



MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH HAARLEM

March 2023, Issue 196

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>

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>

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Wardens

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Lifeline Editor

Rev. Bruce Rienstra

Martin van Bleek, John Scott

Anni Kearney

Tim Gordon

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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 the 'Redactie' of Lifeline - Philip Whittaker

Dear Readers, after nearly 20 years as Editor of Lifeline it now feels to me time to hand over the role to younger and more active blood, and Tim Gordon has accepted this role, as of this issue.

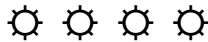
It has been a real privilege to have been allowed to fulfil this role, in a period that has seen a remarkable variety of Chaplains, a very long Interregnum, and many challenges, spiritual and material.

But during this time there has presided a Spirit of profound faith and stability from our Wardens and Council members that has persevered in its Christian witness and been the back-bone of the Chaplaincy.

May this Spiritual rock persevere and grow here in the coming time. As we sang recently in that wonderful hymn, full of faith and hope:

The Church's one foundation, is Jesus Christ her Lord;
From heaven he came and sought her To be his holy Bride
Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace for evermore.

I wish our new Editor God's inspiration and satisfaction in his task.



From the new Editor – Tim Gordon

As I look to take on role of Editor I see that Philip has set a high bar. Here are some appreciations of Philip's time as Editor from contributors and readers – a testimony to his care and dedication over the years!

Philip has shown persistence, patience and stamina over the years as Editor. He has assembled a loyal group of contributors who have been able to ensure sufficient contributions across a considerable range of topics. During his tenure, he has also never hesitated to refuse, consult, or ask for modification, when he deemed that drafts set to him were less appropriate for Lifeline. These are hallmarks of true editorial quality.

-John S.

Thanks Philip, for your years long unstinting efforts in producing Lifeline, our church magazine!

You have always been able to provide us with worthwhile editions, sometimes against all odds.

Always patient and positive in trying to get people to produce something for Lifeline or to get them to provide their regular contributions on time (greatly appreciated as one of the culprits!).

Thanks for your great contribution to the communication within Haarlem Church.

-Martin

Philip's response to my submissions was always thoughtful, respectful, encouraging and appreciative; his reminders were always timely, fortunately allowing for flexibility of deadlines! I found him a kind, gentle editor.

-Christine

Philip the Editor - calm and patient with an eye for chopping the unnecessary! It's been wonderful liaising with Philip over the years - the way he manages the magazine is a well honed craft - seeking out interesting contributors and assembling all the items with skill - especially impressive as the printed version has a puzzling page restriction. And he never seems to mind when I'm a teeny bit late with my submissions! Thanks so much for all your work Philip, it's been great working with you and I've loved reading every single issue.

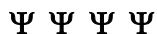
-Anni

Loyal, principled and tenacious, Philip has always served his duties with charm and kind gentleness.

-Francis

From the Chaplain - Rev. Bruce Rienstra

In January I had a conversation with a colleague and it has really gotten me thinking. We were talking about the nature of God. My colleague is a priest who mentioned the femininity of God. Wow, that was a statement! Once that statement was made, we started to really talk. One of my important precepts is that God created every person perfectly in the Creator's image. There are two important things involved in this creation. The first is perfection, each one of us was created perfectly. The other is that each one of us was created in the image of God, in the way the Creator God intended. Every female is created in the image of God and every male is created in the image of God. And what about perfection, did God create someone with Cerebral Palsy perfectly, yes, did God create a blind person perfectly, again the answer is yes. When someone asked a Priest friend of mine if he could pray for him to be healed, he said no because he was created with Cerebral Palsy, the other Priest friend would have refused as well because he was created partially sighted. It's my opinion (and theirs) that God did not make a mistake, no my friends were created perfectly as God intended. This will be the subject of a sermon in the future, I don't know when, but I'm asking you to think about this, who else do we include in God perfect image?



Music Matters

Already the season of Lent is upon us again and will help us prepare for Good Friday and Easter.

We look forward to singing our traditional Good Friday and Easter services again as all restrictions are now being fully lifted.

Another tradition 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 (2 April at 10 am) and Maundy Thursday (6 April at 7.30 pm).

Apart from practising for Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we are also looking ahead to the Choral Evensong in our own church on 30 April and the Choral Evensong in the Laurens Church in Rotterdam on 7 May at 7 pm. Our friends from the Rotterdam Church choir will be joining us for that service, as may a few members of ECS. Regretfully there will be no choir at the Haarlem Church service on that day, as we will need to get to Rotterdam in time to practice at 4.30 pm for the service.

I hope we will be able to link the music and prayers of this service to the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May.

Advance notices.

On 15 April we hope to have our first European Cathedral Singers (ECS) rehearsal in Rotterdam for our week at York Minster from 31 July – 6 August.

On Whitsunday (28 May) we will be singing for our own service at 2.30 pm.

As yet there is no date for our annual Choral Evensong in the St. Bavo Church, but as soon as we have a date we will let you know.

We look forward to seeing you all at these special services.

Martin van Bleek,

Director of Music





Children's Church - *Anni Kearney*

Every fourth Sunday, after the first hymn, we head off for activities, returning in time for Communion. Children's Church has now been running for just over six months (that went quickly!). We meet during the service for learning, games and discussion. We know the Seasons of the Church, we've puzzled out the Trinity, ordered the Books of the Bible, learnt about Trust and discovered the symbols of Christmas. And it's a pleasure to have our small group of regular children in our church, bringing light and joy! It has been especially touching to have our Advent Candles lit by the younger members of the Church and also welcome Isaac as our youngest Reader of lessons. We would love for this group to grow, we have so many more ideas so please spread the word!

Children's Church meets every fourth Sunday of the month. Our busy session helps us to learn more about the Bible and our shared faith, and while the children are learning, their parents partake in our Eucharist service. The children return in time for Holy Communion, those yet to be confirmed are blessed by Revd Bruce

We next meet on Sunday 26th March and the topic will be Easter. Don't hesitate to email Anni or Simone for more information:
anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com



The Children's Church Leaders in action - Simone and Anni working with Noah and Isaac.

Lent Discussion Group 2023- Diana Dammer-Wilson

'God Has No Favourites' is the title of the York Course written for Lent. In this 5-session course Dr Carmody Grey explores how each of us is called to discover that God is completely inclusive. He does not apportion his welcome or love according to our prejudices or preferences. God Has No Favourites because God favours everyone.

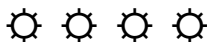
Session 1 – The best picture of God Tuesday 7 March
Session 2 – Neither Jew nor Gentile Tuesday 14 March
Session 3 – Neither male nor female Wednesday 22 March
Session 4 – Neither slave nor free Monday 27 March
Session 5 – What is a Christian? Tuesday 4 April

Time: 19.30 – 21.00 Place : online

All are welcome to join one or all sessions.

Please note the different days.

If you are interested, please contact Diana.



In Lent we walk the way of the Cross - Geoffrey Allen

In Lent we walk, in spirit, the way of the Cross, and I commend that you sacrifice a little extra of your precious time in meditation to Him who gave all of His away for others.

Let us this Lent take to heart Jesus' words to his disciples: "Come follow me". For straightaway, without a word or a moment of hesitation each apostle rose and followed "Let us like them without a word, rise up and follow thee".

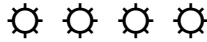
Burdens and pain are nothing in comparison with the clarity of our knowledge that what we must do is follow.

Like the story of the man who found treasure in a field, and sold all that he had to buy the field; he did not do it with reluctance, not even when he lost every single thing he possessed. No, he did it "in joy", and had no doubt about it. He was so clear in his own mind that what he wanted to do was **to own that field**, that he did not even notice the loss of everything else in the process.

The joy of following Christ takes us to places, and among people that we never imagined.

May Lent be a time of *joy* for us, amid the troubles and sorrows of this present world, *joy in His service*.

(*Geoffrey was Archdeacon N.W.Europe 1993-2004 and chaplain in Haarlem from 1994-2002.*)



Can I be like Jesus? – Adam Powell

Can I be like Jesus? To be like Jesus I would need to perform miracles, cast out demons and have something incredibly wise to say. What did my parents and godparents sign me up to when I was four months old?

I would need to travel widely without a permanent address. I would teach people of all backgrounds and abilities and all at very short notice. I would teach through parables. I would enable each person to hear what they needed to hear at that moment in time and give them a wealth of wisdom for the future. I would have to withstand criticism from the authorities; even have to tolerate plots to murder me. What did I sign up to when I got confirmed at fourteen?

I would need to appoint some disciples. I would not be able to run the ministry on my own. I would need to show humour for teaching. I would need to train the disciples. I would need to be able to provide food at inopportune moments. I would need a lot of courage; courage to break the rules; courage to steal food and courage to heal on the Sabbath!

I would have to be absolutely consistent with my own teaching. I would teach people to tolerate violence being inflicted on them. What would I say to the victim of domestic violence or the refugee from Ukraine? Whilst insisting on no revenge I would still reserve the right to anger, particularly when church or synagogue is being used for dubious purposes. I would need to answer difficult questions about divorce, taxation and charity.

I would have to accept criticism for my choice of friends. I would have to face death; the most painful and humiliating death of all time. To do otherwise would undermine the authority of my own ministry all in a world with a crisis of leadership. Like Viktor Frankl, the Holocaust survivor I would tell people to journey from victimhood to victory.

Do I understand what I agree to each time I take Holy Communion? What do you think?

Contact - Ms Miscellaneous

Today, 22 February 2023, is the start of Lent and my mother's 79th birthday. As she is enjoying the Malagueñan sun in the company of my sister and niece, I'm writing down some thoughts for Lifeline on a typically Dutch ash-grey day.

This afternoon I'm chairing a session in a conference on the provision of information for mobile workers from the EU. In my session a group of Estonian, Danish, Spanish and Dutch civil servants and embassy attachés will discuss what mobile workers should know when they consider coming to the Netherlands and how this information should reach them.

Even though I look forward to leading the discussion, I wonder – as I do often in my job I'm sorry to say – if anyone of the participants has actually asked the mobile workers in question what it is they need. Why are people so good in talking ABOUT others and thinking FOR them instead of talking and thinking WITH others?

I'm no better, I admit. The past year in which my mom broke her leg badly and suffered cognitively as well because of that, I have often talked about her with my sister and doctors and friend and also thought for her. With the best of intentions and especially in the beginning that was what was needed in order to get her home. But now that I'm writing this, I ask myself whether I have started talking with her again, now that she's home and doing quite well again. I think not entirely. It's just easier to muddle along as always.

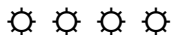
This thought brings to mind Father Bruce's sermon of last Sunday. What am I going to do less and what more? Less is easy: no alcohol and no sweets – I've been doing that for twenty odd years now. But what I could do more is actually talking with my mother. And I'll try to get that message across this afternoon in the session – that we need to talk more with the people we work for; mobile workers, citizens etc (and not the minister or ambassador).

Making contact – that is also what Lent is about. With our neighbour, with ourselves and through them with God.

Veronique Ruiz

Keeping in touch:

Do you wish to receive regular emails about church services and events? Or would you like to join the church WhatsApp group for the latest service and social news? - email Anni at anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com



Breakfast Club

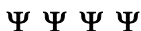
This a fabulous way to start the weekend, with a home cooked breakfast and great company! We next meet on Saturday 20th May at 9.30am.



Borrel

Initially called Boys Borrel, but it has become popular with the girls too!

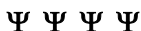
This is now held on every third Wednesday of the month so the next one is Wednesday 15th March



AGM - from the wardens: John Scott & Martin van Bleek,

On Sunday 19th March we will hold our AGM in the Church Room after the service. Please join us for that special meeting. It will give us a chance to review the past year in our church and look ahead to the future. It will be the second AGM to be chaired by our own chaplain.

Everyone on the Electoral Roll is encouraged to attend. If you don't think you are on the Electoral Roll but see yourself as a member of the church (assuming you are 16 or over and baptised), please let Anni know and she will arrange for a form to be sent to you.



TEA AND FLOWER ROTA

On the notice board in the room where we drink our tea after the church service is a rota where people from the congregation can sign up to help make the tea after the service. There is also a list for flowers that are for on the altar. Maybe you have a special day to remember – a birthday or the anniversary of a loved ones who has passed away. Perhaps that's a reason to sign up to bring flowers for the altar that day.

Lately it has been the same people that put their name on the rota and we would like some new people that could sometimes take over.

Also we all enjoy a biscuit with our tea, apple juice for the young people. If you could please contribute by bringing something that would be very welcome: biscuits or apple juice in small cartons would be nice.



Happy birthday Mary!

Mary Brunt celebrated her 91st birthday on Monday 27 February. Congratulations to Mary for reaching this milestone!



Haarlem, Francis of Assisi and the 5th Crusade

From Marlies ter Borg



Flag of Haarlem,
note the cross on the sword.

I am Marlies ter Borg. I am Dutch and spent my happiest schooldays in England. I recently discovered the Anglican church in Haarlem. I love coming to the services for they bring me back to my childhood.

I am a philosopher. I was always intrigued by the tension between war and peace, oppression and liberation. I look at this relation from the point of view of the oppressed and that of the aggressor.

I have lived near to Haarlem for 40 years. I was fascinated by the symbol of Haarlem, the coat of arms and the flag. I discovered that these referred to the heroic feats of Haarlem nobles in the fifth crusade. So do the bells which jingle every evening, from the cathedral, known as the ‘Damiaatjes’. What did this word Damiate mean? It refers to the harbour town in Egypt which was occupied by ‘our’ men back in 1219.

What fascinates me is that during this horrible war, Francis of Assisi joined the crusaders and preached for peace. He even crossed the enemy lines and held discussions with the enemy, the Sultan of Egypt, for three days.

I will give more details in a Dutch talk on Wednesday 9th March, at 10.00, in **Haarlem, Zeedistelweg 2**. Welcome! marliesterborg@gmail.com

There will be images on powerpoint for everyone to enjoy, and short summaries in English if requested.

The Circle of Forgiveness, Mpho Tutu van Furth

From Marlies ter Borg

I was very pleased to learn that the daughter of the Anglican Bishop Tutu, Mpho Tutu van Furth, lives in Amsterdam. She holds a Bible reading every Wednesday morning and I decided to join. (contact: j.stilma@upcmail.nl)

Mpho works according to an African method and uses an inspiring New Zealand version of the Lord's Prayer. She is a lovely person, very modest; when not knitting and listening she is waving her beautiful hands in subtle explanation. She has also written a beautifully poetic book on Forgiveness.

We decided to invite her for a 'forgiveness circle' in Aerdenhout, at: De Nieuwe Kring, Oscar Mendliklaan 3, 2111 AS Aerdenhout on: Wednesday 19th April 17.00 -20.00 with refreshments.

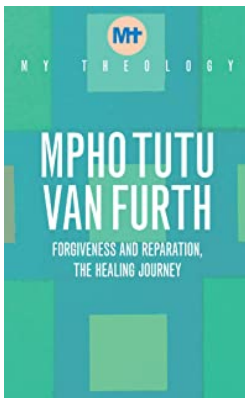
cost: including food and drinks are 15 euro's

register: stouthamer-vanbiezen@hotmail.com

pay: via NL62 ABNA 0433 535 318 t.n.v. De Nieuwe Kring

mention: for Mpho

It is especially suited for the members of the Anglican church for it is in English! And Mpho herself is an Anglican priest! A very special one!



Forgiveness and Reparation, the Healing Journey

is a beautiful poem about how this process feels for the oppressor and the oppressed, performing a subtle dance together.

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 5 March
2nd Sunday of Lent | 14.30 Choral Eucharist (with choir) |
| Sunday 12 March
3rd Sunday of Lent | 14.30 Sung Eucharist |
| Wednesday 15 March | 19.00 (Boys and Girls) Borrel |
| Sunday 19 March
4th Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday | 14.30 Choral Eucharist (with choir)

The Annual General Meeting will follow the service – all most welcome |
| Sunday 26 March
5th Sunday of Lent | 14.30 Sung Eucharist |
| Sunday 2 April
Palm Sunday | 10.00 We join the Old Catholic congregation on their Palm Sunday Old Catholic Eucharist. Liturgy of the Palms, Liturgy of the Passion |
| Thursday 6 April
Maundy Thursday | 19.30 Combined Anglican/Old Catholic Eucharist
Commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with His Apostles |
| Friday 7 April
Good Friday | 11.00 Good Friday Devotion (with choir)
A service of readings, anthems, hymns, and prayers |

Sunday 9 April **14.30 Choral Eucharist** (with choir)
Easter Sunday

Sunday 16 April **14.30 Choral Eucharist** (with choir)
2nd Sunday of Easter

Wednesday 19 April 19.00 Borrel

Sunday 23 April **14.30 Sung Eucharist**
3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday 30 April **14.30 Choral Evensong** (with choir)
4th Sunday of Easter

Sunday 7 May **14.30 Choral Eucharist** (with choir)
5th Sunday of Easter

Saturday 20 May 9.30 Breakfast Club

LIFELINE

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