



MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH HAARLEM

November 2022, Issue 194

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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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

Rev. Bruce Rienstra

Martin van Bleek, John Scott

Anni Kearney

Philip Whittaker

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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.

Chaplaincy Letter – Rev. Bruce Rienstra

What a difference a year makes. Last year we were all very worried about what COVID-19 regulations were going to be in place over the Christmas period. Now it is a very different story and we seem to have resigned ourselves to simply living with the disease.

Many of us managed to avoid the infection, either by good practice, by getting vaccinated or simply through luck. I was one of those and I could not tell you which one helped me to avoid it. However, recently my luck ran out, and I tested positive, and of course two days later Laretta also tested positive.

Luckily though the disease is very different from 30 months ago, when it was most definitely a real killer, now we look at it as a flu type illness with some very strange symptoms.

I can tell you that it really made me think. It made me think of our own complacency, when we were away for a short break in Rome and we came back with it. Last year, I am sure we may not have contracted it, because we were all very good about wearing our masks and avoiding crowded situations. I either got it queuing at Rotterdam airport or in the plane itself. The other place could have been the cheek by jowl crush (literally) in Rome's buses. Were we wearing masks? No, of course not. Were others wearing masks, yes, we saw many Romans wearing them. They obvious knew something we did not.

Complacency was not the only thing I thought about, but it was how the obvious was suddenly not so obvious anymore. We are very lucky to have Laretta's son and his girlfriend living in our parsonage with us. We were cooked quite a few meals, and one evening Laretta remarked how good it smelled, but I had not noticed.

That too made me think. Our complacency about how we live our lives and about the things we take for granted. Two things which may not be relatable but in fact they are the same thing. When we get

complacent we take things for granted. We took our health for granted, in fact we took our invulnerability for granted, just like I took my sense of smell for granted until it was pointed out that it simply was not there.

What other areas of our lives does complacency and taking things for granted become part of our everyday life? We take for granted that everything will work and that we will get places on time, until there is essential maintenance happening on the transport system. How many of us simply accept that we have enough money to (more than) get by, that our homes will be warm, that we can get away for a holiday when we want to.

How many of us simply expect that all will be well in all areas of our lives and this also includes our church as well. It does not take very much for something to go just a little bit wrong, like forgetting to carry a mask will lead to getting ill. Not making provision means something may not get paid for, which can impact on other aspects of whatever it is which is important to us. When we don't pay attention to our spiritual lives our physical lives will be affected. When we fail to look for things we fail to see things. Look elsewhere in this edition of Lifeline and see Tim's reflection on Archdeaconry Synod, and what he noticed.

One of the lessons from the past 30 months for me is to watch out for complacency and taking things for granted. Keep our eyes open, if we look for the obvious then we will also notice the less than obvious.

This was all about what's happening in our lives, but it's also about our faith. In each of these scenarios, substitute the words life, lives or health, with the word faith. The message becomes very different, and possibly more important.



Music Matters

Since the last issue of *Lifeline* the choir has been preparing both for the Choral Evensong on 30 October and the coming Advent and Christmas season. Hopefully we will be able to sing all our special services with a live congregation, as last year we were pipped at the post by the Covid regulations!

Our Choral Evensong on 30th October was well attended and the choir was in good form. We are still being careful in the way we stand and sing as a choir, because Covid has not gone away. So it is wise to be careful, hence our seating arrangement in the sanctuary.

Advent Sunday is on 27th November. We will sing our traditional Advent Carol Service at 7.30 pm. For the carol services the choir will be spaced out in the sanctuary as they were in the Choral Evensong. Our Old Catholic friends have kindly offered to instruct us how to stream our services, which will make it possible for a wider audience to follow our services and this special service at the beginning of the Church's calendar in particular.

Other seasonal musical activities include our **Carol Concert at 8.15 pm on Saturday 10th December.**

We will also be carol singing at **Middachten Castle** again this year. This will be on Saturday 17th December, a week later than usual. Hence our Carol Concert being the week before.

We have once again been invited to sing a carol service in **Rheden** on Monday evening 19th December at 7 pm. At this moment we are trying to arrange it all! This service will probably also be streamed.

Sunday 11th December is the date of our annual **Christmas Bring & Buy and Advent Tea** - please see further in this *Lifeline*.

Please note that 11th December, although a second Sunday, will be a **Choral Eucharist**, the service on 4th December being a **Sung Eucharist** - I will be in the UK the weekend of 3-5 December.

The choir will have its final practice for our Christmas services in church on Sunday 18th December, so there will be no church service that Sunday.

On **Christmas Eve** we will have our traditional **Christmas Eucharist at 6 pm**, followed by the **9 Lessons & Carols Service at 8 pm**. Hopefully we shall once again be able to have a filled church for these services, and the Carol Service will be streamed.

We hope that the rising Covid infections will not interfere with any of our service plans, and that the coming period of Advent to Christmas will be a joyful and festive celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! We hope we will be able to sing these services and share the readings and carols both with a good congregation in church, and a much broader congregation online!

The New Year: there will be no Anglican Service on Sunday 1st January. Our first service in the New Year will be on **8th January**, which will be a **Choral Eucharist**. The Old Catholic Bishop's New Year's Vespers will probably also be held on Sunday 8th January 2023, and we hope to be able to sing at that service again.

We will keep everybody informed via posts on the website, the church app, Notice sheets or separate emails informing you about the coming services.

With all good wishes for a blessed Advent and Christmas season!
Stay safe and well!

Martin van Bleek
Director of Music



From the Council

As you will be aware the massive rise in all gas and electricity bills is barely out of the news. At this time there does not seem to be a support package for churches, so the Old Catholic Church Council has decided to keep the church temperature at a maximum of 14 degrees to keep costs down. Most churches have decided to keep the temperature at 10 degrees or have no heating at all. So we are lucky, as our historical organ needs the temperature to be 14 degrees minimum. The Church Room can be heated a little higher, but we will also lower the temperature in that room.

These decisions by our Old Catholic Friends are perfectly logical and we will do our utmost in supporting them to keep the heating costs down.

So please remember to bring some warm clothing if the outside temperature starts dropping to the colder temperatures that you would normally expect in November & December.

John Scott & Martin van Bleek,
wardens



Christmas Bring & Buy, Advent Tea / Christmas fare: - Sunday 11 December

This year we will only be selling Christmas Fare and items that we have in stock. If you have any items that fall into the Christmas category, please bring them along in the coming weeks.

If you have items you would normally bring to the Bring & Buy, you can still bring them to church, as the Old Catholics are saving up for a Bazar next year. Please leave these items next to the notice board in the entrance hall.

As last year, I will be ordering a number of Christmas items from Taste of Home. As the pre-ordering went quite well last year, you can again send me an email with your specific orders and I will get them to church for you to pick up at the Advent Tea.

So if you want mince pies (6 in a box), individual Christmas puddings or a large one, pots of mincemeat, Christmas chocolates, Cadbury's Santa Collection box, a rectangular piece of Christmas cake, Paxo stuffing mix, Christmas crackers etc. please let me have your wish list either at church or by email by 20 November at the latest, but earlier if possible. I will do my best to get everything for you!

All proceeds go towards the church as usual.

We will also be selling Christmas Fare at the Advent Tea, and including a selection of Christmas cards.

Martin van Bleek



Tea after service

The ladies gladly organize tea after the services, but would appreciate help with the washing up. Prior to Covid it was the custom that the lesson-readers on that day would do this task. Perhaps this lays an extra responsibility on a few persons, so please would you be ready to help with this simple, gezellige, task.



Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Anni writes: Harvest Festivals were originally pagan festivals celebrated by those who had enough food gathered by the time of the full moon – the Harvest Moon nearest to the Autumn Equinox. Surprisingly, the Harvest Festival began in the Anglican church in only 1843. The Reverend Robert Stephen Hawker thought that his parishioners should give thanks for God’s generosity in providing for a good harvest. This service in Morwenstow on the Cornish coast was for the people to gather in church and receive the bread of the new corn as a sacrament ordained to strengthen and refresh their souls. In 1862 it was officially recognised by the Church of England and became a popular festival of the Christian Year.

And after the relaxing of the Covid restrictions we continued that tradition on 2nd October with a Choral Eucharist and festive tea, a very enjoyable afternoon remembering our harvest blessings and giving thanks for all God’s gifts and blessings. Thanks go to our speaker Joost van der Bogert of Stem in de Stad who was very pleased with the gifts and donations. The “Bring and Share” Harvest tea was a huge success and the raffle to benefit the flower fund raised €135. Thanks to ALL who helped!



International Social Evening

People passing on the street outside church last Saturday 30th October may have been curious as to the lights, laughter and music coming from within... of course, it was our long-awaited Social Evening, organised by our very own party duo, Francis and Veronique. Food from around the world decked the long table, certain 'bears' were said to be picnicking and a flying bear featured at the centre of the party game. Sounds crazy but immense fun? It certainly was! Thanks to our fabulous organisers and all those who attended and helped make it such a success. The teddy bear features in four of these photos – can you spot him?



Advent Discussion / Confirmation Course

This year Bruce will be leading an advent course/discussion which will also serve as a Confirmation course for those wishing to be confirmed.

- **The dates** are Tuesday 1 November, Tuesday 8 November, Wednesday 16 November, Tuesday 22 November, Tuesday 29 November and for confirmands one additional meeting. (please note that the sessions take place on **Tuesdays** except **Wednesday 16 November**)
- **Time:** 19.30 – (21.00)

Online for most, possibly in person for confirmands.

- We will be using Rowan William's book **God with Us - The meaning of the cross**
 - Please let Diana know if you wish to attend and we will order the books
 - For those interested in confirmation please let Rev. Bruce know
- If you have not already registered, you still can - we look forward to hearing from you!

Diana



Quirks of the English language

There is no EGG in EGGPLANT nor HAM in HAMBURGER
and neither APPLE nor PINE in PINEAPPLE
a GUINEAPIG is neither from GUINEA nor is it a PIG.
people RECITE at a PLAY and PLAY at a RECITAL;
we have NOSES that RUN and FEET that SMELL;
a SLIM CHANCE is the same as a FAT CHANCE,
and to SLOW UP is the same as to SLOW DOWN,
a WISE MAN and a WISE GUY are opposites,
a building BURNS UP as it BURNS DOWN,



Archdeaconry Synodical Gathering 26-27 September 2022

It was my privilege to stand in for Diana and represent the ACH at this year's Synod (North West European Archdeaconry Synod). And it turned out to be a very powerful and thought-provoking experience.

The first of two particularly affecting moments was the Eucharist on Saturday morning led by our Archdeacon the Venerable Sam van Leer just before we all had lunch and went home. The force of a full and committed congregation confidently and boldly singing and saying out the service caught me emotionally off guard, especially when we alternated the hymn verses in English, Dutch and French. This, it felt, was how it could be! I very much appreciate our own ACH but our numbers don't allow this force of Faith to be felt every time.

The second emotional experience was hearing about the persecuted church from Maarten Dees and the Open Doors team. Seeing two beautiful young women who had been put to death in our present time for being Christian and hearing stories about a village parish which had lost one of their congregation each week to murder gangs for the last 23 weeks brought me to the very edge of my composure.

And these experiences made me reflect on our own situation differently. It occurred to me that if we lost a congregation member every week for 23 weeks and they weren't replaced we wouldn't have any congregation left! The speaker about the persecuted church showed a wheel that they used to categorize data on persecution. And in the top right corner was a category called 'secularism'. What occurred to me is that this may not be a killer of people, but it is a killer of congregations. Aggressive materialism and atheism have created a toxic atmosphere in which it seems to be weak or naïve to have a faith. In the car on the way home we heard that when colleagues of a parishioner employed at Erasmus heard that he was Christian they responded, 'but you seem like such an intelligent person'!

On the other hand, hearing stories at lunch and dinner from priests whose careers had taken them to many different countries (including

from our own Bruce) I realised that this store of personal experience of what it is like for people in the rest of the world is one of the great strengths that the Church has, compared with the normal self-preoccupation of our societies with their own politics and trivia. Looking out beyond the shores of western Europe and the US we see not only our persecuted faith, but faith of different sorts everywhere. From this viewpoint the new fundamentalism which distorts science in order to gain influence is seen itself to be the bubble - not our faith. And I wondered, could we be using this strength of global awareness together with other faiths, as Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Bahais, Humanists and others to resist the kind of aggressive atheism that makes people feel uncomfortable coming to church?

To finish, I was stimulated also by Mags Bird's presentation on what the Archdeaconry is doing to limit carbon emissions in our churches. Mags was passionate about this and described a number of valuable measures that will be implemented to reduce our carbon footprint. But this made me aware of what may be a limitation in our view. It is great that we are taking the initiative to make the changes that we can be responsible for, but it isn't going to be possible to reduce emissions to the levels that we hear are needed without the support of people in the rest of the world, very many of whom are of different faiths. Could this too be an opportunity to come together across our differences? The 'Faith for Earth' document of the UN environment programme and the Parliament of the World Religions was created to emphasize how a care for creation and our habitat is central to all faiths. And there are many examples of how faiths have been taking their own climate initiatives, from the *Laudato Si* encyclical of Pope Francis to Buddhists who have ordained trees in Thailand to stop them from being cut down. But all in all the Synod experience gave me hope that we will be able to make connections that will sustain us together and that our faiths will be able to guide us away from an era of strife and domination towards the deepening of communion and caring that we Christians know as the Kingdom of Heaven.

Tim Gordon

Scratchdag Christmas Carols in Heemstede

Jaarlijks 'één-dags-koor' in kerstsfeer

Koorzangers: opgelet! Op zaterdag 17 december 2022 vindt in de Oude Kerk te Heemstede na twee jaar afwezigheid voor de 21^e keer de scratchdag 'Christmas Carols' plaats onder leiding van dirigent Piet Hulbos.

Begeleiding: Willem Jan Cevaal. Deelname: € 17,50. Aanvang: 10:00 uur.

Aanmelden of info: carolsheemstede@gmail.com.

In één dag studeren ongeveer honderd koorzangers bekende en minder bekende Christmas Carols in. Vanaf 10:00 uur klinken de vierstemmige kerstliederen door de sfeervolle Oude Kerk.

Begeleid door een vleugel en door kaarsen verlicht sluiten de zangers deze dag om 16:30 uur af met een intiem concert, waarvoor de toegang gratis is.

Al ruim 20 jaar is de scratchdag Christmas Carols een succesvolle en geliefde dag in de wijde omgeving van Heemstede. 'Once in Royal David's City' staat zeker op het programma, maar ook carols als 'Away in a manger', 'Ding dong merrily on high', 'O come all ye faithful' zijn regelmatig voorbij gekomen.



'Scratch' Christmas Carols in Heemstede

On Saturday 17 December, after a two-year break, the 21st Heemstede 'Scratch' Christmas Carols day will be held in the Oude Kerk, conducted by Piet Hulbos and accompanied on the grand-piano by Willem Jan Cevaal.

From 10.00 around 100 singers will practice well-known and less well-known carols, and at 16.30 the day will culminate in an intimate candle-lit concert. The carols will include such carols as 'Once in Royal David's City', 'Away in a manger', 'Ding dong merrily on high' and 'O come all ye faithful'. The programme will be quite special!

Cost to participate as singer: € 17,50. The concert itself is free of charge.

If you wish to participate, or would like more information, please contact Martine Clarke-Seldenthuis

at martine210367@gmail.com, or tel: 06 40 256 672.

This Place Where You Are Right Now

*This place where you are right now
God circled on a map for you.*

*Wherever your eyes and arms and heart can move
against the earth and the sky,*

*The Beloved has bowed there –
knowing you were coming.*

*I could tell you a priceless secret about
your real worth, dear*

*But any unkindness to yourself
any confusion about others,*

*Will keep one from accepting
the grace, the love*

*The sublime freedom
divine knowledge always offers to you*

Hafez

(Translation by Daniel Ladinsky)

Hafez, also known as Hafiz (about 1325-1390) was a Persian spiritual poet, a Sufi and a mystic, whose collected works are regarded by many Iranians as a pinnacle of Persian literature. His works are often found in the homes of people in the Persian-speaking world, who learn his poems by heart and use them as everyday proverbs and sayings. His tomb is located in his birthplace of Shiraz.



Boxing Day Drinks

We hope to organise our traditional Boxing Day Drinks again this year. This we be on Tuesday 26 December and we will meet in the Church Room from 12 – 2 pm. More news about that via our usual information channels.



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 6 November
<i>3rd Sunday before Advent</i>
<i>St. Willibrord</i>
All Saints/ All Souls | 14.30 | Choral Eucharist (with choir) |
| Tuesday 8 November | 11,30 | Ladies lunch, Cineworld, Beverwijk |
| Sunday 13 November
<i>2nd Sunday before Advent</i>
Remembrance Sunday | 14.30 | Remembrance service and
Sung Eucharist |
| Sunday 20 November
<i>Sunday next before Advent</i>
"Christ the King" | 14.30 | Choral Eucharist (with choir) |
| Sunday 27 November
<i>Advent Sunday</i> | 19.30 | Advent Carol Service (with choir) |
| Sunday 4 December
<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> | 14.30 | Sung Eucharist and Children's Church |
| Saturday 10 December | 20.15 | Carol Concert |
| Sunday 11 December
<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> | 14.30 | Choral Eucharist (with choir)
followed by Advent Tea |
| Tuesday 13 December | 10.30 | Christmas coffee, at the home of René and Anne van Egmond |
| Saturday 17 December | from
13.30 | Our choir will sing Carols in Middachten Castle |

Sunday 18 December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	14.00	No service Choir practice in church
Monday 19 December	19.00	Our choir will sing the service of Nine Lessons and Carols in Rheden
Saturday 24 December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	18.00	Choral Eucharist on Christmas Eve (with choir)
	20.00	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (with choir)
Sunday 25 December	14.30	NO service
Monday 26 December	12.00	Boxing Day drinks
2023		
Sunday 1 January	14.30	NO service
Sunday 8 January	14.30	Choral Eucharist (with choir)
Tuesday 10 January	11.30	Ladies lunch, Molenplas, Haarlem