

Newsletter

No. 83 — St John's 2026

LENKER'S LETTER

Much of my time is spent thinking about succession: many of our priests were born in the 1960s. Over the next ten or so years, we will need to find people who wish to take up this rather amazing task to ensure the continuity of our congregations.

Yet continuity is only one side of the coin; alongside it, we are constantly in touch with the mystery of how our congregations renew themselves from within. For both these reasons, I am very glad that we can welcome Patrick Kennedy to our weekend course *Called to Meaning*, which will take place from 18–20 September in Forest Row. There are posters and flyers in the congregations and you can find out more here: tinyurl.com/called-meaning26

We are asking all priests and congregations to help us find people for whom this course could be of interest. There are many pathways into priesthood: some people attend the Act of Consecration of Man for many years, perhaps becoming members, learning to serve, and supporting their local congregation, before the question of sacramental priesthood comes

towards them. Others come from a different vocational path and—in some cases—discover their connection to The Christian Community in the course of priests' training.

For this reason, we are inviting our members and friends to think laterally—there may be people you know who ought to hear about our planned weekend, but who will not necessarily see the poster in one of our churches. Please do pass them a flyer or send them the link.

This is a good moment to say something about the training landscape in The Christian Community.

The latest addition to our training offerings is the part-time Nordic Seminary, held in the English language in various locations in Scandinavia. The North American Seminary is based in Toronto and offers an online introductory year. In the German language, there is a full-time residential training in Stuttgart, as well as a part-time training in Hamburg.

Details about all the trainings can be seen here: <https://christengemeinschaft-international.org/en/priest-training>

Tom Ravetz

MATTHEW THOMAS MURRELL

24 JULY 1965 – 27 DECEMBER 2025

Matthew was born in Welwyn Garden City on July 24, 1965, ten minutes ahead of his twin brother Benedict.

They joined their older brother Alex and sister Helen, growing up with nature and holidays in Europe together with their father's students of geology. The parents were Quakers and Matthew stayed connected to the Friends throughout his life.

At the age of seventeen around the time of his exams Matthew's mental health broke

down and he suffered with mental illness including delusions intermittently for the rest of his life. At first his parents cared for him as best as they could, later Alex helped out, but at times stays at the hospital and specialist medical care were needed.

During a stay with his brother and family at Camphill, Matthew met anthroposophy and The Christian Community, which became his spiritual home. He became a keen student of anthroposophy and was well read in history,

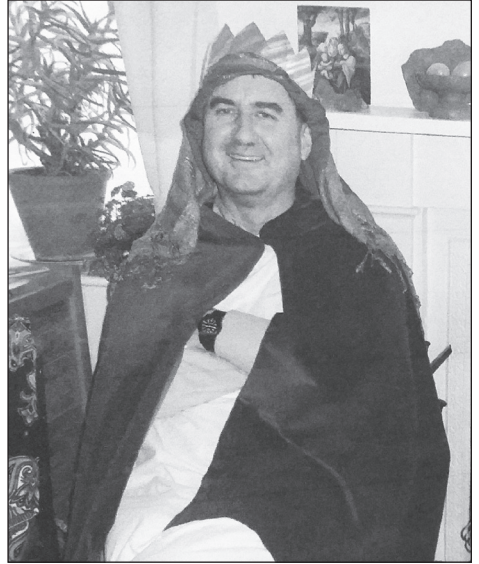
especially relating to Russia. He also explored the Orthodox Church in Exeter, but kept coming back to The Christian Community, where he confirmed his membership. He experienced being part of the Act of Consecration as healing, bringing together his heavenly with the earthly nature.

Treatment at Exeter Russell Clinic had stabilized him, but the medication had affected his kidneys so that he was close to needing dialysis.

He spent Christmas in Budleigh Salterton with his twin brother Benedict, who found him in the morning of December 27, having died very suddenly with an aneurism.

The book he had been reading during the Holy Nights was the lectures on the Gospel of John by Rudolf Steiner. He spent the remaining Holy Nights and most of the Season of Epiphany in the hands of the coroner, before his funeral at East Devon Crematorium on January 28, 2026.

We shall remember Matthew as our blue king (photo 2010) and as a striving soul who



sought meaning and purpose in life. His presence stays with us.
Rev. Sabine Haus

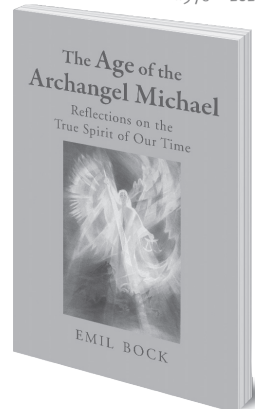
A call for a more inclusive view of humanity

This engaging book brings together seventeen of Emil Bock's lectures on the challenges facing humanity in the age of Michael.

The lectures reflect the difficulties faced by The Christian Community before and after the Second World War, and Bock's efforts to awaken courage and confidence in his audience. Their significance, however, speaks to many of the same challenges that we face today.

This book will appeal to those who wish to know more about the enigmatic figure of the Archangel Michael and his role in humanity's development.

The Age of the Archangel Michael: Reflections on the True Spirit of Our Time
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