

MINSTERACRES

Retreat Centre



RETREAT PROGRAMME 2025
WWW.MINSTERACRES.ORG



Your Guide to Minsteracres

3. Introduction - Pilgrims of Hope

5. Inspiration at Minsteracres

6. Programme Introduction 2025

7 - 8 . March Events

9 - 11 . April Events

12 . May Events

13 - 15 . June Events

16 - 19 . July Events

20 - 21 . August Events

22 - 23 . September Events

24 - 26 October Events

27 - 28 . November Events

29. At a Glance Event Calendar

30. Venue Hire at Minsteracres

31. Join Our Volunteers

32. Contact



Pilgrims of Hope

Welcome to our 2025 Retreat Programme, where you'll find details of the residential and day retreats we're offering throughout the year.

Minsteracres Retreat Centre, open to guests of all faiths or none, is home to a resident community of Passionist priests and lay members. Situated on 110 acres of gardens, parkland and woodland, it rests in the beautiful countryside bordering Northumberland and County Durham.

The Passionist order, founded in Italy in 1720 by St. Paul of the Cross and brought to England in 1842 by Blessed Dominic Barberi, is dedicated to sharing the love and suffering of the Crucified Christ. St. Paul of the Cross called the Passion of Jesus "the greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love."

Our primary mission is to preach retreats and offer spiritual direction to individuals and groups. Beyond our scheduled retreats, we welcome individuals seeking guided retreats, providing personalised spiritual guidance tailored to their journey.

The year 2025 is a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church, a sacred year held every 25 years. Its theme, "Pilgrims of Hope," offers hope to a world facing challenges like war, poverty and climate change.

Fr Emmanuel Kabinga
Rector



MINSTERACRES

Retreat Centre

A Place of Prayer, Peace, Reflection and Renewal.



Find Inspiration at Minsteracres

Minsteracres offers a welcoming space to relax, reflect and reconnect. Whether you're here for a retreat, a peaceful getaway or to explore our surroundings, we provide everything for a meaningful experience.

We accommodate up to 80 guests in single, double and twin rooms across the Main and Retreat Houses.

At the heart of Minsteracres is our chapel, where visitors can join the resident community's prayer life. Serene prayer spaces offer moments of reflection and peace.

Enjoy meals in our spacious refectory, ideal for sharing conversations over delicious food. Our shop offers gifts, souvenirs, confectionery and drinks.

Nestled in 110 acres of Northumberland countryside, Minsteracres features parkland, woodland and walks for all abilities. Use our Visitor's Map to explore the trails. By night, enjoy the Dark Skies stargazing experience.

For quieter indoor moments, relax in the cosy visitors' lounge or browse the well-stocked library.

We also welcome individuals seeking personal space for prayer and reflection outside our retreat programme. One-to-one spiritual direction is available. Please contact our office to check availability.

2025 Programme



Welcome to our 2025 events calendar! This year, we're excited to bring you a wide range of retreats and events designed to inspire, uplift and connect.

Whether you're seeking quiet reflection, spiritual growth or meaningful community experiences, there's something here for everyone. We invite you to join us in making 2025 a year of hope, renewal and discovery.

We would not like you to be prevented by cost from coming to Minsteracres. There is a bursary fund which can help with the cost for those experiencing financial hardship. Please speak to our administrator if this applies to you.

www.minsteracres.org

March 2025 Programme

The Embodied Contemplative

This retreat will explore how we might find inner stillness and peace through the practice of Christian Meditation, gentle Tai Chi movement and breath work.

It is suitable for all ages and abilities. Come with a beginner's mind and enjoy learning!

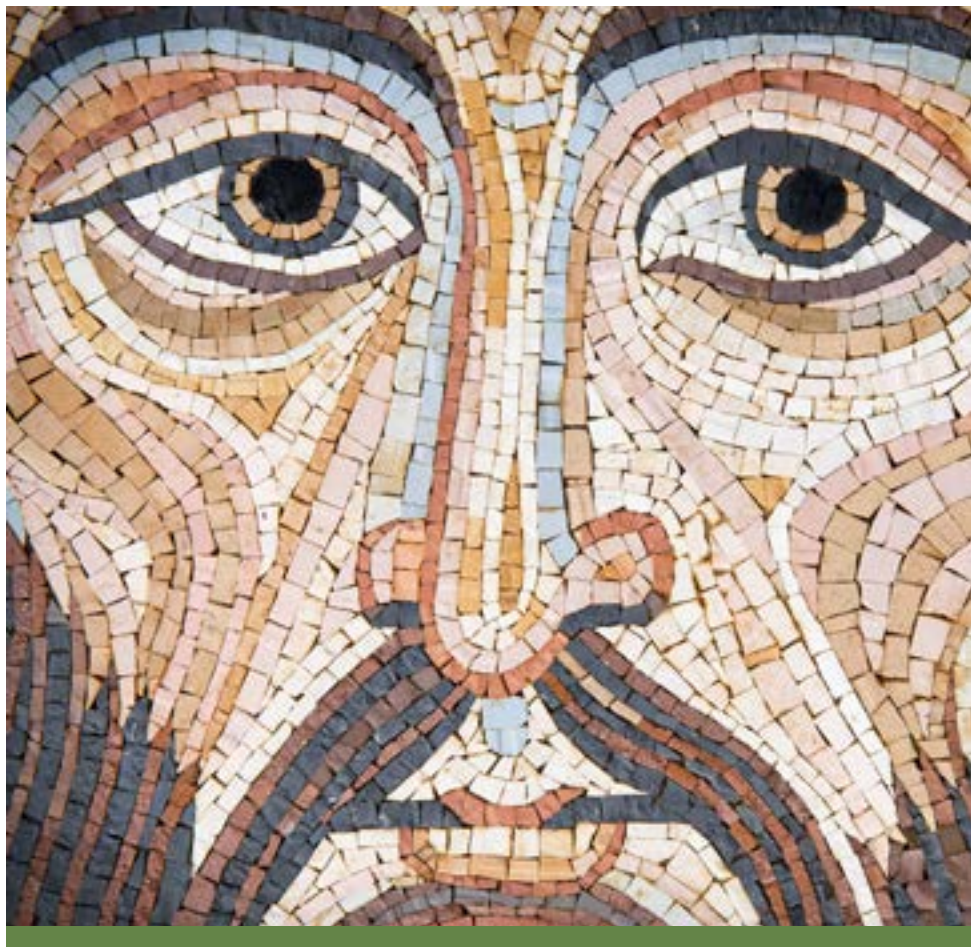
Terry Doyle
Saturday 8th March from 10am to 4pm
Suggested Donation £40

Quiet Day of Reflection during Lent

Take a step back from the busyness of daily life and immerse yourself in a space of quiet reflection. At Minsteracres, you'll have the chance to pause, breathe deeply and open your heart to God's presence. Through engaging with scripture, you can listen for His voice and allow His guidance to speak to you.

Surrounded by the peace and beauty of our grounds, this retreat provides a serene environment to refresh your spirit, find stillness and deepen your faith. Lunch and refreshments are included.

Chris Smith
Thursday 27th March from 10am to 4pm
Suggested Donation £40



Pilgrims of Hope - Journeying Together

A retreat exploring the Catholic Church's theme for this Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope" and how we might re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another and with all creation.

Minstercares Team

Friday 28th March from 6.30pm to Sunday 30th March at 2pm

Suggested Donation £190

April 2025 Programme

Quiet Day of Reflection during Lent

An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside.

Sr Sheila McNamara RSCJ
Wednesday 2nd April from 10am to 4pm
Suggested Donation £40

Walking Retreat

Enjoy a 7 to 10-mile walk through the beautiful countryside around Minsteracres, with moments for prayer, quiet reflection and connection with others.

Bring suitable footwear, warm weatherproof clothing and a packed lunch. Morning coffee or tea and afternoon tea with scones are included to make your day even more enjoyable.

This is a wonderful opportunity to refresh your body and soul while embracing the beauty of nature.

Minsteracres Team
Saturday 5th April from 10am to 5pm
Suggested Donation £15

Quiet Day of Reflection during Lent

An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside.

Lunch and refreshments are included.

Minsteracres Team

Tuesday 8th April from 10am to 4pm

Suggested Donation £40



A Circle of Prayer / Circle Dance

This is an inviting programme which explores the beauty of music whilst incorporating responsive movement echoing both feelings and mood as non-verbal self-expression which touches both the soul and the imagination.

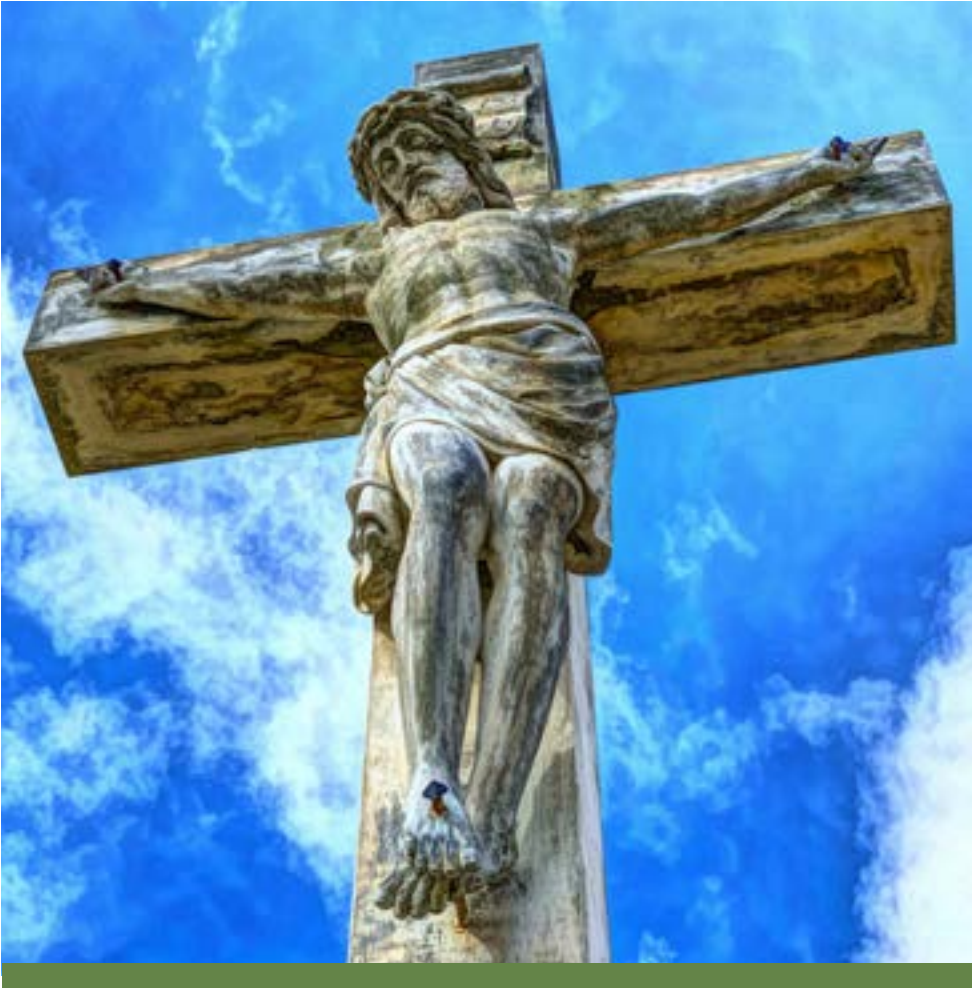
Throughout this retreat, you will have an opportunity to learn both traditional and contemporary dance movement. Continuous sequences will follow a meditative and contemplative pattern and will be punctuated with reflective readings.

Lunch and refreshments are included.

Joyce McAndrew

Saturday 12th April from 10am to 4pm

Suggested Donation £50



Holy Week Retreat

Join the resident community on their journey into Easter with input from the team, time for reflection and the opportunity to take part in the climax of the Church's liturgical year, the celebration of the Easter Triduum.

Minsteracres Team

Thursday 17th April from 6.30pm to Sunday 20th April at 2pm

Suggested Donation £285



May 2025 Programme

Open House

Have you ever wanted to have a look around Minsteracres House and Grounds? Now's your chance! There will be exhibitions, tours, moments of reflection, tea, coffee and good home cooking.

This is an opportunity to find out about the Retreat Centre and our partners Let's Get Growing and Tynedale Horticultural Service.

Minsteracres Team
Monday 5th May from 11am to 3pm

Day of Consolation

An opportunity to join us on this poignant retreat day for people who have experienced bereavement, grief, loss or significant change.

This day will offer them an opportunity to share a safe space, to be heard, to share with others who have had similar experiences and hopefully to find courage, hope and consolation.

Lunch and refreshments are included.

Chris Smith
Wednesday 7th May from 10am to 4pm
Suggested Donation £40

June 2025 Programme



Quiet Day

Take a step back from the busyness of life and join us for a day dedicated to spiritual reflection and renewal. This is an opportunity to pause, listen to God's word in scripture and embrace the peace and stillness of the beautiful countryside.

Throughout the day, you'll have space for quiet contemplation, personal prayer and time to connect with God in a meaningful way. The serene environment provides the perfect backdrop for rest and renewal, allowing you to leave feeling refreshed and spiritually uplifted.

Lunch and refreshments are included.

Pat Kennedy

Tuesday 3rd June from 10am to 4pm

Suggested Donation £40



Pentecost Retreat

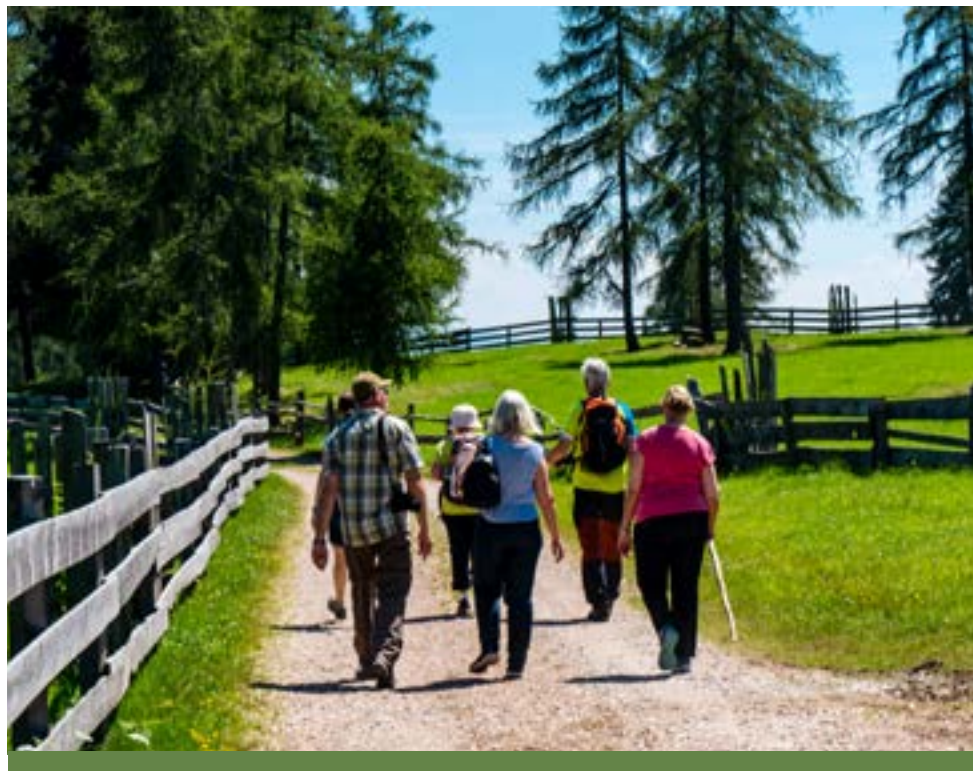
In this Pentecost retreat, we will reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in the Gospel and pray for the gifts of the Spirit to flourish in our lives, that we may learn how to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.

There will be times of input, times of silence and times of prayer and praise to help us open ourselves more fully to God.

Fr Chris Thomas

Friday 13th June from 6.30pm to Sunday 15th June at 2pm

Suggested Donation £220



3 Day Walking Retreat

Spend three days exploring the beautiful countryside around Minsteracres with daily walks of 7 to 10 miles. Each morning begins with a short reflection, offering time for prayer and a chance to connect with the beauty of creation.

These walks provide a blend of physical activity, spiritual renewal and peaceful immersion in nature.

Be sure to bring sturdy footwear and weatherproof clothing to stay comfortable. This retreat is ideal for those looking to refresh their spirit and enjoy the tranquillity of the outdoors.

Minsteracres Team

Tuesday 17th June from 10am to Thursday 19th June at 5pm

Suggested Donation £220

July 2025 Programme



Pilgrims of Hope - Journeying With Nature

A retreat exploring the Catholic Church's theme for this Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope" and how we might re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another and with all creation. Fr Joseph will use the theology of Thomas Berry CP to bring hope to our relationship with the natural world.

You can fully relax and enjoy this special time away. Whether you're seeking clarity, peace or simply time to reconnect with your faith, this weekend of reflection offers a gentle and nourishing experience.

Fr Joseph Mitchell CP

Friday 11th July from 6.30pm to Sunday 13th July at 2pm

Suggested Donation £190



On a Journey with the Northern Saints

Spend a week at Minsteracres following in the footsteps of the Northern Saints such as Aidan, Cuthbert, Oswald, Hilda and Bede.

Find out about their spirituality and motivation, early Celtic spirituality and visit the iconic places where they lived out their faith. Includes visits to Holy Island, Bamburgh, Durham Cathedral, Jarrow and Hexham.

Minsteracres Team

Monday 14th July from 6.30pm to Friday 18th July at 2pm

Suggested Donation £435



Singing week 'Hope, Love and Life'

Monique van den Hoogen, a Dutch musician with over 40 years of experience leading choirs, has a special connection with Minsteracres, where she volunteered annually from 2006 to 2019.

This year, she returns for a short singing retreat themed "Hope, Love and Life". The repertoire features Taizé chants and uplifting songs for example, "You Raise Me Up" by Josh Groban, celebrating hope and love.

The week includes time for singing, socialising and embracing the peace of Minsteracres, with optional community prayer times for added reflection.

Open to all who love singing, this is a chance to connect through music and shared experiences.

Monique van den Hoogen

Wednesday 23rd July at 10am to Sunday 27th July at 2pm

Suggested Donation £570



Quiet Day

Take a step back from the busyness of life and join us for a day dedicated to spiritual reflection and renewal. This is an opportunity to pause, listen to God's word in scripture and embrace the peace and stillness of the beautiful countryside.

Throughout the day, you'll have space for quiet contemplation, personal prayer and time to connect with God in a meaningful way. The serene environment provides the perfect backdrop for rest and renewal, allowing you to leave feeling refreshed and spiritually uplifted.

Lunch and refreshments are included.

Minsteracres Team

Wednesday 30th July from 10am to 4pm

Suggested Donation £40

August 2025 Programme

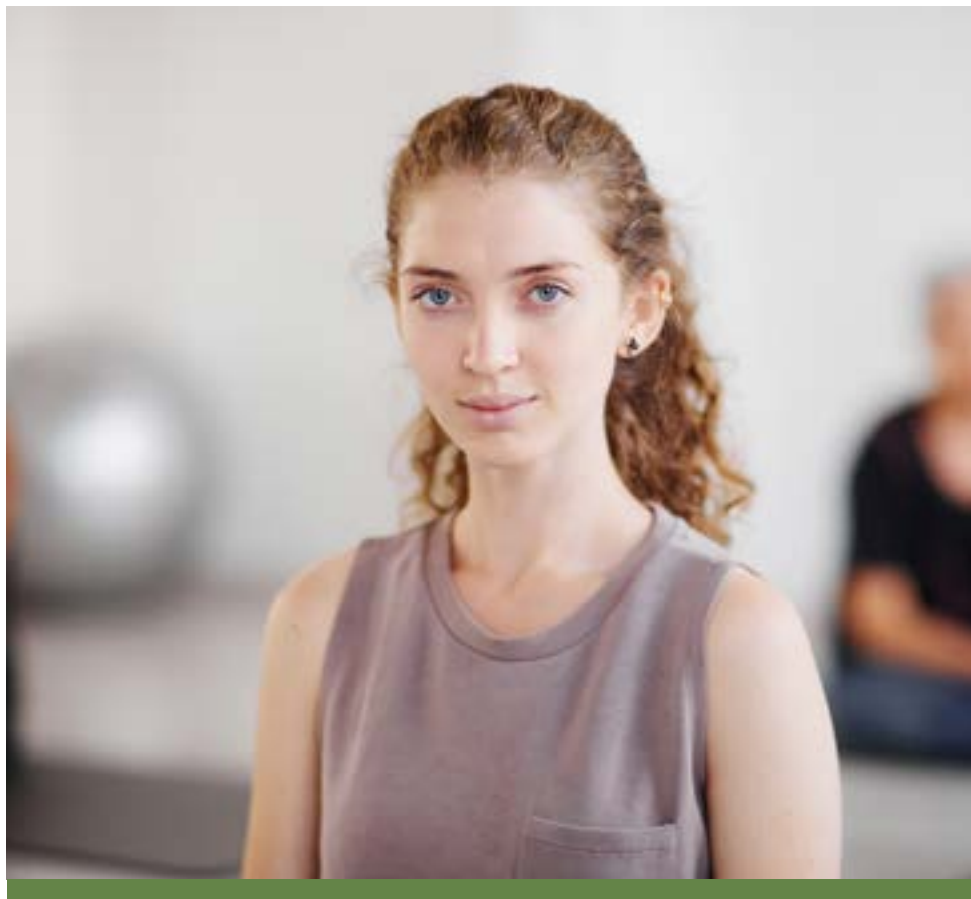


Rosary Rally

A wonderful opportunity to gather in honour of Mary, Mother of God in this very prayerful and sociable day, which also provides the opportunity to take in the peace and ambience of Minsteracres.

Please bring a packed lunch. The day will commence with the celebration of Mass at 12 noon followed by the Rosary rally and Benediction from 2pm.

Minsteracres Team
Saturday 16th August from 12 noon to 3pm



6 Day Individually Guided Retreat

This silent retreat offers a unique opportunity for personal reflection and spiritual growth.

Guided by members of the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow, in partnership with the Minsteracres team, you'll receive individual support to deepen your connection with God in a peaceful and contemplative environment.

ISC Glasgow at Minsteracres

Friday 29th August from 6.30pm to Friday 5th September at 10am

Suggested Donation £700

September 2025 Programme

The Magnificent Beauty of a Soul

A weekend exploring St. Teresa of Avila's great masterpiece on prayer, 'The Interior Castle.' As we make our pilgrimage through the many dwelling places, we are drawn deeper into the mystery of who God is and who we are.

Teresa is very aware of the many trials and contradictions we will experience along the way and encourages us to; 'Hope in the mercy of God, who never fails those who hope in Him.' (Interior Castle 6,1:13)

Gillian Coxhead

Friday 12th September from 6.30pm to Sunday 14th September at 2pm
Suggested Donation £190

Quiet Day

Join us for a day of spiritual reflection and renewal in the peaceful countryside. This retreat offers time for personal prayer, contemplation and connection with God.

Enjoy the serene environment, with lunch, tea and coffee provided, ensuring a relaxing experience. Whether seeking clarity, peace or a faith reconnection, this day offers gentle nourishment for the soul.

Lunch and refreshments are included.

Minsteracres Team

Thursday 18th September from 10am to 4pm
Suggested Donation £40



A Circle of Prayer / Circle Dance

This is an inviting programme which explores the beauty of music whilst incorporating responsive movement echoing both feelings and mood as non-verbal self-expression. It touches both the soul and the imagination.

Throughout this retreat, you will have an opportunity to learn both traditional and contemporary dance movement. Continuous sequences will follow a meditative and contemplative pattern and will be punctuated with reflective readings.

Lunch and refreshments are included.

Joyce McAndrew

Saturday 27th September from 10am to 4pm

Suggested Donation £50



October 2025 Programme

The Embodied Contemplative

This retreat will explore how we might find inner stillness and peace through the practice of Christian Meditation, gentle Tai Chi movement and breath work.

It is suitable for all ages and abilities. Come with a beginner's mind and enjoy learning!

Terry Doyle

Friday 3rd October from 6.30pm to Sunday 5th October at 2pm

Suggested Donation £220

Walking Retreat

Join us for a refreshing 7 to 10-mile walk through the stunning countryside surrounding Minsteracres. Along the way, take time for prayer, quiet reflection and sharing in the beauty of creation.

Please bring suitable footwear, warm and weatherproof clothing and a packed lunch.

Minsteracres Team

Wednesday 8th October from 10am to 5pm

Suggested Donation £15



A World Fit for Children

A common complaint of parents and grandparents is that they 'can't understand' their children. Perhaps this has to be expected. The last forty years has involved massive changes in national and global life which could not have been predicted, covering everything from communication to longevity, artificial intelligence to global warming.

So what of the future which the present younger generations will inherit when we are gone? How do those of us, reared on a vocabulary of saints, certainties and sacraments, begin to think creatively, biblically and spiritually about the kind of legacy and the kind of world we are leaving to others.

This retreat is not simply for parents or grandparents, but for all who want to reflect on the issues of our times.

John Bell

Friday 24th October from 6.30pm to Sunday 26th October 2025 at 2pm

Suggested Donation £220



'Pilgrims of Hope' Retreat

A retreat exploring the Catholic Church's theme for this Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope" and how we might re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another and with all creation.

Minsteracres Team

Friday 31st October from 6.30pm to Sunday 2nd November at 2pm
Suggested Donation £190

November 2025 Programme

Day of Consolation

An opportunity to join us on this poignant retreat day for people who have experienced bereavement, grief loss or significant change.

This day will offer them an opportunity to share a safe space, to be heard, to share with others who have had similar experiences and to hopefully find courage, hope and consolation.

Lunch and refreshments are included.

Chris Smith

Tuesday 11th November from 10am to 4pm

Suggested Donation £40

Quiet Day

Join us for a day of spiritual reflection and renewal in the peaceful countryside. This retreat offers time for personal prayer, contemplation and connection with God.

Enjoy the serene environment, with lunch, tea and coffee provided, ensuring a relaxing experience. Whether seeking clarity, peace or a faith reconnection, this day offers gentle nourishment for the soul.

Lunch and refreshments are included.

Minsteracres Team

Thursday 20th November from 10am to 4pm

Suggested Donation £40



Advent Retreat

Our Advent Retreat invites you to explore the concept of waiting on the Lord. As we prepare for Christmas, this retreat offers a chance to reflect on your spiritual readiness for the season.

Through guided reflections, prayer sessions, and communal discussions, we will explore themes of hope, peace, joy and love—the four traditional themes of Advent.

The serene environment of the retreat centre offers a perfect setting for personal contemplation and spiritual renewal. Join us in this journey of waiting and preparation, embracing the Advent season with intentionality and grace.

Pat Kennedy

Friday 28th November from 6.30pm to Sunday 30th November at 2pm

Suggested Donation £190



At a Glance

2025 Programme

March

8th The Embodied Contemplative
27th Quiet Day
28th Pilgrims of Hope

May

5th Open House
7th Day of Consolation

July

11th 'Pilgrims of Hope' Retreat
14th Journey with the Northern Saints
23rd Singing Retreat
30th Quiet Day

September

12th Magnificent Beauty of a Soul
18th Quiet Day
27th A Circle of Prayer / Circle Dance

November

11th Day of Consolation
20th Quiet Day
28th Advent Retreat

April

2nd Quiet Day
5th Walking Retreat
8th Quiet Day
12th A Circle of Prayer / Circle Dance
17th Holy Week Retreat

June

3rd Quiet Day
13th Pentecost Retreat
17th 3 Day Walking Retreat

August

16th Rosary Rally
29th 6 Day Individually Guided Retreat

October

3rd The Embodied Contemplative
8th Walking Retreat
24th A World Fit for Children
31st Pilgrims of Hope



Are you searching for the perfect venue for your event?

We warmly welcome groups that align with our ethos to use Minsteracres as a venue for events or workshops. Our team is proud to offer heartfelt hospitality and delicious home-cooked meals, using organic and locally sourced ingredients wherever possible.

Groups have the option to book the entire retreat centre, which includes up to 55 bedrooms accommodating up to 80 people, depending on the room combinations, for any available weekend or midweek period.

Most groups manage their own programmes, but our community and staff are happy to provide input or support if needed. To ensure we can accommodate your requirements, we encourage discussing these details as early as possible when planning your booking.

If you would like to make a group booking or you are organising your own event please call us on 01434 673 248 and we will be happy to discuss your arrangements with you.



Join Our Team: Make a Difference in Your Community

Volunteers are the cornerstone of Minsteracres Retreat Centre, essential to our daily operations and warm hospitality. They assist in various capacities, from supporting dining services—often being the first to greet guests—to maintaining our expansive 110-acre grounds.

Conservation volunteers engage in activities such as planting trees, building paths and clearing woodlands so preserving our environment's natural beauty. We welcome individuals with diverse skills and interests, offering numerous meaningful opportunities. By joining our team, you become part of a vibrant community, receive comprehensive support and training and experience the tranquility of Minsteracres for which it is renowned.

We value our volunteers and reimburse mileage and other expenses. However, due to limited public transportation, personal transport is necessary. We prioritise volunteer well-being by providing proper insurance, health and safety training and conducting necessary background checks.

If you're interested in making a positive impact and joining our dedicated team, please contact us or complete the volunteer application form available on our website.

www.minsteracres.org



Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you! Whether you have a question, need more information or want to plan your visit, our team is here to help.

Please use the contact details below, and we'll get back to you as soon as possible. We look forward to connecting with you!



Call: 01434 673248

Email: info@minsteracres.org

Web: www.minsteracres.org

"I would like to say that every time I visit Minsteracres, I always feel a sense of coming home. Thank you for all you do. I am so very grateful and feel blessed."

Registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1144385)
Registered company limited by guarantee (Company No. 07588301)