

*A Gathering  
in the Garden Room  
at Great Meeting, Leicester*

*on Sunday 21st January 2007 at 11am*

*A different way of being together for an hour  
to celebrate the value of each other and the world*

*Today's theme is 'Beginnings'*

*Organised and led by the Engagement group  
(a group which meets monthly to explore ways  
of deepening the spiritual aspect of our lives)*



*Music: Ardas ('the prayer that goes beyond all prayers')*  
*(Sikh - Singh Kaur & Kim Robertson)*

*Welcome and introduction*

*Lighting the chalice candle*

*Song: 'Spirit of Life'*  
*(from 'Singing the Living Tradition')*

*Spirit of life, Come unto me,  
Sing in my heart, All the Yearnings of Compassion,  
Blow in the Wind, Rise in the Sea,  
Move in the hand, Giving Life the shape of Justice.  
Roots hold me close, Wings set me free,  
Spirit of Life, Come to me, come to me.  
(Repeat twice more)*

*Short story 'Persephone' & talk on beginnings*

*'Bismillah er Rachman er Rachim'*

*بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ*

*(Everything has its origin in the Divine,  
which is the beginning of all mercy and compassion)*

*A time to share readings and thoughts on beginnings:*

*'An autobiography in 5 Short Chapters' by Portia Nelson*

*'The Trees' by Philip Larkin*

*Beginning in a new land - Welsh emigration to Patagonia*

*Guided Meditation on what we want to plant  
and bring to fruition in the coming year,  
followed by silent reflection*

*Planting seeds for new beginnings*

*‘May your wishes come true!’*

*Song: ‘Brother Sun & Sister Moon’  
(words by St Francis of Assissi, sung to trad. air)*

*O Brother Sun you bring us light,  
All shining round in fiery might,  
O Sister Moon you heal and bless,  
Your beauty shines in tenderness,  
O Brother Wind you sweep the hills,  
Your mighty breath both freshens and fills,  
O Sister Water you cleanse and flow,  
Through rivers and streams, in ice and snow.*

*O Brother fire you warm our night,  
With all your dancing coloured light,  
O Sister Earth you feed all things,  
All birds, all creatures, all scales and wings,  
O Sister Death you meet us here,  
And take us to our God so near,  
O God of life, we give you praise,  
For all your creatures, For all your ways.*

*Notices*

*Song: 'At Imbolc Time'  
(From the Year Wheel Round by Willow Songsmith,  
sung to Tallis' Canon.)*

*At Imbolc time, the growing light,  
Reflecting Bridget's candles bright,  
Brings early blooms and lambs to birth,  
Spring's promise to the waking Earth.  
(repeat three times more)*

*Benediction*

*Music*

