



The Christian Community in Forest Row
Programme for June - November, 2023

Hartfield Road / School Lane Forest Row RH18 5DZ
tinyurl.com/CCFR-Home

There is only one problem, only one, to rediscover that there is a life of the spirit, even higher than the life of intelligence, the only life that satisfies human being.
Antoine de Saint-Exupery, 1943

Dear Congregation,

Are we able to perceive “the most important things”? What are they?

In his book *The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint-Exupery shows us how grownups are unable to perceive these “most important things”. On each of six planets that the Little Prince visits, he meets an adult with a particular way of doing things and looking at them. For example, on one planet there is a king, who spends his time giving orders to be followed: he commands the sun to set at sunset. On another planet there is a geographer who has never been anywhere but who knows everything there is to know about the world. On yet another planet there lives a business man who counts the stars and lays claim to them, not seeing their beauty, because he is only interested in business. Each of these adults lives on his own planet, entirely absorbed in his own world, and lacking anyone to give him reflection. The Little Prince goes from one planet to another, looking at what these personalities are doing and trying to understand them and to meet them where they are.

But the Little Prince's encounters don't end there. He soon meets a wise fox who imparts a valuable lesson: The most important things, “can only be seen with the heart, not the eyes.” Through their unique bond, the Little Prince discovers the true nature of love and care. This revelation prompts him to recognize the importance of relationships—with others, with nature, and within ourselves. It is through these connections that we grow, learn, and become more fully human. He comes to understand that it was his love for a rose on his home planet that made the rose special to him, and this relationship brings in turn a responsibility.

The realisation of what love means comes about through the Prince's encounters with others. When we open ourselves to different perspectives and acknowledge the unique gifts and talents of those around us, we embark on a path of personal growth and discovery. This inward journey transforms us, allowing us to appreciate the beauty in both the outer and inner worlds. It

empowers us to become active participants in co-creating a better world—one filled with compassion, kindness, and harmony. It also brings a responsibility: the responsibility to care for and maintain our relationships.

All of this bears on the theme of our Michaelmas conference, **Artificial Intelligence and the Quest for the Truly Human**. We are delighted that Jeremy Naydler will join us for the Michaelmas weekend, where we will turn to the theme of intelligence. Jeremy is the author of *In the Shadow of the Machine: The Prehistory of the Computer and the Evolution of Consciousness*, *The Struggle for a Human Future: 5G, Augmented Reality and the Internet of Things*, amongst many other books. In the Middle Ages the angels were called intelligences, because human beings knew that we had something in common with the guiding powers of the world. Now the headlines are full of Artificial Intelligence, but how does this relate to spiritual intelligence, which has long been understood as definitive of human nature?

We are glad to announce a new weekly Gospel Study group on **Christ Landscapes**, which will be lead by Selina Horn. This will run for eight weeks on Friday afternoon at 3pm, starting on 6th October.

The British Priests' Synod will be held in Forest Row from Monday, 23rd - Thursday, 26th October. We would be grateful for any offers of accommodation for our colleagues!

In our last programme we included a financial appeal along with our financial forecast for the year. We are glad to be able to tell you that there have been a number of generous responses to the appeal. This, together with some expenditure that was lower than expected, means that our deficit is likely to be smaller than we thought in March. Nevertheless, we are grateful for every new donor, and ever increased donation.

With very best wishes for the summer months,

Selina Horn, Tom Ravetz and Nataliia Shatna

Services

The Act of Consecration of Man

Sundays at 10am, Thursdays and Fridays at 9am

No Friday service in July and August. No weekday services due to the synod, 26th & 27th October.

First Saturday of the month: Evening Service for those who have died, 6pm (not in July and August). On 2nd December: 7.30pm.

Sunday Service for Children with a Story 11.10am for 11.15am - 11th and 25th June, 9th July, 10th and 24th September, 8th and 22nd October, 5th and 19th November, 3rd, 17th and 25th December

Other regular events

Sundays, 9.15-9.30am

Little Ones' Gathering for pre-school children with songs, story and prayers. 4th June, 2nd July, 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November, 3rd December

Tuesdays 10.30am

Conversation group
(Coffee and Tea from 10am)

Thursdays

Fortnightly at 4pm Skylarks Group

8th and 22nd June, 6th July, 14th and 28th September, 12th October, 2nd, 16th and 30th November, 14th December

7pm Choir

8pm Experiencing Christ in the cycle of the year.

Study group on the seasonal prayers in the Act of Consecration of Man.

Fridays

3pm 'Christ Landscapes' – Gospel Study with Selina Horn
(starts 6th of October for 8 weeks)

3.45pm Confirmation class (from 29th September)

Programme

Saint John's Tide

Saturday, 24th June

10am The Act of Consecration of Man for Saint John's

Sunday, 25th June 11.30am

St John's festival for all in the garden

Sunday, 2nd July 11.30am

The One who bears the Father-Spirit

Talk by Tom Ravetz

Sunday, 16th July 11.30am

Artistic Gathering with poetic and musical contributions for
St John's and Summertime

Sunday, 30th July, 11.30am

The Path from St John's Tide to Michaelmas I

Selina Horn

Friday, 11th August

7.30pm **A colourful summer bouquet**

Concert for voice and piano

Works by J.S.Bach, Franz Schubert, Benjamin Britten, George Enescu and
others. Sung and played by Christina Popa-van Grootel
and Evert van Grootel

Sunday, 13th August 11.30am

Christ Landscapes– Gospel events at mountain, lake and grove

Selina Horn

Sunday, 27th August, 11.30am

The Path from St John's Tide to Michaelmas II

Tom Ravetz

Sunday, 3rd September

Christian Community Worldwide Encounter Initiative

Presentation by Herbert Warmbrunn from Cologne

Saturday, 9th September, 10am-12pm

House and garden morning

Sunday, 10th September 11.30am

Photo report from Youth Group on their summer trip to Spain

Saturday 23rd September, 10am-12pm

Open congregational meeting

Sunday, 24th September, 11.30am

Threshold moments in life: Confirmation

Presentation and sharing of experiences
parents, confirmands and congregation welcome!

Michaelmas

Friday, 29th September

10am The Act of Consecration of Man for Michaelmas

Saturday, 29th September - Sunday, 1st October

Michaelmas Conference with Jeremy Naydler

Artificial Intelligence and the Quest for the Truly Human

The opening talk on the conference theme by Jeremy Naydler will be held on Friday, 29th September at 7.30pm. The programme for Saturday, 30th September will be announced nearer the time

Sunday, 1st of October, 11.30am

The image of the human being

Talk by Tom Ravetz

Friday, 6th October, 3pm for 8 weeks

‘Christ Landscapes’ – Gospel Study with Selina Horn

Saturday, 7th October

Michaelmas Fair 12-3pm

Sunday, 15th October, 11.30am

Artistic Gathering - poetic and musical contributions
for Michaelmas and Autumn

Saturday, 21st October, 10am-noon

House and garden morning

Monday, 23rd - Thursday, 26th October

British Priests' Synod (no services on Thursday and Friday)

Sunday, 29th October

Celtic Christianity and its connection to The Christian Community

Talk by Nataliia Shatna

Saturday 4th November, 6pm

Gathering to remember those who have died with evening service

Sunday, 5th November

11.30am Members' meeting

Saturday, 18th November

House and garden morning

Sunday, 19th November

11.30am **The Life of the Essenes**

Talk by Selina Horn

Saturday, 2nd December, 7.30pm

Our souls, united with the souls of the dead, will be lifted up as if on clouds to meet Christ in an airy realm of soul. (I Thessalonians, 4:17)

Evening service to prepare for Advent

Absences

Nataliia will on a youth trip 14-20th of July, at the Children's camp 21st of July-2nd August, and on annual leave 3rd of August-2nd September .

Nataliia will be in Canterbury 8-9th July, 16-17th September, 14-15th October, 25th-26th November

Tom will be on leave 3rd-22nd July and in Ringwood 30th June-1st July, 8th-9th September , 3rd-4th November and 8th-9th December. He will be at the International Lenkers' Conference 18th-23rd September.

Gospel Readings

St. John's Tide

Saturday, June 24 ... Mark 1:1-11
June 25 ... Mark 1:1-11
July 2 ... John 3:22-36
July 9 ... Luke 3:7-17
July 16 ... Luke 7:18-28

July 23 ... Mark 8:27-38
July 30 ... Matthew 7:1-14
August 6 ... Luke 15:11-32
August 13 ... Luke 9:1-17
August 20 ... Luke 18:35-43
August 27 ... Mark 7:31-37
September 3 ... Luke 10:1-20
September 10 ... Luke 17:5-24

September 17 ... Matthew 6:19-34

September 24 ... Luke 7:11-17

Michaelmas

Fri, Sept 29 ... Matthew 22:1-14
Oct 1 ... Matthew 22:1-14
Oct 8 ... Revelation 3:1-6
Oct 15 ... Revelation 12:1-12
Oct 22 ... Revelation 19:11-16

Oct 29 ... Ephesians. 6:10-20
Nov 5 ... Revelation 4:1-11
Nov 12 ... Revelation 19:1-10
Nov 19 ... Revelation 21:9-27
Nov 26 Revelation 22:12-21

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 or download one here:

Account name: The Christian Community in Forest Row.

Account Number: 00012363 | Sort Code 30-92-92

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Cover picture: Flowers and Clouds by Emil Nolde