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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**

by Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger

### *Do you renounce evil?*

At the beginning of this summer, I preached a sermon in Haarlem about a gospel reading in which we heard Jesus casting out demons (Luke 8.26-39). I pointed to the fact that the casting out of evil spirits – an “exorcism” – has in fact, in one way or another, always been part of the liturgy of baptism.

Originally, baptism was meant for adults, who converted from their pagan life to a life in Christ. Sometimes those adults brought their children to baptism as well. So the baptism of children has always been known to the Christian church, but in the wake of their parents’ decision to become a Christian household.

When adults come to baptism – in the Early Church *and* in our days – they will mostly come from a background outside the Christian faith, a *pagan* or *heathen* background. Or, as we would say in our time, a *secular* background.

Part of the preparation for baptism is catechism: learning about the Christian faith; learning stories from the bible; learning the course of the Christian year, learning what it means to believe in Father, Son and Holy Spirit; learning what it means to live a Christian life. But as the act of baptism approaches, this *learning* process gives way to taking a *decision* - the decision that someone wants to *believe* what they have learned; the decision that someone wants to belong to Christ; the decision that someone wants to be incorporated into Christ, into Christ’s body, the Church.

That is why the liturgy of baptism contains the following questions on taking a decision, and I quote from the baptismal liturgy of the Church of England (Common Worship, page 353):

*Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?  
I reject them.*

*Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?  
I renounce them. [...]*

*Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?*

*I turn to Christ. [...]*

*Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?*

*I come to Christ.*

In some liturgies for baptism, there is an actual "exorcism", a casting out of the devil, or of evil. Sometimes you have physically to turn away from the West, and turn towards the East, towards the rising sun, towards the risen Christ, towards Christ coming again in glory.

But why is it not enough to say, "I turn to Christ"? Why do we need such a "negative" thing as "renouncing evil"? Because turning to Christ, living with Christ, is impossible if we continue to live with evil. In our days, this is exactly as difficult as it was in the days of the Roman Empire. In *those* days, living with evil included having to worship the Emperor as a god. In *our* days, living with evil includes being completely immersed into a secular world, a non-Christian culture. Who can resist the evil assumption that living a *non-religious* life is "neutral", and that living a *Christian* life is something "extra" on top of our common, neutral life?

In reality, a non-religious life is *not* neutral, but non-religious! And a Christian life is not some religious "extra" on top of an otherwise secular life. Rather, a Christian life is a life lived in the constant awareness, from morning till evening, that we are living in *God's creation*, that everything we do and say and breathe is done *in God*.

We have therefore to say farewell to the evil assumptions of the secular world. But it is not for me to say what it means for each of you to renounce evil and to turn to Christ. I invite you to *talk* about it personally, in a pastoral conversation, or in a discussion group together. In a sermon, or in a letter like this, I have to confine myself to saying: 'we need to renounce evil, our evil spirits have to be cast out, so that we are free and open to turn *wholeheartedly* to Jesus Christ.

Mattijs Ploeger



## ***Chaplaincy Matters***

During the AGM in June a number of areas had been identified to be addressed in the coming months by the Council, for which a Committee for Change and Development had been set up. In particular these were:

1. Feedback from visitors, to see how people felt when they visit the church for the first time. Initial reactions had indicated the importance of someone being around by the door, offering a welcome and information, liturgical and social, to visitors less familiar with (an Anglican) church. Ideas and help in this were welcome.
2. Improved visibility in the local community, and information on church, choir and social activities.
3. Practical 'marketing' material, such as banners and handouts for the church entrance, expat fairs, and the like.

As identified during the AGM, the Electoral Roll had been updated by e-mail during the summer, and forms will continue to be available in church.

A revised profile for a future Chaplain is being developed.

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## ***Service of Compline and Prayers for Healing, Autumn 2019***

The Service of Compline and Prayers for Healing takes place on the second Wednesday of each month in the church hall from 19.30 - 20.15: on 11 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December

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## ***Volunteers Autumn 2019***

There are three lists for volunteers on the church notice board in the church hall.

- **Tea Rota:** volunteers to make tea after the service on Sundays and to help by bringing biscuits or English tea.
- **Flower Rota:** if you would like to commemorate a birthday, anniversary or specific occasion, please add your name to the list on that date.
- **Visitor Rota:** to welcome visitors to the church and give out books for the service.

If you would be willing to help, please put your name on one of the lists. This would be much appreciated. Thank you.



## ***Farewell:***

After Evening Prayer last Sunday 25 August we sadly said farewell to Jins and Teresa, who have worshipped with us very regularly for a couple of years, and are moving shortly to Voorschoten. We shall miss them, but our loss is Voorschoten's gain! We wish them God's speed in their future.



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## ***Music Matters***

Jos Beishuizen

As our Music Director enjoys a short holiday, we look back on the choir's summer break, during which, as it has done for the last 20 years as part of the European Cathedral Singers (E.C.S.), it visited one of the beautiful cathedrals in England, singing the services there for a week, whilst their own choir has its holiday. This year we spent the week in Ripon.

In 1969 Ripon was disconnected from England's impeccable railway network, so that on arriving at Bradford-Leeds Airport, you have to find an appropriate means to get to Ripon. There is a reasonable but slow bus service, but having met up with three other tenors at the airports, Kees, Henk and Philip, we 4 tenors fitted very elegantly and appropriately in a taxi. The driver happened to know the road very well, and drove at an appropriate speed, so before we had the chance to start practising an anthem or psalm, we already arrived at our destination.



Ripon is a charming little town or, more appropriately, city, as its main church is a cathedral. Several of the choir stayed at the Unicorn, an old inn on the Marketplace. Downstairs a lively pub, upstairs old-fashioned, comfortable rooms.



Looking out to the facade of the former Town Hall, you can still read the text "Except the Lord keep ye cittie ye wakeman waketh in vain" (Psalm 127). This text refers to the Horn-blower (wakeman) who, for several hundred years, every night at 9pm, blows a horn at the centre of the Marketplace. This custom continues to this day, apparently every day,

whatever the weather. I did not personally witness this ancient custom, probably because I was always recovering from the day's Evensong in one of the local pubs.

For me, a week of practicing and singing Choral Evensong, with Eucharist on Sunday, is like a week of mountain climbing or sailing: you are completely absorbed by an activity that is both exciting and strenuous.

As conductor Martin demands a lot from us - apart from consonants, proper endings, tone and diction, he tries to turn our voices into music, which does make sense! After a full day of rehearsal in the song school, we practice for half an hour in the stalls, just before the Evensong starts. This is a moment full of tension, because the conditions of the sung school and the church are very different. When, during this 'dress rehearsal', Martin, after several attempts, finally concludes that what we produce is beginning to sound like music, we all feel very satisfied.

Not only by the Director of Music, but the choir is pushed to even higher levels of performance by the organist. For the first half of the week James Pollard provided an inspiring and solid rock to lean on. He never fails and has always the right feeling for what is appropriate to play, given the conditions of organ and church, the intentions of the conductor, and the qualities of the choir. For the second half of the week we were treated to the rather virtuoso Peter Shepard. He has accompanied us previously a couple of times, and even arranged a singing weekend in Florence, Italy, when he stayed there as a student. Peter has two amazing characteristics: he is a brilliant musician, and he sometimes disappears. The latter characteristic makes working with him occasionally a bit hazardous and stressful for Martin. But listening to his voluntaries makes it worth it! This year, there was only one hiccup, when we were ready to rehearse in the nave, but no Peter. The mobile telephone to the rescue found Peter in the music school trying to find a very beloved pencil. And after the final Sunday Evensong, Peter's voluntary was the splendid Finale to Vierne's second symphony, played by heart, and giving rise to a spontaneous applause *by the clergy*.

Hopefully these impressions make it clear how much I enjoyed this year's visiting choir trip to Ripon. It would be fair to add that this pleasure was enhanced by the nice evenings spent with other choir members in pubs and restaurants. Apart from singing, we are also able to talk and share little concerns and joys. As Purcell wrote, music really is the food of love.

Coda:

Sung services in Haarlem begin again on Sunday 1 September, and there will be Choral Evensong on 29 September!





Music or Silence ?

Be still and know that I am God



Let nothing trouble you  
let nothing frighten you  
everything passes;  
God does not change;  
With patience  
one can do everything.  
Whoever has God  
lacks nothing,  
God alone is enough.



Just as the graveside service finished, there was a distant lightning flash accompanied by a tremendous burst of rumbling thunder.

The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said:

“Well, she’s there and it’s His problem now”.

*(all thanks to Marga)*



## ***Church Secrets***

Another feature in the Church to test your powers of observation:



*(answer back of Lifeline)*

## ***Motor Neurone Disease*** from Rev. Clive Jones

I think most readers of Lifeline will know that I was Chaplain in Haarlem for several years, with my wife Diane, until I retired to Compton, Reading, helping to serve the local community as part of the Hermitage Team. When my dear Diane died unexpectedly from cancer 18 months ago I became more involved in supporting the sick and terminally ill. One of these was a young man suffering from MND, Jonathan Edwards, whom I visited each week with the Sacrament. Jonathan was a gentle, kind, loving young man, with a very deep faith, and one could not help but love him for his patience and the acceptance of this disease. Jonathan died on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> July, aged 47.

My mission now is to make people aware of this illness, and to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. There are numerous appeals for many funds, but, sadly, very little is heard about Motor Neurone Disease and its terrible effect on the individual and family. Wondering what I could do to raise awareness of MND and funds for the Association, my grandson mentioned sky diving. After a moment's hesitation I thought that this would be a great way of attracting attention!

I am therefore going to Sky Dive, in memory of Jonathan, and on behalf of the Motor Neurone Disease Association on

Thursday, September 26th. 2019

I appeal to you all to help me raise a large sum for the MND Association.

You can give either on Sponsor Forms in various places, or on line

<https://www.justgiving.com/Clive-Jones10-SKYDIVE>

and it can be gift-aided if you are a tax payer.

The appeal has now been going for a month, and has reached over £3,000 - this is a fantastic response, and I still have a month to go. Thank you all who have contributed so far - I shall try to do justice to this in my dive!

Thank you in anticipation for your further help - and may those who are doing research find the cause of this terrible illness and the cure that is needed.

*My love and blessing, Clive*

## ***Ms. Miscellaneous***

### *St. Christopher*

When I was about 7 years old in primary school we read the story of St. Christopher: as I recall, a lumberjack who wanted to serve the king, but who did not want his services. Because the king feared the devil, Christopher decided to serve Satan instead; and because the devil feared Christ, Christopher finally decided to serve Him. Following the advice of a local hermit he started to carry travelers across the river. We all know how the legend develops: one day he carries Jesus himself – increasing in weight with every step – across, thus becoming the patron saint of travelers (and at the same time receiving the name of Christopher – carrier of Christ).

I always loved this story. My parents had and have an image of St. Christopher in their car and I carry one in my purse. Two days ago I gave it to my partner to protect him on his solo-drive from Porquera del Butrón to Amsterdam (some 1500 km...). As I write this, I can report that Christopher guarded him excellently – he arrived in Amsterdam safe and sound after a 16 hour journey.

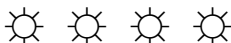
Tomorrow I'm taking my daughter to the airport in Bilbao for her flight back home, and next week my parents and I will fly back to The Netherlands. Hopefully St. Christopher will guard these travels too.

In the meantime I witness a parallel journey in the figurative sense (or is it?). I see my father nearing his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, struggling more with every physical step and – to his ultimate frustration – with his failing short term memory and small everyday issues becoming major problems. The burden of old age is weighing on him a bit more every day, even though he still enjoys a stroll around the village, a good meal and a game of cards. I see in him a kind of St Christopher, but at the same time I would so much like to see him – or perhaps more his burden and troubles – being carried. The people around him try to help him where and how we can (even though he dismisses us quite curtly regularly...), but at the end of the day he – as we all – will have to carry his own burden to the other side. I just hope St. Christopher will help him a bit.

As we all are coming back from short or longer travels and holidays, ready to exchange stories and preparing for fall and winter, I hope Christopher will inspire us to carry our own burdens and to help other carry theirs in the months ahead. Many hands make heavy weights light, after all!

Hope to see you again soon!

Veronique Ruiz



## ***From Henry and Priya in India***

Please convey our love to all our Haarlem church members.

We are both doing well by God's grace, and each day Christ is teaching us his ways. Sometimes it is difficult, but the moment we let go our ego and allow the will of God to take place in our life it becomes very easy, joyful and comfortable. Each day is a learning! Our Bible study fellowship group is also going very well by His grace.

How is Haarlem church, and how are things inside church, are the members growing in faith? Here in India there is more and more materialism inside churches, wrong teaching, false miracles in the name of Jesus, etc. The world seems to be running madly towards an unfocused goal leading to nothing, and we are caught in between. But we are promised in Romans 8:28 "we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." His grace sustains us.

Keep us in your prayers and we too will pray for you.

Our love to all our church members.

Henry, Priya



## ***Advent Discussion Group November 2019***

The York Course for Advent is entitled **Life to the Full!** It is a four session ecumenical course for discussion groups.

"Live life to the max!!" is a phrase that is often heard and which we would all like to experience. This course explores what it might actually mean to experience fullness in the midst of our busy lives. What does it look like? Why does it seem so elusive? What causes us to run on empty? And how can we encourage each other to experience this fullness?

Everyone is welcome to join one or all sessions to explore this subject. There will be a list on the church notice board in the church hall with the dates for you sign up.

The Advent Discussion group will take place in the church hall once a week on Thursday evenings from 20.00-21.30 on 7, 14, 21, 28 November. For further details, please contact Diana Dammer.



## Poets Corner –

*A salutary poem for a new season of activity in church and on other fronts - will we still make time to 'stand and stare'?*

**"LEISURE"** - by Wm. Henry Davies

What is this life if, full of care,  
we have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs  
and stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,  
where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,  
streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
and watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can  
enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life is this if, full of care,  
we have no time to stand and stare.

William Henry Davies (1871-1940) is to be considered as the poet of the tramps. Born at Newport, Wales in the UK, Davies lived the life of a vagabond and a pedlar. He wrote poetry and, eventually, he determined to print his own book and did so with the little money he earned panhandling. He became popular thanks to George Bernard Shaw.

*If you like this poem, try learning a couple of lines by heart and rehearsing them every day.*



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

- |                            |              |   |
|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| <b>Sunday 1 September</b>  | <b>14.30</b> | <b>Choral Eucharist (choir)</b><br>- Rev. Joop Albers<br><i>retiring collections for Mission</i>    |
| <b>Sunday 8 September</b>  | <b>14.30</b> | <b>Sung Eucharist with hymns</b><br>- Rev. Robert Frede   |
| Tuesday 10 September       | 11.30        | Ladies' Lunch at Cineworld Restaurant<br>Beverwijk  |
| Wednesday 11 September     | 19.30        | Prayers for Healing and Compline  |
| <b>Sunday 15 September</b> | <b>14.30</b> | <b>Morning Prayer and Eucharist<br/>(choir)</b> - Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger                          |
| <b>Sunday 22 September</b> | <b>14.30</b> | <b>Eucharist (said)</b><br>- Rev. Robert Frede  |
| <b>Sunday 29 September</b> | <b>14.30</b> | <b>Choral Evensong (choir)</b><br>- Rev. Jake Dejonge<br>The Church Choir & The Anglican<br>Singers |
| <b>Sunday 6 October</b>    | <b>14.30</b> | <b>Eucharist (said)</b><br>- Rev. Canon Jake Dejonge<br><i>retiring collection for Mission</i>      |
| Tuesday 8 October          | 11.30        | Ladies' Lunch at Restaurant Molenplas,<br>Waertmolenpad 1 Haarlem, Schalkwijk                       |

Wednesday 9 October	19.30	Prayers for Healing and Compline
<b>Sunday 13 October</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist with hymns</b> - Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
<b>Sunday 20 October</b> <i>Harvest Festival</i>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Harvest Choral Eucharist (choir)</b> - Rev. Robert Frede. The Old Catholic congregation are our guests in this service. Harvest Tea following this service.
<b>Sunday 27 October</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Eucharist (said)</b> - Rev. Robert Frede
<b>Sunday 3 November</b> <i>All Saints</i>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>Choral Eucharist (choir)</b> - Rev. Canon Jake Dejonge

Church secret – a pew-end



Choral Evensong in Haarlem on 20 June



*(by courtesy of James Kearney)*

