

The Christian Community Stourbridge

Diary for March – June 2015

Sunday, 1st March	9.15 am The Service for Children 10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man 11.30 am Opening Art exhibition Miklos Hegedues
Tuesday, 3rd March	No Service
Thursday, 5th March	10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man
Saturday, 7th March	5.00 pm Reading for the Dead

Passiontide

Sunday, 8th March	9.15 am The Service for Children 10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man 11.30 am Open Members' Meeting
Rev. Monika Knight at British Synod in Aberdeen from 9th – 13th March. No weekday services.	
Sunday, 15th March	10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man 11.15 am The Service for Children
Tuesday, 17th March	7.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 19th March	10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday, 22nd March	9.15 am The Service for Children 10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man Afterwards meet the Confirmands Tara Rose de Wit and Samuel Joseph Beachim

Tuesday, 24th March 7.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 26th March 10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man
Rev. Monika Knight in Manchester 27th/28th March.

Holy Week

with Conversations on the Beatitudes - Sermon on the Mount

Palm Sunday, 29th March 9.15 am The Service for Children
10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30 am **Blessed are the beggars for spirit**
Blessed are those who endure
earthly suffering

Monday, 30th March 10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30 am **Blessed are those who achieve**
harmony of soul
Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for the Good

Tuesday, 31st March 10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30 am **Blessed are the merciful**
Blessed are those whose hearts
are pure

Wednesday, 1st April 10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30 am **Blessed are those who bring peace**
into the world
Blessed are those who are persecuted

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April
10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man

Good Friday, 3rd April 10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30 am **Eurythmy Performance**
Annamaria Balog
Still falls the Rain (Poem by Edith Sitwell)
Chopin Raindrop Prelude Op.28 No.15
3.00 pm Contemplative Service

Saturday, 4th April 10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man
5.00 pm Reading for the Dead

Easter

Easter Sunday, 5th April 6.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man
9.15 am The Service for Children
10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man
Afterwards prepare for Easter Garden
3.00 pm Easter Garden
8.00 pm **In your middle is one whom you do
not know**
Confirmation and Self-Leadership
Talk by Rev. Tom Ravetz

Monday, 6th April 10.00 am **Confirmation**
Tara Rose De Wit
Samuel Joseph Beachim

Rev. Monika Knight on holiday 7th – 11th April. No Service on Tuesday, 7th April.

Thursday, 9th April 10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 12th April 10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30 am Annual Congregational Meeting
Present and Future of our Congregation

Tuesday, 14th April 7.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man

Thursday, 16th April 10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 19th April 10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30 am Meet the artist of the present exhibition
Marcella Streadbury

Tuesday, 21st April 7.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man

Thursday, 23rd April 10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man

Rev. Monika Knight in Ringwood and Forest Row for Confirmation 24th – 26th April.

Sunday, 17th May	10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man 11.15 am The Service for Children Afterwards Ascension Celebration for all. Details to be announced nearer the time
Tuesday, 19th May	7.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 21st May	10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man 11.30 am Gospel Study, Acts 2:1-36

Whitsun

Sunday, 24th May	9.15 am The Service for Children 10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man 11.30 am Viktor Frankl and the Meaning of Life
Monday, 25th May	10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man
Tuesday, 26th May	7.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 28th May	10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man 11.30 am Gospel Study, John 3:1-21
Sunday, 31st May	10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man 11.30 am Open Members' Meeting
Rev. Monika Knight at International Synod in Hannover and family visit 1st -13th June.	
Tuesday, 2nd June	No Service
Wednesday, 3rd June	9.30 am – 11.30 am Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 4th June	No Service
Sunday, 7th June	10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man 11.15 am The Service for Children
Tuesday, 9th June	No Service
Wednesday, 10th June	9.30 am – 11.30 am Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 11th June	10.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday, 14th June	9.15 am The Service for Children 10.00 am The Act of Consecration of Man 3.00 pm Concert

Tuesday, 16th June	7.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Wednesday, 17th June	9.30 am – 11.30 am	Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 18th June	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Saturday, 20th June	5.00 pm	Reading for the Dead
Sunday, 21st June	9.15 am	The Service for Children
	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30 am	The Importance of Gratitude with contemplation of the prayers for St.John's tide
Tuesday, 23rd June		No Service

St.John's Tide

Wednesday, 24th June	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	9.30 am – 11.30 am	Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 25th June	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday, 28th June	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15 am	The Service for Children
		Afterwards St.John's Outing for all. Details to be announced nearer the time.
Tuesday, 30th June	7.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man Last before the Summer Break
Wednesday, 1st July	9.30 am – 11.30 am	Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 2nd July	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man

Rev. Monika Knight in Manchester 3rd/4th July.

Gospel Readings

Sunday, 1st March Matthew 17:1-13

Passiontide

Sunday, 8th March Luke 11:14-36

Sunday, 15th March John 6:1-15

Sunday, 22nd March John 8:1-12

Holy Week

Sunday, 29th March Matthew 21:1-11

Thursday, 2nd April Luke 23:13-32

Friday, 3rd April John 19:1-15

Saturday, 4th April John 19:16-42

Easter

Sunday, 5th April Mark 16:1-8

Sunday, 12th April John 20:19-31

Sunday, 19th April John 10:1-16

Sunday, 26th April John 15:1-27

Sunday, 3rd May John 16:1-33

Sunday, 10th May John 14:1-31

Ascension

Thursday, 14th May John 16:24-33

Sunday, 17th May John 16:24-33

Whitsun

Sunday, 24th May John 14:23-32

Wednesday, 27th May 1 Cor. 13

Sunday, 31st May John 3:1-21

Sunday, 7th June John 4:1-26

Sunday, 14th June John 11:1-16

Sunday, 21st June John 11:17-44

St. Johnstide

Wednesday, 24th June Mark 1:1-11

Sunday, 28th June Mark 1:1-11

Sunday, 5th July John 3:22-36

Exhibitions in our Community Room

February

Bernadette Owen, paintings

March

Miklos Hegedues (from The Christian Community in Hungary), paintings

April

Marcella Spreadbury, Icon paintings

May

Elysia Art Group and Laura Ridolfi

"We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

C.S. Lewis 'The problem of pain'

Dear members and friends of The Christian Community in Stourbridge,
In November we dedicated a series of events to the theme of 'Forgiveness', all of which were extraordinarily well attended and showed that this is a question, a challenge, an aim or a hope for all of us. There is not one grown up human being in the world without the need of forgiveness, not one who never got hurt or never hurt anyone. And yet, as fundamentally human the need for it is, as difficult it is to describe what forgiveness really is, how it is done, what it is not....just like love, which is equally needed and wanted and equally often misunderstood or misused. We will continue working with this theme in various ways. There is another series of events in planning, jointly with our Muslim friends. Watch this space.

In Holy Week we will look at the big questions of pain, suffering, our basic human needs and tasks from another angle by working with the so-called Beatitudes from Jesus Christ's Sermon on the Mount.

On Good Friday Annamaria Balog will perform Eurythmy for us on Chopin's Raindrop Prelude and Edith Sitwell's poem 'Still Falls the Rain' written in 1940 during the Blitz:

Still falls the Rain -

Dark as the world of man, black as our loss -

Blind as the nineteen hundred and forty nails

Upon the Cross.

Still falls the Rain

With a sound like the pulse of the heart that is changed to

the hammer beat

In the Potter's Field, and the sound of the impious feet

On the Tomb:

Still falls the Rain

In the Field of Blood where the small hopes breed and

the human brain

Nurtures its greed, that worm with the brow of Cain.

Still falls the Rain

At the feet of the Starved Man hung upon the Cross.

Christ that each day, each night, nails there, have mercy

on us -

On Dives and on Lazarus:

Under the Rain the sore and the gold are as one.

Still falls the Rain -

Still falls the Blood from the Starved Man's wounded Side:

*He bears in His Heart all wounds, - those of the light
that died,*

The last faint spark

*In the self-murdered heart, the wounds of the sad un-
comprehending dark,*

The wounds of the baited bear, -

The blind and weeping bear whom the keepers beat

On his helpless flesh . . . the tears of the hunted hare.

Still falls the Rain -

*Then - O Ile leape up to my God: who pulles me
doun -*

See, see where Christ's blood streames in the firmament:

If flows from the Brow we nailed upon the tree

Deep to the dying, to the thirsting heart

*That holds the fires of the world, - dark-smirched with
pain as Ceasar's laurel crown.*

Then sounds the voice of One who like the heart of man

Was once a child who among beasts has lain -

*'Still do I love, still shed my innocent light, my Blood,
for thee.'*

In the name of all the servers and of the whole congregation I thank all the donors whose generous response to our Christmas appeal for vestments enabled us to order a new chasuble for the time in between festival times, which was much needed. Many thanks as well to all the donors of old gold and silver to the Fund in Germany, which will give us a new, purpose made chalice. Please keep thinking of this Fund, any further gold or silver donations can be forwarded to it in order to enable the continuous support of congregations in need of vessels, vestments and such like.

At the beginning of January we started a new financial year. We have an overall expenditure budget which is very close to that of last year. However at present this cannot be matched by the same level of projected income

which has been hit significantly by a reduction, in the last twelve months, in the number of donors; and so we project a deficit of about £2000. The Finance Group will do all it can to make expenditure savings but we also need to ask that every congregation member and friend would consider whether they might be able to start to make a regular contribution, or perhaps if it is possible to increase their giving through the collection box. Ideas for fundraising activities are also most welcome! We have raised significant amounts in past years through the concerts, yard sales, Bridgnorth walk and perhaps you can think of more things we could do to raise funds for our congregation.

Practical help is needed on our premises. If you like decorating, please contact Maarten Ekama or Monika Knight and you can become part of a team to re-decorate the kitchen and toilet areas.

With great joy I can tell you that Janet Klaar has kindly offered to start a Parent and Child group in our community room again. From 29th April on there will be the opportunity for parents or child minders with their little ones to meet every Wednesday morning in term time from 9.30 am – 11.30 am. There will be light refreshments and the cost per family will be £3.

We look forward to the Confirmation of Tara Rose de Wit and Samuel Joseph Beachim on Easter Monday. You can meet the confirmands on Sunday, 22nd March after the Service.

Once a month, usually on the first Saturday at 5 pm, a group meets to read from Rudolf Steiner's book 'Theosophy' for those who have died. There is always opportunity for conversation about questions around death and dying and everybody is welcome to join one or more meetings. We usually finish with a Close of Day service at 6pm.

In May we will have gospel study meetings on Thursday after the service again. Everybody is welcome to join from 11.30am -12.30pm for one or more sessions.

With warm wishes for the coming months,

Monika

Monika Knight

Regular Events

Gospel Study: Thursdays in May 11.30 am - 12.30 pm
and occasional Sundays 4pm - 5pm. See foyer for dates.

Religion lessons: please ask the priest

Sacramental Consultation: please contact the priest

Priest of the Community

Rev. Monika Knight

Congregational Council

Annette Gordon
Peter Howe
Rosemary Martin
Kevin Street
Rilka Dragneva
Monika Knight

Finance Group

Paul Randon, Treasurer
Rosemary Phillpot
Maigread Reynolds
Douglas Huntley
Monika Knight

The Christian Community is funded by the donations
of members and friends.

For details of standing orders and Gift Aid payments,
please contact a member of the Finance Group.

Registered charity number UK 210029

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www.stourbridge.thechristiancommunity.co.uk