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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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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>

What is a Saint?

”Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you”, “do to others as you would have them do to you”.

This is what we heard from St. Luke’s gospel on All Saints Day, celebrating the unknown saints whose names we do not know. But who then are these saints who we celebrate on that high feast? Are we speaking of people who have never done anything wrong? or people who have done a lot of good, or perhaps people who have been praying a lot?

All Saints is a feast that has grown from the conviction of ordinary believers. Faithful people know, almost instinctively, that there are many more saints than those listed on the calendar of the church, many more than those for whom there is an appointed holy day of remembrance. But What is a Saint? A parish priest put this question to his catechism class - one of the children answered: ‘They are people that the light shines through’. The child obviously thought of the stained glass windows in church of saints, like we have here, with transparent images, people who let the light shine through. In this church in Haarlem we have St. Anne and St. Mary, mother and daughter; grandmother and mother of Jesus, our Lord.

But how beautifully put by that child really. Saints are people through whom God’s light comes into our lives. And such people we all do know. People who radiate love and goodness, and peace and joy, people who show us a little what God is like. Saints are folk who live their lives so closely bound up with God that they radiate a bit of God’s light, people who in a sense make God visible; they are a bit like God - saints let God’s light shine through.

But how does this show in a person’s behaviour, on, say a Monday morning? One of the saints who does feature on the church’s calendar was once asked this question. “What must I do to become a saint?” And the answer he got was: “Try to close the doors gently”. No hour-long prayer times; no extra and very strict days of fasting;

no outstanding heroic deeds – just to close the doors gently. I am sure you understand what was meant with this expression; today's gospel says about the same: be sensitive to the world around you, the way you treat people; do not elbow your way through; be content with what you have; be blessed by being warm-hearted towards others. Sainthood does not usually come through exceptional and great deeds; no, sainthood is often woven with many little, even tiny, things: one thread a day as it were. It looks like a tapestry that is being woven, not seen from the front, but from behind. On the back you see nothing but a tangle of threads and knots. You cannot understand a thing of it and if you were to ask, 'Show me the picture or the scene', the artist would probably say, 'Wait till it is finished'; only then can you really see the picture as it has turned out. That is also the way it is with our lives. God is not finished with us yet! With God's help we are weaving our lives, thread by thread, knot by knot. A time will come when we will see the tapestry of our lives from the front, the picture God has made of our lives, a blessing to others.

"Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who abuse you", "do to others as you would have them do to you". It often takes a whole lot of living and of experience before we learn to choose these directions only a little bit ... But in the long run saints are happy people and they bring happiness to others because they have centred their lives on Jesus Christ and, in pain and sorrow, in confusion and worry, they do let some light through, the light of the Eternal One, the light of our God. AMEN.

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Church Secrets

Where can you see this? - another feature in the Church to test your powers of observation / imagination:

(answer further in Lifeline)



Music Matters

After the very hectic Advent and Christmas period we are now in 2020! A New Year has begun! Each year the pace of the world around us seems to increase. Fortunately the period between Advent and Christmas included many moments for us to reflect on the importance of the Christmas story and the birth of our Saviour.

After practising for Advent and Christmas since September, we began Advent with our Advent Carol Service presided over by Fr. Robert, followed by our annual Carol Concert, the Christmas Bring and Buy and Advent Tea, carol singing at Middachten Castle, and the Carol Service in the Dorpskerk of Rheden. At Middachten we were back on the Grand Staircase to sing our carols. As usual all the rooms of the castle were beautifully decorated and the stalls held many enticing items for us to buy, including the pâtés and homemade jams!

Our final practice for Haarlem was on Sunday afternoon 22 December, which was also Andrew's birthday! So after the practice we all went to have a drink to celebrate Andrew's and Petra's (17/12) birthdays.

On Christmas Eve we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in our Christmas Choral Eucharist with Fr Jake DeJonge at 6pm, followed at 8pm by our Carol Service with Fr Robert Frede. The church was, as always, packed with a congregation that sang the well-known carols with great enthusiasm, and very attentive in following the choir's tempi and dynamics! Our own committed church choir, together with the Anglican Singers, were on top form and sang the solo items very well indeed!

The combination of Word and Music is a powerful way to bring the Christmas message across to both our church community and the large Dutch congregation present. The format of the Nine Lessons and Carols which was devised a 101 years ago is still proving its worth and gaining popularity across this country.

This year we had James Pollard playing for all our Haarlem Advent and Christmas services. Jas Hutchinson-Bazely played for the Carol Concert and Carol Service in Rheden. A big thank you to both organists for their playing and support of the choir!

Thanks too for your support at these services and other musical events, and of course a big thank you to the choir for their unstinting commitment! There will be some photos of the Advent/Christmas events on the website.

On 5 January our choir will take part in Bishop Dick Schoon's New Year's Vespers which follow our own first Choral Eucharist of 2020. After this service we will definitely put the angels and shepherds back to bed until the end of August this year!

After the Christmas break the choir will begin preparing for Passiontide and Easter, Easter Sunday being on the 12st of April, preceded by Good Friday on 10 April. On Palm Sunday we will be joining our Old Catholic Friends for the joint service.

The choir will be singing its usual services on those holy days, but more news about those services and the music in the next issue of Lifeline.

Another important date is Sunday 9 February when we will be joining the Old Catholic congregation in celebrating Fr. Robert Frede's 25th anniversary as priest.

Advance notice:

It seems likely that Haarlem will be hosting the annual Archdeaconry Choral Festival this year, the theme being: 'Through sacrifice to freedom', as we will be celebrating 75 years of the liberation of Europe. The proposed date is Saturday 20 June or the Saturday before.

The European Cathedral Singers will be singing in Portsmouth Cathedral from 20 to 26 July. Watch this space for more news on dates and venues!

A very happy, healthy and musical 2020 to you all!

*Martin A. van Bleek,
Organist and choirmaster*



Council News

The council recently had a pot luck supper/meeting with Paul Vrolijk, Arch Deacon of North West Europe. As well as enjoying a great meal we were also able to show Paul the draft copy of the Parish Profile and discuss next steps regarding advertising for a new Chaplain. We received great feedback and now look forward to having some time over the Christmas holidays to complete the Parish Profile and draft the other documents required. Paul also reacted enthusiastically to a sneak preview of our new website and our increased activity through social media and other publicity – least of all our very smart banners! (which hopefully you've all seen now in the entrance to the church!)



Ms. Miscellaneous

It all comes down to music!

As 2019 ticks away greyly, another decennium is nearing fast, 2020 is knocking at the door. Outside rain drizzles down as great and blue tits noisily fly in and out the peanut butter jar hanging at my shed. Our bunny rabbit Nico hops around my chair in the living room, trying not to slip on the smooth laminate flooring.

I love the sounds in and around my home, I find them comforting, uplifting, inspiring; like music. Pondering the sound of music I see images in my head of the musical highlights of the past year. The choir weekend in hot Biezen-Mortel, the Bavo evensong, writing documents on asbestos policy with Rammstein's Diamant in my ears, the village festival in Porquera in the summer with a stone deaf sound technician, the little children singing Sint Maarten songs at the door with their self-made lanterns, dripping with rain and the recent concert of New Model Army at the Melkweg, to name a few.

At all those instances and events music was the glue between the people present. In all their forms and sizes, with all their different preferences and characters. For a moment those forms, sizes, preferences and characters did not matter, all that counted was sharing in the music. Music is the best communicator, because God left it alone when He invented languages when we humans became too arrogant in Babel. Music is of all times, of all nations, of all species – even extraterrestrial ones. E.T. phoned home with a contraption which had a toy lettering, sound making keyboard in it and in 'Close encounters of the third kind' the communication with the aliens took off with a G A F F(8vb) C theme.

And around baby Jesus's birth it's all music that sounds, people huddled up in bulging pews, singing about peace on earth, good will towards men. In the end, it all comes down to music.

I wish us all a musical 2020, to keep us happy, healthy and mild.

Veronique Ruiz



Proceeds Advent Bring and Buy

On Sunday 8 December we held our annual Advent Tea and Bring & Buy.

Thank you for all your contributions, both to the tea and to the B&B.

Thanks also for the team selling the raffle tickets!

This year we managed to raise **€ 526.85!** The proceeds will be divided between the choir fund and the general church fund. The Bring & Buy Raffle made **€ 119.00** for the Flower fund.

Thank you all so much for your generosity!

Poets Corner –

Abou Ben Adhem

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw, within the moonlight in his room,
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,
An angel writing in a book of gold:-
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the presence in the room he said,
'What writest thou?' The vision raised its head,
And with a look made of all sweet accord,
Answered, 'The names of those who love the Lord'.
'And is mine one?' said Abou. 'Nay, not so',
Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
But cheerily still; and said, 'I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow men'.
The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night
It came again with a great wakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God had blest,
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.
Leigh Hunt (1784 – 1859)

This was my Father's favourite poem, himself feeling the desire to help people, and troubled by the apparent lack of charity shown by some others [sadly sometimes amongst church people.] *Christine B.*



Silence

Uncrowd my heart, O God
until your silence speaks
in your still, small voice.
Turn me
from the hearing of words
and the making of words
and the confusion of much speaking
to listening
waiting
stillness
silence.

(with thanks to Marga Beekman)

What's on?

I expect you've all read in the church diary that the ladies go out for lunch together on the second Tuesday of each month. Have you any idea of how that all began and how it's developed from coffee into lunch?

When our ladies were mothers of small children, there was a kind of afternoon guild meeting for the grandmothers and equals! The younger mothers started meeting for coffee at each other's houses making sure that they were back in their home area in time to pick their children up for lunch at home and then take them back for afternoon school. Mothers' lives were determined by school times during the week, no lunch at school or anything like that.

But as they should, children grew up and the necessity for being at the school gate on time gradually disappeared. Mothers became grandmothers but the monthly need for being together as a kind of support group remained. Twelve people in the living room of some of the homes for the elderly made the rooms seem too small for comfort. In addition, making coffee and tea in a coffee pot for a smaller family meant that the hostess was always running to and fro, making fresh filter coffee. Lovely!

A couple of years ago someone came up with the bright idea of meeting somewhere where coffee, tea and other drinks were always on the menu and there was always someone to take your order and bring what you want to table. Luxury! Our meetings turned from coffee and tea into lunches! It has become an important date in everyone's diaries, still the second Tuesday of the month. In January, on 14th, we'll be meeting in the south of our large area, (Hillegom to Heemskerk) at Restaurant de Molenplas in Schalkwijk and in February it will be the Cineworld restaurant in Beverwijk, easy to get to and we are always made very welcome.

We haven't got a name, you don't have to pay subscription fees but if you fit into our group you're always welcome, no airs and graces, just being together.

True to our nature, every month we contribute to a charity and Unicef appeals to everyone. Based on the guilder of yore, that means 50 eurocents a month but it is voluntary. Three times a year our Unicef tin gets emptied and the money is sent to one of the Unicef appeals.

The new European AVG law protecting everyone's privacy forbids info about people in general but next time you might find out a bit more about 'The Ladies.'

Hilary Selles

solutions to HARVEST ANAGRAMS

1	LOIS	Soil
2	DIELY	Yield
3	ETNIGAV	Vintage
4	REDUCOP	Produce
5	VETARHS	Harvest
6	KIPNGIC	Picking
7	GINGINHATER	Ingathering

11	TUTUPO	Output
12	TRENRU	Return
13	HSEHRTNIG	Threshing
14	HITTL	Tilth
15	NIPRAGE	Pairing
16	SHOOOTEURES	Storehouse
17	EGRNAR	Garner

15	MOOYRAGN	Agronomy
16	AARLEB	Arable
17	SALVGEETEB	Vegetables
18	PROC	Crop
19	YARRNAG	Granary
20	HIGNOPLUG	Ploughing

solutions to HARVEST CRYPTOGRAMS

1.	T	R	A	C	T	O	R		
2.	P	L	U	M	S				
3.	B	A	R	N					
4.	W	H	E	A	T				
5.	H	A	R	V	E	S	T		
6.	O	R	C	H	A	R	D		
7.	F	I	E	L	D				
8.	T	U	R	N	I	P	S		
9.	G	A	R	N	I	S	H		
10.	H	O	P	E	S				
11.	D	E	S	P	A	I	R	E	D
12.	S	E	A	S	O	N	S		
13.	P	I	N	E	A	P	P	L	E
14.	S	U	L	T	A	N	A		
15.	M	A	R	R	O	W			
16.	B	A	R	L	E	Y			
17.	S	H	A	L	L	O	T		
18.	N	E	S	T					
19.	L	U	N	C	H	E	O	N	
20.	S	A	L	A	D				

- Messed up cart on hill leads to another vehicle
- Initially put leeks under my sausages for fruit
- Block direction to building
- Who lost nothing and ate pickled crop
- Has old clergyman in muddle within for festival
- Fantasy creature with difficult place for picking
- Subject, catch, meadow
- Rotate half tulips into vegetables
- Ring ash about parsley for example
- Dreams of first prize in garden tools
- Gave up hope of diversifying dried peas
- Flavours for different times of year
- Fruit provides nipper with Eden's forbidden
- Dried fruit included in Result Analysis
- Male sheep goes back to line for a gourd
- Poet uses Charlie for cereal rhyme
- That's yer lot! Listen to an onion!
- Sent out to where an egg may be found
- Hon. Uncle arranged a meal
- South African boy makes a healthy option!

Boxing Day Drinks

Our traditional Boxing Day drinks were enjoyed in the Church Hall this year – ‘was very gezellig’ !



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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|---|--------------|--|
| Sunday 5 January
<i>Epiphany</i> | 14.30 | Choral Eucharist (with choir)
– Rev. Robert Frede |
| | 16.00 | Old Catholic Vespers
with Bishop Dirk Jan Schoon.
Our choir will also participate in this
service
<i>New year's reception after this service</i>
<i>- you are most welcome</i> |
| Wednesday 8 January | 19.30 | Prayers for Healing and Compline |
| Sunday 12 January | 14.30 | Sung Eucharist with hymns
– Rev. Canon Jake Dejonge |
| Tuesday 14 January | 11-30 | Ladies' Lunch at the Molenplas |
| Sunday 19 January | 11.00 | Ecumenical Service for Unity
in St. Bavo R.C.Cathedral,
Leidsevaart, Haarlem, with all
member churches of the Haarlem
Council of Churches - <i>all welcome</i> |
| | 14.30 | Evening Prayer and Eucharist
(with choir)
– Rev. Dr. Koenraad Ouwens |
| Sunday 26 January | 14.30 | Eucharist (said) - Rev. Robert Frede |
| Sunday 2 February
<i>Presentation of Christ
in the Temple</i> | 14.30 | Choral Eucharist (with choir)
– Rev. Robert Frede |

- Sunday 9 February** **14.30** **Old Catholic Eucharist** on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of the Reverend Robert Frede. Our choir will also participate in this service - *you are most welcome* (no Anglican service)
- Tuesday 11 February 11.30 Ladies' coffee and lunch at the Cineworld restaurant Beverwijk
- Wednesday 12 February 19.30 Prayers for Healing and Compline
- Sunday 16 February** **14.30** **Morning Prayer and Eucharist (with choir)** - Rev.Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
- Sunday 23 February** **14.30** **Eucharist (said)**
- Rev. Canon Jake Dejonge
- Wednesday 26 February** **19.30** **Old Catholic Eucharist** on Ash Wednesday
Ash Wednesday
- Sunday 1 March** **14.30** **Choral Eucharist (with choir)** - Rev. Dr. Mattijs Ploeger

Church secret – just above the front door



