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# Lifeline

## MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN HAARLEM

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The English-speaking church community in Haarlem is part of the Anglican-Diocese of Europe and seeks to serve all English speaking people in the wider Haarlem area.

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## **Chaplaincy letter**

*What is the most important thing in life? What makes life really possible?*

If I ask a question like this, of course you expect a clear answer. But I do not have a clear answer. At least not a simple one. For life, the full life, you need more than one thing.

Food for example, eating and drinking. We all agree that no one survives without it. But if you give someone just good food, would they survive? I do not think so. And if you give them besides the good food, also a good place to stay and enough clothes would it be enough? Could you have a good life with those – a life more than just surviving? No.

Our human life is more than just fulfilling material needs; human life is more than the things you can touch with your hands.

We need human contact. We need to feel at home, security and warmth. Living in fear, feeling permanently threatened, makes life unliveable.

Further, no-one can live properly without some feeling of certainty, and the desire for social contact is linked with that, people around you to share your life with. No one can live on their own. Some can flourish with only a few contacts, others love to have crowds. But without human contact no one can be happy.

But if all this is there, food and water, a place to stay and human contacts, is this enough? Yes and no.

Many people seem to live a good life with these basic needs. But in the gospels Jesus tells us about the difference between the food that perishes and the food which gives eternal life. Jesus makes a difference between *daily needs* and *things which are greater than these*. There is no way to survive without the basic needs. It is good and important to be aware of our time now, of the world around us. And sometimes we think about past times, and idealize it feeling good in nostalgia. But that is temporary, ephemeral.

We desire to be master of our lives, but life comes at us unexpectedly and we have to deal with it as it comes. We have to find our way between the beautiful moments and the days of sorrow. We have to find courage and trust to deal with the things we face in life. It is essential for us not to lose courage.

I think that is what Jesus has in mind when he preaches about eternal life. He is not telling us to forget everything around us. We are in the here and now – there is no other physical reality for us now. The eternal life Jesus is talking about is the life we do not have in our own hands. Eternal life is life in or from promise. The promise that there is a God who will not forget the human He had created. Bread of eternal life means that the food of God gives us hope for the future.

Jesus says that he is the living word, the living bread. That can encourage us to believe that there is more than the fear and hardships we sometimes face in our life. Especially in our difficult, in our dark, moments we can trust that there is a God who will not leave us alone in our misery. A God who wants to be our companion on our trip through the present life. Jesus offers himself to be that companion in the stormy days of human life.

The food God will give us is the power to stay trusting and optimistic in life. Life is more than we can touch immediately, and there is always a future. A future not organized by ourselves but by God.

God teaches us that we received life as a gift and to live with that gift as well as possible – within the boundaries we create for ourselves.

The real – the eternal – happiness is not what we get or own now, it is based on the trust that there is someone who is loving us, in all circumstances, and always – and without conditions.

*Revd Robert Frede (Haarlem)*

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## ***Vision Day - SAVE THE DATE!***

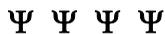
As announced at the AGM, we are organising a Vision Day with our Archdeacon Paul Vrolijk to discuss future possibilities for our church. A date has now been set! It will be Saturday 27 October and will be held in our church hall.

The provisional programme is to begin with coffee at 10.30am and then have our first session. This will be followed by a potluck lunch and afternoon sessions. We aim to end around 4.30 pm with drinks and nibbles.

A more detailed programme will be sent round after we have discussed this with the Archdeacon.

In the meantime, please reserve this important date in your diaries!

*The Church Council*



## ***Advent Discussion Group - Making Room...***

The 4-session course booklet, written by Revd David Gamble, includes a good selection of questions aimed at provoking wide-ranging discussion and is just right for the 4 weeks of Advent. For many of us life is full of things to do, people to see, chores and responsibilities. We can sometimes feel there's not enough time or space in our lives for the people and things that really matter. Maybe we even find it difficult to find or make space for God?

Rev. David Gamble uses New Testament stories to help us consider why and how we make room for what really does matter.

### **Four Sessions - Making Room...**

- (1) ... for the newcomer
- (2) ... for the stranger
- (3) ... for what really matters
- (4) ... for God

The Advent Discussion group will take place in the church hall, Kinderhuissingel, during the first 4 weeks of November 2018 at 20.00 - 21.30. Day and dates are still to be decided.

All are welcome to join one or all sessions. For further details, please contact Diana Dammer-Wilson.

## ***Music Matters***

On Sunday 2 September the choir will be back from holiday and are looking forward to singing our first choral service after the break.

From 13 August to 19 August the choir joined other members of the European Cathedral Singers in the lovely St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St. Edmunds. It was great to be there and sing the daily services in the cathedral. Most of us stayed in Bury in B&B's or apartments. We were grateful to our young and enthusiastic organists Peter Shepherd who has played for us before and Jas Hutchinson-Bazely, student at the Amsterdam Conservatoire.

On Wednesday our good friends Nigel and Elisabeth Abbott came for Evensong and we went out for a meal afterwards. It was lovely to be able to catch up on all their news and spend time with them!

Another good friend, Christopher Moore, a resident of Bury, came most days to listen to us. On the Friday he opened his magnificent 15<sup>th</sup> c. timber framed house to the choir and friends and provided delicious drinks and nibbles. On Friday evening the composer Grayston Ives (better known as Bill Ives from the King's Singers) also came to hear us sing two of his compositions. He seemed to be content!

The dean and staff were most welcoming to us and enthusiastic about our visit and invited us back for a future visit.

On Sunday evening 9 September our choir and the Anglican Singers, including a few friends from ECS, will sing our annual Evensong in the Bavo at 7 pm. James Pollard will be playing the organ. Please do come and join us at this service!

This month James and I will be in the south of France for a Singing day organised by RSCM France. The day was originally scheduled for June, but French rail strikes put paid to that.

On 30 September we will sing a Choral Evensong in our own church and on 7 October we will have our joint Harvest Festival with the Old Catholic Congregation. After the service we will have our traditional Harvest tea.

The Advent and Christmas season will begin with our Advent Carol Service on on Advent Sunday, 2 December at 7.30 pm.

Time certainly flies! The choir will begin practising for Christmas soon, but more specific news about the Advent and Christmas services in the next issue of Lifeline!

*Martin van Bleek,  
Organist and choirmaster*



## ***Ms. Miscellaneous***

No hay mal que por bien no venga – The good, the bad and the ugly

Good and bad things in life lie close together. In time, in persons, in perspectives. But how much good and bad, happy and sad are two sides of the same medal (is the English expression the same?) I had not experienced as strongly until this summer.

The beginning of July I spent a two week holiday in Porquera del Butrón, the land of my ancestors. Short but sweet, visiting all our favourite places, eating our favourite foods, enjoying the company of friends and family savouring Rioja wine and San Miguel beer and indulging in the night time temperatures of 12 degrees and the thunderstorms with cooling rain (after 4 weeks of tropical heat at home...).

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of July my parents arrived to take over the baton from us, as we left the 21<sup>st</sup> to get back to work on the 24<sup>th</sup>. And then on August 5<sup>th</sup>, lady Fortune cast a bad lot on my parents. Four days before coming back to The Netherlands, my parents were going to have lunch with my aunt and uncle in one of their favourite restaurants, a 15 min drive from their Porquera home. Going down the slope leaving the village, my father suffered a minor stroke and was paralyzed for 20 seconds, resulting in his not being able to turn the wheel to avoid a parked car and crashing into it frontally. He was admitted to a Burgos hospital for 9 days, my mother got away with bruised ribs.

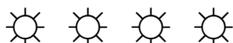
And so I went to Porquera a second time in one summer, to join my sister, who broke off her holiday in Bilbao, to take care of our mother, to visit our father and to start arranging for them coming back home to Oosterhout.

We were welcomed enthusiastically by friends who had just started their holidays and who we wouldn't have met this time around if my father had not totaled two cars. At the hospital we found our father chatting away with a vengeance with Mariano, his closest friend from his childhood, who turned out to live around the corner from the hospital and who had heard through the grapevine of my father's accident. They hadn't seen each other in years, but it felt like they were boys again,

reminiscing their mischief. And when my father finally was sent home, we had a house full of visiting cousins, aunts, uncles and friends almost every day until we came back to The Netherlands on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. The one evening we did not have visitors we played 'rikken', a Brabant card game, at which we all four cried with laughter because of having to repeat the trump colour at least sixteen times every game and because of discussing a tricycle-with-sidecar scenario (Dad on the tricycle and Mom in the sidecar) as our parents' new means of transportation.

In addition to the experience of intense friendship and sympathy, taking care of – and at times also arguing with – our parents made me conscious of a strong sense of belonging and being grateful for having been able to do this together. God's ways are very mysterious indeed, but He is (literally) in the Good that comes with all misfortune. I have seen it now, clearer than ever.

*Veronique Ruiz*



### ***Further dates for your diary:***

The **Service of Compline and Prayers for Healing** is held in the Church Hall on the second Wednesday of every month from 19.30 - 20.15.

Dates this year: 12 September, 10 October, 14 November, 12 December.

All are welcome!



### **The Archdeaconry Synod**

Representatives from each chaplaincy in the Benelux come together at The Archdeaconry Synod Oude Abdij, Drongen near Gent, Belgium on 4-6 October 2018.



## ***A Dutchman singing in an Anglican Cathedral:***

*- per aspera ad astra [through difficulties to the stars]*

I am a Dutch member of The Anglican Singers, with a background in the Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PKN). Along with the other members of The Anglican Singers we joined Haarlem Church choir and other choir members from The Netherlands and Belgium to sing the daily services in Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral. A tradition in English Cathedrals are the daily services including a Choral Evensong, and on Sunday a Choral Eucharist, Matins, as well as Choral Evensong.

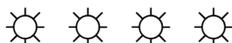
We were most warmly welcomed and encouraged during the week by the staff of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, and enjoyed a week of intensive and satisfying immersion in the Anglican tradition of singing and worship. As always we had a fairly busy schedule, every day starting around 9:45 in the Song School, where we practiced until the Choral Evensong late afternoon, and ended in one of the local pubs in Bury.

For a protestant Dutchman it is not a simple matter to understand this tradition and play a humble but useful role in such a huge and age old exquisite edifice of worship. A few questions: what exactly is the background of the Evensong? What is the meaning of the Responses? Where do you keep your folders when processing into the Choir? How do you sing Psalms in the Anglican tradition? Why are the two sides of the choir named Decani and Cantoris?

Discovering answers to such questions takes some time and needs various strategies. Of course, the conductor plays a crucial role. Our conductor, Martin van Bleek, has a deep and venerable track record in the Royal School of Church Music, and he may not always be aware of how well or poorly versed choir members are in the Anglican tradition. A second way of becoming acquainted is of course to ask ones fellow choir members, and using their expertise to gradually build up one's own knowledge and skills. That is definitely very useful. But for me, an indispensable element is simple trial and error: experiencing and discovering what is happening during the service. Initially, as a new choir member, you are completely absorbed by the notes, the words, the consonants,

the diction, and the meaning of what you are singing. From the corners of your eyes, you perceive the verger and the priest walking from one place to another, you hear the priests praying and singing the responses from various apparently hidden places. But as the years go by (this year was my sixth participating as visiting choir) I gradually start to see and experience what is happening, to appreciate the meaning of the elements of the Evensong and feel gradually absorbed into this magnificent tradition of the Anglican liturgy.

*Jos Beishuizen*



### *My friend and I went for a walk ...*

As my friend and I went for a walk, we talked about our love for the Bible. She surprised me when she said, “Oh, but I don’t like the Old Testament much. All of that hard stuff and vengeance—give me Jesus!”

We might resonate with her words when we read a book like Nahum, perhaps recoiling at a statement such as, “The Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath” (Nahum 1:2). And yet the next verse fills us with hope: “The Lord is slow to anger but great in power” (v.3).

When we dig more deeply into the subject of God’s anger, we understand that when He exercises it, He is most often defending His people or His name. *Because of His overflowing love*, He seeks the redemption of those who have turned from Him. We see this not only in the Old Testament as He calls His people back to Himself, but also in the New Testament when He sends His Son to be the sacrifice for our sins.

We may not understand the mysteries of the character of God, but we can trust that He not only exercises justice but is also the source of all love. We need not fear Him, for He is “good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him” (v. 7).

*Sent by Theo Truter  
in South Africa*

## ***The AGM – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018.***

On 1<sup>st</sup> July, after a sung service and a very enjoyable tea and biscuits, twenty members of our church sat down for the Annual General Meeting. We were fortunate to have Ruan Crew, Area Dean, as our Chair and he had also led a good service with an interesting sermon.

At the meeting there was plenty to discuss. There are minutes available – see our church notice board) – here is a summary, it was an information packed meeting!

The Church's commitment to safeguarding and GDPR and the steps taken to date featured as an early item on the agenda. John Scott discussed our plans so far and documents were circulated covering our efforts. These included our new email and communication standards to ensure privacy for all church members. We also saw a draft copy of an all encompassing document which is being written and which will cover Safeguarding Issues (our commitment to protecting vulnerable Adults and Children) and also other essentials for ensuring a safe church life ranging from emergency and first aid information, evacuation protocols and guidelines for opening, setting up and locking up the church. Ruan commended us on our efforts.

The meeting continued with reports from Diana, our super Synod Rep, who gave an insightful account of her visit to the Ghent Synod. She also presented reports on our Discussion Groups (for Advent and Lent) which she and Gert organise and to which all are always welcome! News of these feature in Lifeline. The Healing and Compline Services, which are led by Rob every second Wednesday of the month, were also discussed and Francis' article in the last Lifeline was referenced with much enthusiasm. Do read it if you haven't yet! Finally, Diana talked about the prayer list and that the list is being updated in keeping with the GDPR rules; those who wish to remain on it or join it should email Diana.

We also heard from Rob on the electoral role (a new list needs to be made in 2019) and from Francis and how we support mission work and the importance of our Penny Pot and Food Bank. For those not there, did you know we have already raised 400 euros since it started last year?

Martin talked about the choir and its busy schedule and reminded us that the choir is there to assist worship – it is not a concert! And, although this following quote wasn't part of the AGM, here's something to think about when we think of music and worship:

*"I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. My meditation of Him shall be sweet; I will be glad in the Lord."* ~ Psalm 104:33 & 34.

The long list of choir activities was presented and it was encouraging to have Ruan's comment that the choir is one of our Church's great mission opportunities and something that may help attract new members... something for the Vision Day?

The next item on the agenda was Finance and there was some relief to hear from Annemiek, our Treasurer, that our finances are steady. We have increased our rent to the OKK community and they are very grateful for that. We still need to be careful as our outgoings will change when we have a new chaplain and it is expected that our contributions to the common fund will increase. Ruan thanked Annemiek for her work.

The Church Council members stayed the same with no new volunteers – Martin and John were reinstated as Wardens and Jane Kelman remains our auditor.

The meeting continued on a very positive note as we looked back over the year at all our church activities. Despite our small congregation, we are a busy and enthusiastic church encouraged, as John said, through prayer and design. The yearly report featured over a page worth of thank you's! The upbeat feeling grew as we looked ahead to our Vision Day, which Martin

announced is being well supported by Paul Vrolijk who is looking forward to it and hopes he can help us map a bright path to our future. A 'save the date' article is in this issue of Lifeline so take note! The general feeling was one of optimism (Francis commented the Vision day should also be social and fun!) and Ruan urged us to have faith in Paul and the day: *'have good faith in him and his desire for our chaplaincy to flourish and thrive'*.

In AOB the question of parking was raised. This is of concern as the Haarlem Gemeente will soon introduce paid parking after 1pm which will affect our congregation. Martin is in touch with the Gemeente about this – more news to follow.

Special thanks !! In addition to the thank you's featured in the yearly report, special thanks was made for Philip, our hard working and fabulous Lifeline Editor, and to Rob for all his hard work and devotion in organising readers, servers, priests, etc – all agreed, he is quite amazing.

*"How will we liken the Kingdom of God? Or with what parable will we illustrate it? It's like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, though it is less than all the seeds that are on the earth, yet when it is sown, grows up, and becomes greater than all the herbs, and puts out great branches, so that the birds of the sky can lodge under its shadow." - Mark 4:30-32*

In Ruan's closing words he spoke of the day as being a real delight and referred to the parable of the mustard seed. It was encouraging to hear these words and to think of how positive our small church is and reflect on the good atmosphere felt at this meeting and how we can grow, even from a small seed. Ruan closed our meeting with a prayer.

*The next time we will be together as a group will be at our Vision Day and, if the AGM is anything to go by, it should be a very positive and productive day!*



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*Should you require further information about a service or event  
please contact the Secretary*

- Sunday 2 September 14.30 Choral Eucharist** (with choir);  
Rev. Robert Frede  
*Mission collection at the door*
- Sunday 9 September 14.30 Sung Eucharist** (with hymns);  
Rev. Robert Frede
- 19.00 **Choral Evensong** in St. Bavo Church,  
Grote Markt Haarlem, sung by our  
Choir and The Anglican Singers
- Tuesday 11 September 11.30 Coffee morning at the Cineworld  
restaurant on Stationsplein Beverwijk
- Wednesday 12 September 19.30 Prayers for Healing and Compline
- Sunday 16 September 14.30 Morning Prayer and Eucharist;**  
(with choir) Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
- Sunday 23 September 14.30 Eucharist** (said);  
Rev. Canon Jake Dejonge
- Sunday 30 September 14.30 Choral Evensong** (with choir);  
Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
- 4 – 6 October The Archdeaconry Synod  
Representatives from each chaplaincy  
in the Benelux come together at The  
Archdeaconry Synod Oude Abdij,  
Drongen near Gent, Belgium

<b>Sunday 7 October</b> <b><i>Harvest Festival</i></b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Choral Eucharist</b> (with choir); Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger the Old Catholic congregation will be our guests <i>Mission collection at the door</i>
Tuesday 9 October	11.30	Coffee morning Molenplas Restaurant Schalkwijk.
Wednesday 10 October	19.30	Prayers for Healing and Compline
<b>Sunday 14 October</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b> with hymns Rev. Canon Jake Dejonge
<b>Sunday 21 October</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Evening Prayer and Eucharist;</b> Rev. Robert Frede
<b>Saturday 27 October</b>		<b>Vision Day</b> , conducted by the Ven. Dr. Paul Vrolijk, Archdeacon <i>(further details in this Lifeline)</i>
<b>Sunday 28 October</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Eucharist</b> (said); Rev. Robert Frede
<b>Sunday 4 November</b> <b><i>All Saints</i></b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Choral Eucharist</b> (choir); Rev. Robert Frede

