

with untiring energy and fire of enthusiasm. He even ran a year-long course on listening and new avenues for finding spirit and wholeness in music, through singing intervals, listening for overtones, working with cosmic pitch in nature and with the qualities of planetary scales. Julian composed extensively in planetary modes and scales.

He also led memorable study-groups in anthroposophy and began a most intriguing lecturing activity in music, particularly on the evolution of consciousness through music; and later mostly as introductory lecture-courses on Rudolf Steiner's life and work.

Julian's life spanned from England to Norway, finally landing in New Zealand, where his work unfolded and expanded in many directions of service and creativity. Julian was always eager to learn in all areas of life. Throughout his life he nurtured process with diligence and humility, reaching everywhere new horizons. *Astrid Pook*

WORKING WITH JULIAN POOK A PERSONAL RECOLLECTION

The first meeting was at a Christian Community Youth Conference held in an ex-ranger's cottage in the hills of Radnorshire. The invitation mentioned: 'Bring you instruments!' Was this during my last year at school just before that seminal year in the late 'sixties? I took my cello, wondering whether Grade 4 was sufficient. Julian met me, his face beaming. He was intent to get the few of us who could play a little to rehearse immediately. The improvised chapel was in an ancient stone hut with a beaten earth floor; we felt like the early Christians. I must have contributed simple bass lines Julian had written for some pieces for melody instruments. Julian appeared as an enthusiastic, very proficient recorder and oboe player, whose patience and encouragement were boundless. Like all great musicians, he wore his musicianship lightly. Only later, when I met another oboist—a fellow student of Julian's—did I realise just how highly regarded he was in the profession. 'Oh, I am not in his league!', she said.

My initial meeting clearly shows Julian's educational flair. Later in London I witnessed how Julian was respected by other professional musicians when we met with Dr Heidenreich for musicians' conferences in The Christian Community, London—there was also one in Edin-

burgh. Later he came to live with me in our family house in Bristol during the transition from his time with the BBC Training Orchestra to his taking up the task of running a music department at Emerson College. As a student there myself, I learnt how his enthusiasm could rub off when we sang in the choir. For the annual art trip to Italy, he insisted we take choral 'offerings' to the various churches and museums, to return something to the venue rather than behave as gawking tourists.

In Bristol we gathered what we could of music written for the services of The Christian Community. The tradition of improvising needed supplementing, we felt. So the idea came to contribute compositions to fill the gaps. Here a fruitful collaboration ensued, for which I am eternally grateful. Before Julian got down to his own piano cycle of 'easy pieces' for the Service, he took priority time to tidy my scribbles, making some sense out of a beginner's efforts. When Julian moved to Norway, the postal service enabled a number of congregational songs and children's' songs to receive the necessary revisions. He called it 'improving the musical grammar and syntax'. The tuition that I had missed in my formative early years was richly compensated by his patience and musical expertise. Without this I could not have tidied up the music for eurythmy exercises and written incidental music for fairytales, nor continue to provide some basis for Service Music of The Christian Community.

It is largely through Julian's example that I learnt to appreciate the musician's life as a spiritual discipline. The pursuit of music went hand in hand with artistic appreciation and social awareness. Julian's literary aptitude, for example, came to flower in many ways in New Zealand, where he also became a Class Reader. A life-long task was to translate Steiner's 'The Soul's Calendar'; he also lectured on Steiner's poetry. He was most appreciative when the touring eurythmy programme 'Water Islands' arrived in the Antipodes (2010). Gratitude arose for what he had contributed all those years ago—together, I must admit, with some regrets that it had to be curtailed for practical reasons. An eternal bond exists with a rare human being, someone clearly a little different yet certainly in no way aloof from ourselves, from whom we have received untold spiritual guidance. *Alan Stott*

Newsletter

No. 67—Christmas 2021

LENKER'S LETTER

As was described in a letter to the congregations, we will be making a major change in the translation of the ritual texts from first Sunday in Advent, 28th November, 2021. In addition to changing all the instances of Thee, Thou, Thy and Thine to You and Your, we will also change 'yea' to 'yes'.

We were aware as we discussed making these changes that for some members they will come as something long overdue, whilst others would rather that we had not made them. In two rounds of consultation, one in 2018–2019 and one this year, we have sounded out the congregations on questions relating to this change. It was useful to hear what had been discussed in the congregations when we worked on the translations at the synod.

The international leadership has given it over to each of the English-speaking regions to work on the translations as they see right for their local area, recognising that there are differences in the way words are used and understood within the English-speaking world. However, the lenkers are agreed that it would be desirable to have a unified version for the whole English-speaking world. Although this was not a motivation for making the changes that we are undertaking, we are glad that regarding this very major difference, the British English version is now in harmony with the other three English-speaking regions (North America, South Africa and Australia–New Zealand).

Tom Ravetz

LETTER FROM THE ERZOBERLENKER

I would like to send you my warmest greetings this Michaelmas. In June of this year, I took over the role of Erzoberlenker. In that sense, these greetings can be understood as those of the new Erzoberlenker. That is true on a certain level. But that is not at all the level on which I want to have a relationship with you. I send you my greetings from person to person in the hope that the necessary hierarchy of the priesthood in which I stand will not affect our relationships in any way. And I live in the conviction that it is the goal of all of us to find a religious life out of the self and to cultivate relationships from 'I' to 'I'.

We are in the Michaelmas season. In the course of the festive cycle it lasts a good four weeks. But in our everyday life we are permanently living in a Michaelmas time that is marked by the confrontation between the forc-

es and impulses that want to improve the quality of the humane in the world and, the forces and impulses that want to destroy precisely this and turn the earth into a realm of the inhuman. These confrontations are necessary so that each one of us, each moment anew, can decide in freedom—hopefully for the humane.

Our times demand much courage of us. Today, courage means having the strength not to conform to the mainstream, nor to always oppose it in principle, but to decide individually, according to the situation, out of one's own moral feeling, and to take responsibility for this decision. That is the courage we need, it is the strength that Michael wants to give us. But there is a spiritual law that can seem contradictory at first. The German language gives us a hint of this wisdom. Today we must receive courage through humility (Mut durch Demut), through humility in our thinking. We

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all strive for truth. In our thinking we are often convinced that we have the truth. But the conviction of possessing the truth is in fact arrogance, it is what leads us to fixed ideas, to radicalism and to social chaos. This applies to our everyday life, but also to our work within our Christian Community.

We need courage to continue to build a movement for religious renewal in the world. For this we need to talk to each other, sometimes wrestle, in order to find common impulses of will. But we will only succeed if

ANNUAL REPORT 2020–2021 OF THE CONGREGATION OF ILKESTON

Services have continued whenever permitted on a two-weekly basis with Erhard Keller visiting from Stourbridge. Due to the restrictions some had to occur without a congregation. In the last few months two services were held each time due to the limited numbers allowed in the small chapel. We are now returning to 'normal'. As for everyone in current times, deep questions arise, such as what do we mean by 'normal'? Although outer activities have been limited the generosity of our small congregation has meant that financially we have coped. Particular thanks are due to Daniel Bryant and Shirley Challis for looking after Malin House, our building.

Other outer events have also affected us, most notably the closure of Michael House Steiner School nearby after over 80 years. This has brought new people to the congregation, and for a while some home schooling at Malin House. We performed (Dec 2019) the Oberufer Shepherds' play at a local church using costumes saved from the school. Michael House singers now rent a room here Friday morning (currently just restarting but in a local park). On the other hand, Brexit has meant that some people have felt the need to return home to Europe. We wish them well.

Special mention must be made of Liz Ross who crossed the threshold in January 2019. A former head nurse and magistrate, Liz was a pillar of the Ilkeston congregation for many, many years. Someone with down-to-earth Ilkeston qualities. Even beyond death her generous legacy has helped us for example in double-glazing all the windows in Malin House, and also helped The Christian Community na-

each of us strives for humility in our thinking. If each of us strives to overcome pride in our own thinking. If each of us strives to understand the other's thoughts with humility. This is the Christian way in our present time: with humility in our thinking to want to understand the thoughts of the other. From this can arise the Michaelic courage that leads us to work courageously and peacefully in the world out of a common will.

Yours sincerely

João F. Torunsky

tionally. I would also like to mention Marga Henshaw who crossed the threshold in January this year. Marga was a very loyal, long-standing member, also of the local Anthroposophical Society. We celebrated her life with a memorial gathering at Weleda.

As a sign of activities picking up, we had an enjoyable St. Johns fire celebration after the service, at Jo Bradley's Hungary Lane biodynamic farm with plenty to eat and lots of singing around the fire.

The congregation has started to prepare the Oberufer Shepherd's play for a performance again at the local Anglican church—at their request, as they had enjoyed the performance two years ago.

Paul Langston

The **Annual Community Meeting** will take place in **Forest Row, June 10–12, 2022**. We will mark **100 years since the founding of The Christian Community**. Further details will be announced in the new year.

'LET US SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG'

About midnight Paul and Silas in prison were praying and singing hymns, and the prisoners were listening to them. Even after the earthquake they remained. This act gained for the infant church a convert, the jailer, who would otherwise have ended his life, fearing the prisoners had escaped ...

A well-known story (Acts 16), that today has acquired a global context. Eight musicians and some music lovers from the south west met on

September 11 in Stroud, to begin to share what we actually do and to begin searching for the next step. A service opened the day with music contributed by those from Stourbridge (flute and piano). Rev Aaron Mirkin then led us through the service as a musical pathway, emphasising the spiritual journey, as far as the 'marriage feast with the Lamb' (if one may summarise with words from John's Apocalyptic vision).

To begin our mutual exchange, Alan introduced a Celtic-inspired hymn by local composer Tim Porter. The passing this year of Ian Houston and Julian Pook, who have contributed much over the years, was brought to our notice. We heard some original cello music from Joris Boon and some violin music from Lorenz Stolzenbach played by Christopher Hudson. We sang several Michaelmas songs, also some

children's songs by Susanne Steffen, even trying out various keys to discover the differences. We agreed the original key was indeed the right choice. A chant was sung and we were encouraged to improvise some unsynchronised phrasing, yet meeting at cadence points. It sounded grand in the new church acoustics. The Stroud members had rustled a super buffet lunch. After lunch we 'tuned in' to some engaging eurhythmy with Maren Stott.

After further reporting and sharing at this initial meeting, the wish was expressed to continue in the near future with further meeting. We hoped that those who, for whatever reason were unable to take part this time, would be encouraged to attend a following meeting to stimulate worthy music for the renewed sacraments.

Alan Stott, Stourbridge

JULIAN POOK—A LIFE IN THE ARTS 10.05.1943–30.06.2021

Julian was a scrupulous musician, loyal to his calling, who unconditionally shared his gifts as he tried to fulfil every request with which life faced him, frequently beyond expectation. He was an ace oboist, recorder player and an accomplished pianist. In composition he wrestled for the truth of what he inwardly heard, bringing beauty to expression, allowing healing to take place. With goodness of heart, disappointment and deep sadness were carried with dignity and humility, enabling him to leave this Earth in unutterable sweetness and peace of soul.

The wisdom he gathered from single-minded pursuit of his goals he was able to share with the people with whom he was closely associated and with whom he worked, even reaching the wider, world-wide community, including communion with those who have died.

His father gave him music with boundless opportunities; his mother humility and kindness. This gave him a remarkable inner strength and peace that filled the world around him.

A unique education at King Edward's School, Birmingham, the Royal College of Music, Lon-



don and the then BBC Training Orchestra, Bristol, determined the direction of his path in life. A special clarity in thinking was fostered, bringing light to the community: in the esoteric work for which he took responsibility with deepest devotion and gratitude; in The Christian Community, his spiritual home, he faithfully played for the services, leaving a rich legacy of music for the sacraments; in the seasonal festivals, which he carried and developed, together with others, for over 25 years.

In translations from the German, his deep connection to the living Word came to light. Through his musical ear Julian was able to capture and render the inner meaning in mantric language as well as poetry and prose. In particular he created a unique version of Rudolf Steiner's *Soul Calendar*. Likewise, the Esoteric Class Lessons and Mantras became a living process in his being.

For many years Julian was the youngest of a special group of tutors at Emerson College, Sussex, where he worked in total freedom, studying, developing and creating in his field