



Christchurch Congregation  
of  
**The Christian Community**  
Movement For Religious Renewal

**Advent**

**Visit from 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

Dear Members and Friends of The Christian Community in Christchurch,

How can we develop a living and loving relationship with Christ? For many people any talk about God is mere theory. At best they may acknowledge that there is a power greater than themselves, but only a power or energy. For them, to meet God as a being who cares and loves and takes a personal interest in each one of us, is simply not possible.

**Visiting Priest:**

Hartmut Borries 09 525 2305  
[hartmutborries@gmail.com](mailto:hartmutborries@gmail.com)  
Contact Hartmut during the visit at the home of Margaret Snowdon ph: 03 332 9200

**Services are held at:**

Hohepa Recreation Centre  
23 Barrington Street, Spreydon

**Heart Group:**

Hartmut Borries 09 525 2305  
Paddy Gilgenberg 03 332 2458  
Elizabeth Heybrook 03 303 0780  
Gabriella Martinka 03 337 19 16  
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**Christchurch Treasurer**

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Paddy Gilgenberg 03 332 2458

**Music**

Marinus La Rooij 03 331 7677

**Vestry**

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**National Council Rep.**

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**Our Web Site**

[www.thechristiancommunity.net](http://www.thechristiancommunity.net)

We live in times of change. Change is taking place with increasing speed all around us. Only within my own soul life do things seem to develop much more slowly. As the world around and within us is changing, so also the heavenly worlds develop and change. How does Christ reveal himself to us today? Is there anything we could possibly offer and do for Him?

In our Friday night talk, "Preparing for the Advent of Christ" we will explore questions like this. Advent is the beginning of a Christian's journey through the year. This year we are having the shortest possible Advent time. The fourth Advent Sunday is also Christmas Eve, which means that we only have three weeks to prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ in our own souls. How can my journey through the year become a pilgrimage in companionship with Christ?

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a notice about our family camp on the North Island. Once a year we have this opportunity to create and experience a summer holiday and community at its best. Our theme this year: "In Conversation with Nature". If you can possibly create the time and space, then please do not hesitate to register, the earlier the better.

For young people fourteen years and older we are preparing and planning a special youth program that will begin at the family camp, but then will continue afterwards in and around Auckland. A separate program will come out shortly. The dates for this camp will be January 9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> and we are keeping the costs as low as possible, \$350. Please tell anyone about it who may be interested.

Finally I do want to thank all of you who have been able to respond to our recent appeal letter. Over the last year we have not been able to keep up with our financial contributions which unfortunately has become the norm. Also in other communities we have had difficulties so that our national shortfall has been increasing. Your support is therefore most needed and helpful. Our Little Market at the Rudolf Steiner School Fair in November was most successful. Many thanks to Sigríd, Chris and everyone else who contributed their time or produce to make it such a big success.

With the very best wishes to all of you,

*Hartmut Borries.*



### *Belated Thanks*

*We were grateful for everyone who were part of our marriage ceremony on 6th August - thank you so much for coming.*

*Our special thanks go to Rev. Hartmut Borries who prepared us for the day with care and purpose and for holding the ceremony for us, Paddy Gilgenberg and Peter Brittenden for serving during the Act of Consecration of Man, Heidi Gilgenberg for serving during the ceremony, Charles Bishop and Helen Davey for making the commitment as witnesses,*

*Our wedding day was the first time for us to experience the marriage ceremony within the Christian*



*Community, and we were struck and moved by the beauty, grace, simplicity and the communal warmth of the occasion.*

*We look forward to being part of the Christian Community in Christchurch as a couple.*

*Perhaps there will be more weddings in our community in future, and we look forward to that as well!*



*Justin Barton and Marinus La Rooij for the beautiful and thoughtful music, and Sigrid McTurk for organising the drinks and nibbles after the ceremony. We are sure that there were others who helped on the day and our heartfelt thanks go to you as well.*

*With Love*

*Haru & Yuri Ishikawa*

# Advent



Beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, Advent is the start of the Christian Year. The Latin means 'coming towards' or 'arrival', and Advent heralds a very special journey. Historically Joseph and Mary journeyed to Bethlehem during the time we celebrate Advent. They dared to step into the unknown and because of their daring we have the possibility of experiencing Christmas. (Christ in you: A journey in Community. Hartmut Borrries with Elisabeth Alington).

We will again be celebrating Advent for the four Sundays leading to Christmas. We warmly invite you to come together in community to be part of this very special journey.

Each Sunday will be at Hohepa (23 Barrington St Spreydon), starting 11am. We will have a story, songs and activities for both children and adults. Each week we will make something to take home for the Advent table.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: please bring a stone or precious crystal, and four candles for an advent wreath.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December: please bring a beautiful flower.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December: please bring a crafted animal.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December.

For each Sunday we will have a shared morning tea, so please bring a plate.

## Programme:

At Hohepa Recreation Centre,  
23 Barrington Street, Spreydon

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

4.15pm                      Setting up of Chapel

7.30pm      Talk: *Preparing for the Advent of Christ*

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

9.00am                      Act of Consecration  
   of Man

10.00am                      Study Group

11.00am                      Heart Group

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am                      Act of Consecration  
   of Man

11.00am                      Children's Service

11.30am                      Advent Festival

Followed by a shared lunch

## Future Events:

9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Jan.      Family Summer Camp  
                                 Theme "In Conversation with Nature"

## Gospel Readings:

### **Advent**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December...Luke 21: 25 – 36

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December...Luke 21: 25 – 36

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December...Luke 21: 25 – 36

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December..Luke 21: 25 – 36

### **Christmas**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

Midnight.....Matthew 1: 1 – 25

Dawn.....Luke 2: 1 – 20

Morning.....John 21: 15 - 25

# NOTICES:

## The Christian Community

### Family Summer Camp

Dear friends,

I hope you have come across the magazine: Perspectives, which is published 4x a year: Christmas, Easter, St. John and St.

Michael's. There is a very dedicated team in England who work hard to have everything ready by the deadline. If you have ever been involved in "publishing" you know the amount of work it brings. The cost of printing and sending have increased over the years.

They would like to increase the number of subscribers to reach out to more people, who are interested in our Christian Community and increase income from a higher subscription numbers.

Perspectives is published by the English Christian Community and they have decided to try out e-subscriptions to reach to more people and reduce costs.

A subscription of a printed copy, 4 times a year, will remain \$ 40 - for New Zealand subscribers.

I, Elisabeth Heybrook, am the contact person for the subscribers, who want to receive a printed copy.

The e-subscription will be cheaper: 15 English pounds; which will be around \$ 28.50. If you wish to receive Perspectives via an e-subscription you have to pay this to: [thechristiancommunity.co.uk](http://thechristiancommunity.co.uk) then go to "Publications", followed by choosing "Perspective journal"; next step: "subscribe to Perspectives" and you say "yes" to becoming a subscriber by a PDF file on your email address. After that you can pay your 15 English pounds!

If you want to become a new subscriber for the printed magazine, you can contact me by email: "elizabeth.heybrook@yahoo.com" or phone: 03-3030780 in the evening hours.

My address: 293 Winterslow Road, R.D.1, Ashburton 7771.

Don't hesitate to ask questions,

*Elisabeth Heybrook*



**9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

### In Conversation with Nature

'If the doors of perception were cleansed, everything will appear to man as it is, infinite.'

William Blake

### Experience the Christian Community Family Camp:

A sea of stars by night; a song of tuis at dawn. How about a summer holiday among native Nikau palms and Ponga ferns? Come on your own or bring your family and friends – you will enjoy the wealth and beauty of creating community.

No childhood without play; no life without meaning. At our camps we offer artistic activities, study groups, music, dance, storytelling and play for all age groups. There is a morning and evening service for those who want to deepen their spiritual life. To keep body and soul together there is delicious organic food. Do join us for a light filled summer.

#### Where?

Mangatepopo Camp

Mangatepopo is situated on state highway 47 adjacent to the Tongariro National Park.