

The Christian Community in Forest Row

Newsletter for 4th October, 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.

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 Community,

The beginning of the Michaelmas month was celebrated on Tuesday with the Act of Consecration of Man and an evening service. During the evening service, Luke spoke on the many varied aspects of Michaelmas to large

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group of people, as the dusk gradually enveloped the room and the flames alone shone from the altar. There was a special atmosphere in the sharing of the gradual dark and the sense of each carrying a flame within.

Michaelmas is the festival of celebrating deeds, events, of doing, of activity and work.

I have been contemplating how it is a festival of our hands and how this is a time to appreciate these incredible tools of our will.

As human beings we are unique to have these hands of ours. The angels do not have hands they can use to transform earthly substance like we can. Angels cannot mill flour, knead dough and bake bread! Nor can they craft, nor create things out of wood, or tend a garden.

Jesus was a craftsman who had Michaelic hands; he used them as a carpenter.

The Risen Christ appeared like a gardener, showing the wound in his hands.

Every hand has a long story of deeds. Every hand has loved or hurt, has been loved and been hurt. Every hand has transformed something.

What if Golgotha; Christ's death and resurrection, lives in our hands as well as our hearts?

What if our hands are Michaelic?

With Autumnal wishes,

Selina

Update

We are delighted that our diary is gradually filling up. You can see all the events listed at the bottom of this email.

A member of the congregation suggested that we report on the conversation about the communion that we held on 20th September. Luke, Selina and I all gave brief reports of our experiences of celebrating and not sharing out communion. We also described some of the considerations that have led us not to start sharing it out again. This decision has now been given over into local responsibility, and some congregations are hold the service with communion again. It is clear that we all – priests and members – wish for nothing more than to restore the service to its full form. It was encouraging as well to hear how for some

members at least, working with the idea of the congregational communion with and through the priest, has been a help. We wondered whether one of the gifts of this strange time will be an increased awareness of what it can mean to receive the communion in the form of bread and wine, and how we might prepare for this. The priests are keeping the situation under review.

We are looking for accommodation for up to three participants in the Orientation weekend, 16-18 October. Please let me know if you could put someone up.

- Tom Ravetz

Children's work and Children's Service

We are happy to announce that we are resuming the Children's Service as of 11 October. It will take place at 11:15 am, so after the Act of Consecration of Man.

After the Children's Service, families are welcome to stay and hear a story, or a festival speech for Michaelmas.

And we would like to extend that welcome to everyone who would like to stay and share in the experience.

We are currently looking at a 2-weekly rhythm for the Children's Service. However, the next one would be on Sunday 1st November, again at the same time, 11:15 am.

The pre-schoolers story time and the Saturday Club will hopefully be able in some form to develop in the next few weeks too. We are working on how to make this possible.

Festival celebrations such as the Advent Spiral, Christmas play, Tree Celebration and the 3 Kings play are certainly on our agenda - and again we will be looking to see how we can make them happen.

If you have questions or suggestions, please let Selina or me know.

Luke Barr

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 4th October, after the service,

Contemplations on the Archangel Michael

Saturday 10th October, 10am

Memorial Service for Roberta Taylor

Roberta passed away in May this year.

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

Sunday, 11th October, ca 11.15am

The Service for Children

Saturday, 7th November, time tbc

Two concerts by pupils of Angela Campbell: A classical concert and a buskers' concert

Friday, 23rd October, 8pm

Deborah Ravetz will record an illustrated talk on **Emil Nolde – 'Colour is Life'** that will be available to view via our website from 8pm

Sunday, 25th October 11.15am

Michael – Archangel of the Threshold

Talk by Pearl Goodwin

Gospel readings

Tuesday, September 29 ... Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 4 ... Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 11 Ephesians 6:10-20

Sunday, October 18 Revelation 12:1-12

Sunday, October 25 Revelation 19:11-16

Sunday, November 1 Revelation 5:1-14

Sunday, November 8 Revelation 13:1-10

Sunday, November 15 Revelation 21:1-7

Sunday, November 22 Revelation 22:1-16

Contact us

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Supporting The Christian Community

The Christian Community is funded by contributions by members and friends.

There are Gift Aid forms in the foyer, where you can also make a donation in the collection box.

Contact information

Please fill in the information you would like us to record and send it to the church

NAME

ADDRESS

Email Phone

Mobile

Please indicate ways in which you would like to be contacted

Phone Email Post

Please include me on the congregational telephone tree.
I understand that my phone number will be visible to others

Your signature.....

PRIVACY NOTICE

The Christian Community will only use information provided by you in the appropriate form. Information will not be shared with other organisations or individuals. Information will be held by the congregation priests and by the administrator / secretary.

Information will be used to contact you about programmes and events to be held in the congregation or nationally; to inform you about critical events in the life of the congregation; to inform you about the congregation's financial status and to make specific appeals as agreed by the finance group.

Please tell us if you move or change other contact details so that we may keep the information we hold up to date. You may tell us at any time if you would prefer that we no longer hold information.