



Iona Community SW England Gathering

Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land

Exploring the place of music and community during troubled times

Led by Craig Gardiner the day and will include music, worship in the Iona Community style, a bring-and-share lunch, a bookstall, information, discussion, and Iona Community news from the South West and beyond.

Saturday 13th April 2019, 11.00am till 4.00pm

arrivals from 10.30am

at South Street Baptist Church, Exeter, EX1 1EB.

Everyone is welcome. There is no charge, but contributions are invited towards the cost: suggestion £7. Please bring something to share for lunch.

Revd Dr Craig Gardiner is a musician, a theologian, a Baptist minister and a Member of the Iona Community. He teaches at the South Wales Baptist College and Cardiff University.

To book or to find out more please contact David Osborne at drosborne2@btinternet.com or phone 01963 351275.

Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land

By the waters of Babylon we lay down and wept when we remembered Zion.
On the willows there we hung up our harps as our captors asked us for songs,
and our tormentors laughed, saying, 'Sing us one of the Lord's songs!'
But how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? Psalm 137.1 – 4

And yet they discovered that they could. In their exile the Jews began to meet in small groups, which in time came to be called *synagogues*. There they talked, prayed, told their stories, studied their scriptures and sang together. Songs of lament like this one, and also, in time, songs of hope and of praise.

Many people find that it is in small groups that they can share our frustration and grief for the world, our society, and the church. And in so doing, through honest talk, prayer, reflection on scripture and in song, they can perhaps begin to hope. Sharing their different views and experiences, their insights and abilities, and they lost and renewed hopes they receive encouragement and new energy.

Revd Dr Craig Gardiner is a musician, a theologian, a Baptist minister and a Member of the Iona Community. His recent book, *Melodies of a New Monasticism: Bonhoeffer's Vision, Iona's Witness*, compares the views and ideas of George Macleod and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and traces how the Iona Community that MacLeod founded fulfils something of what

Bonhoeffer envisaged. Using a key image of Bonhoeffer's, that of making music, he gives pointers for the future of the small communities, the church and society.

Craig will be leading the Iona Community Spring Iona Gathering at Exeter on 13th April. Anyone is welcome to come.

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