



Navigating the space between...

We may sometimes find ourselves in uncomfortable places in our lives that feel challenging to navigate. Complicating all this is an increasingly disorienting world.

At times it may seem like we are staring into a void – feeling lost or stuck or isolated, perhaps in between two worlds. Others may seem distant, unable to understand; and finding hope and a way through appears unmanageable.

We are not alone... God is there

Some have described such a 'place' as 'godforsaken', but one thing we can know, and count on, is we are not alone, no matter how isolated or abandoned we may feel. God knows such places and does not

abandon us. Holy Saturday (after the crucifixion when Jesus descended to the dead) shows us that no matter how disoriented or alone we feel, God knows and accompanies us there, even when no one else seems able. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we see the tomb become a kind of womb for the (our) New Creation.

In this 3-day retreat, we will explore:

- 'Holy Saturday' type of experiences and other encounters of void-like empty space.
- How we can express ourselves when we encounter it, especially through the arts.
- How we might encounter God there.



In our time together, we'll consider how scripture and the arts can accompany us. Collectively and individually, we will be able to explore various art forms, poetry, prayer, storytelling and silence to help us give voice to the inexpressible and navigate the disorienting terrain of the unknown.

Ultimately, we may find that we can take heart and be open to take the holy risk of engage the void and encounter God 'there'.

Our Facilitator

Dr Karen McClain Kiefer

received a PhD at the Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts at the University of St Andrews, where she focused on aspects of human engagement



with 'empty space' and various encounters with 'the void' at various points in our life journey. Using the arts, stories and inspiration from Holy Saturday to navigate the terrain of the unknown, she encourages us to take heart and be open to encountering God 'there'.

Karen is a member of the Pastoral Team here at the Bield and provides spiritual accompaniment, retreat facilitation, pilgrimage guiding, prayer services and imaginative contemplation.

She is also an installation artist, improviser, a certified advanced Playback Theatre practitioner, teacher and Listening Hour Guide.

Booking information

Cost : £250 workshop and full board

Please book through reception at:
Info@bieldatblackruthven.org.uk

or

01738 583 238

After booking, please pay cost in full.

Cheques & BACS are payable to:
The Bield Christian Company Ltd
Sort Code: 83-47-00
A/C 1990 3180

Please include surname as reference

Card payments can be made
over the phone



**The Bield at Blackruthven
Tibbermore
Perth PH1 1PY
Tel: 01738 583 238**

www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk

Scottish Charity SC 027462



The Bield at Blackruthven

The Holy Risk of Empty Space:

Embracing our stories from the Void



**11th – 13th February 2026
10:00 Wednesday to 16:00 Friday**

**Facilitated by
Karen McClain Kiefer
*Bield Staff***

