

A Vision for The Christian Community in Auckland

25 July 2008

A process developing a vision for the future for the Christian Community has taken place over the last few months. Three community meetings took place after the services on the 11/5; 8/6 and 22/6, attended by about 25 people.

These ideas were taken into a planning weekend on the 25 & 26 July attended by 13 people (open to any community members), and below is a summary of the ideas developed. Below we have documenting the detail plans for 2008 and 2009 and these and the vision (developed into a picture) will be shortly on display at the church.

Two Gestures

The future for Auckland was summarised by 2 gestures:

- a gesture of embrace of the community - strengthening within and warming the heart - making stronger heart connections
- a gesture of an outward embrace - embracing the world out there and providing more points of contact for new people to learn about the Christian Community.

A 10 year picture of the community would look something like this:-

- 2 permanent priests in Auckland plus Kevin and Hartmut
- a full utilisation of current church property (a house for the priests, a hall?)
- a purpose adapted or built church (or even more than one in Auckland) with a lovely welcoming entrance door.
- a cluster of people living close to and warming the church facilities
- a full programme of services and activities for children, for youth and for adults, every day of the week (taking place at a number of different community centres around Auckland).
- a full calendar of festival events.
- a mix of activities from study to fun social events attended not just by the community but also by members of the public.
- regular events to introduce the Christian community to interested people
- public talks by priests and community members on topics of wider interest ('companion of the times' concept)
- a relationship of mutual understanding and cooperation with the Anthroposophical Society
- lay people trained to take on certain leadership roles in building the community and in providing support to the priests.
- secretarial support for the priests - an office
- people are drawn into the Christian community through the wide variety of activities and events, and the number of people attending services and activities has increased substantially.

It was agreed by all that our focus for the next 3-5 years is to work on building and growing a strong, healthy, active and robust community with a suitably modified permanent home base in One Tree Hill. When we have achieved this we can dream bigger dreams which might include a purpose built church in Auckland.

Christian Community Auckland - planning for 2008 and 2009
(As developed by the Carrying group)

Initiatives and initiative groups 2008 and 2009.

Building towards a broader 10-year vision and bearing in mind the gestures of building community (inwardly and outwardly) the following initiatives and initiative teams were agreed.

These groups are not fixed - community member is very welcome (and encouraged!) to join any initiative or the carrying group. Contact any member of the team or the carrying group

(The **convener** was tasked to call the team together to get the initiative started this year)
Initiative *Group and*

convener	
1. Review the membership and friends list -- tracking all the people who have been part of the Christian community over the last number of years. 2. A community reunion is planned for late 2009 which will be a celebration event/party acknowledging the 20th birthday of the Christian community in Auckland.	Rosser; Hartmut
3. The 1 st (Titirangi) and 3 rd (OTH) Saturday nights of the month will have a planned social activity of games for all ages and a shared meal. This will be added on to the calendar immediately. 4. Folkdance music and games activities to be offered and put on calendar	Rose; Rosser; Chris; Ron Rose
5. A one-day workshop is planned for later in this year to look at the opportunities and possibilities for lay training (gospel study; youth development work; extending festivals; regular children's programme; public workshops and talks etc?). Further workshops are planned for 2009.	Lesley; Hartmut
6. The development of a sustainable youth work programme - to work on this together with the youth worker who is joining us from Germany (Johan)	Hartmut; Annie; Ron; Rosser; Rose; Johan
7. The carrier of the community Calendar	Rose
8. Erection of a glass Noticeboard outside the church to inform of events - also info about the CC and Auckland services.	The CC Mgmt Committee
9. Opening up the church building for community activities and craft days - to be advertised at schools and in wider community (as fundraisers?) i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ painting workshop – 2008 and ■ advent calendar workshop - 2008 (info in Steiner schools Michaelmas newsletters) ■ ?? 	Annie Collette
10. Goodwill Sunday (3 rd Sunday a month) to be added to the Calendar – community will be invited to contribute food and gifts for the needy.	Annie
11. A small welcoming committee to be formed to welcome people to Sunday services - with immediate effect.	Ron to develop a roster
12. Looking into how we could start developing the festivals - building a realistic programme by using festival ideas from past years and developing a few new ones each year, plus training others to run festivals and enlisting community support to help organise.	Colette; Annie; Hartmut
13. Convening a regular review of these plans for 2008 and 2009. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ First review planned early December 2008 ■ 2009 reviews planned for June and December (this is also to nurture and care for the carrying group - to keep the vision and the heart alive and to ensuring that the tasks it 	Chris & carrying group Next meet after service 21/9

takes on are realistic, supported and able to be sustained etc)	
14. Reviewing and developing the Christian community programme and newsletter so that it reflects the strategies and steps towards building the community.	Hartmut; Kevin; Rose; Chris
15. Develop proactive ideas and seek opportunities whereby CC perspectives on everyday events are able to be shared more widely – the 'companion of the times' initiative	Ian; Hartmut
16. Community announcements. Brief community time to be made after each Sunday service for community announcements and important information about community members. 17. Community announcements to also appear in Newsletter if appropriate.	Kevin/Hartmut Lesley to be the contact person
18. The building, property and landscaping group to develop a staged plan for the development of the church building and to organise at least 2 working bees a year. To also look at the full utilisation of the property and a welcoming front to the church as an immediate priority. A new altar plus new pictures for the church to be looked at for 2009.	B P and L group???
19. Investigate the building of a local community living initiative – near the church.	Ron; Hartmut
20. To look more strategically at publicity – how we might raise the public profile of the CC. We could advertise Services and events more widely (schools, Anthrop Soc etc??), look at media advertisements, media and public talks. Develop brochures, leaflets and cards etc. 21. Developing CC info brochures – A4 (simple and straightforward language)	No group yet? Rodney – to raise at Council