

The Christian Community

Movement for religious renewal

in Great Britain and Ireland

73 Cainscross Rd
Stroud
GL5 4HB
Gloucestershire
England
+44 1453 762926
ccstroud@talktalk.net

June 2013

Stroud Congregation Newsletter

Recent Special Sacraments

Baptism

3rd March 2013	Kate Eliane Beetlestone *14th March 2011
3rd March 2013	Fennelle Bernadette Tongue *7th August 1998
3rd March 2013	Anna Heloise Beatrice Herring Morter *1st April 1999
20th May 2013 (in Budapest)	Lili Rózsa Le Cornu *3rd March 2012
26th May 2013	Arvo Leo Janusz Adamczak *13th March 2013

Confirmation

1st April 2013	Ellie Norman	Fennelle Tongue
	Oliver Reid	Leina Reyneke
	Anna Morter	Noah Beard
	Niklas Marksteiner	

Civil Partnership Blessing

3rd April 2013	Sylvia Ann Edgeley and Malai Ursula Sontheimer
----------------	---

Wedding

26th May 2103	Carol Ogle and Brian Stephen Elloway
---------------	--------------------------------------

Funeral

9th March 2013	Robert James Hobbs *29th May 1950 †4th March 2013
----------------	--

Priests' Moves

The arrival of a third active priest in Stroud has never materialised. Adam Ricketts was ordained in February but could not take up his sending to Stroud because of family problems. He is now working with the congregation in Den Haag / Holland.

Carmel Iveson who has been working in Buckfastleigh / Devon for the last ten years will be moving to the Stroud area together with her husband Jim. She hopes to be able to work in Stroud for many years before she retires here. She will be inducted in Stroud by Tom Ravetz on the 13th October 2013. Carmel will also take on to look after the Bristol congregation and she will start her work there on Saturday 19th of October.

On Sunday 20th of October 2013 Erhard will be inducted to the congregation in Buckfastleigh. Erhard has been working in Stroud since his ordination over five years ago. Originally it was planned that Erhard would stay only one year in Stroud to get "a training on the job". Well that training took rather longer but the time seems right for Erhard to take on a congregation on his own. The good thing for the continuity in Stroud and the building project is that Aaron with all his enthusiasm and drive is staying.

Malcolm Allsop, who has been in Ireland for the last four years will be moving to Johannesburg / South Africa in October. It is planned that Ute Koenig, currently in Toronto, will continue with Malcolm's work in Ireland and move to Tuamgraney in autumn. EK

Bristol

By October it will be a year since Elizabeth Roberts had to retire because of ill health and Erhard has been visiting Bristol since then every two weeks. Elizabeth and Michael hope to move to Faversham in Kent soon. Bristol will continue to be a visited congregation from Stroud and Carmel Iveson will be the 21st priest in their long history. EK

Oaklands Park

On Palm Sunday the last congregational service was held in Oaklands Park. Over 40 people came to the service and stayed for the "memorial gathering" that followed. It was a sad occasion to say good-bye to a once lively congregation and a beautiful purpose-built chapel. It felt wrong to tidy away all the things belonging to The Christian Community straight away, so we left everything as it had been and Ian Bailey even changed the altar frontal for Easter, Whitsun and back to Trinity, despite no one using the chapel. On 17th June the regional priests' meeting, together with Tom Ravetz, will be held in Oaklands Park and we will hold a final Act of Consecration of Man saying good bye to the elemental beings and the congregational angel. Then we will take off the altar picture, take the candlesticks, the cup, the vestments and all the things belonging to the rituals away (so that they can be used again for a budding congregation somewhere else?). EK

New Development Group Update

On 26th June a meeting will take place between our community design team and representatives of the British Council of Management and Priests' Architecture Group. We all feel the design is reaching its final stages before completion and we hope, at the meeting, to be able to map out the final steps before going to planning. If all goes well we will submit to the planners over the summer and be well placed to initiate the next major step in the process, the fundraising strategy. To this end a special festive event is being planned in the community for 20th October – more to follow. AM

Children's Camp

We now have 44 children coming on the camp this year – together with 33 helpers! It is extraordinary how the camp increasingly attracts young people to get involved. They come back year after year to do this deed of love – on an entirely voluntary basis. So this year we have perhaps the strongest and most experienced helper team for many years and we could easily take another 10 to 15 children on the camp. Please feel free to encourage any children you think may be interested. We do offer generous fee reductions where needed. Our website has all the information and pictures of previous camps: www.cc-camps.org AM

Spring Fair

Despite rain and wind we again had a nourishing and fruitful Spring Fair this year, our third. We sold out of most of the food and had packed Puppet Show performances in the chapel. Again we had marvellous engagement from so many members and friends in the community who helped create and carry the peaceful and convivial atmosphere of the day. Our goal had been to fund-raise for the new altar space in the new church, an anticipated cost of £2,500, and, lo and behold, we banked a nett taking of £2,537. Well done to us all. It really does seem that this annual community event has now finally landed in the cultural landscape of Stroud. AM

Crafts and Home Produce

The Spring Fair has now begun to generate a wish to build up the craft and home produce elements for future fairs. Imagine if we could have a regular craft group producing appropriate handmade products for the broader community! Imagine if every surplus apple, pear, strawberry, blackcurrant, etc, etc could be transformed into bottled juices, jams and preserves! If you would like to be involved in either of these activities in any way please contact Aaron, Erhard or Paul in the office. AM

Religion Lessons

Following a request from some parents we have now started two extramural religion lesson groups in the church: *The Skylarks* for Class 1-3/Year 2-4 and *The Otters* for Class 4-6/Year 5-7. They take place on Thursday afternoons between 4.15 and 6 pm. Please contact Aaron for more information. AM

Opening of Temple Lodge

On 1st September the newly rebuilt church of The Christian Community in Temple Lodge, London, will be officially consecrated and opened. For those who don't know, Temple Lodge is a wonderfully peaceful oasis of The Christian Community in Hammersmith. It is a grand old building that has served for many years as a B&B to guests from all over the world and now boasts its renewed and worthy chapel, designed by Nic Pople Associates, the same architects who are designing our new facilities for Stroud. Please contact Aaron or Erhard if you wish to attend and would like to co-ordinate or combine travel with others.

AM

Thoughts from Kolos

Dear Christian Community!

The three months that I spend here comes to its end. It was really colour- and experience-full.

I helped different people in their houses, I was with the confirmation group in London, we had a really full Holy Week programme, the confirmation, I took part in a lot of different meetings and study-groups, had really nice meals with some of you. I was three times in Thornbury (civil partnership blessing, funeral and visiting the women's prison with Simon Charter) and once in Bristol. I was in more Services in these three months, than in the rest of my life, and also in a lot of interesting talks. I served in a wedding and in a baptism, in a lot of Acts of Consecration, and also in the civil partnership blessing. We had the Spring Fair, I did speech therapy with Sibylle, and travelled a few times with Aaron and the Camp-stuffs.

But it also happened, that I felt myself alone and missed my friends, I was struggling a lot if anthroposophy and Christianity is my way or not. And when it came clear to me, that the Seminary in Spring Valley is not starting in this September, I felt totally lost.

I'm happy for all the light-full and also for all the painful experiences, because these moments changed me a lot. I'm a different person, as I came here. And I feel a lot of gratitude, when I think of you. You carried me in my way, with attention, empathy and support. I really hope our ways will cross each-other again!

All the best: Kolos

Kolos' Training

It has been a great joy and support for us to have had Kolos living and working in our community over the past three months. It is now hoped that he will begin studies at the Priest Seminary in Stuttgart in summer. As a token of our gratitude to him and our wish to support the work of The Christian Community in Hungary we would like to contribute towards the funding that will now be required. If you would like to help with this in any way please contact Paul Abel in the office.

AM