



Annual General Meeting 2020
Chaplaincy of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Utrecht

17.30hrs, 25th October, 2020
by Zoom

Agenda and
Reports on the life of the Church
including **Minutes of Chaplaincy AGM 24 March 2019**

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Agenda for the Annual General Meeting 2020
Chaplaincy of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Utrecht
to be held at
17.30hrs, 25th October, 2020
by Zoom

Instructions for log-in will be sent prior to the meeting by e-mail

1. Opening

Welcome and prayer from Fr David Phillips

2. Record of Attendance and Apologies

Please sign the attendance list only if you are **entitled to a vote** in the meeting.

3. Agreement of agenda

4. Minutes

Approve the Minutes of the Chaplaincy Annual General Meeting 2019,
with any corrections and matters arising

5. Statement of the Electoral Roll for the Utrecht Chaplaincy

Electoral Roll Total: 146 - Utrecht 98; Zwolle 14; Groningen 34.

6. Chaplains' briefings

Holy Trinity, Utrecht -	Fr David Phillips – Delivered verbally
Grace Church, Groningen	Fr Sam Van Leer – Report attached

7. Reports on the life of the Church (from 2019)

- a) Churchwardens' Report – including Inventory and Logbook
and an update on all the reports for 2019 since Covid
- b) Archdeaconry Synod Report
- c) Chaplaincy Safeguarding Report – verbal update
- d) Ecumenical Report
- e) Anglican Church Zwolle
- f) Grace Church Groningen
- g) Building Maintenance Committee Report
- h) Bible Studies Report
- i) Student Ministry Report
- j) Young Persons' and Children's Ministry Report
- k) Music Ministry Report

8. Treasurer's Report

- a) Independent Examiners' Report
- b) Approval of 2019 General Accounts
- c) Approval of 2020 Budget and Treasurer's Update
- d) Report from Charitable Giving Committee
- e) Appointment of Independent Examiners
Guus de Bie and Dirk Jan Engel have agreed to act as examiners.



9. Postal Voting

Postal voting may be used at the AGM if resolved at the previous meeting. During the uncertain times we are in with Covid-19, it seems prudent to have this facility available for future AGM's, under the Church Representation Rules: M11

Postal voting

M11(1) *The annual meeting may resolve that a person entitled to attend the meeting and vote in the election of parochial representatives of the laity may apply on Form M2 for a postal vote.*

(2) A resolution under this Rule is valid only if it is approved by at least two-thirds of those present and voting at the meeting; and it does not take effect until the next annual meeting.

The following proposal is made:

This meeting resolves to allow Postal Voting under the Church Representation Rules M11, to be used only when circumstances make it impossible for personal attendance at the AGM.

Prop: SU; Sec: KdB

10. Elections and Appointments

All seconded nominations for posts shall be received by the Secretary at least 8 days prior to the date of the AGM.

- a) **Election of Archdeacons Representatives:** (3) (3yr term)
Sandra Sue; Adrian Los; Simon Urquhart
- b) **Lay council members:** (8) (1yr term)
Judy Miller; Anne Gast-Noordegraaf; Juliette Gentenaar; Kit de Bolster-Diggs;
Beth Houdijk; Jegan Masanam; Marieke Sybrandi
- c) **Groningen Leadership Team:** Rev Sam Van Leer, Josue Almansa, Maike Jansen, Debora Kramer, Maaike Kroese, Caroline Ottink, Dragos Stefanescu.
- d) **Zwolle Leadership Team:** Rev David Phillips, Rev Grant Crowe, Anne van der Belt, Cecilia Kopenrade, Adriaan Letoit.
- e) **Churchwardens:** (2) (1yr term)
Adrian Los; Frank Fink-Jensen

11. Any Other Business

- **Notice of any matters to be considered must be received by the Chaplaincy Secretary 48hrs before the meeting**

12. Closure of meeting with prayer

Attached Papers

Minutes of Chaplaincy AGM 24 March 2019

Appended

Treasurer's Report, Financial Statements, Budget Proposal and Auditors' Reports

Appended

Reports on the life of the Church

Attached

- **The new Chaplaincy Council will meet at 20.00hrs, Wednesday 11 November**
 - **Appoint a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, confirm Safeguarding Officer and Assistant, Electoral Roll Officer and members of the Charitable Giving Committee.**
 - **Appoint to Standing Committee and Building Maintenance Committee.**



Minutes of the Chaplaincy Annual General Meeting 2019
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Chaplaincy of Utrecht, Groningen and Zwolle
held on 26th May, 2019

	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD
1.	Welcome Fr. David opens the meeting with a welcome and prayer	
2.	Attendance 37 members attended with 1 Clergy	
3.	Apologies Rev Sam Van Leer, Gille Haas, Janneke Dornebal, Henk Korff, Fiona Korff, Anne Miechielsen, Thea Laarman, Bas Rutgers, Margreet Rutgers.	
4.	Approval of Minutes of Chaplaincy AGM 24 March 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minutes were approved with two amendments. 	
5.	Statement of the Electoral Roll <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Electoral Roll had been renewed this year, as required in the 6 year cycle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total 148 Utrecht 96 Zwolle 15 Groningen 37 	
6.	Chaplains' Briefings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Trinity, Utrecht Rev David Phillips delivered a verbal report focusing on the life of the Chaplaincy and notable events. Grace Church, Groningen Rev San Van Leer had given a written report. 	
7.	Chaplaincy Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reports were received and noted with thanks for the work in our churches that is shown over the last year. 	
8.	Treasurers Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of 2019 budget proposals was given with some question on provision for the choir, the amount shown for stipend and locums, telephone costs and the use of the gift of funds. Prop: FF-J; Sec: AL; Approved Unanimously The meeting approved the additional of €16.000 for one year for the continuance of Student Ministry, to be expended at the Council's discretion. Prop: SU; Sec: BH; Approved Unanimously The meeting appointed 2 Independent Examiners: Guus de Bie and Dirk Jan Engel Prop: SS; Sec: TB; Approved Unanimously 	
9.	Elections and Appointments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Churchwardens: Kit de Bolster-Diggs and Frank Fink-Jensen were appointed to the position for 2 wardens. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lay Council Members: Bas Rutgers, Judy Miller, Matthijs Postma, Beth Houdijk, Marieke Sybrandi, Juliette Gentenaar, Brad Hansen, Anne Gast-Noordegraaf, Nathan Bunt were appointed, as below the number of allowed positions. • Groningen Leadership Team: Sjoerd Griffioen, Maaïke Jansen, Maaïke Kroese, Dragos Stefanescu, Joas Zuur were accepted. • Zwolle Leadership Team: Anne van der Belt, Cecilia Koppenrade, Adriaan Letoit, John Murphy, Bas Rutgers, Margreet Rutgers were accepted. • Stewards: the list as presented was approved Prop: KdB; Sec: AL; Approved Unanimously A further proposal was accepted that Stewards who are the Electoral Roll of All Saints Amersfoort may act at Holy Trinity Utrecht. Prop: AL; Sec: FF-J; Approved Unanimously 	
10.	Rule Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum number of Elected Lay Members of Council will be 8. There will be 2 additional places which may be used by representatives, 1 from Zwolle and 1 from Groningen. • The term for Elected Lay Members of Council and for Churchwardens will be for one year following the Annual General Meeting These resolutions were approved together Prop: SU; Sec: BH; Approved Unanimously 	
11.	Any other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
12.	The meeting closed with prayers	

Churchwardens' Report 2019-2020

Frank Fink-Jensen started this year again as Warden after having to step down because of health problems he had in 2018, only to have to stop in October 2019 because of his wife's illness and her passing away. Fortunately Adrian Los has filled in as acting Warden.

We were delighted in June of this year to celebrate the initiation of All Saints Amersfoort. This was the wonderful result of 5 years of prayer and planning.

Also during this year David Phillips passed all his Dutch 'inburgering' exams. A great relief for all.

In February there was a very fine Deanery Day for training and sharing for diverse council roles, including Wardens.

Kit de Bolster checked the inventory and found it to be reasonably accurate. At the moment unaccounted for: 2 wall light fittings (nr62, were stored in basement but too much stuff to find them) and 1 silver finger dish (nr52).

The office of church warden at holy Trinity Utrecht can be both rewarding and demanding. Rewarding because it is a blessing to serve our church and to fulfill a vital role with the chaplain, other officers and many talented volunteers. But also demanding because there is often something going on that needs extra attention. And the last word often stops with us. This year was no exception.

In November 2019 we had to make the decision (fortunately with the help of the Standing Committee) not to use open flames with the congregation. Only the choir who have sturdy holders will do so.

In January 2020 the Wardens tried to assist in a failing working relationship between David Phillips, our chaplain, and Henk Korff, our choir master/organist. We thought we had made good arrangements, but they failed to work out. Henk submitted his resignation and we, as Wardens, felt we had no other option than to accept it. At the moment action is being taken to define the duties for a replacement.

And then came Corona....

Who knows where we will be at the time of your reading this report. At present (March 23) there are no public services being held. Fortunately, we also have the Anglican Church advising us. We have had an online broadcast a Communion service with a cappella choir spread out in the nave.

We are still looking at possibilities to keep the fellowship active. However, we couldn't have a more significant 'Lent'.

This has been quite a year!

Kit de Bolster, Warden

Adrian Los, Acting Warden

Update on the Reports for 2019

Dear members of Holy Trinity,

These are testing times. The least of our problems is that we have had to postpone our AGM from last spring to the end of October. There we will conduct our business similar to what would of happened had we been able to meet in the spring. Hopefully we will be able to hold our 2021 AGM in the spring as usual.

What has happened?

All our officers managed to continue their duties during this past year for which we are grateful. We have found and appointed a new choirmaster and a new Safeguarding officer. Our BMC did further work on the church and the parsonage. And we have figured out ways of keeping worship going. After a long period of silence we have stream of Trinity Tidings going again.

Keeping together

We sincerely you are all staying healthy and safe while keeping up all your normal responsibilities. We hope have managed to find new ways to join in worship and to enjoy some fellowship. We know the women's group continue to meet monthly through Zoom. Should any of you want to reach out to others or want to start some new initiative please contact us. Regulations of privacy can be tricky but we should always be able to find a way to connect people if they so wish.

What are we to decide this AGM?

This AGM we hope to approve the accounts of 2019 and to set a budget for 2020. We have chosen to present a budget as though there would not have been Corona. In practice we are deviating quite strongly. Our income has dropped by more than half and our expenditure by about a third. That means we will incur a far greater loss than budgetted.

Appointing or electing our officers

We will elect or appoint the following officers:

- 2 church wardens.
Kit and Adrian have chosen to stand again for an extra period in order to see us through a few of the challenges we are now facing
- 6 council members.
Some current members of the council are candidates together with some new candidates:.
- 3 archdeaconry synod representatives for 2020-2022 who will also be ex officio members of church council for that entire period.

Utrecht October 12th 2020

Kit de Bolster, Church Warden
Adrian Los, Acting Church Warden
Simon Urquhart, Secretary of the Council

SYNOD REPORT 2019

In 2019 all three archdeaconry reps: Adrian Los, Sandra Sue and Simon Urquhart attended Synod. Archdeaconry Synod lasts from Thursday to Saturday in October. In those days several things are usually discussed.

Business meetings

To start with the business meetings. Not only the business meeting for the Archdeaconry of North West Europe (Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands), but also separate business meetings for the Dutch churches and the Belgian and Luxembourg churches. During business meetings things happening in the region the meeting is about are discussed and the accounts for the year before and the budget for the coming year are passed.

Bishop Robert

This year we had the pleasure of the company of bishop Robert, who always makes an effort to be at Synod, and of the diocesan secretary and chief operating officer Andrew Caspari. Bishop Robert gave an overview of what he had been up to the past year. Not only who he has been meeting, but things that are keeping him busy and are on his mind: as a Christian and as a bishop. He visited places as far apart as St. Georges, Ypres to Helsinki, from meeting with bishop Saliba of the Syriac Oriental Church to the Ladine people of South Tirol. The bishop's talk was called Testimony of Hope.

Andrew Caspari

Andrew Caspari gave an overview of his work as chief operating officer (COO). He oversees the finances, communication and safeguarding of the Diocese. A post we used to call "diocesan secretary". He spoke about his three priorities being:

- 1) Mission
- 2) Stewardship
- 3) Care, including safeguarding

He spoke about the service the diocese and the diocesan office in Tufton Street, London wants to provide to the churches of our diocese. He set us off with a short video taken from Monty Python's Life of Brian: "What did the Romans ever do for us?" and ended his story with what "What did the Diocese ever do for us?" Among many things: taking care of 74 investment accounts and 44 trusts, training 21 ordinands and 131 readers, 431 safeguarding checks and giving legal advice.

Michael Harvey

Was the invited speaker for Synod. He spoke about creating a culture of invitation. He maintains that it is a missed opportunity if church people do not regularly invite people who do not go to church to attend with them: "Success is one person inviting one other person to church ... and leaving the rest to God"

Bishop Bonny

Bishop Bonny is the Roman Catholic bishop of Antwerp. He was paired with bishop Robert by Pope Francis in the ecumenical ties we have with the Roman Catholic Church. He spoke about the role of the church as a welcoming church. But this is not enough. A church should not only be welcoming, but also an accompanying church to help people in their human and spiritual growth. Being an accompanying church is something dear to Pope Francis's heart. "Other Church leaders fortunately follow the same pastoral line, as, among others, the Archbishop

of Canterbury, Dr. Justin Welby. But they know at what expense! They are all too often criticised by many of their own flock. Accompanying society in a 'loyal and critical way' is not an easy undertaking. Didn't Jesus say he came '*to ignite a fire on the earth*'?"

Ecumenical Report

In 2019 there were three representatives of HTC in the USRK (Utrechtse Stedelijke Raad van Kerken). Henk Korff (chairman USRK), Xander van Asperen and Sandra Sue. Sadly, we had to lay our well-loved member Xander to rest. He was very active, when it came to ecumenical co-operation. Xander used to organize regular church services for nursing homes.

Holy Trinity worshipped with St. Aloysiuskerk and Wilhelminakerk in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We also organized the yearly Lichtjestocht with both the aforementioned churches and the shops of Puur Oost in December. As always it was a success, thanks to the hard work of Henk Korff in general and of the choir and other Holy Trinity volunteers in particular. Not all of us volunteered for work in Holy Trinity itself. Wanting to meet other churches and their members, some of us volunteered to participate at other gatherings of the Lichtjestocht. As a helper with one of the choirs on the route and as Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus in the manger at the end of the route.

HTC also gave support to the work of the Stiltecentrum, the “shop window” of the Utrecht churches. We joined the silent walk to the Domkerk on 4 May as well as the Walk of Peace in September.

Sandra Sue and Henk Korff



Zwolle report 2019

As in previous years our congregation has grown slightly. The kern has stayed throughout the year but we have had increases in numbers due to visitors and students coming while their study is here in the Netherlands. We hope always that the many visitors will eventually find a permanent home with us. We know that various groups in Utrecht and Amersfoort are praying for us.

Since we are represented on the Church council by Bas we feel as if we have more contact with Utrecht. He is able to pass on our wishes to the council and vice versa.

Anthem, a choir in Zwolle, has taken part twice in our services. We are always glad of their services as they do not ask for any remuneration. It also encourages people who wouldn't normally come to the service to attend.

Our Easter and Christmas services were well attended. The recorder group played at our Carol service as well as an ad hoc choir. Many visitors came for the carol service and this year we had too many mince pies!!!

At our harvest thanksgiving service the congregation were asked to bring non perishable gifts for the food bank. Our donations were brought to the altar during the service and later taken to the food bank by one of our congregation. Our Carol service collection was donated to the local Salvation Army.

The bible study has continued this year with various topics. We meet in each other's houses for a meal and the study follows. It would be nice if we could encourage more people to come.

A new venture this year was Zwolle talks. The idea behind these talks was to bring people into the church who otherwise wouldn't come. We have had two of these this year on the 4th Sunday of the month. The first one was about Anglicanism given by Sam and the second about the book of Esther. We hope to continue these in 2020.

At the end of 2019 we heard that the Lutheran church was to be refurbished and after much searching we found a new temporary home in the Zuiderkerk.

Profit and Loss

Anglican Church Zwolle

Date Range: Jan 01, 2019 to Dec 31, 2019

ACCOUNTS

Jan 01, 2019
to Dec 31, 2019

Income	
Bank Transver Donations	€5,929.13
Collection at Services	€2,433.19
Total Income	€8,362.32

Total Cost of Goods Sold	€0.00
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Gross Profit	€8,362.32
As a percentage of Total Income	100.00%

Operating Expenses	
Advertising & Promotion	€103.48
Bank Service Charges	€151.49
Computer – Internet hosting	€30.00
Donations to others	€436.88
Flower/presents/buffet	€137.50
Ministry Expenses	€3,131.30
Organist	€1,035.00
Recording group	€45.00
Rent Expense	€2,275.00
Total Operating Expenses	€7,345.65

Net Profit	€1,016.67
As a percentage of Total Income	12.16%



Update from the Buildings & Maintenance Committee October 2020

Since 2016 we have worked with a new setup for the Building & Maintenance Committee (BMC). The focus of decision-making by council is to approve overall plans and single a project definitions (at the start) setting out goals and budget. BMC then prepares the project, asking for quotes, commissioning contractors and overseeing the work.

Composition

Composition for 2019-2020:

- a) Churchwarden: Kit de Bolster
- b) Treasurer: Beth Houdijk
- c) appointed Members: Adrian Los (chair), Simon Urquhart (secretary:), Frank Boneschanscher, Nathan Bunt

Report over 2019

- We received new reports from Monumentenwacht in January and have adjusted our plans accordingly.
- The sanctuary of the church has been cleaned and partly painted following rewiring for the new lighting.
- We have installed folding doors in the parsonage.
- We have pursued the clearing up of the asbestos under the floor of the church. Please note it is harmless and there is no risk for church-goers as long as it is left untouched.
- The entrance of the church has had maintenance done and we have levelled out the floor to improve accessibility.
- The exterior of the parsonage has been repainted.
- And further work has been carried out to improve the heating system of the church building.

Current projects

Council has approved a plan for a push towards a more sustainable parsonage building. We commissioned our architect to prepare a set of measures including insulating the parsonage roof and hall from the inside, installing electrical heaters for warm tap water and upgrading the control system for the parsonage heating.

We are also preparing repairs to the garden wall.

Renovation of the organ casing is under way.

We are also working on renewing the usage agreement of the church with ICS. To all intent this will confirm the current situation in which Holy Trinity Church is loaned the buildings for free and we undertake to insure and maintain the buildings for the long term.

Utrecht, October 2020

Adrian Los

Bible Study Groups

Houten

The Houten Bible Study group meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month and comprises five ladies, four of whom are members of HTU and one is a local lady who attends a Protestant church in Houten. The group was started by Susette Fink-Jensen, whose loss we mourned in November 2019.

Since its inception the group has used course material from York Courses. In 2019 the group followed the courses 'Faith, Hope and Love' and 'Daring to See God Now'. As with all these courses, they have given us a better insight into the Bible texts used and a deeper understanding of each other.

We plan to continue using York Courses in 2020.

Betuwe

4 persons attend

Held once a month on the 1st Tuesday

Subject for 2019-20 – "Angels"

Student Ministry Report 2019-2020

The Holy Trinity Church student group is an active community of students and “starters”, from the Netherlands and beyond, who regularly get together for fellowship, bible studies, and worship. This has been a year in transition for us, with the departure of Erik Heemskerk as student ministry coordinator, with Tim Starting and I (Marten van den Toren) taking over his responsibilities. This transition hasn’t always been easy, particularly due to the fact that Tim and I could not invest as much time in leading the group as Erik did, due to the fact that we study and work fulltime. We could no longer run all activities of the previous year with the same intensity. We have had to prioritise what activities were most important to us.

Before Erik’s departure we put into words what our desire was for this student group. We (and particularly Erik) formulated three principles which would guide our small community within Holy Trinity Church. This guided us in choosing what activities to run this academic year. They are as follows:

- 1- Everyone is welcome, friendship and fellowship are an important part of our welcoming people.
- 2- We are a Christian group that gathers around Christ.
- 3- We try to find the balance between offering bible studies accessible enough for people from ‘outside’ and challenging enough for people from ‘inside’ the church.

I will now describe in more detail various aspects of our student ministry.

The Community

This year we have about 10 people who gather regularly for our student activities, many of whom are relatively ‘new’. The group is made of up students and people who are starting there post-university life. This year the majority of the group are Dutch, the international students being a minority. As a result we have had to make a conscious effort not to speak Dutch with each other, in order to be welcoming for all. Nevertheless, the internationals and the Dutch have integrated nicely. What is most encouraging to see is that those who were active members in previous years are now active in other aspects of Holy Trinity Church life. Those who were once students tend to stick around.

Bible Studies

Our main activity is the student bible study on Tuesday nights, every two weeks. We start with dinner, followed by the bible study. During the first half of the academic year we read through the letters to Timothy, a young leader of the early church. We were challenged to think about what it meant to be a Christian church and community. There are some quite challenging passages in these letters. It was wonderful to see how we sometimes struggled to make sense of these passages, being confronted by the fact that we did not always agree on how to interpret them and how to apply them to our lives. We learnt much from each other.

The second half of the academic year we are reading through Genesis. We have been using the book *Encountering the Book of Genesis* by Bill Arnold to guide our reading and understanding of this book. Now that we can no longer meet for bible studies due to the virus, we need to think through how we might be able to continue reading Genesis together.

Chévetogne Monastery Weekend

In the first weekend of March we went on the annual student retreat to the Chévetogne Monastery in Belgium. During the weekend we had time for fellowship, walks, worship in the monastery, and two sessions on (personal) liturgy. We not only encountered each other in a deeper manner, we also

had the opportunity to meet God through beautiful worship, silence and contemplation. Many left refreshed emotionally and spiritually.

We have been going to this monastery for quite some years now. Every time I am surprised to see how students are encouraged in their faith in this otherworldly place.

Movie Nights

We have been struggling to get movie nights running regularly this academic year. We tried running them on Friday evenings instead of Sunday evenings. This has not worked well as many students have other activities on Friday evenings. However, we struggle finding a good location to run movie nights on Sunday. One (honest) reason why it hasn't run as well as we would have liked is because it hasn't been given enough priority. Now that the rest of student ministry has settled and is running smoothly this could be something which receives our renewed attention, as it was a popular activity in previous years.

Prayer and Praise Services

The prayer and praise services have been running very well this academic year! It has been wonderful to see not only students turning up for worship. The 'borrel' afterwards has been a nice way to encourage fellowship between students and the non-students at Holy Trinity Church. The prayer and praise services have also been a good platform to let some of the students preach in a more informal space.

I really believe that this is a very important aspect of the student ministry as it allows for more informal contemporary worship, creating another important space where we can meet God!

The Future of the Group

The end of this academic year is already in sight, and I will soon be leaving Utrecht and Holy Trinity Church, moving to Colombia for research. Consequently, I will no longer be able to play my part in leading and coordinating the student ministry. In the coming weeks I will be discussing this with the students and with Father David, looking at who is willing to take on my responsibilities.

As we come to the realisation that social distancing and the corona virus may influence student ministry for the foreseeable future, we will need to reflect on how we can continue this group with these new circumstances. We will pray for God's guidance in this matter.

Conclusion

This year of student ministry has been a real blessing, seeing the community grow and seeing students encountering God. It has been wonderful to see how, when Tim and I were overloaded with work, other students take on extra responsibility to make the student group a reality. We are - particularly grateful for Niels who organised the Chévetogne weekend. It has been great joy to see students increasingly sharing their joys and sorrows, seeing the students praying for each other and for the Church. We look forward to continue growing as a community that gathers around Christ.

Young People and Children's Ministry Report 2020

Sundayclass in HTC is being offered every Sunday for children from 4 up till 11, except on the 1st Sunday of the month and is held in the Parsonage. The first song in the All Age Service is the Sundayclass children's choice. They are brought into Church after the Prayers of Intercession, so that they can join their parents for Communion. There is also a creche for younger children up until four years old. The aim of this Sunday School is to give the children a good time while telling them about Jesus and his love for them. If a question pops up, it will be the focus of the Chaplain's talk in the All Age Service.

The average attendance varies from 6 to 9 children. As some children don't speak Dutch yet, we offer Sundayclass in Dutch and English, as necessary.

Usually, we start with a prayer and some songs and continue with a story from the Bible, which can be told on various levels. Our source is the Sundayschool method "Vertel het Maar", so we tell or read the story and discuss the meaning for us to-day. Then the children make drawings and do all sorts of handicraft related to the story. Sometimes we re-enact a story together with the children, which appears to be a favourite activity.

The Sunday School teachers Debby Los, John Houdijk, Iris Dill, Paula van der Maas, Cristina Grasseni and myself, make a very close and good working team!

As Holy Trinity has a strict Safeguarding Policy all teachers are vetted and there are always two teachers for one group however, small this group is. We look forward to another successful year.

Gonny Eijkelenboom

Music Reports

Choir Report for 2019

In 2019 the choir was fairly stable in terms of the number of singers. We welcomed one new soprano in December, while the number of tenors dropped towards the end of the year.

The choir divides the Sunday services, to ensure that a singer from each voice group is present for every service. This did not always work out, as we sometimes sung without a tenor, alto or bass.

As ever, every month, except in July and August, we held a service of Choral Evensong. This gives Henk the opportunity to conduct the music, as we have an organist for these services.

Some pieces of music were picked up from previous years, some were new. To give you an idea, in 2019 we sang over 35 different pieces of music at Choral Evensong.

The final Choral Evensong before the summer saw the first use of the Canticles written by Wood, which requires that the choir is split into a decanai and cantoris side. This is a beautiful and demanding piece, and with a small choir such as ours, it needs every singer to be present. Unfortunately, when Choral Evensong for June came along, we were missing tenors in one half of the split choir. Nevertheless, it was an uplifting occasion.

Connected to Choral Evensong is the wish to visit Sherborne once more as a choir. Previously we did this in 2006, 2008 and 2010. It soon became clear we would not be able to do this in 2019, so we moved it to 2020. This visit we will sing with members of the choir of Temple Balsall, which we visited and with whom we sang together in 2016.

December became a more important focal point than usual, as the Advent service with carols that was introduced in 2018, took place again. This in addition to the Lichtjestocht, Nine lessons and Carols and the Christmas services. It was quite a workload, but happily the Christmas services were still well covered by our singers.

During the year there were a few incidents before and during services, which affected members of the choir and possibly the congregation. These incidents were directly related to the working relationship between Henk Korff and David Phillips. A number of choir members took the initiative to hold a meeting of the choir, to address the various challenges we faced, among them these kinds of incidents.

The first meeting was held in November, under the supervision of a third party, and was a success. In first instance we were looking at why we sing in this choir. This might seem obvious, but we all sing in this particular choir in order to sing to God. For instance, we do not sing to perform a concert, which is an extremely important distinction. This was reiterated in various different ways by the various choir members and it was a start in bringing us closer together in person, clarity and focus.

For further work, we started looking at where the choir needs to focus. Important points were, (the lack of) preparation and where we employ most of our time and energy. We did not delve into the above mentioned incidents at this time.

This has been followed up in the new year and the idea is to have another afternoon together.

The challenge is to find our place as choristers and choir within this church.

Henk Korff

Worship Band Report 2019

We have seen quite some changes in the band last year. John (singer), Mayra (singer), Christianne (saxophone), Daan (bass guitar), Marije (piano) and me (lead singer, guitar) are the musicians at the moment. Christoph left for his studies in South-Africa and Rick has chosen to take a step back as well. We are very happy and thankful to have this many instruments playing together. We hope and pray that people will be attracted to worshipping God through singing together more and more.

Like the past couple of years there have been prayer and praise services on each 3rd Saturday of the month, except for at Christmastide and also in September. After a steady decline in number of visitors last years, this year we saw more people attending than before. Most of them are family and friends of the bandmembers that we invited, but also among the students this service is receiving more attention. We have fellowship and refreshments afterwards at David's dining room, which facilitates an atmosphere for deepening conversations as well as 'gezelligheid'.

A couple of days before each service that the worship band leads, I send the lyrics of the songs we sing to a mailing list. If you wish to be on that list as well, please do let me know. You can now also find our worship songs in a playlist on Spotify, via this link: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/79RgTqZ6m2OS9J39CCaA9S>.

Looking forward to coming year.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Psalm 150:6.

Brian Fink-Jensen