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# Lifeline

## MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN HAARLEM

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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 Rev. Clive Jones*

My dear friends,

Firstly, I wish to thank you all for my welcome, when I came over to Haarlem recently - it was a joy to be with you all again, and to be greeted by so many familiar faces. Thank you all for being so kind and loving. And my thanks also to Martin and the choir for singing the chant to the psalm at the service, a chant which I had written for Diane and my marriage, now so many years ago, and sung at her funeral.

I write this letter as we approach the great Feast of Pentecost when Our Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled his promise to be with us until the end of time - he will send us the 'Comforter' to guide us, strengthen us, comfort us, and always give us hope for the future. But so often the future is shrouded in mystery and so it demands from each one of us a faith in the power of God to guide us until we come into the light again.

I am often reminded of the time when Diane and I were serving in the Chaplaincy of the Costa Blanca, and were making our way up to Normandy to the 'pavilion' we owned at the time. We had stayed for the night at a B&B in Northern Spain, and when we left the following morning we were immersed in cloud, and unable to see very far in front of us. However as we drove on, suddenly it was as if a veil had been lifted - the mist disappeared, the sun shone and everything was clear. Isn't this what our Faith is like - the Holy Spirit lifts the veil of uncertainty, of darkness or misery or despair, and we are able to see the way ahead.

Having now spent over 50 years in the Sacred Ministry, I have often spent time with people who are coming to the end of their lives and are in the need of reassurance of the promise which Christ has given us. A few days before Diane died, I was with her in hospital by her bed, and all of a sudden she said to me 'What is that strong light that is dazzling me?' I answered that there was no light that I could see; but she insisted that it was there, and then it left her. Was it

Christ's way of telling her that he would be waiting for her? Who knows - but it gave her and me great comfort and hope.

None of us really knows what lies ahead, other than the promise that our Blessed Lord has given us of eternal life. He said, 'I will go before you to prepare the way for you, that where I am you may be also'. But what is between? As I write this I am listening to a recording of Edward Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius' with Dame Janet Baker, Richard Lewis, Kim Borg, and conducted by Sir John Barbirolli. It is a piece that gives hope to every believing Christian soul, and tries to take away fear. As we grow older we realise that our time is getting shorter and we try to grow closer to God. I am at present visiting with the Sacraments each week a young man of 46 years of age, whom you have kindly put on your chaplaincy prayer list. Jonathan is suffering from Motor Neuron Disease, and gradually deteriorating. Yet, every time I go to see him on a Monday, he is always cheerful, always prayerful and always full of hope and joy. I marvel at this, and often come away with tears in my eyes as I think of what lies ahead for him, and how such a lovely young man has such a shortened life. Some people ask me why? Why does God allow such things to happen? Why is he being taken from his family and his friends in the prime of life - and there is no answer, other than that the Son of God died at the age of around 33, and he was sinless.

Perhaps the Feast of Pentecost can help us all to understand a little more. As a Franciscan, I often find that there are great riches in the daily reading of the Principles of the Third Order. There are three 'Notes' of the Order - humility, love and joy, and each one has an important part to play in our witness to Christ. Jesus shows us real humility in washing his disciples feet in that upper room. St. Bernard of Clairvaux said 'No spiritual house can stand for a moment except on the foundation of humility'. Jesus continually reminds us that love is the true distinguishing feature of all true disciples of Christ. As we grow deeper in love with Christ, so we grow deeper in love with our fellow Christians. Sadly the word 'love' has become so overused that it really

loses its real meaning of being prepared to sacrifice oneself; this is, after all, the meaning of the word in the King James version of the Bible - 'charity', when St. Paul talks about faith, hope and charity. 'The greatest', says St. Paul, 'is charity'. Sadly, the word itself has taken on a different meaning, as we see all the charity shops in our streets today. As we see the figure of Christ hanging on the cross in agony, we begin to see the real meaning of his love - his sacrifice. The third Note is joy and is a divine gift coming from union with God in Christ. It is even there in times of darkness and difficulty, giving cheerful courage in the face of disappointment and an inward serenity and confidence through sickness and suffering. This is what I see in that young man Jonathan – he is the perfect example of this, and I thank God for the gift which he has given to Jonathan.

As I mentioned above - these three 'Notes' are all God-given gifts - gifts of the Holy Spirit. If we are prepared to be emptied of self and surrender to Christ, we become channels of Grace through whom God's work can be done. I realise how far from that example I am; and yet isn't that, after all, why we are followers of Christ?

Coincidentally, at Morning Prayer this morning, the New Testament reading was from the First Letter of St. John when he writes 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love' (Chapter 4, from verse 7). What a different world we would live in if we all practised this teaching.

It is time to draw my thoughts to a close! I shall be seeing some of you again at Ripon at the end of July. In the meantime, may you all know God's **love** in your life, the **humility** that comes from him, and the **joy** of serving Our Blessed Lord through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

God bless you all, and with my love,  
in Christ, Clive.

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## **Music Matters**

On Trinity Sunday, 16 June, we had our special musical service for 'Music Sunday', a day focussing on the role of music in worship and the work of the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music). The collects and prayers were also connected to music. Music Sunday is celebrated throughout all RSCM affiliated churches. Hopefully some of the photos taken during our service will be featuring on the RSCM Central website and of course our own church website.

As mentioned before, 4 members of our choir will be travelling to Luxembourg for the annual Choral Festival on 6 July. This Service will be a Choral Evensong and will also be in celebration of the Grand Duke's birthday.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July we shall be singing our annual Choral Evensong in the St. Bavo on the Grote Markt in Haarlem at 7 pm. Do come and join us for that special service and enjoy some beautiful church music in a fantastic church!

The following week, Monday 21 till Sunday 28 July, our choir will be part of the European Cathedral Week at Ripon Cathedral. If you are in the area please do join us if you can (Thursday will be our day off). Sue and Fr. Derek Akker hope to be there too, and Fr. Clive will be singing with us for the whole week -that'll bring back memories of his chaplaincy at Haarlem!

So 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, our first Choral service being a Choral Eucharist on Sunday 1 September.

I and the choir wish you a very good holiday period and our thanks for your continued support!

*Martin A. van Bleek,  
Organist and Choirmaster*



Silence - Music

Be still and know that I am God

Silence is the music of the soul

and next to silence comes music, the closest to expressing what cannot be expressed

*(thanks to Marga)*

## ***Annual General Meeting***

The Annual General Meeting was held after the service on Sunday 16 June, and chaired by our Area Dean for The Netherlands, Rev. Ruan Crew.

It was a good meeting during which we focussed on the life of our church in the past year and also looked ahead to the future. The various reports showed the big diversity in activities within the Chaplaincy, and financial reports gave a healthy picture of the church's finances.

Despite its small active service attendance and membership the Chaplaincy is actively represented in the Synod, in services of Compline and Healing, organises house study groups and mission giving, and continues to have an active and enthusiastic choir. We are also blessed with a number of visiting priests who were willing to take services.

The issues of privacy and safeguarding continue to receive attention, to increase sensitivity and general awareness, during services and functions and in respect of publications and communications.

Concern was raised as to how accessible services were to non-Anglican visitors. This is a problem particularly as we do not have a permanent Chaplain, who would be aware of the needs of new-comers. Ruan suggested that more might be done, in the way of a simple paragraph in the service sheet as to the historical background of the particular service. Also an occasional pause to reflect on a reading or anthem.

In this connection all were asked to write down three words that characterised Haarlem Church. These words would then be used to form a 'word cloud', as part of the Parish Profile on the church website.

The initial result:



After the summer we hope to introduce our newly designed website with our new church logo.

## ***Ms. Miscellaneous***

### Sunbeam

As I'm writing this on one of the hottest June-days ever registered, I cannot stop thinking about Fr. Mattijs's Pentecost sermon. In this – as always – wonderful homily he showed us another side of the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit is usually portrayed as the apostles' fiery deliverer of inspiration and multilingualism. Fr. Mattijs added the image of a sunbeam to that portrait.

A sunbeam enlightening the soul and mind, giving hope, chasing away the cold and fear in our lives. But also a sunbeam mercilessly showing the dust particles in our very same soul, the things we preferably ignore but need tidying up.

And today the sunbeam image of the Holy Spirit comes to my mind as we suffer the intense, scorching heat. Even though it is also welcomed as the first sign that summer has arrived after a rather wet spring, this hot weather is extreme.

It shows us the dust particles of our neglect and selfish exploitation of our unique spot in the universe. Plant, insect and animal species die out every day, landscapes change, polar ice caps and glaciers are melting; we all know the newspaper headlines.

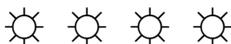
I feel like God is telling me to face the dust, to roll up my sleeves and to get to work in preserving Mother Earth. God the Father has given us the science and knowledge to turn things around. All I have to do is to get to work, as a good child doing my chores.

Saving energy by using public transport or my bike instead of my car, saving water by allowing the lawn to turn somewhat yellow, sowing wild flowers which attract bees and butterflies, eating less meat (or even better: eating less altogether), cooling my drinks a little less – here I (a Dutch Spaniard) can learn from the British in terms of my beer temperature – and using my Spanish hand-held fans instead of my Dutch grandmother's electric fan are a few things I can do this summer to help turn climate change around. All little bits help, I hope. Would you join me?

May the Holy Spirit be our guiding lantern on our way back to paradise on earth.

I wish us all a beautiful, sustainable summer!

Veronique Ruiz



## ***Service of Compline and Prayers for Healing***

### ***- Summer Break***

Please note that for the Service of Compline there is a summer break until September. However, updates and prayer requests will be sent regularly to those on the mailing list during July and August.

Looking ahead, the next Compline / Healing services will be on the following Wednesdays in the church hall from 19.30-20.15pm:

11 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December 2019.



### ***Biblical Prescription***

*A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.* Proverbs 17:22

Greg and Elizabeth have a regular “Joke Night” with their four school-age children. Each child brings jokes they have read or heard (or made up) during the week to tell at the dinner table. This tradition has created joyful memories of fun shared around the table. Greg and Elizabeth noticed the laughter was healthy for their children, lifting their spirits on difficult days.

The benefit of joyful conversation around the dinner table was observed by C. S. Lewis, who wrote, “The sun looks down on nothing half so good as a household laughing together over a meal”.

The wisdom of fostering a joyful heart is found in Proverbs 17:22, where we read, “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones”. The proverb offers a “prescription” to stimulate health and healing - allowing joy to fill our hearts, a medicine that costs little and yields great results.

We all need this biblical prescription. When we bring joy into our conversations, it can put a disagreement into perspective. It can help us to experience peace, even after a stressful test at school or a difficult day at work. Laughter among family and friends can create a safe place where we both know and feel that we’re loved.

*(with thanks to Theo Trutter)*



## *Church Secrets*

And another feature in the Church to test your powers of observation:



*(answer back of Lifeline)*



## *From the (very recent) archives*

Ladies lunch club in Beverwijk Cineworld February 2019



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Saturday 6 July		Anglican Choral Festival Evensong in Luxembourg
<b>Sunday 7 July</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Choral Eucharist</b> Rev. Robert Frede <i>retiring collection for Mission</i>
Tuesday 9 July	11.30	Coffee morning at the Beach Restaurant, Wijk aan Zee
<b>Sunday 14 July</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist with hymns</b> Rev. Robert Frede
	<b>19.00</b>	<b>Choral Evensong in St. Bavo Church, Grote Markt, Haarlem</b> sung by our Choir and The Anglican Singers and members of the European Cathedral Singers
<b>Sunday 21 July</b>	14.30	NO service
Monday 22 July till Sunday 28 July		Our choir, together with members of the European Cathedral Singers will sing the daily services in Ripon Cathedral (not 25 July)
<b>Sunday 28 July</b>	14.30	NO service
<b>Sunday 4 August</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist with hymns</b> Rev. Robert Frede <i>retiring collection for Mission</i>

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|---------------------------|--------------|---|
| <b>Sunday 11 August</b>   | <b>14.30</b> | <b>Eucharist (said)</b><br>Rev. Robert Frede  |
| Tuesday 13 August         | 11.30        | Coffee morning at restaurant De Kop van de Haven, IJmuiden  |
| <b>Sunday 18 August</b>   | <b>14.30</b> | <b>Eucharist (said)</b><br>Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger   |
| <b>Sunday 25 August</b>   | 14.30        | <b>Eucharist (said)</b><br>Rev. Joop Albers   |
| <b>Sunday 1 September</b> | <b>14.30</b> | <b>Choral Eucharist (with choir)</b><br><b>Rev. Joop Albers</b><br><i>retiring collection for Mission</i> |



Church secret – Altar rail

