

# The Christian Community

Movement for Religious  
Renewal

Fountain House  
21 Napier Rd  
Edinburgh EH10 5AZ

Tel: (0131) 229 4514

ReligiousRenewalEdinburgh@gmx.com

*February 2023*

## Edinburgh Congregation Newsletter

Dear Congregation,

The new year always begins under the motif of the star. The star of Bethlehem that shone for the three kings on their way and becomes a guide on the way for us as we embark on a new stretch of our individual and communal journeys. Can we believe that we all have a star over our birth and destiny? Can we remember to maintain an interest in and enthusiasm for watching for this guiding star? Can we learn ever more to trust in the wise directing of destiny that brings events, people and spirits into our lives that help, support, challenge and teach us? May we find the inner peace of heart and warm joy in realising that all that comes towards us comes from 'a world direction full of wisdom' as Rudolf Steiner once wrote in an encouraging verse. This higher world direction turns out to be rather closely related to our own higher self and thus we can truly find peace, comfort and joy in starting each new year, each day, with equanimity and courage.

The world is changing and many of us are facing personal challenges in our lives. We send good thoughts and strong prayers of light and love to those in our congregation who are struggling. The increased cost of living, issues of advancing years and soul distress of all kinds as well as other challenges are all to be found. May we find ways of supporting and encouraging one another as true 'philadelphian' Christians!

On a very practical note, there will soon be two new handrails on the church steps to assist those whose legs need support. This is a step towards easier access to Fountain House which, with the new church and community rooms, will include wheelchair access. There will be an important update on the new plans at our Congregational Meeting on March 5, which everyone is encouraged to attend, if you can.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the release from prison of Nelson Mandela in 1990 inspired me to prepare a talk on the theme of this remarkable man's life, character and achievements, which I shall share on 12 February.

Lucienne will be spending quite a few weekends here in the next couple of months and she will offer a number of interesting talks and themes. For her Saturday course on the Second Coming, please see separate email. One speaker she has organised will be on Friday evening, 24 February. Rosemary Innes' theme is the effects of electromagnetic frequencies (EMF) radiation on people's health. Rosemary is a holistic consultant who has studied and worked to create solutions to challenges to these exposure, which she herself suffered from. She will share from her 20 years of experience and research in this field. A follow-up session will be offered on the Saturday morning where people can participate in energy field measuring exercises using traditional dowsing rods to discover if their individual energetic system is affected by mobile phones.

On 19 February Lucienne will summarise a special talk that was given by Matthijs van Alstein at the Logos Conference in Dortmund last year, 'The Promise of the Unfinished'.

Looking back to Advent last year (i.e. last month!) there are two matters that deserve a mention, both concerning the under-rated and often unsung skill of crafts.

The first is to say a big Thank you! to Anna Cardwell and Ines Sprung who spent hours, nay weeks, designing and creating beautiful craft items for our Advent Craft Market. They were then on duty to serve the many happy customers who left very satisfied with lovely Christmas gifts, cards and cookies (the latter made by Anna's daughters Marlise and Rosalyn). This initiative raised over £400 for church funds! Thank you also to all who supported this by making purchases. We will definitely repeat the market next Advent!

The second thing is to express gratitude to Catrina Valentien and Anna Cardwell for leading the craft evenings on Fridays in December. There was always a busy, cheerful atmosphere and we had much fun as well as satisfaction in what we discovered we could create! There will be further craft evenings between now and Easter, starting this Friday at 7pm. See Programme for dates.

There were several small work parties in the garden before Christmas to tackle some of the garden jobs that seemed most pressing. These will continue as winter recedes and we hope very much that as many as possible will be willing to help now and again. It is especially vital now that members and friends help out in our garden as we have had to drastically reduce the hours that Tatjana Krebs puts in due to a very tight budget this year. Please listen out for dates of work parties.

Finally, you will see from the Programme that Edinburgh will be hosting the Regional Synod this Spring, in the second week of March. This will be the first time in quite a few years that all the priests have gathered at Fountain House; there will be some 18 this year. A big thank you to those who are helping with accommodation, meals and refreshments, lifts and other logistics for this important event.

With warm greetings,

Peter and Lucienne

## Extra and important message from Lucienne:

*In the midst of a humanity,  
which is full of fearful dreams and wondering,  
what is to come,  
we want to be a silent crowd,  
that knows what is coming.  
For it knows: Who is coming.  
And when He is coming,  
let all else come quietly too.*

This is a quotation from Emil Bock. In a few sentences it gives the atmosphere of the second coming of Christ. Sometimes we need to be silent and on our own and realize what is coming, who is coming, but sometimes we need to be active, forming thoughts about His coming and exchange these thoughts and experiences with others.

As I already announced in the last newsletter, I will organize a monthly course and go on a journey together and search for experiences and insights. With the guidance of the articles written by Hans Werner Schroeder, *The Second Coming of Christ*, we can hopefully make some steps forward.

It is envisaged to meet once a month on a **Saturday from 4 - 5.15pm** at the church. We will end each study with a Close of Day service at the altar. I will provide the text which we will study.

**Please let me know** by email: [lucienne@tcc-mrr.co.uk](mailto:lucienne@tcc-mrr.co.uk), if you would like to join.