

# The Christian Community

Programme for March-June, 2026



Maybe the detours of man's fall  
are like the secret desertions of meteors  
marked in the alphabet of storms  
alongside rainbows -

And who knows  
the course of becoming fertile  
How seeds bend up  
out of depleted soil  
for the suckling mouths  
of light.  
Nelly Sachs

Dear friends, dear community,

Already the first signs of spring have appeared in our gardens. Crocuses and snowdrops cover the ground; daphne fills the air with its wonderful scent; and camellias and witch hazel bless us with bright red, pink and yellow. Only the sky still needs something to break through its heavy, curling grey clouds and send us the warm rays of the sun. Nature is waking from the darkness, and life is manifesting itself in colour.

Yet when nature awakens from its winter sleep, the whole Christian world enters Passiontide – looking into darkness and death. Our altar turns black, and the Epistle speaks of an empty place in the human heart. This is a time that lacks colour and life; it speaks of a human being who cannot be awakened from within without the help of the spiritual world.

What is this experience that we pass through again and again? How long will it take us – as humanity, as individuals – truly to feel and deepen this winter experience? How does it want to transform us?

Every experience we are given as human beings brings with it a new possibility, a new challenge. It asks us to look at ourselves honestly – to reflect on our weaknesses and failures, as well as our strengths. It holds the potential to enrich us in so many ways, if we are willing truly to

face it. During Passiontide, the human spirit passes through experiences of loss, grief and weakness – a disconnection from the Creator, from the One who can make us whole. We may find ourselves helpless, discovering our humility, learning that we need to ask for help. And yet, moving through all of this, we begin to see that we are not approaching an end but entering a darkness where the birth pangs of light can be witnessed. In our desolation and desperation, there is the light of the One who was born anew through death and resurrection. He walks beside us in all our joys and sorrows – the One who brings Easter colours into our lives and blesses them with transformation.

Every experience is marked upon our path, contributing to the storms and rainbows of life, as Nelly Sachs so beautifully expresses. Thus death and life weave together the tapestry of our living – full of winter and spring colours.

May the festivals of Passiontide, Easter, Ascension and Whitsun be filled with resurrection forces that re-enliven and nourish our Earth. May they give strength to raise up our spirits, that again and again we may be carriers of life on earth, co-responsible for the harmony the world is longing for – harmony between earth and human being, human being and the spiritual world.

-Nataliia Shatna

The heart of our programme is Holy Week and Easter. The sessions on the days of the Holy Week will have a short introduction leading to conversation on motifs of the Festival Prayers. Please bring your thoughts and questions!

We are still looking for someone to coordinate the Silent Supper on Maundy Thursday.

With our very best wishes for the coming months,

Tom Ravetz and Nataliia Shatna

15 MAR Sunday

Reading: John 6:1-15

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am Annual Congregational Meeting (until 12.45pm)

Review of the events of last year; review of the finances; future projects.

16 MAR Monday

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Synod in London – no services this week (until Saturday, 21 March)

17 MAR Tuesday

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10.30am Conversation Group

19 MAR Thursday

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7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke

Study group with Nataliia Shatna

22 MAR Sunday

Reading: John 8:1-12

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9.10am Children's Service

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am Deepening our experience of the festival colours (until 12.45pm)

with Angela Lord and Nataliia Shatna

24 MAR Tuesday

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10.30am Conversation Group

26 MAR Thursday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke  
Study group with Nataliia Shatna

27 MAR Friday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

## Holy Week

29 MAR Palm Sunday

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **The loss of the spirit**

Holy Week Workshop on the Epistles for Passiontide and Holy Week

30 MAR Monday

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.15am **Longing for the Spirit's awakening**

Holy Week Workshop

31 MAR Tuesday

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.15am **A ray of grief**

Holy Week Workshop

1 APR Wednesday

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.15am **The Sting of Evil**

Holy Week Workshop

## 2 APR Maundy Thursday

Reading: Luke 23:13-32

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.15am **Raise my spirit!**

Holy Week Workshop

6pm Silent Supper

## 3 APR Good Friday

Reading: John 19:1-15

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

2.30pm **The Words from the Cross**

Contemplative service for Good Friday

With readings, sermon by Tom Ravetz and music by the Hess

ensemble: Beethoven's String Quartet No.14 BVW 131

## 4 APR Holy Saturday

Reading: John 19:16-42

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

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

6pm **'he is the helper of the souls of the dead, who had lost their divine nature'**

Extended Evening Service for those who have died

# Easter

## 5 APR Easter Sunday

Reading: Mark 16:1-8

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am Children's Service

12pm Easter Story for all in the community room  
followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the Garden

## 6 APR Monday

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man for Easter Monday

11.15am **'The whole earth is our hospital, endowed by the ruined millionaire'** (T S Eliot)

Talk for Easter Monday with Tom Ravetz

7 APR **Tuesday**

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10.30am Conversation Group

9 APR **Thursday**

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke

Study group with Nataliia Shatna

10 APR **Friday**

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

12 APR **Sunday**

Reading: John 20:19-31

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

4pm **Light and Shade**

Concert with Miriam Turner (violin) and Julian Broughton (piano)  
to include music by Chopin, Schumann and Debussy and Broughton

14 APR **Tuesday**

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10.30am Conversation Group

16 APR **Thursday**

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke

Study group with Nataliia Shatna

17 APR Friday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

18 APR Saturday

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10am House & Garden morning (until 12pm)

19 APR Sunday

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Reading: John 10:1-16

9.10am Children's Service

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am Open Congregational Meeting

21 APR Tuesday

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10.30am Conversation Group

23 APR Thursday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke

Study group with Nataliia Shatna

24 APR Friday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

26 APR Sunday

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Reading: John 15:1-27

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **'He walks in the Spirit before you'**

Contemplation on the Easter Epistle with Nataliia Shatna

28 APR Tuesday

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10.30am Conversation Group

## 30 APR Thursday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke

Study group with Nataliia Shatna

## 1 MAY Friday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

## 2 MAY Saturday

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

6pm Evening Service for those who have died

## 3 MAY Sunday

Reading: John 16:1-33

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9.10am Children's Service

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **A Christian Embryology**

Launch of Pearl Goodwin's new book **The Incarnation of Christ: A Spiritual Embryology**, with the opportunity to purchase a signed copy at a reduced price

5pm **Recital by top singers 'Loud Cows'**

Brinch Korth Concert Series

Soprano Emma Tring and Mezzo soprano Lucy Goddard works by Monteverdi, Saariaho, Brinch and Brahms and the world premiere of Tring's 'Loud Cows' composed to a text by Ursula Le Guin

## 5 MAY Tuesday

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10.30am Conversation Group

## 7 MAY Thursday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke

Study group with Nataliia Shatna

## 8 MAY Friday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

## 9 MAY Saturday

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10am House & Garden morning (until 12pm)

## 10 MAY Sunday

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Reading: John 14:1-31

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **Stages of the Transubstantiation**

Presentation by Nataliia Shatna followed by conversation

## 12 MAY Tuesday

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10.30am Conversation Group

# Ascension

## 14 MAY Thursday

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Reading: John 16:24-33

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.15am **Why do you stand looking up into the sky?**

Gospel study on Acts 1:1-12

7pm Choir

## 15 MAY Friday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

## 16 MAY Saturday

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3pm **Bread and Roses** (until 5pm)

Community Fundraising event for Encounter Wellness, a charitable project based in Whitehawk, Brighton offering free complementary therapies and creative social groups to people who have exhausted NHS treatment without finding relief.

There will be cake, singing and poetry

## 17 MAY Sunday

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Reading: John 16:24-33

9.10am Children's Service

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **Abiding with us, abiding with You**

Contemplation on the Ascension Epistle

- Tom Ravetz

## 19 MAY Tuesday

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10.30am Conversation Group

## 21 MAY Thursday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke

Study group with Nataliia Shatna

## 22 MAY Friday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

# Whitsun

24 MAY Whitsunday

Reading: John 14:23-31

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **'The Apostles had left behind all narrowness, gaining greatness of heart and understanding of all that is human.'**

(Rudolf Steiner, The Fifth Gospel)

Community Whitsun Festival. Please bring a reading, song, poem or other artistic offering, inspired by Acts 2

25 MAY Monday

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man for Whitmonday

26 MAY Tuesday

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man for Whittuesday in Ukrainian

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28 MAY Thursday

Reading: Matthew 28: 16-28

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke

Study group with Nataliia Shatna

29 MAY Friday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

31 MAY Sunday

Reading: Matthew 28: 16-28

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9.10am Children's Service

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am Members' Meeting

1 JUN Monday

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International Priests' Synod in Stuttgart (until Friday, 5 June)

2 JUN Tuesday

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10.30am Conversation Group

4 JUN Thursday

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7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke

Study group with Nataliia Shatna

6 JUN Saturday

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

6pm Evening Service for those who have died

7 JUN Sunday

Reading: John 4:1-26

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10am The Act of Consecration of Man

7.30pm **Early Chorus Cello Trio**

featuring (Harmonic Sail player and) cellist extraordinaire Colin Alexander and friends. To include rarely heard works of early composers such as Ockeghem, Josquin de Prez and Dunstable as well as recent compositions for the trio of cellos.

9 JUN Tuesday

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10.30am Conversation Group

11 JUN Thursday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke

Study group with Nataliia Shatna

12 JUN Friday

---

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

14 JUN Sunday

---

Reading: Romans 8:1-11

9.10am Children's Service

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am Open Congregational Meeting

16 JUN Tuesday

---

10.30am Conversation Group

18 JUN Thursday

---

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke Study group with Nataliia Shatna

19 JUN Friday

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9am The Act of Consecration of Man

20 JUN Saturday

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10am House & Garden morning (until 12pm)

21 JUN Sunday

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Reading: 1John 4:7-16

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am Servers' Meeting

## Areas of responsibility

The people listed are the coordinators. If you feel you could help in any of these areas, please let us know.

Choir	Katharina Bues
Second Hand Books	Karin Gearing
Church maintenance	<i>Vacancy</i>
Coffee Rota	Linda Hammond, 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
Funeral Support Group	Margaret Turner, Antoinette Reynolds, Linda Hammond, Meril Hope
Flowers	Christina Lines, Ursula Godber, Maria Soper, Hrvojka Kostelic
Gardening	<i>Vacancy</i>
Ironing	Linda Hammond, Ilaria Gardeli, Meril Hope, Antoinette Reynolds
Music	Katharina Bues
New Books	Christina Lyons
Reception	Karin Gearing Ria Velterop, Esther Austin, Anne Dean, Evelyne Muller
Second-hand books	Karin Gearing
Servers' rota	Ken Gibson
Supplies	Chiara Pavan
Sewing repairs	Ursula Godber
Vestry & vestments	Linda Hammond

Cover picture: *The space between*, Deborah Ravetz

## Absences

Both priests will attend the British synod in London 16-19 March and the International Synod in Stuttgart, 1 -5 June.

Tom will attend a pastoral-medical conference in Dornach 6-7 June.

Visited congregations

Canterbury (Nataliia): 8 March, 2 and 6 April, 16 -17May, 7June, 5 July

Ringwood (Tom): 28 March, 2 May, 13 Jun

## Support

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, fill in a Gift Aid form which you'll find by the collection box in the church) or download one here: [tinyurl.com/CC-FR-FRM](http://tinyurl.com/CC-FR-FRM)

Account name: The Christian Community in Forest Row.

Account Number: 00012363 Sort Code 30-92-92

## Stay in touch

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](http://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](mailto:tccinfr@gmail.com).

## Contact

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- Nataliia Shatna: 07763 746 175, [nataliia@tcc-mrr.co.uk](mailto:nataliia@tcc-mrr.co.uk)
- Please contact Dot Fagan, our Bookkeeper, at the church email address