



The Christian Community in Forest Row

Programme for March-June, 2025

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

Dear friends,

The question of truth grows ever more urgent. In the 1970s, thinkers like Derrida and Foucault challenged the idea that truth is purely objective, universal, and independent of its context. They showed how truth is always shaped by power, culture, and language. This shift has been liberating in many ways, encouraging us to question authority and recognize hidden biases. But it can lead to the extreme of relativism: without clear anchors, truth can start to feel slippery, even meaningless. Then every claim to truth carries the same weight, leaving us with no solid ground to stand on.

In our time, we are witnessing a resurgence of rigid ideologies and religious fundamentalism—worldviews that cling to an unchanging truth, often rooted in ancient texts or historical interpretations. The risk here is that truth becomes a weapon—something unquestionable and absolute, used to exclude and condemn rather than invite discussion and discovery. Instead of being dynamic and shaped by dialogue, truth in this sense is imposed from above, leaving little room for growth or participation.

In the gospels, truth is not something rigid or detached; it is lived, shared, and experienced. When Jesus speaks of truth, he is not setting out a philosophical argument. Instead, truth is found in relationship—with him, with the Father, and with the Holy Spirit. We do not define truth; we participate in it.

In the readings after Easter, Jesus invites us into this dynamic, relational truth. In John 14:6, Jesus famously declares, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” This statement is not intended to add to the sum of the things that we know about Jesus. Rather, we might take it as the starting point for a meditation, experiencing through it that our journey towards truth brings us into relationship with the one whose gift is the fullness of life.

Then, in John 16, Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit as the “Spirit of truth” who will guide his followers into all truth. Truth is not just the revelation of finished facts, but an ongoing process, an unfolding that requires participation and openness. Through the Spirit, we come to understand and experience truth in the concrete circumstances of our lives.

In John 17, the high priestly prayer, which we will hear in the Confirmation, Jesus prays for his disciples, asking that they be consecrated by the truth (John 17:17), and that they may be one with the Father and with Jesus. To live in truth is to live in unity — with God and with one another.

This understanding of truth, which we experience through relationships, transformation, and community—offers a way forward in a world seemingly caught between relativism and fundamentalism.

In our **Holy Week Workshop, What is Truth** (13th-17th April), we will explore the truth from a number of different points of view, connected to the days of Holy Week. We hope in this way to reconnect to the wellspring of truth, and by doing this to make a contribution to our polarised world.

We are introducing a new event on **Holy Saturday** (19th April at 4pm) **Out of the Darkness**. We will celebrate the dawning light of Easter with poetry, readings, music and song. Please let us know what you would like to bring.

On **Whitsunday, 8th June**, we will hold a **Conversation in the Whitsun Spirit**. The Society of Friends have been cultivating openness to the Spirit since their origin in the 17th century, when their passionate enthusiasm earned them the name Quakers. Ursula Franklin wrote about Quaker Meeting: 'I have never lost the enjoyment of sitting in silence at the beginning of meeting, knowing that everything can happen, knowing the joy of utmost surprise; feeling that nothing is pre-ordained, nothing is set, all is open. The light can come from all sides.' We invite you to join in creating a vessel that can be open for the Whitsun spirit.

We will be hosting the Council of Management of The Christian Community Trustees on 30th June-1st July, and would be grateful to know who could offer beds for that night.

Tom Ravetz, with greetings too from Nataliia Shatna

Passiontide

Sunday, 23rd March

Reading: Luke 11:14-36

9.10am Children's Service

Gather by 9.10am to start at 9.15am

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am The Sacrament of Last Anointing - the Mystery of Death and new Life

- talk by Nataliia Shatna

Tuesday, 25th March

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 27th March

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 28th March

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 30th March

Reading: John 6:1-15

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am Seeds of Renewal – Rudolf Steiner's Contribution to Theology and the Religious Life

- talk by Tom Ravetz on the occasion of the centenary of Rudolf Steiner's Death

Tuesday, 1st April

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 3rd April

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 4th April

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7.30pm Paul Klee – Artist, Poet, Philosopher
Illustrated talk by Deborah Ravetz

Saturday, 5th April

10am House and Garden morning (until 12pm)

3pm 'Longing and Wonder'

Afternoon Recital with Katharina Baiter (soprano) and Varia Doletskaya (piano). Songs by Dowland, Purcell, Quilter, Rachmanifnoff and others.

4.30pm Reading Group for those who have Died (Chapel of Rest)

6pm Evening Service for those who have Died

Sunday, 6th April

Reading: John 8:1-12

9.10am Children's Service followed by Sowing the Easter Wheat
Gather by 9.10am to start at 9.15am

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am Baptism of Amala Hugo Wurlitzer

Tuesday, 8th April

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 10th April

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 11th April

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Saturday, 12th April

9am Act of Consecration of Man for Graham Holman

10am The Christ-stone (until 5pm)

Day Workshop on the Tourmaline with George Perry and Tom Ravetz. More details on programme at the church

Holy Week

Sunday, 13th April

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.30am The Truth about being Human
- talk by Pearl Goodwin

Monday, 14th April

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.15am The Truth about the Path to the Spirit

Tuesday, 15th April

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.15am The Truth about Religion

Wednesday, 16th April

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.15am The Truth about Service and Devotion

Thursday, 17th April

Reading: Luke 23:13-32

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.15am The truth about love
- 6pm Silent Supper for Maundy Thursday
- 7pm Choir
- 8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 18th April

Reading: John 19:1-15

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 2.30pm Contemplative Service for Good Friday
with music by Arvo Part and Beethoven, sermon and reading
of the seven words from the Cross

Saturday, 19th April

Reading: John 19:16-42

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 4pm Out of the Darkness
A celebration of the dawning light of Easter with poetry,
readings, music and song. Please let us know what you would
like to bring

Easter

Sunday, 20th April

Reading: Mark 16:1-8

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.30am Children's Service followed by a story in the community room for all and Easter egg hunt
- 3pm Baptisms of Matteo Nikolai van Regenmortel-Calvo and Luca van Regenmortel Calvo

Monday, 21st April

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.15am Parzival - an Easter Contemplation
- talk by Revd Nigel Lumsden

Tuesday, 22nd April

- 10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 24th April

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 7pm Choir
- 8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 25th April

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 27th April

Reading: John 20:19-31

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.30am "Did not our hearts burn within us?" (Luke 24)
Invitation to a conversation on qualities of the human heart with Nataliia Shatna

Tuesday, 29th April

- 10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 1st May

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 7pm Choir
- 8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 2nd May

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man Saturday, 3rd May
4.30pm Reading Group for those who have Died (Chapel of Rest)
6pm Evening Service for those who have Died

Sunday, 4th May

Reading: John 10:1-16

- 9.10am Children's Service
Gather by 9.10am to start at 9.15am
10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am Open Congregational Meeting
4pm 'Going Beyond' – A Duo Recital by Miriam Teppich (violin) and Julian Broughton (piano)
Works by Falla, Debussy, Prokofiev, Phibbs, Chopin and others.

Tuesday, 6th May

- 10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 8th May

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 9th May

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 11th May

Reading: John 15:1-27

- 10am The Sacrament of Confirmation
for Orlando Marcus, Neima Ayomide Agunbiade Neal, Amala Hugo Wurlitzer, Maayan Dara Levy, Olivia Gilliam Polydorou, Callum Sam Lidberg, Alma Sofia Anderson, Eva Baggs

Tuesday, 13th May

- 10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 15th May

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 16th May

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Saturday, 17th May

10am House and Garden morning (until 12pm)

Sunday, 18th May

Reading: John 16:1-33

9.10am Children's Service

Gather by 9.10am to start at 9.15am

11.30am First Witnesses of the Resurrected Christ

- talk by Nataliia Shatna

Tuesday, 20th May

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 22nd May

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 23rd May

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 25th May

Reading: John 14:1-31

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am Members' Meeting

Tuesday, 27th May

10.30am Conversation Group

Ascension

Thursday, 29th May

Reading: John 16:24-33

10am The Act of Consecration of Man for Ascension

11.15am Ascension in the Gospels

Gospel Study of Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:1-11

7pm Choir

8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 30th May

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 1st June

Reading: John 16:24-33

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am The all-permeating power of Christ
Ascension contemplation with Tom Ravetz

Tuesday, 3rd June

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 5th June

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 6th June

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Saturday, 7th June

4.30pm Reading Group for those who have Died (Chapel of Rest)

6pm Evening Service for those who have Died

Whitsun

Sunday, 8th June

Reading: John 14:23-31

9.10am Whitsun Children's Service
Gather by 9.10am to start at 9.15am

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am 'Silence is one of the great arts of conversation' (Cicero) –
Conversation in the Whitsun Spirit
See description in the letter

Monday, 9th June

10am The Act of Consecration of Man for Whitmonday

Tuesday, 10th June

10am The Act of Consecration of Man for Whit-Tuesday in German

Thursday, 12th June

Reading: Romans 8:1-11

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 7pm Choir
- 8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 13th June

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 15th June

Reading: Romans 8:1-11

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.30am Life Through the Spirit – Paul’s Letter to the Romans Today
- conversation introduced by Tom Ravetz. Please bring your questions inspired by Romans 8

Tuesday, 17th June

- 10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 19th June

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 7pm Choir
- 8pm Study Group on the Gospel of Mark

Friday, 20th June

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Saturday, 21st June

- 10am House and Garden morning (until 12pm)

Sunday, 22nd June

Reading: 1John 4:1-16

- 9.10am Children’s Service
Gather by 9.10am to start at 9.15am
- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.30am Open Congregational Meeting

Absences

Nataliia will be away on the Confirmation trip 7th-10th April; on leave 28th April-5th May; at the International Christian Community Youth Conference in Poland 5th-11th June

Both priests will be at the international synod in Munich, 16th-20th June.

Services in our visited congregations

Canterbury: 17th & 21st April and 1st June

Ringwood: 10th May and 14th June

The Christian Community in Forest Row has a website which includes an online diary, where any new events will be listed. You can find this by using this shortened link: tinyurl.com/CCFR-Home

We also send out a weekly Update by email. This contains news about events and a contemplation on the gospel of the week or the festival. You can sign up for this by sending us an email at tccinfr@gmail.com.

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: tinyurl.com/CC-FR-FRM

Account name: The Christian Community in Forest Row.

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

Cover picture: Three Marys at the Tomb of Christ
from the Church in Niegowic, Poland

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