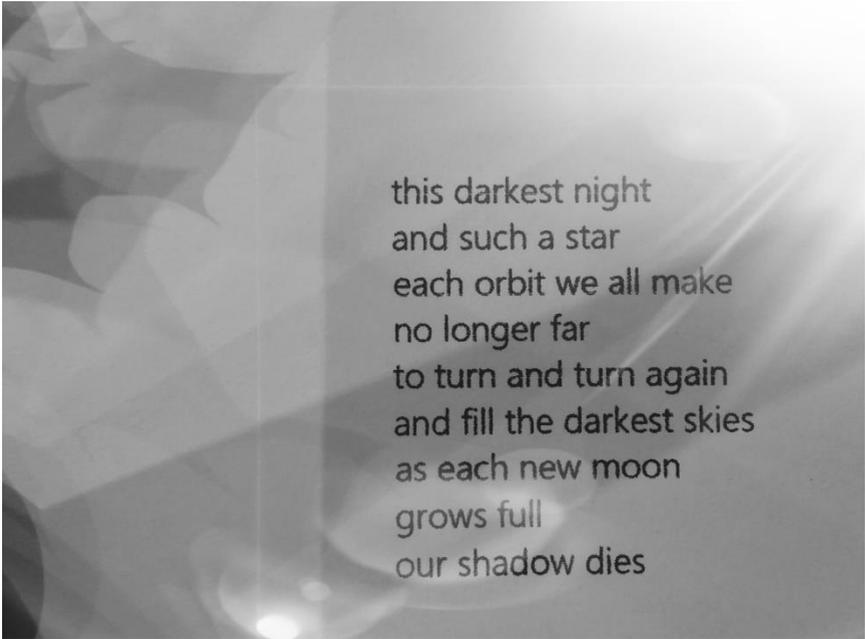


The Christian Community
movement for religious renewal

73 Cainscross Road, Stroud GL5 4HB

December 2019



this darkest night
and such a star
each orbit we all make
no longer far
to turn and turn again
and fill the darkest skies
as each new moon
grows full
our shadow dies

by John Parsons

Sunday refreshments

One of the good things people say about the Stroud church is the warm and welcoming refreshments that are available after the Sunday service. In some churches on the continent, refreshments do not take place and people simply go home.

It has become quite a feat for the people preparing refreshments in Stroud to make enough coffee for around 60 people! And unfortunately the donations for the refreshments has not often tallied with what was provided. In short, we need help if our 'church cafe' is to continue!

We need new coffee makers who are willing to work maybe once a month and we would like some more contributions so we can replenish our coffee cupboards!

Please contact Gale Ramm if you would like to help make coffee (her number is on the back of the Programme).

Saturday Services

Aaron will be taking a much needed break from 7th January and so we have decided to cancel the Saturday services throughout January and they will recommence on the 15th February.

New and Old Buildings – some updates

Our new building and spaces are of course a great joy to us and at the same time we are still discovering how best to arrange and take care of it all. In this regard we can be very grateful to those from the community who have done, and are still working at taking hold of the spaces with such care. John Meletiou with designing and building out the new Vestry; Peter Poynder-Meares with reassembling the quiet corner, revamping the garden seating, and widening access through the old vestry door; Simon Charter and especially Tom Burns with the landscaping and planting; Quin with the sleeper work, additional paving, the new sandpit and new compost boxes; Tom Rowling helped Peter with the quiet corner and has also created the new display racks, and is working on improved candle-holders for the new church together with John Meletiou; Piet Blok continues with his ever-helpful DIY for door fittings, hooks, handles, etc etc; Peter Simon with the new cleaning cupboard shelves; Peter Collins with the chair store shelves; Chris Poynder-Meares and Mike Orson with chair felts; Clare Dowling for pioneering all the new cleaning required; and many more who have displayed their art work and come to the work days and helped out in so many practical ways. (Apologies if someone has been forgotten) Thank You!! We are getting there bit by bit.

The next major item is to redecorate our new community hall. This will take place from the 13th January for 2 or 3 weeks and will naturally disrupt some of the regular events in that space. It should still be usable – with scaffolding in the corner – on the weekends. Ted Yates has agreed to co-ordinate this work and has already assembled a team of willing members and friends to carry it out. Ted, together with Greg Tricker, was also a major contributor in getting the painting done on all the exposed wood surfaces in the new chapel.

Also in the pipeline is a partition across the end of the old vestry to create a guest room, and the removal of the old partition next to the kitchen to widen the access between the kitchen and the hall. The old fire door at the rear of the community hall will hopefully have been replaced by proper glazed doors by the time you read this. Also planned are additional bookshelves for the rear end of the existing library in order to be able to expand our collection, the new garden terrace and new pergola over the library porch.

Another big item is to build out a wooden stage area where the old altar steps are. Plans are afoot...

New visual signature

The carrying group decided to embark on creating a new 'visual signature' for our new church. More than a business logo, it was important to create something that visually represents us alongside the text of our church name. Peter Ramm took on designing this with the generous help of Laura Ridolfi. Many thanks to them both for their time and artistic skill. There are future plans to update our website and create new signage with our new 'look'.
Selina

Library and books

We need someone who would like to take on our library and someone to take on our sales of old and new books. This would also involve deciding which books to buy. If you would like to take on one or both of these tasks please contact Aaron.

Spring Fair 2020

After two fallow years we can again look forward to creating a Spring Fair for our congregation and beyond. Sometime in March we will begin in earnest with planning meetings but in the meantime you could consider putting together books, bric-a-brac, toys & trinkets (for the childrens shop), etc that you would be happy to pass on for sale at our Fair; but please don't drop them off just yet as we are still sorting out the spaces. In addition we are always keen to sell home-made crafts, preserves, juices, etc. We also like to be able to offer a range of creative and fun activities mainly for the children. Aaron would love to hear from you if you could offer such an activity.

Local nursery community initiative

A neighbouring nursery called *Curious Caterpillars* which is near Marling and Stroud High schools has begun to visit us. They wanted their pre-school children to engage with the local community and especially elderly people in some way and contacted us because they saw our new church being built. Selina has been to visit them and on their first visit to us they were treated to a puppet show by the *Rainbow Bridge Puppet Theatre*. They visited again and brought us cakes they had made and we learnt each other's names and shared songs together. There are plans for them to come fortnightly to us on Thursdays 11.00-11.30am (recommencing on the 9th of January). Each time there will be a different activity depending on weather and season and they are keen to help us around the church and in the garden too. Please feel welcome to come along, join in the activities and meet our little neighbours!
Selina