

MARCH 2017



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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017

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If you have contributions for the next Newsletter we need to receive them by the middle (15th) of the previous month.

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If you would like to make a contribution to support the work of our churches:

Holy Trinity Utrecht & All Saints' Amersfoort

General Giving: NL84INGB0000132950 - tnv Holy Trinity Church Utrecht

Charitable Giving: NL92TRIO0197723861 - tnv Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Utrecht

Anglican Church Zwolle

General Giving: NL02 INGB 0007 2290 06 - tnv English Church Zwolle

Grace Church Groningen

Contact: Dirk Nederven: treasurer@gracechurchgroningen.com

Cover picture: Two Marys in grief and awe at the foot of the Cross, in Catharijneconvent, Utrecht, c 1475

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MARCH EVENTS AT A GLANCE

FOR WORSHIP SERVICES SEE LAST PAGE

28 Febr	Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner	see below
01 March	Special Ash Wednesday service, 8 PM	p. 32
05 March	Anglican Church Zwolle Local Annual Meeting,	see below
	after 4PM worship	
09 March	Lent course "Going Deeper with Jesus" 8 PM All Saints	p. 24
11 March	Dare to Share event, 10 AM, The Hague	p. 21
19 March	All Saints Amersfoort Local Annual Meeting,	see below
	after 9:30 AM worship	
	Holy Trinity Utrecht Local Annual Meeting,	see below
	after 10:30 AM worship	
21 March	Anglicanism course, Parsonage 8 PM (door open 7:45)	p. 7
25 March	Confirmation service, 3:30 PM at All Saints Amersfoort	see below



UPCOMING EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner for all students and other interested folks! There will be pancakes and discussion of the merits and ways of fasting during Lent. Time to be announced by Erik Heemskerk, if you're interested in coming, send him an e-mail at heemskerk.erik@gmail.com so we'll know how many pancakes to bake.

Confirmation: Our next Confirmation in the Chaplaincy will happen, God willing, on Saturday 25th March AD 2017 when Bishop Robert Innes will visit us in Amersfoort and Utrecht. If you are interested in confirmation for yourself or for your son or daughter, please contact one of our chaplains, David Phillips (06 124 104 31) or Grant Crowe (06 299 723 03), who would be most pleased to speak with you.

Local Annual Meetings in our Churches: Starting this year each congregation in our chaplaincy will have its own leadership team to deal with as many local issues as possible. This will be new for Utrecht, who will need to establish a leadership team like Amersfoort, Zwolle and Groningen already have. Each congregation will hold *local annual meetings* prior to the AGM. As part of the "Roadmap to Independence" for Amersfoort (see February Newsletter), the local annual meetings in Utrecht and Amersfoort will need to elect the local leadership team made up of 7 people including: 3 proposed representatives to Chaplaincy Council (to be appointed at AGM); 1 proposed warden and 1 deputy warden (to be appointed at AGM); and 2 additional proposed representatives each to the local leadership team in Utrecht and Amersfoort (again to be appointed at AGM).

ERRATUM

In last months newsletter we erroneously ascribed the article about the church in Zwolle to the Rev Sam van Leer, when in fact it was written by Frances and John Murphy who have attended Zwolle for nearly 40 years. Thank you for your contribution Frances and John!



CHAPLAIN'S LETTER: Spiritual Disciplines for Lent

The chaplaincy article is written by the Rev David Phillips, Utrecht chaplain

Why would we do this?

We know what the garden looks like after a winter of silence - the ground is a little more compacted than last year, and perhaps the nutrients have been diminished from the previous year's growth. In the same way, if we are not changing our routine, or thinking about growth in the spiritual life consciously, we can become a little complacent, compacted and dry. Lent can be a time to break up the soil of our soul, to enrich it with spiritual nourishment and moisture, to recommit ourselves and deepen our walk with Jesus. It is about cooperating with God's grace. Our salvation is all God's work, but mysteriously God also calls us to be engaged in the work (e.g. Philippian 2:12-13; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

Why do we do this together?

Anglicans, like other Christian denominations, have found it helpful to enter into a discipline at the same time, for mutual encouragement and to draw closer to each other as we face similar obstacles to spiritual growth. As I said in a recent sermon, if we have a jogging partner it is no doubt easier to go out on a cold bad weather day knowing he or she will meet up with us. Likewise, it can be helpful to do spiritual disciplines together. Think about how doing spiritual practices together has been key for the spiritual success of monastic communities.

What might we do for Lent?

This attending to the garden that is our soul in Lent has, for many Christians through the ages, included spiritual



practices, referred to by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), such as almsgiving (Matt 6:1-4; 19-34), prayer (Matt 6:5-15), fasting (Matt 6:16-18; 4:1-11), and, elsewhere, charitable works (Matt 25:31-46). We're also guided by certain Gospel readings such as the Parable of the Sower, where Jesus calls us to be that good soil that allows the Word of God to grow and brings forth abundant fruit (Luke 8:4-15).

Our motivation for doing this is not to grow in spiritual pride, but to grow in the love of God and of our neighbour, to be more fruitful. That will be the sole measure of a successful Lenten discipline. Practices that we find helpful during Lent may become something we want to continue, or incorporate more often, at other times of the year.

Anglicans are inspired by a Benedictine spirituality which recognizes that we are all in different places in our spiritual journey and each person must decide for himself or herself what and how much to take on. We may also have particular



health issues that must be taken into account and our levels of stress at the moment. Pick and choose what single thing or combination you think would be helpful for you. Don't take on too much and then give it all up! Better to do something modest and stick with it, remember that the experience will build over 40 days! Remember also that a 40 day Lenten fast begun on Ash Wednesday need not include the Sundays, so you can experience a kind of relaxation of a fast and have a special treat on Sundays in Lent. Though we show some restraint liturgically, Sundays are still a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, it is a feast day.

Denying ourselves some earthly pleasure is *not* meant to be a punishment of ourselves for our wrongdoing! We are forgiven our wrongdoing, if we repent and trust in God. To try to make up for that by hurting ourselves would be to deny the perfect forgiveness we are offered by Jesus on the Cross. Self-denial is not for punishment, though it can sometimes be uncomfortable.

So why would we deny ourselves? If we give up some earthly pleasure it can leave us feeling unstable, not knowing quite what to do with ourselves, maybe a little anxious, because we are used to having these earthly consolations as part of our happiness. But if we deny ourselves for spiritual reasons, we don't

just run to some other earthly consolation for a quick fix of our anxiety (e.g. we don't give up chips and replace it with more popcorn!). Instead, we turn that longing for satisfaction into a seeking out of some spiritual consolation, even God – giving a little more time to prayer, to reading God's Word or a devotional book, or to some act of charity. It is all about transforming our loves heavenward.

All desire, all love, is one. Augustine says our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God. This is a very important principle to come to understand about desire/love in our hearts. The excessive desire for material goods or the desire for food, beyond what is needed for basic sustenance, or the excessive desire for any earthly pleasure, is meant to lead us back to God and is a desire that only God can fulfill.

1. Taking away some earthly consolation (self-denial)

Fasting from Food: Traditional fasts of food have included: giving up one meal a day; or fasting one day a week; or giving up red meat, or all meat, or some other pleasure like desserts, alcohol or coffee or tea or just having plainer less interesting food. The reason for these different ways of fasting is related to the traditional understanding of gluttony as eating either (i) too much, (ii) too often (snacking all the time) or (iii) too delicately (that is, caring too much about what we eat, how it tastes, which is OK for special occasions but can become obsessive). Fasting is not "dieting" as the world understands it, it is not for physical health or appearance that we enter a fast. We come to see that our hunger for food, beyond what is needed for our basic sustenance, is a hunger for God, which only God can fulfill.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FOR LENT - CONTINUED

Fasting from Images/Information: Consider a fast of images or information by putting less into our minds - reflect on how much we watch TV or movies or use the internet – consider either giving it up for Lent or placing some limits on the time spent in these activities (e.g. I will check email/internet only from 9am to 9pm; or I will replace some hours watching TV with hours reading something spiritually edifying). If we think of the parable of the Sower - we don't want to be pouring into the good soil indiscriminate seeds of weeds, of thorns and thistles, so that they crowd out the seed of God's Word and choke it.

2. Adding/augmenting a spiritual discipline (spiritual feasting!)

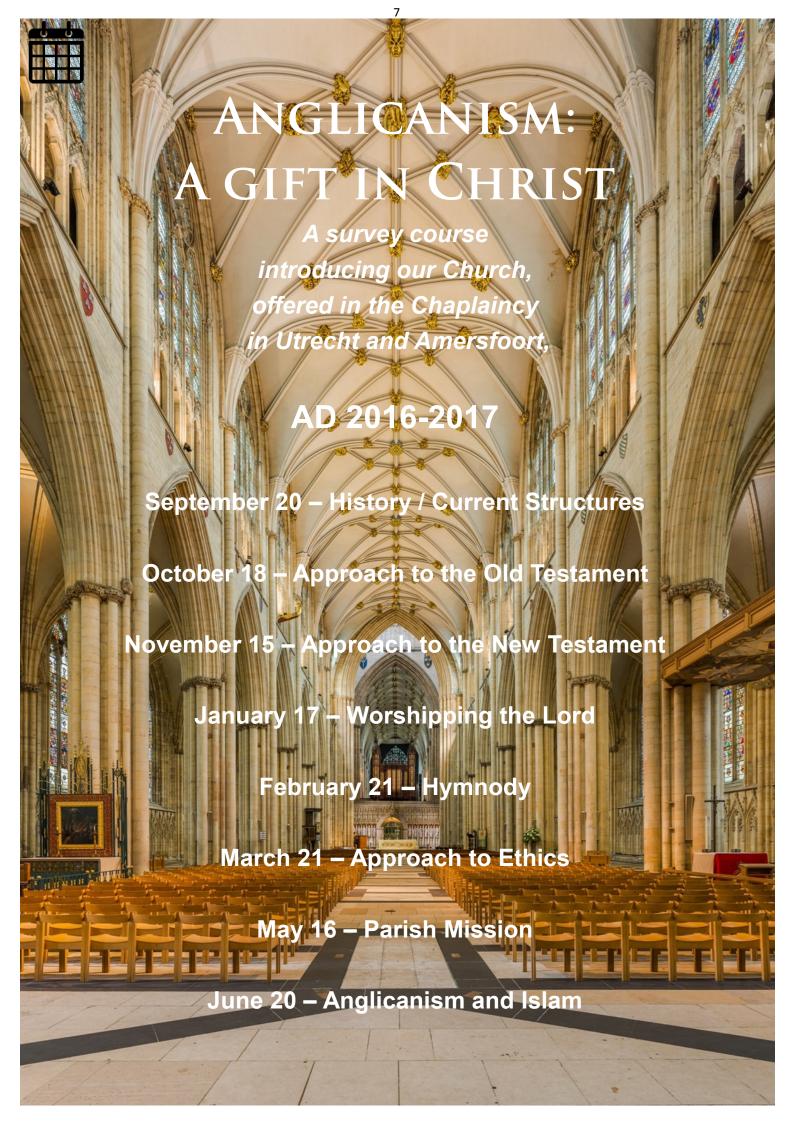
- Prayer: If you don't have a daily pattern that you follow now, consider establishing one, even taking just a few minutes a day. Many people find it helpful to use prayers that others have written to guide their prayer time. Ask your chaplain if you'd like some advice. If you have a pattern now, consider setting aside a little more time, perhaps also time for quiet resting in God in a room by yourself, listening, waiting patiently, should God have something to say, or simply enjoying being with God.
- Almsgiving: Consider your offerings to God and neighbour and possibly a special sacrificial giving for Lent as a way of exercising our hearts and loosening a too tight grip on our finances. (A small working group at Holy Trinity will share more reflections on almsgiving in a future Newsletter.)

- feasting on God's Word: Consider following the daily readings recommended or a portion of those readings (see Drinking from the Well of Life) or one chapter a day of a book in the Bible, such as a Gospel or Psalms or Exodus (40 chapters for 40 days!). Consider joining a Lenten Bible Study or some other church activity on offer. You could also consider reading a Christian classic devotional book (you can always ask your chaplain or other Christian friend for suggestions).
- Some charitable activity: If you have extra time now because of other things you've given up, you could spend it in giving more time to family and/or to some charitable outreach program.

Such self-denials and changes to spiritual disciplines are about finding new pathways for our desire. We discover the refreshment of our souls with new life coming down from above if in our anxiety from giving up something earthly we choose to seek some new and spiritual source of contentment. If after a few days you slip up in your fast or spiritual feast, don't worry, consider it like a runner falling in a race, the coach would say, get up and get back on the course. We're not looking for gold star performances, but to understand better how our souls work and to grow in our love of God and neighbour.

I wish you a holy Lent and, whether you participate in a Lenten fast and spiritual feast or not, may God grant you an experience of inner renewal and joy!

In the love of Christ,





BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

The Utrecht Bible Study groups will be on the season of Lent and the Psalms. There are three groups that meet on different days in and around Utrecht:

- The Utrecht Study Group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the parsonage hall (or the apartment), Van Hogendorpstraat 26, 3581 KE UTRECHT. You are most welcome for tea or coffee at 19:45 and we start the study at 20:00. It ends at the latest at 21:45.
 - Please contact Danielle Los (daniellelos@yahoo.com or 030 236 85 72) or Xander van Asperen (xandervanasperen@solcon.nl 030 273 16 52)
- The Houten Study Group meets every second week starting Wednesday 14th September at 10:00 AM at the Fink-Jensen home: Kloostertuin 15, 3994 ZJ, Houten. Please contact Susette Fink Jensen (ffjsfj@hotmail.com)
- The Haaften Study Group
 Please contact Hans Baars (ebaars@planet.nl)





THE PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRIES

Our chaplaincy reaches out to God in prayer to hold up the chaplaincy and its members in particular need. We are offer this ministry both in Utrecht and Zwolle. If you have requests for the prayer chain, or if feel called be a part in this ministry of intercession, please contact:



Anne Miechielsen organizes and participates in this ministry at Holy Trinity in Utrecht:

anne@miechielsen.nl

Janie McCloughin organizes and participates in this ministry at Zwolle Anglican Church:

mccloughin@gmail.com





Terminale vraag

als je zeker weet

als je zeker weet

dit is de laatste lente

dit is de laatste keer

dat je de narcissen

als je zeker weet

laatste vragen in

er komt geen volgend jaar

ik zou jou willen vragen:

ziet bloeien

Ik zou jou willen vragen:

POEM

Here's this months poem from Oeke Kruythof. English translation/transcreation is by Jenny Narraway



Asleep forever

Do you mind that I ask you:

now you know

for sure

that this is

your last spring

that this is

the last daffodil

you will see

in bloom

that you know

next year

will never be

hoe reëel is dat may I ask you

of how real does that feel

blijft het tot or will it be

het einde toe abstract unbelievable

of wordt één enkele narcis until the end

met haar spel in geel

nu voor de eerste keer reëel? is it only now that you see

ik zou jou willen vragen reality:

maar – the magical yellow

de tijd haalt of that one flower

I want to ask you

but...

death always overtakes

the final question



KERKENNACHT SINGING PSALMS IN THE NIGHT

"Where is God my maker, who giveth Psalms in the night?" (Job 35)

"At midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God and the prisoners heard them" (Acts 16)

Kerkennacht 2017 will be held on Saturday 24th June. Many churches in Utrecht (and in a lot of other places in The Netherlands) will be open to the public that weekend. In general this means that people have access to the buildings on Saturday evening roughly from 18.00 until 22.30. However, we at Holy Trinity will take the word "Kerkennacht" literally and our church will be open throughout the night until Sunday morning.

What to expect:

As part of the Kerkennacht churches in Utrecht-oost have chosen to "perform" the Psalms in all sorts of ways. Do you realise that the Book of Psalms is the oldest hymnbook of the Church? Jesus sang Psalms in the Synagogue and so when we sing them too, we have a direct connection with our Lord.



Together with friends from the Wilhelminakerk we will join our Roman Catholic friends for a short ecumenical service in the Antoniuskapel of the St. Aloysiuskerk at 18.00. After this special service with prayers and Psalms, the doors of our three churches will be flung wide open to welcome everybody. Covering the nightly hours our choir will sing Psalms culminating in Choral Matins on Sunday morning at 07.30. We invite choirs to come and sing anthems and motets based on Psalms. If you are in church at the right moment you may hear Gregorian chants or Jewish recitation by the Chazan of the Synagogue, or listen to poems based on Psalms as well as sing along with the hymns.

Choral Matins consist of the Venite, the Psalm of the morning, Te Deum laudamus and Jubilate. In this beautiful service we hear two lessons from Scripture and we pray and sing together.

This extraordinary Anglican service will also be held in memory of our faithful church members who passed away recently and who loved choral music so much. In particular I would like to mention the names of Co van Amerongen and Betty van der Hoofd.

Would you like to help us?

People can walk in and join us for one or more hours, or even stay from the very beginning of the evening right to the end of Choral Matins. Since they may become thirsty and/or hungry we want to be able to offer them refreshments. People who take part in this event may also wish for something to eat or drink. Are you willing to help and show our hospitality for one or two hours?

If you are not a caterer by nature then just come along and sing! And should you feel uncomfortable singing then just come and sit and listen and pray! Holy Trinity Church is a House of Prayer and many of the Psalms are written as prayers.

How can you help to keep our church open during Kerkennacht?

- Singing along with Psalms, songs and hymns.
- Acting as a Steward to welcome our visitors (they may become our future members!).
- Looking after the people by brewing coffee and tea, cutting fresh sandwiches or offering any other refreshments to keep everyone going through the night.
- Praying for yourself and all involved in this project and make known the Lord Jesus to English speaking people.

Here is a preliminary timetable of this nocturnal event:

18.00 An ecumenical service with brothers and sisters of theSt Aloysiuskerk and Wilhelminakerk in the Antoniuskapel (Adriaen van Ostadelaan 4)

19.00 Church doors open in three locations in Utrecht-oost

At Wilhelminakerk and St Aloysiuskerk the doors close at 22.30, but at Holy Trinity Church they stay wide open throughout the night.

07.30 Choral Matins with our (augmented) choir

08.30 Tired, but blessed "we call it a day".

10.30 Sung Eucharist

We would love to hear from you. If you would like any further information and/or if you wish to offer your help, please see me on Sundays after the Eucharist or after Choral evensong at Holy Trinity or contact me on 065 3130086 musicutrecht@gmail.com

If you wish to be part of this very special mission please let me know before 1 May.

Henk Korff





BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2017

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Bishop in Europe:

The Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2017

The Menedékház Foundation, Budapest, Hungary

The Menedékház, founded in 2005 on the outskirts of Budapest, helps homeless families with children reintegrate into the workplace and society at large. The name says it all: Menedékház, or shelter, originally referred to a temporary refuge in a forest or on a mountaintop placed there for those in need of cover during storms and at nightfall.

Last year my wife, Helen, was privileged to visit the Foundation. As she stood at the front door a family of six arrived who owned no more than a little cardboard suitcase. "Is this a prison?", asked the 4-year old. Later in the day Helen came across the same family who had been admitted and were now crowded into a single bedroom, enjoying some hot soup provided by the project.



At the Menedékház a professional staff of social workers serves some 160 people, many of whom do not meet the criteria of other established social assistance programmes. Some clients find their way to the shelter from impoverished villages in the countryside. Other clients are residents of Budapest who may have suddenly lost a job or been evicted from housing. Still others make their way to the Menedékház from alternative shelters now

abruptly unavailable to them for bureaucratic reasons.

The Menedékház is housed in aging Soviet-era military barracks. They provide minimal amenities and little privacy for the families served. It is a roof over the head – sometimes not much more — a place for families to catch their breath while parents seek employment and children try to continue their schooling during the crisis the family is facing. A significant proportion of clients are of Roma family background. The Menedékház has also from time to time provided shelter to refugees and migrants.

The 2017 Lent Appeal Project

Whilst the Menedékház has washrooms and toilets, they are in poor repair and highly communal, offering little privacy or sense of security to families already traumatised. Built decades ago for military recruits, the facilities are today wholly inadequate and run-down, with peeling paint, cracked flooring and tiles, and little ventilation.





Accordingly, this year's Lent Appeal Project at the Menedékház in Hungary aims to fund the comprehensive renovation of the family washrooms, providing individual cabins or cubicles for family groups to change, wash, and shower.

We estimate the cost of renovation to be in the range of ten to fifteen thousand pounds sterling. The proposed renovation will include....

- Three large bathroom areas, one on each floor of the building
- Ten to twelve cabins or cubicles in each washroom with doors and locks for individual and family use
- One or more baby-changing and washing stations
- Sinks
- Toilets
- Tile flooring
- New walls
- Ventilation

BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL- CONTINUED

- Showers
- Upgraded electricity
- Upgraded plumbing
- Windows

Sometimes it is the smallest things in life that count the most. With this project, we hope to improve the lives of those served by the Menedékház. Washing-up and toileting facilities may not seem exciting in the grand scheme of things but they are essential and much appreciated among those who are vulnerable or otherwise just getting by.

Learn more about the Menedékház and their services to the homeless online at www.menedekhaz.hu

Please do consider how you can support my appeal. I wish you a holy and spiritually fulfilling Lent. As usual, you can give money to this appeal through your church treasurer, who will forward money to the diocesan office.

With every blessing,

+ Robert Gibraltor in Europe

Robert Gibraltar in Europe



STUDENT BIBLE STUDY

Our student group has started Student Bible Study again. The meetings will be held every other week, usually on Tuesday evenings. Our Bible study will be on the topic of the Creed. We'll start the evening with dinner together and there will be plenty of time for fellowship afterwards.

Evenings will be announced on Facebook by Erik Heemskerk, so either befriend him there, send him an e-mail

(heemskerk.erik@gmail.com) or just talk to him in church. All students and other youngish folks are most welcome!



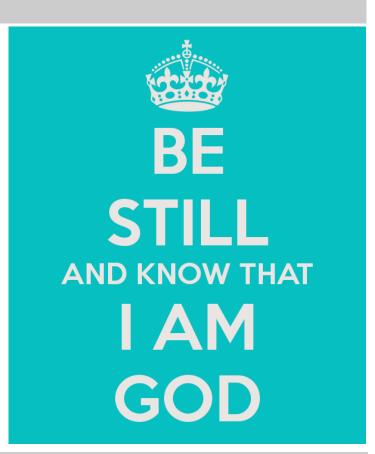


STUDENT WEEKEND: 10-12 MARCH

10-12 March we will have a weekend together. All students most welcome!

This time we will keep it easy by staying in Utrecht. The topic of the weekend will be 'Contemplative prayer'. Most of our activities will take place around the Parsonage and we will join in the daily prayers in our church. We're also going to listen to talks about this theme, enjoy good food and lots of cosiness. You can already sign up for this by sending me an email: heemskerk.erik@gmail.com

Exact schedule will be shared soon!





CHARITABLE GIVINGS PLAN FOR MARCH

This report is submitted by Sheila Kooijman, chair of the Charitable Givings Committee at Holy Trinity in Utrecht.

This month the charitable givings will go towards the Bishop's Lent Appeal. See page 12 in this newsletter or visit www.holytrinityutrecht.nl/bishops-lent-appeal to learn more.



GIVEAWAYS/WANTED

Have you got something at home you don't need anymore, but can't think of the right person to give it to? They might be in our congrecation! Or you might be looking for something your brothers and sisters in Christ may be able to help you with? Send an e-mail to Judy (judymiller3@msn.com) and we'll post your offer or request in the newsletter.

Free for whoever can use them.

Inkjet cartridges 551 For use with Canon Pixma IP-7250/8750;iX-6850;MG-450/6350/7150/6450/5550/5650/6650/ 7550;MX-725/925

Contact Kit de Bolster on kitdebolster@gmail.com

Room/apartment wanted: After having lived as a missionary in Thailand for several years, Daniëlle Koning is looking for a temporary place to live in Utrecht starting immediately. She's looking for a room or small apartment for 4-6 months, for no more than 400 euros/month. Who has an idea? All and any suggestions are most welcome at koning.dt@gmail.com – Thank You!"



NEW WINE NETHERLANDS SUMMER CONFERENCE 2017

New Wine Netherlands Summer Conference 2017: 22nd -28th July held at Biddinghuizen

This article is by Grant Crowe (Chaplain at All Saints) and Ronald Westerbeek, who works as a theologian for New Wine Netherlands, and who is a part of All Saints Amersfoort



What do you have planned for this summer? We wanted to share with you about this year's New Wine Netherlands Summer Conference.



New Wine?

New Wine is a church movement in which we encourage,

inspire and equip each other to witness to the inbreaking of God's Kingdom, in the power of the Spirit. New Wine has its historical roots in the charismatic renewal within the Church of England and was established in 1989 by Bishop David Pytches. Since then, it has spread to many others countries and beyond the Anglican community to become a cross denominational inter-denominational movement. In England, many Anglican Churches continue to be involved, and the current leader of New Wine England, Revd Paul Harcourt, is vicar of All Saints Woodford Wells in London.

New Wine seeks to help individual Christians and to partner with local churches to learn more about the Kingdom of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. It seeks to help us to consider how to live out a life experiencing more of the Spirit's power (as Acts 1:8 shares), and to be open to and to use the gifts God desires to give through his Holy Spirit. New Wine has a vision of churches and individual Christians witnessing energetically to God's kingdom in all its fullness. The annual Summer Conference is one way New Wine seeks to help Christians and churches to grow in these important spiritual matters.

The Conference? This Summers Conference is from 22nd -28th July held at Biddinghuizen, and its theme will be: "God in our midst"

The New Wine Conference Week? You arrive on a Saturday and set up your tent as part of a church group. Then, it's one week full of worship, teaching and prayer!



We offer daily meetings, seminars and opportunities to receive prayer through prayer ministry. There is ample opportunity to meet fellow Christians on the campsite or in the conference village chill area. There are also daily children, teen and young adult programs (in Dutch).

Welcoming internationals? Much of the Summer Conference will be in Dutch, but New Wine is striving to be as welcoming as possible to English-speaking internationals. This year, New Wine is launching an International Camping Field. And we'll provide English translation (through headsets) in the Main Tent.

The Theme? This year's conference theme: is "God in our midst". He is the living Lord, who speaks, heals and who brings recovery. This living Lord wants to involve us in that healing and that work. At the conference we will be invited to learn to open ourselves for His presence and be filled again and again by the Holy Spirit to witness to Gods Kingdom in His power.

Programme? The main speaker (each morning has a 45-60 minute bible teaching session) is South African theologian Derek J. Morphew (dean of the Vineyard Institute, and author of Breakthrough – Discovering the

Kingdom). There is a significant time of praise and worship using contemporary worship songs.

During the afternoons, there is a large range of seminars covering a range of both practical and devotional topics.

In the evening celebrations, there will be teaching on topics such as learning to hear the voice of God, healing & prayer, and witnessing in the power of the Spirit, with extended ministry time. Speakers include Menno Helmus (Vineyard Benelux), Wilkin van de Kamp (VrijZijn), and Maher Hajj (Libanon). Again in these celebrations, there is a time of praise and worship through song.



In my (Grant's) experience, we have found New Wine a valuable week in our year. We hear speakers tackling contemporary topics for the church, or sharing about an issue or challenge as experienced practitioners. There is also the value of hearing new insights on a topic perhaps where I have already had teaching – but you nearly always learn new insights or go deeper as you listen and engage. We (Grant and Jolanda) have always found this a good time for our children as New Wine holds a good



children's programme which covers part of the morning, part of the afternoon and usually the early evening. It allows parents to attend some teachings or seminars while the children attend their own programme.

Also, what we (Grant and Jolanda) found last year, also was the enjoyment of camping together as a church group. You chat to people, share what you are learning, children get to know each other. The group also babysit for each other – as the families know each other so more parents can attend sessions.

To add to this – it is important to know - if you cannot make the entire week, there are day tickets available to attend (but those are only useful for a Sunday, Monday or Wednesday or Thursday because the Tuesday is a short programme with lots of free time, and Friday is when people pack and leave).

Last year, from Holy Trinity and All Saints, the group consisted of: Grant and Jolanda Crowe and their children, Ron and Nienke Westerbeek and their youngest daughter, Andre and Ninke van der Werk and the children, and Danielle

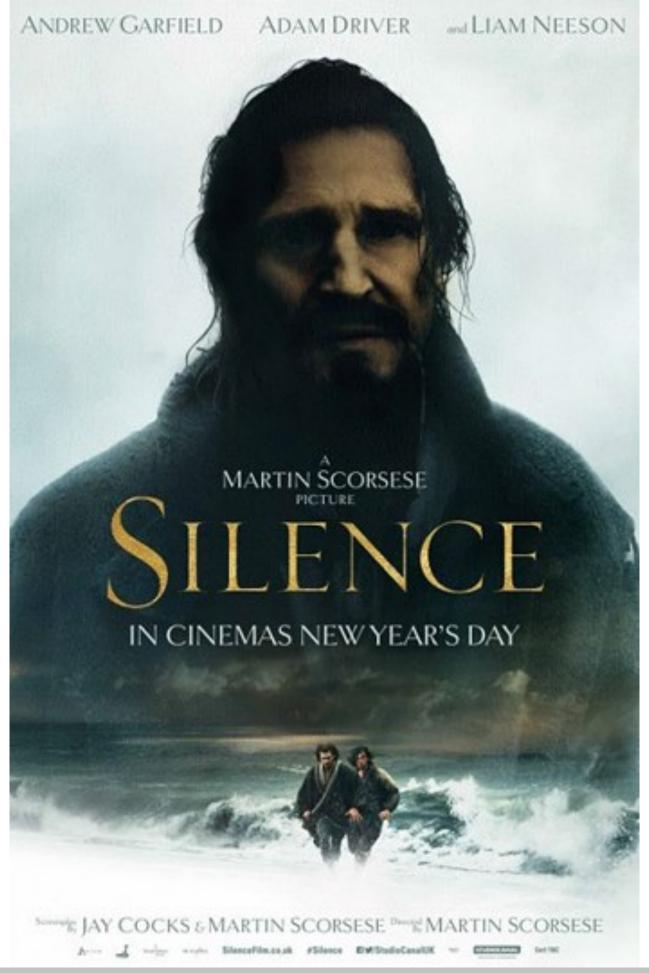
and Adrian Los and their youngest daughter. Also Beatrijs Beitler and some friends visited for a day during the Conference. This year, again a group from Holy Trinity and All Saints will be attending. We hope to be camping on an international 'field' where there will be other Christians from international churches, including from the Anglican churches in Amsterdam.

So why not consider it? Pray about it? And why not come along?

For more information – chat to the people who attended last year. Or see the website: Information:
zomerconferentie.new-wine.nl

Would you like to come along? To register? Or any questions? Please, send an e-mail to: internationals@new-wine.nl.





Our student group went to see the new Martin Scorsese movie "Silence", which has been received with great acclaim by both Hollywood critics and Christian leaders. Highly reccommended. Danielle Koning will provide us with a movie review in next month's newsletter.



NETHERLANDS DEANERY PILGRIMAGE TO THE ANGLICAN SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM 2017.

Following two successful Deanery Pilgrimages in 2015 and 2016, Revd. Barry Birch is organising a Pilgrimage to Walsingham in August 2017. The previous pilgrims really enjoyed the time and were all uplifted by the whole experience. We hope many others would like to join us this year.

The shrine and grounds are situated in a lovely English village. The grounds contain the Shrine church, gardens with the Stations of the Cross, beautiful planting, accommodation for pilgrims, several chapels, a refectory, a café, a Shrine shop and a visitors' centre.

The pilgrimage contains several aspects, including:

- The First Visit to the Holy House (as near to 4 p.m. on Monday as possible).
- A daily Mass (Eucharist).
- The Stations of the Cross.
- A Service of Sprinkling at the Well, Anointing, Confession and Laying on of hands (Tuesday evening).
- The Pilgrimage Mass (Wednesday morning).

- A Candlelight Procession followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. (Wednesday evening)
- The Last Visit to the Holy House with Intercessions (around 10 a.m. on Thursday).



Accommodation is on the basis of half board, the first meal being supper on Monday 14th August and the last meal breakfast on Thursday 17th August. The cost is likely to be about £165 per person. Revd. Barry will need to send an initial deposit of €15 per person by 27th March and a further deposit of about €27 each (depending on exchange rates at the time) sometime by 27th April. (He needs to send these as a non-refundable deposit).

It will be necessary for pilgrims to make their own travel arrangements, possibly getting together in small groups. It is useful if people have transport with them as there will be free time to explore the beautiful area.

Please contact him on barrybirch@hotmail.com or 070 2134042 as soon as you can if you are interested in joining us. He will need approximate numbers by 10th March.

Do visit the Shrine website for further information about the Shrine: www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk

North West Europe Archdeaconry Mission Conference

Learning to share our faith in the present culture

11TH MARCH 2017 10AM-3.30PM €5 INCLUDING LUNCH

At St Johns & St Philips - The Hague Ary van der Spuyweg 1, 2585 HA Den Haag, Netherlands



missionworkingparty@gmail.com



WONDERFUL CREATURES



This contribution is from Ruth Alkema who contributes articles regularly both at Holy Trinity and Jerusalemkerk in Utrecht

A few months ago, I went to the movie 'Fantastic Beasts and where to find them'. It was tremendously inspiring. Such a wonderful world, with such diversity, magic, and a beautiful display of openness for others and tenderness and eccentricity and loads of humor! There was a dark side too. Without spoiling too much, I think I can say that it seems to me a very apt description of what dark sides always do: oppress differences, make us hide our true character and suppress our gifts. And if we let this happen, and cooperate by conforming to acceptable inconspicuous behaviour, we become dark ourselves. But we were called to be light.

Oppressing differences and forcing conformity: history is full of it, and church history is no exception. I think it is a natural consequence of the paradoxical nature of life. Many things that are all true seem to contradict each other. When you see one truth clearly, it is difficult to be open to other truths that seem to contradict it.

I had such an experience when I first read some descriptions of mystics (like Hadewijch, whose writings we discussed



at the latest Christian Classics group). My first impression was that these people must have been very deceived indeed. Especially the very explicit visions about how much God loved them personally and even exalted them seemed to contradict humility. Then the long times in ecstasy, and asceticism seemed to contradict the common sense that we just live in this world together. Yet I was also very impressed that they really sincerely loved God, and did really wish to get to know him. So I asked God: "But how can you let these people, who love you so much, be so deluded?" Then at night prayer, psalm 104 was appointed, and as I read it, I saw that God had created some very strange creatures indeed. Especially verse 20 struck me: "You make darkness". It dawned on me that apparently even frightening things have a place to glorify the beauty of creation.

Since then I have (slowly) learned to question my first impressions, and think through about what it is that makes me so defensive. What is it that appears to threaten my safety? Often, it turns out to be threatening only a false security that I must let go in order to be open to reality. However painful this is, it is also a joy to find that the world is much more beautiful than I thought.

I see this variety and complexity, and also the oppression of differences, not just in history of humankind, but also within ourselves. I mean: we have a body, yet we are also spiritual beings. We are individual persons, yet we live inside loving relationships. Within our minds live thoughts and emotions. And also here, we usually make a choice to prefer one side and ignore the other. And often we take the easiest route to conform to the same kind of choice others around us have made.



We have a problem when we think something is right but it feels wrong (or vice versa). How will we ever know what to do? Which side of us will be oppressing the other side? Or is there a way to acknowledge both? Sometimes, our mind can help in pointing out obvious errors in what we feel.² At other times. our emotions can show us that there is an important thing that we should not ignore. This is the easy case where we have grown into unhelpful habits or ideas that can be corrected, and where we can learn to do what is right. But it is not always that simple. My impression of history, and also of my own life, is that we keep swinging from one truth to the other. For example knowing that God controls everything, versus knowing that we have our own free will. This makes us either desperate or overconfident. Or being either very rational, or very emotional. Or very systematic and efficient, but cool, or lively and spontaneous, but chaotic. Someone practical might suggest to find a middle ground, somewhat half-half, but in my opinion you are then oppressing everything.3

My point is, that whenever we make a choice to prefer one truth over the other, we are repressing something important that we really do need. And just as was so beautifully depicted in that movie 'Fantastic Beasts', repressing can be a recipe for trouble.

^{2.} For example, although it may feel good to eat lots of chocolate, it is really not a good idea to do this regularly. Or we may feel sad but it turns out to be a misunderstanding.

^{3.} I admit that this point of view tends to complicate things.

WONDERFUL CREATURES - CONTINUED

Therefore, we need to find a way to live with our complete nature. Now it is my opinion that we ourselves are not large enough to reconcile the paradoxes. The middle ground that we seek, lies not in us, but in God. In order to live fully, we need to surrender to God, and invite him to help. We can sit down in prayer and investigate all that is in us: our body, our emotions, thoughts and desires, and bring all these before God and allow him

to guide us. In the first place, this helps because we are quite damaged by all the hardships of life and the wrong choices we made ourselves and need God's healing and forgiveness. Yet, far more profoundly, even if we were perfect human beings, we would still need to live in him (and allow him to live in us) whose love is large enough to reconcile our paradoxical nature in harmonious unity.



LENT COURSE AT ALL SAINTS AMERSFOORT

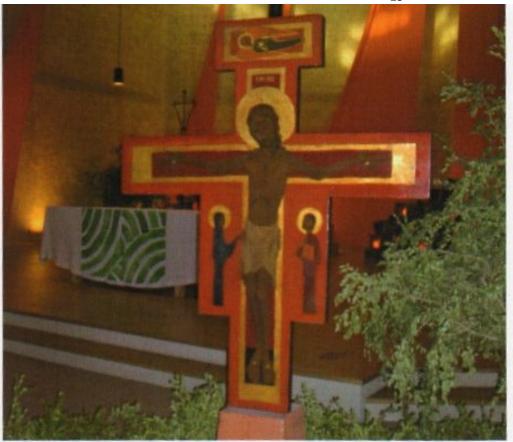
In quite a few Anglican churches, Lent is a time to reflect on our discipleship. And many churches use it to run courses to help us move or grow deeper in our discipleship – reminding us that a church is not just about deep community but about lifelong discipleship. All Saint is going to run a course over Lent.

March 9th 'Going Deeper with Jesus' – between now and Holy Week, during the weeks of Lent, on Thursday evenings, we will exploring more deeply who Jesus is, through Mark's Gospel. It will begin at **8pm** – arrive earlier if you would like a drink. It will be held in church in the day chapel at Heilige Geest Kerk, Mozartweg 54, 3816LT Amersfoort. We will have a Bible Study on a selected passage, then some DVD input to get us thinking further on the theme, followed by further discussion, finishing with prayer. We finish at **9.30pm**.

The Course uses the structure and dvd input from a discovery course called 'Christianity Explored' to kick start our thinking and guide our themes but the aim is to go as deep as we can, in our time together, in our study of Jesus identity and ministry, his mission, the cross, the resurrection through the words of Mark's Gospel. <u>It is a course for those who perhaps have never explored deeply who Christ is. It is also for those who want to go much deeper into the Lord, whose cross and resurrection we celebrate in a number of weeks.</u>

In addition, from 7.30pm to 7.45pm on the same evening, there will be the opportunity to arrive earlier to pray together for a brief time for our church of All Saints.

Do let Revd Grant (grantcrowe@ziggo.nl) know if interested to help him plan for the evenings



7 JULI - 16 JULI 2017 PILGRIMAGE TO TAIZÉ

Coming to Taizé

Coming to Taizé is to be invited to search for communion with God through community prayer, songs, silence, personal reflection and sharing. A stay in Taizé can help one step back from daily life, to meet a wide variety of people and consider one's commitment in the Church and in society. During their visit all participants join in the community life and the daily programme.

Find out more: http://www.taize.fr/en_rubriqueg.html



For everybody, 17 -30 years old, from All Saints and Holy Trinity parishes.

"It is a taste of celebration to see so many young adults together in all their diversity. It gives us a great hope that it is possible for all humanity to live in peace."

Brother Alois

Cost: about €200.

MORE INFORMATION AND ENROLL:

berbenangela@gmail.com 0651937672



HEROES OF THE FAITH: HENRY VENN (1724-1797)



"As a supplement to our year long focus on *Anglicanism: A Gift in Christ* we are considering important figures in the history of Anglicanism and especially those who are inspiration to us in their lives given to mission. The Rev Grant Crowe, Chaplain in Amersfoort, has prepared these reflections on *Heroes of the Faith*."

We have been considering Heroes of the Faith and in previous newsletters, we focused upon Columba, Aidan and Willibrord who reminded us of the roots for the Church of England. The next newsletters, will focus on individuals from the 18th and 19th centuries – influential figures in the Church of England.¹

Revd Henry Venn – he is remembered, this year, in the Church of England calendar on July 1st.² He lived from 1724 until 1797. Venn is described as a priest and evangelical divine.

The word 'evangelical' has different meanings. For German and Hungarian speakers it can mean Lutheran; for Dutch it can mean non-traditional churches – so the large Christian event called Opwekking, (held usually on the Pentecost Weekend) is called Evangelical. For the Church of England, evangelical can to represent a group of Christians – clergy and lay – who held to certain views on theology, ministry and mission, and often it was reflected in their approach to corporate worship.



In a United Kingdom setting and for the Church of England, the 18th century 'Evangelical Revival' was a renewal of English Protestantism. It was part of "an international phenomenon embracing German Pietism and the American 'Great Awakening'"³. In the 18th century Christians saw the changes in society, they saw its wealth and growing secular and pleasure seeking focus and were concerned. Deism

3. Sykes, Stephen, Booty, John, Knight, Jonathan, *The Study of Anglicanism: Revised Edition,* (London: SPCK,1998), p33

^{1.} These inspiring figures, were part of a sermon series preached at a monthly midweek Holy Communion at All Saints Amersfoort, in 2016.

^{2.} On July 1st, we remember three Venns! Henry Venn – the individual we share this month, his son John Venn, and the grandson, Henry Venn Junior. This month, in April and in May we will consider these three men.

had a strong influence on the life of the nation – Deism suggests that if there is a God he is not involved in the world. Louise Bouyer says, by the 1730a, "England, spiritually speaking had reached its lowest level ever."

The Evangelical Revival – beginning from the 1730s onwards - included such individuals as John Wesley (ordained a priest in 1728), Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, and **Henry Venn**. Their focus in their preaching and ministry was upon : a religion of the heart and of direct personal relationship with Jesus Christ, being aware of Christ's atoning death on the cross, the importance of biblical faith and personal piety.

Henry Venn had come into a spiritual awakening in his last years at Cambridge University. He served in churches in that part of England. Moved to Surrey (1750) where he developed and embraced the above stated evangelical principles to which he would hold fast for the rest of his ministry and life. He served as a vicar in London (1753-1759), Huddersfield (for 12 years from 1759) before due to health reasons – it was said he had worked himself almost to exhaustion in that priestly work - returning south to minister for 27 years at Yelling near Cambridge.

Henry Venn valued meditation upon the Bible, reading the Scriptures and reading

books to build him up spiritually. When he served in London, he was first Anglican vicar to preach without notes in the open air. At Huddersfield, where he served for 12 years, when parishioners gathered for Sunday worship, he would often remind people that they were in the great and mighty presence of God. He would often introduce the psalms and bible readings, before they were sung or read. And he was a man who loved liturgy. Venn would preach maybe eight to ten times in the open air during the week. He argued for: a) personal conversion, b) genuine piety, c) warm fellowship with other believers, and d) evangelism. Venn was as an "outstanding pastor-evangelist" who would welcome people at his home, or meet in smaller groups across the city to give further instruction in following Christ. His family life was to be well known for its piety, its love and its practical Christianity.

His ministry brought into contact with Christians in different parts of 18th century British society. His friends included Lady Huntingdon, hymn writers John Newton & William Cowper and many other evangelical leaders, such as John and Charles Wesley and John Fletcher of Madeley Shropshire. He influenced and enjoyed the fellowship of Charles Simeon.⁶

Story continues on the reverse page

^{4.} Bouyer, Louis, Orthodox Spirituality and Protestant and Anglican Spirituality, (London: Burns and Oates Limited, 1969), p.184

^{5.} Anderson, Gerald H, Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions, (Wm B. Eerdmans, 1999) p.698

^{6.} Venn was excited at Simeon becoming the priest at Trinity Church and they did occasional pulpit swops. Charles Simeon was to be priest at Trinity Church, Cambridge, England, for 49 years. (Hopkins, Hugh Evans, *Charles Simeon of Cambridge*, (Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2012) p.102

There was a story quoted by American minister John Piper concerning Henry Venn and Charles Simeon. "

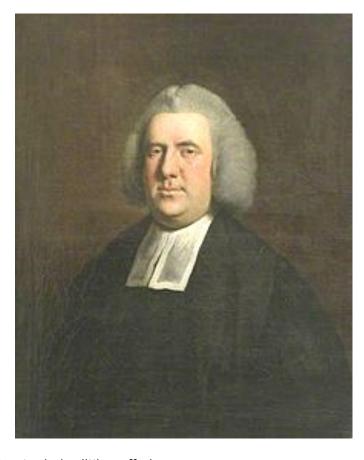
"Simeon had a somewhat harsh and selfassertive air about him. One day, early in Simeon's ministry, he was visiting Henry Venn, who was pastor 12 miles from Cambridge at Yelling. When he left to go home Venn's daughters complained to their father about his manner. Venn took the girls to the back yard and said, "Pick me one of those peaches." But it was early summer, and "the time of peaches was not yet." They asked why he would want the green, unripe fruit. Venn replied, "Well, my dears, it is green now, and we must wait; but a little more sun, and a few more showers, and the peach will be ripe and sweet. So it is with Mr. Simeon.""7

Venn and others, though their own position and practices were questioned, remained faithful to the Church of England and as he approached his final years, he encouraged the evangelical clergy to follow him in remaining in the Church of England and not to leave the Church of England as the Methodists had done. His words were heeded by many.

He was a man seeking 'unity than division'. He helped the Evangelical Revival turn into a way of life for making disciples and a way of life – as Jesus had commanded in Matthew 28 – a stance which influenced the next generation of

evangelicals. The first generation – men like Henry Venn and others focused on revival, the second generation, which was to involve his son John, and men like William Wilberforce, threw their energies into agencies and activity involved in mission and social reform...

Henry Venn, a father to John Venn who like his father would become a vicar, and support to William Wilberforce and others of the Clapham Sect, a grandfather to Henry Venn junior (born in 1796 a year before Henry Venn the elder's death), who would become one of the leading missionary strategists in the nineteenth century. Henry Venn died in 1797. It has been said that when Venn, was told by his doctor that he was about it die, it cheered him up so much he stayed alive another 2 weeks!





MAD MARCH GALES

The month of March has a reputation for a wild and blustery start but usually changes to much milder weather before it ends ... as the old saying goes 'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb'.

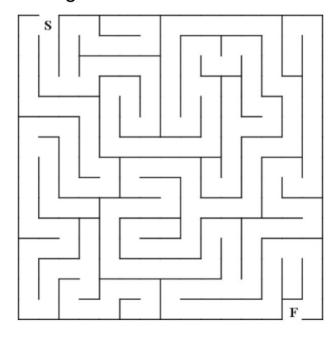
People's homes are flooded or big trees uprooted in high winds. Even if it doesn't happen to us we see the pictures of other people's suffering in the media.

There was a time when Jesus' friends were frightened because a fierce storm blew up while they were fishing. The disciples thought their boat was going to sink and they were very frightened. You can read about it in St Mark's Gospel, chapter 4, verses 35-39.

I get frightened when the wind blows so hard that the trees bend and the lights flicker but then I remember that Jesus is with us all the time. Just as He was with the disciples in the boat, He is with us when we are afraid. Jesus gives us hope, courage and strength.

SAFELY HOME

Can you find your way home through the maze of streets?





What did the north wind say to the east wind?

Let's play draughts



How easy is it for wind gusts to talk to each other?

It is a breeze.

What does a cloud wear under her raincoat?
Thunderwear!



DRINKING FROM THE WELL OF LIFE

THESE READINGS ARE FROM THE REVISED TABLES OF LESSONS 1922

This pattern of readings is taken from the Book of Common Prayer (revised 1922). It leads us each year through most of the Old Testament once and the whole New Testament twice. The readings are longer than you might be used to, but just let them wash over you and shape your soul like a rock in a river that is gradually shaped by the current. If you miss a bit, just pick up on the present day's readings when you return. Or if it is too much, chose just the Old Testament or Gospel or Epistle readings. Grey highlighted boxes are special readings related to a day of Fasting or a Feast day, which we begin to celebrate the night before.

Quinquagesima – February 27 to March 4

O LORD, who has taught us that all our doings without charity are worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever lives is counted dead before you: Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Genesis 29:1-20	Matthew 23:13-end	Gen 31:1-9,14-21	Romans 12
Tuesday	Gen 31:22-32:2	Matthew 24:1-28	Genesis 32:3-30	Romans 13
Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58	Mark 2:13-22	Jonah 3	Hebrews 3:12-4:13
Thursday	Genesis 33	Matthew 24:29-end	Genesis 35:1-20	Romans 14
Friday	Genesis 37	Matthew 25:1-30	Genesis 40	Romans 15
Saturday	Genesis 41:1-40	Matthew 25:31-end	Genesis 41:41-end	Romans 16

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 6 TO 11

O LORD, who for our sake did fast forty days and forty nights:
Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit,
we may ever obey your godly motions in righteousness and true holiness, to your honour
and glory, who is alive and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world
without end. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Genesis 42	Matthew 26:1-30	Genesis 43	Philippians 1
Tuesday	Genesis 44	Matthew 26:31-56	Genesis 45:1-15	Philippians 2
Wednesday	Gen 45:16—46:7	Matthew 26:57-end	Gen 46:26—47:12	Philippians 3
Thursday	Genesis 47:13-end	Matthew 27:1-26	Genesis 48	Philippians 4
Friday	Genesis 49:1-32	Matthew 27:27-56	Gen 49:33—50 end	Colossians 1:1-20
Saturday	Exodus 1:1-14,22-2:10	Matt 27:57—28 end	Exodus 2:11-22	Col 1:21—2:7

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 13 TO 18

Almighty God, who sees that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended
from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts
which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Exodus 2:23-3 end	John 1:1-28	Exodus 4:1-23	Colossians 2:8—3:11
Tuesday	Exodus 4:27-6:1	John 1:29-end	Ex 6:2-13 & 7:1-7	Colossians 3:12—4:1
Wednesday	Exodus 7:8-end	John 2	Exodus 8:1-19	Colossians 4:2-end
Thursday	Exodus 8:20-9:12	John 3:1-21	Exodus 9:13-end	Philemon
Friday	Exodus 10:1-20	John 3:22-end	Ex 10:21—11 end	Ephesians 1
Saturday	Exodus 12:1-20	John 4:1-26	Exodus 12:21-36	Ephesians 2

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 20 TO 25

WE beseech you, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of your humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of your Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer		
Monday	Exodus 12:37-end	John 4:27-end	Exodus 13:1-16	Ephesians 3	
Tuesday	Ex.13:17-14:14	John 5:1-23	Exodus 14:15-end	Ephesians 4:1-16	
Wednesday	Exodus 15:1-26	John 5:24-end	Exodus 15:27-16:35	Ephesians 4:17-30	
Thursday	Exodus 17	John 6:1-21	Exodus 18	Ephesians 4:31-5:21	
Friday	Exodus 19	John 6:22-40	Genesis 3:1-15	Romans 5:12-21	
Annunciation	Isaiah 52:7-12	Hebrews 2:5-end	1 Sam 2:5-end	Matthew 1:18-23	

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 27 TO APRIL 1

Grant, we beseech you, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of your grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Exodus 24	John 7:1-24	Exodus 25:1-22	1 Timothy 1:1-17
Tuesday	Exodus 28:1-4, 29-41	John 7:25-end	Ex. 29:38-30:16	1 Tim.1:18-2 end
Wednesday	Exodus 32	John 8:1-30	Exodus 33	1 Timothy 3
Thursday	Exodus 34	John 8:31-end	Exodus 35:20-36:7	1 Timothy 4
Friday	Exodus 40:17-end	John 9	Leviticus 6:8-end	1 Timothy 5
Saturday	Leviticus 19:1-18, 30-end	John 10:1-21	Leviticus 25:1-24	1 Timothy 6



WORSHIP IN MARCH 2017

ALL SAINTS' AMERSFOORT

Every Sunday: 9:30am Sung Holy Communion

Midweek Lent Course: Going Deeper with Jesus, 8pm Thursday nights (see page 24) Heilige Geestkerk, Mozartweg 54, Amersfoort (see: www.allsaintsamersfoort.nl)

ANGLICAN CHURCH ZWOLLE

4pm First Sunday (Holy Communion) and 4pm Third Sunday (Evensong)

GRACE CHURCH GRONINGEN

10:30am 2nd Sunday (Service of the Word) and 4th Sunday (Holy Communion) every Month

HOLY TRINITY UTRECHT

services are in English unless otherwise specified

20:00 Choral Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Sunday 5th March First Sunday in Lent (with the Rev Grant Crowe)

10:30 All Age Worship - Sung Communion

Sunday 12th March Second Sunday in Lent

9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch liturgy/English sermon)

10:30 Sung Communion14:30 Choral Evensong

Saturday 18th March Evening Prayer and Praise

19:30 Service of the Word with Gospel Band

Sunday 19th March Third Sunday in Lent

10:30 Choral Communion

(with Healing Ministry offered after the service)

Saturday 25th March The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(the Rt Rev Robert Innes)

15:30 Confirmation and Choral Communion

(at All Saints' Amersfoort)

Sunday 26th March Fourth Sunday in Lent (with the Rt Rev Robert Innes)

9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch liturgy/English sermon)

10:30 Choral Communion

In addition to the above services, we have these regular midweek services:

Daily: Morning Prayer (Tues to Fri 8.00; Sat 9.00)

Evening Prayer (Tues to Fri 17.30; Sat 17:00)

Weekly: Holy Communion (said) (Wednesday at 19.00)