

The Christian Community

Movement for religious renewal

in Great Britain
- Stroud congregation -

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Dear Priests, Members and Friends of The Christian Community in Great Britain and Ireland.

This letter accompanies the programmes for the Annual Meeting and for the Finance Meeting which precedes it.

We warmly invite those of you responsible for the finances in your congregations (as well as any others in your community with a special role or interest in the community finances or administration) to be part of this one day Finance Meeting on the 9th Oct to look together at financial and related matters pertinent to us all. We are well aware that our finances are a reflection of the soul of our work. How is it looking? What is it asking of us now? Participants at the Finance Meeting are invited to come with related questions and areas of concern. It is naturally our hope that some of you will then be able to stay on for the Annual Meeting which will begin in the evening of the 9th Oct.

The theme of the Annual Meeting arises out of a recent preparation meeting that was held in our Stroud congregation. Here, a strong wish revealed itself out of the many contributions – the wish to work on a vision for precious work in our region. Hence the title: **‘What are the challenges faced by The Christian Community today?’** Do we have to wait for the world to ‘impose’ itself upon us and persecute us until we wake up, or can we be alert enough right now to what the world is asking of us for the future. Have we the courage to question ourselves and the way we do things in our congregations? What have we got to offer to the ailing spiritual life of our country and the world? Where are the youth and the youth forces that can inspire and carry us into the future?

Rather than resort to the old form of frontal lectures where one person speaks and everyone else listens, we would like to invite you all to be part of both the speaking and listening through various conversational and interactive processes. This style will permeate all our sessions and activities (including the creative writing and social evening) with the sincere hope that we can create a true community space where the impulses that live in each one can resound and the future will of our region be discerned. The angel of our region wants to hear this!

On the Saturday evening we have included a ¾ hr space where members and friends are invited to bring songs, games and (very) short stories and poetry related to the theme that we can share with each other. Following this, a dramatic content, **‘The Angel of Wrath – a Russian St Michael legend’** will be presented by members of the Stroud congregation.

We hope this can be a truly open and inclusive conference for all who wish to forge a future vision for our work in The Christian Community in Great Britain and Ireland.

Please do not let financial restrictions hinder you from coming; especially those from far away. What you can afford is what you pay. Let us know.

We look forward to welcoming you to Stroud.

With best wishes for a good summer,
Carmel, Aaron and the Stroud Congregation