



A PILGRIMAGE TO SOUTH INDIA **Wednesday February 1st - 14th 2012**

You are invited to consider taking part in this Pilgrimage to South India, to explore contemplative spirituality, interfaith understanding, and issues of justice and peace.

What will the visit offer?

Our main objectives will be to encounter two other major faith traditions, Hinduism and Zen Buddhism; to explore the practice of meditation within those traditions; and to reflect on how this practice meets and enriches our Christian understandings.

In addition, the visit will offer the opportunity to:

- Learn about the rich complexity of life in modern India - a society going through a rapid process of change as India emerges as a major economic power in the world;
- Visit local development projects, and reflect on issues of justice and equality in a world of huge divisions between rich and poor.

Where will we go?

We will stay in four very different places:

- An education centre just outside the city of Bangalore where the visit will begin and end;
- The Hindu holy town of Tiruvanantai where we shall encounter Hindu worship and life;
- The community of Shantivanam where the Benedictine contemplative Bede Griffiths lived and explored Christian faith within the context of a surrounding Hindu culture.
- A Zen Buddhist Meditation Centre in Tamil Nadu run by a Jesuit priest and Zen Master.

Who is leading this visit?

Canon Patrick and Mrs Sam Woodhouse, from Wells Cathedral, who have a network of contacts in South India, and have led similar visits for the Bath and Wells Diocese in 2008, 2009 and 2011.

How much will it cost?

The all-inclusive cost for all expenses in India will be £675, to include all accommodation, food and travel; plus the airfare, currently £560. Precise costs will be available at the initial meeting.

What to do if you are interested?

- Contact Patrick or Sam by email or phone with a simple expression of interest. We will give details of the venue and timings for the introductory meeting.
- Come to the introductory meeting on the morning of Saturday **May 21st** when we will talk through the visit in detail, show photos, and share further information. If, after this meeting you feel you would like to join the group, we will ask you to fill in an application form.

And then what?

The group (which will be no more than 12 people) will meet twice for preparation sessions (in October and January). We will talk about the purpose, programme and places to be visited, share advice about travel, health and cultural issues, and recommend preparation and reading.

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