

# The Christian Community Stourbridge

*Movement for Religious Renewal*

***Advent to Epiphany 2016 - 2017***



From the exhibition of "portals" by Marielle Uprichard

***Incarnation like lightning tears apart the presence,  
Pain, insecurities, temptations rule,  
Yet how beautiful,  
This power gives hope!***

# *Advent 2016*

## *November*

Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	<b>'Tamar'</b>
		Talk by <i>Erhard Keller</i>
	16.00	Advent Spiral

## *December*

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9 – 12	Garden and House Cleaning Morning
	17.00	Reading for the Dead
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.15	Children's service
	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	<b>'Rahab'</b>
		Talk by <i>Geraldine Warren</i>
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.00	Gospel Study: Matthew 24:29-44
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	<b>'Ruth'</b>
		Talk by <i>Rosie Phillpot</i>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.00	Gospel Study: Marc 13: 24-37
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.30	<b>'Bathseba'</b>
		Talk by <i>Anita Large</i>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.00	Gospel Study: Matthew 1:1-17

## **Christmas and Twelve Holy Nights**

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	16.00	<b>Shepherds' Pageant</b> followed by carols around the tree, crafts activities for children and a bring and share meal
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	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
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	<b>'A Year amidst the Refugees in Greece'</b>
		Talk by <i>Ayesha Keller</i>

Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	<b>'C(K)-M-B'</b> Study led by <i>Maren Stott</i>
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	<b>Looking back on 2016</b> (Conversation)
	20.00	<b>Service with Sermon for New Year's Eve</b>
<b>January 2017</b>		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	<b>Hopes and Intentions for 2017</b> (Conversation)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	<b>'The 12 Sentences of our Creed in Relationship to the Zodiac'</b> Talk by <i>Erhard Keller</i>
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.15	<b>"Whose Death is it Anyway?"</b> Talk by <i>Reverend David Knight</i>

## ***Epiphany 2017***

Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	16.00	<b>"The Epiphany Witch"</b> A Three Kings play where the 3 kings and their pages take the Christmas tree away and leave gifts for the children <i>Please contact Erhard if you are willing to act!</i>

Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00-15.00	Meeting with Aysha from Odara, who will bring along Syrian refugee women and with Ayesha, Colin and Amy from "Together for Better Days" (Kevin will pass on more details)
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	17.00	Reading for the Dead
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15	Children's Service
	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.00	Gospel Study: Luke 5:17-26



## **March**

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.00	Gospel Study: Matthew 4:1-11
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.00	Gospel Study: Matthew 17:1-13

Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ordination in Forest Row
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ordination in Forest Row

Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	The Act of Consecration of Man
	11.00	Gospel Study: Luke 11:14-36

Looking forward:

2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of June **‘Playing with Fire’** International Whitsun Conference in Den Bosch, the Netherlands, Informative leaflets are in the foyer of the church. I hope I can take a group with me!  
Also see: [www.whitsunconference2017.org](http://www.whitsunconference2017.org)

23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of June **‘Understanding Islam’**  
**St. John’s Tide conference with Dr. Chris Hewer**

Dear Congregation:

In the very beginning of the New Testament we find the genealogy of Jesus as described by Matthew. In this Genealogy there are mentioned 3 times 14 men and –apart from Mary- 4 women, who play a crucial role in the preparation for the coming of the Messiah. On every Sunday this Advent we will look at the story of one of the women to deeper understand the preparation for the mystery of incarnation.

For Christmas Eve Garry is again preparing the popular and simple pageant, followed by singing around the lit tree and a shared meal. If you want to take home some Christmas light bring a lantern along.

For Epiphany we hope to perform the same Three Kings Play as last year and rehearsals will be during the Holy Nights. I am still looking for actors!

At the end of Epiphany Gordon Woolard and Tom Towey from the Devon congregation will come to visit us to study together the gesture of Epiphany and the interrelationship between the Light of the Star of Grace and the Light of Prayer in our Heart. 2 years ago when I was still in Devon we discovered how Projective Geometry and certain Bothmer exercises can bring about a deeper experience of the Epiphany Light. Gordon writes: “The drawing-task I can bring is an experience of point and periphery - and how they can change places with one-another, as

also the meditation in the curative course embraces. It is drawn, however, as a journey in which the point goes along the way and at a threshold meets the line, a going along and a meeting. Our experience of the distinction between the three directions and what we can bring to this experience from an understanding of the senses and of the higher members that set them in motion I would say does give us a sense of what the forward direction is. It is par-excellence the working of the sense of self-movement (in this direction archetypally, more than the others) that rightly matures to become the sense for destiny, of what is coming to meet me and of this face to face encounter.” This we want to explore together this time. More details will be sent out closer to the time.

Alan Stott has been translating and editing the work of the founding priest Hermann Beckh. Beckh was particularly interested in the cosmic influence on the life of Christ and wrote this very interesting book “The Cosmic Rhythm in the Gospel of Mark”. Based on Beckh’s study Frieling wrote some essays on the relationship of the 12 sentences of our summary of cognition about the spiritual world (traditionally called the Creed) to the qualities of the 12 star signs. I would like to study this theme this coming year and would be very happy if someone wants to join in! The plan is that 12 talks will arise out of that study!

Whenever I visit the congregation in Manchester I would be very happy to take anyone along who wants to meet the Manchester congregation. I usually leave at 7am and come back late afternoon.

Janet Klaar who runs the very special parent and toddlers group on Wednesday mornings would be very happy to have a helper young or old to help with the setting up, preparing tea break, tidying, etc. Who would like to do that? For details contact Janet 07933 147180 or 01384 352177

It looks more and more likely that one of the newly ordained priests might be sent to Stourbridge to help with the work here and further afield. We probably will welcome the priest during Passion Tide. The ordinations will take place in Stuttgart, Hamburg and Forest Row! Louise and I hope to go to the ordinations in Forest Row and would love to take congregational members along, who would want to witness such an important moment.

The current programme has quite a few free spaces after the Sunday service. If you have any ideas for talks and activities let me know. Similarly look out for changes and addition to the programme sent out by email. Please let me know if you do not read emails but still want to be informed of changes.

From the Finance Group:

Members of the congregation share responsibility for a number of areas of work; currently a rather small group of people is active in this and we would welcome offers of help on a regular or occasional basis. Cleaning, gardening, serving, ironing, flowers, care for the altar and vestry would all benefit from additional help - please do ask Erhard or a member of the congregation council if you think there is something you could offer. Following the recent discussion with Tom Ravetz it seems likely that a newly ordained priest will be sent to

Stourbridge in the spring. We will have some financial support from the central funds in the form of a development grant but the congregation will need to find an additional £1500 of income next year. For this reason we will not make a special Christmas appeal this year but will contact you again in 2017 but in the meantime please do think if you would be able to increase your regular donation by £2.50 per month, or if you could commit to making a donation to the collection box of an extra £1 each time you come to church, or if you could help to plan and hold some kind of fundraising event.

Priest's time away:

25-26/11	Ilkeston
10-11/12	Ilkeston
26-27/12	Ilkeston
9/1-20/1	Holiday
20-21/1	Ilkeston
28/1	Manchester
10/2	Retreat in Devon
11-12/2	Ilkeston
24-25/2	Ilkeston
4-5/3	Ilkeston
10or11/3	Ordinations in Forest Row
13-16/3	Synod in London
17-18/3	Ilkeston
25/3	Manchester

### **Advent**

Sunday, November 27	...	Luke 21:25-36
Sunday, December 4	...	Luke 21:25-36
Sunday, December 11	...	Luke 21:25-36
Sunday, December 18	...	Luke 21:25-36

### **Christmas**

Sunday, December 25		
Midnight	...	Matthew 1:1-25
Dawn	...	Luke 2:1-20
Morning	...	John 21:15-25

### **Epiphany**

Friday, January 6	...	Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, January 8	...	Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, January 15	...	Luke 2:41-52
Sunday, January 22	...	John 2:1-11
Sunday, January 29	...	Luke 5:17-26
Sunday, February 5	...	John 5:1-18
Sunday, February 12	...	Matthew 20:1-16
Sunday, February 19	...	Luke 8:1-18
Sunday, February 26	...	Luke 18:18-34
Sunday, March 5	...	Matthew 4:1-11
Sunday, March 12	...	Matthew 17:1-13

**Office bearers:**

*Council:* Peter How, Rosemary Martin, Nettie Gordon, Kevin Street, Erhard Keller

*Finance Group:* Rosie Phillpot, Paul Randon, Maigread Reynolds, Doug Huntley, Erhard Keller

*Festival Group:* Cecilia Devenney Wall, Janet Klaar, Alice Barnsdale, Beth Nabbs, Karolina Pawinia, Erhard Keller

*Office:* Rosie Phillpot

*Service Rota:* Rosemary Martin

*Vestry:* Nettie Gordon, Rosie Phillpot

*Ironing:* Kate Henderson, Rosie Phillpot

*Bread baking:* Philippa Dathan, Rosie Philpot

*Flowers:* Kate Henderson

*Garden:* Louise Madsen, Peter Howe, Christopher Miles

*Parents and Toddlers Group:* Janet Klaar

*Cleaning:* Ryan Walker

*Maintenance:* Maarten Ekama

*Music:* Julian Gilde

*Books:* Erhard Keller

*Exhibitions:* Vee Bold

**For Religion lessons, Baptism, Wedding, Funeral or Sacramental Consultation:** Please contact the priest

Rev. Erhard Keller 07716229409 or 01384 395836

Email: [erhard@tcc-mrr.co.uk](mailto:erhard@tcc-mrr.co.uk)

Rev. Louise Madsen (Emeritus) 01384 591719 (when Erhard is away)

Contact for Ilkeston: Daniel Bryant and Shirley Challis: [dbryant@phonecoop.coop](mailto:dbryant@phonecoop.coop)

Contact for Manchester: Claire Donoghue: [claire.donoghue@ntlworld.com](mailto:claire.donoghue@ntlworld.com)

The Christian Community is funded by the donations of members and friends. For details of standing orders and Gift Aid payments, please contact Rosie Phillpot of the Finance Group. Our bank details are: The Christian Community  
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