The Christian Community

Programme for November, 2026 – March, 2027



Dear friends,

At the heart of every true mystery lies a story. As we look ahead to Advent and Christmas, we sense a story, or perhaps many stories, that we long to hear again as this special season approaches, whether we are children or adults. Stories capture our imagination, carry us to another time and place, and nourish us with the wonder and awe for which our souls are yearning.

As autumn turns towards winter, the days grow shorter and the darkness deepens. Yet when darkness reaches its greatest intensity, a moment of change arrives. It can go no further and must make way for something new.

One story tells that when the Holy Night descended upon the earth, everything became still. A deep calm settled everywhere. The angels looked towards the highest heavenly realms, aware that something extraordinary was about to happen. In the stillness, a circle opened around the throne of God, and from its midst emerged a radiant being, filled with light and joy beyond the reach of human words. As this being stepped forward, a path of light appeared, leading through the heavenly spheres down to a humble stable among loving people and animals. In the midst of the darkness, the light touched the earth.

The being of light found a new dwelling in a human body. Since that Holy Night, it has also sought to enter every human heart, awakening kindness, beauty, joy, wonder, and a living interest in others and in the world. The human heart is able to receive and carry this radiant light, bringing something of heaven into earthly life.

Every day, one of our greatest challenges is to keep this light alive. Without it, the earth would become dark and cold. The heavenly light that descends into humanity becomes warmth in the human heart, bringing true life, making us whole, and breaking through darkness.

May every human heart be touched by heavenly light, warmth, and love this Christmas. May that light shine into all the wounded places of our world, bringing new life and new beginnings. May every person experience the grace and blessings that stream down from heaven. And may each soul, standing at this threshold of time, be open to the

light that is about to be born, and in turn shine it forth to others through love, kindness, and understanding. – Nataliia Shatna

Twelve Windows on the World At a time when human culture is fragmented by one-sided perspectives, striving to comprehend contrasting worldviews is an urgent task. Connecting these outlooks to the spiritual beings embodied within the zodiac opens the broadest possible horizon for our inner life and outer deeds. This Holy Nights, we will explore the twelve world-outlooks presented by Rudolf Steiner in Human and Cosmic Thought (CW 151). Steiner weaves these fundamental orientations together with the zodiac and planetary movements. Working with short presentations and practical exercises, we will explore six archetypal pairs to cultivate a holistic, 360-degree perspective. Please let us know if you would like to contribute.

We need your help! We will meet at 4-5.30pm on 23 December to prepare the church for Christmas. Following the performance on Christmas Eve, there will still be some finishing touches to do at around 5pm. Please let us know in advance if you are able to help on either of these days.

Tom Ravetz and Nataliia Shatna

Rory Valentine will give slide-presentations on three Raphael pictures on the weekend of 5 and 6 December. Rory has sent these words by way of introduction:

For over a dozen years, I have given illustrated talks on Raphael. Across three talks, we will examine details of key works: **The Transfiguration** Raphael's final, deeply personal masterpiece, kept by his deathbed. We will explore its link to the raising of Lazarus, the figures' gestures, and its central importance in his life's work; **The School of Athens** Steiner famously challenged the consensus that the central figures represent Plato and Aristotle (1 November 1916). We will examine whether his alternative insight was correct; **Christ's Charge to Peter** We will investigate why Raphael placed a scene of utter devastation in the background of this scene showing the Risen Christ by the Sea of Galilee from John's Gospel

I look forward to studying these wonderful pictures together.

28 NOV Saturday

6pm Evening Service to prepare for Advent

Advent

29 NOV Sunday

Reading: Luke 21:25-36

9.10am Children's Service
10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am Advent contemplation
followed by building the Advent Spiral with all who can help
4pm Advent Spiral
for children aged 4 and above

1 DEC Tuesday

10.30am Conversation Group

3 DEC Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm The Gospel of Luke
Study group with Nataliia Shatna

4 DEC Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest

5 DEC Saturday

11.30am **The Transfiguration**
Slide-talk on Raphael's final work by Rory Valentine
4.30pm Reading Group for those who have died (Chapel of Rest)
6pm Evening Service for those who have died
7.30pm **Rudolf Steiner and The School of Athens**
Slide-talk by Rory Valentine

6 DEC Sunday

Reading: Luke 21:25-36

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **The Raphael Cartoon known as Christ's Charge to Peter**
Slide-talk by Rory Valentine

8 DEC Tuesday

10.30am Conversation Group

10 DEC Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke
Study group with Nataliia Shatna

11 DEC Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest

13 DEC Sunday

Reading: Luke 21:25-36

9.10am Children's Service

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **The Once and Future King**
a talk by Dr Jenny Josephson

15 DEC Tuesday

10.30am Conversation Group

17 DEC Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

4.30pm Carol concert by the pupils of Angela Campbell

7pm Choir

18 DEC Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest

19 DEC Saturday

10am House & Garden morning (until 12pm)

20 DEC Sunday

Reading: Luke 21:25-36

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

23 DEC Wednesday

4pm Decorating the Christmas tree and other preparations (until 5.30pm)

24 DEC Thursday

4pm The Christmas Story
Please bring your lantern to carry the heavenly light home
5pm Final preparations for Christmas
please help if you can!

Christmas

25 DEC Friday

Midnight The Act of Consecration of Man — Matthew 1:1-25
8am The Act of Consecration of Man — Luke 2:1-20
10am The Act of Consecration of Man — John 21:15-25
11.30am The Christmas Service for Children
11.45am Carol Singing round the Christmas Tree

26 DEC Saturday

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

Holy Nights Workshop: Twelve windows on the world

27 December – 3 January

Set in the heavens for 'signs and seasons' (Genesis 1:14), the constellations declare a cosmic totality – each offering a unique window through which spiritual beings behold the world. Through brief presentations and practical exercises, including eurythmy, we will explore these archetypal perspectives together. No prior knowledge required.

27 DEC Sunday

Reading: John 21:15-25

10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am Holy Nights Workshop I Introduction and overview

28 DEC Monday

10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.15am **Between idealism and realism**
Aries and Libra
Holy Nights Workshop II (until 12.30pm)

29 DEC Tuesday

10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.15am **Between spirit and matter**
Capricorn and Cancer
Holy Nights Workshop III (until 12.30pm)

30 DEC Wednesday

10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.15am **Between thinking and doing**
Taurus and Scorpio
Holy Nights Workshop IV (until 12.30pm)

31 DEC Thursday

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.15am **Between sense and spirit**
Leo and Aquarius
Holy Nights Workshop V (until 12.30pm)

4.30pm **Reflecting on the Year**
Please bring a poem, a thought, your own question or statement that relates to your own life or world events, as we prepare for the New year. We will sit in front of the Christmas tree with carols, mince pies and drinks (provided)

6pm **Deep roots are not reached by the frost**
Evening service for New Year's Eve with Readings and a sermon by Nataliia Shatna

1 JAN 27 Friday

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.15am **Between objectivity and subjectivity**
Virgo and Pisces
Holy Nights Workshop VI (until 12.30pm)

2 JAN Saturday

(No reading, no evening service for those who have died)

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.15am **Between the calculable and the incalculable**
Gemini and Sagittarius
Holy Nights Workshop VII (until 12.30pm)

3 JAN Sunday

Reading: John 21:15-25

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **Towards a holistic picture of reality**
Living with the twelve world-outlooks
Holy Nights Workshop VIII

4 JAN Monday

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

5 JAN Tuesday

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

Epiphany

6 JAN Wednesday

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.15am **World's Light and Heart's Light**
Contemplation and conversation on the Epiphany Prayers with Tom Ravetz

4.30pm **Three Kings Play**

7 JAN Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8 JAN Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest

9 JAN Saturday

7.30pm Life with music Musical Compositions for the piano spanning 40 years
Gregers Brinch will share about his lifelong exploration of the mystery of music - as well as perform a number of original works.

10 JAN Sunday

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

9.10am Children's Service

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **The circulation of glory**
How earthly offering joins with heavenly offering
- Presentation and conversation with Tom Ravetz

12 JAN Tuesday

10.30am Conversation Group

14 JAN Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm The Gospel of Luke
Study group with Nataliia Shatna

15 JAN Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest

17 JAN Sunday

Reading: Luke 2:41-52

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

19 JAN Tuesday

10.30am Conversation Group

21 JAN Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm The Gospel of Luke
Study group with Nataliia Shatna

22 JAN Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest

23 JAN Saturday

10am House & garden morning (until 12pm)

24 JAN Sunday

Reading: John 2:1-11

9.10am Children's Service
10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am **Christ walks beside us** A journey through the Epiphany gospel readings
Presentation and conversation with Nataliia Shatna. Contributions are very welcome!

26 JAN Tuesday

10.30am Conversation Group

28 JAN Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm The Gospel of Luke
Study group with Nataliia Shatna

29 JAN Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest

31 JAN Sunday

Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

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

2 FEB Tuesday

10.30am Conversation Group

4 FEB Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm The Gospel of Luke
Study group with Nataliia Shatna

5 FEB Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest

6 FEB Saturday

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

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7 FEB Sunday

Reading: Luke 18:18-34

9.10am Children's Service
10am The Act of Consecration of Man
11.30am Members' Meeting

9 FEB Tuesday

10.30am Conversation Group

11 FEB Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm The Gospel of Luke
Study group with Nataliia Shatna

12 FEB Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest
7.30pm **Solo Violin Recital** with Philippa Mo
Programme to include works by J.S. Bach, Telemann, Biber and others.

13 FEB Saturday

10am House & Garden morning (until 12pm)

14 FEB Sunday

Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

16 FEB Tuesday

10.30am Conversation Group

18 FEB Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm The Gospel of Luke
Study group with Nataliia Shatna

19 FEB Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest

21 FEB Sunday

Reading: Matthew 17:1-13

9.10am Children's Service
10am The Act of Consecration of Man

23 FEB Tuesday

10.30am Conversation Group

25 FEB Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
7pm Choir
8pm The Gospel of Luke
Study group with Nataliia Shatna

26 FEB Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest

Passiontide

28 FEB Sunday

Reading: Luke 11:14-36

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

11.30am **The inner path of Passiontide**
Presentation and conversation
Preparation: Luke 11:14-36, particularly the Lamp of the eye.

2 MAR Tuesday

10.30am Conversation Group

4 MAR Thursday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man

7pm Choir

8pm The Gospel of Luke
Study group with Nataliia Shatna

5 MAR Friday

9am The Act of Consecration of Man
in the Chapel of Rest

6 MAR Saturday

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

6pm Evening Service for those who have died

7 MAR Sunday

Reading: John 6:1-15

9.10am Children's Service

10am The Act of Consecration of Man

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

Areas of responsibility

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	*Vacancy*
Coffee Rota	Linda Hammond, Chiara Pavan
Community Support Network	Evelyne Muller
Exhibitions	*Vacancy*
Festivals Group	Katharina Bues, Hannah Roberts, Nataliia Shatna
Finance Group	Rob Alderman, Dot Fagan, Ursula Godber, Gerard van Dyk
Funeral Support Group	Margaret Turner, Antoinette Reynolds, Linda Hammond, Meril Hope
Flowers	Christina Lines, Ursula Godber, Hannah Roberts, Maria Soper, Hrvojka Kostelic
Gardening	*Vacancy*
Ironing	Linda Hammond, Ilaria Gardeli, Meril Hope, Antoinette Reynolds
Music	Katharina Bues
New Books	Christina Lines
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 adoration of the shepherds*, Rembrandt

Absences

Visited congregations:

Nataliia will be in Canterbury 12 & 26 December, 10 January, 14 February, 14 March

Tom will be in Ringwood 12 December,

Nataliia will be on leave 11-21 January. 2027 dates still to be arranged.

Tom will be on leave 13-19 December.

Support

If you would like to make a one-off donation or a standing order, our account details are below.

Account name: The Christian Community in Forest Row
Account Number: 00012363 Sort Code 30-92-92

If you are a UK taxpayer, fill in a Gift Aid form which you'll find by the collection box in the church or here: tinyurl.com/CC-FR-FRM

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

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.

Contact

- Church: tccinfr@gmail.com
- Tom Ravetz: 01342 458 132, 07749 662 717, lenker@tcc-mrr.co.uk
- Nataliia Shatna: 07763 746 175, nataliia@tcc-mrr.co.uk
- Please contact Dot Fagan, our Bookkeeper, at the church email address

The Christian Community