

The Christian Community

Movement for religious renewal

In Great Britain and Ireland

- Stroud congregation -

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Michaelmas 2011 – Passion 2012

September 2011

Newsletter

Recent Special Sacraments

Baptisms

- 28th August Emily Grace Seymor
*31st Jan. 2011
- 11th September Robert Jan Grundmann
*29th Oct. 2003
- 11th September Isabelle Olive Grundmann
*4th May 2009

Funerals

- 24th June Edna Mary Pinnington
*3rd Oct. 1914 - †18th May 2011
- 21st June Stella Margeret Ross Jarman
*12th Feb. 1925 - †11th June 2011
- 17th August Pamela Benions (Kings Langley)
*22nd Jan. 1926 - †12th Aug. 2011

Golden Wedding

- 15th May 2011 Michael & Elisabeth Tapp

Treasurer's Report

The good news is that we have a new treasurer! Daan Rens with the help of Dan Preston has taken on to look after our finances. Daan has already lots of experience with the monthly Gift Aid claims and analysis of our income. Dan is an expert in using the computer so that he can help produce accounts and budgets and help with internet-banking.

Despite the huge predicted deficit at the beginning of the year our accounts are balanced at the moment thanks to very generous donations from quite a few individuals. Regular monthly contributions, which are our most important income, are also rising. However, financial pressures have forced another community which supported us very generously in the past to reduce their contributions considerably.

The government has also reduced the Gift Aid tax refund from 28% to 25%. The house move of both priests caused extra costs for moving, decorating and property repairs. The Christian Community General Fund has not enough money at the moment to cover such costs but fortunately we had sufficient buffer in the bank to cover it. On the other hand we have been asked to increase our monthly contribution to the General Fund by £185.-. Since the Mirkins live now in their own house we save paying rent. Therefore the support grant we have received so far from the General Fund has been stopped and we will have to spend more on property maintenance. Well it has been exciting to be aware of the tides of our finances and I wish all the best to Daan and Dan.

Erhard (The departing Treasurer)

Thank you to all who have responded to the appeal so far and to all those who continue to faithfully support our community with their regular contributions.

New Cup

We have now received our new cup and paten. It has been expertly made for us by Bill Chaytor in Yorkshire and is everything we hoped it would be. It will be consecrated on Michaelmas day and used for the services from then on. We will still retain the old cup and paten and probably use them for

camps and similar initiatives. The old cup has a volume of 300ml and the new a volume of 500ml. The cup is now large enough not only for communion but also that it makes the right sense-impression at the altar. All who have looked at it so far agree that it more than adequately fills this need.

The Cup and Paten cost us £3800 to have made. This was finally paid for in the following way:

Individual Donation	- 1500
German Old Gold Fund	- 1000
Stroud Old Gold Fund	- 1300

Stroud Old Gold Fund

As you see the funding for the new cup was entirely by special donations for which we are extremely grateful.

Special mention needs to be made of our Stroud Old Gold Fund that was started especially to fund the cup. Already 11 people have donated us old family gold and silver items – including teeth! – which have raised us over £1700 so far. We have the items auctioned by Stroud Auction Rooms Limited, who operate from the Rodborough Bear and have done well getting good prices for us. We can also take other antique objects, coins and jewelry towards the fund and are able to claim Gift Aid on them as well.

Now that the cup initiative is complete we have decided to use the Old Gold Fund to pay for the last 3 chasubles that still need replacing. If you would like to contribute please contact Piet Blok 01453 763634 or one of the priests.

Islam evenings

While in the Holy Land the walls and borders between people seem to become ever higher, the Spirit of Peace Group in Gloucester and Stroud has been working on overcoming fears and prejudices and on developing an understanding for the other human beings and their religion.

After 2 years of regular meetings we plan to offer 5 introductory evenings on Islam, which will be run by the Muslim people of the Gloucester Friendship café and will be held at The Christian Community in Stroud. The 5 evenings will be on successive Mondays early in the new year 2012: 2nd, 16th, 23rd and 30th January and the 6th February.

This course will have limited places, so that conversations can happen and is open to the wider public. More information to follow soon! On Sunday 8/1/2012 Jane Ozanne who is a director of Spirit of Peace will come to Stroud and give a talk after the service.

Childrens' Camp – New venue required

This year we had 65 children on the camp and 26 helpers. The camp went without incident and we all felt it to be a great success. We especially enjoyed being able to use the generous facilities at Camphill Oaklands Park for a second year running.

Due, however, to growing concerns about health and safety it is unfortunately no longer possible for us to hold the camps at Oaklands Park and we are therefore keen to find an alternative venue by the end of the year. Ideally it needs to be in the country not too far from Stroud, with open ground for tents and a large barn/hall/marquis etc where we can hold our gatherings and set up the kitchen. We are able to hire ablution facilities and also pay a hire fee if needed. Any ideas? – please contact Aaron.

Latest New Development News

11 people attended the day workshop on the 11th June with Tony Cooper towards formulating a Qualitative Brief for our new church. It was uplifting, inspiring and scary! Scary because we all realised we are now most definitely ready and poised at the top of the 'ski jump' and must simply finally release the brakes! So many things speak of a clear will to build – we must now get on with it. We are most grateful to Tony for his insight, enthusiasm and invaluable experience.

The Qualitative Brief is basically a short document that describes in words rather than numbers what kind of building we want and with all the imponderables that go with it. A bit of an artistic brief one might say.

Well since then we have started to release the brake - slowly - the New Development Group have been working hard towards completing the Qualitative Brief and at the same time have begun making enquiries with several potential architects with the aim of being able to appoint one in due course. We have also recognised the need to appoint a Project Manager as well as an internal Project Co-ordinator who will be the focus of the project from within the congregation. This will also need clarifying in the weeks to come.