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KEY ADVERTISERS

- 2 THORNLEIGH HOTEL
- **3** THE GREENHOUSE
- 4 PODERE SAN MARTINO
- 5 CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUI HOLIDAY CENTRES
- 6 WHITCHESTER CENTRE ANDERSEN BOATS
- 7 THE HIGHBURY CENTRE
- 8 ROCK UK
- **9** RINGSFIELD HALL
- **10** HOLIDAY SELECTION
- **13** KESWICK CONVENTION
- 14 ACTION CENTRES UP
- **15** LEE ABBEY, DEVON
- THE BEACON ACTIVITIES 16 RICHMOND HOLIDAYS

Christian Holidays & Conferences Guide New Life Publishing, 18 Loughborough Road, Bunny, Nottingham, NG11 6QA. 0115 824 0777 Printed by Buxton Press, Buxton, SK17 6AE www.newlifepublishing.co.uk here did 2023 go? The past 12 months seem to have flown past even more quickly than previous years. But that's the thing with time – it never stops! And that means if you don't grab hold of the opportunity to have a break, you might reach next December without having any downtime.

Taking a holiday or short break is good for your health and well-being. The findings of a 40-year study by the University of Helsinki was released last June. Researchers tracked 1,200 people over four decades and found that the people who took regular holidays seriously reduced their risk of cardiovascular disease.

And it's also a great way to spend extra time with God, as Pete Greig – the founder of 24-7 Prayer – recently discovered. You'll find his reflection on page 4.

Whether you want a holiday of a lifetime or just a short break to help you feel refreshed, Christian Holidays & Conferences 2024 has everything covered. Inside, you will find a range of holidays and breaks to suit all budgets. So get planning and booking right away – because it's good for your health!



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Stepping out to hear from God

A captivating pilgrimage from one holy island to another was a lesson in spending time with God, says 24-7 Prayer founder Pete Greig

Just completed a 330mile walk from Iona to Lindisfarne alone with God. You realise – after a few days of silence and solitude – that there's nowhere to hide and no one to impress.

And after a week of just you and the cows and the rain and God, you eventually sigh and realise that it doesn't matter what you look like, and you kind of get to this place of saying, 'Hello God, it's just you and me and I'm not sure you're that impressed: what happens now?'

When 24-7 Prayer started, if someone said, 'let's pray', we'd

all have shouted in tongues, yelled 'come on' and, deep down, felt that we had found the revival switch.

Very quickly, as we passed through the fire something shifted and if someone said, 'let's pray' we no longer shouted in tongues, we sat round in a circle and stared at a candle.

And frankly, I want both. I'm probably not far off moving back out of complexity into that simplicity again where I'm starting to think, 'life's short, let's take the world for Jesus!'



Pete Greig, left, spent a week walking from lona, inset, to Lindisfarne, which is also known as Holy Island



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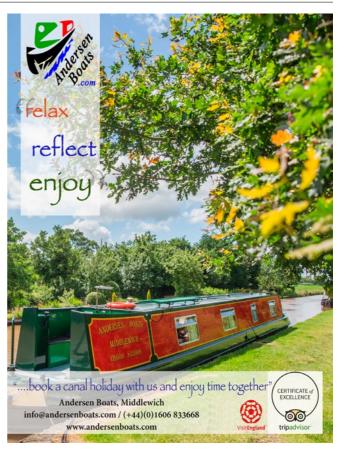




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Thornleigh Hotel overlooks the stunning and ever-changing Morecambe Bay

lunches and tasty treats. Our meals are all cooked using local produce and are rich in flavour.

The dishes range from herbcrusted salmon, pan-fried duck and traditional roast beef, to pineapple parfait, creamy vanilla cheesecake and decadent chocolate brownies, not forgetting our famous sticky toffee pudding!

One of our many unique selling points is our ability to cater for church weekends and holiday groups.

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We would love to introduce Thornleigh to you – please contact us and ask about our introductory leader visits. Christmas and New Year are highlights of our holidays. The hotel is tastefully decorated inside and out – the menus are carefully created to bring you the very best seasonal food, the social programme is thoughtfully planned with plenty of fun and fellowship – a time to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, creating special memories and sharing time with friends old and new.

And if you prefer to plan your own holiday or you would like to use Thornleigh as a retreat, we offer a variety of options to accommodate you.

So whether you are looking for a room-only deal or the bed and breakfast option giving you the flexibility to explore the Lake District our team would be happy to help.

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hen it comes to mixing a relaxing break with learning and worship, there's nothing quite like the Keswick Convention.

The Lake District town is always a popular place for tourists.

With its transport links to the rest of the stunning Lakes as well as a thriving place to eat and shop, it's the perfect location for all ages to explore the breathtaking beauty of the Cumbrian National Park.

And for almost 150 years, the quaint market town has become synonymous with the Keswick Convention.

Over three weeks, the town, which sits next to Derwent Water, welcomes thousands of Christians who flock to



learn from inspiring leaders and worship with friends old and new.

The historic convention is expected to be as popular as ever as it enters its 149th year – building on last year's convention when more than 10,000 attended the event. Visitors explored the theme of being Human during the conference. Among the massive crowds were 2,500 children and young people who enjoyed a range of activities at the convention's new home at the Pencil Factory, near the centre of the town.

James Robson, ministry director of Keswick Ministries, says: "One of the highlights of Keswick Convention is seeing people of different generations, varying backgrounds and contexts, all coming together under the banner of All One in Christ Jesus."

As well as sessions in the main tent each morning and evening, there were separate events and seminars.

The 2024 Convention will look at the theme of Resurrection between July 13 and August 2.

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Find out more at keswickministries.org

KESWICK CONVENTION 2024

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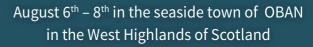
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Venue: The Rockfield Centre, PA34 5DQ. On-site parking available Connect on Facebook or visit **www.argyllconvention.org** The Argyll Convention is part of the Keswick Fellowship

You can make it on your own

If you're planning on flying solo this year, the opportunities are endless.

hether you're off on a singles tour or simply planning your own trip away, Christian Holidays and Conferences Guide has some top tips for you to make the most of your time exploring new places.

• Firstly, it's always best to pack light so you can manage your own luggage wherever you go.

• Arrive during the day where possible so you can get your bearings.

• Mix and mingle with other solo travellers.

• Meet the locals and try your hand at a bit of local lingo.

• Get out and about to enjoy yourself. You're not having to plan or cater for anyone else, remember, so make the most of your freedom. • Don't be scared of eating alone; get a local to help you order as a conversation starter.

• Sample local culture; from art to architecture, tastes to sights, soak it all up.

• Make memories to share with friends and family when you get home as you snap away.

• Save on call charges by making sure your phone contract covers you or get an international calling SIM card.

• Make the most of your smartphone – download a trusted GPS, Google Maps is internationally renowned, get yourself a translator app, currency convertor. Most major cities now have dedicated tour guide apps. Above all else, trust your instinct, follow your dreams and have the trip of a lifetime.





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