**Liebfrauenberg Weekend,**

**March 16th-18th 2018**

 **The Reverend Paul Skirrow**

**Prayer**

**Introduction**

 For over forty years every springtime, members of the Anglican chaplaincies in Heidelberg, Strasbourg and on occasions Stuttgart meet at the Protestant retreat centre “Liebfrauenberg” in Alsace for a residential study weekend with a special topic and speaker. This is an opportunity in Lent for some serious study of aspects of our Christian faith, as well a chance to meet old friends and make new ones, to worship, walk, talk, enjoy leisurely meals, relax and have a break. There is even a trip to a nearby village on Saturday evening for *tarte flambée.* Families are welcome. If there are at least four children there will be a programme for them.

**Location**

Liebfrauenberg is situated on the edge of the Northern Vosges with spacious grounds, surrounding woods and hills and splendid views. We warmly invite you to come and join in. The weekend starts with supper on Friday at 7 p.m and finishes at

teatime on Sunday about 3 p.m. It is possible to come for just part of the time if you cannot make it for a whole weekend.

**Our Topic this year - Prayer**

Our Speaker The Rev’d Paul Skirrow writes: “‘The study content for this weekend will be in four parts:

*Why do we pray?*

*How do we pray?* (two sessions)

*What do we pray?*

Some find prayer difficult; a nightmare, a struggle, a chore … yet in working at it we can find it a wonderful, life-giving gift from God. Hard or easy prayer unites us with God, with each other and with God's world.

Prayer can happen in many forms, and we cannot claim that one is better than the other. Meditation; contemplation; spiritual exercises; formal prayer from prayer books; prayer using words; images and symbols; prayer which demands self-emptying of words and ideas - the possibilities are endless. Some of these options will be examined and tried during the weekend. We will gather for morning and evening prayers/compline each day and will celebrate the Eucharist on Saturday and Sunday.”

**Our Speaker:**

The Rev’d Paul Skirrow and his wife Wendy live at Pateley Bridge in the Yorkshire Dales. He has been in ministry mainly in Liverpool Diocese in Industrial and Urban Mission, working with marginalised groups and poor communities. For several years he and Wendy were wardens of the retreat centre Ferrar House in Little Gidding, a quiet place for prayer and reflection. Paul knows our Diocese well, having been the locum priest in various chaplaincies, including Heidelberg.

**Booking information - Costs etc**

Adults 78 euros each day

Young people 13-17 55 euros each day

Children 4-12 42 euros a day

This sum includes all meals and accommodation in mainly en suite bedrooms. If you would like to come but are concerned about transport, the cost, etc, please talk to Diane or John Murray.

Please use the booking form and return to Diane Murray by

**11 March 2018 or email to: *john.murray67@googlemail.com* .**

**Booking form for Liebfrauenberg**

**March 16th - 18th 2018**

**FULL NAME(S)**

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**…......................................................................**

**ADDRESS …………………………………………………………**

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**TELEPHONE …………………………………………………….**

**EMAIL ………………………………………………………………**

**ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED:**

**Single Double Family**

**SPECIAL DIET ………………………………………………….**

**EXPECTED TIME OF ARRIVAL:**

**Friday 7 p.m.** (i.e.in time for evening meal)

**Friday 8 p.m or later**

**Saturday 12.30** (in time for lunch)