



# THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AUCKLAND

## Newsletter & Programme

### ADVENT – CHRISTMAS - EPIPHANY December 2017 - February 2018

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Heather McKay 816 9448

**National Council Rep.****Priests Working in Auckland**

Hartmut Borries work 525 2305

**Active Retired Priest**

Kevin Coffey 816 9272

**Chaplain**

Andrea Tomanek 579 1508

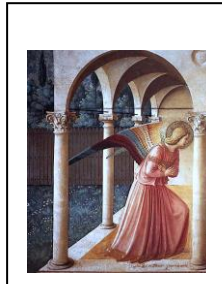
**Our Web Site**

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

**Priests away from Auckland:**

Hartmut:  
8 - 10 December 2017 and  
9 - 11 February 2018 in  
Christchurch

Dear Members and Friends of our New Zealand Communities



How can we develop a living and loving relationship with God? 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.

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?

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 are only having 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?

It is helpful to ask questions like this at the beginning of one's journey; much better than to look back after a year or two, five or ten, and then suddenly be surprised that all this time has passed, but progress seems to be lacking. Every Advent time we can begin our journey again. Learning from the past we will have new questions which will lead to new experience and understanding. The next year will not become mere repetition of the previous one, but will offer to us the opportunity to fathom new depths and divine new heights. Our companionship with one another and with the Divine can always grow more intimate.

For the twelve holy days of Christmas time we have chosen to continue with the theme we had with Michaelmas: "In Companionship with our Angel and the Spirit of our Time". Already then we felt that there is much more to explore and share than could possibly be done in a day or two. Christmas is the perfect time to deepen our relationship with our angel. We can experience the heavens to be close and open. Already at the first Christmas night there were angels all around revealing to the shepherds what had taken place in that stable in Bethlehem. In our service we hear how all the angelic hierarchies are praising the Divine and we celebrate the service to join together with them in this song of praise. We are not alone when we come together for the Act of Consecration of Man. We are in the best possible company.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an invitation to our family camp in National Park. Once a year we have this opportunity to create and experience this summer-holiday-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. It will begin at the family camp but will continue afterwards in and around Auckland. The dates for this camp will be January 9-19 and the costs we are keeping as low as possible: \$350,-. Please tell anyone about it who may be interested. You will also find an invitation to this camp on the following pages.

As I wrote already in our last newsletter, we look forward to welcoming Roger Druitt to Auckland in February. He will begin his series of talks and workshops with the theme: "The significance of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe for the spiritual development in our time". What could be more relevant than this theme for a Goethean scientist? Roger has had a lifelong interest in botany, geology and Goethe's theory of colour. When I studied in Stuttgart to become a priest I was already privileged to attend a course on botany with him. It was simply inspiring. Later on Roger prepared me for my work in Australia. He took me to the seaside where we went for some walks. I could experience how nature begins to speak only when we learn to look at it with keen interest and trained senses. We will make sure that Roger gives a workshop or retreat in all our communities. Details will be finalised once he has arrived.

Finally I do want to thank all of you who have been able to respond to our appeal letters. Over the last year our different communities had difficulties to keep up with their financial contributions which has been contributing to an increasing shortfall in our national finances. Every donation makes a difference, your monthly contributions are the foundation for our work in New Zealand. Many thanks to all of you who make our work here in New Zealand possible.

With the very best wishes for the coming Advent and Christmas time,  
Hartmut Borries and Andrea Tomanek

## NEWS FROM THE REGION...

### CHRISTCHURCH

In August we had a wonderfully full and rich weekend - a conference with Bastiaan Baan and his most inspiring talks on "The Future of our Earth" Much to wake us up and enough to not despair! And then on Sunday we had a wedding - the first in our Community for a long time - which was a very joyful occasion; the marriage of Yuri Otagaki tp Haruhisa Ishikawa.



The very wet and rather chilly winter luckily brightened up in time to produce many excellent plants for our stall at the Steiner school fair. The plants and crafts made the best sum we have achieved so far to contribute to Community coffers, thanks to many contributions and many willing helpers.

We will be celebrating all four Advent Sundays with a family festival (for the second one we will have Hartmut with us), and several people will go to the family summer camp at Mangatepopo."

Paddy Gilgenberg

### WELLINGTON

Wellington has been pretty quiet lately with no priest visits since June.

So things have been just ticking over with the small gospel study group meeting weekly at Tessa's property in Petone (and once in Kapiti). However we are excited about the fact that we will be having a priest visit next Sunday 10th December from Rev Adam Ricketts . Adam now works as a priest in Holland but before he was ordained, he was a class teacher at Raphael

House in Lower Hutt .He is coming to see his class 12 play and has kindly agreed to celebrate the Act of Consecration of Man with us for which we are very grateful.

Catherine Hayes

## PERSPECTIVES

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" 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:

"elisabeth.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

## FAMILY SUMMER CAMP

**9th – 13th January 2018**

**In Conversation with Nature**

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

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.

### Registration:

Istvan and Gabriella Martinka 03 337 1916  
1 Whaka Tce, Huntsbury, Christchurch  
Christchurch@TheChristianCommunity.net

### Online Registration and Payment:

<https://chch-christian-community.typeform.com/to/VES9KY>

### Payment Options:

**Bank transfer:** The Christian Community Inc,  
**03 0259 0165146-05** reference 'family name & "Camp 2018'

**Cheque** payable to **The Christian Community Inc.**

## NATIONAL YOUTH CAMP 2018

9 - 19 January 2018

**“In Conversation with Nature and one another”**

We walk on earth, we cook on fire, swim in the sea and dry ourselves in the warm breathe of the air.

The four elements earth, water, air and fire permeate and enrich lives. We will not only experience them in some of the most beautiful nature of NZ, but we will also explore them with playful artistic activities.

Our youth camp will begin in Tongariro National Park to be continued with a three day walk in the Waitakere Ranges, the Hillary Trail. Finally, we will have a night going out in Auckland.

Bring your friends, make new ones and get inspired on a beautiful Summer Youth Camp.

Cost: \$350, concessions are available  
Registration: Andrea Tomanek, email  
[andrea.tomanek@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.tomanek@gmail.com)

### **A PERSONAL NOTICE FROM HARTMUT BORRIES AND ALIX LEE**

After my return from Germany and Manila, Alix and I went for a short holiday to Dunedin. Three days of art, music, reading, walking and talking and second hand book shops. However, there were also two visits to a gold smith who was able to make two rings for us, just as we wanted them to be. We got engaged at the beginning of Advent and wish to share our news with all of you who know and care for us.

Looking forward to our future together

### **SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**

During the next holidays we will once again offer a School Holiday Programme from Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th December. Since Christmas is not far away we will make beautiful Christmas presents using various techniques and materials. As always we will have storytelling, fun and games as well.

It will be held daily from 9.00am to 3.00pm for children aged six to thirteen. The three day programme costs \$90 including materials.

For bookings please contact Andrea on 579 1508 or email [andrea.tomanek@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.tomanek@gmail.com)

Venue: The Christian Community  
10 Rawhiti Road  
One TreeHill

### **THANK YOU TO RODNIE WHITLOCK**

You are not only a founding member of The Christian Community in New Zealand - with your work and commitment you made sure over many years, that what has begun well can also continue, grow and develop further. You have been a member of our Auckland committee and of the National council. For many years you have been our national treasurer, which is a most time consuming task requiring a very specific set of skills. And as if this were not enough yet, you have also carried the responsibility for our music in the Auckland community. Being a gifted musician, you have played the piano in our community on most Sundays of the year, inspiring and helping all of us with our singing in the service. You have now asked to be relieved from this task. And so I am writing to you to thank you with all my heart for your most generous gift of yourself and your music. When hearts begin to sing, then angels listen. You made us all sing...

***“We make a living by what we get  
We make a life by what we give”***

Only your donations to The Christian Community make our work possible. We are very grateful for your support. A regular monthly donation is best ...

The bank details are: **The Christian Community Inc.**

Bank: **Westpac** Branch: **Remuera**  
Account: **03 0259 011273004**

