

The Christian Community in Forest Row

Programme for December, 2022– February, 2023



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Dear Congregation,

The first time we meet Mary in the Gospels, it is Springtime and she is listening.

Deeply harkening with some fear, to a spiritual being, an Archangel who has a message about her task and her destiny.

The first sentence that we hear Mary speak is a question about her task, tinged with a little doubt.

She hears the Archangel's response and the second sentence she speaks is an affirmation of the given task, saying in other words; "Yes, so be it".

The annunciation now begun, Mary is on the path being transformed by the Holy Spirit, by the spiritual world;

"He came O so still, to his mother's bower,
As due in April, that falleth on the flower.."

(Words of a 15th Century Carol)

Mary's powers of speech are soon woven strongly with the Holy Spirit and have great effect.

When she arrives at the home of Elizabeth, she calls out to her and her voice makes the baby John leap in Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth is inspired to prophecy and she experiences Christ. Mary listens and responds in an equally inspired song of praise

Mary's journey can become a pathway for us as we seek the closeness of the Divine through Advent. A path of listening, questioning, contemplating throughout the weeks and responding in myriad ways: quiet winter walks, prayer, creative activities, helping others. These can lead to our feeling changed by the deepening spiritual atmosphere of Advent, which brings us tasks and joy. These stages are also enlivening and healing for our social encounters, which can take on an extra glow during Advent and most especially in the Holy Nights. We can have the feeling that the angels are listening deeply to conversations where there has been previous discord and that

they work to pour grace over the conversing pair.

Within Mary's Annunciation we can find the four stages which we follow in The Act of Consecration of Man. We begin by listening to the message of the angels with the epistles and Gospel reading; we respond and say "yes, so be it"—our affirmation to God. Then we offer up who we are and what we have done. In the Transubstantiation we can feel changed by the deep stillness, warmth and love of God and in the Communion we receive the gifts of bread, wine and peace and respond with quiet praise, gratitude and joy.

We hope that the events in this programme, which goes from Advent to Passiontide, will nourish and inspire you. Alongside the many outer tasks that can occupy us at Christmas, we wish you well in the task of bringing forth Christ within. We hope that Christmas will refresh and renew us so that we can look towards Epiphany together with fresh light and wisdom for the New Year, then and onwards into Passiontide and the Spring glow of Easter resurrection.

~ Selina Horn

with greetings too from Tom Ravetz and Natalia Shatna

Thou Earth has borne up
The footsteps of Mary
Journeying patiently
Southwards to Bethlehem;
And the Earth bears us
Today in our travail,
That we may bring forth
Christ in our Spirit.

Adam Bittleston

Services

The Act of Consecration of Man

Sundays at 10am, Thursdays and Fridays at 9am

Die Menschenweihehandlung (Act of Consecration of Man in German) is celebrated on the last Saturday of the month at 9am

On Christmas Day, the Act of Consecration of Man will be celebrated at midnight, 8am and 10am

From 25th December until 6th January, the Act of Consecration of Man will be celebrated daily at 10am (on 31st December in German and on 2nd January in Ukrainian)

First Saturday of the month

6pm Evening Service for those who have died

Sunday Service for Children with a Story 11.10am for 11.15am start. 27th November, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th December. Then fortnightly: 8th, 22nd January; 5th, 19th February; 5th, 19th March

Other regular events

Thursdays 3.45pm - 5.15pm Skylarks Children's Group

17th Nov, 1st Dec, 15th Dec, 12th Jan, 26th Jan, 9th Feb; 9th, 23rd March

Sundays 9.15- 9.30am 4th Dec, 8th Jan, 5th Feb, 5th March, 2nd April

Little One's Gatherings

for pre-school children with songs, story and a prayer

Tuesdays 10.30am

Discussion Group (until 13th December, starting again 10th January)

Thursdays

fortnightly at 4pm Skylarks Group (fortnightly, from 20th January)

7pm Choir

8pm Gospel Study Group (until 16th December, from 13th January)

First Saturday of the month at 4.30pm

Reading Group for those who have died

Fridays, 3.45pm

Confirmation Class (until 16th December, from 21st January)

Diary

Saturday, 26th November at 7.30pm

His presence in our present

Evening Service to prepare for Advent with a sermon by Tom Ravetz

Advent

Sunday, 27th November at 4pm

Advent Spiral

Sunday, 4th December

11.30am The Blue of Advent

Colour Observation with Pearl Goodwin

4pm Grundy's Treasure

Advent story, puppet show performed by The Elfin Grove

Thursday, 15th December, 4.30pm

Christmas Carol concert given by violin students of Angela Campbell.

Saturday, 17th December, 10am –12pm

Preparing the Church for Christmas

Sunday, 18th December, 11.30am

Carol Singing with Katharina Baiter

Saturday, 24th December at 2pm and 3.30pm

Christmas Play

Please bring your lantern to carry the heavenly light home!

Holy Nights

25th December from 11.30am

Carol Singing round the Christmas Tree

Holy Nights Workshop

Christ gives me my humanity (Rudolf Steiner)

Talks and conversation on the four Christmas Prayers 11.15am-12.30pm

Tuesday, 27th December

The Prayer that Frees the Soul

Selina Horn

Wednesday, 28th December

Purified by the Word

Tom Ravetz

Thursday, 29th December

The path of seeing and knowing - awakening to freedom

Nataliia Shatna

Friday, 30th December

Seeing is believing

Pearl Goodwin

Saturday, 31st December at 6pm

At the still point of the turning world (T.S. Eliot)

Evening Service for the New Year with Sermon by Nataliia Shatna

followed by

Gathering for New Year's Eve with bring and share supper, to end by 9pm

Sunday, 1st January, 11.30am

The Dream Song of Olav Åsteson

Sung by Simon Blaxland de Lange with an Introduction by Pearl Goodwin

Epiphany

6th January

10am The Act of Consecration of Man for Epiphany

4pm **Three Kings' Play**

8th January at 11.30am

'Windows into the soul'

A journey into the icon of 'Loving Kindness' with
Iconographer Francesca Whiteside and music on baroque Viola by
Marc Elton

22nd January at 11.30am

'Epiphany'

Contributions and Conversation with Nataliia Shatna

Saturday, 28th January, 3pm

If music be the food of Love

Shakespeare in song

Afternoon recital with Katharina Baiter (Soprano) & Rhyll Godber (Piano)

Sunday, 5th February at 11.30am

Members' Meeting

Saturday, 18th February, 10am-12pm

House and Garden Morning

Sunday, 19th February

11.30am The self-emptying of Christ

Talk by Tom Ravetz

4pm Concert by Trio Tier-3

Programme to be announced

Saturday, 25th February, 10-11.30am

The Altar– a place to serve with Christ

Servers' Meeting

Friday, 3rd March at 7.30pm

The Suffering Servant

Depictions of Christ in Art

Illustrated Talk by Deborah Ravetz

Sunday 5th March 11.30am –2pm

Annual Congregational Meeting

With conversation, reports from the Congregational Council and Finance Group and a bring and share lunch

Saturday, 25th March, 10am-12pm

House and Garden Morning

Sunday, 26th March, 11.30am

Experiencing the Colours of the Festivals

Workshop with Angela Lord and Nataliia Shatna

Absences

Nataliia will be in Canterbury:

11/12/22; 26/12/22; 15/1/23; 12/2/23; 12/3/23

Tom will be in Ringwood: 3/12/22; 28/1/23; 18/3/23

Nataliia will be attending a further training course 13-21/3/23

The British Synod will take place in Edinburgh, 6-9/3/23

Nataliia will be on leave 9th-16th January. Tom will be on leave 16-23/ January. Selina will be on leave 17/1/23-3/2/23

Gospel Readings

Sunday, November 27 and
the following 3 Sundays ... Luke 21:25-36
Sunday, December 25
Midnight ... Matthew 1:1-25
8am ... Luke 2:1-20
10am ... John 21:15-25 and thereafter

Epiphany

Friday, January 6 ... Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, January 8 ... Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, January 15 ... Luke 2:41-52
Sunday, January 22 ... John 2:1-11
Sunday, January 29 ... John 5:1-16
Sunday, February 5 ... Matthew 20:1-16
Sunday, February 12 ... Luke 8: 4-18
Sunday, February 19 ... Luke 18:18-34
Sunday, February 26 ... Matthew 4:1-11
Sunday, March 5 ... Matthew 17:1-13

Passiontide

Sunday, March 12 ... Luke 11:14-36
Sunday, March 19 ... John 6:1-15
Sunday, March 26 ... John 8:1-12

The Christian Community exists through the generous donations of its members and friends. If you would like to make a one-off donation or a standing order, our account details are below. If you are a UK taxpayer, please ask us for a Gift Aid form.

Account name: The Christian Community in Forest Row.
Account Number: 00012363 | Sort Code 30-92-92

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