

MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH HAARLEM

January 2022, Issue 189

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.



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

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

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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.

From our new Chaplain - Rev. Bruce Rienstra



Greetings from Inkberrow in Worcestershire. It's the last week of December and we are in the final throes of moving from the UK to the Netherlands, we're in an empty Vicarage as all our things have already been moved. We thought it would be a good idea to introduce ourselves. The picture was taken when we arrived in Worcestershire in July 2016 and has the 13th century Dormston church in the background (one of four I'm currently responsible for and Tolkien's *Bag End* is just 500 meters away). It's now five and a half years later and I am considerably greyer.

Some of you in Haarlem may recognise our names as we spent over twenty years living in or near Amsterdam. We attended Christ Church in Amsterdam from the early 90's until around 2008. Lauretta is British and a concert pianist, I am American (of Dutch parents – raised as an Anglican) and was in the graphics industry until I began studying theology. I was eventually ordained at Southwell Minster in 2013, at which point we moved to the UK for my curacy in Warsop (near Mansfield).

We are very much looking forward to coming back to the Netherlands. Our four children (we both have two from previous marriages) all live in the Netherlands, from near Hoorn in the North to Scheveningen in the South, Muiden to the East and one in Amsterdam itself. We have a grandson and another on the way. Lauretta worked at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff and will be looking to picking up her

musical contacts in the Netherlands again (she had two weeks of concerts planned around Christmas but the Dutch lockdown cancelled them all!) as well as perhaps doing some teaching again. As for myself, in addition to taking on the Anglican Church of Haarlem I will also be Parish Priest of the Paradijkerk in Rotterdam. The Old Catholic Church is providing a parsonage for us in Delft where we will be living for at least the next two years. There will obviously be some give and take when it comes to my time, in particular the festivals, but I am certain that we will work things out. At the moment on an average Sunday; 10.00 in Rotterdam and 14.30 in Haarlem will be easy to manage, either by car or public transport. Being responsible for both an Old Catholic and an Anglican church will be a challenge, I will have much to learn, but I will be looking to Haarlem being my bedrock and I look forward to beginning this next stage of our faith journey together with you and of serving the Anglican church in Haarlem.

We look forward to meeting you all soon. We should be in the Netherlands the first week of January. Taking most of January to settle in and get used to how things have changed in the past eight years.

With every blessing,

The Rev'd Bruce Rienstra and Mrs. Laretta Bloomer

Ψ Ψ Ψ Ψ

The Advent Discussion Group - November 2021

'Living in Hope' was the title of the York course used for the Advent Discussion Group this year. There were 14 participants in two groups, meeting once a week during November. It was good to be able to discuss some 'heavy' topics in an open-minded and friendly way, sharing different points of view and gathering unexpected insights. One of the advantages of meeting online is that everyone is in their own home which creates a relaxed atmosphere and a bond of openness. Each one of us comes with a different background and experiences in life and faith. It was enriching to discover the diversity of opinions and reflections.

Gert & Diana

Ψ Ψ Ψ Ψ

Music Matters

Another year has passed and 2022 has begun! Last year we hoped the Covid-19 pandemic would be brought under control, but alas the pandemic is still with us, and we are in another lockdown, so no live church services for the moment. Hopefully the coming press conference will bring more positive news, but we have learnt not to expect too much too soon.

Having said that, I hope 2022 will be a healthy and happy and of course musical year for us all! With the arrival of our new chaplain Bruce Rienstra and his wife Lauretta Bloomer we will be embarking on a new and exciting chapter in our church's life.

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. The choir had already been busy practising for our anticipated Advent and Christmas services. To be on the safe side I had cancelled our Carol Concert so as not to overload our practices. But sadly, after our Advent Carol Service the Netherlands went into another lockdown which meant that all our live services had to be cancelled.

Last year our Carol Service in Rheden was streamed for their congregation and then adapted for Haarlem by adding our own readers.

This year, however, Rheden was cancelled, and by kind permission of Bishop Dirk Jan Schoon, the Old Catholic Bishop of Haarlem, we were allowed to pre-record our Carol Service which was then streamed on Christmas Eve.



It was very different without a congregation and readings by members of the congregation. Instead Fr. Robert Frede and choir members took care of all the readings. But Thomas Ras of the Old Catholic Church was at the helm of the cameras again and produced a lovely recording of this service. This is still available on both the oudkatholiekhaarlem.nl Youtube channel and via our own church website. So far the service has been watched by 800 people!

On Boxing Day, Anni organised our Boxing Day Drinks on Zoom and Francis and Veronique entertained us with an online Bingo. Andrew and Jay played some carol duets on their flutes, and everybody could sing along with a few carols in their own homes (with the mics muted) whilst I played them on the piano in our house.

It was great to have Fr. Derek and Sue with us in the zoom. We even managed to put in a few requests for his online meditations too. These meditations have been a valuable contribution to the spiritual life of our church in Haarlem, and are greatly appreciated by all.

All in all this was a great social occasion and a continuation of our Haarlem Boxing Day Tradition. Thanks to all who helped organise it.

Sadly as a choir we will again be unable to take part in the Bishop of Haarlem's New Year's Vespers on 2 January as that service can only be streamed with the bishop and a few other participants present. Hopefully the choir will be able to begin practising again soon, but will have to wait what the next press conference will bring. This will also determine whether we will be able to sing at our new chaplain's licensing service. More details of that elsewhere in Lifeline.

As a choir we will set our sights on a Choral Evensong and the Good Friday and Easter services which hopefully will be live again (Covid-19 permitting of course and the result of the booster campaign!).

We are getting better at utilising all the social media options available to us. This makes it possible for us to provide the services and music for our congregation. In spite of the lockdown we are - as a congregation - still able to reflect on the Christian message and the joy of the Christmas story!

Even when things eventually get back to 'normal', we will all have experienced the value of social media, our website and the streamed services, and we will be better equipped to spread the Christian message and our liturgy and music in many more different ways!

A very happy, healthy and musical 2020 to you all!

Martin van Bleek
Director of Music



Boxing Day - Anni Kearney

On Boxing Day our traditional get-together over drinks was replaced by a Zoom meet-up which promised fun and hilarity - and it certainly didn't disappoint! We had a great turn out, lots of laughter and Christmas cheer. We enjoyed Christmas flute duets from Andrew and Jay and silent hymn singing with Martin on the piano and the rest of us all singing with our mute buttons on (with many of us adding actions too!!).

The highlight was, of course, the wonderful raffle, led by Veronique drawing the numbers and Francis reading them out, complete with the authentic Bingo-number nicknames.

(for the uninitiated Bingo numbers are called out with nicknames, like

legs eleven	11
cup of tea	3
goodbye teens	19
rise and shine	29
Christmas cake	38)

Prizes included a chocolate orange and donations to the flower fund.

We had the special pleasure of welcoming surprise guests Derek and Sue, who have been a strong 'remote' support to our Chaplaincy during the lockdowns - it was lovely to see them on this happy festive occasion!



The licensing of our new chaplain

As you all know during the past few months we have been busy with all the formalities surrounding the arrival of our new chaplain Revd. Bruce Rienstra and his wife Lauretta Bloomer. His first contribution to our church magazine can be found elsewhere in Lifeline.

We are grateful to Archdeacon Sam van Leer and Andrew Kearney for their help in getting through all the formalities with the IND and other authorities. All being well our chaplain will be licensed by our Archdeacon Sam van Leer on Sunday 30 January during our afternoon service. Whether this will be a live service with choir and congregation or a streamed service without congregation, is as yet uncertain as we have to wait for the next press conference when the government will announce whether the Covid-19 measures will be continued or whether it is possible to relax some of the restrictions. Obviously we are hoping for the latter!

Please remember Fr. Bruce and Lauretta in your prayers as they prepare to move to the Netherlands and take up their new responsibilities in both Haarlem and Rotterdam. We will keep you informed about developments regarding the licensing service through email and the Church app.

*John Scott & Martin van Bleek,
wardens*



In Memoriam

Hubregt (Huib) Hogerheijde

(18 maart 1947 - 27 november 2021)

Huib, loved husband of Berber,
and much appreciated and liked by the Anglican Singers,
was born in Amsterdam and always lived there.

The choir remembers him faithfully supporting it on their
Cathedral visits to England and other festive services,
accompanied by their dog Penny.

Huib had three children from his first marriage, and one with
Berber, whom he married in 1991.

Berber writes: *Huib was a kind, gentle, very intelligent and broadly developed, somewhat introverted man. He studied Dutch and specialized in historical linguistics and etymology. He worked for nearly a quarter of a century at the P.J. Meertens Institute (known to some as Het bureau, by Voskuil, a cycle of novels in which Huib appears as a character in volume 3). Less enjoyable years for him were devoted to teaching.*

After his retirement he went to study Egyptology, especially Middle Egyptian, something he had always wanted to do, but which was not an option earlier. After many years of study he was able to read hieroglyphs. The fact that Huib was very fond of cryptograms is an extension of this. He was also a lover of Scandinavian languages and English. The fact that I ended up with the Anglican Singers and Haarlem Church choir was also an enrichment for Huib, joining the choir tours in the summer (he enjoyed the Choral Evensongs immensely), and attended church regularly. Not only the music, but also the liturgy appealed to him; he was Lutheran by birth and recognized much that they have in common. Organ music and Bach he specially loved.

Our deep condolences go out to Berber and their family.

May Huib's soul rest in peace and awake to a joyful resurrection





In Memoriam

Angela Bollen-Buckwell

(Newcastle 15 January 1936 – Heemstede 11 December 2021)

Angela joined the congregation of Haarlem Anglican Church after her move from Vlissingen to Heemstede. On her 80th birthday she provided drinks and nibbles after church to celebrate with us as a congregation.

She made a real effort to come regularly to church by taxi which unfortunately was not always reliable or on time!

For several years she was an active participant in the Lent and Advent discussion group which took place in the evenings in church.

As it was more difficult for her to get to church recently we kept in touch by telephone and cards and she continued to take an interest in the activities and life of the church.

She was pleased to attend this year's Harvest Festival with her daughter Karen. Also, it was special that Revd Mattijs Ploeger was able to minister 'holy unction' which was her wish when she was in the hospice.

A very devoted lady!

Her family write: Angela Buckwell was born in Newmarket, GB, on 15 January, 1936, daughter of an Anglican priest and an upper middle class lady.

During the war, then living near Oxford, her father gave spiritual care to returning soldiers while her mother worked in the Spitfire factories.

They also took on lodgers: refugees from London, or foreigners, for instance a Saudi sjeik she befriended for the rest of her life.

Turning 12 she attended a boarding-school led by nuns, where she became Head girl. Just as her mother she loved to travel and enjoyed experiencing other cultures. As a woman of the world, first working abroad and then marrying abroad to Dutch marine officer Nic(olas) Bollen, she was open to contact with anybody she met.

Besides being the housewife at home, she invested her time and broad interests deeply in many charitable activities, such as her beloved Mission to Seafarers and Flying Angel Club (a worldwide Anglican mission with social hubs), school-boards, Tesselschade (an association supporting young women), Raad van Kerken, Marine Officers Association, etc., etc. The Dutch Marine became her (and our!) second family, knitting close friendships for life, again combining many cultures to one.

The second half of my parents life, post Marine, they lived on Walcheren in Zeeland. After Nic passed away, Angela still remained soundly settled in the island's community and culture.

Her last years she moved to Heemstede to be closer to her three daughters and grand children, living in de Burghave where she also reunited with many old Marine friends. In her last years, as her mind faltered increasingly, she could still find joy, for instance in visiting the Anglican Church in Haarlem. Her demise was short and peaceful, another blessing to her blessed life.

Angela will be very widely missed and mourned.

We offer our deep condolences to her family.

May Angela's soul rest in peace and awake to a joyful resurrection





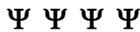
Proceeds Christmas Bring and Buy

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

With the help of Taste of Home, all the Christmas orders were fulfilled and we raised € 210.- for the choir fund!

The raffle raised around € 120.- for the Flower Fund. Thanks to Ann for driving to The Hague to get the Christmas Cake!

Martin van Bleek

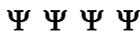


Towards living the Chaplaincy Vision

During a meeting presided over by the Archdeacon in an earlier phase of our interregnum, collectively we agreed upon a vision for the future development of the Haarlem Chaplaincy. This included an increase in membership. It also envisioned a broader demographic appeal and a higher visibility profile in the life of the City of Haarlem.

The intervening period has seen a progressive recovery of our financial position so that we are now able to embark upon the next steps of the journey towards achieving our vision. We remain very thankful for the generous support that has enabled us to reach the current situation.

With the eagerly awaited arrival of our new chaplain there is likely to be a marked increase in our general community activity. This will be accompanied by a gradually increasing demand on our financial resources. To ensure that we will be able to sustain growth we will also need to find ways to grow our annual chaplaincy income sources. With this in mind, we would like to hear your ideas and suggestions on how to develop a sustainable financial platform, regarding both regular giving and other sources of income generation. Please contribute your ideas or discuss your thoughts with any members of the Chaplaincy Council. Together we can make our vision continue to live and grow.



Poet's Corner

From **Auguries of Innocence**,

by William Blake

To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.
A Robin Redbreast in a Cage
Puts all Heaven in a Rage.
A dove house fill'd with doves and pigeons
Shudders Hell thro' all its regions.
A Dog starv'd at his Master's Gate
Predicts the ruin of the State.
A Horse misus'd upon the Road
Calls to Heaven for Human blood.
Each outcry of the hunted Hare
A fiber from the Brain does tear.
A skylark wounded in the wing,
A cherubim does cease to sing.

William Blake was a visionary poet who lived from 1757 to 1827. The full poem 'Auguries of Innocence' has a total of 128 lines, of which the above are the opening lines. 'Auguries of Innocence' is a collection of conflicting situations written as a kind of prophetic judgement. This section can be read as a type of eco-philosophy 200 years ahead of its time.

(Christine Bradshaw)



The Unexpected Visitor



In the early spring of the first lockdown we had an unexpected visitor. We were surprised to see a hedgehog, it was welcome and brought us pleasure seeing it drinking at our water feature. But, from our surprise and pleasure came a concern. This was not the usual behaviour of a normally nocturnal animal. From our initial good feelings we soon realised all was not well with our little spikey visitor, it was probably dehydrated. This was confirmed by some research - young hedgehogs can become dehydrated in warm, dry periods. We responded, as did a neighbour, with plenty of accessible water, and hopefully he lived a content life, doing what hedgehogs do.

We had a cute visitor but one in distress and doing nothing was not an option. It was spring, the season of new life. We were, however, in lockdown along with the rest of the country, and I joined the club of over 2 million of those who were seen as clinically vulnerable and advised to stay at home. That was for many a very lonely time, isolation increased to unbearable levels and compounded their clinical vulnerability. Calling it 'house arrest' was part of the way of dealing with the months of restrictions. Being under 'house arrest' had effects on carers; life was not easy for them, but they *cared* and did even more caring.

During these months I found different ways to both express and experience my faith and how to continue to be a follower of Jesus. One of my fresh behaviours was to recognise my surroundings and literally see, some of them, with fresh eyes.

Recently, I read a short article entitled 'Hedgehogs make excellent pets'. It made amusing reading, a story of how a little spikey animal can take over a family household. Hedgehogs are easy to care for, don't take up much space, are super cute and always make for a good story; we used to talk about our hedgehog all the time.

It's that last point that earned my wife and me a house full of hedgehog paraphernalia. a home surrounded by things hedgehog shaped, hedgehog

salt and pepper shakers, hedgehog kitchen towels, hedgehog plates, hedgehog socks, hedgehog pillows.

So, it only follows that our daughters have entire shelves worth of hedgehog children's books. And I admit that I bought more than a few.

But for all the diversity in hedgehog *things* available to the general public, there seem to be only a handful of hedgehog *plotlines* in children's books - they tend to go like this:

Hedgehogs are not huggable – just look at those spikes! No one wants to hug this hedgehog, and she's really sad about it.

There are various solutions: tuck the hedgehog into something soft to muffle the sting of the spikes; pair her up with a more durable critter — say, an armadillo or a turtle. The outcome is always cute. But the basic premise is the same: Just look at that spiky creature; no one wants to get near it.

Here's the problem: hedgehogs are *entirely* huggable. We used to cuddle ours all the time; so did our very young daughters. It is really not that hard or novel, but people see nothing beyond those prickly quills and assume the worst.

We all can be a bit prickly at times. Grumpy, scared, angry. Those are the times, in fact, when hedgehogs ball up, quills out – and you shouldn't touch them. But that isn't their permanent state; just be patient and they'll unwind. Often we see nothing but the prickly quills on the people around us: family, friends, colleagues, strangers. We catch them in stressful moments and freeze them that way in our minds. We assume they're *always* prickly – and we shouldn't get too close.

Perhaps we see ourselves that way: prickly, unforgiveable, better left alone.

Consider how God sees each of us, our *full* selves. Whole human beings. Prickly sure at times, but so much more. God sees us beyond a single moment; God is patient in his desire to accompany us through life's challenges and joys and moments of frustration.

God waits for the hedgehog to unwind, to lower its quills.
God knows how huggable a hedgehog **can be**.

(thanks to Rev. Derek Akker)

Ms Miscellaneous

New Year's resolution

And all of a sudden it's already the second day of the new year 2022. The older I become, the faster time seems to pass. This past Christmas and New Year's Eve have passed, almost without me noticing; no Middachten Christmas Market with us singing carols in the castle, no singing in Rheden, no concert, no Christmas Eve 9 Lessons and Carols service, no New Year's Vesper with the Old Catholics – I just realized how important these events are for me to feel the spirit of Christmas and the coming of a new year. If not for the recorded lessons and carols service, Boxing Day online bingo and pleasant family dinners it would have been almost like a year without Christmas. As if the Grinch stole Christmas!

But like the Grinch realized - and just now so did I - Christmas and New Year are not so much about the rituals but about the meaning and promises those days bring.

So my New Year's resolution is to focus more on the meaning and spirit of events and encounters than on the outward appearances – and to be grateful for being able to enjoy and to learn from them.

It would be nice if my heart would grow three sizes that way – just like the Grinch's. That way I could learn to share more and better again. Sharing in every way is always more fun anyway and the way God wants it to be.

Happy New Year to all!

Veronique Ruiz



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All are most welcome to attend services in Church.
Where available these will continue to be conducted complying with
government guidelines.

It is unclear whether advance registration will be required
please check in advance on our website www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl

Sunday 2 January <i>Epiphany</i>	14.30	No service
Sunday 9 January <i>The Baptism of Christ</i>	14.30	No service
Sunday 16 January <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	14.30	Eucharist - Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
Sunday 23 January <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>	14.30	Eucharist - Rev. Robert Frede
Sunday 30 January <i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i>	14.30	Eucharist - t.b.a.
Sunday 6 February <i>4th Sunday before Lent</i>	14.30	Eucharist - t.b.a.
Sunday 13 February <i>3rd Sunday before Lent</i>	14.30	Eucharist - t.b.a.
Sunday 20 February <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	14.30	Eucharist - t.b.a.
Sunday 27 February <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	14.30	Eucharist - t.b.a.
Wednesday 2 March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	19.30	Eucharist (Old Catholic) - t.b.a.

