

MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH HAARLEM

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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.



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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.

Good and Bad Fruit

I have procrastinated getting this reflection done but it seems, yet again, that there was a reason. You will have noticed that there is a blue and yellow theme and for good reason. For those of you reading this now, it will make sense, however for the sake of people reading this in the future this issue is being published just days after the Russian invasion of the Ukraine on the 24th of February 2022.

Peace in Europe has for the second time in the last 70 years been broken. The last time was in the Balkans and the fight for independence by the various former Yugoslavian states; this time however it is very different. A far more powerful neighbour has invaded a sovereign nation under the guise of protecting its own security.

A lie and utter nonsense. An act of aggression for reasons it is still too early to fully understand, though there are many guesses. From the reading on Sunday the 27th of February our focus was on the fruit and the tree which produces it. Luke 6.43 *“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit”*. Putin’s tree is producing this fruit and we will soon find out how bad the fruit is that this tree has produced. No verse was more apt on a particular Sunday.

But we as a church community, though we are far away, can do something. We can pray and we can bear witness. We must tell our Ukrainian friends and neighbours that we stand with them; Ukrainians in the Ukraine and Ukrainians here in the Netherlands, we must stand with them and help if help is needed. We must pray for the Ukraine’s neighbours Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova as they give aid and comfort to the refugees, and we must also lobby to allow refugees to enter further into the EU. This is what our faith means, this is the example from Christ, and though it may be a 21 hour drive away, the Ukraine is our neighbour, and we are called to help and to love our neighbour, in words and deeds.

The Rev’d Bruce Rienstra
Chaplain

Ψ Ψ Ψ Ψ

A prayer for Ukraine from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

Many of us will have troubled hearts as we watch with horror the attack by Russia on Ukraine. As we have already said, this attack is an act of evil, imperilling as it does the relative peace and security that Europe has enjoyed for so long. The attack by one nation on a free, democratic country has rightly provoked outrage, sanctions and condemnation. We lament with the people of Ukraine, and we pray for the innocent, the frightened and those who have lost loved ones, homes, and family. We continue to call for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces as well as wide-ranging efforts to ensure peace, stability and security.

These events remind us powerfully that peace is precious and it is fragile. In Chapter 14 of John's Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples at the Last Supper and he leaves them his peace. This is not a mere greeting, but rather something deep and abiding. This peace is something that only Jesus gives; for it is a gratuitous gift, a way of living, something to be received for the gift of peace is the gift of Jesus himself. That is why the Lord is able to offer reassurance to our hearts, why those who receive the gift of the peace of Jesus Christ at the deepest of levels should not be afraid.

Peace, therefore, is so much more than the absence of war. It is a gift, and it is also a decision, a gift that must be received. It is a choice we make that shapes the way we live well alongside each other. It characterises our relationship with God. It comes into being by seeking justice.

In these days of uncertainty and fear, we pray that each of us might again turn to the Lord and receive God's gift of peace, work for God's justice, know God's reconciliation and love, and choose paths not of hatred or destruction, of violence or retribution, but God's way of justice, mercy and peace.

As Christians, our response to a crisis must always be rooted in prayer. And so we invite you to join with us in praying most earnestly for an outpouring of the Spirit of God, that the world may once again choose peace, strengthening those international bodies that enable us to work and live together as one humanity inhabiting one world.

We pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people and leaders of Russia too. However and whenever you pray, pray that the world may choose peace.

Music Matters

After the lockdown it has been wonderful to be able to sing the services in our own church again. As you will have noticed we are gradually increasing the music in our services, such as a psalm and communion motet when the choir is there. Eventually we will bring our other Choral Eucharistic setting back in use again and then have the Folk Mass for the non-choir services. We will also be adding more hymns.

The season of Lent is upon us again and will help us prepare for Good Friday and Easter. Last year the choir was unable to practise for these special services, but thankfully after the lockdown was lifted we have been able to begin practising for Good Friday and Easter.

Hopefully we will be able to sing our traditional Good Friday and Easter services again without any further restrictions! Another traditional for our Easter services is also on order: an order for Cadbury's Cream eggs from Taste of Home!

We will be joining our Old Catholic friends for their services on Palm Sunday (10 am) and Maundy Thursday (7.30 pm).

You may have noticed we have a new and enthusiastic bass in the choir – Tim Gordon has moved over from the congregation to the choir for the choral services. He has also joined the Anglican Singers. Welcome to the choir, Tim!

Advance notices.

In April we hope to have our first European Cathedral Singers (ECS) rehearsal for our week at Portsmouth Cathedral from 1-7 August. After two years of having to cancel all ECS engagements we are looking forward to singing the services in a cathedral again. We can't wait!

Worcester Cathedral is lined up for a Spring visit in 2023 and York Minster (our third visit) for August of that year

On Whitsunday (5 June) we will be singing for our own service at 2.30 pm, followed by Choral Evensong in the Grote of St.-Bavokerk at 7 pm. It will be great to have our own chaplain there for that service.

We are still aiming to host the Archdeaconry Choral Festival in Haarlem this year, but the date is still uncertain. After the lockdown everybody is scrambling to get their postponed events back on track, so it is difficult to book a suitable date in the Bavo at this moment. We may go for an autumn Festival instead. I will keep you posted.

The choir is looking forward to getting back to a form of 'Choral Normal'.

Stay safe and well!

Martin van Bleek
Director of Music



From the wardens

On Sunday 20th March we will hold our AGM in the Church Room after the service. This will give us a chance to review the past year in our church and look ahead to the future. It will be the first AGM since quite a few years that will be chaired by our own chaplain.

Please join us for that special occasion.

As you will have noticed, the seating arrangements in church have been changed again. One side provides distanced seating and the other side is a 'free seating'. During choral services the choir will continue to occupy the first few rows. At this moment it is still uncertain when we can go back to our tradition seating arrangement next to the organ.

Mouth caps are no longer compulsory, but feel free to wear one if that makes you feel safer. In spite of all the regulations having been lifted the standard precautions are still in place: no handshakes, cleaning of the lectern after the readings, no movement during the peace, no 'congregating' during tea, etc. We feel that it is still wise to take precautions as Covid-19 has not left us and there is still a high number of infections. So please, let us all be thoughtful and careful and look out for each other!

Our Celebration Service will now probably take place after Easter. The reception after the service will be held in the Sociëteit De Vereeniging, Zijlweg 2, which is a short walk from the church. The Vereeniging has a large room where we will be able to mingle safely and they have their own catering arrangements. This will free our own volunteers from catering duties and allow them to take part in the celebrations.

We will let you know via email as soon as we can confirm the date.

*John Scott & Martin van Bleek,
Wardens*



Happy birthday Mary!

Mary Brunt celebrated her 90th birthday on Sunday 27 February. Congratulations to Mary for reaching this milestone!

We sent flowers from the church for this special birthday.



The Lent Discussion Group - 2022

Handing on the Torch – sacred words for a secular world

A 5-session ecumenical York Course for discussion groups – ideal for Lent.

Christianity is the largest movement our world has ever seen. It continues to grow at an immense pace – especially in Asia (including China), Africa and Latin America. At the same time, Christianity in the West struggles to grow and – perhaps – even to survive. In this course we consider some of the reasons for this and what it might mean for individual Christians, for churches and for Western culture, in a world where alternative beliefs are increasingly on offer.

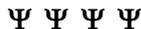
- Session 1 – A Christian country?
- Session 2 – A Secular Society?
- Session 3 – A Beleaguered Church?
- Session 4 – Competing Creeds?
- Session 5 – Handing on the Torch

This course booklet, written by Canon John Young includes questions aimed at provoking wide-ranging discussion.

- Dates: Tuesdays 8 15, 22, 29 March and 5 April 2022 (group 1)
- Dates: Thursdays 10,17, 24, 31 March and 7 April 2022 (group 2)
- Time: 20.00 - 21.30
- Place: online Microsoft Teams

All are welcome to join any or all sessions. For further details, please contact Diana Dammer.

Gert & Diana



Adam on Retreat

Following his earlier visit (see *Lifeline* no. 187) Adam Powell revisited Egmond Abbey, and also went on to a retreat in St.Baume in Provence.

[Editor: The monastic culture developed from around the 6th century, as the early Church became increasingly involved with worldly authorities, departing from the simple Christian principles. Initially led by Benedictus of Nursia (ca.530) and then later other groups of holy men came together to live and meditate as self-sufficient, isolated communities, in Monasteries. Benedictus of Nursia established the monastic life according to his

'Rule of St.Benedict' - ora et labora (pray and work). Benedictine monks live under the authority of an Abbott. Later, in the 12 century, Augustine adapted this isolated monastic life to a semi-monastic one, living more in contact with and for the local community. Several such orders were established, including Augustine, Dominican and Norbertine.]

Adam now writes about his recent visits to two contrasting Abbeys, Egmond (Benedictine) and St Baume (Dominican):

“The brothers at Egmond Abdij seem very young at heart. I got into a surprisingly long discussion about the rock group *Queen!*

With the Dominicans at St.Baume I did not get involved in any work. They run a retreat centre at St Baume, a mountain just to the East of Marseilles. The peak is just over 1159m (as high as Snowden), and there is a tradition that Mary Magdalene settled there in the late forties of the first century. According to this tradition she landed at what is now St Marie-de-la-Mare with three other saints, and led a mission in France. According to tradition Mary Magdalene is buried in the area; the bones in the grave have been linked to the 1st century and to Israel/Palestine.

There are six friars there, all of whom are priests. Four live in a retreat centre and two live at the grotto in the mountain. They rotate.

As an organisation, I was impressed by Egmond Abbey. They have a candle factory, a comprehensive book shop, a cafe and a museum. I was also impressed by the work the brothers invested into my Retreat. There were lectures including the Rule of St Benedict and the desert fathers. We had a tour of the candle factory and the local area. It was a different experience being there on a "come and see" retreat and being invited into the Abbey library and the brothers' social area.

At St Baume I was there as a guest only. With some other retreatants we are able to use a conference room where we discussed the question: is 'success' a Biblical word? They have a monk who runs a small gift shop much smaller than the one at Egmond. There is a campsite opposite the retreat centre which was occupied by some scouts. In terms of work, I do not know what they do. Their food is purchased from a catering company. For drinks, the guests make use of a vending machine.

It was the scenery at St Baume that was a great tonic to me. I love Provence. There is a particular atmosphere there which gives me healing.



Poet's Corner - *Thank God for Desmond Tutu*

thank God for
Desmond Tutu
you came in your purple robe
but you were transparent
you spoke of God as something so close
one could be forgiven
for thinking no other was speaking

thank God for you
Desmond Tutu
for a God so intimate
that you spoke your love affair in whispers
for a God so majestic
that angels' wings
couldn't match the spread of your arms embrace
nor the breadth of your word's encompass

thank God for you
Desmond Tutu
for discovering Africa in us
we may not have testified
in pentecostal cries
but we have wept with you through a quarter century testing
in our refusal to accept the lie

thank God for you Archbishop
you speak to a flock that flies free
beyond the sweet white lambs of religion
to the lost and found
the angry sad old rams
caught in the fences of their dreams
who are refugees wherever they are in this world
who suffer the apartheid of their self existence
and long to end this separation and return to that One
where all is beautiful and unique

Tutu you are so transparent
if we look inside your cloak
do we find anything there
but the echoes of His laughter.



Christopher Ryan is a poet and novelist who lives in Hawick, Scotland.

(Christine Bradshaw)

A Prayer for Trust

(thanks to Marga)

Help me mij bezorgdheid over de toekomst los te laten;

Geef mij de kracht om mijn futiele pogingen te staken de toekomst te voorspellen en in de hand te houden.

Laat mij geen waarde hechten aan de toekomst die ik zelf uitgestippeld heb.

Bevrijd mij van de zinloze vragen over morgen en al mijn verlangens anderen te manipuleren en de baas te spelen over hen.

Herinner mij eraan dat mijn angsten en onzekerheden over morgen alleen maar verbonden zijn met mijn ongefundeerde angst voor U.

Help mij stil te zijn, te luisteren en lief te hebben.

Laat mij wakker worden voor de waarheid van uw tegenwoordigheid, die alleen in het nu van dit moment is.

Til mij op in uw armen en herinner mij dat ik Uw schepsel ben en dat ik de volmaakte uitdrukking van Uw liefde ben.

Help mij te erkennen dat ik Uw boodschapper van liefde ben en maak mij vrij om Uw licht overal te laten schijnen.

Laat mij licht zijn; laat mij vreugde zijn; laat mij weten dat ik ben Uw spiegelbeeld waar ik ook ben en waar ik ook ga.

Help me let go of my concern about the future;

Give me the strength to give up my futile efforts to anticipate and control the future.

Let me not value the future that I have mapped out for myself.

Liberate me from the pointless questions about tomorrow and from all my desires to manipulate and dominate others.

Remind me that my fears and insecurities about tomorrow are only connected with my unfounded lack of fear of You

Help me to be quiet, to listen and to love.

Wake me up to the reality of your presence, which is in the now of this moment.

Lift me up in your arms and remind me that I am Your creature and the perfect expression of Your love.

Help me to realise that I am Your messenger of love and make me free to let Your light shine everywhere.

Let me be light; let me be joyful; let me know that I am Your reflection wherever I am and wherever I go.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All are most welcome to attend services in Church.

These will continue to be conducted complying with government guidelines -
please check on our website www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl

Wednesday 2 March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	19.30	Old Catholic Eucharist in Dutch - Rev. Robert Frede Imposition of ashes
Sunday 6 March <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	14.30	Choral Eucharist - Rev. Bruce Rienstra
Tuesday 8 March	11.30	Ladies' Lunch at the Grand Café Cineac, Beverwijk.
Tuesday 8 March	20.00 -21.30	Lent discussion group (also on 15/3, 22/3, 29/3 and 5/4) (for details see this Lifeline)
Sunday 13 March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	14.30	Sung Eucharist - Rev. Bruce Rienstra
Tuesday 15 March	20.00 -21.30	Lent discussion group (also on 22/3, 29/3 and 5/4)
Sunday 20 March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	14.30	Choral Eucharist - Rev. Bruce Rienstra The Annual General Meeting will follow the service – all most welcome
Tuesday 22 March	20.00 -21.30	Lent discussion group (also on 29/3 and 5/4)
Sunday 27 March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	14.30	Sung Eucharist - Rev. Bruce Rienstra

Tuesday 29 March	20.00 -21.30	Lent discussion group (also on 5/4)
Sunday 3 April <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	14.30	Choral Eucharist - <i>Rev. Bruce Rienstra</i>
Tuesday 5 April	20.00 -21.30	Lent discussion group
Sunday 10 April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10.00	We join the Old Catholic congregation on this Palm Sunday Eucharist - <i>Rev. Robert Frede</i>
Tuesday 12 April	11.30	Ladies' Lunch at Molenplas, Schalkwijk/Haarlem
Thursday 14 April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	19.30	Combined Anglican / Old Catholic Eucharist - <i>Rev. Robert Frede & Rev. Bruce Rienstra</i> <i>Commemoration of the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his Apostles</i>
Friday 15 April <i>Good Friday</i>	11.00	Good Friday Devotion with choir - <i>Rev. Bruce Rienstra</i> <i>A service of readings, anthems, hymns, and prayers</i>
Sunday 17 April <i>Easter Sunday</i>	14.30	Choral Eucharist - <i>Rev. Bruce Rienstra</i>
Sunday 24 April <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	14.30	Sung Eucharist - <i>Rev. Bruce Rienstra</i>
Sunday 1 May <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	14.30	Choral Eucharist - <i>Rev. Bruce Rienstra</i>

