



*“The basic command of religion is not “do this “or “Do not do that” but simply “Look!” (Philip Toynbee)*

Come and join us for a contemplative retreat of looking and praying with the 12 paintings showing the nameless, marginal characters from the Gospels by Michael Cook, a contemporary British Romantic artist. He is based in Derbyshire and his work is often displayed in churches and cathedrals. His work can be viewed at [www.hallowed-art.co.uk](http://www.hallowed-art.co.uk) and he has given The Bield special permission to

share his paintings and the accompanying poems which were written by Rosalind O’Melia for this retreat day.

*“There is the opportunity to use the imagination to make visible some of the less significant characters who populate the margins of Jesus’s story, to see what happens when we place them centre stage.” (Michael Cook)*

The twelve characters include the Syro-Phoenician mother who asked for healing for her daughter, the young man who ran naked from the Garden of Gethsemane and the woman with a haemorrhage who touched Jesus’ hem.

There might be one character or painting which speaks directly to you and which you might wish to spend the day with or you might find inspiration in the whole collection. Throughout the day, we will sit with the paintings, meditate on the scripture passages which mention the characters and have

time and space to express our responses to them in the art room, the beautiful grounds of The Bield or walking in the labyrinth.



**Louise** has a ministry in spiritual accompaniment and leading people in various meditative activities. Her background is rooted in Ignatian spirituality and she finds visual imagery leads her deeper into prayer and aids imaginative contemplation.

## Booking information

**Cost : £60**

(Includes morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea)

Please book through Aoife at:  
[Info@bieldatablackruthven.org.uk](mailto:Info@bieldatablackruthven.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 00100095

Please include surname as reference  
Card payments can be made over the phone.

**Extend your stay?**

**You might like to come to the Chapel  
at 9 am or 5 pm**

**You might like to stay the night before  
or after the retreat.**

The Bield at Blackruthven  
Tibbermore  
Perth PH1 1PY

**Tel: 01738 583 238**

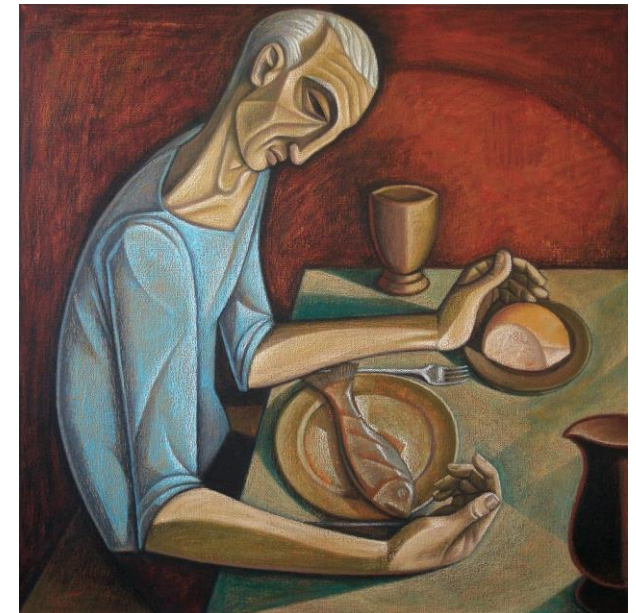
[www.bieldatablackruthven.org.uk](http://www.bieldatablackruthven.org.uk)

*Scottish Charity SC 027462*



## The Twelve Mysteries

Praying with Michael Cook's  
paintings of the unnamed  
characters in the Gospels



**6th June 2024**  
10:00-16:30

**Facilitated by Louise Younger**

Spiritual Accompanier  
Bield Pastoral Team