

The Christian Community

Movement for Religious Renewal

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Advent 2021

Edinburgh Congregation Newsletter

Dear Congregation,

It is with great pleasure that we are once again producing a programme for Edinburgh. It has been two years since the last one – and how much the world and perhaps we ourselves have changed! If we have, then let us hope it is for the better! a start!

Over the past months we have had some remarkable and quite intense and inspiring conversations after the service. For a long time we enjoyed the coffee and dialogues in the marquee, and now with the colder weather have moved indoors again. The very nature of the circumstances allowed the conversations to be spontaneous and quite substantial. Now, as we try to plan ahead a little more, we hope that the freshness and spontaneity will not fade. Very often we discovered themes that were very topical, and this will hopefully continue.

In **Advent** we look forward to a concert, a talk on evil and good, and the making of stars. [For the children`s craft afternoon, see below!] **Christmas** will allow us to take part in the Act of Consecration every day for 12 days if we wish and are able, which can be a very real drinking from the fountain of the cosmic source of our strength as well as our active participation in helping build the future new earth. Themes this Christmas include Lucienne`s three sessions on Beauty, Truth and Goodness, as well as a brief look at the hierarchies we hear addressed from the altar and our own inner work.

The theme of stars will be picked up again in **Epiphany** when Christian Maclean will take his annual look ahead to the constellations of the coming year - this time with a certain animal emphasis as he looks at the creatures written into the heavens: bears, dragon, swan, eagle and dolphin! And in the time of the Three Kings this year Hugh Salvesen will help us consider another famous King - Arthur - who has made his mark in mysterious ways in these isles and even here in Edinburgh!

It has been wonderful to see larger numbers of **children** join us over past months. A warm welcome to new families to our mailing list! There will be a number of events this Advent time as we help the children prepare for Christmas. Please note that the Children Christmas Service, which is only held once a year, is a different and very special service for all children from classes 1 to confirmation age.

The afternoon for **children** to make **Christmas stars** on Saturday 4 December from 3:30pm is open to all children, but please contact Peter on 0131 229 4514 if you intend to come along with your child(ren). This is so we have an idea of numbers. There will be one activity for younger children, while older ones will make stars. Juice and a snack will be provided, but if there are dietary requirements please contact Peter (could also be email: pholmanedin@gmail.com). We will ask for a small donation to cover materials.

I am looking forward to the celebration of the new wording in the Act of Consecration from Advent Sunday, addressing the Divine in the normal, contemporary form of *You*, as well as the affirmation that the servers will be giving with the clear and decisive *Yes* ! Please allow yourselves time to grow into these apparently minor, but perhaps deep-going changes.

Please note that a collection is taken for the **Friday evening talks**, with proceeds going to church funds. We intend to have further Friday evening talks as we go through 2022.

For those in Dumfries and Galloway and further south who receive the Programme, please note that I shall next be at **Loch Arthur** on Saturday 11 December.

Finally, we are including a small ad for a family from Stroud wishing to move to Edinburgh. If anyone has something you would like the rest of the congregation to know about or perhaps something special to sell or give away, we could institute a section in our newsletter for **small private communications** such as this:

House for rent needed from January 2022

Couple expecting a baby and with a very charming, well behaved dog, are seeking a 2-3 bedroom house with garden or ground floor flat with garden in Edinburgh (preferably north or west side, but other areas also considered).

Please get in touch, if you can help.

susie@hey.com

Many thanks, Susie Goodall

I wish everyone near and far reading this every blessing as we approach that magical time of the year when stars shine more brightly, the heavens draw closer and hope that we will open our arms and hearts to welcome them, and we begin to feel new life forces stirring within us that call us to use our time on this earth wisely and joyfully to do the good!

Peter Holman