

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Newsletter

No. 81 — Christmas 2025

LETTER FROM THE LENKER

After a year of significant changes, we gathered for our annual synod in Buckfastleigh this autumn. It was the first meeting in our new constellation, marking both farewells and a warm welcome. We had said our goodbyes to Aaron Mirkin and Liza Lillcrap, whose contributions were deeply valued, and welcomed Michaël Merle, who joins the group to carry the work forward.

Such changes naturally give us pause to ponder the continuity of our work—the essential thread that binds us despite the changing faces. This dynamic is, of course, mirrored in the life of our congregations. Just as the local groups seek out and train new people to take on the various responsibilities that are necessary to run a flourishing con-

gregation, so too does the circle of priests renew itself over time.

As Lenker, I am acutely aware of the crucial need to actively nurture and find new priests who are willing to carry on our vital work after the current office bearers have retired and, eventually, departed. The fact that, time and again, we find the priests we need—enabling some to enter retirement and others to follow new paths—is an affirmation of our work.

It is this constant, organic renewal that gives me confidence for the future of our shared mission. In line with this, we are planning an event with Patrick Kennedy from the North American Seminary at the end of August.

With best wishes for the coming months,
Tom Ravetz

INTRODUCING THE TRUSTEES: INGER GORDON

I am English/Norwegian and have been a member of The Christian Community for over thirty years since my marriage, a sacrament I experienced at the Barn in Forest Row. Whilst in Forest Row I served on the Finance Committee for two different periods and was involved in many aspects of community life. Most memorably the Festivals Group when our daughter was young.

I was appointed to the Board of Trustees in February 2022 and have been



Inger Gordon

Chair of this committee since early 2024.

I am also self-employed as a family and systemic psychotherapist, my background being in community adult mental health for the NHS.

I bring skills in facilitating group communication, organisational consultation and safeguarding practices.

I moved to London in 2024 to be closer to younger family, much of my current time being spent on grandparent duties.

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Christian Community Trustees Ltd (CCTL) is the charitable company responsible for owning all assets (buildings and land) and ensuring the legal and charitable compliance for our congregations across the Region (excluding London and Ireland). CCTL also operates as the umbrella body, managing essential functions like the Priests' Retirement Support Fund and providing centralised support to the international movement.

The Board of Trustees is a skills-based body, not representative. We are always seeking new trustees who wish to see The Christian Community thrive and possess key professional competencies in:

- Business and Financial Management
- Organisational Compliance
- Charity Law

If you have these skills, or know someone who does, please contact your local priest or the Chair of Trustees directly at
chair@tcc-mrr.co.uk

Recent Activities and Decisions

Following the successful conclusion of our charity restructuring project, we have made the historic decision to simplify our governance structure. We have retired the names 'Council of Management' and 'Executive Committee' and will now conduct our business in regular Trustees' Meetings. This tailoring of our structure better suits our current tasks.

At our October meeting, we performed our essential review functions, including looking at the quarterly accounts and agreeing on budgets for the forthcoming year.

We discussed the allocation of two significant

Hold the Date!

We are planning a weekend for people interested in Priests' Training with Patrick Kennedy from the Toronto Seminary to take place in Forest Row from August 28–30, 2026

To register your interest, please fill in your details here: tinyurl.com/CC-priesthoodVIII26

More information will be published in the next Newsletter.

legacies. In line with our principle, the Devon congregation received the first £10,000 of a legacy and additional funds to support much-needed structural repairs to their building. The balance of the funds will address national needs.

In property news:

- We are engaged in ongoing discussions about repairs needed at the Stroud church.
- We successfully sold a property in Stourbridge, which allows us to search for a new property in Forest Row, where we are currently paying high rental costs for a priest's accommodation.

The Lenker reported that the major round of priests' moves for the year has been completed successfully.

We are planning a meeting of the Treasurers on June 13, 2026. The next meeting of the Trustees is scheduled for February 2026.

Inger Gordon, Chair of Trustees

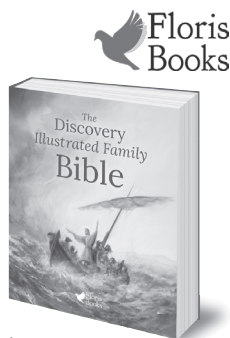
A Beautiful Bible for All the Family

The first of its kind for The Christian Community, this lovingly illustrated Bible has been retold for children aged 8 and up in an engaging style.

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