



## MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH HAARLEM

March 2025, Issue 208

*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>

### **Priest in Charge**

Wardens

Secretary

Lifeline Editor

### **Rev. Bruce Rienstra**

Martin van Bleek, John Scott

Anni Kearney/Susan Longhurst

Tim Gordon

All payments, donations, general, missions, subscriptions to postal printed *Lifeline* (minimum to cover costs €12.50/year), please to: bank nr: NL87 INGB 0000 5776 41, Church of England Haarlem. Please indicate purpose of any payment (donation, mission, Lifeline, etc.)

*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*

In 325, 1700 years ago, the Council of Nicea created the Nicene creed, a document that we still use today. It is a document that continues to bind the Eastern and the Western churches, something that earlier creeds (for example the Apostles' Creed) do not. Our Lent course has been looking at the creed for the past three weeks and though it can be hard-going, and opinions differ, our sessions have been very interesting. I expect the next two sessions will be equally interesting.

The Council of Nicea was called to unify the Christian church which was experiencing some difficulties. As time went along, ideas began to 'develop' and there was a real possibility that East and West might begin to diverge on some very important principles, the main one being the nature of Christ himself.

The Council perhaps to our modern minds was not called by the church itself but by the secular power. Constantine, who was not baptised but favoured Christianity, probably called the council more to unify his empire than to unify the church. It was only a year earlier that Constantine defeated the Eastern Roman Emperor Licinius, making Constantine emperor of the whole Roman Empire.

Constantine, around the time of the defeat of Licinius, heard of a dispute between Alexander (Bishop of Alexandria) and one of his priests Arius who was being supported by a number of other bishops. The issue very simply put, was that Christ was the first in creation, therefore not equal to God the Father but created by God. Constantine did not want division within the Empire because unity on all levels meant stability for the Roman Empire, and it was (civil) stability which Constantine, if he was to

survive as emperor, needed. If there was religious unity, then that unity would help civic stability.

Though the council was called by the civil authority, the document that emerged, grounded in the need for political stability, did achieve a degree of unity in the Christian church and it has lasted for 1700 years. Not bad for an emperor who didn't formally become a Christian until he was on his deathbed, soon after Easter in 337. It seems he put off baptism as long as possible in order that all his previous sins may be forgiven (leaving him less time to sin...).



Cynicism aside, the document which was produced has given the church much to ponder on and to study. It was a difficult document to write, each word and phrase was debated. The result is not only a definition of the nature of Christ but of a clear formulation of the Trinity, another binding factor of Christianity.

I would like to encourage all of us to concentrate on the words and the punctuation of the Nicene Creed. Read it carefully and deliberately. Don't just recite it but take into account each comma, and other punctuation, think about the words and the phrases you are speaking. It will speak to you.

Ψ Ψ Ψ Ψ

## Music Matters

Lent has begun and the choir has begun practising for our Good Friday and Easter services. Easter is late this year, but there is plenty going on before Easter.

We look forward to singing our traditional Good Friday and Easter services again on 18 April (11 am) and 20 April (2.30 pm).

Do join us for these services which focus on the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord.

This year we will be using a new Good Friday service called 'The Last words of Love – Passiontide Devotion', seven last words from the Cross in readings, prayers, music and silence.

Our Easter Eucharist will follow its usual pattern, albeit now with the Eucharistic setting on D by Patrick Hopper. The traditional Cadbury's Cream eggs have already been bought from Taste of Home and are in a secret place.

Before these services we will be joining our Old Catholic friends for their services on Palm Sunday (13 April at 10 am) and Maundy Thursday (17 April at 7.30 pm).

Advance notices.

30 March: Choral Evensong in our own church at 2.30 pm.

5 April: we hope to have our first European Cathedral Singers (ECS) rehearsal in Rotterdam for our week at Chichester Cathedral from 4 – 10 August. We will be practising in Bruce's Paradijkerk as ECS will be singing there for a wedding and baptism.

8 June: Whitsunday Eucharist at 2.30 pm.

15 June: we will be celebrating Music Sunday in our church.

27 July: Choral Evensong in the St.-Bavo Church sung by our own choir and ECS friends at 7 pm

A special choral treat will be the Choral Evensong sung by Salisbury Cathedral Choir in the St.-Bavo Church on Sunday 6 April at 5 pm. So after a quick cup of tea after our own service you can make the Bavo in time. They are singing some lovely music in that service and Bruce will be leading the Evensong together with the Dean and Precentor of Salisbury Cathedral. The choir is on tour in the Netherlands from Monday 31 March until Sunday 6 April. Haarlem is their last service of the choir trip.

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

*Martin van Bleek,  
Director of Music*

## WE WELCOME! The challenges of an 'upside-down' church

At the recent AGM we talked about being a welcoming church. Its hard having an 'upside down' church so its important to make sure there is someone around to welcome visitors and reassure them that the service is going ahead! It just means having someone downstairs to greet visitors and be there until just after the service starts. As was pointed out, if the job gets shared then each of us only has to do it two or three times a year. If you are seated upstairs please look out for visitors and give them a quick guide to using the Book of Common Prayer and the sung settings. And finally, check if there is someone new in the church room and share a cup of tea with them. Gezellig!

We can ALL make make a difference! WE WELCOME!



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



In our last C C Squad we started a new tradition - before leaving the service the children processed to the front of the church for a prayer, a blessing and light. The light, in the form of a small lantern, was lit and symbolised the light of Jesus. One of our group lit the candle while Revd Bruce said a prayer and we were on our way - the lantern was carefully carried down to the church room where it stayed lit for our whole session.

This week, after prayers, we started with pictures of a desert and took turns to describe it and imagined how it would be to spend an hour there... or a day... or two



weeks. Imagine 40 days! Without food or water! This was a good link to Luke 4 where we read about Jesus in the desert and considered words like 'temptation' and 'wilderness' and 'to reflect'. We were then able to talk about the significance of Lent and learnt about three things that we, like many others, might do as we consider Lent and Jesus' time in the wilderness: prayer, 'fasting' or giving something up and helping people out / showing an act of kindness.

Well, we had prayed - and we had plain crackers instead of sweet biscuits so that was a good start! For our act of kindness, we talked about a theme which also came up in our AGM - making people welcome in church. And in our



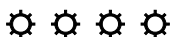
case, making sure visiting children feel welcome. This led to a busy time of writing, drawing and constructing as we worked to create welcome activities for children who visit when it isn't a CC Squad week. Everyone worked really hard contributing so much to make

this possible in such a short amount of time. We now have a handwritten welcome notice, colourful activity packs with decorated signs, the three cuddly toys are now named, and we even managed to construct and label a nice box to keep it all in.

When we returned to church for the Blessing, the lantern was carefully carried back and returned to the altar. It will be there next time of course - it's our new tradition!



CC Squad is a fun Sunday school group for children of all ages wishing to learn more about Jesus, the Bible and the Christian faith. We welcome all children so do spread the word!



## Poet's Corner *from Christine*

### *Verses from the Tarjuman al-Ashwaq*

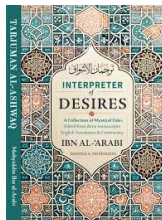
*By Muhyi al-Din Ibn'al-Arabi*

My heart has become capable of every form:  
it is pasture for gazelles  
and a convent for Christian monks,

A temple for idols and the pilgrim's Ka'ba,  
tablets for the Tora and pages for the Quran.

I profess the religion of Love:  
whatever route is followed  
by the caravan of love,  
it is love that remains  
my religion and my faith

The Tarjuman al-Ashwaq, 'Interpreter of Desires' is a collection of 61 'preludes' by Ibn al Arabi, an Andalusian Sufi mystic living from 1165 to 1240. (The Deer Park, and so the 'pasture for gazelles', in the second line is a metaphor for Buddhism.)





Ms. Miscellaneous  
Seen and unseen

Lent has started and so has the Lent course on the Nicene Creed. Over the course of several weeks the Nicene Creed will be analyzed bit by bit – faithfully, linguistically and philosophically.

Last week we spoke about the historical background of the text and of the first sentence:

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

Of that first sentence the last bit appeals to me most. Seen and unseen. What does that actually mean? Is it simply about what we do and don't perceive through our retinas – helped by instruments such as microscopes or telescopes? Or is there more to it?

Is it about what we do and don't perceive with any of our senses – eyesight, hearing, touch, smell and taste? And/or is it about what we do and don't perceive with our inner eye, so to speak?

It seems to me that the world these days is full of people with their inner eyes wide shut; choosing not to see how other people's rights to simply live their lives are brutally being violated, choosing to ignore the fact that our blue marble of a planet is being abused, choosing to only see and feed one's self. I am no better, I am ashamed to say. It is easier to just hide my head in the sand from all the trouble and hardship in the world.

Lent is about introspection. And pondering over the full meaning of the 'seen and unseen', the meaning of this introspection opens up a new dimension to me. Introspection in the sense of really opening up all the senses I've been given, including or perhaps especially my inner eye. Opening up in order to fully, completely appreciate all of creation – seen and unseen to me. Hopefully I'll 'see' more than before, beyond my narrow range of perception. And see all – or at least more – of God's eternal beauty and love in everything and everyone around me. Let's all SEE.

Veronique Ruiz

**Save the date:** *Deanery Day 24 May 2025*

In the July issue of Lifeline last year Hilary wrote about her experience of attending the 2024 Deanery Day. ‘Look out for the next Deanery Day’, she said, ‘and don’t hesitate to be part of it. If I am able, I’ll go again!’

Following on from this success, the next Deanery Day will be on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at the Church of St. John and St. Philip in The Hague. The guest speaker will be the Revd Sarah-Jane King, chaplain of Leuven. The theme will be ‘*Passing on the Baton*’. It is mainly for lay officers (e.g. churchwardens, treasurers, secretaries, archdeaconry representatives, safeguarding officers, environmental officers) and those who might be interested in becoming lay officers in the future. But, it is not just for lay officers, everyone from our chaplaincies is welcome. The Deanery Day Planning Committee looks forward a time of worship and fellowship together and to inspiring the next generation of leaders in our chaplaincies. This time there is no need to bring sandwiches because lunch will be provided. So, save the date and they look forward to welcoming you in The Hague next May.



Ψ Ψ Ψ Ψ

This morning 10:01 (on 20<sup>th</sup> March) was the beginning of Spring. And with April on the horizon, Hilary has shared this poem.

O, to be in England  
Now that April 's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees, some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England—now!

This is the first, April, verse from, 'O, to be in England' by Robert Browning (1812 to 1889). Hilary says: I think the first line I'm quoting is one of the most often recited lines in English poetry. It's applicable to us because we are not there: we are here. Browning was in Italy when he wrote his poem. He longed for England as some of us do! I'm sure I'm not alone, thinking of April!



# Choral Evensong

**Zondag 6 april, 17.00 uur**

Grote of St.-Bavokerk, Haarlem



## Salisbury Cathedral Choir

David Halls, Director of Music

John Challenger, Organist

[www.salisburycathedral.org.uk](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk)

Charity number 1202770



### ***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 date will be 9<sup>th</sup> April. 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***

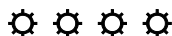
Ladies from the church meet for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month at 12 noon, alternating between the Molenplas restaurant, Waertmolenpad 1, Haarlem and the Cineworld restaurant in Beverwijk (2 mins walk from the train station). All ladies are welcome, and if you would like to join, please let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

### ***ACH Ramblers***

ACH Ramblers is a walking group. We will be walking around some beautiful areas around Haarlem. This activity requires us to have some preparations beforehand. If you wish to be kept up to date of any future walks, then please contact Simone, or send an email to [anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com](mailto:anglican.church.haarlem@gmail.com).

### ***Lent Discussion Group:***

Details are now finalised for our Lent discussion. The discussions are underway now on Tuesday evenings during Lent. For more information, please contact Revd Bruce or Diana.



Haarlem  anglican  
church

# Choral Evensong

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 14.30

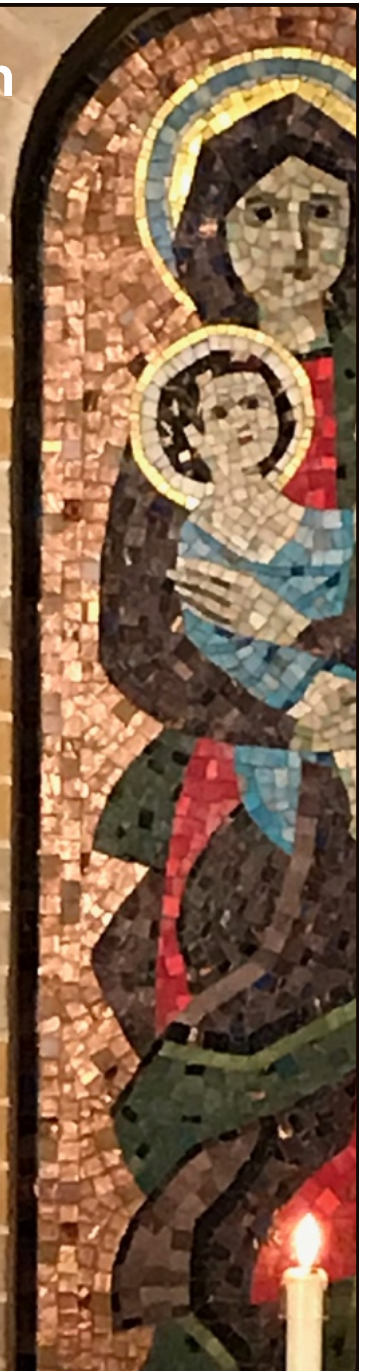
*Martin van Bleek leads the  
Haarlem Church Choir and the  
Anglican Singers in a traditional  
Choral Evensong.*



*All welcome*

At the Anglican Church Haarlem,  
Kinderhuissingel 76, Haarlem

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



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Church services in January and February 2025

**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 2 March <i>Sunday before Lent</i>	14:30	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir</i>
Wednesday 5 march	19:30	Old Catholic Eucharis in Dutch <i>with Imposition of Ashes</i>
Sunday 9 March <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	14:30	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 16 March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	14:30	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir</i>
Sunday 23 March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	14:30	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 30 March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	14:30	Choral Evensong <i>with choir</i>
Sunday 6 April <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	14:30  17:00	Choral Eucharist <i>with choir</i>  Choral Evensong in St. Bavo Church with the Choir of Salisbury Cathedral UK.
Sunday 13 April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10:00	We join the Old Catholic congregation. <i>Liturgy of Palms - Liturgy of the Passion</i>



Thursday 17 April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	19:30	Combined Old Catholic/Anglican Eucharist in Dutch and English
Friday 18 April <i>Good Friday</i>	11:00	<i>Devotion with choir: Hymns, Anthems, Readings and Prayers</i>
Sunday 20 April <i>Easter Day</i>	14:30	<i>Choral Eucharist with choir on Easter Sunday</i>
Sunday 27 April <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	14:30	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 4 May <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	14:30	<i>Choral Eucharist with choir</i>

See also the website of the Anglican Church in Haarlem:  
<https://anglican-church-haarlem.nl/>





# ***LIFELINE***

MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH HAARLEM

afzender: *Hyacintenlaan 42 Rd 2015 BD Haarlem*

(ISSN 0920 – 6914)