



# The Wind Call

The Christian Community in and around Cape Town:  
November 2017 – January 2018.

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**Above:** Image of St George and the Dragon from a painting of a Waldorf School pupil in the U.K. – from [www.pintinterest.com](http://www.pintinterest.com).

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## Creating our own stress free zone.

How is it that a tree like the Namibian camel thorn is able to appear so lush and serene in the devastatingly dry and hostile environment of the Namibian desert? When the camel thorn seed germinates it sends out its tap root in search of water. With every little bit of moisture that it can access, its tap root keeps searching for the nearest ground water deep below the surface while above the surface there is little or no growth. In this search it is infinitely patient and resolute. Eventually it finds its own source of water and the tree begins to grow and flourish despite the outer conditions - producing abundant pods and seeds.

The human being has, with very good reason, been sent down to earthly existence to grow and develop in the face of great opposition and in an increasingly spiritually arid environment. The picture of this is the imagination of Revelations 12. There the birth of human individuality is depicted and at the same time the dragon which wishes to devour this child. The infant is snatched up to God for safety but the mother – the human soul – is sent down to the earth as is the dragon through its battle with Michael in the next scene. It seems that the dragon has free range and so how is the soul to find the strength to grow and develop in this spiritually arid world while holding the dragon at bay? Where do we find our 'water of life'? Is it any wonder that there is so much stress in the world?

The camel thorn sends its roots deep into the earth to find its water because it is a creature of the earth. We are different in that we are essentially spiritual beings at school on the earth. This means that our search for the real sustenance is an inner spiritual one into the depths – not of the earth – but of our own soul. This is a path of inner discipline and schooling, of self-knowledge and humility. For this we need the same patience and resolute attitude as the camel thorn. Our depth of soul is seed-like in nature and as with all seeds – if you penetrate into their core there is an open space of nothingness which opens up to include the whole cosmos. When we are able to be still and listen into this place of the depths of our soul we are met by the protector of the child who gives us power – free from the clutches of the dragon. This is our tap root. It comes down from the child to meet us in the depths of soul. Our relationship with the spiritual world in the center of our heart is what holds the stress inducing dragon under our feet. With this power we are able to stand at peace with the world and to gradually transform it and along with it - the dragon.

Richard Goodall.

## Michael Merle's Ordination on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**FOR MOST OF US** (especially for South Africans) this was a first timer. What an amazing experience - very special indeed!

On Saturday 22nd our Erzoerlenker, Vicke von Behr, explained the process of the Act of Consecration of Man in which a priest is ordained. That was very good and helpful as it was quite a complex service. The whole ordination is threefold: the first one a Vow, a promise to the Circle of Seven that your intent of becoming a priest is genuine and truthful; secondly follows the Ordination Service consisting of the Act of Consecration of Man where the new priest is bestowed with the Stole and the Chasuble and the third part is where the ordained priest celebrates his very first service where he/she is then given the Barretta (the 3-cornered hat). Unfortunately we (that is Richard Goodall, Adrienne Milne and I) could not stay for the Monday morning service as we had to change our flights to be at Eddie Dawes' funeral.

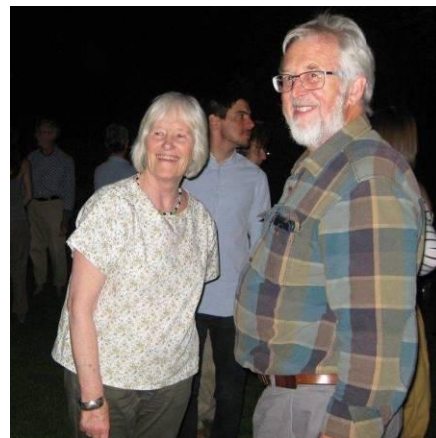
However, on Sunday afternoon we all celebrated Michael with many gifts from all around the country: Namibia, Durban, Cape Town and of course Johannesburg. For them it must have been momentous, HUGE, to have to cater and accommodate so many visitors! Amazingly well done and such a beautiful setting, the Church of Lazarus. We felt very welcomed and at home. Thank you, Joburg!

For me three things stood out: the servers at the Ordination Service were both priests, with six others sitting in vestments, excluding Michael; that was awe inspiring. The second was what the newest ordained priest, Salina Horn, said to Michael, "From an ordained point of view I am but half a year old, so I am so pleased to have a little baby brother!" And the third was the singers Kine Voigts had brought from Namibia. Wow, what stunning singing! Thank you, singers from Namibia, and Kine who is behind all this.

Adrienne and I stayed at the Douglasdale Retirement Village where Karin von Schilling and Patricia Kuhlmann live. It was very good to re-establish links that were nearly fading. Thank you, Karin and Patricia for your warm-hearted hospitality. Adrienne also organised to visit Eileen Tippet who had a stroke at the beginning of the year. She recognised us easily and was very pleased to see us. Jane Abrahams took us there and then showed us afterwards where she lives in a granny cottage at one of her children's. It was so beautiful there with lots of garden and flowers, lots of space. Thank you dear Jane!

Hanna Hack.

(Cont. Page 3) ...



**Pictures - Top:** Malcolm & Christine Allsop entertaining the visitors. **Middle:** Sheilagh & Howard Dobson in relaxed mood. **Bottom:** Circle dancing.



Here they all are together: the priests present in the congregation for the Ordination. (Left to right): Rev. Reingard Knausenberger (Lenker for the Southern African Region), Rev. Vicke von Behr (Erzoberlenker, Berlin); Rev. Michael Merle; Rev. Richard Goodall (Cape Town); Rev. Peter van Breda (Temple Lodge, London); Rev. Malcolm Allsop (Johannesburg, moved to Vienna); Rev. Kine Voigts (Windhoek, Namibia); Rev. Peter Holman (Hillcrest, KZN) and Rev. Selina Horn (Stroud, UK).

For more pictures of this special event please visit website: [www.christiancommunityjohannesburg.org.za](http://www.christiancommunityjohannesburg.org.za) and click on "Photos".

### ***Special moments of the Ordination.***

The Ordination service itself was very powerful and moving. The earnestness of the occasion was enhanced by the full, rich picture of having eight priests and Michael present around the altar. Seeing the priests as servers for the service also brought about a whole different dimension. Being present for the first Act of Consecration of Man which Michael celebrated, was also a special moment.

Anne-Marié Winkelman.

**September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017** marked a very significant day for the Christian Community in Africa, being the date of the first Ordination service for a Priest in South Africa and the second Ordination for Africa as a whole. The Christian Community in Johannesburg hosted this memorable event for the Ordination of Michael Merle, supported by a sizable number of visitors from the Communities in Durban, Cape Town, Windhoek and Europe. The hard work offered by the community, was greatly appreciated, with the supportive provision of wholesome meals, talks, discussion, and circle dancing.

For Michael this was the culmination of a long journey from becoming a Waldorf teacher in 2001, through the expansion of his skills into administration, teacher training and Federation work, to membership of The Hague Circle, and roaming mentor for all of the Waldorf schools in Southern Africa - and all of this constantly embellished by Michael's earlier experiences in ecclesiastical training. During the sharing after the Ordination, references were made to Michael's broad capacities to embrace the many encounters and challenges he had experienced, and the warmth and humility, as well as sound academic structure, that he brought to these occasions. Mention was made of the Venerable Bede, a wise and modest medieval monk, in part reflecting many of Michael's qualities, but also making us aware of the 'common touch' that Michael can bring to his ministrations. Michael was warmly welcomed into the community by all those present, and I'm sure the wider community will hold him in their thoughts, and wish him all strength for his future with the Christian Community.

Howard Dobson.

Dear Friends,

I am currently working in England as a caregiver. As part of the Training for Care Giving, I learned about extensive care for the bedridden and paralysed. I am asking myself why I'm doing this but it just feels like the right next step! I must say that I was greatly heartened by the caliber of prospective care givers who I met on the Training Course - women and men of substance.

I'm close to Stroud, where I am blessed to have been offered a base with Aaron and Judy Mirkin, who are dear friends. There, too, Helena Nepgen lives and we have made a warm connection. I am also in distant touch with Peter van Breda in London. For all of this I am filled with gratitude - BUT there's no place like home. I especially miss my grandson Noah! Kind regards, Anu Muirhead.



## ***Farewell to Leigh Sax.***

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**AT AN AGE WHEN OTHERS** are looking forward to retirement and perhaps observe life floating past, Leigh Sax is embarking on a whole new existence 2 km outside the charming Western Cape town of Bonnievale. There is a small farm of three hectares, between the Breede River and the main road between Ashton and Bonnievale. On the farm are mostly vines and some dwellings waiting for new owners to take care of them. Into this idyllic environment step Leigh, his friend and colleague, Helen Burton, and a few other colleagues as well.

Leigh has had a long and productive work life with a very definite thread through it. The picture is one of bridging, or rather several bridges: like a lily trotter places one slender leg after the other on water lily leaves in a pond, so his life has gone from leaf to leaf, always landing on the right space from where to go to the next pond.

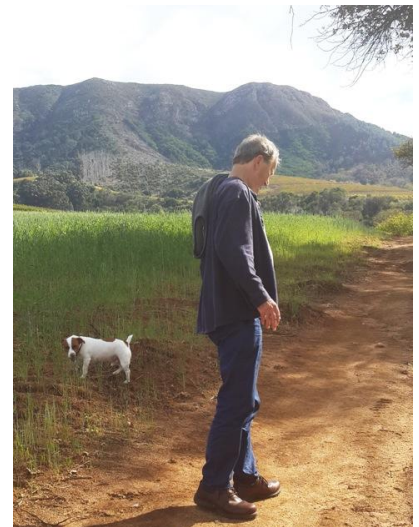
He arrived in Cape Town from England in 1978 with Faith Sax and their two children, Rachel and Gerome, and their two cats. They settled down at Belmont House in Kenilworth where they lived and ran a residential home for mentally handicapped adults until 1992. In the years leading up to this moment in time Leigh had been in the U.K. where he did a one-year training in the Rudolf Steiner Home in Aberdeen. There he met Faith who was to become his wife and who was fully trained in the same field. Before that he had worked at different occupations just to keep the wolf from the door.

They moved to Stourbridge and set up a half-way house, supporting people from sheltered care to move to the outside world where they had to survive independently. They taught people about how to deal with money, relationships and employment situations. Their daughter, Rachel, was born in December 1970 and son, Gerome in 1973. In 1976 they left Stourbridge and moved to Bristol and worked with Camphill, taking care of a large home of some very disturbed people.

Thereafter they bought a private house in Gibson Road, Kenilworth and Leigh went to work with the Quaker Peace Centre running the Economic Development. His work took him into the townships of Cape Town, also to many small towns in the Karoo to give assistance where necessary. The Quakers ran a small loan scheme to help people develop a livelihood.

**Photos - top:** Leigh receiving his gift from the community: a bird feeder made by Patrick Enthoven for their new garden in Bonnievale. **Middle:** Farewell speech. **Bottom:** Leigh searching for his new path in life.

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**Top:** It would appear as if Leigh has found his El Dorado!

*(Cont. from previous page) ...*

After the marriage came to an end Leigh lived with Celeste Dibson and her son, Patrick, who was 12 at the time. He and Patrick developed a close relationship and Leigh adopted him as his son when he and Celeste got married. From their Plumstead home he went to do eurythmy training during the mornings and worked at the Quaker Centre during the afternoons until 1998. That year his son, Gerome, was killed in the Lesotho war. This was a hugely incisive event in their lives. In 1999 Leigh left the Quakers and continued working as a consultant for them, doing training and helping with the financial work. Celeste had been training as an eurythmist in Dornach and during that time the marriage ended.

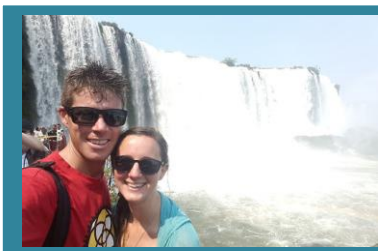
He met Helen Burton in 2003. She was a designer and marketer and helped Leigh with some of his clients. Together they helped organizations to help themselves through Helen's marketing skills and Leigh's organizational experience and government connections for assistance. Their work would unfold many opportunities for them. For four years they tried to re-commission a bio-digester in Graaff-Reinet as an opportunity for the local community to help themselves but the local and government authorities did not see their way clear to support it. They also had connections with the community in Ladysmith, Cape Province, where they tried to obtain a property which would be

suitable for their developmental work, but it fell through. Then the Bonnievale opportunity presented itself. An N.P.O., Elemental Africa, was set up to manage the food, water, energy security and job creation aspects. In the small farm, Klein Gelukkie, they found the perfect set-up near to the township, just 2 km from Bonnievale, with water from the river and dwellings on. There is also a cottage to rent out.

So this is Leigh's new work life: at the age of 72 he will learn to look after a farm with vines. They already have a biodynamic consultant helping them to prepare the soil for bio-dynamic farming. They will try to respond to the community's needs, so it's a process of opportunities unfolding. For Leigh his whole life has been one of bridging: during each phase he learnt much, before being guided to the next bridge where a new learning curve would start.

Leigh joined The Christian Community in 1968 when he was in London. Next year he would have been a member for 50 years. During his years in Cape Town he has been fully involved in all aspects of church life: he sang in the choir, he was a server, a trustee, treasurer and he was chairperson of the Regional Council. He also put on several plays with Pauline Scott here at the church. Hopefully he will let us have his experiences of being in the Cape Town Community next year when he has settled down in Bonnievale. We wish him, Helen as well as the other colleagues all of the best in their new undertaking.

Marilize.



**Welcome Back, Rhoda & Chris,**  
from your adventurous 6 month tour of  
South America! The grandeur of nature is  
well reflected. **Left:** the Iguaza Fall in  
Brazil and **right:** Machu Picchu in Peru.

Marilize.

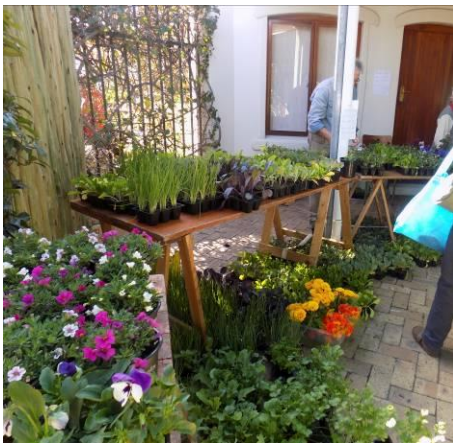




## Fair 2017

**WE ENJOYED A** successful Fair in perfect Spring weather. Thank you to all stall holders and others who cooperated so well to make this possible.

Lionel Chanarin was a big draw card with his professional circus skills!  
(Centre bottom picture.) Marilize.





## **Adieu Johanna & Lulama.**

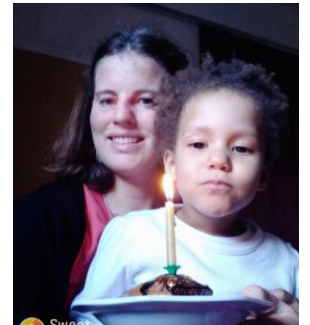
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**SOON WE WILL SAY GOODBYE** to Johanna Oltmanns, one of our stalwart members, who is leaving for Germany for a year or two. At least she is planning to return to Cape Town when her tasks there are complete. She is hoping to spend as much time as possible with, and help caring for, her ailing mother. Johanna grew up in the country side of Cologne with her last two years of school at Uhlandshöhe in Stuttgart. She then studied at the University of Dresden to become a high school teacher. Her father was a bio-dynamic farmer and her mother a Waldorf School teacher, so Johanna was born and bred in the Waldorf ethos. She grew up and was confirmed in The Christian Community and so she immediately felt at home here in our Cape Town congregation. With her



studies completed she wanted to travel and see the world and thus she came to Cape Town to work as a volunteer at the Centre for Creative Education doing Maths Support, Art History with Eurythmy students and also supporting the fundraising team. She was drawn to this by the Waldorf ethos and community living here. She returned to Germany but soon came back to the C.C.E. to continue the fundraising and for a half year's Eurythmy study.

In January 2013 her daughter, Lulama, was born and since then Johanna has been working from home as a fundraiser for the C.C.E. Lulama soon became Johanna's shadow and grew up living in community, eventually attending a Waldorf Kindergarten. Soon Johanna was roped in to help our Craft Group



working towards the Church Fair where her talents and sense of artistry are greatly appreciated. Since being a baby in her carrier Lulama was thus exposed to the beautiful fabrics used and to their rich colours. Some time back Johanna also took on the accommodation of guests at the church, a role which she fulfills with flair. She enjoys her work as a fundraiser as it provides an overview of the whole organization. An important part of it is building relationships with the funders who are mostly from Europe. She also deals with volunteers who come to the C.C.E. every year wanting to work in the township schools. When she goes to Germany in December she will continue her fundraising work from home and will have the advantage of being near to the funders. Johanna and Lulama will share a house with a priest from Columbia and his family. They will also be near her mother for regular visits.

And when she's not working, parenting or offering her services to the church and community, what else does she like to do? She smiled and replied that she enjoys dancing, especially salsa, the Latin American dance which originated in the 1970s in the Caribbean. We wish Johanna and Lulama all of the best and we will warmly welcome them back when their sojourn in Germany is completed.

Marilize.

### **Children's Camp 2017.**

**EVERYTHING IS GRADUALLY FALLING INTO PLACE** for this year's Children's Camp which will run from 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> December. This is such an important impulse for The Christian Community and of great benefit to the children who are able to attend. We like to take children from the age of 10 so that they have a good five to six years of camps before moving on to other things. Some also then become helpers and so stay on for many more years, all the time learning and growing in so many different ways. The helpers are all there for two and a half days before the camp and one day after the camp so that it becomes a bit of a youth camp as well.

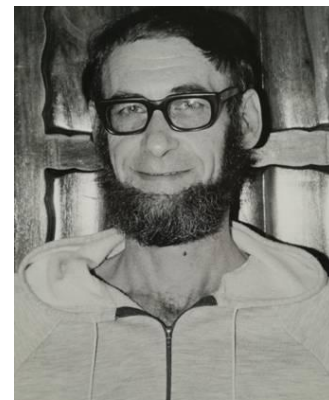
The idea has always been that the children who grow up in the camps and become helpers also learn to run camps for children themselves. This is already bearing fruit. Two boys from the camp have already run short camps on the same farm during the year and this year for the first time there will be three long standing camp goers who will be taking over a lot of the responsibility for the daily smooth running of the camp. This is very heartening to see and I have no doubt that they will manage very well. The three are Jason Higgins, Gabrielle Antoine and Haelan Laubser. We wish them well with this new endeavour. I of course will be there all the time to coach and support them.

Richard Goodall.



### Friends who have recently crossed the threshold.

**Malcolm Attfield** was born 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1941 and died on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 after having been ill for some time. Malcolm is greatly missed by his Community friends. He is fondly remembered for many things, not the least his quiet, thoughtful presence and his respectful and courteous attitude to his fellows. Our condolences go to his wife, Shirreen and the family. Marilize.



**Edward Dawes** was born 28<sup>th</sup> September 1933 and died on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 after a long illness. Well-known in Waldorf circles he was an educator par excellence, and worked as a trainer of trainers at the Centre for Creative Education until his 83<sup>rd</sup> year. There is much that can be said about his full and rich life experiences – and it was all shared at his funeral and memorial gathering. He had many long-lasting friendships and he connected to people on a deep level. Our condolences also go to his wife, Wilma and the family.



### Malcolm Attfield's last request.

*SOME OF THE LAST STUDIES* that Malcolm Attfield occupied himself with before he became seriously ill were from Rudolf Steiner's lecture titled "The significance of spiritual science for moral action". He sent us extracts and requested it to be published in the next Wind Call, if suitable and space permitting. It is, however, too long for our purposes but to honour Malcolm's request we quote the last paragraph: "Just as the seed of the plant brings forth blossoms in the future, so will wisdom bring forth human blossoms, if it is planted into man's soul. Human morality will arise. Wisdom is the seed, the soul is the receptacle and morality is the blossom and fruit of the plant-like being of man." Rudolf Steiner.

Thank you, dear Malcolm. Marilize.

### From Malcolm's Family.

Dear All, Thank you for a lovely tea at Malcolm's funeral, as well as all your condolences and kindness shown. It was a wonderful support and much appreciated. Shirreen Attfield & Family.

**Our prayers and best wishes for recovery** go to John Penfold who has suffered a heart attack, Eva Rieger who has undergone a knee operation and Lore Marnewecke who is recuperating from a back operation. Marilize.



CAROLE PENFOLD HAS REQUESTED that we share the following invitation, which she had received from the General Anthroposophical Section at the Goetheanum, with our Community as we also have a culture here in South Africa of preparing for and celebrating these all important events. We quote as follows:

***“ ... Not only do we pass through the gate of death as immortal being, we also enter through the gate of birth as unborn being ... “  
Rudolf Steiner CW 297, P. 206)***

“In our time it has become difficult to pass through the gates of birth and death with courage and confidence. Entering a new realm of consciousness as well as unknown surroundings at these thresholds of human biography, means new challenges for us that can manifest as fear and insecurity. A pregnancy without fear and a natural birth are not a matter of course any longer. Numerous preventative medical check-ups in the form of prenatal evaluations of the developing child using increasingly differentiated technological instruments make visible what is naturally secluded in the intimacy of the womb. This induces fear and insecurity.

“Prevention becomes pre-occupation with the child. At the other gate of life we experience equal challenges: fear of death, but also a longing for death with the demand of assisted suicide and active euthanasia, as well as questioning the significance of the duration of palliative illness. As pregnancy guides us through birth into life on earth, the moments of death will lead us across the threshold into the spiritual world. Also a sudden death may have announced itself and in retrospect it may not have been so unannounced after all. The preparation for these thresholds, as different as they are in their direction and quality, also shows surprising similarities. Today these processes of transition demand active, positive accompaniment and support, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

“The sixth Conference for a Culture at the Threshold at the Goetheanum will take place in co-operation with the General Anthroposophical Section and the Medical Section. We are inviting trained personnel and their co-workers, as well as parents, and all of those involved and interested in such questions, to participate actively in the lectures, work groups and an exchange of experience at this conference.

Joan Sleight: For the Organizing Committee,  
Matthias Girke and Georg Soldner for the Executive Council.”

**We will be celebrating our relationship with the dead on **Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 3 p.m.** here at the church. All are welcome.**

**Carole Penfold.**

Dear Friends,

The picture of Table Mountain in the background with a glowing light beaming up from Plumstead gives me a cosmic picture of the presence of The Christian Community in South Africa. This light beams throughout the country, over deserts, mountains, rivers, mielie fields, townships and cities, meeting sister churches on its way ... The Christ Impulse in Cape Town, taking the word impulse to another level, pulsates within its members, and reflects in the deeds each one performs. The seven candles on the Altar light up these deeds: The Candle Angel, whose patient devotion to the Altar light is carried out after each Sunday Service; the care, respect and reverence which is given to the plant world surrounding the Church, and all those who work in it; the housekeeping, the housekeepers whose energy and ability transform chaos into order; the altar flowers and well ironed vestments; the music which regularly stops the Angels in their tracks in order to hear every note; the lively Community which lives on the Church property and reflects community. Then there is the throbbing heart in the centre, keeping it all together, as well as the priests who carry out the Act of Consecration of Man and who look after the Spiritual life of the Congregation (no small task). These lighted candles make a rare and glorious glow in the world.

Love from Pauline Scott.



Dear Community,

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We are so humbled and filled with gratitude, firstly that our lives have been spared after the terrible car accident we were involved in on 26th August, and secondly for the overwhelming support we have experienced ever since, through prayer, very tangibly felt, visits, flowers, cards, meals, messages etc.

Charles recovered after a few weeks from his elbow injury, I am recovering much more slowly from the severe neck injury and subsequent surgery and still have my neck in a brace for at least another 6 weeks. It has been and still is an enormous exercise in PATIENCE and learning to be at the receiving end of so many people's kindness and generosity.

The hardest/saddest part for me in all this has been that I was due to be present at the christening in Ottersberg, north Germany, of our youngest grandchild (born 16th July), on 17th September and thereafter to fly via Johannesburg to attend the Ordination of Michael Merle. A challenge for me to concentratedly be there IN SPIRIT as I was unable to be there in the flesh!!

Accompanying photo from left to right is godmother Olivia Girard, Theresa Chouler Klee holding Simon Peter, Nikolaus Klee and Joshua(2½) and godfather Francis Chouler. With love and thanks, Annette & Charles Chouler.



Dear Friends,

With so many departures, an arrival is surely good news – Baby Juan John Roux was born to Reuben and Liesl Roux of Petervale Farm, Ceres, on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Best wishes, John Roux. (Picture left.)

*Our warmest congratulations to both families on the birth of their new babies.*

*Marilize.*

### **Advent Festival.**

**When: Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**at 16h00.** Helpers are needed to help set up please, either Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> around 16h00 or on Saturday morning.

**Advent Craft Group – Meeting on**

**Saturdays 15h00 – 17h00** to make Advent crafts. Extra hands are very welcome.

Please contact Marilize tel (021)762-0450 or [christiano@telkomsa.net](mailto:christiano@telkomsa.net).

### **Timour Hall Cottages.**

Amongst the trees there is a little wooden house with a green roof called “West House”, and named after the late Michael West, close friend of John and Margaret Coates. Following the path up to West House one half expects to find elves and other forest folk around. And indeed, inside colourful puppets on the walls meet the eye, welcoming the visitor with their perennial smiles. ➔



Their owner, John Coates, who is fashioning wooden handles for domestic use with his old fashioned tools, introduces the visitor to his puppets, some from different cultures and countries. It is a magical corner of the garden and it is right under our noses!

Marilize.