



**A GIFT FROM ONESPIRIT
INTERFAITH FOUNDATION**

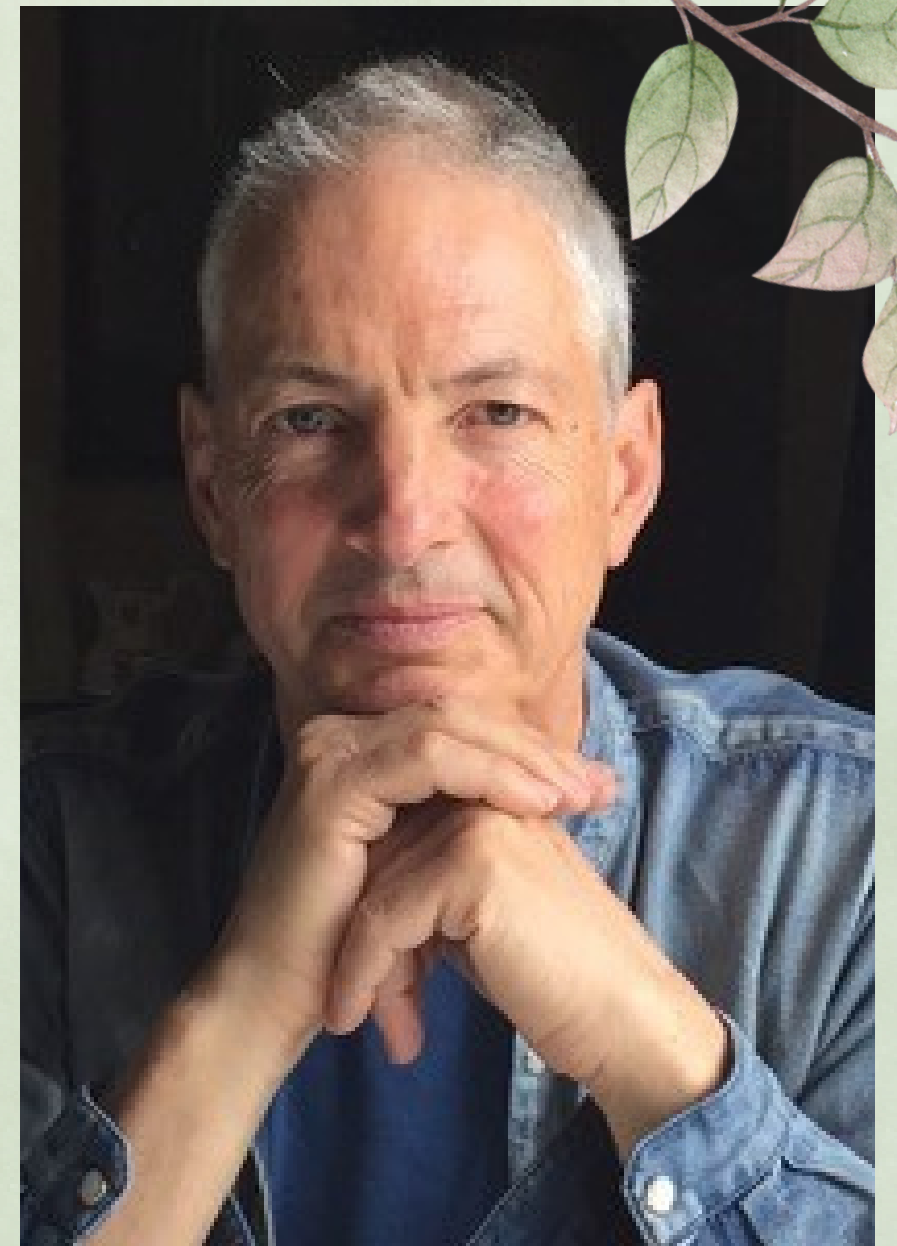
To our dear Christo...

As we celebrate you, Christo, a virtual gift has been created to compile the heartfelt messages and expressions of gratitude from the community as you step down from your role with OneSpirit.

You have been an integral part of the OneSpirit family, and your presence will be deeply missed. Over the years, a remarkable impact has been made on the community through your unwavering dedication, insightful leadership, and the profound wisdom shared.

With 34 years of experience as a director and teacher in Spiritual Theatre, your ministry has been rooted in the teachings of Rudolf Steiner and the Mystery of the Spoken Word. The journey to becoming a OneSpirit interfaith minister in 2007 was a quest for authenticity and self-discovery. Since then, you have used the discipline of Spiritual Counselling to guide others towards their True Self, enriching countless lives within the community. As a OneSpirit tutor since 2009, you have provided a space for deepening one's relationship with The Divine through ritual, ceremony, and the transformative group work of the curriculum. This work has fostered personal and collective growth, and your contributions as a Director, Seminary Leader, Faculty member, and cherished colleague have been truly transformative.

As you prepare to depart from the OneSpirit Faculty team, the community invites you to read through the heartfelt thoughts shared, celebrating the profound impact you have had on everyone. Together, we hope to honour your remarkable contributions and surround you with collective support, gratitude, and best wishes for the journey ahead.



From Clive Johnson,

Beloved Christo,

I came across words you gifted for me in the run-up to ordination just recently.

They resonated as strongly as they did when you gave them.

You are an inspiring teacher, gentle and humble, yet deeply insightful and strong.

Your wisdom transcends many mysteries, and your talents, direction and atunement are rarely witnessed.

You are much in my thoughts and on my heart, and I wish you continued joy on your journey, which I'm sure will continue to bless many.

It is truly a privilege to say THANK YOU for all you were to me and our class, and to all you continue to be.

With deep love and light,

Clive



From Elaine Walker,

What a joy it was to meet you and work with you. Thank you for all that you are and for your ongoing friendship and support.

Your contribution to One Spirit has been beyond extraordinary and how fortunate were those whose lives you touched!

With love, Elaine

From Julie Kirby,

I'm grateful for your teaching and wisdom. The training you headed for was a profound experience. There are aspects of talks you gave during our weekends that I remember so clearly that they remain guiding words for where I am now.

I particularly remember you gently pushing me to present my inspirational talk without written notes - game-changing. I could do it!

Thank you for your belief in us.

Wishing you a fair wind as you set off in a new direction.



From Ian Bonner-Evans,

Dear Christo,

We never got to work together as tutors because of my ill health, but I shall never forget our planning meeting in Edinburgh and leaving that with a great sense of possibility.

I cannot blame becoming ill, but I do feel a little sad at times when I think about what might have been.

May I take this opportunity to wish you every blessing as you move away from OneSpirit and forward into your future.

- Ian



From Helen Newton,

Thank you for sharing so wonderfully of yourself not only with my group but for all the subsequent groups of students.

You are a true inspiration!

May your 'retirement' from this demanding work bring you joyful memories and I wish you deep peace and joy in the next phase of your life.

In love and gratitude for all that you are.

Helen Newton x



From Rowan Bombadil,

Dear Christopher,

As I skimmed the latest iConnect, your departure from OneSpirit - or rather, from the OneSpirit faculty, since you will always be part of and held in OneSpirit - caught my eye, and I noticed a welling of sadness.

I remember so clearly - I think it was during our second weekend together as a class - the moment when you shared your story, the journey that had brought you to be our tutor, the deep resonance that I felt with your story, and how keenly I felt that I was in the right place in that resonance.

Perhaps the sadness, the loss I feel, is for future OneSpirit students who, while I trust they will have precisely the teachers and journeys they need, will not get to have that particular moment of resonance, or the privilege of learning from your clarity of voice and courage, or the pleasure of hearing your stories and participating in your exquisite ceremonies.

We have taken a number of different roles with and for each other since then, but I want you to know that I will always treasure - treasure - the gift of having been your student.

With gratitude, and all possible sweet wishes and heart blessings, Rowan -----



From Kirsteen Wills (formerly Murray),

Christopher,

It is with immense gratitude that I wish you well with the new phase of your life outside of OSIF.

For me, your presence in the faculty was one of the most important factors in my development into becoming a minister.

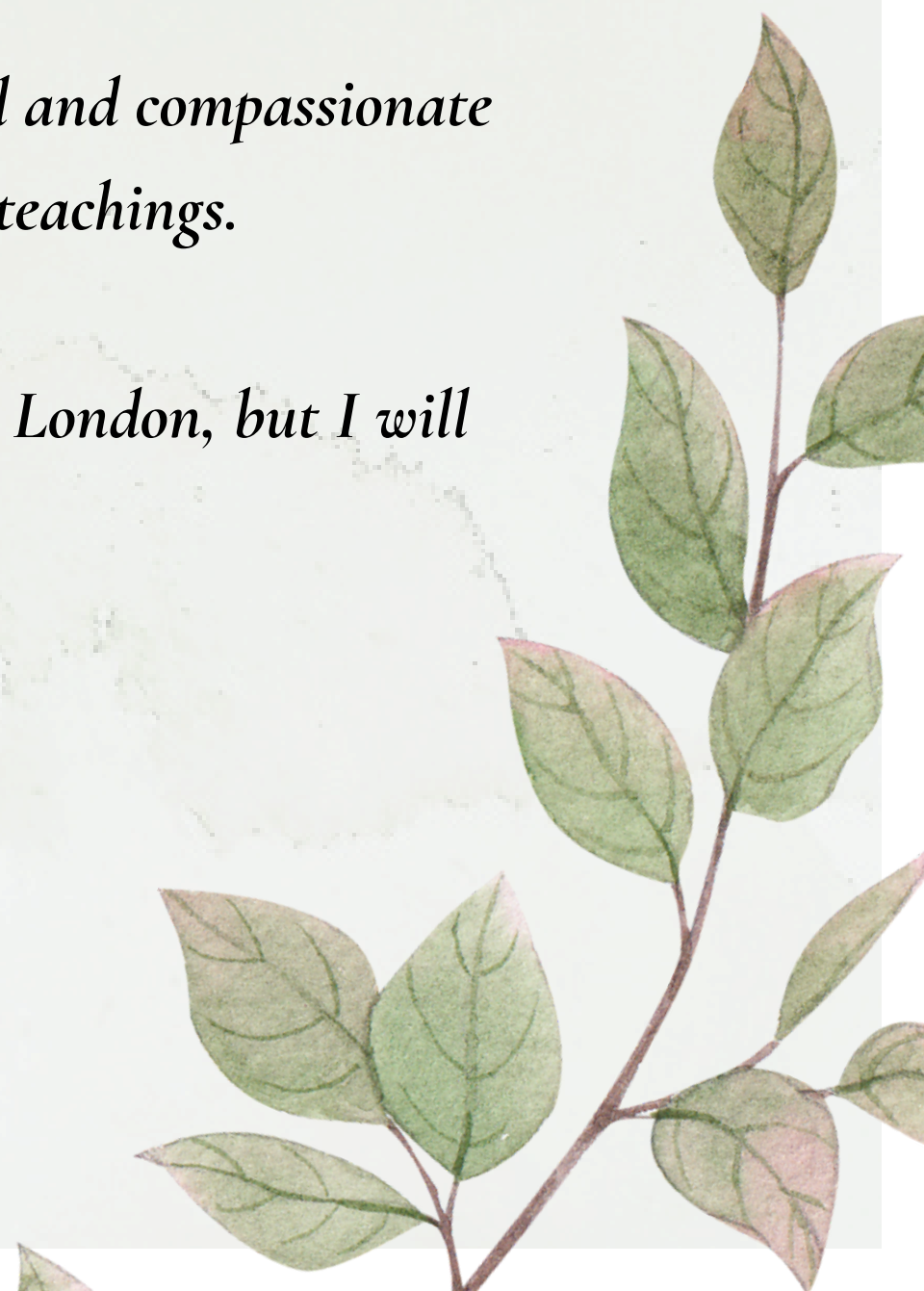
Your deep-seated understanding of the spiritual world, and your ability to teach in an intellectually sound and compassionate way, but not depending on fluffiness or an excess of words, for me gave credibility to the course and to its teachings.

I still do not know to this day what was happening when you gently touched my eyes during ordination in London, but I will never forget the feeling of connection to the Universe that I felt in that moment.

May the rest of this lifetime bring you peace and much, much joy.

Kirsteen.

XXX



From Alan Briscoe,

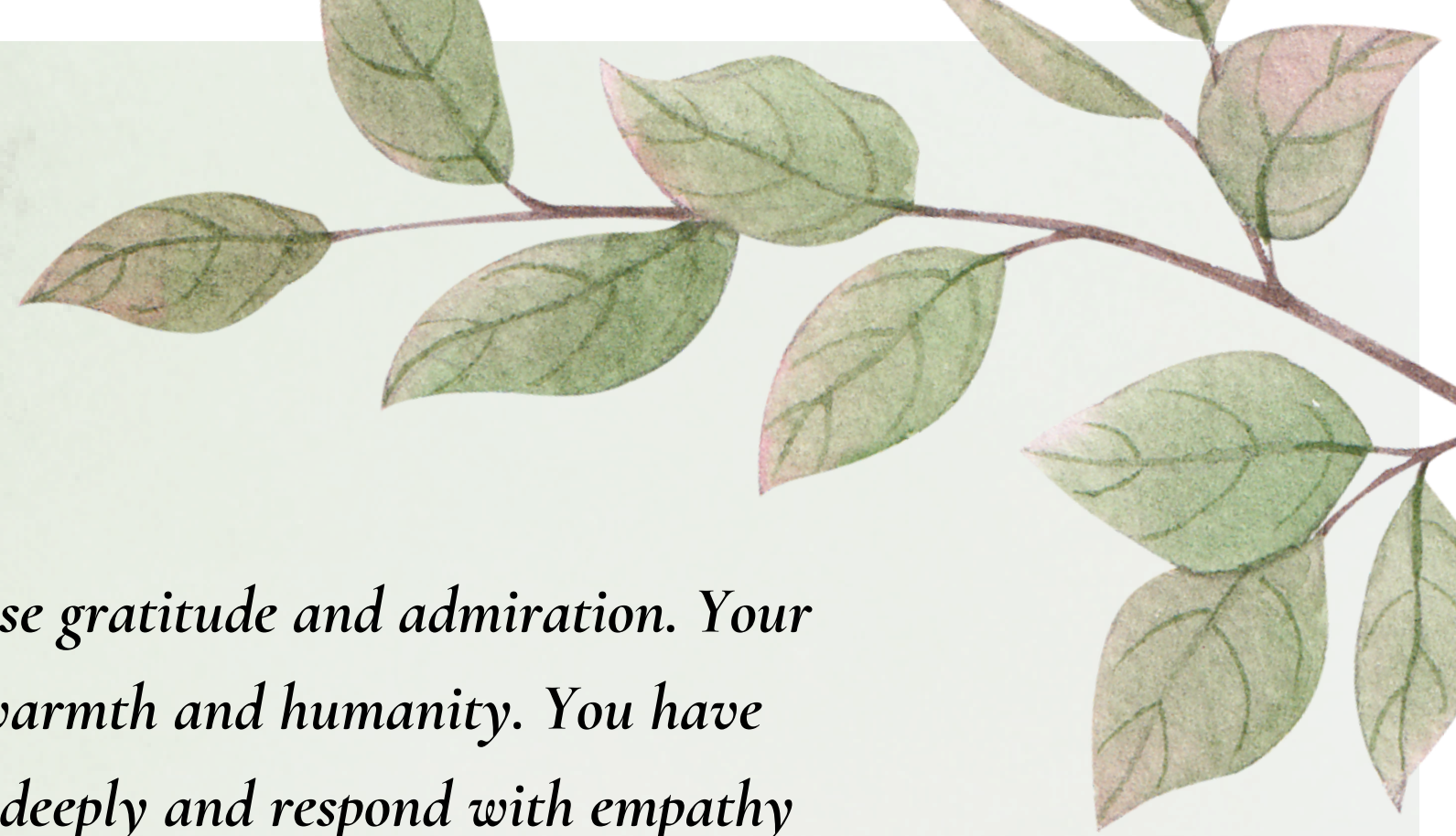
Dear Christo,

Reflecting on the years I have spent working along side you, I am filled with immense gratitude and admiration. Your presence in our professional journey was not just as a colleague but as a beacon of warmth and humanity. You have the most extraordinary gift for seeing the best in people, while your ability to listen deeply and respond with empathy ensures everyone feels valued and heard. You have consistently demonstrated that true strength lies in vulnerability and that by embracing our shared humanity, we could create something truly meaningful.

Always, your warmth has extended beyond the professional realm, touching our personal lives as well.

As you embark on this new chapter, know that your legacy of compassion and integrity will continue to inspire. Thank you for being not just a colleague but a true friend. Your spirit will always be a guiding force in our hearts.

With deep appreciation and fondness.



From Lindsay Reynolds,

Dearest Christo,

Our time together at OneSpirit has interwoven and entwined over the years and your grace and wisdom will be missed. Bob and I hold such warm memories of you and wish you all that is good as you inspire and encourage others you meet on your journey ahead. We do hope that we will get to meet you again somewhere, sometime. But all things must change, so we wish you well, take care, and with our love.

Lindsay and Bob xxx

From Una Devine,

Dear Christo,

May all the enjoyment and excitement you conveyed to us as students come back and nourish you for this phase of your life.

It has been a pleasure walking this path with you.

Love, Una



From Sarah MacDonald,

We're supposed to share some words.

But there are no words.

Only in silence the word,

Only in dark the light,

Only in dying life:

Bright the hawk's flight

On the empty sky

(Ursula K. Leguin)



From Dawn Russell,

Dear Christo,

It's been a deep learning and inspiration working and being with you. Hearing your view on the world and sharing mine. I have been inspired by your dedication and passion and by how you hold yourself and others in ceremony, in spirit, in honesty, in presence.

Thank you. I look forward to us continuing our journey together in whatever form it may take.

With love and gratitude,

Dawn xx



From Annie Heppenstall,

Dear Christo,

It's been a real pleasure walking along with you all these years, and I will always be grateful for the myriad ways in which I have learned and grown through this rich experience and from the delight of you being you - 'I see you.'

I have felt welcomed by you, and in turn, also seen, and I have felt touched by your warm heart and great skill in drawing out the deep soul, the humanity in us where we touch divinity ...

I wish you all the very best for the way ahead, may you be free and happy and may life bring you abundant blessings, just as you are a blessing to so many.

With love,

Annie





THANK YOU!

Though "thank you" may not fully express our gratitude, we still want to say it—for all that you've done, for all that you are, and for all that you will continue to do. OneSpirit is forever grateful.

We wish you the best of luck on your next adventure!