

Benefits of being a *Companion on the Way*

Becoming a *Companion on the Way* opens the door to a number of benefits including:

- knowing you are part of the emerging church making a fresh offering of faith into the world.
- Receiving Community support on your spiritual journey
- Enjoying *Companion on the Way* only events, seasonal devotional resources, and additional website resources
- Having eligibility for leadership roles, for governance positions, for access to (Skype) meetings with UK leadership, participation in our leadership events

Our Commitment to You:

We are a community deeply committed to supporting you as we encounter God's love and grow spiritually. We are excited and refreshed by our experience of building a community of Christ at the edge – and of making a fresh offering of faith into the world. We hope you will join us.

Anne

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creating a community of Christ at the edge

An invitation to become a Companion on the Way

This is a path of
unknowing and knowing,
of being loved and loving,
of letting go and taking hold.

This is an invitation to a radical
transformation of consciousness
on the Way of Christ.

What is a *Companion on the Way*?

A *Companion on the Way* is someone who has discerned that Contemplative Fire is an important community for their spiritual journey. Those who perceive a call to be Companions are intentional in:

- practicing a personal Rhythm of Life that includes prayer/study/action
- fidelity in their prayer life through regular for the community and the world;
- deepening their engagement with the ongoing life of Contemplative Fire; drawing on resources available to Companions such as retreats and support groups led by the Community Leader.
- sharing their talent for leadership as appropriate;
- supporting Contemplative Fire's mission of spiritual growth and outreach through a regular financial offering.

Are you a *Companion on the Way*?

- Do silence, stillness and simplicity attract you?
- Does the thought of encountering God in the present moment resonate with you?
- Does learning about and exploring the Christian mystery engage you?
- Prayer – Study – Action or Being – Knowing – Doing Do these words resonate with you?
- Do you sense something missing in your worship or spiritual life yet sense there may be vibrancy at the core of the Christian faith?

Steps on the Journey

We offer you a place to be in discernment – so you are able to clarify what it means to be a *Companion on the Way*.

- This discernment period has no fixed time frame – it could be a month or a year – since discernment is part of your journey and also part of the community's life/journey.
- As part of the discernment process:
 - A mentor will join you for discussions and friendship.
 - You would engage in a period of active, on-going participation in those community groups which are available in your area (Gatherings, Open Circle, Stillness).
 - You would be part of a Rhythms of Life retreat day or individual sessions with a leader to enable you evolve your own Personal Rhythm of Life.
- When you and your mentor agree that your discernment is complete, you would be formally welcomed and affirmed as a *Companion on the Way* at the next Community Day or another appropriate time.
- At Community Day every year, current Companions renew their intention to practice their Personal Rhythm of Life.
- When you want to begin the discernment process, please:
 - Indicate your interest to your small group leader or Community Leader
 - Begin to ponder the Vision and Values (see leaflet or website). Words such as 'wonder', 'listening', 'acceptance', 'authenticity', 'mystery' and 'community' are expressive of our core values.