

The Rev Dr Joanne Cox-Darling

Joanne is a circuit Methodist Minister in what she describes as a wonderfully chaotic neurodiverse household! She is a storyteller and a regular contributor to *Radio 2's Pause For Thought*. Michael Wakelin who coordinates that programme for the BBC and was one of our speakers at our last conference, recommended Joanne having just heard her lead bible study at another conference. Joanne has taught at the Queen's Foundation, Durham University, Wesley House and Cliff College and is the author of *Finding God in a Culture of Fear: Discovering hope in God's Kingdom*. She addresses the difficult times in which we live, recognising that we can be discouraged by what is going on around us. She offers stories, biblical reflection and practical ways of building hope for the future. Joanne has chosen the title of *Wounded Wisdom* as our theme which will "help us find hope and healing through our woundedness and not despite it".



Brian Draper has been a presenter on *Radio 4's Thought for the Day* for more than 10 years. He describes it as a good indicator of what he tries to do, which is to help people of all faiths and none to see the world from a creative and spiritual perspective and all in less than three minutes! He lives in Winchester where he loves to get out into the countryside. His latest book was co-written with a botanist friend. It's a field guide to a dozen walks and called *Soulful Nature*. Broadcaster Clare Balding who has walked with Brian on one of her *R4 Ramblings* (see photo) says "Brian has an extraordinary gift for providing nourishment for the soul". He leads several retreats each year, runs an e-mail series in Lent and Advent and intriguingly, curates labyrinth space for organisations and groups. He speaks at all sorts of events and venues and Joanne Cox-Darling is delighted to be sharing the Spectrum conference with him.

