



British & Irish Sandplay Society

CONFERENCE 2026

Sacred Space in Sandplay: Holding, Witnessing, Healing
Abbey House, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9EL

OCTOBER 9th - 11th 2026

Abstracts

Janet Tatum. STA/ISST TM - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Representations of Archetypal Imagery as seen in the Legends of the Grail.

This presentation will focus on the works of Jung, The Grail Legend by Emma Jung and Marie-Louise von Franz and a few other Jungian authors relevant to the Arthurian legends.

The Case of an Eleven-year-old Girl who finds her Artistic Self through Sandplay.

This is a clinical case of an eleven-year-old girl who began her therapeutic Sandplay process because she was failing in school. Through a little over a dozen sand trays and by means of the therapeutic relationship, we see the child's self-confidence unfold in a deeply symbolic way, along with her artistic talents.



Andrew Ziminiski - GUEST SPEAKER - Stonemason and Church Conservator.
A Career in Ruins.

The quietness of today's churches belies a past when they were the busiest and most prominent buildings of their day. They now offer as close an encounter with the past as you can get. Ziminiski has spent decades working on Britain's Cathedrals and medieval churches, including Glastonbury Abbey.

Perry W. T Chan. BISS Trainee

Apotropaic Magic Circle and Mandala: A Negotiation between Death and Life through Sand and Dreams.

This presentation shows a part of the Sandplay process of powerful death energy being contained in apotropaic magic circles and a mandala, created by a young female adult who has gone through a difficult relationship and abortion.



Claire Barbara. ISST IM

Spiritual Awakening in Women's Sandplay Process: From The Rosary's Collective Catholic Culture To Jung's Rosarium.

This presentation explores Sandplay as a site of spiritual search by paralleling Jean Shinoda Bolen's pilgrimage with the Marian consecration traditions of St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Monfort. Utilising C.G. Jung's analysis of the Rosarium Philosophorum (CW 16) and Adam McLean's (1980) seven stages of inner work, the paper examines the alchemical process of unblocking inner energies through the creative work of two women, facilitating a living perception of the spiritual dimension.

Judy Filmore. BISS Co-Chair. ISST

A Child's Journey from trauma-based fear to discovery of Self experienced in a sacred space beyond the free and protected space of the sandtray.

This presentation explores the child's initial hesitation in touching the sand leading to an immersive whole-body experience which unlocks a deep source of healing for the child's psyche.



John Moffitt. BISS/ISST

Transforming the Dragon: Healing the Anima and Reclamation of the Inner Masculine.

This presentation looks at the process of a 46-year-old male, who at the age of 22, was involved in a motorcycle accident which resulted in his right arm being permanently paralysed.

Lorraine R Freedle. ISST vice-president. STA/ISST.

Treating Youth Violence with Sandplay: A Multilayered Examination of Co-transference and Relational Interconnectedness.

Youth violence is often rooted in unresolved childhood trauma, including abuse, neglect, and chronic exposure to stress. These experiences can disrupt emotional regulation and attachment processes, increasing the likelihood that distress is expressed through aggression.



Betsy Quaglin. AISPT/ISST

Can You Keep a Secret? Dealing with Anxiety to Conquer the World.

This is the story of a 16-year-old girl, who has asked her parents to begin psychotherapy because of constant anxiety and ‘uncontrollable’ thoughts. This is the story of a secret untold and overwhelming self-doubt.