

Christians Abandoning the Sacred Landscape Sancreed

Re-discovering our world as sacred place and time

- Learning from our ancestors
- Encountering God in holy places those made holy and those recognised as holy before Christianity, and those were we find God a fresh
- Welsh 'Llan' the land of the saint not just the church (eglwys)
- Holy wells
- The Christian year linked to the rhythm of the seasons in the northern hemisphere and the festivals that existed before Christianity
- Not just for the countryside but in the city also
- Reconnecting with where things come from
- Learning from the 'second book of God'.
- Engaging with the Elements –Earth, Air, Fire and Water our original and future renewable energies and principles not only of nature but human typologies.

Re-discovering our world as sacred place and time

- Learning from others
- Jewish traditions Sabbath and jubilee, faith as held in family
- New Spiritualities that are often environmentally aware
- Christians and non-Christians from indigenous people groups
- Secular environmentalists
- Re-presenting the stories of our landscape and creating new mythologies to live by.

Mystic Christ/Forest Church



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Welcome to a site made for and by people exploring a journey in community with the Mystic Christ towards personal transformation and the renewal of creation.







Down to Earth: Winter Prayerwalking Five years ago we moved to a

densely populated and culturally...

Twitter Community

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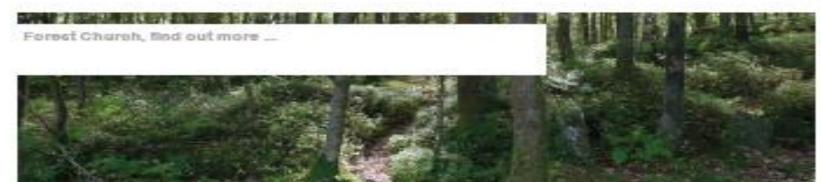
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• For many the spiritual journey is most easily followed in nature; along the shore, through the forest, over the mountain – as well as in the garden and the park. Markers along the journey include moments of captured wonder: the perfect sunset, a sacred place, the sound of a waterfall or the taste of freshly harvested produce shared with friends. It feels natural to give thanks or say 'wow' and somehow find that the experience includes something of the divine.

Forest Church/Mystic Christ vision

• Throughout the ages people have walked this path with the Mystic Christ and have found a meaningful expression of their spirituality, finding inspiration and structure through the rhythms of the seasons, the characteristics of plants and animals and the sacredness of place – along with the wisdom of the scriptures and the pattern of prayers. Down to earth spirituality of the everyday with Christ as its compass prompting action for peace, justice and ecology.

Forest Church Calendar - the 'Celtic' Wheel

- Spring
- The first festival then in our calendar year is at **Candlemas** on the 1st of February, which is also around the feast day of St Brigid. As the snowdrops emerge from the ground and the presentation of Jesus in the Temple marks the end of the 40 days of Christmas, we turn from winter to look for the first signs of spring. Traditionally this was when you took down your Christmas tree (only put up on Christmas eve) and it was burnt and from the fire the candles to light the church were lit. Our customs today have become very different, but in Forest Church as we revive older customs, we also rediscover our seasons and their particular gifts to us.
- The next festival is the feast of the **annunciation or 'lady day'**. This is on the 25th of March which was the date of the **Spring Equinox** in the old Roman Calendar before the modern calendar was adopted we use today. Traditionally the 25th of March was considered to be the date of the first Easter and there was a discussion in the early church about fixing it on that date rather than it moving, like the Jewish Passover, according to a lunar rather than a solar cycle. So new life in the spring is celebrated as the days move from the dark half of the year to the light.

Forest Church Calendar - the 'Celtic' Wheel

- Summer
- May Day, the next festival, marks the first signs of summer and is also the feast of Mary and Joseph and a celebration of home and family. Close before is St George's day and close after that of St Julian of Norwich and often these three can be a focus of Christian celebration as well as reviving where possible traditional May Day activities like maypoles and morris dancing.
- Again, before the calendar change, **Midsummer** was on June 25th, in the early church the feast days of **St Alban and St john the Baptist** were set around Midsummer. Both these saints, like the tradition of many Celtic saints die by being beheaded. Stories surrounding their martyrdoms are interwoven with other seasonal stories marking the constant shift from summer to winter as battle between holly and oak that appears also in stories like Gawain and the Green Knight. There's also a tradition of rose cakes eaten at Midsummer which is tasty thing to revive.

Forest Church Calendar – the 'Celtic' Wheel

- Autumn harvest
- Lammas on the 1st of August marks the start of the harvest season and the first signs of autumn. This may seem strange as schools in Britain have their 'summer holidays', but we forget that the dating of these is a long way from midsummer and was designed to enable the children to join in the grain harvest. Calendar shifts and changing weather mean that our grain harvest is not always at the start of August, but this is a good time to celebrate bread and beer (gluten free versions often also necessary!) and reflect on the way we need to live well with nature and see it as a precious gift.
- The Autumn Equinox falls traditionally on September 25th and this marks the Annunciation of John and close on Michael and All Angels. The year shifts from the light half to the dark, and we seek Michaels gift of God's protection in the darker months and look to the light in the darkness of Christmas.

Forest Church Calendar - the 'Celtic' Wheel

- Winter
- All Hallows on the 1st of November and All Hallows Eve marked both the end of the harvest with the apple harvest but also a season of remembrance as people entered the season of winter. These were marked by apple games and remembrance of the dead long before older customs became our commercialised horror film themed contemporary Halloween. Reviving old Christian customs is a good way to enter into this season without some of the elements that can be of concern in some contemporary expressions. It's also nice to drink some mulled cider round a fire as the seasons get colder!
- Christmas at the Winter Solstice marks the end of the year as the light comes in the darkest day of the year, traditionally on the 25th of December. Often in Forest Church it has worked better to gather at the feast of the Epiphany to fit with other family celebrations and also the themes of the revelation of Jesus in that festival are also good to draw on.

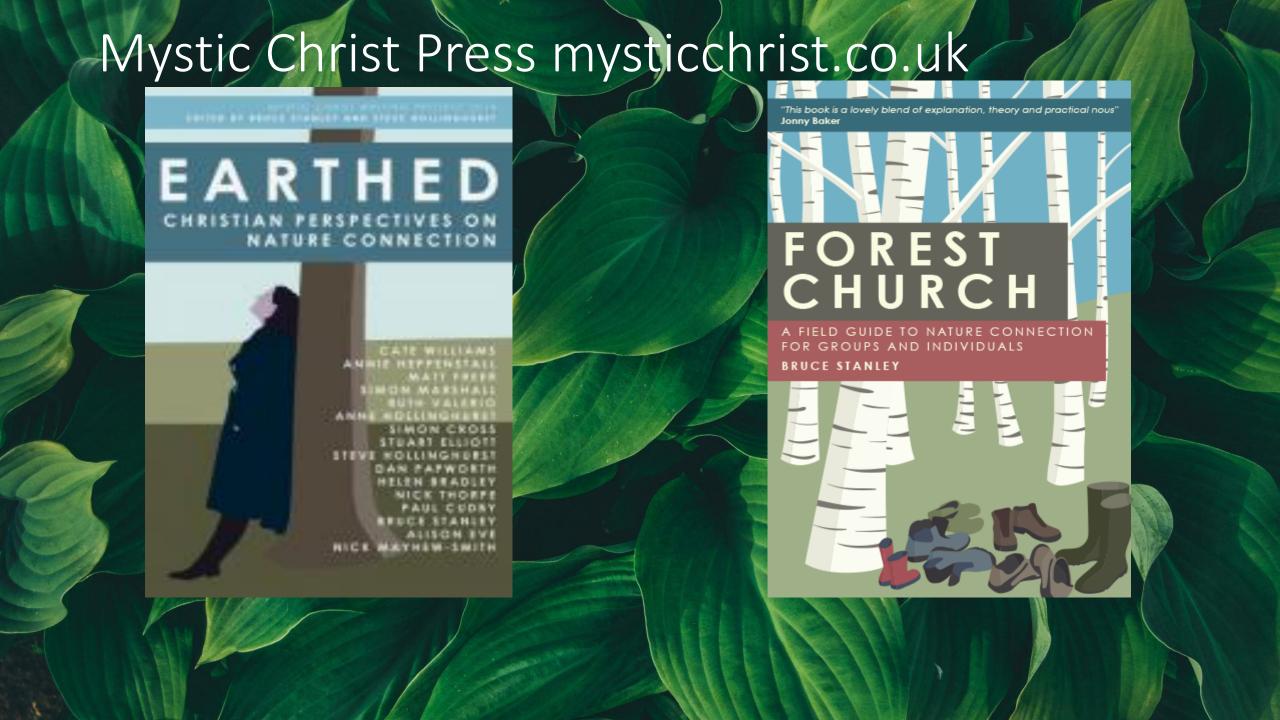
Forest Church

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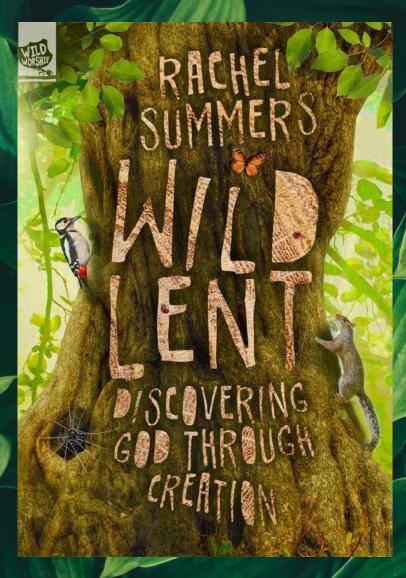


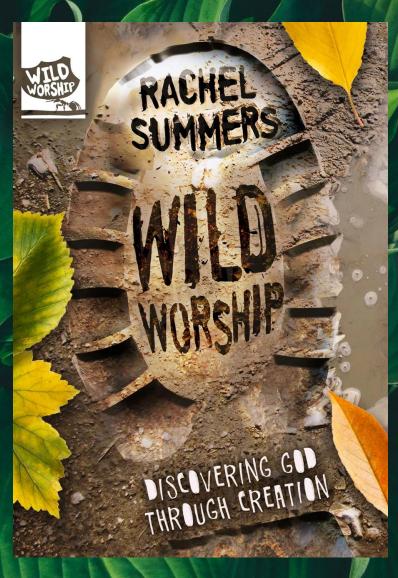


Blue-Sky Worship 'Forest Church for schools' https://www.ldbe.co.uk/strand-6-collective-worship/



Rachel Summers 'wild worship'





Tess Ward and Nick Mayhew-Smith

