

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

NO. 87 EASTER 2020

no message from

Australia and New Zealand

Central Germany

Central Europe

Japan

Bavaria

This time there is nothing new to report, Bavaria wishes everyone a happy Easter.

Dorothea Humérez

Great Britain-Ireland

On 17th March, the priests carrying responsibility for the congregations held a conference call in which we decided to follow what was then the request from the Government to cease all public gatherings. Days later, this became law. Since then, priests have been celebrating in closed churches and members have been accompanying the services at home. The priests are sending letters, sermons and study material by post and email. Along with the pain of the loss, we have heard a lot of reactions from members who are working with great intensity with the materials we have sent, and with the service. Here is a small selection:

I just read your 'News from The Christian Community' One could leap for joy! This will reach so many more people in a way not possible under 'normal' circumstances. Spread (like this) thro' friends and even acquaintances, enabling destiny to work further.

Thank you for your communications of 20th March – truly beautiful and inspiring. Thank you for creating and sustaining our newly spiritualised community through our services on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays....the Act of Consecration of Man, which can take a more central and living place in the rhythm of our 'restricted' lives now. This has so much potential. I did not know that Eucharist could mean “beautiful thanking”.

Sunday, 22 March 2020, after the Act of Consecration of Man was celebrated in an 'empty' church. From Forest Row: Thanks for the Act of Consecration this morning. It was powerful and much needed.

From Edinburgh: I joined in the service this morning, in spirit if not in body. An interesting experience that was deeper than I envisaged. I could certainly “see” you carrying out the consecration of man. I also realised that I have memorised snippets of the service with many gaps. So a bit more conscious attention when we next convene is on my agenda. By the way I really enjoyed your written sermon and look forward to seeing more over the coming months.

From Forest Row: Thank you so very much for your recent missive and guidance on how to accompany the Act of Consecration of Man. We had moments of inward light and quiet with your help. It felt strong and in a bond with others.

I wonder if it would be possible to include the Epistles as well in what we contemplate. They are so very connected to our current moment, and it will be so long until we hear them again – especially the Holy Week ones.

From Wales: The information that has come from Forest Row and from Stroud has been really helpful and inspiring. I have felt a bit disconnected through distance for a while but a positive for me in the present situation is to feel connected once more. I now feel able to join in services from home!

Tom Ravetz

Netherlands and Flanders

This will be a completely different message than I actually wanted to write. We live in a different world now. The Corona virus also has far-reaching consequences for our Christian Community. It is interesting to see how each country puts its own emphasis on the measures to be taken. In Flanders, the government measures differ from those in the Netherlands.

In the Netherlands, most measures now apply until 6th April. At the moment (25th March), gatherings are prohibited, but there is an exception for religious gatherings with fewer than 30 participants, provided that everyone can keep 1.5 metres between them. Based on this instruction, our local congregations can decide for themselves whether a limited number of members can participate in the Act of Consecration of Man. However, the priests will continue the services, if possible with a server who represents the congregation. The congregations are independent and therefore make their own decisions in accordance with government guidelines.

Confirmations will not take place this year, the young people who have been prepared are invited to receive their confirmation during Easter time 2021. By the way, other activities like talks and courses in all congregations have been cancelled. The situation can change quickly, what I am writing now may be different in a few days. It is a serious crisis that we are now going through, but we hope that it will also bring something for the future.

Ellis Booij

North-America

Nothing new to report.

Craig Wiggins

North and Northwest Germany

Due to the spread of the corona virus, the North German congregations have cancelled publicly held services and community events. Everywhere, priests continue to celebrate in camera, in some places even more often than before. It is our sincere concern to support the measures which are in place to prevent the spread of the corona virus. Many people are already existentially affected by the event. Many will suffer from the health consequences. It is our task as part of society to think about them and to act accordingly.

Now it is important to seek a spiritual connection with each other. This applies to communities, regions and beyond national borders. There is a great interest from the congregations to participate in the Act of Consecration of Man, which are now held in silence, in thought. In many places it is encouraged to read the Gospel of the week and to practise meditative engagement with the Credo. Some congregations set up a regular exchange of information and encourage joint work on the content.

We begin the Passion Time with challenges that have never been thought possible. A renunciation is asked for, which can lead us to ourselves. In the silence many things may become noticeable which we were not aware of in everyday life. We have long tried in our congregations to maintain a connection with the deceased or those who cannot be there. Now we are challenged in a special way to do this. After the first week in isolation, a strong interest by members, to maintain a spiritual connection, was noticed. Will we be able to make the transition from the Passion to the Easter tide in this way?

A week before the spread of the coronavirus led to the cancellation of congregational events, the Christian Community experienced a great celebration with the ordinations of priests in Hamburg. Many participants spoke about the power that emanated from the ordination event. Tiiu in't Veld, who was ordained in Hamburg, will begin her work in Schwerin. Martina Alexi takes over the responsibility for the church in Greifswald. With Dorothea Wolber in Rostock and Seewalde three priests will then work in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. This will be possible because Mrs. in't Veld and Mrs. Alexi will work part-time, depending on the size of the congregations.

Christian Bartholl

Nordic Countries

Finland is pleased that two priests were ordained at the beginning of March who will be sent to the north: Martti Hyry will work in the congregation of Tampere and Fritjof Winkelmann will be sent to the congregation in Helsinki.

The congregation in Vilnius is preparing the celebration of the founding of the Christian Community in Lithuania from 16 to 18 October 2020 and they are looking forward to welcome many guests who will be celebrating with them. They are also looking for a house or property for the congregation.

Gisela Thriemer

no message from:

Russia

South America

Southern Africa

Southwest Germany

Switzerland/Southwest Europe

West Germany

Wuerttemberg

As everywhere in the world, CORONA is also shaping everyday life in Württemberg. We were able to welcome two new priests in Stuttgart-Sillenbuch and - Möhringen before the congregational life changed massively since March 16th. But we are hopeful and confident that we will be able to have completely new experiences of cohesion in the crisis. In Reutlingen the renovation work continues well. In Stuttgart-Mitte, the final work on the elevator installation has been completed.

Martin Merckens

Central Archive

In 2019, the Central Archive again received a large number of material, some of it enormous, including correspondences from Hermine Hauser, Wilhelm Hoerner and Gerhard and Elisabeth Klein; predominantly sermon documents from Willy Nüesch, a first batch of the estate of Christoph Rau, some architects drawings for the church in Schlegelstraße (Berlin) and individual materials from Rudolf von Koschützki and others. To all those who sent in and delivered the material, a heartfelt thank you once again!

In addition to the collection of Wolfgang Schickler's personal history, which was supplemented and catalogued with individual materials, the collection of Robert Goebel, which now comprises 83 cataloguing units, has also been archived. A type of inventory frequently found in the Central Archive are collections that have been created according to the so-called pertinence principle, i.e. all documents have been summarised according to their factual content. The principle of pertinence is applied in libraries; in archives, the principle of provenance has prevailed in the majority of cases to this day, in which the origin of the documents and the respective context of origin is taken into account and preserved.

Such a collection of pertinence *Religious Education* could also be made accessible. It consists of materials from the priesthood of the Christian Community as well as secondary material from the teaching staff of Waldorf Education on the educational and religious background and on the planning and implementation of religious education for the different ages of those being taught. There are also various series of publications (from the 1950s to 1985) published by the priesthood for teachers, for parents, children and young people for information and to facilitate internal exchange. The collection is rounded off by texts of various genres written for performance, lecture and teaching for various festivals and occasions by priests themselves, but also texts by other authors, which have been edited for the respective purpose.

In 2019, the Central Archive was again able to receive many requests for information from interested parties within the Christian Community, but also from public research institutions, museums and galleries. Even if the archive is not staffed between March 30th and August 10th, 2020, inquiries will be processed during this period by the head of the archive, Mr. Wolfgang Gädeke (Kiel).

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The receipt or delivery of material to the archive will also be ensured.

Central Archive of the Christian Community

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030/609 785 12, archiv@christengemeinschaft.org

<https://christengemeinschaft-international.org/archiv>

Janine Jenitschonok

Körperschaftsverband (KV)

The German Conference has appointed Mr. Janko Williams as the new Data Protection Commissioner as of 01.01.2020 in accordance with § 21 of the Data Protection Regulation of the Christian Community:

“As the new Data Protection Commissioner of the Christian Community in Germany, I would like to introduce myself briefly: My name is Janko Williams, born in Freiburg im Breisgau, baptised and confirmed in the Christian Community, school education in the Waldorf School. Since 2011 I have been working in the areas of data protection law, insolvency law and labour law as a debt advisor, office manager of a large law firm and as an economic advisor and data protection officer. In 2018 I founded my own company *Williams-Connect Management*, offering data protection and business consulting.

I am happy to have been assigned the challenging task of data protection officer. It is a new and exciting task, as the churches have been able to pass their own data protection laws. We will implement the data protection regulations of the Christian Community in all churches in order to meet the data protection requirements.”

Janko Williams

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E-Mail: datenschutz@christengemeinschaft.org

Postal address:

Williams-Connect Management

Owner Janko Williams

Berliner Straße 71, 14913 Jüterbog

The task of the Data Protection Officer is to ensure compliance with data protection regulations and support the responsible bodies in securing data protection.

Anyone can contact him if he/she believes that his/her right to self-determination with regard to information has been violated. The current data protection regulations of the Christian Community can be found at: www.datenschutz.christengemeinschaft.de

Stefan Illeemann, Kassel, Head of Administration of the KV

Seminaries/Hamburg

With gratitude we look back on the fact that at the beginning of March we were still able to celebrate the ordinations of five candidates for priesthood largely unaffected by the Corona crisis. They had been able to take part in their preparation and ordination course in Hamburg since October 2019. Our gratitude goes to the guests from all over the world, to the many people who through practical work helped to shape and carry the celebration, and especially to the families of the newly ordained candidates, who helped to ensure that the candidates for the ordination were able to find the freedom that is so essential for the preparation for the sacrament.

It was a great joy for us leaders of the seminary that the oberlenkers engaged themselves and were very supportive in the preparation for the ordinations. For Christian Scheffler, who was in charge of the preparation course, and for me it was the first time that we carried the responsibility for the training course all the way to the first Consecration of Man celebrated by the newly ordained. We gratefully remember the exemplary attitude of the candidates to their studies and the intense discussions with the newly ordained priests who were now sent to the congregations ahead of schedule.

In the spring of 2019 the second course “Study for Working People” has begun, and with each new module we join in the enthusiasm for learning and the ingenuity of the students. At the beginning of the “Long Week” in mid-March, we were forced by the emergency legislation issued by the City of Hamburg, to ask half of the group that had travelled to Hamburg to leave again immediately because of the Corona crisis. Together we are now looking for possibilities to accompany and support the home-study of the participants while personal tuition is not possible.

Within the group of full-time students questions arose whether we could find new and different ways of accompanying the study modules, to enable practical experiences in various fields. When we resume the summer semester – hopefully in the not too distant future – we will continue to work in more detail on these questions. The interim period will show how many weeks of the summer semester will remain for the main study course.

Ulrich Meier

no message from:

Haus Freudenberg

Haus auf dem Berge

Publishers

Seminaries/Stuttgart

Verband der Sozialwerke

Treuhandverwaltung zur Förderung der Christengemeinschaft e.V. (Trust Administration for the Promotion of the Christian Community)

Apart from the fact that we cannot estimate what effects the restrictions of the Corona crisis will have on the processes (tendering, awarding of contracts and implementation of the development) in Scheidegg, there is currently nothing to report from the trust administration.

Tim Gottschalk

The Sozialwerk in Berlin

Ruhrstr. 11, 10709 Berlin offers a very special place of recuperation: There is a small holiday house in 31195 Lamspringe, Hellegrund 11.



Years ago a little holiday house was bequeathed to our Sozialwerk for “members and priests of the congregation in need of recuperation” in the hamlet Lamspringe, in a very charming relaxing countryside of the Vorharz. Lamspringe is situated in the county Hildesheim in the southern Lower Saxony, it is an officially approved place of recuperation near the Heber, and it is member of the region Leinebergland. In the neighbourhood are Goslar, the old diocesan town Hildesheim, the saline steam and mud baths Bad Salzdetfurth, Bad Gandersheim the town of St Roswitha, and

Alfels/Leine, all of them with rich cultural offers. An excursion into the Harz nearby is worthwhile in every season of the year.

Lamspringe is not far from the motorway A7 (exit at Bockenem or Rhüden/Harz), the major roads B 3, B 64 and B 243. The nearest stations are Bodenburg, Freden/Leine, Bad Gandersheim and Hildesheim, where you’ll have Intercity connections. The holiday house is a little distance outside of the village. You do your shopping in the little town; walking there takes approximately half an hour, going by car only few minutes.



Directly around the holiday house there is a superb wood of beeches, which invites you with its tidy paths to go for a walk. The garden, 600 m² big, can be used as playground, grill place or to bask in the sun, but as a working place for amateur gardeners as well. The little house with a living area of about 60 m² has a fully equipped kitchen, bathroom, a large living room with a balcony and a panoramic view

into an enchanting countryside, a children’s room with a step-ladder bed and a bedroom for the parents. A heating system for off-peak electricity and a burner for all kinds of combustibles provides warmth.

The entire house is comfortably furnished. For your own requirements you may bring with you bedclothes, terry towelling, and tea towels. To cover the running costs we ask for € 45 per day; at your departure we would like you to do a final cleaning, which can be dropped by paying € 25. If we succeeded in arousing your interest and you want to spend your holidays there, you may contact Mrs. Petra Wilms by phone 030/213 24 08 or e-mail petra-wilms@t-online.de.

Special Issue: How do the Unborn look to a future in the Christian Community?

Dr Michaela Glöckler gave an evening lecture on this question at the Kassel meeting on 2 November 2019. This lecture will be available in print at the end of April, edited by Johannes Roth as a special issue of 'Beiträge zur religiösen Erneuerung'. Initially, only the usual number of copies will be printed. Since collective orders from German-speaking communities are expected, the approximate numbers will first be determined. The price is €5 (without postage); for bigger quantities the price is reduced accordingly. For each sold issue, 25% goes to the Association of Social Services of the Christian Community for the children and youth camps, as is appropriate for this topic! Please send your orders to: Johannes Roth, Pfeifferstraße 4, 34121 Kassel; e-mail: roth.johannes@posteo.de

Johannes Roth

Translated by Gabriele Kuhn – many thanks to her!

