

Dear Congregation,

This morning, 16th September, we gathered to celebrate a special Act of Consecration of Man. It was, almost to the hour, exactly 100 years after the first of our services was ever celebrated on earth - in the first Goetheanum in Dornach, in the presence of and with the crucial, earnest and loving help of Dr Rudolf Steiner. It was a deed that carries significance far beyond what we can imagine, and yet in all humility and gratitude we may sense that the first priests of the new dispensation then and we all today have a vital and ongoing role in the working of Christ and the whole spiritual realms into our world.

As we enter a new festival time of Michaelmas we might pause to reflect how we could structure our outer lives and inner soul life in accordance with what is being called for in our time. Can the Archangel Micha-el make use of us? Are we ready after another year of the cycle of the festivals to stand with him and work to overcome darkness, fear and indifference? Can we find the confidence, courage and consciousness within to be effective servants of Christ in His work in the world?

We can but try! And, in our fairly modest ways here in Edinburgh, we can push on with the tasks we have taken up.

The Programme for this last quarter of 2022 has a number of noteworthy events scheduled. You will have received by email information on the first two events: the Michaelmas weekend with Stephanie Georgieff and the Friday evening talk on 7 October with Ferry van der Loos and Margrete Vijlbrief.

Stephanie, who previously spoke to us of the Black Madonna of Guadalupe and the Holy Grail will take us on fascinating a journey through the history and themes of Mont Saint Michel. The Friday evening public lecture will be as usual in that we ask for a voluntary donation of around £10, while we ask those taking part in all weekend sessions to contribute around £20. This is to cover travel costs Stephanie has incurred.

The talk on 7 October will be part informative and part experiential. The theme is elemental beings and this promises to be a very interesting session with our guests from Holland.

Another event not to be missed is the session on Storytelling on Sunday 23 October. Alexander Mckenzie is a storyteller who uses his extensive skills in businesses to help people overcome strife through this art. He has also been a teacher. His aim with us is to introduce us to the basic art of telling stories and help us see the value of this in different situations in our own lives. Some of you may have seen him in action at an open day at the Steiner School this year, when he led us into some of the secrets of the Green Man.

As this Sunday`s talk after the service (18 September) will try to explain, we now enter a new phase of the history (and story) of The Christian Community. 100 years are past. The second century begins. We are now part of it. It is to some extent up to us. We can become the new pioneers. This is both inwardly and outwardly.

Inwardly we are encouraged to take an ever more active role in the fulfilling of the Act of Consecration of Man, in our prayer lives, our inner resolves and our loving support of our fellow human beings.

Outwardly there is much to accomplish, from daily tasks around the congregation to bigger projects such as the building of a new church.

You will probably have heard the disappointing news of the refusal of planning permission for our current building design. It seems hopeful that a new and more modest design will have more success, for the one thing there is unanimous agreement about is the actual *church* design. And that is something to rejoice in! The centre of our work is not in question, only how we structure the space around the church. (A congregational meeting later this autumn will allow us all to consider the future options.) This can be an image for us as Christian community - as it was for the people of Israel who were told to first build God`s temple, then see about the housing of the community for it`s social needs. If we get it right with the home for the sacraments, then all else will fall into place. If the sacraments themselves occupy their rightful central place in our lives, then we will be able to structure the rest of our lives as we can. We can trust that the details will work out according to "Thy will be done". And of course God gives us minds, hearts and hands to be active in the world. He also gives us freedom. So let us be inspired this Michaelmas time to listen to the voice of higher worlds - and to freely forge our way in the spirit of Micha-el in the service of Christ.

Warm September greetings,

Peter
with Lucienne