



## MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH HAARLEM

September 2024, Issue 205

*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](mailto: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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*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 Chaplain – Revd Bruce Rienstra*

This is not one of my usual reflections. Many of you won't like reading it. Others of you may think it's about time. In the next month or so, there will be a communication coming about finances. The church wardens have drafted a letter explaining some of the details. It is not bad news, as a chaplaincy over the past several years we have asked everyone to have a look at their giving. Is it the same as it was five or ten years ago, then we are very happy that you have not reduced your giving. However, the problem is that €1 five or ten years ago is not the same €1. Something which cost €1 in 2019 now costs €1.21 that's 21%. If we look at 10 years ago, something which cost €1 in 2014 now costs €1.27. It doesn't come as a surprise to any of us, inflation has been especially bad these past five years. So just to break even, this chaplaincy now spends 21% more for the same things as five years ago.

But thanks be to God a lot has changed over the past five years. Five years ago, you set yourselves targets, and you achieved them which is wonderful. It meant you could get your own chaplain (for which Loretta and I are very grateful). It meant new things got started and attracted new people. Something which is continuing. Think of who is new just in the past couple of years, something I find astonishing and really encouraging. I think our average age has even come down!

These are things really to be thankful for, but we still must remind ourselves that we cannot be complacent, it takes resources to run our chaplaincy, even though we only rent the church building. Even so, our rent has also gone up, because our Old Catholic host's costs are going up, and we need to contribute as well as we can.

This is what being a good neighbour is all about. But being neighbourly is a collective responsibility, helping our hosts fairly is being neighbourly, welcoming new people is also being neighbourly. As the older people welcome new people, the new people help the older people. This is how we will continue, new and old, rich and poor each being as neighbourly with each other in volunteering our resources of time and money.

Jesus gave of himself, so we should always be thinking if our giving is the same in real terms as five or ten years ago.

## **Music Matters**

I hope you all had a great holiday! Although the meteorological autumn has begun, summer seems to be hanging on for a few more weeks which is great.

Our choir joined the European Cathedral Singers for a week of singing the services in Chester Cathedral from 10 to 18 August. We had a great week of singing in this wonderful cathedral. The cathedral staff made us feel very welcome and our singing was much appreciated. It was great to be part of the cathedral community for a week. Most of our services were streamed, so many of you were able to see and hear us in action through the live stream. You can still view the services if you access Chester Cathedral's Youtube channel. It was great to have Derek and Sue Akker with us from Monday to Wednesday.

We will have our first choir practice after the holidays in Amsterdam on Friday 13 September and on Sunday 15 September the choir will sing its first Choral Eucharist.

### **Coming special services.**

On Sunday 22 September the choir will be joining the choirs of The Hague and Rotterdam for a joint Choral Evensong at St. John & St. Philip's in The Hague at 5 pm. The Canticles will be Stanford in A and the anthem 'They that go down to the sea in ships' by Herbert Sumsion. I will be conducting the choir and Stuart Griffin, director of Music in the Hague, will be playing the organ. Bruce will be taking part after the Haarlem service, which will be a said Eucharist so that he can get to The Hague in time for the service.

On Sunday 29 September we will be singing Choral Evensong in Haarlem Church, and we look forward to that, having sung so many Choral Evensongs elsewhere.

Sunday 6 October will be our Harvest Festival with the traditional Harvest tea afterwards. This is a joint service with the Old Catholic congregation. Derek and Sue Akker will be joining us for that service as they have booked a short holiday in Haarlem from Friday 4-9 October. It will be

great to see them again so soon after Chester and a chance for all their Haarlem friends to meet them too.

Last year was the first time we mentioned our quest for a grand piano in church so we could use it in our services but also launch our British Music Festival. Thanks to various donations for which we are extremely grateful, we had the funds to go piano hunting just before the summer. The great news is that we have bought a grand! Laretta and I had a session at Andriessen Pianos in Haarlem and Laretta tried out a few pianos and we came up trumps with the help of the owner of the firm. We have acquired a black 1901 Ibach 1.80m Grand Piano for the church. The piano has been completely refurbished and has a beautiful full sound. It will be on wheels so that it can be moved about the church and eventually will 'live' in front of the pulpit after some alterations to the pews there. For now, it will 'live' at the back of the church near the baptistry. Delivery is expected in September, and we hope to begin our series in November. Our traditional Carol Concert will become part of the series. More news about all these plans as they progress.

Advent and Christmas is already in our sights and will be in our choir practices from the word go, but more about that in the next issue of Lifeline. By the way, Rob has already put up the order form for the Christmas Cards in aid of the Cathedral Music Trust!

*Martin van Bleek*  
*Director of Music*

*Added to Martin's last point, Rob says:*

Again this year you may order CHRISTMAS CARDS from the Cathedral Music Trust (*formerly The Friends of Cathedral Music*)

You'll find all details with an order form on the notice board in the church hall.

Thank you very much for your support!

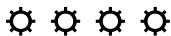
**Poet's Corner - from Christine**

**Days, by Philip Larkin**

*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.*

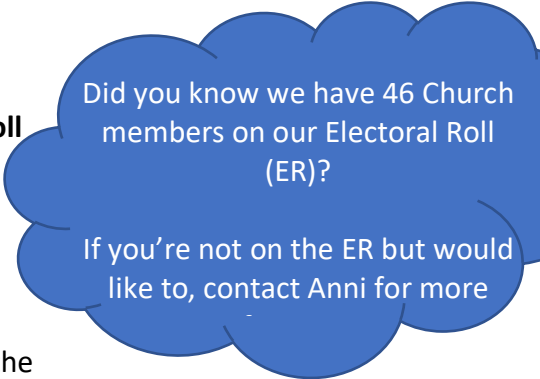
Philip Larkin (1922 to 1985) is considered to be one of the foremost English poets of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



**Ever Wondered about the Electoral Roll**

The electoral roll is a register of people who can elect people to the church council in the church. It is similar to the civic electoral roll which allows you to vote in local council and Parliamentary elections. If you are on the church electoral roll you can vote on any relevant issues at the church's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and stand for election to the church council and other church offices.

If you come to the Anglican Church Haarlem and take part in our church's life, you are already a valued member. Being on the electoral role just gives you a say in the decision making.



Did you know we have 46 Church members on our Electoral Roll (ER)?

If you're not on the ER but would like to, contact Anni for more

Every sixth year the preparation of new church electoral rolls takes place.

**The next occasion for the preparation of new rolls is 2025.**

**The largest congregation in Haarlem (that's what they said!) from Hilary Selles**

Those who live in the Reinaldahuis in Haarlem will know what I'm talking about.

Once a month one of the Catholic churches in Haarlem organises an ecumenical church service in part of the restaurant on the ground floor for all who are interested. Many of those present live in or near the Reinaldahuis. Others come from elsewhere because the service is available to them at 2.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday afternoon of each month. Daphne and I went together on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

The volunteers who are there to offer help where necessary are extremely important. Many of the worshippers need help finding a seat or getting to it and sitting down. The space made available for the service gradually fills up. Rollators are folded and parked to one side. At half past two, time to start, people are still coming in. Everyone is welcome.

The clergyman who is leading the service has no problem getting everyone's attention. We were all made to feel very welcome. He talks us through the year in church terms: springtime, lambs, the Good Shepherd, Eastertime, summertime grapes. How tasteful the grapes in Heaven must be, more so than the grapes on earth. How essential is the bread made from the harvested grain, the bread of Heaven. It offers us comfort and encouragement. The bread in the eucharist reminds us of Jesus sharing bread with his disciples. We do that to his memory as he told the disciples to do. Jesus in the Bread of Life.

There isn't a real sermon, but the clergyman told an interesting story of what the church can mean to a family even when a funeral service is being arranged, to bring a family closer to each other at such a special time. It was good to sing a pilgrim's song and hear another reading ending with verse 15 in Exodus chapter 16 when Moses told his people that the manna they had received was bread from the Lord.

The final hymn, sung with gusto was *God of all people*. The tune was familiar to us as: *Land of hope and glory!*

I was invited to this service by a volunteer who visited Daphne van Wijk when I was there. It was a special way of visiting Daphne that day and going to the service together. It wasn't in English of course but it was meaningful to all present, I'm sure. The first Tuesday of the month at 2.30p.m. in the

restaurant of the Reinaldahuis, L. Springerlaan 1 in Haarlem. I know you'll be very welcome.

## **Advent Discussion Group November 2024** *from Diana*

### **The Life in the Comma**

*Summary of The Life in the Comma: Deepening Our Understanding of Jesus*

***'John Bell of the Iona Community has been for many years one of the most recognized voices on BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day, where his cogent and penetrating topical contributions reach an audience well beyond the churches.'* Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury**

*The Apostle's creed proclaims that Jesus Christ was 'born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate'. But these statements, separated by only a comma, tell us very little about the One in whom 'the fulness of God' lived and breathed!*

*In four provocative and compelling sessions:*

*Advent: A time for the kids?*

*The life omitted*

*Unspoken in Advent*

*A life of risk*

*John Bell writes vividly of the people Jesus met; the things he said; the controversy he caused and the affection he had for the marginalised and for women in particular. Urging us to grasp more fully the great implications of the Incarnation, The Life in the Comma liberates us to celebrate Christmas as never before.*

**The online Advent Discussion Group, based on The Life in the Comma, takes place on Tuesdays 5, 12, 19, 26 November from 19.30 – 21.00. All are welcome to join one or more sessions.**

For more information, please contact Revd Bruce or Diana.

## **Anglican Church Haarlem (ACH) – Appeal to all walkers! Launch of a new activity for ACH Ramblers** *from Simone*

We are lucky to have an active church with all kinds of activities offered throughout the year. It was recently even suggested that we might look at some new activities on top of the already existing ones. I then realised that there is an activity I love doing and which is ideally suited to doing together with other people. My idea was recently put to the church council and it has been welcomed with enthusiasm. I therefore would love to know whether you would be interested in joining this ACH Ramblers group.

### **What does it entail? The idea is to:**

- do walks of each time 3,5 to 6 km
- maintain a frequency of every 2 months, so about 6 walks in a year.
- diversify routes as much as possible: areas for walking may include Koningshof, Middenduin, Leyduin, 't Wed (as soon as fully accessible again), Santpoort-Zuid, Santpoort-Noord. We may want to put in a city walk as well, around a theme like monumental trees in Haarlem.



- please note that this activity (unlike other activities at the church) is not suitable for (very) young children and those with walking difficulties. The pace maintained will be an average walking pace: not slow, not fast.
- perhaps over time build up the number of kilometres, but this is not the main goal.

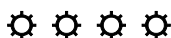
- have as a main goal: an activity that brings us – as members of our church – together in a new way.
- have an activity which is also open to friends of the ramblers and non-church acquaintances.
- have one safeguarding-trained church member as organiser, with possibly another safeguarding-trained helper, or at least one other person informed beforehand about the route.
- follow a set of strict guidelines that all participants, helpers and organisers must take into account to ensure a safe and smooth course of the rambles. These guidelines are announced in advance and include things such as staying together as a group, bringing your own water bottle, dressing for the weather (mackintosh; clothing in layers to stay warm if needed; sunglasses if needed) and wearing proper (rambling) shoes.

As said, this initiative is meant to offer a new activity next to the other activities already set up. The main thing is to be outdoors and to walk together rather than on our own.

A friendly call to all walkers will soon go out in the ACH Social app. Do keep an eye on that app! Please respond by sharing your thoughts in ACH Social, and by hopefully indicating that you wish to participate. If you don't use the ACH Social app but are still interested, please contact me, Simone Meerdink at [meerdinksimone@gmail.com](mailto:meerdinksimone@gmail.com).



Picture source, the internet: Koningshof, De Appelberg



## Should the Church get involved in politics? *By Adam*

So often in church life we hear the complaint about diminishing and aging congregations. We hear depressing stories about how many churches are likely to close within the next few years. We wonder what we can do? How can we turn the Church round?

I do not think there is any simple answer. I think that future generations may even view this generation as somehow paying for the sins of previous generations.

I have at various points in my life been interested in the writing of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Writing in the 1930s and early 1940s he pointed to a terrible credibility crisis from which I do not think the churches have recovered. Why were there two world wars and the rise of fascism during the first half of the twentieth century in supposedly Christian Europe at a time when church attendance was higher than it is today? Was the Church a good influence?

There was also the rise of Communism in what had previously been Christian countries. Much happened in the twentieth century that exposed the credibility gaps of the Church. Now that we are in the twenty-first century have we learned our lessons? Many people point to our indifference to the environmental crisis, the presence of nuclear weapons, terrorism, attacks on human rights and the Church's own preoccupation with sexual matters as evidence that we have not.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer spoke of the need to replace cheap grace with costly grace. Does this mean that the Church should be more actively involved in politics? If so, how can unity be maintained? Would people in congregations resent being asked to think about uncomfortable matters? How can the Church recover credibility?



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## ***Does Schiphol ever close?* By Philip**

I had often wondered if Schiphol closed at night, even for a short period? On a return trip from across the Channel recently I got the answer.

Earlier in the evening I had arrived at the appropriate gate at Gatwick North Terminal in comfortable time for my flight and was fortunate enough to find a vacant seat. 😊

It was the last flight of the day, with mostly trippers all keen to be the first to board, and content to stand for a short while for the privilege. However, as time passed without any action or announcements, their enthusiasm began to fade, and they sank to the floor. 😞

Eventually, some hour later, we were invited to embark, when at last the pilot explained that on the incoming flight there had been a medical emergency! He offered his sincerest apologies and promised to get us to Schiphol as quickly as possible. This should have been well in time for my last train home, which for years had been just after midnight. However, a check on the NS app showed that this wasn't running (temporarily or permanent?).



The flight itself went fine, but we landed on the landing strip, furthest from the terminal, some 20-minute taxiing, ..... and then the disembarking ..... and then that long walk ... 😞

By this time, I had of course missed my last train. But as I walked, I noticed a number of horizontal forms, clearly settled for the night ... so maybe this was 'accepted practice'? 🤔

Exchanging a few words with someone reading himself to sleep, he explained that for some who have very early flights this was a good option. 🤪

And that was clearly the case as I saw at 5.30 the following morning when several gates were already ready to embark.

So that is the answer - Schiphol never closes.

It did however appear that *my* situation was less usual, as the *immigration* gates were still closed, and an officer came, rather amused, to let me in! But he seemed to appreciate the novelty!

One thing is certain I still prefer my own bed!

## **CC Squad** from Group Leaders Anni, Simone and Stella



It was a glorious summer's day in July when members of CC Squad headed off to Spaarnewoude Park for their summer outing. There was laughter, fun and a real moment to bond outside of church. We meet again on 22<sup>nd</sup> September during the service for more learning and fellowship. We are

particularly excited to welcome Stella as a new CC Squad Leader. For more information about CC Squad, speak with Anni or Simone.

## **ACH Summer BBQ**

The summer BBQ took place at Ann and René's home. They both did an amazing job as top hosts and chefs, and, despite a quick run to A&E, everyone enjoyed amazing food and wonderful company. Our thanks to Ann and René for all their hard work to make this such a success!





## Chester Cathedral

The choir were in excellent form when they visited the beautiful Chester Cathedral in the North of England. Every evening the choir robed and processed in for traditional Evensongs and on Sunday there was also a Choral Eucharist. All the services (except Thursday and Saturday) were streamed and if you haven't listened yet click here:

Monday Evensong <https://www.youtube.com/live/VvuL3T-ZukU?si=SI25zpwKhFknVYU>

Tuesday Evensong [https://www.youtube.com/live/gYjqT\\_HL4eI?si=gMBG87\\_Q5L5POVpw](https://www.youtube.com/live/gYjqT_HL4eI?si=gMBG87_Q5L5POVpw)

Wednesday Evensong <https://www.youtube.com/live/ZogFfcnLvb8?si=BKGtNvGJNl320RQ4>

Friday Evensong <https://www.youtube.com/live/M8f971tkjIM?si=dRleGLHnFr8ihnzM>

Sunday Eucharist <https://www.youtube.com/live/WlCpFG-rMbg?si=vlf36Y62ubZgCpHw>

Sunday Evensong <https://www.youtube.com/live/TrRYQ5Bkk8Q?si=P-7Wt5fxgb10y9Gh>



**Haarlem**  **anglican church**

**Breakfast Club**



Join us on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 9.30am for a hearty British Breakfast!

€10 or €6 for those unwaged. Veggies & Gluten Free also catered for (let us know!)



There's plenty of space so do bring a friend.  
Email: [anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com](mailto:anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com)

9.30am, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September, Church Room, Anglican Church Haarlem

### ***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](mailto:anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com)

### ***Compline***

Every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm we have a Compline service in the church in Haarlem. This is a very restful and beautiful evening service with prayer and liturgy. Next dates after the summer break. will be 11<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 13<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December. Everyone most welcome!

### ***Haarlem borrel***

The third Wednesday of each month we gather in Haarlem for a 'borrel' usually at the Jopenkerk in Haarlem. For the next time and place please check with Rev Bruce. Everyone welcome!

### ***Ladies Lunch***

Ladies from the church meet for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month at 12 noon, alternating between the Molenplas restaurant, Waertmolenpad 1, Haarlem and the Cineworld restaurant in Beverwijk (2 mins walk from the train station). All ladies are welcome, and if you would like to join, please let Ann know as she coordinates the dates.

### ***Breakfast Club***

Many of you will be delighted to hear that there is a Breakfast Club on 21st September at 9.30am! This popular Saturday morning get together offers a hearty home cooked breakfast following a traditional British/Irish menu. You won't be disappointed when you munch into bacon, eggs, sausages and more! Let Anni know if you are coming: [anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com](mailto:anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Church services in September and October

**Revd. Bruce Rienstra**

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

Details can be checked in advance on our website

[www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl](http://www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl)

Sunday 1 September <i>Trinity 14</i>	14:30	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 8 September <i>Trinity 15</i>	14:30	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 15 September <i>Trinity 16</i>	14:30	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir</i>
Sunday 22 September <i>Trinity 17</i>	14:30	Sung Eucharist & CC Squad (children's group)
Sunday 29 September <i>Michael and All Angels Trinity 18</i>	14:30	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir</i>
Sunday 6 October <i>Harvest Festival Trinity 19</i>	14:30	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir followed by Harvest Tea</i>
Sunday 13 October <i>Trinity 20</i>	14:30	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 20 October <i>Trinity 21</i>	14:30	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir</i>
Sunday 27 October <i>All Saints/All Souls Last Sunday after Trinity</i>	14:30	Sung Eucharist & CC Squad (children's group)
Sunday 3 November <i>All Saints/All Souls 4th Sunday before Advent</i>	14:30	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir</i>

# ***LIFELINE***

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