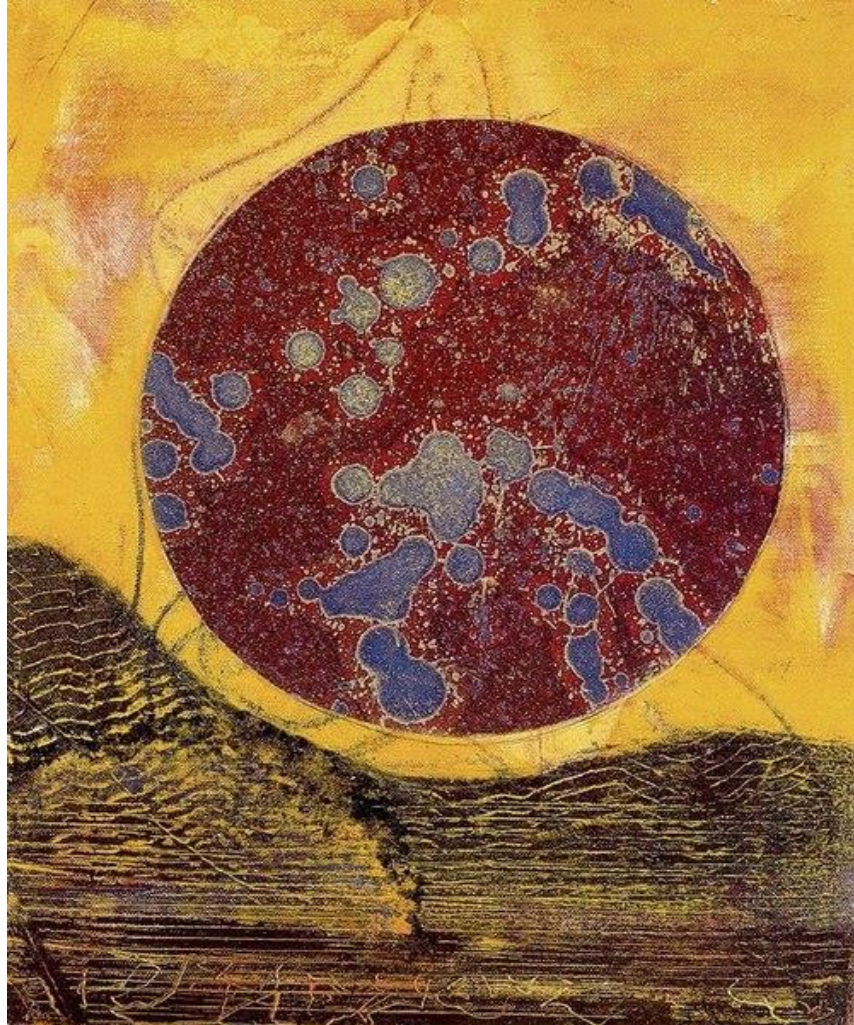


**Annual Meeting of
The Christian Community**
Manchester 28th – 30th October 2016



*Loveless Boundaries or Boundless Love?
Hope through Unity in Christ*

Moorallerton Preparatory School
131 Barlow Moor Road
West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2PW

The theme arose through our group conversation where we explored the thoughts living in our hearts. We live in a time where geographical and human boundaries are being challenged as we bear witness to the present suffering of the refugee crisis. We also reflected on the growing crises facing young and old with the increase in mental health issues leaving many people feeling alone and isolated. Through these themes the motif of unity unfolded: how do we reach out to each other across physical, cultural, psychological and social boundaries to work with each other to build hope and understanding in an increasingly splintered world?

We then looked at how we in The Christian Community could be more open with our boundaries and build bridges to other churches and communities. It became apparent that what we were talking about was echoed in the words of our Creed:

“He will in time unite for the advancement of the world with those whom through their bearing He can wrest from the death of matter. Through Him can the Healing Spirit work.

Communities whose members feel the Christ within themselves may feel united in a church to which all belong who are aware of the health-bringing power of the Christ. They may hope for the overcoming of the sickness of sin, for the continuance of man’s being and for the preservation of their life destined for eternity.”

How can we work together to understand and build communities of peace, which will strengthen us in our individual striving and unite us ‘in a church to which all belong’?

In the spirit of openness, we encourage you to bring a friend to our gathering. We will be inviting a number of local initiatives to attend our meeting.

Christopher Dawson will bring a labyrinth along to be experienced in times in between or as an alternative to drumming or eurythmy.

Programme

Friday 28th

- 5:00 Registration
6:00 Supper
7:00 Welcome to Manchester and introduction to the theme
8:30 Close of Day with sermon on the theme

Saturday 29th

- 9:00 The Act of Consecration of Man
10:00 Refreshments
10:30 **Uniting for the Advancement of the World**
Talk by Rev Erhard Keller with conversation
11:20 Break
11:35 Eurythmy
11:55 **Feeling united in a Church to which all belong**
Talk by Rev. Paul Newton with conversation
12:45 Lunch break
2:30 Drumming
3:50 Tea
4:20 Lenker's overview of The Christian Community, including the international work
5:15 Eurythmy
6:00 Supper
6:50 **Moses : The Significant Other**
Talk by Brian Klug
8:00 Close of Day

Sunday 30th October (end of summer time!)

- 9:00 Act of Consecration of Man
Coffee
10:30 **The Health-bringing Power of the Christ**
Talk by Rev. Tom Ravetz with conversation
11:20 Review/preview
12 15 Finish

Contributors:

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 Moses and his struggle with God.

Faith Sax is an experienced development practitioner with a wide range of experience in organisation development, personal development, training, conflict resolution and coaching. She will bring her 30 different drums and help us experience the energy of traditional West African drumming and the joy of community music making!

Born in California, **Melissa Harwood** worked in photography before moving to England in 1971 to train in Eurythmy movement in London. Melissa also studied sculpture at the Open College of the Arts, letter carving in stone with Pip Hall and pastel painting with Christopher Assheton-Stones. She works from her studio in Grasmere where she also has a small 'Summer House Gallery'. Her paintings are exhibited in galleries nationwide.

With these arts, Melissa works as a change consultant in organisations, with art projects in schools and with adults with special needs. She also contributes to seminars, conferences and training courses internationally. Melissa is co-director of Eurythmy in Organisations.

Chris Dawson is a member of his local C. of E. church, St. George's, Stockport, where he sings in the choir on a Sunday morning. On a Sunday evening he is a member of a sangha in the tradition of Buddhist Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. Walking the labyrinth is a meditative practice which Chris first came across in Bollington, near Macclesfield, Cheshire, where there is an outdoor labyrinth. After an inspirational course at the Tabor Centre near Preston, Chris trained as a Labyrinth Facilitator with Di Williams, Anglican priest and Labyrinth Facilitator Trainer with Veriditas, an organisation that promotes the labyrinth as a spiritual experience and practice.

Paul Newton, Erhard Keller and Tom Ravetz are priests of The Christian Community in Edinburgh, Stourbridge and Forest Row respectively. Tom is also the Lenker for the whole region of Great Britain and Ireland.