

The Christian Community Stourbridge

November 2015 – February 2016
Including

Advent, Holy Nights and Epiphany



Black and white photo of a painting by Kevin Street
from the exhibition in The Christian Community

**Round the bend!
Sandy horizons welcome
Stourbridge newcomers!**

November 2015

Sunday, 1 st	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Servers' Meeting Rev. Erhard Keller in Ilkeston 31 st Oct./1st November
Tuesday, 3 rd	7.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 5 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Revelation 3:14 - 22
Saturday, 7 th	9.30 – 12.00	Work morning including gardening Helpers very welcome!
	17.00	Reading for the Dead
Sunday, 8 th	9.15	The Service for Children
	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Remembering those who have died
	16.00	Martinmas Festival (<i>Meet at Greenfield Park/the Heath</i>)
Tuesday, 10 th	7.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 12 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Revelation 5: 1 - 14 Rev. Monika Knight in Manchester 13 th /14 th November Rev. Erhard Keller in Ilkeston 14 th /15 th November
Sunday, 15 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	'Music and the Threshold of Dying' Talk and Lyre compositions by <i>Selina Horn</i> , priest trainee in Forest Row Rev. Monika Knight at Further Training 16 th - 20 th Nov.
Tuesday, 17 th	7.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 19 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Revelation 22: 1 – 21
Sunday, 22 nd	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	'If you sit very still' Talk by <i>Marian Partington</i> from the Forgiveness Project with bring and share lunch! (retiring collection)
Tuesday, 24 th	7.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 26 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Luke 21: 25-36

Advent 2015

		Rev. Erhard Keller in Ilkeston 28 th /29 th November
Sunday, 29 th	9.15	The Service for Children
	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	'Journey to Bethlehem' Talk by <i>Vee Bould</i> And the opening of the exhibition of paintings by <i>Veronica Murray</i>

December 2015

		No 7 am Tuesday service in December and January!
Thursday, 3 rd	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Luke 21: 25-36
Saturday, 5 th	17.00	Reading for the Dead
Sunday, 6 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	The Service for Children
	11.30	'Sunfield and its Future' Talk by <i>Caroline Bell</i> (Principal and Head of School)
	15.00	Christmas Family Concert with <i>Jonathan Derby</i> (Bass Baritone) and <i>Claire Warboys</i> (Soprano)
Thursday, 10 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Matthew 1: 1 - 25 Rev. Erhard Keller in Ilkeston 12 th /13 th December
Sunday, 13 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	'The New Building Development in Stroud' Presented by <i>Ingrid Knowles</i> (Fundraiser)
Thursday, 17 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Luke 2: 1- 20 Rev. Monika Knight in Manchester 18 th /19 th Dec.
Sunday, 20 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	'And there was no place in the Inn' Conversation led by <i>Rev. Erhard Keller</i>

Christmas and Twelve Holy Nights

Thursday, 24 th	16.00	Shepherd's Pageant followed by Crafts activities for children and bring and share meal
Friday, 25 th	Midnight	The Act of Consecration of Man
	8.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	9.15	The Christmas Service for Children
	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Saturday, 26 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man Rev. Erhard Keller in Ilkeston 26 th /27 th December

Christmas Course on John 21

Sunday, 27 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	'Tend my sheep' Talk and Conversation led by <i>Maarten Ekama</i>
Monday, 28 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	'153 large Fish' Talk and Conversation led by <i>Rev. E. Keller</i>
Tuesday, 29 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	'Do you love me?' Talk and Conversation led by <i>Rev. M. Knight</i>
Wednesday, 30 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	'The Charge to Peter' A Contemplation of Raphael's painting with <i>Rory Valentine</i> (Devon)
Thurs, 31 st	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	Looking back on 2015 (Conversation)
	20.00	Service with Sermon for New Year's Eve
January 2016		
Friday, 1 st	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	Hopes and Intentions for 2016 (Conversation)
Saturday, 2 nd	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	17.00	Reading for the Dead Rev. Erhard Keller in Ilkeston 2 nd /3 rd January
Sunday, 3 rd	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Monday, 4 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Tuesday, 5 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man

Epiphany 2016

Wednesday, 6 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	16.00	"The Epiphany Witch" A Three Kings play <i>Please contact Erhard if you are willing to act!</i>
January 2016		
		Rev. Monika Knight away from 7 th - 15 th January Rev. Erhard Keller in Ilkeston 9 th /10 th January
Sunday, 10 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	The Service for Children
Thursday, 14 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Luke 2:41-52 Rev. Erhard Keller away from 15 th - 23 rd January

Sunday, 17 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	‘HeartMath’ Talk by <i>Kevin Street</i>
Thursday, 21 st	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: John 2:1-11 Rev. Erhard Keller in Ilkeston 23 rd /24 th January
Sunday, 24 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	The Service for Children
Thursday, 28 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Luke 4:31-37
Sunday, 31 st	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	‘What – on Earth – is olam ha-ba (the world to come)?’ Talk by <i>Dr. Brian Klug</i>
February 2016		
Tuesday, 2 nd	7.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 4 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Matthew 20:1-16 Rev. Erhard Keller in Ilkeston 6 th /7 th February
Saturday, 6 th	17.00	Reading for the Dead
Sunday, 7 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Tuesday, 9 th	7.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 11 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Luke 8:1-18 Rev. Monika Knight in Forest Row 12 th - 14 th February
Sunday, 14 th	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	The Service for Children
	11.30	Opening of the exhibition of new paintings by <i>Harry Scriven</i>
Tuesday, 16 th	7.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 17 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	Gospel Study: Luke 7:36-49 Rev. Erhard Keller in Ilkeston 20 th /21 st February
Sunday, 21 st	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Tuesday, 23 rd	7.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday, 25 th	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man Rev. Monika Knight in Manchester 26 th /27 th February
Sunday, 28 th	9.15	The Service for Children
	10.30	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	The History of Sunfield Talk by <i>Mark Clement</i>

Gospel Readings November 2015 – February 2016

Sunday, 1 st November	Revelation 3:1-6
Sunday, 8 th November	Revelation 3:14-22
Sunday, 15 th November	Revelation 4:1-11
Sunday, 22 nd November	Revelation 21:1-7

Advent

Sunday, 29 th November	Luke 21:25-36
Sunday, 6 th December	Luke 21:25-36
Sunday, 13 th December	Luke 21:25-36
Sunday, 20 th December	Luke 21:25-36

Christmas

Friday, 25 th December	
Midnight	Matthew 1:1-25
8.00 am	Luke 2:1-20
10.00 am	John 21:15-25

Epiphany

Wednesday, 6 th January	Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, 10 th January	Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, 17 th January	Luke 2:41-52
Sunday, 24 th January	John 2:1-11
Sunday, 31 st January	Luke 4:31-37
Sunday, 7 th February	Matthew 20:1-16
Sunday, 14 th February	Luke 8:1-18
Sunday, 21 st February	Luke 7:36-49
Sunday, 28 th February	Luke 12:35-48

Stages

As every flower fades and as all youth
Departs, so life at every stage.
So every virtue, so our grasp of truth,
Blooms in its day and may not last forever.
Since life may summon us at every age
Be ready, heart, for parting, new endeavour,
Be ready bravely and without remorse
To find new light that old ties cannot give.
In all beginnings dwells a magic force
For guarding us and helping us to live.
Serenely let us move to distant places
And let no sentiments of home detain us.
The Cosmic Spirit seeks not to restrain us
But lifts us stage by stage to wider spaces.
If we accept a home of our own making,
Familiar habit makes for indolence.
We must prepare for parting and leave-taking

Or else remain the slaves of permanence.
Even the hour of our death may send
Us speeding on to fresh and newer spaces,
And life may summon us to newer races.
So be it, heart: bid farewell without end and be healed.

Hermann Hesse

Dear members and friends of The Christian Community in Stourbridge,

The words of this poem by Hermann Hesse have taken on a new urgency in these days when millions of people are forced to leave their homes and countries because of violence and war. We who are privileged to still live in relative peace and wealth may want to help, but often feel at a loss as to how. Apart from trying to find ways for outer help, we can strive to live our lives as well as we can. When we use our privileged situation to bring truth, love and beauty into the world, we do that not only for ourselves, but for mankind and the world as a whole. We do this with every Act of Consecration of Man we celebrate together. The more we become conscious of this, the more we also work against the danger of becoming complacent. We offer our Thinking, Feeling and Willing to the Divine in every Act of Consecration, letting go of rigid and stagnant positions, opening ourselves to the transforming power of the Sacrament. In doing so we ground ourselves in the Spirit, making a home there.

Being new to the West Midlands Erhard is interested to explore the rich past in order to find the right impulses for the future. To start with we invited Caroline Bell, the current manager of Sunfield to tell us about her endeavour to develop further this community with such a colourful history. Tim Clement will give a talk about his book about Sunfield.

Following the conference on Forgiveness last November, we have invited Marian Partington from the Forgiveness Project. A journalist writes about her book, *If You Sit Very Still*, "Marian Partington lived for twenty years with the tortuous pain of not knowing how her sister Lucy came to disappear. She has lived for almost twenty more with the tortuous pain of knowing. *If You Sit Very Still* is the lyrical, humbling fruit of a long and determined effort to make sense of humanity at its darkest and to achieve forgiveness, serenity and peace." Marian will talk to us on 22nd November at 11.30 am and will join us for a bring and share lunch afterwards.

Another distinguished speaker will visit us on 31st January. Dr. Brian Klug is Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy at St. Benet's Hall, Oxford, and a member of the faculty of philosophy at the University of Oxford. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations, University of Southampton and an associate editor of *Patterns of Prejudice*. He has published extensively on topics related to Judaism, Jewish identity and antisemitism. He will speak to us about 'What on earth is *olam ha-ba* (the world to come)?'.

During the Holy Nights Rory Valentine from Devon will come and present his research into Raphael's tapestry cartoon 'The Charge to Peter'.

On the 6th of January we could perform the short play "The Epiphany Witch", in which the three kings come and bring their gifts and take the Christmas tree away. This is a simple but very moving play and Erhard is keen to hear who wants to act the following parts: the old woman, Mary, Joseph, Angel, 3 Kings, 3 pages + one musician. There will be 3 rehearsals during the Holy Nights.

In September we presented the final plans for a Chapel of Rest, which could be submitted for Planning Permission. Deepest thanks go to all the faithful members of the project group, who have worked hard and faithfully for years, in varying constellations, to achieve this. The group has dissolved and at a congregational meeting in September we decided not to apply for Planning Permission yet, but to let the project rest for a year, so that we as a congregation can review our intentions.

Our Thursday study group has become a weekly study group, where we will reflect upon the current week's gospel reading and prepare for the reading for the coming week. Please feel free to join at any time.

With warm wishes for the colder time of the year,

Monika Knight and Erhard Keller

For Religion lessons, Baptism, Wedding, Funeral or Sacramental Consultation: Please contact one of the priests

Priests of the Community

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Rev. Louise Madsen (Emeritus)

Congregational Council Annette Gordon Peter Howe Rosemary Martin Kevin Street Rilka Dragneva Erhard Keller Monika Knight	Finance Group Paul Randon, Treasurer Rosemary Phillpot Maigread Reynolds Douglas Huntley Erhard Keller Monika Knight
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For details of standing orders and Gift Aid payments, please contact a member of the Finance Group.
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