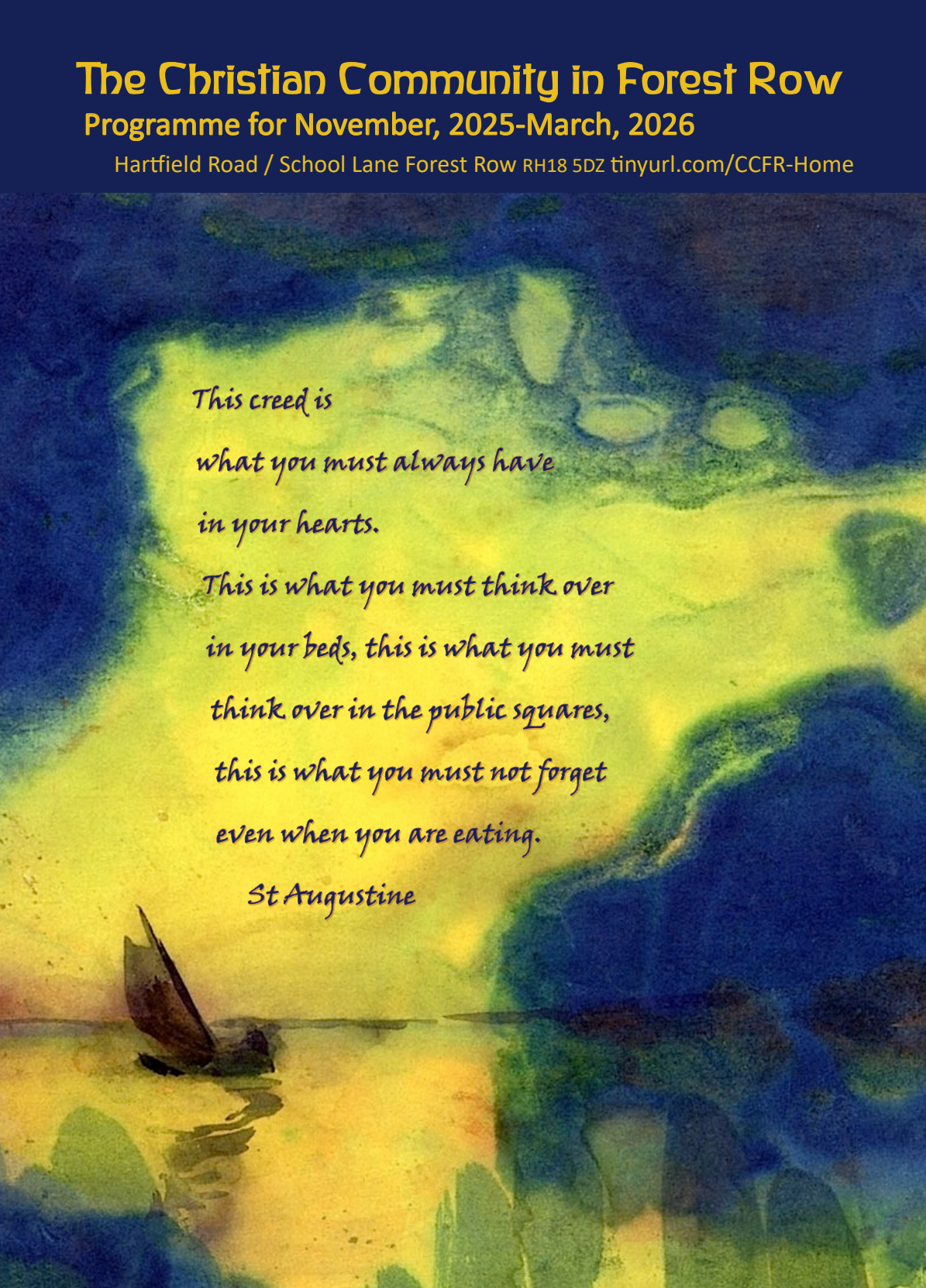


The Christian Community in Forest Row

Programme for November, 2025-March, 2026

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



*This creed is
what you must always have
in your hearts.*

*This is what you must think over
in your beds, this is what you must
think over in the public squares,
this is what you must not forget
even when you are eating.*

St Augustine

Dear congregation,

Advent means arrival. It draws us into every dimension of time. Our gaze turns back to the Holy Land over two thousand years ago: the angel's message, the journey to Bethlehem, the night visions, and the mysterious tidings told to the shepherds. It was an arrival in the most literal sense – and Christianity rests upon the reality of that moment.

Yet this arrival is also part of our present. Christ is the Coming One, the Arriving One. In the Book of Revelation we hear: 'See, I am coming soon.' His presence is always approaching from the future into our present. The early Christians prayed in Aramaic, *Maranatha* – 'Come, Lord!'

Advent therefore turns us toward the future. We live in the tension of the *not yet* – aware that Christ is still on his way. The world is unfinished; history is still unfolding towards fulfilment. In these unsettled times, our feelings about the future are often stirred. The turbulence of world events can jolt us out of complacency. Advent asks: what future do we await? What kind of arrival are we preparing for – and how do we make our hearts ready?

Our theme for the **Holy Nights** this year is the Creed. Many of us have lived with it for years; it is given to members as part of their inner commitment to The Christian Community. Others, who know it through the service, may sense its special quality – it speaks not as prayer but as statement. Yet what a powerful statement it is.

In the Ordination Service, the Creed is not spoken because the candidates are called to *embody* it. Augustine's words remind us this applies to all:

This creed is what you must always have in your hearts. Think it over in your beds, in the public squares; forget it not, even when you are eating.

If we feel the call to the 'priesthood of all believers', we too can take the substance of the Creed into ourselves and make it alive. It gathers all three dimensions of Advent: the memory of his first coming, the experience of his presence, and the hope of his fulfilment.

We hope our workshop mornings will be rich and fruitful. There will be a list on the noticeboard to write down your contributions – a poem, a song, or something from your own work with the Creed. Hans-Werner Schroeder's booklet *The Creed* is available to download free at tinyurl.com/HWS-Creed; if you have difficulty accessing it, we can print a copy for you.

We have changed the shape of our **New Year's Eve Gathering**: we will gather around the Christmas Tree at 4.30pm and share what inspires us as we look

towards the new year. Mince pies and mulled juice will be provided! This will be followed by an evening service with sermon at 6pm.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming months and wish you every blessing for this special time – a season of remembrance, presence, and hope.

Tom Ravetz Nataliaia Shatna

Saturday, 29 November

6pm Evening service for Advent
 With sermon, readings and music

Advent

Sunday, 30 November

Luke 21:25-36

9.10am Children's Service
10am The Act of Consecration of Man
4pm **Advent Spiral**
 for children aged 4 and above

Tuesday, 2 December

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 4 December

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm Bible Study

Friday, 5 December

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Saturday, 6 December

4.30pm Reading Group for those who have died (Chapel of Rest)
6pm Evening Service for those who have died

Sunday, 7 December

Luke 21:25-36

10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am **Sun-chariot and colour-bow**
 Presentation on the Advent Epistle by Tom Ravetz

Tuesday, 9 December

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 11 December

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
4.30pm **Christmas Carol concert**
given by Angela Campbell's violin students
7pm Choir

Friday, 12 December

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 14 December

Luke 21:25-36

- 9.10am Children's Service
10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am **Meeting face to face**
Presentation on altar paintings with Nataliia Shatna

Tuesday, 16 December

- 10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 18 December

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir

Friday, 19 December

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm **The Oberufer Paradise Play**
followed by **Sounding the Silence**, a creative speech collage by
Geoff Norris and students

Saturday, 20 December

- 10am House and Garden Morning (until noon)

Sunday, 21 December

Luke 21:25-36

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am Open Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, 23 December

- 4pm Decorating the Christmas tree and other preparations

Wednesday, 24 December

- 4pm **The Christmas story**
Please bring your lantern to carry the heavenly light home

Christmas

Thursday, 25 December

Midnight	The Act of Consecration of Man	<i>Matthew 1:1-25</i>
8am	The Act of Consecration of Man	<i>Luke 2:1-20</i>
10am	The Act of Consecration of Man	<i>John 21:15-25</i>
11.30am	The Children's Service for Christmas	
11.45am	Carol singing around the Christmas tree in the Community room	

Friday, 26 December

10am	The Act of Consecration of Man
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Saturday, 27 December

10am	The Act of Consecration of Man
11.15am	This creed is what you must always have in your hearts Holy Nights course around the Christmas Tree, with carols. I The Ground of the World

Sunday, 28 December

John 21: 15-25

10am	The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am	The Creed II: The Son born in eternity

Monday, 29 December

10am	The Act of Consecration of Man
11.15am	The Creed III: The incarnation – work of the Holy Spirit

Tuesday, 30 December

10am	The Act of Consecration of Man
11.15am	The Creed IV: Lowered into the grave of the earth

Wednesday, 31 December

10am	The Act of Consecration of Man
11.15am	The Creed V: The helper of the dead, who overcame death
4.30pm	Reflecting on the year Please bring a poem, a thought, a question or a statement in the mood of new beginnings as we prepare for the New year. We will sit in front of the Christmas tree with carols, mince pies and drinks (provided)
6pm	My times are in your hands (Psalm 31:15) Evening service for New Year's Eve with Readings and a sermon by Tom Ravetz

Thursday, 1 January

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.15am **The Creed VI: Lord of the heavenly forces upon earth**

Friday, 2 January

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.15am **The Creed VII: Wrestling us from the death of matter**

Saturday, 3 January

- (No reading, no evening service for those who have died)
10am The Act of Consecration of Man in Ukrainian
11.15am **The Creed VIII: The holy, healing Spirit**

Sunday, 4 January

John 21: 15-25

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am **The Creed X: Communities united by their experience of Christ**

Monday, 5 January

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.15am **The Creed X: Future hope**

Epiphany

Tuesday, 6 January

Matthew 2:1-12

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man for Epiphany
11.15am **Who is a king today?**
Presentation by Tom Ravetz

Thursday, 8 January

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm Bible Study

Friday, 9 January

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 11 January

Matthew 2:1-12

- 9.10am Children's Service
10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am **Three Kings Play**

Tuesday, 13 January

- 10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 15 January

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm Bible Study

Friday, 16 January

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Saturday, 17 January

10am House and Garden Morning (until noon)

Sunday, 18 January

Luke 2:41-52

10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am **Three Kings family morning** (until 2.30pm)
With a story, crafting, shared lunch and a closing Family Service. For adults and children of all ages.
To find out more, please contact Natalia

Tuesday, 20 January

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 22 January

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm Bible Study

Friday, 23 January

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 25 January

John 2:1-11

9.10am Children's Service
10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am **When the light of prayer meets the world's light**
Presentation on the Epiphany Epistle by Tom Ravetz

Tuesday, 27 January

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 29 January

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm Bible Study

Friday, 30 January

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Saturday, 31 January

10am **An offering for peace in a troubled time**
Please bring something uplifting: a poem, a verse, a reading, a prayer, a song or your silent goodwill as an offering towards world peace.
Please be sure to come on time.

Sunday, 1 February

Matthew 20:1-16

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

Tuesday, 3 February

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 5 February

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm Bible Study

Friday, 6 February

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Saturday, 7 February

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

6pm Evening Service for those who have died

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Sunday, 8 February

Luke 8:1-18

9.10am Children's Service

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **The Buddhist Practice of Gladdening the Mind**
with Jenny Tarrant

Tuesday, 10 February

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 12 February

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm Bible Study

Friday, 13 February

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Saturday, 14 February

10am House and Garden Morning (until noon)

Sunday, 15 February

Luke 18:18-34

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.30am Members' Meeting

Tuesday, 17 February

- 10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 19 February

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 7pm Choir
- 8pm Bible Study

Friday, 20 February

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Saturday, 21 February

- 4pm **From Winter's Chill to Spring's Promise**
Alex Pidgen - Tenor and Varia Doletskaya-Pidgen - Piano
Vocal works by Schumann, Schubert, Tosti, British Song and
Opera Arias. Piano solo works by Chopin and Brahms.
Donations requested: £20 / £15

Sunday, 22 February

Matthew 4:1-11

- 9.10am Children's Service
- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 11.30am **Christ's Encounter with the Adversaries**
Presentation by Tom Ravetz

Tuesday, 24 February

- 10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 26 February

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man
- 7pm Choir
- 8pm Bible Study

Friday, 27 February

- 9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 1 March

Matthew 17:1-13

- 10am The Act of Consecration of Man

Tuesday, 3 March

- 10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 5 March

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm Bible Study

Friday, 6 March

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Saturday, 7 March

10am House and Garden Morning (until noon)
4.30pm Reading Group for those who have died (Chapel of Rest)
6pm Evening Service for those who have died

Passiontide

Sunday, 8 March

Luke 11:14-36

9.10am Children's Service
10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am **Passiontide - the heart is emptied out**
Presentation on the Passiontide Epistle by Tom Ravetz

Tuesday, 10 March

10.30am Conversation Group

Thursday, 12 March

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm Bible Study

Friday, 13 March

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

Sunday, 15 March

John 6:1-15

10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am Annual Congregational Meeting (until 12.45pm)
This is an opportunity to hear about the finances, ask questions and discuss future plans for the church.

Areas of responsibility

If you feel you could help in any of these areas, please let a member of the respective group, or one of the priests, know.

Choir	Katharina Bues
Second Hand Books	Karin Gearing
Church maintenance	<i>Vacancy</i>
Coffee supplies	Chiara Pavan
Community Support Network	Evelyne Muller
Exhibitions	<i>Vacancy</i>
Festivals Group	Katharina Bues, Hannah Roberts, Nataliia Shatna
Finance Group	Dot Fagan, Ursula Godber, Gerard van Dyk
Flowers	Susanne Fuller, Christina Lines, Ursula Godber, Maria Soper, Hrvojka Kostelic
Funeral Support Group	Margaret Turner, Antoinette Reynolds, Linda Hammond, Meril Hope
Gardening	<i>Vacancy</i>
Ironing	Linda Hammond, Ilaria Gardeli, Meril Hope, Antoinette Reynolds
Memorial Garden	Katharina Bues
Music	Katharina Bues
New Book stall	Christina Lyons
Reception	Esther Austin, Anne Dean, Karin Gearing, Evelyne Muller, Ria Velterop
Second-hand books	Karin Gearing
Servers' rota	Ken Gibson
Sewing repairs	Ursula Godber
Sunday coffees	Luke Barnett, Linda Hammond, Francesca Luciano, Chiara Pavan. The coffee rota is now online! Let us know if you would like to join it.
Vestry & vestments	Linda Hammond

Cover picture: Friesian Landscape, Emil Nolde

Absences

Nataliia will be on leave 19-29th January

Tom will be on leave 12th-19th January

Both will be at the Ordinations in Stuttgart, 27-29th February and at the British synod in London 16th-19th March

Services in our visited congregations

Canterbury: 7th & 26th December, 1st February, 8th March

Ringwood: 6th December, 24th January, 7th March

updates

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.

Please support us

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

Contact

Church: tccinfr@gmail.com

Please contact Dot Fagan, our Bookkeeper at the church email address

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Nataliia Shatna: 07763 746 175, nataliia@tcc-mrr.co.uk