

Parkmount House

– Chapel on ground floor to the right of front door: 3 windows.

Vestry above the door in a smaller room:



Report from our Centre for the 2011 Annual Report for the Annual Community Meeting of The Christian Community in the United Kingdom and Ireland, to be held in Stourbridge from November 4th to 6th 2011

The Christian Community in Forres

For the last four years the Christian Community services have been held in Forres near the famous Findhorn in the beautiful north-east of Scotland. 'Fed' mainly by people from the wider Findhorn Community and the local Forres Moray Steiner School, the congregation is strong, young and vibrant – even our community elders appear like that!

People here are exposed to a rainbow of spiritual teachings and new age ideas and experiments. To meet the quality of depth in the Movement for Religious Renewal can be a moving experience for many regulars and visitors.

We are grateful that the Aberdeen Congregation kindly enables the monthly visit of Jens-Peter Linde, who usually arrives on the Friday afternoon at Parkmount House, the privately owned large house which hosts the services. On arrival the vestments get ironed and he sets

up the altar with the help of some of the congregation.

After an often lively and discussion-rich dinner, Jens-Peter enjoys giving his wide ranging Friday evening talks, usually about some aspect of an active relationship to the Spiritual World prompted by a world event or a seasonal theme. Sometimes however, we go out to a local event in the Findhorn Community, the Steiner School or attend a Céilidh (yes, dancing needs to be done too :-)) Before or after the normal Friday programme there is space for sacramental consultations which are an important feature of the community's life. Sometimes too, these have to happen on the next day early!

On the Saturday, the Act of Consecration begins at 9:30am. Martin Kutternik, who is the house manager, enjoys the joke that "we are the fullest church in the UK – in percentage that is...", as we meet in a small, but cosy room that was the a dining room of an ex-hotel. This year we have got a piano in the chapel room. The services are wonderfully deepened when we have a musician volunteering.

Usually about 15 people are attending, giving the room quite a well occupied feeling. This is followed by the Children's Service with a long, cascading row of children which comes right after a session with a story and singing. Many of the adults stay on for this service before we join for the main social gathering. When children and adults may enjoy the outdoor games in the garden, while some other members stay behind to prepare the shared snack-lunch with juice for the children and hot and cold drinks for the adults.

This is a lively event and a really wonderful celebration of community around a big kitchen table all together. During part of that time Jens-Peter may also give a confirmation-class in an adjacent room. However, with so many visitors and activities all morning, the house manager is quite happy to see people leave around noon so that the house can get put back to its usual functions of being a private home and business. In 2010 we had one baptism here in Forres and confirmations the year before.

Jens-Peter is a 'perfect' priest for us dogma-allergic, yet spiritually seeking 'Findhornians'... We enjoy his presence very much and manage to thrive as a community. We are able to fulfil a church's role with hardly any formal planning and working meetings. This keeps the experience deep, yet light-hearted, spontaneous and joyful.

We don't have a full set of vestments yet, but are working towards it and meanwhile we're very grateful that Jens-Peter can bring along from Aberdeen whatever may be needed. The community reimburses the mother congregation a certain amount for every visit, and with regular standing orders and donations at the door we are doing well financially. We know that we are lucky that a non-resident priest can visit regularly. In a way we are a 'fluke'. But one that keeps happening. Monthly. On a Friday and Saturday.

PS: Come and visit us and Findhorn: <http://www.forres.cc>

Holly Reinert freshly baptised Spring 2010 – with her new god-parents in action for the first time



Jens-Peter and a small selection of the Forrest crowd 2010



After the service: Holly and Louise looking for good hiding places the garden...

