

Overview

Community and friendship were at the heart of Bonhoeffer's life, overarching not only his theology, but also his conspirative work in the Nazi resistance and even more so towards the end of his life, when as a prisoner he developed it as a guideline for what he called *Religionless Christianity*.

For this year's Bonhoeffer Day, we will explore the theme of 'friendship and life together' through talks, music and discussion. As in previous years we will have music and plenty of time for informal discussion and fellowship over coffee, cake and food.

Abstracts

Dirk vom Lehn: In his doctoral thesis Bonhoeffer elaborated a sociology of community and friendship that foreshadows his later development of a "theology of sociality" (Clifford Green). In this short talk I will relate Bonhoeffer's sociology of friendship to current discussions in sociology

and provide a starting-point for our later discussions about Bonhoeffer's friendship with Franz Hildebrand and the relevance of Bonhoeffer's sociological explorations for the emergence of disability theology.

Jacob Phillips: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's friendship with Eberhard Bethge has received much attention from historians and theologians, but Bonhoeffer's profound friendship with Franz Hildebrandt has received much less attention. This talk will study Bonhoeffer's relationship with Hildebrandt, and their professional collaborations, before discussing Bonhoeffer's own writing on the place of friendship in human life.

Eleanor McLaughlin: I explore Bonhoeffer's account of human freedom and limitation in relation to disability theology. Bonhoeffer's book *Creation and Fall* explores such theological concepts as divine grace, human freedom, and limitation. Disability theology critiques the trend towards the normativization of human bodies that describes 'non-normal'

bodies as limited, where 'normal' bodies are not. Drawing on Deborah Creamer's work, I argue that an idea of an ontological human limitation alongside Bonhoeffer's interpretation of human limitation as a manifestation of God's grace can help build and strengthen friendships among people with and without disabilities, providing a framework in which humanity can both embrace and challenge its limits.

Music by Norbert Meyn and Alisdair Kitchen. German tenor Norbert Meyn (Royal College of Music and Ensemble Émigré) and pianist Alisdair Kitchen (Euphonia Studio) present a programme of 18th, 19th and 20th century art song exploring the importance (and lack) of friendship and community spirit. Norbert and Alisdair last worked together a year ago on a staged performance of Schubert's cycle *Winterreise*. (<https://www.euphoniastudio.com/winterreise>). On this occasion their selection will include songs by Mozart, Schubert, Benjamin Britten and Hanns Eisler. www.norbertmeyn.com www.ensemble-emigre.com

Programme

- 13:30** Welcome (Frank Hirth)
- 13:35** Dr. Dirk vom Lehn, King's College London: *Bonhoeffer and the Sociology of Friendship*.
- 14:15** Dr. Jacob Phillips, St Mary's University Twickenham: *Bonhoeffer and Hildebrandt*.
- 15:15** Music: *Norbert Meyn and Alisdair Kitchen (1)*
- 15:45** Coffee break
- 16:15** Dr. Eleanor McLaughlin, University of Oxford: *Bonhoeffer, Limitation and Disability Theology*.
- 17:15** Music: *Norbert Meyn and Alisdair Kitchen (2)*
- 18.00** Dinner

Registration

There is no charge. Everybody is invited to join the talks, music and fellowship!

To attend please register at:
pastor@german-church.org

The Bonhoeffer Day is hosted by the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Centre London (DBCL) at the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Church.

Find us under:

<https://dbclondonblog.wordpress.com>



Bonhoeffer with students at Finkenwalde seminary, ca 1936

Bonhoeffer Day 2019

*On Friendship:
Bonhoeffer and Life Together*



February 2, 2019
13:30pm – 20:00pm

Dietrich Bonhoeffer Church
Dacres Road, Forest Hill
SE23 2NR