

# Poetry in the Spirit: Opening our Imaginations

*An evening of reflection and sharing  
facilitated by Professor Nicola Slee*



**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
**7.15pm for 7.30pm to 9.15pm**  
**online on ZOOM**

Please book a place by contacting the Revd Canon Nick Wright  
([revnmwright@btinternet.com](mailto:revnmwright@btinternet.com) or 07871 163140).

We will be in contact beforehand  
with further details and the link you will need to join the session.

There is no charge for participating,  
but we will be inviting donations towards the expenses of the session.

## Our speaker: Professor Nicola Slee

Born and raised in a remote corner of North Devon, this is still the landscape to which Nicola naturally reverts and is drawn. After 7 years of full-time study in Cambridge, she has worked in theological education in a variety of settings in London and Birmingham. From 1997 she has been at the Queen's Foundation in a variety of roles. From 2014 to 2023 she was Director of Research. In 2017, she was appointed Professor of Feminist Practical Theology in the Faculty of Religion and Theology at VU Amsterdam, Queen's partner university for doctoral degrees. She has now reduced her hours of work substantially, but remains a Professorial Research Fellow, continuing to supervise some dozen doctoral students.



Nicola is both a poet and theologian and has published widely in the fields of spirituality, feminist theology and poetics. Her most recent collection of poems and prayers is *Abba Amma: Improvisations on the Lord's Prayer* (Canterbury Press, 2022).

### The Purpose of the Gathering

In our time together, Nicola will be exploring with us the place that reading and writing poetry might play in our spiritual lives. She will share something of her own love of poetry and offer a selection of poems, including some of her own, that open up key spiritual themes. In discussion and reflection together, we may want to consider the role that poetry could play in the ministry of spiritual direction as well as the role it might play in our own lives.

This online Gathering is for anyone who is seeking to explore their spiritual awareness and deepen their faithfulness or experience in the life of prayer. It is also likely to be helpful for those who are involved in the work of accompanying and listening to others on their spiritual journeys, whether they regard this work as 'spiritual direction' or are called to a more informal ministry of walking alongside others.

### Accessing this Online Gathering

A few days before, we shall send you an email with a link to the meeting. You will need to be able to open that link on a tablet or laptop. If necessary, participants could use a smartphone (but the small screen size can make that difficult!) or a personal computer which has a microphone and camera attached.

Most of us will probably be used to joining Zoom meetings these days, but if you want advice or get stuck that evening, phone Nick Wright on 07871 163140 and he will try to help.

### The Spirituality Network and Spiritual Direction

The Diocesan Spirituality Gatherings aim to offer support, encouragement and fellowship to all those who are seeking to explore and deepen their spiritual life and awareness. Our network of contacts includes people who seek to listen to and walk with others on their spiritual journeys, and it includes those clergy and lay people who are available to offer spiritual direction or accompaniment. To find out more or to request information about those offering spiritual direction in our diocese, please contact Mary Flitcroft at [maryba4s21@gmail.com](mailto:maryba4s21@gmail.com)