

# Artificial Intelligence and the Quest for the Truly Human

Weekend Conference for Michaelmas with Jeremy Naydler  
Friday, 29th September-Sunday, 1st October, 2023



Keynote lecture by Jeremy Naydler on Friday, 29th September at 7.30pm  
Artistic and discussion groups on 30th September  
concluding talk with conversation on 1st October at 11.30am.

**The Christian Community**

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Kandinsky, Milieu Jaune

*Friday, 29th September, 7.30pm*  
**Artificial Intelligence and the Quest for the Truly Human**  
Talk by Jeremy Naydler

*Saturday 30th September*  
*9am* The Act of Consecration of Man

*10-10.30am*  
Echo of the lecture with presentation and questions

Coffee break

*11am-12.30pm*  
Artistic and Discussion groups

**Machine intelligence and human intelligence**  
*with* Jeremy Naydler

**Staying close to the Divine in prayer**  
Exploring ways to cultivate a deeper prayer life, at home and at church *with* Selina Horn

**Bringing thoughts to life**  
*with* Tom Ravetz

Other groups will be publicised nearer the time and will include singing and other artistic activities.

There will be the opportunity to meet for a conversation with Jeremy in the afternoon. We will take a sounding at the end of the morning to see if there is interest.

*Sunday 2nd October*  
*10am* The Act of Consecration of Man  
*11am* Coffee break  
*11.30am* 'I lead you to higher divining' – Michael's call today  
– Talk by Tom Ravetz  
followed by conversation  
*1pm* Close

Donations requested to cover costs  
If you are a regular donor to The Christian Community in Forest Row, we suggest £10 for the evening lecture and £20 for the whole weekend.  
If you are not a regular donor, we suggest £15 for the lecture and

Last year, ChatGPT, a ‘chatbot’ that uses natural language processing to create humanlike conversational dialogue, was released. Since then, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been in the news. However, its roots are far older than this, and its effects are already all around us. It is easy to see that another wave of disruption of long-established working practices and assumptions is on its way. Meanwhile, beyond its practical, social and economic challenges and possible benefits, AI challenges us to deepen our understanding of what it means to be human.

In the Michaelmas Epistle in the Act of Consecration of Man, we hear Michael’s to develop a new kind of thinking that can encompass the reality of Christ’s deed. Around the same time as he received these words for our prayer, Rudolf Steiner wrote an extended meditation on Michael’s role as the guardian of the ‘cosmic intelligence’. As this intelligence is entrusted to human beings, it treads a path of suffering, becoming divorced from its spiritual origin and being reduced to materialistic, mechanistic thinking. Michael follows this path and wishes to become the inspirer of a new kind of intelligence, which can encompass spiritual reality once more, but without sacrificing human freedom. This intelligence is not intellectual or speculative: it involves the whole human being: head, heart and hands. We experience its fruits most strongly when we are creative, whether that be in thinking, in artistic expression, or in community life, and when we pray – that is, when we fill our thoughts with a substance that connects them to the higher world.

This intelligence is hinted at in our Act of Consecration of Man, when it tells us to take Christ’s deed into our thinking, and allow it to ‘think in us’.

In a world where the ‘intelligence’ of machines is going to become ever-more pervasive, it will be all the more important to develop this new intelligence, not to combat the machines but to place a counterbalance in the world.

We hope that this weekend conference will help us to understand the challenges of AI and empower us to make our own contribution in the struggle for the truly human.

We are delighted that Jeremy Naydler will be joining us. 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.

**Recommended reading:**

Rudolf Steiner: At the Dawn of the Michael Age, from Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts. See <https://tinyurl.com/LeadgThght-1>

For information about The Christian Community, to see our online diary and to sign up for our weekly update, visit <https://tinyurl.com/CCINFR23>

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