

Continuing The Journey

Exploring continuity and tension between the world and church



I spent my lunch hour today soaking up the autumn colours as I walked along the canal and under the trees in Victoria Park, listening only to the parakeets and the rustle of leaves as the wind picked up. This tranquillity sits in stark contrast to the news headlines and the stories that filled my therapy room this morning. As uncertainty and anxiety increases, we need, as those walking alongside, to be able to look after ourselves and find peace within. Otherwise we will be swept along and quickly burn out. For me part of that self-care is walking, another is CTJ: sharing fellowship with those who walk the same path, or are interested in it, nourishes and encourages me.

So I would encourage you, if you haven't already, to consider joining us and book soon to catch the early bird booking rates (deadline 31st Oct). Can I also remind you that the most common way for new people to find us is if YOU invite them. Last conference numbers were low and we are only able to have conference in 2018 because of the generous gifts we received; to continue to be viable we need at least 65 people to book.

I hope this newsletter will tempt you with a taste of what is to come. Marie will invite you to contemplate childhood innocence and play, Hugh gives a glimpse of a workshop, whilst Paul will hopefully entertain us all.

Kim Gooding, Chair of Conference.



Innocence Transfigured : What's 'playfulness' got to do with it?

You might have asked yourself this question when you read the description of this year's Conference theme. In a world of such turmoil and stress, why are we including aspects of 'play' and 'holy fool' into our 2018 conference? Has the CTJ team lost the plot? (please don't answer that – or not yet, anyway). All I can say is that over the last 15 years I have been on a profound journey into Foolishness and Playfulness. I've been on many, many workshops and gatherings, and I'm part of a Community of Fools. It has made a huge difference to my life (in a good way), and to my way of being in the world.

It is not about custard pies or trying to be clever or putting on a persona – it is the opposite of that. It's about peeling back the masks we habitually wear, becoming more authentically ourselves, in all our glory and vulnerability, in both laughter and tears. It's about taking risks, daring to step out of our comfort zone. The Holy Fools of old were the truth-tellers, those who lived from the heart and dared to reveal the hypocrisies of the world, often in unconventional ways; Jesus is a good example. It's about simplicity, becoming more childlike, fully present to this moment, even amid the challenges going on around us. Can we pause and glimpse the wonder in the everyday that we so often miss because we are consumed by Grown Up Activities? We'll be exploring some of this during Conference, and if this has whetted your appetite, watch out for the workshop on Play. More info soon!



Marie Calvert



PAUL KERENSA

You may not be familiar with the name of Paul Kerensa, but if, like me, you are a fan of comedy – particularly radio comedy – you have most certainly heard his work. Although an accomplished stand-up and actor (he once played Banquo in Macbeth amongst many other roles) he is perhaps best known as a writer. His list of credits is impressive: in recent years, on radio, he has written for The Now Show, The News Quiz and Dead Ringers amongst many others. For television he has contributed scripts for Miranda, Not Going Out and even Top Gear. (There's a full list at Paul's

website: www.paulkerensa.com which also details the numerous awards he has won for his work).

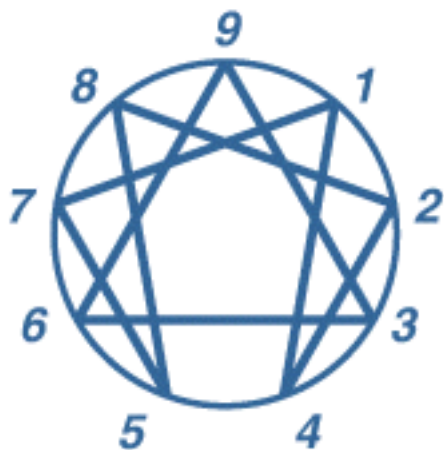
Unusually, in the world in which he moves, Paul is also a practising Christian. Asked recently about how his faith influences his writing, this is what he said:

"My faith influences my writing in the same way it influences the rest of my life, and the same way it probably affects most people's work lives. It informs who I am, the decisions I make (especially editorial decisions, what ideas I will and won't entertain), but I wouldn't say I approach every day thinking how I can evangelise with a script. I'm not in the habit of smuggling God into scenes so that every script has a message that we should all become Christians - mainly because that's impossible. I work with producers, who have the last word (or the penultimate word, before the executive producer, the commissioner, or whoever else may be there between me and the audience). So instead it's more about entertaining and informing, which I'll always do from my perspective, as a Christian, as a father, as a ginger Cornishman."

Paul is a hugely talented and entertaining man and we look forward immensely to him talking to us on Thursday evening at the conference. If, in the meantime, you want a preview, you can find a sample of his work at <https://vimeo.com/76865193>.

Tim Haggis

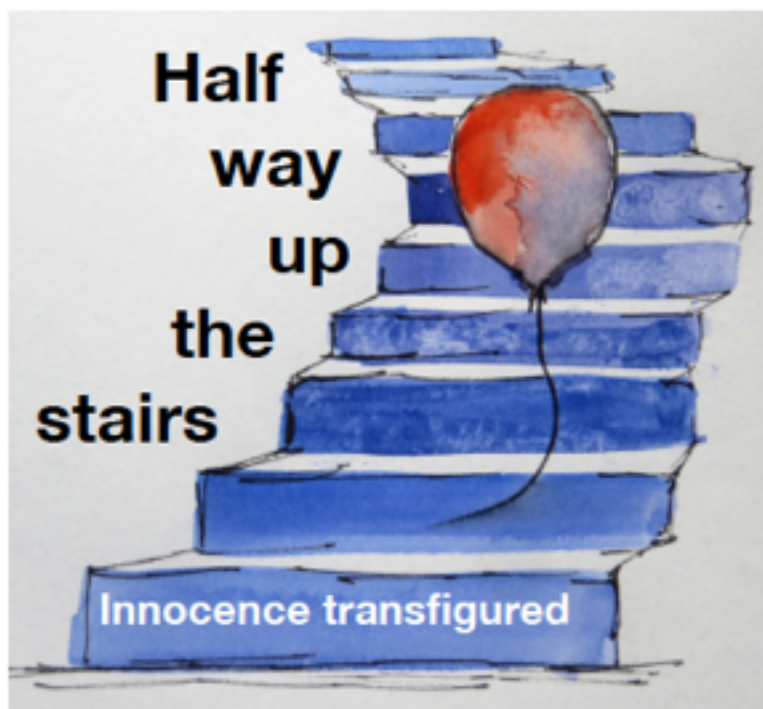
An Enneagram workshop for Continuing the Journey 2018



The Enneagram is an ancient tool for self-awareness that has been drawn together in its current format over the last century. It is based on ancient wisdom but supported by current psychological and spiritual research. The awareness it brings has been described in various ways but could be summed up by “How we say ‘NO’ to God”. Unlike many other tools for reflection, this is more than just descriptive of behaviour, as it can inform our prayer for God’s grace to enable change.

In this workshop, it is intended to give an overview of what the Enneagram can reveal to us and some idea of how to use the information in helping our spiritual journey of transformation into the likeness of Christ. No prior knowledge will be assumed, but enough to enable future exploration with the resource list that will be available.

Hugh Stradling



Join us for our next conference and save money by booking before 31st October 2017!

Download our booking form by clicking [here](#)