

The Christian Community in Forest Row

Newsletter for 20th March, 2020

What is happening at The Christian Community?

The Act of Consecration of Man is celebrated on Thursdays and Fridays at 9am and Sundays at 10am. In line with government guidelines, the seating in the church is restricted and there is a limit on numbers. We also need to inform you that it is now mandatory to wear face-coverings when you are on the church premises. More information about this is available on the government website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>) .

The church is open for private prayer, Tuesday-Friday 10am-12pm. Discussion groups take place on Tuesdays at 10.30am and Thursdays at 10am. There is a study group on the Gospel of St John on Thursdays at 8pm.

Please remember to turn off all mobile phones completely, for the benefit not only of those of our friends who are sensitive to such things, but for all our benefit!

Dear congregation,

It was a great joy to see so many of you on Sunday and to welcome Selina Horn to join us here in Forest Row. We were blessed by the weather as we gathered in the garden and heard the choir, led by Katharina Baiter, and contributions from members, Luke and Selina.

We have decided that our discussion groups and gospel study will recommence as of this week. We are undertaking a new risk assessment to ensure that this will be safe and in line with the guidelines. There is a discussion group on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am, led by Tom Ravetz. Selina Horn will take on the discussion

group on Thursdays, which takes place at 10am. Both these groups are open for all who wish to attend and bring their questions into a listening, exploring space. The study group on the Gospel of St John, which is led by Luke Barr, takes place on Thursday evenings at 8pm.

Please note the listing of forthcoming events at the end of this email. At the moment, it seems to be better to publicise events in this way, rather to prepare a programme for months ahead. The calendar on our website

(www.thechristiancommunity.co.uk/topic/congregations/south-east/forest-row/) lists all events, including the regular services and groups.

With our very best wishes for the coming week,

- your Forest Row priests

Thank you for the wonderful welcome I was given last Sunday into this congregation!

I felt welcomed by those who were able to attend and also the many people who could not attend but whose helping thoughts I experienced nonetheless.

There was beautiful singing, poems (some written especially for the occasion) and wonderful words from Luke Barr and members of the congregation.

Almost five years ago, on a blustery evening with the conkers falling on the guest room roof, I arrived here as a priest trainee. You gave me a lovely farewell in June 2016! I returned to be ordained here alongside Siobhan Porter (priest in Stourbridge) and Ioanna Panagiotopolous (priest in Canberra, Australia) in the Spring of March 2017.

I have worked for three and a half years in the Stroud and Bristol congregations where I was especially active in work around children and families and leading exploration groups about the Earth/Nature and the Act of Consecration of Man.

Now I am here, five years on, with you again. I look forward to fruitful times ahead. It will be good to meet those of you I already know again, now meeting afresh as one of your priests. I am also looking forward to the meeting those people whom I do not yet know.- Selina Horn

Exciting development in the church garden

You may be aware of our 'lodge', the large hut above and to the right of the patio outside the community room. It houses the regional archive of The Christian Community. It also stores our festival props and provides a home for a fairly extensive library of Steiner and theological books.

The garden either side of this hut has been neglected. You cannot really see this from anywhere in the church because it is hidden behind fencing and thick bushes.

Together with a local Bio-Dynamic gardener, we developed an idea of the space on the south side of the hut becoming a sensory and herb garden. That is, we envisioned herbs growing there which could be freely harvested by community members, but also by the wider community.

It would be a little hub for insect wildlife and perhaps a home for bees as well.

John Marking has done amazing work clearing the space on the north side of the thick laurel hedges. With his blessing, we began to see this space as a potential sandpit/play area.

Recently, several families came together to clear these spaces further and prepare their development. We also did some work in the main garden, clearing out the ponds and cutting back shrubs, as well as mowing the lawns.

The next step will be putting the sand in the sandpit and preparing the ground of the proposed herb garden for development in the spring.

Everything will be done by hand by Bio-Dynamic gardeners and farmers and the space prepared by Waldorf trained pedagogues. We are

working on an application for a grant that could finance the relatively small costs of materials that we need for the project. This reflects the fact that we hope that this project will be a resource for a wider community than just the congregation.

If you would like to support this project with seed funding, please contact me.

- Luke Barr

Forthcoming events

Sunday, 20th September following the service

Symposium on Communion

Short contributions by our priests followed by contributions into a listening space on the subject of sharing out communion

Tuesday, September 29th (Michaelmas day)

10am The Act of Consecration of Man for Michaelmas

6pm Close of Day with a long Festival Sermon

Fear and Courage in the Age of Michael

Saturday 3rd October 6pm

Close of Day for those who have died

Sunday 4th October, after the service

Contemplations on the Archangel Michael

Saturday 10th October, 10am

Memorial Service for Roberta Taylor

Following this, there will be a gathering with a chance to share memories and thoughts about Roberta.

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