



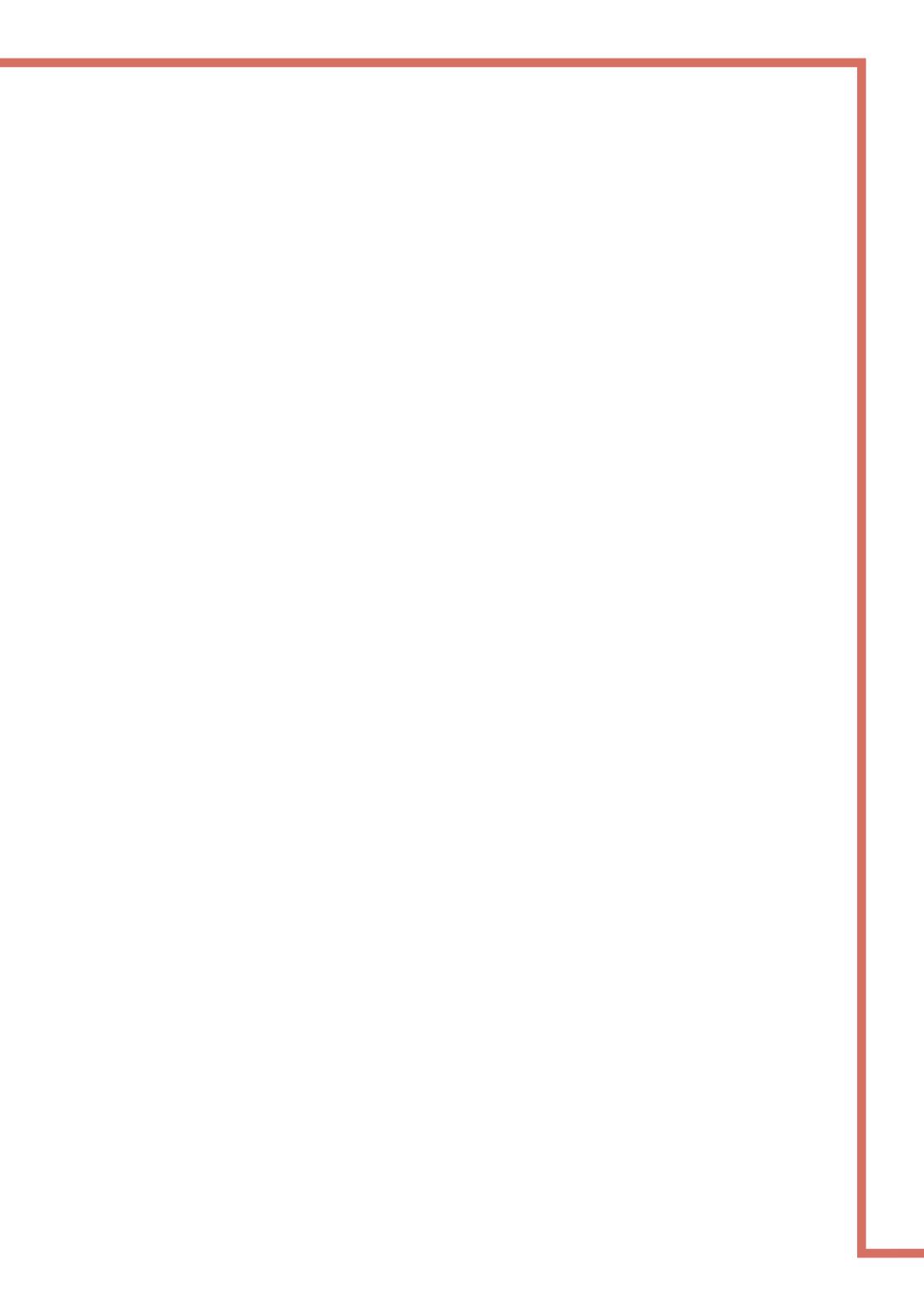
ST  
COLUMBA  
HOTEL  
S&EE of IONA



# Autumn Encounters

*with the Iona Community*





# Autumn Encounters

A short seasonal programme with the Iona Community

*'You speak autumn to me..*

*the ripeness that this season offers again and again'*

**'Conkers' by Ruth Burgess**

Against a background of changing colours, falling temperatures and shortening days, autumn provides a chance to pause and take stock of life - to gather in what is ripe, to clear the ground and prepare for what lies ahead. These three programmes offer the opportunity to do this in different ways as the bright limpid colours and bustle of summer give way to the vermillion and purple sunrises and softer pace of Iona in Autumn.

The Iona Community is an international, ecumenical Christian movement working for peace and justice, the rebuilding of community, and the renewal of worship. Our programmes offer spaces in which people can explore life's meaning and purpose in the company of others, and can encounter, experience and celebrate the riches and challenges of communal life. We have a long association with the Island of Iona and are delighted to have the opportunity to offer some programmes in partnership with the St. Columba Hotel whilst our own centres undergo refurbishment and maintenance work.

21-28th October

## **Walking into Winter.**

Led by Jan Sutch Pickard, Joy Mead, and Ruth Burgess

As the seasons change and the year draws towards its close, what words and images come to the forefront of our minds? How can we make creative use of these - through storytelling, poetry, and writing – to help us shape our journeys into winter? A week of conversation and collaboration with three well loved Wild Goose authors and Iona Community Members.

Jan Sutch Pickard is a poet, preacher and storyteller living on Mull. She is former Warden of Iona Abbey, Vice President of the Methodist Conference, and Ecumenical Accompanier. Her many books resources include *A Pocket Full of Crumbs*, *Walking Through Advent*, and *Between High and Low Water: Sojourner Songs*. She is also a frequent contributor to IBRA's Fresh from the Word daily reading series.

Joy Mead is a member of the Iona Community and the author of *Glimpsed in Passing*, *Walking Our Story*, and *A Way of Knowing*. She leads creative writing groups, and has been involved in development education and justice and peace work.

Ruth Burgess is a member of the Iona Community and the author of *Winter, Moments of Our Nights and Days*, and *Saying Goodbye*. She lives in Dunblane and spends her retirement watching the antics of crows, writing, and gardening.



28-4th November

## **Stillness, Silence, and Song.**

Led by Alison Adam and Cara Riley

In the changing light and landscapes of autumn on Iona, come and experience an unhurried week of mediation and song on this sacred island. There will be space for stillness and reflection, time to roam, and room for encounter with self and others, Creation and the Creator.

Alison Adam and Cara Riley are Members of the Iona Community and have regularly led weeks for the Community on Iona. Alison brings her gifts as a song and worship leader who is passionate about the transformative power of song and enabling folk to sing together. Cara is an accomplished facilitator working with diverse groups and individuals, helping them to reflect on their place and imagine new ways to move forward.

A gentle week to help you explore and connect with your own life journey.



4-11th November

## **Cycles of Grace: Exploring the Ten Beatitudes.**

Led by Alastair McIntosh

The Beatitudes set out by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount are the essence, not just of the Christian faith, but of all faiths that are drawn from the wells of love. How can we live well when the world seems graceless? What gifts from the Beatitudes might wait for us to share? Under the expert guidance of activist, author, and poet Alastair McIntosh we will reflect on ten Beatitudes and on how we might complete the cycles of grace they set in motion.

Alastair McIntosh is an Associate of the Iona Community and an honorary fellow in the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh. He is the author of many books including *Soil and Soul: People versus Corporate Power (Aurum)*, *Spiritual Activism: Leadership as Service (Green Books)*, and most recently, *Poacher's Pilgrimage: an Island Journey (Birlinn)*.



## Booking

Prices start from £835 per person, per week.

All prices include continental breakfast, lunch, dinner, accommodation and programme charges.

To reserve your place please either visit [www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk](http://www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk) and book online, or phone **44 (0)1681 700 304**.

For further programme information contact:

The Iona Community Programmes Development Worker [pat@iona.org.uk](mailto:pat@iona.org.uk)

## St. Columba Hotel

Built in 1846, the Columba was originally a Free Church Manse, but became a hotel in 1868. It is currently owned by an island based partnership of nine individuals, all of whom have a strong connection to Iona, and this local ownership and involvement is an important part of the hotel's vision and ethos.

The St. Columba has a long tradition of hospitality and offers warm and friendly service, comfortable rooms, and superb locally produced and sourced food – much of which comes from the hotel's own organic gardens.



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