

July 2020  
(nr. 180)

# Lifeline

## MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN HAARLEM

<b>Church</b>	The English-speaking church community meets at the Old Catholic Cathedral of St. Anna & St. Mary, Kinderhuissingel 74, 2013 AV HAARLEM <i>Website: <a href="http://www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl">www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl</a></i>
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The English-speaking church community in Haarlem is part of the Anglican-Diocese of Europe and seeks to serve all English speaking people in the wider Haarlem area.

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**Lifeline** contains the official Haarlem chaplaincy news and various articles. However, the views expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Chaplaincy or the Editor.

Recent issues of *Lifeline* can be found on <http://www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl/category/all/lifelines>

# ***Chaplaincy Letter***

## **Petertide**

Let me start with a few words about the corona virus, the restrictions imposed upon our lives because of this virus, and all the implications. I feel those implications myself, not least because church life has so drastically been reduced, but also because my work at the Old Catholic Seminary (at Utrecht University) has for quite some time to be done completely digitally and online (lectures, seminars, staff meetings, etc.). But I realise very well that there are people whose lives are much more influenced by all the restrictions, for example those among you who are confined to their homes, who can have only very limited personal contacts, and of course those who work in medical and other caring jobs, at schools, etc. I also think of those who cannot share important parts of their lives now, who cannot celebrate together and who cannot mourn together. Not to speak of those who contracted the virus themselves, or who experience serious health problems within the circle of their families or friends. All of us are in some way afflicted by the virus and its consequences. I pray that the Holy Spirit shows us ways to cope with the situation and especially with health problems, loneliness, and feelings of insecurity.

When the Editor asked me to contribute some thoughts to this issue of *Lifeline*, I asked myself what the Christian Year invites us to think about at the end of June. The last days of June are traditionally called “Petertide”. This is because of the Feast of (in some traditions only) St Peter, or (in most traditions) St Peter and St Paul, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June. There is a lot to say about Peter and Paul. Out of many possible themes, I will pick three.

1. Peter and Paul were apostles. Peter belonged to the Twelve, chosen by Jesus Christ himself. Paul was originally a persecutor of the Christians, but was added to the apostles after he received a vision of the risen Christ, an experience which he interpreted as a personal calling by (the risen) Jesus, just as the original apostles were called by (the earthly) Jesus. This implies a lesson for us, because we are in the same position as Paul. We have never met the *earthly* Jesus, but we do meet the *risen* Jesus, when he speaks to us in the words of the Gospel, when he communicates with us in bread and wine, when he is present with us in our prayers, and when we meet him in our fellow human beings, especially those who are dependent on our help and care. We can learn from Paul that there is no excuse for saying, “I have never seen Jesus”, or, “Nobody can know anything about God”. We *can* meet Jesus and he *does* teach us about who God is.

2. It is an ancient Christian tradition to connect certain cities, and particularly their episcopal sees, to certain apostles. For example, Andrew the apostle is considered as the founder of the see of Constantinople (Byzantium/Istanbul) and Thomas the apostle has a strong connection to South India. Veneration of founders of episcopal sees is also well-known in our own countries, like St Augustine of Canterbury (around 600) and St Willibrord of Utrecht (around 700). Besides being the episcopal see of the capital of the Roman Empire, one of the other reasons why the episcopal see of Rome was and is considered as important within the community of Christian churches, is that it has not just one apostle for its founder, but two: Peter and Paul. In the Early Church, going to Rome was not yet visiting the administrative centre of a worldwide institution, but it was a pilgrimage to the graves of the “princes of the apostles”. St Peter’s Basilica and St Paul’s Outside the Walls are originally pilgrim churches for venerating the apostles at the sites of their burial. (By the way, neither of those is the Cathedral church of the Bishop of Rome, which is St John in the Lateran, which again emphasises St Peter’s and St Paul’s as churches of pilgrimage rather than as centres of ecclesiastical administration.) When we celebrate “Petertide”, we should remember that Peter and Paul, and the episcopal see of Rome, are “first among equals” (no more, but certainly no less). This is again emphasised in modern ecumenical dialogues, not least between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church (and, for that matter, between the Old Catholic and Roman Catholic Churches). A reformed and moderate, but nevertheless central, position of the Bishop of Rome should (ideally and eventually) be recognised as one of the steps towards the reunion of churches.

3. In many Anglican dioceses, Petertide is best known as the season in which ordinations take place. One of the reasons is, of course, that Petertide falls towards the end of the academic year, so that students who have completed their education are ordained deacons at Petertide and enter the parish where they will serve as curates for the next few years. Usually after one year they will be ordained priests, again at the season of Petertide. This connection between apostles and ordained ministers is relevant. Jesus called apostles to represent him in preaching the gospel and in making visible the coming of the kingdom in signs (of healing and otherwise). In our time, ordained ministers do the same thing by – among other things – presiding at the liturgy of Word and Sacraments. In preaching the Word they proclaim the coming kingdom and in the Sacraments they present effective signs of the coming kingdom.

These are only a few of the many things that could be said about Peter and Paul. I conclude with three verses from one of our hymns for feast days of the apostles:

NEH 214:

Ye servants who once bore the light  
of gospel truth over heathen night,  
still may your work that light impart,  
to glad our eyes and cheer our heart.

O God, by whom to them was given  
the key that shuts and opens heaven,  
our chains unbind, our loss repair,  
and grant us grace to enter there.

For at thy will they preached the word  
which cured disease, which health conferred;  
O may thy healing power once more  
our souls to grace and health restore.

*Fr Mattijs Ploeger*



### ***From Hospice Haarlem e.o.***

On the first of June we received a heart-warming donation from the Haarlem Church of England. We are deeply grateful for this generous financial support to our work.

Your donation helps us to stand by terminally sick people and their loved ones in the Haarlem region. During the corona virus crisis, we had to invest in all sorts of precautions. This has resulted in a gap in our finances and your contribution makes it possible for us to bridge this gap. For us, that is a great relief.

I will make sure your money is carefully spent in line with our good cause. Thank you for your trust in us.

Warm regards,  
Pauline Jäger  
directeur Hospice Haarlem e.o.



## ***Greetings from Fr. Derek***

I hope you are able to take advantage of the reduction of COVID19 restrictions, and are finding a pattern of life that is a comfortable one for you. I can well imagine many of you will welcome the lifting of restrictions, others will be apprehensive or perhaps it's a mixture of both. It's going to take time to find out and adjust to what people are calling the new normal because quite frankly we don't know what the new normal is.

It has been a privilege over the past few months to be posting via Anni, on your website, some ideas for prayer and reflection for the mid-week. I have enjoyed doing them, and it has been a source of encouragement for me too, as I, with so many others, were in lockdown and being 'shielded'. In the UK this will be paused on 1<sup>st</sup> August and life will be a little less constrained.

My contributions have been shared within my own parish and wider afield. It has become a new ministry for me, at a time when I thought any active ministry was a thing of the past.

Prayer is a normal activity for people of faith. We Christians have a rich pattern of prayer, from set pieces in public worship, to smaller groups, to focused groups and individual prayer. It is a rich tapestry that has been woven over the centuries. It continues to be woven today, the tapestry will never be completed. To us it's normal and at this time it is important to hold on to this normality. It may be a difficult time for some, prayer itself may be difficult; but hold on, it can be your strength, your hope, a rock to support you.

Thank you for your encouragement, especially at times when my choice may have appeared rather eccentric. Eccentric or not they are part of the rich tapestry and I will continue to offer some suggestion for mid-week prayer that reflect the diverse nature of the Anglican Church at prayer. What's next? I will be focusing on some of the Saints together with some of my usual pointers.

God bless you all and until we can meet you again,  
Shalom, the Peace of Christ be with you all.

Fr Derek Akker

29<sup>th</sup> June - Feast of St Peter and St Paul



## ***Music Matters***

Normally I would be writing about the Choral Festival or our impending ECS trip to a cathedral in England. However, Corona has put paid to all that. In fact our first services have all been without live music, since choral and congregational singing were not allowed.

The UK is behind The Netherlands as far as having church services and singing is concerned. The Bishops in the UK are working on a gradual easing of opening up the churches, but singing will still not be possible. Also the quarantine rules in both UK and The Netherlands for travel between the two countries make it impossible to travel to Portsmouth. Even if an air corridor is agreed between the two countries choral services will not be possible in the near future. So sadly we will not be singing in Portsmouth this year.

Other dates in our musical calendar have also been cancelled. The annual Bavo Vesper series will not take place this year and Middachten Castle has had to cancel their annual Christmas Fair. So sadly no carol singing there this year. The Choral Festival will now take place next year; we will still be hosting the Festival and a new date will be announced soon.

From 1 July a new protocol for choirs will come into effect, enabling choirs to begin rehearsing again as long as the singers are 3 meters apart. Our choir is quite keen to begin practising again and we are looking at the possibility of having a small group from the choir sing an anthem during our services. Congregational singing will still not be possible for the present as current regulations require everybody to sit at least 3 meters apart, even further reducing the number of seats available – not exactly the purpose of a church service! Hopefully we will have live singing in our services again before too long.

Out of interest, our first service in Haarlem on 14th June happened to be Music Sunday. On the one hand it was ironic that there was no singing possible and on the other hand it also emphasised the importance of music in our services, and the role it has in enhancing our worship. Hopefully next year's Music Sunday will be overflowing with music.

As part of its support role in church services the RSCM arranged and broadcast a special Music Sunday Service on that day. You can still watch that service, using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRQivlwyTqw>

or look up RSCM Big Music Sunday Service on Youtube.

As you can imagine we cannot wait to begin singing again and supporting our church services with choral music!

*Martin van Bleek,  
Director of Music*



## *From the Council*

### ***Resumption of services***

For so many of us, the long-awaited return to church has been an uplifting experience, a chance to again worship and pray together, and also, just be with each other! Behind the scenes the council have been busy ensuring that our protocols keep us safe. We have worked with our Old Catholic partners to establish shared protocols and also to ensure that the church is clean for all who visit. Our weekly register means that if anything should happen, we can keep you personally informed!



### ***Tea after the service and the rules***

As we gradually get used to having our services under the coronavirus regulations, the possibility of being able to meet after the service is sorely missed. As the lockdown rules are gradually being eased, the church council has discussed the options.

We have decided to follow the rules which our Old Catholic friends have drawn up. They had their first coffee after the service on the 28th and it worked well.

- Social distancing (1.5 meters) needs to be observed and all other RIVM requirements
- If possible, tea will be served outside, otherwise in the church room and the adjoining hall
- Tea will be served by members who do not fall in a risk category
- No more than one person in the kitchen.

If we keep to these rules and follow our common sense, it should be possible to extend our fellowship after the service.

Obviously any member who does not feel safe to have tea after the service is free to follow their instincts.



### ***Annual Chaplaincy Church Meeting***

Amongst other casualties of the Corona restrictions, we have been unable to hold our Annual Chaplaincy Church Meeting (AGM), and the Council has been obliged to postpone this until after the summer, to a date to be determined, but no later than 30th October 2020.

Until then, we wish you all a happy and healthy summer, whether you stay and enjoy your time at home or, if you are planning to venture further afield, keep safe!



## *From Andrew Rees*

Dear all in Haarlem,

I am at present experiencing partial lockdown in UK in Cheltenham, Gloucester, the reason being that I needed to return to UK for work last year, and also organise my wife's visa. I was offered work in Cheltenham, which has continued, and Phil (she prefers to be called Nana which is her Ghanaian name) arrived here in January, having got a visa at the third attempt.

I had visited Ghana last Christmas, and spent time at the school, but unfortunately it has not been doing well, owing to changes in government syllabus (private schools haven't been offered teacher training on new subjects, so can't offer them), so that we dropped to 65 pupils. The school has been closed from March 16<sup>th</sup> due to Covid-19, although it has now been announced that Junior High can return from June 29<sup>th</sup>

In some ways I have been fortunate to be still earning an income, which has enabled me to pay the teachers during their lockdown. There is no state aid in Ghana, and they would otherwise have had nothing. And yes, I miss the teaching, but pray that God will restore numbers and the opportunity for me to return.

*Incidentally, Covid-19 shows that we in the Western nations can learn much from Africa - Ghana implemented an early lockdown and has only had 40 deaths, as opposed to UK's 40,000. Admittedly it has a smaller population of 22 million, but even so that is impressive.*

*Could one explanation of the difference be that Ghana held a national day of prayer and fasting on March 25<sup>th</sup>, specifically to seek God's guidance over Covid-19? Maybe we in Europe could learn from that?*

Please convey greetings to everyone in the church. You are all dearly remembered, and we are thankful to receive the Prayer List.

God bless you all.



## ***Personal profile – Adam Powell***

Following our series on members of the choir, we thought it might be good to have an occasional ‘interview’ with a member of our congregation. Our relatively recent member Adam Powell was willing to be our first victim!



- Background:** Born and childhood in Tewksbury, Gloucester, during teens lived in Worcester, later moved to Ewell in Surrey
- Came to Holland:** in 2018 for a change of scene whilst UK still in the EU
- Daily life:** Financial, investor relations
- Hobbies:** Reading novels, hiking and foreign travel (when I can afford it), recently Budapest
- Music:** Favourite composer Mozart
- Singing:** Joined the Old Catholic choir as tenor just before the COVID-19 crisis.
- Enjoys:** My home made minestrone soup.
- Wishes:** short term: to visit Texel in August to celebrate my birthday.  
long term: who knows!



## Poets Corner

### The Dead

These hearts were woven of human joys and cares,  
Washed marvellously with sorrow, swift to mirth.  
The years had given them kindness. Dawn was theirs,  
And sunset, and the colours of the earth.  
These had seen movement, and heard music; known  
Slumber and waking; loved; gone proudly friended;  
Felt the quick stir of wonder; sat alone;  
Touched flowers and furs and cheeks. All this is ended.

There are waters blown by changing winds to laughter  
And lit by the rich skies, all day. And after,  
Frost, with a gesture, stays the waves that dance  
And wandering loveliness. He leaves a white  
Unbroken glory, a gathered radiance,  
A width, a shining peace, under the night.

The English poet Rupert Brooke wrote this in 1914, after he had enlisted in the British Royal Navy during the First World War. Aged just 27, he died of sepsis in 1915, in Greece, having experienced the harsh realities of war and foreseen the vast numbers of deaths it would bring.  
*(thanks to Christine Bradshaw)*



Wat heilig is .....  
Wat je denken overstijgt  
wat je verstand te boven gaat  
je kunt de Bron niet grijpen  
niet be-grijpen  
je kunt alleen maar ge-grepen worden  
je laten grijpen  
het is grens-overschrijdend  
een grenzeloos vergezicht  
getrokken worden in wat jezelf overstijgt  
Het gaat je te boven,  
dat wat komt van boven  
als een hemelse gave.

That which is sacred  
What transcends your thinking  
what is beyond your understanding  
you cannot grasp the Source  
not understand it  
you can only be grasped  
let yourself be grasped  
it crosses borders  
a boundless vista  
drawn into what transcends yourself  
It is beyond you,  
that which comes from above  
as a heavenly gift.

*(thanks to Marga Beekman)*

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All are most welcome to the following services,  
generally with organ introduction and a recorded anthem.  
The services will be conducted complying with government guidelines;  
- please give advance notification as indicated on our website  
***[www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl](http://www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl)***

Sunday 5 July	14.30	Eucharist (said) - Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger <i>retiring collection for Mission</i>
Sunday 12 July	14.30	Eucharist (said) - Rev. Robert Frede
Sunday 19 July	14.30	NO service
Sunday 26 July	14.30	NO service
Sunday 2 August	14.30	Eucharist (said) - Rev. Robert Frede <i>retiring collection for Mission</i>
Sunday 9 August	14.30	NO service
Sunday 16 August	14.30	Eucharist (said) - Rev. Robert Frede
Sunday 23 August	14.30	Eucharist (said) - Rev. Canon Jake Dejonge
Sunday 30 August	14.30	Eucharist (said) - Rev. Joop Albers
Sunday 6 September	14.30	Eucharist - Rev. Robert Frede <i>retiring collection for Mission</i>

## *Church Stained Glass*

The church has some exquisite stained glass windows, and with the refurbishment now in progress, these are looking even more beautiful. The next time you are in church do take a moment to find this piece.



First service after lock-down, with social distancing!