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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.



<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.



In Memoriam

Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11

(21 April 1926, London– 8 September 2022, Balmoral)

It is with great sorrow and the deepest admiration and gratitude that we record the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

We thank God for her life,
for her unwavering faith and open witness to God and Jesus Christ,
and for her devoted service to her subjects,
the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

Her dedication, dignity and humility
were an example and inspiration for all.

Our Gracious Queen has run the good race – may her soul rest
in peace, and may she awake to a joyful resurrection.



God save King Charles III

We pray for our new monarch, King Charles III
that he may serve God and his subjects, with the same
spirit of faith, devotion and selflessness as his mother.
Let Thy wisdom be his guide, let justice, truth, love and holiness,
and all Christian virtues flourish in his days,
bringing unity where there is dissension,
hope where there is despair,
and the light of faith where there is darkness in the world.

God save the King



Haarlem Anglican Chaplaincy came to pay tribute to Her Majesty the Queen

At 11.30 on Friday 9 September Haarlem Anglican Church held a Memorial Service to honour Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and to pay tribute to her remarkable life of service.

“The Queen was a stable anchor for the values of a nation through difficult and rapidly changing times. Her unchanging Christian values provided a



guiding compass to which the nation and beyond could always refer. The country and the world have lost a shining example of servant leadership for which we should always be profoundly grateful. Affection and respect for her were virtually universal.”

Prayers were said for King Charles III, and The service ended with the singing of “God Save the King”.

A Condolence Register was opened and will be available for a while.



Children's Church

Our Children's Church will meet again on Sunday 25th September.

This is a super way for children to learn more about the Bible and our shared faith, with fun games and discussion.

And while they are busy, it is also a time for parents to partake in our Eucharist service. The children return in time for Holy Communion, those yet to be confirmed are blessed by Revd. Bruce. Do spread the word! For more information contact Simone or Anni.

Chaplaincy Letter – Rev. Bruce

Much has been written and said following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. In our own context much of what we think of surrounds her faith and how she openly relied on it.

Someone from our congregation remarked to me that “she must have had a strong faith to have ascended the throne at such a young age; it could only have been God who could have made it possible to take up those very heavy reins”.

Do we trust God with our most important decisions? When we are at a crossroad do we pray first and then make our decision? Or do we just consult ourselves and hope for the best?

When I first came to the Netherlands in 1992, I was tasked with managing the Dutch subsidiary of the company I worked for in London. I was 32 and had only been with the company for 2 years. But what I did have was a very good boss who remained in London. His advice was that most decisions can wait - usually it's unnecessary to make an immediate decision, think it through first.

A musician I know rather well often says that when they are nervous before a concert they give it to God. With the help of God the concert is always a success.

In all three of these instances prayer is at work.

The Queen through her faith has gotten through many a difficult time. When my boss in the mid 90's suggested I think about my decisions before making them, wasn't he also, without knowing it, suggesting that I pray about it and then make the decision, and that musician, by giving the concert to God, that too is a prayer.

Therefore at that next crossroad, stop and look around, consider God, trust God as the Queen did her whole life through, take time and pray as I was being advised and thirdly, give the activity to God, and all will be well - the words of Julian of Norwich “... all will be well, all will be well, and all manner of thing shall be well”.

Music Matters

We hope you all had a good refreshing holiday!

During their 'summer break' the choir joined the European Cathedral Singers for a week of singing the services in Portsmouth Cathedral from 1 - 7 August. This had been scheduled for 2020, but then Covid happened of course. We had a great week of singing after a silence of two years. The cathedral staff there made us feel very welcome and our singing was much appreciated. Although we were smaller in number the quality of singing was excellent. It was great to be part of the cathedral community for a week.

On Friday 2 September we had our first choir practice after the holidays and the following Sunday we sang the service again.

As I have mentioned before we will be easing the music of St. Mary's Mass back into the Choral Eucharists again, the Anglican Folk Mass only being used then in the Sung Eucharists (without choir).

Some of our congregation have never sung the St. Mary's Mass before but hopefully they will quickly get to know and like it - perhaps with a short practice before the service.

Coming special service: in October we will have our Harvest Festival with the Harvest tea afterwards. This will be a joint service with the Old Catholic congregation.

Sunday 30 October, being the fifth Sunday in the month, will probably be a Choral Evensong.

We have also been invited to sing a Choral Evensong at the Laurenskerk in Rotterdam. This will take some organising, but would be great to do. We would invite the choir from St. Mary's Rotterdam to join us for that service.

Advent and Christmas of course will soon be in our sights, but more about that in the next issue of Lifeline. I am sure, however, that you will be able to order your Christmas cards from Rob in aid of the Friends of Cathedral Music, now renamed as the Cathedral Trust!

Hopefully the coming winter period will not bring a return of Covid measures - let's be optimistic!

Martin van Bleek
Director of Music



The Choir's holiday - Music Making in Portsmouth *Jos Beishuizen*

After two years of COVID-forced silence, during the first week of August our choir visited Portsmouth Cathedral to support the daily Choral Evensongs and the Eucharist on Sunday. As usual for these occasions, our choir is extended with singers from other choirs in the Netherlands, Belgium and the UK, under the name of European Cathedral Singers. We were with about 25 members, a bit less than usual before the pandemic, but we were able to sing with great intensity and concentration in a cathedral with splendid acoustics. As our Director of Music Martin van Bleek wrote afterwards, "We made a good sound and impression on the cathedral community".

Portsmouth is a characterful port, close to Southampton and facing the Isle of Wight. It has a naval harbour which contains some historical warships like the Mary Rose. We (my wife Anne-Carien and I) stayed in the southern part of the city, known as Southsea, with beautiful greens (rather yellow this year), pebble beaches and a pier which looked a bit rusty. To me, it resembled Bognor Regis, the seaside town which formed the decor of the famous and (according to me) sublime novel *The Fortnight in September* (1931) by R.C. Sherriff, which I read last year. A quiet and peaceful atmosphere where we felt very much at home, friendly people strolling around, and, on Sunday, a lively fair of old Volkswagen models.

The choir's daily programme starts at 9.30 am with a practice in the Song School. First, some voice exercises ending with the Alleluia Canon by William Boyce. Then, the pieces which have to be sung during the evensongs. Psalms receive extra attention because of the diction and the meaning of the text. It would contribute a lot to our interpretation if we were able to sing the Psalms by heart, but in Dutch we call that 'a bridge too far'. The day continues with practicing, lunch, another practice, tea, a dress rehearsal in the stalls, and, finally, the evensong at 5.45 pm. Quite a day! Not to mention the recovery afterwards in *The Dolphin*. A demanding week indeed, but, during the week, you notice the gradual improvement in singing together, and in expressing the message.

Thursday is our 'dumb day', a day to let our voices recover a bit and the time to relax and enjoy the local places of interest. Anne-Carien and I paid a visit to Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, where Victoria and Albert celebrated their holidays, together with their nine children.

The House is a beautiful place to visit and a real treat for children, because the former presence of the many young royals inspired the designers of the current exhibition to create various attractions for children.

Our music list for the week was perhaps a little less strenuous than we as a choir were used to in previous years. Some pieces we had sung during our last choir week, in Ripon in 2019. We had the chance to joyfully sing the responses by Grayston Ives, Cryer and Rose. Wood's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E flat are always a great pleasure to sing, as are the canticles by Brewer, Aston and again Grayston Ives. Not to forget the Mass in E by William Lloyd Weber and the moving *Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace* by Wesley, which was so solemnly sung as introit to the Queen's funeral service at St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh.

We know our Director of Music, Martin van Bleek, as a very energetic and dynamic conductor, sometimes a bit picky and strict, but only when it is necessary of course. As stumbling singers, we are used to his glares, fire and brimstone. But this year, no storm and tempest. Instead, Martin was considerate, encouraging, and even patient - of course not too patient. As a consequence, we felt more confident, sometimes even relaxed - of course not too relaxed. As always, we learnt a lot from him and enjoyed this week of singing very much.

Our two organists provided each their own characteristic contribution. Peter Shepherd joined us from Monday to Wednesday. We very much enjoyed his serious but cheerful, and at times majestic way of playing, which is really very uplifting. As Peter has joined us now for various years, he is becoming a real friend of the choir. Jas Hutschinson-Bazely accompanied us from Friday till Sunday. His attentive and serene way of playing always puts us in the right mood. Jas is also, to our great luck, becoming more and more a regular accompanying organist, particularly here in the Netherlands.

A week of singing, practicing, meeting and sharing is really a challenge, but a very satisfying one. We already look forward to next year, hopefully with familiar friends and colleagues, but also with new members willing to share in this great vocal and spiritual experience.

Photos can be viewed at <https://anglican-church-haarlem.nl/gallery/>

Days

What are days for?
Days are where we live.
They come, they wake us
Time and time over.
They are to be happy in:
Where can we live but days?

Ah, solving that question
Brings the priest and the doctor
In their long coats
Running over the fields.

Philip Larkin (1922-1985)
self described Christian agnostic

+ + + +

Henry and Priya Arun

We have been reminded recently of the strong connections between the United Kingdom and the countries of the Commonwealth, we think especially of our former Chaplaincy members and friends, Henry and Priya Arun, in India, with its particular political and social problems, and we pray the our Heavenly Father will protect them and their family from danger and keep them strong in their faith.



Breakfast Club

Home Cooked Breakfast

We shall shortly have another breakfast in the Church Room - sausages, bacon and eggs will be sizzling! Why not bring a friend? It's a delicious and fun way to start the weekend, and at just €10 great value – watch out for the date on our Social app.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All are **most** welcome to our services in Church

Details can be checked in advance on our website www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl

Sunday 18 September 14.30 Choral Eucharist

Trinity 14

Sunday 25 September 14.30 Sung Eucharist
- with Children's Church

Trinity 15

Sunday 2 October 14.30 Choral Eucharist

Harvest Thanksgiving

Trinity 16

Sunday 9 October 14.30 Sung Eucharist

Trinity 17

Sunday 16 October 14.30 Choral Eucharist

Trinity 18

Sunday 23 October 14.30 Sung Eucharist

Last Sunday after Trinity

Bible Sunday

Sunday 30 October 14.30 Choral Evensong

All Saints

Sunday 6 November 14.30 Choral Eucharist

3rd Sunday before Advent

St. Willibrord

