



MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH HAARLEM

November 2024, Issue 206

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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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

On the 22nd of November we celebrate the feast day of St. Cecilia, patron saint of music and it should therefore not be surprising that we should speak of her at this time. The Anglican Church of Haarlem has a very rich musical tradition. We have had a choir for as long as anyone can remember.

Music is important to people. In fact music appreciation is very fundamental to us - it is processed in a different part of the brain, a part of the brain which is one of the last to function, even in people who are suffering from late stage dementia.

Music is important in our worship. Music has a way of communicating those things of the heart which are often impossible to express in any other way, in this way we also get closer to God, music is spiritual, and spirituality is music.

It always saddens me when churches don't sing, or when churches do not care about music. The kind of music doesn't really matter, but what does matter is that churches engage, the style of music isn't so important but what is important is that it is done well. Good music inspires and that is indeed why we come to church, to be inspired, be it through the liturgy, the sermon or indeed about the musical style.

Our theology may not reflect a need to ask the saints to intervene on our behalf, but there is something special when we listen to music which inspires us and which triggers something spiritually special.

This is why we remember St Cecilia not to ask for her intercession, but to remember her life, to honour her martyrdom and to be reminded of the importance of Music, in our everyday as well as our special services.



Music Matters

Since the last issue of Lifeline, we have put the clocks back and celebrated harvest in our Harvest Festival Service on 6 October together with the Old Catholic congregation. It was lovely to be able to welcome Derek and Sue Akker who were in Haarlem for a short break. It was great to spend time with them in our own city after seeing them in Chester in August. Haarlem of course is familiar territory for them after their many locums.

On Sunday 10th November the choir sang at the Remembrance service at the Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek. It was a fairly cold but bright day. This year we sang 'Thou knowest Lord, the secrets of our hearts' by Henry Purcell. I had the privilege of laying a wreath on behalf of the choir and everybody present was given a cross to put a grave in the cemetery. For me that was a second cross this year, as Simone and I visited my great-uncle's grave in Ramillies on the Somme where we planted a small rose together with a remembrance cross. Our freedom now has come at a great cost and must never be taken for granted. Lest we forget!

The choir has been busy preparing for the Advent and Christmas season since the beginning of September, including our Choral Evensong on 29 September. This year we will be able to use our grand piano in the Carol Concert and our Carol Service.

In case you haven't noticed there is now a grand piano at the back of the church, hidden under a cover. It is ours! It has been acclimatising to its new surroundings and will be tuned before the Advent and Christmas season. I have used it in a service once as a little surprise for the accompaniment of a post communion hymn. I will be using it more often in the future. The location at the back is temporary until the alterations in the church building have been completed. This will be in the first half of next year. It will then get a permanent place in the front of the church opposite the pulpit.

Having the piano in church means we can now go-ahead full steam with our plans for a British Music Festival. Lauretta and I are working on a programme with a planned inaugural concert hopefully in January. Watch this space for news on this music festival.

Advent Sunday is on 1 December. We will sing our traditional Advent Carol Service at 7.30 pm. This meaningful service of readings, hymns and carols is the beginning of the Advent season where we prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jeroen Pijpers will be playing for us then. He has already played for our Bavo Choral Evensong and the

Evensong in our church in June. He is well versed in English Church music and a great organist too.

Our Carol Concert will be on Saturday 21 December in Haarlem Church at 8.15 pm.

Jeroen Pijpers will also be playing for us then on both the piano and the organ.

We will be carol singing at Middachten Castle again this year on Saturday 14 December from about 1 – 5 pm.

Our now annual Carol Service at the Dorpskerk in Rheden will be on Thursday 19 December at 7pm. This service will probably also be streamed. Jeroen will also be playing for that service.

Sunday 15th December is the date of our annual Christmas Bring and Buy and Advent Tea. 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 would like to order your Christmas fare in advance, see elsewhere in Lifeline how to order your goodies in time for Christmas. On Sunday 22 December we will also have our major practice in Church, but we will fit it around a said Service.

On Christmas Eve we will have our Christmas Eucharist at 6 pm, followed by our Carol Service at 8 pm. Hopefully we will be able to have a filled church.

The piano will be used in this service for the accompaniment of various choir carols. We are very happy that Lauretta will be playing the piano for these carols. I will accompany the congregational carols on the organ.

Our first service of 2025 will be on 5 January and will be a Choral Eucharist. Our service will be followed by the Old Catholic Bishop's New Year's Vespers, so there will be no tea after the service.

The sound system in church will be updated on 6 & 7 January. The musical quality of our streamed services will be greatly improved thanks to improved microphones, speakers and an extra camera. Our church is contributing to the costs of this improvement. Julian Rowsell, one of our younger church members, will be doing the streaming of our important services and a few extra services to try out the system. This means we will be able to reach more people with our services and music. Thanks Julian!

A few weeks ago, I was able to show a delegation from Salisbury Cathedral round a few of the venues they will be singing at during their

April 2025 choir tour of the Netherlands. They will be in the Netherlands from 31 March until 7 April. The choir will be singing Choral Evensong in the St. Bavo Church on Sunday 6 April. A date for your 2025 diaries!



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

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

*Martin van Bleek,
Director of Music*

Advent Discussion Group:

Based on *The Life in the Comma*, by John Bell of the Iona Community

Memories were much stirred by our first Advent Discussion session, “Advent: A time for the kids?”. We have seen many changes around the celebration of Christmas in our lifetimes!

The next sessions will be:

The life omitted

Unspoken in Advent

A life of risk

Discussions are on Tuesday evenings in November and December. For more information, please contact Revd Bruce or Diana.



Poet's Corner

Lightenings viii

By Seamus Heaney

*The annals say: when the monks of Clonmacnoise
Were all at prayers inside the oratory
A ship appeared above them in the air.*

*The anchor dragged along behind so deep
It hooked itself into the altar rails
And then, as the big hull rocked to a standstill,*

*A crewman shinned and grappled down the rope
And struggled to release it. But in vain.
'This man can't bear our life here and will drown,'*

*The abbot said, 'unless we help him.' So
They did, the freed ship sailed, and the man climbed back
Out of the marvellous as he had known it.*

Seamus Heaney was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995 for "works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth, which exalt everyday miracles and the living past".



*The Abby of Clonmacnoise
Athlone, Co Offaly, Ireland*

Learning from a Jehovah's Witness from Adam

In September 2022 I was lucky enough to go to the Eleventh Conference of the World Council of Churches which was held in Karlsruhe in South-West Germany. I found it a transformational experience and came to believe that I had a calling to inter-faith dialogue.

Two opportunities found me fairly quickly. The first was with two young Mormon missionaries and the second was with some Jehovah's Witnesses who visited my apartment complex. I said that I would be interested in interfaith dialogue with them. A local Kingdom Hall arranged for a gentleman called Ett to visit me and we became friends.

I learned some important things from Ett including the purple triangle of the Holocaust. You may know about the pink triangle of the Holocaust which more recently has become a symbol of the gay rights movement. I remember being taught at school in the late 1980s that Hitler did not like gays, and they were sent to concentration camps. The teacher did not tell us that life for gay people in Britain at the time was far from comfortable. It was not until a few years later that I discovered that homosexuality was automatically a criminal matter for men in the UK until 1967. Even the gay rights movement has not told us the full truth about the pink triangle. It denoted the prisoner to be a sex offender and not necessarily a homosexual.



Ett talked to me about the purple triangle. This was for pacifists, 99 percent of whom were Jehovah's Witnesses. I did not know that Jehovah's Witnesses were persecuted in Nazi Germany. I see it as another gap in my education. They did not oppose the politics of the regime, but they did oppose the war mongering. I suggested to Ett that perhaps Hitler could have been redeemed if everyone had followed Jesus' advice and not fought back. Indeed, I have often thought that the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1946 was the price we paid for liberating Western Europe from fascism.

For me this is a troubling silence in history. There are many Jewish war memorials around the world and rightly so! I know of three homomonuments in the world; one in Berlin, one in Den Haag and one in Amsterdam. The latter is portable and has been to London. I know of no memorial to the Jehovah's Witnesses who were killed or for that matter the gypsies or those who were sent to the gas chambers for being mentally ill. What else in history is being kept quiet?

The ACH Ramblers have started!



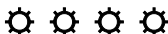
Our first ramble is now a fact!
On 9 November, the weather was rather reasonable, not to say excellent for our first walk. The four of us enjoyed the green route in Koningshof and were treated on three konik horses that walked past. These half wild horses looked very much at ease in their own territory. They were just on their own; quite amazing.

We are now eleven in this app. Should you wish to be kept up-to-date of any future walks, then please indicate that you want to be added to the ACH Ramblers app. You can do so by asking me after the service or by sending an email to Anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com



Please pass the word about this app in church to any church member you think may be interested and feel free to ramble along next time and to bring a friend (please let me know in advance).

See you all soon!
Simone



Ms Miscellaneous

Wintertime

This weekend the clocks have been turned back one hour; daylight saving time has come to an end for this year. Wintertime has begun. The days of going to work and returning home in the dark lie before us. Not my favourite time of year, I must confess.

Today, though, nature could have fooled me easily. The sun is shining with gusto, it's a very comfortable 17 degrees outside, pigeons are wooing each other and my campanula and red hollyhock are flowering like it's somewhere between spring and summer!

But sitting down with my coffee and the paper I am brusquely confronted with the cold, wintery atmosphere we live in today. The Netherlands are governed by a cabinet whose main principle seems to be exclusion, its main goal turning this country into some closed, narrow-minded fortress. All problems are blamed on people trying to find a safe place to just live their lives in peace and to contribute to our community. Why?? How?? Five years ago, around this date I wrote about migration. That starlings, swifts, geese and lapwings are free to go where they want to survive and procreate, but that humans who do the same when they have to flee from war, exclusion and poverty are confronted with doors slamming in their faces. I then hoped that the time of Advent would help us find our roots and purpose and to feel free as birds. And I also wished that we would grant our neighbours from other parts of the world their freedom too. Well, things don't seem to have improved over those five years. Not in The Netherlands and not in the rest of the world. Not in Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, Somalia or Sudan. The societal atmosphere feels cold and indifferent. Every man for himself and God for us all.

And there we have our answer: God for us all. Despite everything, He is there for us all. We can turn to Him for comfort, for advice, to show us the way in life. He provides for us and warms our souls. The coming time of Advent is the perfect time to open up to Him, to really listen to what He has to say and how He wants us to live; to love our neighbour as ourselves for one. If we do this, maybe, just maybe we can help turn winter into spring again.

Veronique Ruiz

CC Squad from Group Leaders Anni, Simone and Stella

Reflections on our most recent CC Squad get-togethers. Special mentions:

- On 22 September we welcomed Stella as our new group leader. Hurray!
- Two records so far in the existence of the two-year-old ACH children's church, now called CC Squad. On 22 September we counted 8 children! Which means we were nearly complete (at the moment there are 9 children). On 27 October, we counted one CC Squad member, who's commitment we applaud! The others happened to be unable to attend, which was a first!

Sunday 22 September 2024 – CC Squad - Bible verses:

Gospel of Mark, chapter 9 verses 33 to 37 – 'The first must be the last'

Gospel of Mark, chapter 10 verses 13 to 16 – 'The little children and Jesus'

The disciples struggled with pride and status, believing they needed to be the "greatest" to serve Jesus and his Kingdom. Living 2,000 years ago in a non-inclusive society, they lacked humility and missed the point of Jesus's teachings. Jesus taught them to approach faith like children – open, pure, and trusting – despite children being viewed as low in status at the time. This was a radical and, for them, surprising lesson in humility.

In our lesson, we explored Jesus' "upside-down" method. The CC Squad experienced a similar upside-down situation when, after answering questions, the team that came last in a very tight race received the gold medal, and the team that came first received the bronze. When asked how it felt, one of the children diplomatically said it felt "funny". The situation was not really similar in the sense that the disciples had gone down the wrong path and were not doing the right thing, while our CC Squad members were very engaged in the exercise and focused on the lesson. The exercise symbolised the element of "upside-down" surprise.

Sunday 27 October 2024 – CC Squad – Our theme: Even when the world sometimes feels scary or uncertain, we can find peace in trusting God. God gave us a free will. This means that we can make choices in our lives. There are things we can influence with our free will, for example:

- How we treat others.
- How we think about ourselves.
- How we take care of our minds and bodies with food and sleep and exercise.
- How hard we study.

But there are also things we can't control or influence, although we may find them important, such as:

- The weather;
- World events;
- What other people think.

In our lesson, we explored readings which addressed our theme:

Matthew 6:34 (NIV)

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Discussion: The Bible encourages us to focus on today and trust God for the future.

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

Discussion: The Bible emphasises that God cares about our worries and wants to help us.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Discussion: We can talk to God about our worries, and He gives us peace. After the lesson, we started a "Wall of Joy" with coloured post-its on a panel showing things and activities that make us happy and that make sure we are engaged in the positive things we can do ourselves. Things that make ourselves happy as well as others.

We are looking forward to our next CC Squad get-together on Sunday 24 November.

Archdeaconry Synod 2024

What I enjoy most out of attending the NW Europe Archdeaconry Synod is seeing what everyone else is doing. On this, my third time to the Oude Abdij in Gent, we were offered sessions on youth-ministry, safeguarding, racial justice and care for creation. All were informative and enriching, but I was particularly struck by a session on Healthy Aging; given by the Revd Geoff.Read.

The Revd Geoff had taken a three-month sabbatical and gone on pilgrimage, braving the tide on the causeway to Lindisfarne amongst other things.



Based in the Netherlands, he had also taken time to engage with some ‘right brain stuff’, like visiting the Rembrandt self-portrait at the Mauritshuis in The Hague. He quoted Anna Karpf on Rembrandt (from her book, *How to Age*):

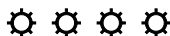
There is no sadism or contempt in Rembrandt’s portraits of age, only dignity, a deep empathy still moving centuries later.

And also Rembrandt himself:

Life etches itself onto our faces as we grow older, showing our violence, excesses and kindnesses ..

Out of his time in reflection he also raised some questions, relevant I think for our chaplaincy. I will leave you with one:

What message or attitude does our chaplaincy communicate (explicitly or unconsciously) about its actual attitude to people over 65? How does that get communicated?





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

Boxing Day Drinks

Boxing Day Drinks with a difference this year! Join us for much fun and laughter on Thursday 26 December – Alison and Tim have some tricks up their sleeves! Meet in the Church Room from 12 – 2 pm.

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 date will be 11th 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.

Christmas Bring and Buy

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. All proceeds will go towards the church as usual.

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



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 know your wish list either at church or in an email by 1 December at the latest, but earlier if possible. I will do my best to get everything for you!
Martin van Bleek

**Christingle is happening again this year.
All children welcome!**

The Anglican Church Haarlem
invites you to share in a

Haarlem  **anglican
church**

*Christingle
Service*

during our regular Eucharist Service
on Sunday 8th December at 14.30

Children to make their Christingles then
process in the main service.



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

Sunday 3 November <i>4th Sunday before Advent</i>	14:30	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir</i>
Sunday 10 November <i>3rd Sunday before Advent</i> <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	14:30	Remembrance service, followed by the Eucharist.
Sunday 17 November <i>2nd Sunday before Advent</i>	14:30	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir</i>
Sunday 24 November Sunday next before Advent "Christ the King"	14:30	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 1 December <i>Advent Sunday</i>	19:30	Advent Carol Service <i>with choir</i>
Sunday 8 December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	14:30	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 15 December <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	14:30	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir</i> <i>followed by the advent Tea and Bring & Buy.</i>
Sunday 22 December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	14:30	Said Eucharist
Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve	18:00 20:00	Choral Eucharist on Christmas Eve, <i>with choir.</i> Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, <i>with choir</i>
Sunday 29 December <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i>		NO service
Sunday 5 January <i>Epiphany</i>	14:30	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir</i>

LIFELINE

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