

The Christian Community

Movement for Religious
Renewal

Fountain House
21 Napier Rd
Edinburgh EH10 5AZ

Tel: (0131) 229 4514

ReligiousRenewalEdinburgh@gmx.com

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Edinburgh Congregation Newsletter

Dear Friends and Members,

This year it has seemed to our souls that it has been particularly difficult to hold the tension between the inner call of Passiontide and the world of nature outside. We have heard from the altar of the loss of the Spirit, the mournful awaiting, and have perhaps been on our own inner journey through dark times. All the while bursting buds, daffodils, warm sunshine (at times!) and the cheeriest birdsong have called us to celebrate with nature the happiness of the new spring.

Yet we can know that without that first Easter - the Deed of Christ - there would be no spring as we know it. We have had to remind ourselves this year again that there is a path through the valley of the shadow of death if we are to reach the mountain of joy at Easter. And we are nearly there!

May we find our right way through Holy Week. There will be a service each morning and a special 8pm evening service on Maundy Thursday to contemplate some of the themes of that day. On Good Friday afternoon at 3pm there is the opportunity to gather before an empty, unlit altar first in silence then with music and words to try to sense our way into that moment of the Crucifixion.

Much of the Programme speaks for itself.

It will be wonderful to once again have a **Confirmation service** in our chapel - and at the right time of year! Space will be a little limited as there are three families involved, but we want very much to invite our wider congregation to help witness and support the event. We wish the three candidates every blessing and strength as they reach the end of their journey through childhood and embark on the new adventure of Youth!

There is a separate flyer about the very special performance of **The Little Prince** on Friday evening, 29 April from 7 to 9pm (with interval). Matthew Dexter is an actor and storyteller who trained at the Chrysalis Theatre in London and the Artemis School of Speech Formation. He has performed his one man shows of *A Christmas Carol* and *The Little Prince* throughout the UK, the US, Canada and India.

Many of those who know this delightful story have come to the surprising conclusion that it is a 'mystery-story' suffused with esoteric Christianity in a way that can speak to an audience today: with a lot of humour. Matthew brings to hilarious life characters like the king, the conceited man, the drunkard and the business man and closes the story with "thoughtful and tender wistfulness" (audience member at Camphill Clanabogan). Suggested donations of £10 (adults) and £6 (students) at the door.

It is very nice that Paul Newton will be visiting the UK to see his parents and will also make a point of swinging by Edinburgh to visit us and tell a bit about his life and work in Spring Valley. That will be on Sunday May 1.

The centenary year continues with Lucienne's talk on the life of Adam Bittleston and Peter's on Rudolf Steiner's role in our founding, as well as the **Annual Meeting** in Forest Row in June. It would be wonderful if several of our members and friends can attend. You should sign up soon! All information on pamphlets in the church foyer, or speak to Peter.

And speaking of "members and friends", it is a reminder that there is such a thing as **membership** of The Christian Community. It has been at least two years since our last Members Meeting and this year we open the event on 15 May to all who would like to come and hear more about this. It is particularly hoped that many members will attend as this will be the year's gathering and it will be most valuable to hear from members of perhaps many years (indeed decades!) about their perspectives on what it means. Without members the next 100 years would scarcely be imaginable so this is a good year to explore also this question together.

With warm and joyful Easter greetings,

Peter