

# The Wind Call

**The Christian Community  
in and around Cape Town**

**Nov 2013-Jan 2014**

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## ***Our life with others - a shifting sea of exchanged influences.***

**WE CAN ALL EXPERIENCE HOW**, when we find ourselves in a beautifully prepared space – whether in a room or in a garden, that space has a definite effect on us. If it is quiet and penetrated with a loving attention to detail, then we too become quiet and notice how our sense of perception is heightened. We become more and more receptive and at the same time seek out details as yet unnoticed. Such a space will always leave us free and never impose itself on us.

We are also all aware of the fact that we have a definite space around us which is still “us”. The size of this space is different for different people but we are acutely aware of any unwelcome intrusion into “our space”. We also need to think about how aware we are of the effect our space has on others? Every time we walk into a room, that room is subtly influenced and changed by our presence. The nature of that effect is entirely up to us and how we choose to prepare and beautify our space. The quality of our space is dependent on what is living in our hearts and minds.

When the Dalai Lama was visiting Cape Town some years ago, he gave a much anticipated talk in the city hall. As he entered the packed auditorium, the effect of his entry was quite remarkable and for some people almost overwhelming. At first there was absolute silence and then everybody leapt to their feet with thunderous applause. He hadn't said anything or done anything but he had about him an almost tangible presence – the result of a life time of inner striving and inner struggle.

So, what is it that makes us either givers or takers in this regard? What enables us to make a positive contribution to the space we enter and what causes us to take something away from the room we enter? It is very dependent on how we see ourselves and our role in the world. All of the innate strengths and abilities which we have are not earned by us since birth. We brought them with us into the world for a purpose. They can be thought of as the raw material which we need to be able to do what we are really here to do – namely to transform everything in us which is unresolved and thereby take new steps into the future. The moment we start out on this path of transformation, everything in us which is unresolved or not whole shows up for healing.

The only thing that can bring about this healing is love. Not personal, emotional love, but that love which brought us into existence in the first place. That ever present stream of cosmic, creative love which bears and orders the life of the world and makes it whole. If we want transformation and healing in our lives and through our lives into the world, then we need to consciously connect with this creative stream of love. We can imagine it as a conscious stream of healing intent that imbues the whole world with its presence and waits and longs for co-operative souls in and through whom it can work into the world with its healing, resolving strength. To ignore this love means to evade the tasks that we are here to do and this leaves us feeling unfulfilled and disgruntled with life. We are only agents of meaningful change in the world to the extent that we remain connected to this love.

It is our connectedness or lack of connection to this stream of love that determines the quality of our space and its effect on the world around us. We can all become spaces of healing and resolving when we work out of this love. This is what is referred to in the Act or Consecration of Man as “working from Christ”.

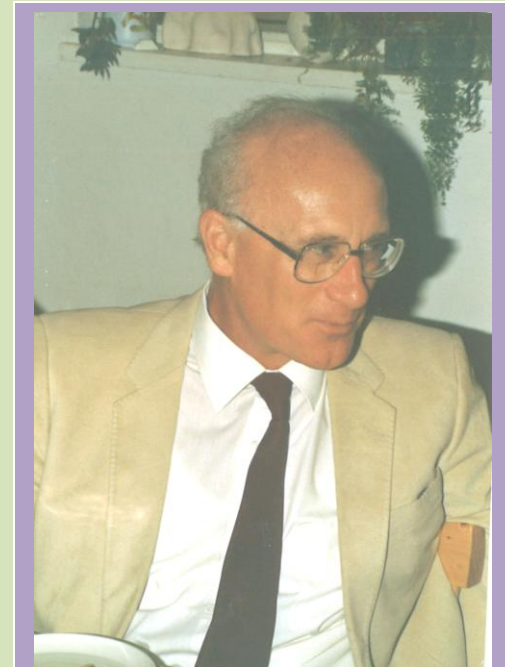
Richard Goodall.



***Julian Sleigh: 6 October 1927 – 2 October 2013.***

**I FIRST MET JULIAN IN 1991 IN HERMANUS**, when my wife, Judy, and I were co-workers at the Camphill Farm Community. Julian used to visit regularly to give talks and hold the Service. Although I had grown up in The Christian Community in England, I had been less connected for a few years. Thus in a real sense I “re-discovered” the renewed Sacraments through Julian’s visits. There was always a warm inner glow that grew the day of the arrival and I can now attribute this to three things: my respect and regard for Julian as a human being; the lively and inspiring talks he gave; the fact that the Act of Consecration of Man would be celebrated. This last was ultimately the most profound, and my relationship with this sacrament grew and filled me with a renewed resolve to become a regular attendee and, indeed, explore the possibility of the priesthood for myself. Several conversations with Julian (and others) led to the decision to apply to the Seminary in Stuttgart.

We moved to Germany in 1992 and during my training Julian accompanied my progress with support and encouragement. He became a mentor and later a good friend to me. He was instrumental in my being sent to South Africa two years after ordination.



Julian Sleigh.

I have a memory of Julian in Stuttgart – apparently insignificant, yet it says much about his character. He had been to a Synod and visited a few of us at the Seminary. A taxi was called to take him to the railway station. He and I bade farewell on the steps and I watched him leave. It made a big impression on me that as he settled into the passenger seat in front and was driving off he was already in animated conversation with the taxi driver. This said so much about his social gifts, his interest in all people he met, also those totally unconnected to our communities, his warmth and ability to build bridges to others and make them feel good about themselves. In a very real way Julian represented to me, then in a somewhat stiff and cool Germany, the warmth of Africa and the African sun.

Well, Julian was born into a Mediterranean sun in Florence in 1927. The *joie de vivre* and charming, sunny disposition of the Italian people made their mark on the young boy and he grew to have a great appreciation and love of Florentine life and the history of the Renaissance around him. It became a part of his being, and later on the art, music and beauty of that era played an important role in his life. As did his Catholic faith for many years. When his family (parents, sister and two brothers) moved to Kensington in England in 1937, Julian joined the scouts and rose through the ranks to become a King’s Scout. He had a number of good friends, including one with whom he was evacuated at the start of the war who became a famous politician. Julian did two years National Service in the army from 1948 and was selected to train as an officer before studying business administration at the London School of Economics. He worked for a time in Wales.

Julian met Anthroposophy, Camphill and The Christian Community. He writes movingly in his autobiography about his first experiences of Camphill community life at Christmas and the Act of Consecration of Man. It was 1952: a turning point in his life.

Many of the readers know much of the remainder of the story: how Julian took to Camphill community life, finding his spiritual home and rejoicing in the new celebration of the festivals and sacraments, and then moving to South Africa in 1958. He married Renate a year later. His ordination followed in 1965 and he and Heinz Maurer began the work in the Village, Cape Town and Johannesburg. Julian became Lenker for our region in the mid 1980s. Combined with his manifold tasks in the Village, the Western Cape Forum for Mental Health, Lifeline, etc, his plate was unbelievably full. He could not do justice to everything. His family undoubtedly saw less of him than was ideal and his Libra star sign meant decisions were often hard to reach. This was particularly

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hard for the Shongweni community when things began to get difficult. It burdened him and we can only hope that what Julian could not achieve in KZN in his lifetime he will now be able to help towards resolution from above.

When I joined the work in the Western Cape in 1997 as priest at Alpha, Julian turned 70 and was allowed to gradually retire. He became my "curate"! I have many memories of Julian: the Good Friday performances he enthralled us with, his talks and plays, travels together, conversations about spirituality, biographies, current affairs and much laughter. Julian enjoyed puns, plays and politics, he loved the theatre and good music as well as reading. Once I was transferred to KZN in 2007 we kept in contact and it was good to see how Julian could gradually move from being outwardly active to realising that in old age one can still perform an essential role of praying for our work in the Region and accompanying what goes on in all our centres with interest and love. This he will undoubtedly continue!

Peter Holman, Hillcrest Community.



*Julian & Renate Sleigh.*

*Thanks to James Sleigh who, on request, sent us these lovely pictures of his parents.*

### ***Gratitude.***

**WHEN IN THE LATE 1950S** Renate König and Julian Sleigh came from England to South Africa to work at the Camphill Village in Hermanus, my parents, Gera and Alfred Bienewitz and I lived in Johannesburg. Although there was at that time a small group of Anthroposophists meeting regularly to study the works of Rudolf Steiner, there was as yet no Christian Community or Waldorf School.

When my mother heard that a Christian Community priest would be coming to perform the marriage sacrament for Renate and Julian in Hermanus in February of 1959, she immediately wrote to Rev. Peter Roth, who was one of the founder group of Camphill and who had come from Vienna with the König family to Botton village in England, asking if he would be willing to come to Johannesburg to christen me. I still have the letter written by Rev. Roth (in German) in which he expresses his delight and willingness to do so. Hence it was that thanks to Julian and Renate getting married in South Africa on 22nd February 1959, I was christened at the age of 5 in our lounge in Kew, Johannesburg, exactly a week later on 1st March 1959. It was a very significant moment in my life!! And also the beginning of a lifelong connection to The Christian Community, which is ongoing.

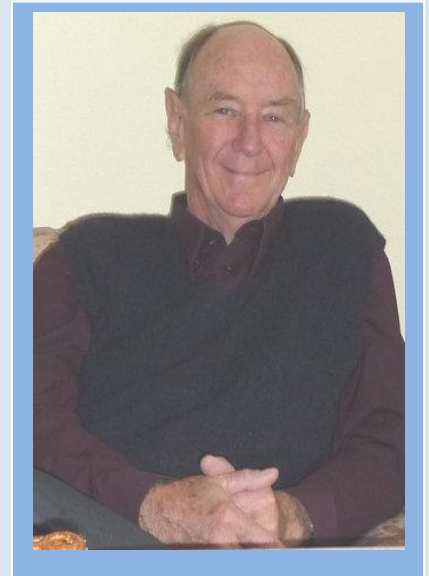
When in the mid-1960s Julian and Renate moved from Hermanus to start up the village at Camphill Alpha (now West Coast), and with us now also living in Cape Town, my parents teaching and I a pupil at Michael Oak, I met up with Julian and Renate and their growing family regularly at the many celebratory occasions over the following years. The Village was changing from a "dustbowl" to the vibrant, lush and beautiful place that it is now.

In June 1978 when my Father died, Julian gave a beautiful eulogy at his funeral, speaking about his life as a sculptor (some of his works can be seen in our Plumstead church, others in churches in Johannesburg) and also as a dedicated student of Rudolf Steiner. Julian mentioned his birthday being 4th October, St Francis Day, and ending with a quote from St Francis, with whom he himself had a strong connection: "He who works with his hands is a labourer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands, his head and his heart is an artist." Alfred was an artist.

Thank you, Julian. My love and good thoughts go to Renate and all the family.  
Annette Chouler (Bienewitz).

PS. Please note we have Julian's books for sale in the bookshop if you wish to read more about his life and works.

***The Cape Town Diaspora.*** We received several responses of which we publish two today, the first one from Neville Adams who most of you will remember as one of our Cape Town priests from 1985 to 1998. He now stands in as a priest, when necessary, in a number of congregations in Germany, the closest one to him being Bielefeld in Niedersachsen - Lower Saxony in English – another congregation in Cuxhaven, and less often at the congregations of Bremen and Ottersberg.)



Dear Christian Community in Cape Town,

South Africa is so far away and yet ever present through the Wind Call and also in various people who live not far away. So I had the pleasure recently of visiting the family of Theresa and Klaus Klee-Chouler (it sounds so nice when spoken in the German way: Clay-Choulay).

It was lovely to see them and included the pleasure of seeing Annette Chouler who was visiting. We had a real South African braai and sat outside until it was finally darkish and time to go home - 10 p.m. We live about 45 minutes away from them in a small town called Schneverdingen in the Lueneburger Heide.

Even Eddie Dawes called in recently but unfortunately I was not home. Instead a niece received him - better luck next time, Eddie!

It is always a pleasure to get visitors as it was some time back when Ulrike Thaele and her sister Anette, as well as two of her daughters, descended on us. It felt so homely! Just like old times. Yes, I do feel very much connected to the Cape Town congregation. A conversation with Helga Ackermann, who was visiting her brother in Hamburg recently, felt so very natural. So if anyone is in the vicinity (50 km south of Hamburg) and would like to make contact please feel free to get my contact details from Richard or Marilize ...

My congratulations and best wishes on the development of the congregation under the wonderful guidance and support of Richard - I very much enjoy his articles! The development of the cottages on the adjoining property is a terrific fulfillment of the intention when the property in Plumstead was purchased.

Regards, Neville Adams.

***A regular visitor from Aberdeen, Scotland sent the following mail.***

**I WOULD LIKE TO THANK** all those friends at the Christian Community in Cape Town whom I got to know during my last long visit and stay at the Church this year during my working holiday, March through May. I was so looking forward to seeing again how the church grounds have changed with the newly built cottages with their newly arrived residents, and happily, to find that I knew both sets of residents already.

I can truly say that I, and my daughter, had a wonderful time, visiting friends, exploring Cape Town and the beaches, and yet returning to the sociable safety of the Church at Plumstead. Apart from two weeks running an art workshop at Camphill Village West Coast I stayed most of the time either at the Church or with Jaquie Frylink who has become one of my dearest friends. When I was asked by Pauline and David Scott if I would live in their sheltered home for a month caring for David while Pauline visited her family I was very pleased to agree; there is such a special atmosphere within and around the Church which, for me, gives security and protection on more than the physical level and yet provides the sense of community with friends and neighbours we all search for.

Caring for David was a special experience, as, although I had cared for the elderly before I had never lived in as a full time duty, so we got to know each other in a new way. I became very fond of him as I realised how very frail he was. When I heard of his quick passing only two months after I left I felt very sad for Pauline's loss but at the same time glad that I had had the chance to know him and help build him up physically to give him the energy to continue in the physical.

Although I can't say when I can return to see you all, I can say I am full of good memories and think of you often, especially as Scotland moves into late autumn and colder weather. I do look forward to another visit one day.

Loving greetings and many thanks to Richard for our conversations while driving to Hermanus and Camphill Village.

Sandra Stoddard.



**Here is another response from U.K , old friends of the Cape Town Community, Phoebe and Rod McLeod.**

*Phoebe was a trustee and bookkeeper of the church and offered her time and expertise in many different ways.*

*She and Rod always generously contributed to and assisted with our fairs – I have a memory of them carrying in several large trays loaded with many cakes for the cake stall!*

*Marilize.*

### **News from Stockport, U.K.**

It is six years since Rod and I settled back in the UK. Mark and Catherine our son-in-law and daughter, fortuitously, returned at the same time and so, because Mark was returning to his roots in Stockport, Cheshire, we decided that we should also put down roots in Stockport.

What a difference from Cape Town! Stockport cannot be considered as attractive in any way. It's recent history is about hat-making. All gone now. During the WW2, the tunnels under the underbank were used as air raid shelters and people used to come in their thousands from Manchester to spend the night for protection. Stockport has an ancient market which was initially proclaimed in the 12th century, though now the stalls mainly sell objets d'art from the East! One or two tudor properties still exist but the town centre has been turned into an ugly shopping precinct where nobody likes to shop.

There are a number of excellent independent schools in the town.

It took me a long time to incarnate into the life here. Rod's hospital treatment though made us appreciate the fantastic NHS we have. Rod has been through the mill in terms of his health and now he awaits a mitral valve repair at the hospital which is known as a centre of excellence for cardiac treatment. This should happen in December and we are hoping that he will get his strength back and be able to do things again. We live in a retirement flat which is part of a Housing Association and so have all the support we need in terms of heating, alarms, community lounge etc.

I joined the choir of the local parish church (St George's) and am taking the exams for the Royal College of Church Music which I am loving. I enjoy the music and the camaraderie of the choir

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Rod & Phoebe.

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members. We have a very happy time. I also go to the gym twice a week for a serious work out to keep my blood pressure and sugar levels in check!

I am enjoying life. I have given up the care work but qualified as an assessor of apprentices who are doing their diplomas in health and social care. The work has been very fulfilling and I love to support the carers through the whole process. What dismays me though is the shockingly low level of maths and English. What are these teachers doing in the schools?

As I mentioned before, our local Christian Community meeting is held bi-monthly in Didsbury. We rent a room from the Methodist Church and conduct our Act Of Consecration of Man with Monika Knight. Louise Madsen who was our Lenker until recently used to take the services before she retired to Stourbridge. At our flats, we have a single room which is rented to visitor friends for £10 day one and £5 for each day thereafter up to 2 weeks. If any of you need such accommodation, let me know.

Rod and I send warm greetings to all of you who remember us. We think of you often and are grateful for the Wind Call which arrives in my e-mail inbox every couple of months. Much love, Phoebe.

**Eva Picard** has had major surgery on a broken upper leg and is recovering well in the frail care centre at Silvermine Village where she lives. Our warmest wishes for a speedy recovery to her.

**Erika Poulter** passed away peacefully at 07h30 on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Our condolences go out to Bryan Poulter and the family.

# Thanks

- My most heart-felt thanks to **Rosemarie Enthoven**, who organized the painting of the church office, and the replacing of the old carpet as well as the thread-bare blinds during my leave in August. As a result of her dedication to the task, her enthusiasm and excellent planning this job could be completed with the least disturbance to the office activities. Richard's office is being upgraded as well and it should be dressed in its new furnishings hopefully by the end of the year. Thanks also to her husband, **Patrick Enthoven**, for helping with various tasks. Considering that they have to travel into town from their farm at Klapmuts each time, this is especially gratefully acknowledged.

- To **Hanna von Maltitz** for making a loan of one of her paintings to the office to enhance the new look.

- To **Anne-Marie Winkelman** for donating a protective plastic floor mat for the office swivel chair.

- To **Hanna von Maltitz** for sewing up and painting our very visible new Fair banner displayed outside on our fence.

- To **Christina Goodall and the choir** for their uplifting Michaelmas music.

**First song:** Unconquered Hero of the Skies- an old song rewritten by Michael Riehm.

**Second song:** God be in my Head by Rutter.

Marilize.



**Our Family Fair 2013 will be held on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November from 11h00 – 15h00.**

Dear Community,

Our Family Fair is one week away and we expect a flurry of activities in your kitchens during the next few days as you prepare delicious dishes and bake masterpieces of cakes. Please remember to flag the ingredients, also those of the lunch dishes and cakes.

We will be **setting up from Friday at 14h00** and as usual we will need helpers with the trestle tables and other equipment as well as on Saturday from 08h00. Likewise, when the Fair is over we would need all hands on deck to help set up for church on Sunday.

Marilize.

Make your **favourite pudding** for the Church Fair - all kinds and sizes welcome. Please take note: - you do not have to bring cream as I will bring enough, and John Penfold and I will whip as we need- if you can add a small sign with the name of the pudding (those one cannot obviously recognize, like fruit salads) it will help a lot to entice the indecisive customer, or to answer the inevitable questions as to what the contents are. In gratitude, and anticipation of finger-licking moments.

Cobie Roelvert.

## **Solo Exhibition of New Paintings**

**by Hanna von Maltitz at Novalis Ubuntu, 39**

**Rosmead Ave, Kenilworth**

**on 22 November at 5.30 for 6pm.**

**Speaker: Andre Roothman.**

## **Children's Camp.**



Dear Parents,

The Children's Camp will take place at Wildgarten once again from **11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

**December.** The application forms have already gone out to all the children who came last year. If you are intending to send your children along please apply soonest to avoid disappointment.

We accept children between the ages of 10 and 13 on a first come first served basis. Your child is on the list once your completed application form is in and the deposit paid. We look forward to yet another glorious camping week with your children.

Richard Goodall

## **Celebrating our relationship with the Dead on Saturday 23 November at 3.30 pm.**

*ALL ADULTS ARE WELCOME to join us for our annual festival to celebrate our relationship with those souls who have crossed the threshold. We will acknowledge their presence in a quiet and reverent space, with gratitude for what they continue to bring to our lives.*

*Please note: due to the nature of the event, we will close the doors after entry at 3.30 and cannot interrupt the festival once it has started.*

**Enquiries: Cobie Roelvert Tel: (021)671-4757.**