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# Lifeline

## MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN HAARLEM

<b>Church</b>	The English-speaking church community meets at the Old Catholic Cathedral of St. Anna & St. Mary, Kinderhuisingel 74, 2013 AV HAARLEM <i>Website: <a href="http://www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl">www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl</a></i>
<b>Priest-in-charge</b>	vacant
<b>Warden</b>	Martin van Bleek, Tel: 023 542 21 33 <i>e-mail: <a href="mailto:martin.van.bleek@planet.nl">martin.van.bleek@planet.nl</a></i>
<b>Warden</b>	John Scott, Tel: 023 524 6641 <i>e-mail: <a href="mailto:jandm.scott@12move.nl">jandm.scott@12move.nl</a></i>
<b>Secretary</b>	Anni Kearney, Tel: 029 477 6102 <i>e-mail: <a href="mailto:anni_k@mac.com">anni_k@mac.com</a></i>
<b>Diocesan Rep.</b>	Diana Dammer, Tel: 0251 241 139
<b>Chaplaincy Rep.</b>	(Raad van Kerken) Jan Veefkind, Tel: 071 361 2368
<b>Council Member</b>	Francis Gordon
<b>Treasurer</b>	Annemiek Schäfer, Tel: 06 55 905 534
<b>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</b>	Martin van Bleek, Tel: 023 542 2133 <i>e-mail: <a href="mailto:martin.van.bleek@planet.nl">martin.van.bleek@planet.nl</a></i>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Anni Kearney, Tel: 029 477 6102 <i>e-mail: <a href="mailto:anni_k@mac.com">anni_k@mac.com</a></i>
<b>Lifeline Editor</b>	Philip Whittaker, Tel: 0341 45 3507 <i>e-mail: <a href="mailto:phwhittaker@cs.com">phwhittaker@cs.com</a></i>

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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**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. Recent issues of *Lifeline* can be found on <http://www.anglican-church-haarlem.nl/category/all/lifelines>

## **Chaplaincy letter**

*from Fr. Dirk van Leeuwen*

I write this on Maundy Thursday, the day Our Lord celebrated His Last Supper and “did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of [...] his precious death, *until his coming again*” (BCP). Already before the trials, the crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus opens the perspective of his second coming.

When Jesus ascended the apostles “were gazing up toward heaven”, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven” (Acts 1.10-11).

Zechariah 14.4 identifies the location of the second coming as the Mount of Olives. Matthew 24.30 declares, “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory”. Titus 2.13 describes the second coming as a “glorious appearing”.

Views about the nature of Jesus' Second Coming vary among Christian denominations and among individual Christians. Many predictions have been made also about the date of it. It clearly speaks to people's imagination!

The Nicene Creed simply states: "He [Jesus] shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead; and His kingdom shall have no end".

Systematic theology places it under the heading of Christian eschatology, which looks to study and discuss matters such as death and the afterlife, Heaven and Hell, the second coming of Jesus, the resurrection of the dead, the rapture, the tribulation, millennialism, the end of the world, the Last Judgment, and the New Heaven and New Earth in the world to come.

The most detailed biblical passage can be found in Revelation 19.11-21 (see also Zechariah 14). Things will go very bad for the earth, but when Christ comes again evil and its forces will be overcome.

We don't hear much about all this these days: the emphasis of our interest seems to have moved back from the hereafter to the here and now, like we appear to more heed the Carpe Diem (Seize the day) than the Memento Mori (Remember that death is inevitable). Yet, it's there.

It is no problem should you be not so interested in all the detail. Rest assured that we and all are in God's hand and that we may look forward to the 'last things' with confidence.

Richard Baxter (1615-1691), a Puritan minister, wrote a beautiful and fitting prayer:

*Keep me O Lord, while I tarry on this earth,  
in a serious seeking after you,  
and in an affectionate walking with you,  
every day of my life;  
that when you come, I may be found  
not hiding my talent,  
nor serving the flesh,  
nor yet asleep with my lamp unfurnished,  
but waiting and longing for you,  
our glorious God for ever.*

With warm regards and every blessing,  
Fr Dirk+

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## **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will be held after the service on Sunday 16 June, conducted by the Revd Ruan Crew, Area Dean for The Netherlands. Do join us for that special meeting when we look back at the life of our church in the past year and ahead to the future.

Apart from the usual reports we will also be presenting our new church logo and give you an update on the new website of our church, which we hope to present at the meeting!

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## ***Music Matters***

After a period of intense preparation, the busy period of Holy week and Easter Sunday is already behind us! Both the Good Friday service and the Easter Eucharist were meaningful services and the music and readings helped focus on the meaning of the Passion and the joyful Resurrection. Both services were well attended and the choir was on excellent form. It was great to have both Jas and James play for the services, with Fr Robert officiating.

The choir is now focussing on the period up to the beginning of July, which includes the Choral Festival in Luxembourg on Saturday 6 July. This service will be a Choral Evensong and will also be in celebration of the Grand Duke's birthday, hence the anthem will traditionally be a Te Deum.

On Saturday 27 April Jan, Grada and I joined other singers in Ripon cathedral for the Memorial Service celebrating the life and witness of Gordon Appleton, who died suddenly last year. Gordon was important both to the Royal School of Church Music all over the world and the music of our churches in North-West Europe in particular. He was also a good friend. The massed choir sang evensong with his favourite music.

On Trinity Sunday, 16 June, we will have a special musical service – Music Sunday – focussing on the role of music in worship and the work of the RSCM. The collection will be for both the RSCM and the music in our own church. Music Sunday is celebrated throughout all the RSCM affiliated churches.

That day is special for another reason, as we will be holding our Annual General meeting after the service. As last year, our Area Dean, Revd. Ruan Crew, will be in the chair.

Our traditional St. Bavo Choral Evensong is earlier than normal this year and will take place on Sunday evening 14 July at 7 pm. Do join us for this special service in this wonderful church!

The choir is also practising for its European Cathedral Week at Ripon Cathedral from Monday 22 until Sunday 28 July; earlier than usual this year! Our day off, or dumb day, will be the Thursday. Do join us if you are in the area! Our former chaplain Revd. Clive Jones will be singing with us during the week! He will also be taking our service in Haarlem on Sunday 19 May.

Our final choral service in our own church before the holidays will be Sunday 7 July, after which the choir will be on holiday until the end of August. Choral services will resume in September.

*Martin A. van Bleek,  
Organist and Choirmaster*



## ***Chaplaincy Matters***

The Chaplaincy Council met on 3 April, and has the following matters to report. The International Social Event was a big success and particular thanks go to Francis for organising the evening's games. In support of the aim to increase awareness of the church, this and other events were reported in Lifeline, on the Website and on social media.

Diana reported that the Lent Course ran successfully with a good turn out, and the Website events page now includes details of the Prayers for Healing and Compline.

On Finance, the audit and accounts for last year are in the final stages – final questions were addressed in a recent meeting between Jane Kelman (our auditor), Annemiek (our treasurer), George (our book-keeper) and Martin. These will be ready for the AGM, agreed for Sunday 16 June. Ruan Crew has confirmed his availability for this date and our congregation will have good notice.

The 'Chaplain vacancy pack' has been received and Council members will be able to study this and have their queries and comments ready for the next meeting, for Martin to then take to the Archdeacon, Paul Vrolijk.

No incidents were reported in respect of Safeguarding. It was agreed that our protocol should be published on the Website. It was agreed that the Emergency Plans document needs to be finalised. As Francis is soon to attend a refresher course, he can bring along sample documents to our next meeting to help finish the plans.

Renewal of the Electoral Roll will be taking place in the next few weeks.

The council were delighted to learn that Fr. Clive Jones, a previous Chaplain, will be visiting on 19 May and will take the service, to be followed by a social 'get together'.

The revision to the Chaplaincy logo was shown and given the go-ahead by the Council. The design company have confirmed that they are also able to assist in the redesign of our Website. Anni has recently taken over the running and updating of the Website, which until recently has been done by former members Jaap and Addy. The Council expressed their sincere appreciation to them for the quality and generous giving of their time, in creating the Website and in maintaining it until now, and also to Jaap for his time as valued Reader.

Regarding parking at the church, the parking officials at the Gemeente have received the required letter from Ruan but have not yet responded. Martin is following this up.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 29 May.

*Anni Kearney, Secretary*

## ***- exploring 'Daring to see God now'***

### **Session 1: The Good news of God**

An exploration of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. We were invited to share how we understood the 'good news' of Jesus coming into this world.

All 'evidence' tells us that God is not there, so how do we keep going? What makes us start to believe and how do we recognise the presence of God in this world?

We shared personal experiences: lacking security of the relevance of faith in our lives and sometimes recognising a unique process in which God's presence became manifest. An open discussion from hesitating or doubting to discovering a meaningful way of God being present. These sincere reflections created inspiring learnings.

### **Session 2: The time is now**

How to understand worldwide dilemmas or evil developments? Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor wrote about this during WW2 that '... there is no cheap grace...'

In our time sometimes God seems absent. If the time is truly now, then why has nothing changed? This question contributed to sharing: how we see God acting in our lives and/or in our society? We heard experiences from each other about 'creating space' to look for the presence of the Creator. By listening to individual circumstances, we discovered that God wants to be present in our lives and to be manifest in societal conflicts. It was a privilege to express our spiritual stories, including doubts and unbelief.

### **Session 3: God is present?!**

The kingdom of God has come near?! 'How would it be if we were to spot the glory of God, the character of God lived out in the here and now?'

We explored the theme of 'What is the DNA of God?' We felt it was essential to learn for each other how we ourselves believe and how we can contribute to making a difference. In our interaction we had the opportunity to share how we are sometimes being challenged to make a step in faith: trusting that changes are essential even if we are not (yet) able to see it for ourselves. By sharing, we were able to come alongside and build bridges by the impact of real happenings in our situations. In these moments of connection, we were able to hear about the presence of God including our confusion and questions.

## **Poets corner**

### **Spring** by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –  
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring  
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;  
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?  
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning  
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,  
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,  
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,  
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

This sonnet is made up of two parts – the first eight lines describing and celebrating the phenomena of spring and the concluding six-line unit relating these phenomena to God. If you want to read more about this poem after letting it work on you itself, you might like to turn to [www.interestingliterature.com](http://www.interestingliterature.com)



**Gerard Manley Hopkins** (28 July 1844 – 8 June 1889). He entered the Jesuit novitiate in 1868 and burned his youthful verses, determining “to write no more, as not belonging to my profession”!! Posthumously, however, he was regarded as perhaps the most original, experimental Victorian poet, with his emphasis on the musicality of the English language: his own new rhythms, repetition and alliteration.



## ***Ms. Miscellaneous***

With Easter Sunday behind us, April ending and May awaiting and the Ice Saints packing their bags to leave for at least six months the celebration season has started! 'What's to celebrate?' one might wonder with the misery in Sri Lanka and Mozambique, a burnt Nôtre Dame and the heaps of garbage left behind in parks after King's Day.

Lots, really, if one just opens one's senses to see, feel and taste it: new life everywhere (ducklings, goslings, lambkins, calves, foals etc.), trees blossoming with the promise of cherries, plums, apples and what not, flowers popping up everywhere, longer days with nicer temperatures, holidays, better humoured people, the first spinach and asparagus and other leafy spring and summer vegetables, bright coloured clothes, sunglasses, icecream, cold beers and fizzy drinks, strawberries and 40 days of Easter to celebrate that there is always hope and always a promise of things getting better – in this life or the next.

As Kool & The Gang so nicely composed in 1980:

*There's a party goin' on right here  
A celebration to last throughout the years  
So bring your good times, and your laughter too  
We gonna celebrate your party with you  
Come on now  
Celebration - Let's all celebrate and have a good time  
Celebration - We gonna celebrate and have a good time  
It's time to come together  
It's up to you, what's your pleasure  
Everyone around the world Come on!*

The party is the life given to us, our pleasure is the privilege God granted us to enjoy this given life and make the best of it. We owe it to Him and to each other. I wish you a festive spring and summer!

Veronique Ruiz

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## ***Church Secrets***

Another feature in the Church to test your powers of observation (imagination?):



*(answer back of Lifeline)*

## ***From the archives***

The 'Photos from the past' published in the last Lifeline prompted Corry Anne to unearth the following fine photo of the choir (taken around 1955):



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

so far identified

- 2 *Dorothy Tadema (choir mistress)*
- 4 *Mieke Warns*
- 6 *Leendert Huges (organist)*
- 8 *Corry Anne*
- 9 *Rev. Donald Mosman*
- 12 *Fien van Geer*



## ***Surrounded by God***

*(thanks to Theo Truter)*

*As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and for evermore. [Psalm 125:2]*

In a busy airport, a young mother struggled alone. Her toddler was in full tantrum mode - screaming, kicking, and refusing to board their plane. Overwhelmed and heavily pregnant, the burdened young mother finally gave up, and starting to cry. Suddenly some fellow women travellers, all strangers, surrounded the young mother and her child offering snacks and hugs. The loving group calmed the mother and child, who then boarded the plane without fuss.

This illustrates a beautiful truth from Psalm 125 : “As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people.” In this same way, God surrounds His people, supporting and standing guard over our souls “both now and for evermore.” So on tough days look up “unto the hills” as the psalmist puts it (Psalm 121:1). God awaits with steady help, hope, and everlasting love.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

<b>Sunday 5 May</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Choral Eucharist</b> (choir) - Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
<b>Wednesday 8 May</b>	<b>19.30</b>	<b>Prayers for Healing and Compline</b>
<b>Sunday 12 May</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b> (with hymns) - Rev. Robert Frede
Tuesday 14 May	11.30	Coffee and lunch at the home of Vicki de Koning
<b>Sunday 19 May</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Morning Prayer and Eucharist</b> (choir) - Rev. Clive Jones (former priest of Haarlem)
<b>Sunday 26 May</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Eucharist</b> (said) - Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
<b>Thursday 30 May</b> <b><i>Ascension Day</i></b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Old Catholic Eucharist</b> in Dutch - Rev. Robert Frede
<b>Sunday 2 June</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Eucharist</b> (said) - Rev. Robert Frede
<b>Sunday 9 June</b> <b><i>Pentecost</i></b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Choral Eucharist</b> (choir) - Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
Tuesday 11 June	11.30	Coffee and lunch at Restaurant de Molenplas, Schalkwijk
<b>Wednesday 12 June</b>	<b>19.30</b>	<b>Prayers for Healing and Compline</b>

- Sunday 16 June**                      **14.30**    **Evening Prayer and Eucharist**  
(choir)  
The **Annual General Meeting** will  
follow the service – all most welcome
- Sunday 23 June**                      **14.30**    **Eucharist** (said)  
- Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
- Sunday 30 June**                      **14.30**    **Choral Evensong** (choir)
- Sunday 7 July**                        **14.30**    **Choral Eucharist** (choir)  
- Rev. Robert Frede

*Church Secrets – one of the windows in the Church tower*



