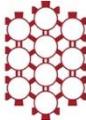


MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH HAARLEM

January 2021, Issue 183

The Anglican Church Haarlem is an Anglican church in the Netherlands with a simple philosophy – to teach the word of God and provide a haven of comfort, fellowship and Christian love amongst our community.

Haarlem  **anglican
church**

<https://anglican-church-haarlem.nl>

email us at anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com

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

Priest in Charge

Wardens

Secretary

Lifeline Editor

vacant

Martin van Bleek, John Scott

Anni Kearney

Philip Whittaker

All payments, donations, general, missions, subscriptions to *Lifeline* (minimum to cover costs €12.50/year), please to: bank nr: NL87 INGB 0000 5776 41, Church of England Haarlem indicating purpose of payment (donation, mission, Lifeline etc)

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.

A new car! - is there something spiritual about it?

Fr Luke suggested that as I have a new car perhaps I would like to write a reflection on having a new car and find a spiritual dimension. Fr Luke has a dry sense of humour.

Let me begin with my first car. I suppose I was a ‘petrol head’ before the term became associated with anyone who liked cars and particularly sporty fast ones. I watched rally cars speed through Bowland (Lancashire) in the early hours of the morning, I acted as a steward, went to Grand Prix Formula 1 racing at Aintree (Liverpool), and walked among the cars and the drivers. I even watched a couple Drag races. This was all in my teens. I found fast cars fascinating and of course wanted one.

Again the watchman reported, “He reached them, but he is not coming back. And the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously”. (2 Kings 9.20).

The irony was not lost on me that the first car I was to buy was an A35 van, which was an insurance write off. Rather ignominiously it had been used as a farm vehicle and was involved in a crash while carrying a couple of churns of milk. The car itself was safe to drive, the main problem being that the car stank of sour milk. I was warned that the smell would never go away but I needed a car for college, and college for work placements, and this was all that I could afford. After disconnecting the battery, I used a high-powered water jet to wash the interior of the van several times. I also used copious amounts Jeyes fluid which overwhelmed the stink of sour milk. My next problem was to get rid of the smell of Jeyes fluid, a few more high-powered washes and it was done. I had a vehicle that was mine, and it could reach 60 mph going downhill with a following wind. I can assure you I did not feel much like a petrol head but I enjoyed driving my little van.

After about 12 months I traded it in for a Ford Anglia from the same garage that had sold me the van. All my hard work cleaning the van paid off. The Trade-in value of the van was twice what I paid for it. I had a big smile on my face - I had used, with the garage’s approval, their power jet and Jeyes fluid to wash the van and they let me store it with them while I did all the cleaning of it.

Perhaps I should mention that I bought the Ford Anglia because I had met Sue and I did not think she would appreciate being driven around in a tiny A35 van - not the most comfortable of vehicles.

So back to Fr Luke's challenge of answering the question - does a new car have a spiritual dimension?

Perhaps I should explain, I had not purchased a new car for over a decade, I had joined the growing number who lease a car. Is there a spiritual dimension in leasing a new car? It does depend on how you define spirituality. If we see it as solely linked to thick books, or whatever the internet equivalent of a thick book is and the Church, it would be a clear no. If, however, you look beyond those narrow perimeters there are fresh horizons to be explored. We can see, experience and appreciate our surroundings in a different way. There is a spiritual dimension there that is good for the soul.

I have never had a car like this, you could dismiss all the gadgets, which is hard for a gadget man. You could pause, stop for a moment and take a deep breath. These gadgets were all functional, some clearly adding to the safety features, and behind each one of these gadgets was a human. You could marvel at the skills of the women and men who spend time reflecting on the car, how it can be improved, made to look better, and be more comfortable and easier to drive. There are those who make and programme the computer-aided production and supervise the production line. Of course, there are those who transport the car from factory to saleroom. Have you ever watched the driver load one of the transporters? It's amazing to see – a skill in its own right.

So yes, I did stop and think about our new car, thank you Fr. Luke. This pausing did have a spiritual dimension. It was a time to realise just how many people have contributed to our safe and comfortable drive, to recall and marvel at their skill. I stand in awe of just how creative these women and men are and to give thanks. Our car is not just a car, it is the work of countless strangers from across Europe. Isn't there something spiritual in that?

Wishing you all, your families and friends a safe New Year, one full of hope, kindness and love

Fr Derek



Music Matters

The New Year has begun! Hopefully 2021 will be a healthy and happy year and see the Covid-19 pandemic brought under control!

Normally the Advent and Christmas period is a hectic time for us, with all the Advent and Christmas services, the Bring and Buy and our annual Carol Concert. Sadly, after our limited Advent Carol Service the Netherlands went into a lockdown which meant that all our services had to be cancelled. However, our Advent Carol Service on 29 November was a happy event and because it was, has already been enjoyed by more than 380 viewers apart from the very small congregation that had been allowed! The recording is still available on the [oudkatholiekhaarlem.nl](https://www.oudkatholiekhaarlem.nl) Youtube channel.

Thomas Ras of the Old Catholic Church was kind enough to operate the cameras for that service, as well as for a 'normal' service 2 weeks later during which Andrew and I played some organ and flute music. This service is also still available through [oudkatholiekhaarlem.nl](https://www.oudkatholiekhaarlem.nl) (3rd Sunday of Advent).

It was the intention to stream both our Christmas Eucharist and Carol Service on Christmas Eve, but the lockdown put paid to that.

However, we were able to sing a Carol Service in Rheden on 21 December, be it without congregation. This service was also streamed live and is still available through kerkdienstgemist.nl, at

<https://kerkdienstgemist.nl/stations/1911/events/recording/160857720001911>.

This now annual service is based on our own traditional Carol Service, with the 9 lessons read alternately in Dutch and English. For our Haarlem congregation the Dutch readings were re-recorded separately in English, including the Bidding Prayer and prayers and blessing at the end of the service by Fr. Robert. Anni inserted these separate recordings into the Rheden recording, adding photos from our own church, and making it into a Haarlem Carol service. Thank you Anni, for the hours you had to put in to get this amazing result! This 'Haarlem' Carol Service is still available through our website <https://youtu.be/tuJrFYXp7r8>. (at the time of writing this has been viewed by 165 people!)

So in spite of the lockdown we were still able to sing the carols we had been practising in restricted circumstances the past 2 months. It was great that James Pollard was able to play for both the Haarlem and the Rheden services.

As an added Christmas special Andrew and I recorded some Christmas music in time for Boxing Day, also available through our website.

Sadly as a choir we will not be able to take part in the Bishop of Haarlem's New Year's Vespers on 3 January as that service can only be streamed with the bishop and a few other participants present.

As a choir, we will now set our sights on a Choral Evensong when possible, and the Good Friday and Easter services which will also be streamed (Covid-19 permitting of course!).

Hopefully we will hear some better news at the Press conference on 12 January for the period after 19 January, but the way the infections are still rising that does not seem likely and it will take a while for the vaccines to have effect.

In spite of the lockdown all these social media options do make it possible for the services and music to be made available for our congregation. In this way it was possible to reflect on the Christian message and the joy of the Christmas story!

Even when things eventually get back to 'normal', I think we have learned valuable lessons of what we can do with the social media, our website and the streamed services, so we will be better equipped to spread the Christian message and our liturgy and music!

A very happy, healthy and harmonious 2021 to you all!

*Martin A. van Bleek,
Director of Music*



Happy Birthday Andrew!

On 22nd December we celebrated Andrew's half-century with an evening 'Zoom-borrel', the lockdown preventing other kinds of celebrations with a large group of people. Congratulations Andrew!



Proceeds Christmas Bring and Buy

As it was not possible to have a physical Christmas Bring & Buy we arranged an online order version.

With the help of Taste of Home, Haarlem, all the Christmas orders were fulfilled and we raised € 219.65 for the choir fund!



Discussion Group - Advent Discussion Group November 2020 on-line

It was a new experience to be part of the Advent Discussion group online for the first time. There were nine participants who logged into Microsoft Teams on their computer at home at 8 pm on Tuesdays evenings in November.

During the course it was good to explore living 'Life to the full'. It was worth reflecting on whether there are key characteristics, common threads and distinctive traits associated with this way of being. The nine fruits of the Spirit offer a helpful template concerning the sort of qualities that emerge from living in the fullness of Christ.

Here are some of the comments made by the participants:

- A very worthwhile online course. Great for bonding.
- What a wonderful way of being part of a group on subjects that are worthwhile.
- It seems to be really satisfying a need for communication and faith-related sharing of ideas, beliefs and emotions. 'Virtual' meeting is opening the pathway to greater participation. Joining from a home environment may be unlocking the door to more uninhibited participation.
- Opportunity to express something in words you don't often talk about.
- Good exchange of ideas and experiences.
- Unity in sharing experiences with others in English.
- Learning from each other and very light-hearted.
- The anonymity of the medium creates safety and stimulates interaction.

We are discovering that online meetings offer an opportunity to meet together at a safe distance to share our faith and experiences.

Diana

Ψ Ψ Ψ Ψ

Discussion Group - Lent Discussion Group

New World, Old Faith is an ecumenical York course for discussion groups written by Canon John Young. It looks at how Christian faith continues to shed light on a whole series of issues in our changing world, including change itself. A relevant course for making sense of faith in the world of today.

Much of the criticism directed at Christianity in our day and age is that it is outdated - old hat. **New World, Old Faith** takes the position that just because Christianity is based on events of two thousand years ago does not mean it is irrelevant today. Quite the contrary - in our multi-everything world it is more relevant than ever! So, in the third millennium, we find that we can apply Christianity to help interpret life and the world as we experience it.

The course booklet includes a selection of questions, designed to stimulate wide-ranging discussion. All are welcome to join one or any of the sessions to share our faith, learn from each other and find inspiration.

Dates: 2, 9, 16, 23 March 2021

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 20.00 - 21.15

Place: Microsoft Teams Online

For further information, please contact Diana.



Church Council News

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you have had a peaceful and happy Christmas. It was not what we had planned and we were sorry not to have seen you over the festive period but we hope you enjoyed the recordings that we were able to send to you. If you haven't seen them, links are on the website. Thank you for all the feedback which we shared with all concerned. At this point in writing we are still in our lockdown but written services will continue to be published online. Thank you again to everyone who has helped to make our journeys through lockdown more manageable.

A request for photographs! On the website we are very careful to use our own images, mostly photographs. Not only do they look lovely, but it means there are no copyright issues. Do you have a few photographs that you would be happy for us to use? Church interiors, for example, stained glass windows work really well, especially as they typically have a biblical reference. Or statues, lecterns, other beautiful features. Or perhaps you have some nice landscapes, sunrises or seasonal photos? Please send these to: anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com with the subject 'photos for the website'. By sending them you are kindly allowing us to use them on a public website/facebook. Thank you in advance!!

Anni Kearney, Secretary



Ladies Lunch Christmas Surprise

On Tuesday 9 December I was surprised by a ring at the doorbell and two 'angels' were singing "We wish you a Merry Christmas". They came bringing a lovely Christmas gift bag. Inside there were some delicious homemade goodies: fruit cake, quiche, scones, sausage rolls, mince pies and chocolates. Normally on the second Tuesday of December we meet at Ann's house for coffee and Christmas fare to start off the festive season. As it has not been possible to meet due to lockdown this year Ann and Vicki set up a plan to do a tour to deliver these Christmas delicacies to each of the ladies. It was a wonderful surprise. Thank you, Vicki and Ann!

Diana Dammer



Church Stained Glass – Willem Bogtman (Bergen 1882 - Haarlem 1955)

In the alcove at the back-left of the church is a modest but exquisite 4-leaved stained glass window by Willem Bogtman, dated 1938.



Bogtman was a graphic designer and glass mosaic designer and maker of wide repute in his time, and very productive, with more than 4500 works to his name. Amongst these are windows in the Vredeskerk in Bergen-aan-zee, Kapelkerk in Alkmaar, and the stunning (106 m²) roof of the Scheepvaarthuis in Amsterdam.

This is the last of Adam Powell's fascinating visits to European cities:

Recollections of Marseilles

by Adam Powell

Have you thought what it would be like to die and go to Heaven? The South of France is close to my imagination of it. Landing at Marseilles Airport is an exciting experience. The runway is adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea. In the descent it feels like a fall into the sea.

Aix-en-Provence has a certain magic about it. I felt as though I was stepping into one of the pictures of Cezanne, Gaugin or Van Gogh and I can see what attracted them there. The Museum Granet has a collection of ten of Cezanne's paintings. There is also a significant archaeological collection from Ancient Egypt. It impresses me how linguists can decode the hieroglyphs from that time. Number is actually a modern phenomenon (the Romans had an early attempt at it but did not have zero). In Ancient Egypt numbers as well as letters were represented by hieroglyphs. The separation came later.

About 80 km to the West lies Arles. It is a pretty town which was for a while the centre of the Roman Empire. There is an amphitheatre in the city centre that accommodates local performances. I stayed just around the corner from it. Arles is a convenient base to visit the Camargue an open marshland between the Great Rhone, the Petit Rhone and the Mediterranean Sea. For a thousand years the Camargue has been home to herds of white horses. I was inspired to visit the area by Albert Limorisse's film *White Mane* (1953). Thousands of flamingoes call in at Pont du Gau which is also home to many cormorants.

Saintes Maries de le Mare is the only town in the Camargue and is informally known as its capital. According to legend it is where Mary Magdalene landed with a group of other future saints in AD 45 to spread Christianity. Among them was Saint Marie Salome, the patron saint of gypsies. Each year the town hosts a gypsy festival in May.

There is of course so much more that the South of France can offer. I can certainly recommend a train journey from Marseilles to Nice. The scenery is breath-taking but I feel that I have had a glimpse of Heaven in this life and it is these glimpses that help us to understand the real thing.



Ms. Miscellaneous

Daffodil

On my way home from running an errand this afternoon I saw a yellow daffodil opening its flower to the winter sun. A daffodil. In December. Come to think of it, about two weeks ago I spotted a pair of Egyptian geese (nijlganzen in Dutch) with six goslings and around Sinterklaas there were a few snowdrops in the grass opposite the church in Haarlem.

Is nature just as impatient for 2020 to end as I am?? Are these observations additional wake up calls for mankind to stop abusing its beautiful blue planet? Or maybe they are just random events, falling well in the standard deviation of nature and life in general? All of the above? Could well be.

However, as I was cycling home, still amazed by the sight of the delicate daffodil, I did not feel anxious. I felt hopeful and happy. True, 2020 was not the year I hoped and wished for at midnight on New Year's Eve a year ago. Mainly because of the COVID-19 pandemic with all its consequences (e.g. having to work at home alone – only seeing colleagues on screen, the church and choir banning lockdowns), the illness and passing away of my dear father and the subsequent worries about my grieving mother.

But somehow the daffodil triggered a feeling of hope and made me realise that we are moving toward the light again. The days are getting longer, the COVID-19 vaccinations are on their way and nature – God's creation for and with us – is so resilient and resourceful that countless good and beautiful things come from events that may be or seem bad in our eyes (which does not mean we can just exploit and abuse her, by the way!!).

John 1: 1-5 sums it up quite nicely I think: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

There is always energy, there is always light, there is always hope, there is always love, there is always beauty.

I wish us all a daffodil-ful 2021!

Veronique Ruiz



Twelfth Night

No night could be darker than this night, no cold so cold,
as the blood snaps like a wire
and the heart's sap stills,
and the year seems defeated.

O never again, it seems, can green things run, or sky birds fly,
or the grass exhale its humming breath powdered with pimpernels,
from this dark lung of winter.

Yet here are lessons from the final mile of pilgrim kings;
the mile still left when all have reached their tether's end: that mile
where the Child lies hid.

For see, beneath the hand, the earth already warms and glows;
for men with shepherd's eyes there are signs in the dark, the turning
stars,
the lamb's returning time.

Out of this utter death he's born again,
his birth our Saviour;
from terror's equinox, he climbs and grows, drawing his finger's light
across our blood— the sun of heaven and the son of God.

Laurie Lee (1914–1997) is an English writer best known for his prose, including the memoir of childhood 'Cider with Rosie', and 'A Moment of War' about his part in the International Brigades' opposition to fascism in Spain in the 1930s. His poems mainly focus on nature and the countryside. However, in *Twelfth Night*, he takes us into the imagery of the Christmas story and universal themes such as pilgrimage, and the cycles of death and birth, darkness and light.

Christine Bradshaw



Angels (from a sermon preached in 1932)

Of the nature of Angels we know very little; God has revealed to us very little about them. In Hebrews 1, v.7 we read “He makes His Angels *spirits*”, but we do not know what a *spirit* is; we know that they are real beings, but what sort of beings we do not know.

Since there is only one Infinite, Almighty Being, God Himself, Angels must be limited as to power and knowledge. We are told that they are the highest of created beings, and their place is around the throne of God, from whence they go forth on whatever errands He may have for them.

In the Epistle of Jude is stated that some of the Angels fell from their first state. It may be that when first created Angels went through a time of probation (like Adam and Eve), and that some of them fell. But the Angels who kept their first pure condition are wholly and entirely devoted to the service of God. There seems to be no faintness nor weariness in their service. We are told that Angels have a glory of their own, and that glory is so excellent that our Lord speaks of His own coming in His own glory, in the glory of the Father, *and* in the glory of the holy Angels. They wait in God’s presence, ever ready to carry out His will.

Mankind was made ‘a little lower than the Angels’ (*Psalm 8*) - though he was made in the image of God, yet he was made lower than the Angels. The place of man is, at present, on the earth; the place of Angels is in heaven, in the presence of God. But it was man’s nature that the Son of God took.

When Elijah was worn out and lay down under a juniper tree, praying God to let him die, we are told that the Angel of the Lord came and ministered to him and raised him up.

When Elisha was in great danger at Gilgal, and the whole mountain is surrounded by armies of Syrians, and there seemed as if there could be no hope for him and his attendant, Elisha prays to God to open the eyes of the young man, and he sees that

the mountain is full of horses and chariots of fire, 'for the chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of Angels'.

When the covenant of Abraham was confirmed unto Jacob, he saw a ladder upon the earth reaching unto heaven, and the Angels of God ascending and descending upon it

When our Lord came, an Angel heralded His birth. An Angel appeared to Zacharias telling him that his wife should bear John the Baptist. An Angel came to Mary to tell her that she should be the mother of the Lord, and afterwards to Joseph, her husband, telling him to take the young child and His mother and flee into Egypt, and afterwards again to return and go and live at Nazareth. They ministered to our Lord after His temptation. They ministered to Him during the time of His agony in the Garden. Twelve legions of Angels were ready, at any moment, to rescue Him, had they been allowed. And when He comes again, He will come with all His holy Angels.

In our time it is the Baptised who are the special objects of the ministry and care of Angels. They delight in the worship of the Church, not as fellow worshippers, but as interested observers, longing, as St. Paul says, *to look into the mysteries of God which are revealed to them through the Church* "which things," he says, "*the Angels desire to look into*".

Be conscious therefore of the presence of Angels around us, who are there for our help, but also that we do not offend them in our actions.

Ψ Ψ Ψ Ψ

People are funny, they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

If God is your Co-pilot - swap seats!

The best mathematical equation ever: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Where available all are most welcome to attend services in Church, which will continue to follow the pattern of a said service with organ introduction and a recorded anthem.

The services will be conducted complying with government guidelines, **please register in advance** through our website: www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl

2020

Sunday 3 January <i>Epiphany</i>	14.30	No service
Sunday 10 January <i>The Baptism of Christ</i>	14.30	No service
Sunday 17 January <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	14.30	No service
Sunday 24 January <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	14.30	Eucharist - Rev. Robert Frede
Sunday 31 January <i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i>	14.30	Eucharist - Rev. Canon Jake Dejonge
Sunday 7 February <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	14.30	Eucharist - Rev. Canon Jake Dejonge
Sunday 14 February <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	14.30	Eucharist - Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger and Confirmation Service - The Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Dick Schoon
Wednesday 17 February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>		
Sunday 21 February <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	14.30	Eucharist - Rev. Robert Frede
Sunday 28 February <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	14.30	Eucharist - Rev. Robert Frede
Sunday 7 March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	14.30	Eucharist - Rev. Robert Frede

Beyond understanding

Whether you understand it or not

God loves you

is present in you

lives in you

dwells in you

calls you

and offers you

an instinct and a light

which are like nothing

you ever found in books

or heard in sermons

(thanks to Marga)