



# The Bede Griffiths Sangha

## Summer Seminar 2004

# Abishiktananda



With Shirley du Boulay author of 'Beyond the Darkness' - a biography of Bede Griffiths, and currently writing the biography of Abishiktananda  
And

Murray Rogers, Anglican priest whose friendship with Abishiktananda is described in Shirley du Boulay's article 'Priest and Swami'.

Park Place Pastoral Centre,  
Fareham, Hants

Friday July 16th - Sunday July 18th

*'Wanting to give it a name, in that lies all the trouble. Do not name it, gaze, be dazzled, "be"; do not give a name to it, but be this mystery.'* Abishiktananda Diary Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1956

Abishiktananda, regarded as a pioneer in inter-religious dialogue, was born Henri Le Saux in Brittany in 1910 and for the early part of his life was a Benedictine monk, soon developing a longing to live his monastic life in India. In 1948 he achieved his ambition, joining Father Monchanin in Tamil Nadu where, in 1950, they founded Shantivanam together.

Soon after his arrival he met Ramana Maharshi, a meeting which was to affect the rest of his life. He never stopped being convinced of the truth of Christianity, but now he was equally convinced of the validity of the advaitic experience. For years he struggled in anguish, feeling as if there were 'two men in the depths of me' and writing to his family, 'I am like someone who has one foot on one side of the gulf, and the other on the other side. I would like to throw a bridge

across, but do not know where to fasten it, the walls are so smooth.' He endured this anguish until nearly the end of his life, when at last he found a truth beyond name and form and was at peace.

We hope that you will be able to join us. If you would like to come please complete and send the form below, with your payment as soon as possible, and in any case no later than 15<sup>th</sup> May to Thérèse O'Neill, The Old Village Hall, Cocking, W Sussex, GU29 0HN Phone 01730 814879. [tmsn@waitrose.com](mailto:tmsn@waitrose.com)

*We like to ensure that no one is excluded from the retreat on the grounds of cost. If you cannot meet the whole cost, please offer what you can If you feel able to contribute a little more to assist subsidise places, it would be greatly appreciated.*

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE No

EMAIL

*Please circle your accommodation requirement. We will try to match your requirements but the weekend is likely to be heavily booked and rooms will be allocated on a first come first served basis.*

|                                |      |                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|
| Standard rooms                 |      | Ensuite rooms                  |      |
| Single                         | £105 | Single                         | £115 |
| Shared twin room               | £85  | Shared twin room               | £95  |
| Single occupancy of twin room* | £110 | Single occupancy of twin room* | £120 |

\* Subject to availability as priority will be given to the double occupancy of twin rooms

*Please state whether you have any special requirements such as diet or access. All meals will be vegetarian. There are rooms for disabled people.*

*I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to The Bede Griffiths Sangha*