole of the Psalms each month during morning and evening prayers. We will attend **Evensong** at the **Cathedral**, followed by a special clergy-led spiritual pilgrimage through the Cathedral. Dinner and overnight **Durham**. **BD**

DAY 13: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 – Today we travel to **Whitby** where we visit **Whitby Abbey**, founded by St. Hilda in AD 657. Caedmon, the first identifiable poet of the English language, was a monk here. The **Abbey** was the site of the **Synod of Whitby** where the Roman and Celtic churches met for the first time to discuss their respective religions. We spend some time strolling the lovely small cobblestone streets before continuing to **Manchester** where we will have our closing retreat time together. Our evening will include a farewell dinner and time for sharing reflections and experiences from our pilgrimage. Overnight **Manchester**. **BD**

Day 14: Thursday, May 19, 2016 – Today we have an early morning departure to the **Manchester Airport** where we board our **KLM Airlines** flight to **Amsterdam**. There we transfer to our **KLM Airlines** flight back to the **Washington Dulles Airport**. **BM**

B – Breakfast

L – Lunch

D – Dinner

M – Meals on board the Aircraft

* Itinerary is subject to change due to the leader, guide and or local office discretion or conditions *

Sheryl L. Shenk is a spiritual director and founder of Blue Ridge Ministries, an ecumenical organization that offers retreats, seminars and workshops focusing on Christian spiritual formation, discovery, and nurture. Having co-led three prior Celtic Pilgrimages, she will be guiding the group through times of Celtic morning and/or evening prayers and understanding of Celtic spirituality. Both she and her husband, Jonathan, are Mennonites with a deep appreciation of Celtic reverence for God, earth, community and the stuff of ordinary life.



Ted Swartz is an actor and playwright and founder of Ted and Company TheatreWorks which uses humor and professional storytelling to talk about issues of faith and social justice. He is passionate about creating art that provokes both laughter and thought. On the pilgrimage, Ted will be bringing scriptural texts to life as well as portray the early Celtic saints in their fumbling humanity as they seek to be faithful to Christ. He has been intrigued by a possible connection between Anabaptist theology, Celtic spirituality and theater and he cannot think of a better trip to explore this connection!



Shenk Scotland England KB16001

Price based on double occupancy:

17 – 20 pilgrims \$4,159.00*

Single Supplement \$759.00*

21 – 25 pilgrims \$3,959.00*

Land Only Deduct \$243.00 from above price

**Pricing does not include airline taxes and fuel surcharges currently at \$704.61 per pilgrim and are subject to change until the tickets are issued. The price is not guaranteed and may change due to the fluctuation of the British Pound and the US dollar. We make every effort to avoid any increase and will only do so if the value of the dollar falls against the British Pound. Your pricing was based on the exchange rate of \$1.58 to the British Pound. The price may change upon confirmation of the Lindisfarne dinner price.*

Non-refundable deposit of \$500.00 per person due by September 1, 2015.

Final payment due by February 1, 2016.

Cancellation Schedule:

Until March 31, 2016

February 1 or later

\$500.00 plus any unrecoverable fees

No Refund

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We believe that pilgrimage travel brings people of all faiths and nationalities together forming a bond of love and understanding that is one small step toward the giant leap to world peace.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Round trip economy airline reservations on regularly scheduled airlines. Airline taxes are NOT included and will be determined 60 to 90 days prior to ticketing. You will be invoiced for these taxes.

HOTELS: Rooms with private bath/shower based on double occupancy (two persons sharing). Hotel rating - Deluxe, First Class, Superior Tourist or Tourist are used unless others specified by leader (hotel category is chosen by the group leader). Guest Houses, Retreat Centers & Bed and Breakfasts may have communal rooming arrangements and facilities. Single room accommodation is subject to a surcharge. Hotels are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

SIGHTSEEING: As indicated in the itinerary, with fully licensed English speaking guides unless otherwise determined by the leader; entrance fees as indicated are included.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENT: Deposits are required at time of registration and balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS: Must be made in writing. Cancellation penalties are determined by the penalties imposed upon Worldwide by the airline carrier, the ground operator, coach company and hotels. **Cancellation penalties will be listed on your invoice and/or on your itinerary or application. Cancellations will be a specific amount plus any unrecoverable charges imposed by our suppliers. Within 45 days of departure, NO REFUNDS unless a date prior to 45 days before departure is listed on your invoice, application and/or itinerary.**

INSURANCE: Worldwide Pilgrimage Ministries acts only as an agent for suppliers and is not responsible for any theft, damage, loss of luggage or illness. The forms for all types of insurance coverage are offered to all registrants prior to departure.

UNUSED TOUR ARRANGEMENTS: are refundable only when agreed to by hotel, coach company or other providers.

BAGGAGE: Since all major airlines are constantly changing their rules regarding checked and hand luggage, we at WWPM suggest that you check with each carrier personally to be sure you are getting the most up to date information. Some airlines even have different rules based on your departure point. Excess baggage charges are very expensive so be sure to weigh and measure your luggage to avoid a big surprise at the check in counter.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport, visa fees, excess baggage charges, baggage or personal insurance, inoculations, laundry, telephone charges, tips for the driver and guide, mineral water, food and beverage other than those provided on regular menus as provided by WWPM.

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DEVIATIONS: Deviations by individuals to the set itinerary will be provided if possible at a charge of \$100 per person plus any charges imposed by airlines, hotels, or other vendors.

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