

# The Christian Community Stourbridge

Diary for July – October 2015

## St. John's Tide

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Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> July	9.30 am – 11.30 am	Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Rev. Monika Knight in Manchester 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> July		
Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> July	5.00 pm	Reading for the Dead
Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> July	9.30 am – 11.30am	Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday, 12 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30 am	<b>Open Members' Meeting</b> Changing of the heart and mind in the Act of Consecration of Man
Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> July	9.30 am – 11.30 am	Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> July	9.30 am – 12.00	Work in House and Garden
Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Rev. Monika Knight on holiday 20 <sup>th</sup> July – 8 <sup>th</sup> August		
Thursday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man

Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday, 9 <sup>th</sup> August	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> August	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30 am	<b>How do I take Communion?</b> Bring your questions
Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> August	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> September	No Service	
Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30 am	<b>Gospel Study</b> Luke 10:1-20
Saturday, 5 <sup>th</sup> September	5.00 pm	Reading for the Dead
Sunday, 6 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15 am	The Service for Children
		Followed by Festive Gathering with Refreshments
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	7.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30 am – 11.30 am	Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 10 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30 am	<b>Gospel Study</b> Luke 17:1-10
Rev. Monika Knight in Manchester 11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> September		
Sunday, 13 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30 am	<b>Chapel of Rest</b> Presenting of final plans – where do we go from here?
Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> September	7.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30 am – 11.30 am	Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30 am	<b>Gospel Study</b> Matthew 6:19-34

Saturday, 19 <sup>th</sup> September	2 – 5 pm	<b>Interfaith Unity</b> Odara Wellbeing, Birmingham
Sunday, 20 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30 am	<b>Empathy Beyond Belief</b> Sharing Our Stories
Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	7.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	9.30 am – 11.30 am	Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30 am	<b>Gospel Study</b> Luke 7:11-17
Sunday, 27 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man

## Michaelmas

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Tuesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Wednesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30 am – 11.30 am	Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> October	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30 am	<b>Gospel Study</b> Matthew 22:1-14
Saturday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	5.00 pm	Reading for the Dead
Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30 am	<b>Open Members' Meeting</b> The Offering in The Act of Consecration of Man

Rev. Monika Knight away at British Synod in Stroud 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October and at British Finance Meeting and Annual Meeting in Stroud 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October

Tuesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> October	No Service
Wednesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30 am – 11.30 am Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> October	No Service
Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> October	British Finance Meeting in Stroud
Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday, 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Annual Meeting of The Christian Community in Great Britain in Stroud. Details to be announced.

Sunday, 11 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00 am 11.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man <b>Michael and our Heart's Power of Thinking</b>
Tuesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> October	7.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Wednesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30 am – 11.30 am	Parent and Child Group
Thursday, 15 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00 am 11.15 am 11.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man The Service for Children <b>St. Michael, the Dragon and I</b> Contemplation of Icons Rilka Dragneva
Rev. Monika Knight away at priest meeting in Forest Row 19 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> October		
Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> October	No Service	
Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	No Service	
Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> October	7.00 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 29 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday, 1 <sup>st</sup> November	10.00 am 11.30 am	The Act of Consecration of Man Servers' Meeting

## Exhibitions in our Community Room

Elysia Art Group until 5<sup>th</sup> July

12<sup>th</sup> July - 21<sup>st</sup> August      Art Sale for our congregation by various artists

8<sup>th</sup> September - 18<sup>th</sup> October      Kevin Street

Afterwards various Stourbridge artists

# Gospel Readings

Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> July	...	Luke 1:67-80
Sunday, 12 <sup>th</sup> July	...	John 1:19-34
Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> July	...	Luke 7:18-35
Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> July	...	Mark 8:27-38
Sunday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	...	Matthew 7:1-14
Sunday, 9 <sup>th</sup> August	...	Luke 15:1-32
Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> August	...	Luke 9:1-17
Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	...	Luke 18:35-43
Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> August	...	Mark 7:31-37
Sunday, 6 <sup>th</sup> September ...		Luke 10:1-20
Sunday, 13 <sup>th</sup> September...		Luke 17:1-10
Sunday, 20 <sup>th</sup> September	...	Matthew 6:19-34
Sunday, 27 <sup>th</sup> September	...	Luke 7:11-17
Tuesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> September	...	Matthew 22:1-14
Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> October	...	Paul's letter to the Ephesians 6:10-19
Sunday, 11 <sup>th</sup> October	...	Revelation 12:1-12
Sunday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October	...	Revelation 19:11-16
Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> October	...	Revelation 1:1-9
Sunday, 1 <sup>st</sup> November	...	Revelation 1:9-20
Sunday, 8 <sup>th</sup> November	...	Revelation 3:14-22

Dear members and friends of The Christian Community in Stourbridge,

As the mood of Summer draws us out of our houses and of ourselves, the words of St. John ring out to us, asking us to change our hearts and minds. Perhaps in the slightly sleepy Summer mood it is a little easier to practise the letting go which is necessary for any change. Letting go of hardened or just comfortable and familiar views, thoughts and concepts. Letting go of the need to be in charge and the need to know at all times. Letting go too of the fear not to know....These are some of the pre-conditions to enable new ideas, new solutions, new thoughts to come to us. Otto Scharmer, the author of the book Theory U called this process 'letting go and letting come'. Others have called it 'letting go and letting God', not in a fatalistic way, but knowing that in order for there to be more than only my personal thoughts, I need to make space for the divine to work in me and through me, to inspire me. Betty Sue Flowers said that when we manage to do this letting go in order to tap into the emerging future, we 'allow the fire of creation to burn and to enter the world through us'. For the weeks to come I wish you not only outer warmth and sunshine, but also that you may be kindled by the fire of creation and find many opportunities to allow it to burn and to enter the world through you.

Some of you may remember Aysha, who some years ago gave us a talk about modern Islam and later joined us with a group of friends for a lively conversation and a shared meal. Together with her sister she has founded an organization called 'Odara Wellbeing'. Odara means 'beautiful' and Odara Wellbeing is a Community Interest Service. We have decided to have two events where we can meet again. Aysha and Odara Wellbeing invite our congregation to join them for 'Interfaith Unity' on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> September in Birmingham. We will host and organize 'Empathy Beyond Belief – sharing our stories' on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September. Details to follow. It would be great if many of you could come on either or both days.

This year's Annual Community Meeting will take place in Stroud from the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> until 11<sup>th</sup> October and will be preceded by a Finance Conference on the 9<sup>th</sup> October. All friends and members of The Christian Community are warmly invited to both!

A greeting from our musician Joris:

The Dutch Weidler Kwartet which will give a concert on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October in our church, plays on instruments -which may be of interest to the average

Christian Community member or Anthroposophist -developed with advice and encouragement from **Rudolf Steiner**. They look very similar to "normal" violins-violas-celli, but have a quite original sound-quality thanks to subtle but defining differences in construction. The quartet will be glad to inform you about the instruments (and the music) during the concert. Our four instruments are made of maple wood (1<sup>st</sup> violin), cherry (2<sup>nd</sup> violin), birch (viola) and ash wood for the cello. We play in a slightly lower key (A 432Hz) which, together with the quality of the instruments, makes the sound quite different from the average string quartet: very suitable for old and new music, less for the romantic and virtuoso repertoire.

I am the only quartet member living in England (and sometimes play in your Sunday service), the other members live in Holland. On the 11<sup>th</sup> October we will play compositions by Jenkins, Purcell, Webern, Shostakovich and Dutch composer Daan Manneke, who dedicated his 1<sup>st</sup> string quartet to the Weidler Kwartet. We hope to meet you then! Joris Boon

A report from our finance group: So far this year until the end of April we are just about breaking even with our finances - thanks to some unexpected one off donations - but over all and at the time of writing, it is likely that we will need to call on our reserves later on this year. Re-negotiation of our utility contracts will hopefully result in lower gas bills; we are refunded from central funds for the priest's travel expenses to confirmations and other work on behalf of the The Christian Community nationally. The quinquennial survey was completed recently by the Christian Community's Property Manager. Several jobs were identified and we are fortunate that some of those can be completed at cost by volunteer congregation members. We are seeking quotes from professionals to try to solve the damp issues in the house and will hopefully by the time you read this have found volunteers to re-decorate areas of the ground floor of the house.

If you are online, have a look at our website:

[www.thechristiancommunity.co.uk](http://www.thechristiancommunity.co.uk) where you find our current and older programmes alongside the programmes and news from the other congregations of The Christian Community in Great Britain and Ireland.

With warm wishes for the coming weeks,

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](http://www.stourbridge.thechristiancommunity.co.uk)**