

Newsletter

No. 63—Christmas 2020

LETTER FROM THE LENKER

The outer challenges that we are facing call upon us to develop our capacities inwardly to meet world events out of our deepest values. One of the greatest challenges has been the times when we have not been able to attend Church services. A friendly outsider asked me whether we were live-streaming our services, like many other places of worship. Without any reflection, I heard myself replying that we were. When he asked what technology we were using, I explained that it was one that needed no Wi-Fi, one which everybody could join and which suffered no awkward gaps in transmission. He told me that this would be very useful for his university department! I'm not sure whether his interest was feigned when I told him that I was speaking about the living stream of connection which is the gift of the Holy Spirit. Cultivating this sense for the living word which unites us wherever we may be, is a key task in our Christian Community. Understanding this mission to uphold the living word grows harder in a world that—understandably—sees in information technology a kind of salvation. Standing up for the living stream of the word can be a challenge, particularly if people have grown accustomed to the idea of a funeral or other service be-

ing transmitted over the internet. We need to validate the experiences that many members have described, when they made space in their soul inwardly to participate in the Act of Consecration of Man at home, perhaps seeing them as a part of our achievement in this challenging time.

Announcements:

Selina Horn took up a new placement in the Forest Row congregation at the beginning of September.

Luke Barr will leave Forest Row and take up a placement in central Hamburg at the beginning of December.

As announced already two years ago, some of the priests have been working on new translations of all the places in the ritual text where Thee and Thou are used. We have made a lot of progress with this work, which we had intended to introduce in stages, starting this Advent. In view of the difficulties which we are all facing, which make it particularly difficult to communicate and even meet at this time, we have decided to delay introducing any changes in this regard at the moment. We hope that it will be possible to do this in the course of next year. *Tom Ravetz*

EVELYN CAPEL MEMORIAL GARDEN OPENING

On Sunday August 9th a goodly number of people gathered together in our newly re-created garden. It was officially opened and given its name in memory of Rev. Evelyn Capel who worked tirelessly over many years here at Temple Lodge as the resident priest for our Movement for Religious Renewal. On this

same day we also officially opened the three Garden Studios with the hope they will benefit our work financially and form part of our Guesthouse complex.

Tom Ryder, the young man responsible for the splendid garden and Nic Popel, the architect of the unique studios were both present and spoke. We are sincerely grateful to both of them for their creative but also hard work.

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<https://tinyurl.com/y4558rdz>

On August 12th Michael Beaumont who has selflessly served the community for well over 30 years celebrated his 70th birthday. As a community we wished him many happy returns of the day at the garden opening and again on his actual birthday with the staff. Thanks to Jocelyn who very kindly put this festive occasion together. We are all deeply grateful to Michael for all that he has done for us!

We also remembered our dear friend Rita Weidmann who passed over the threshold recently and who gifted Temple Lodge with a substantial donation which helped to finance the Memorial Garden.

*Days pass and the years vanish
And we walk sightless among miracles.
Lord fill our eyes with seeing
And our minds with knowing.
Let there be moments when your presence,
like lightning,
Illumines the darkness in which we walk.
Help us to see, wherever we go,
That the bush burns, unconsumed.
And we, clay touched by God, will reach out
for the holiness
And exclaim with wonder:
How filled with awe is this place and
We did not know it."*

(A prayer for the Jewish Sabbath)



What does the coming of Christ into the world signify? It signifies that when a man rightly understands Christ he learns to exercise his self-consciousness to the fullest extent and his Ego eventually gains complete mastery over everything that is within him. That is what the coming of Christ signifies. The self-conscious Ego will reconquer everything that mankind has lost in the course of the ages.

Rudolf Steiner

It is one of the secret aspects of the spiritual world, that evil forces can retain their power only as long as we are not conscious of them. Developing Ego-consciousness is like an inner sunrise; no longer through a glass darkly but now with Christened clarity. Rudolf Steiner suggests that we make strong and clear in-



ner images of these dark evil forces; we will in time learn to recognise them. Awakened ego-consciousness acts like a knowing and

discerning light, forcing the adversary forces to flee or better still to be transformed.

Peter van Breda

REPORT ON THE DEVON CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY 2019/20

As we write the report, a year of enormous contrasts is coming to an end. Who would have ever dreamt last autumn or even last Christmas that our Community work would undergo a four month lockdown in the spring and early summer. For many weeks there was only a solitary priest and an immobile server speaking the Word in an otherwise empty chapel to fulfil the Act of Consecration of Man. We were lucky that Sabine Haus, our priest, wrote weekly letters to the congregation touching delicately on the great themes of life in the spirit while the world around us was permeated by so much bewilderment and apprehension. Tuning into services as they happened and reading the letters were truly lights for us in a time of spiritual mist and murk.

One very unexpected bonus during these strange times came in March in the form of a government grant for struggling charities who pay 20% of Business Rates. This was dispensed by our local council and we were given £10,000 without any strings attached. This really helped offset our loss of several vital sources of income, even though it was reassuring that almost all members and friends in this critical time continued to pay their regular contributions. Last July there was a change of Treasurers when Cathy Day and Christopher Cooper stepped down after a good sixteen years of service. Caroline D'Alwis has now taken charge of the centre's finances.

During the time of lockdown our dear member Paul Bradford died suddenly on March 24th and his funeral took place in the small circle of the family at Exeter Crematorium on April 9th after the Departing Blessing on March 27th. The Memorial Service followed on April 11th. We are hoping to have a Memorial Gathering next year, which can be attended by many. A Memorial Service was also held

on April 4th for Eileen Mary Collins, who had been involved in the early days of the Devon congregation. She died on the Sunday before lockdown.

The Confirmation was postponed and will now take place during Michaelmas time.

Before the world changed so dramatically we had enjoyed a rich harvest of events surrounding the central sacraments. Talks from friends within the Community took place, on Raphael's School of Athens, on great composers such as Bruckner and Beethoven, plus a travelogue by a number who had just experienced the modern Israel and Palestine. There was also a charming puppet show at Epiphany which captured the mood of wonder for a quite sizeable audience. Neil Franklin brought to life some remarkable motifs from the biography of Friedrich Rittelmeyer in two well researched talks. We also had the local eurythmy group rehearsing regularly in our Community Room and they then performed *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Coleridge very successfully at the Dartington Conference on Threefolding in early November. Interspersed with these events were gospel study sessions, contemplation on the great Festivals and work with servers.

On July 5th life began to return to a bit more normality when the services were again open to up to 12 people and first one, then two servers acting in their normal roles with few changes. Wednesday services became weekly followed by a gospel study, which attracted new participants.

At the end of August we were pleased to have a weekend visit from Erhard Keller who held two services and gave two inspiring talks which were much appreciated.

Let us hope that in all the months to come we can restore other elements of community activity which were so missed in the lockdown period. We can trust in the ever present help of the spiritual world in achieving this.

Christopher Cooper

Faite Romhat— Welcome to Clare so Fair!

Guest Rooms at The Christian Community, Co Clare, Ireland

Tuamgraney is situated near Scariff and Lough Derg, north of Limerick and forty minutes from Shannon airport. Just a good hour away are the Atlantic coast and Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, Galway etc.

Bed and Breakfast (£/Euro 25 pppn) and special rates for longer stays and self catering (all rooms are on the ground floor).

For further enquiries and bookings contact us on
(00353) 061 640 967 or 087 2185560



Stories, Poems and Meditations



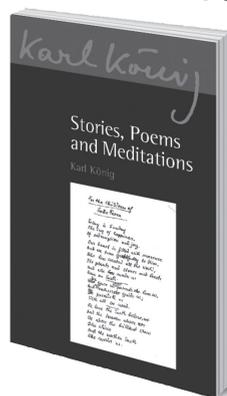
The latest from the Karl König Archive

Alongside his work with the Camphill movement, Karl König was a prolific writer of stories, poems and meditative verses.

This book contains a selection of his creative work, including verses for specific occasions, poems, short stories and stories for children.

An extensive introductory essay explores the cultural and historical environments in which König was writing and discusses the creative development of his literary work.

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