

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 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:

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Cover picture: Head of Christ - Rembrandt, Amsterdam ca 648-1656, now in Philadelphia Museum of Art



SEPTEMBER EVENTS AT A GLANCE

FOR WORSHIP SERVICES SEE LAST PAGE

Sept 04	Bible Study Group, 8 PM in Haaften	See page 24
Sept 12	Bible Study Group, 8 PM at the parsonage, HTC	See page 24
Sept 12	First Student Alpha meeting (informal drink)	See below
Sept 13	Bible Study Group, 10 AM in Houten	See page 24
Sept 22-23	Lecture weekend on "Why did God become man?"	See page 09
Sept 26	Bible Study Group, 8 PM at the parsonage, HTC	See page 24
Sept 27	Bible Study Group, 10 AM in Houten	See page 24



UPCOMING EVENTS

Autumn

We are organising another Student Alpha course. Meetings will be held weekly on Tuesday evenings at the parsonage (Holy Trinity Utrecht). First meeting will be on September 12th.

13 October

Christian Classics study group on the Mystical Dimensions of the Liturgy. See page 12

10-11 November

Council and Leadership Away Weekend

16-18 November

Pilgrimage to Wittenberg. See July/August Newsletter.



CHAPLAIN'S LETTER: ANTIOCH



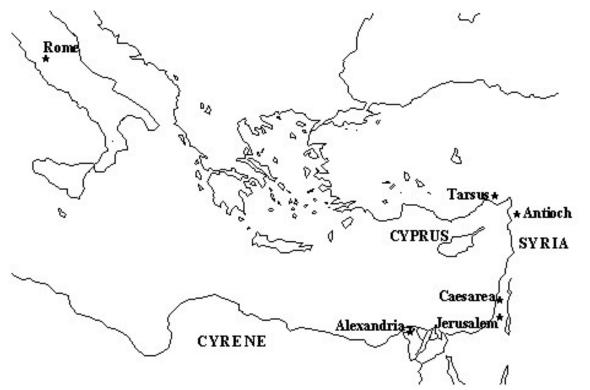
This months Chaplain's Letter is written by the Rev Grant Crowe, Amersfoort Chaplain

Antioch

Summer is coming to an end. We approach a new level of activity in our congregations' lives, with home groups starting anew or once more, Harvest, All Saints, All Souls & Remembrance Services all approach fast, and quickly our planning picks up speed for our Advent season and Christmas celebrations. Summer to Christmas all in a few seconds! David last month, encouraged us to use a pause button – to take time for personal retreat, to reflect, pray, be still, to listen. I'd like to use that idea – to pause and reflect - in a different way, and before we rush into our own church activities in Groningen, Zwolle, Utrecht or Amersfoort, to hit the pause button and consider some reflections about a 1st century church.

Antioch is near the modern day city of Antakya, in southern Turkey. 2 hours west, by car (on good roads), from Aleppo in Syria. Looking back, biblical scholar, Raymond Brown shares: "if in later patristic history Antioch proves to be a centre of both Christian theology, exegesis, and church power, a centre that affects the church throughout the whole of the Roman Empire, the seeds of its subsequent lofty status are already present in the first century." Another scholar, Richard Longnecker adds: "apart from Jerusalem, no city of the Roman Empire played as large a part in the early life and fortunes of the Christian church as Antioch of Syria."

Acts 11:v19-30 is where we read the formation of this church.



1. it is a church born by **persecution**. Saul – attacks the church, seeking to imprison all the Christians he can find (see Acts 8). This forces many of the Christians to flee. Some, (v19), travel as far as Antioch, 640 km away from Jerusalem. They tell the good news

about Jesus Christ and a new church is born. Striking. On one hand, it would have been possible to focus upon the devastation of the Jerusalem church estimated, that out of a city of 25000, 10000 were Christians – and yet here, we see how God uses this persecution, to form new congregations, including Antioch. It is moving also to reflect, how it was persecution that drove these believers away from their mother church and yet they seek to evangelise again, the mere act of which could provoke more persecution and force them to move once more. There is much, still today, that we can learn from the persecuted parts of the Christian Church, and it is worth our time to become more aware of their stories and experiences.

2. The Christians – Jewish believers – adapt 'a fresh and creative' approach to evangelism.' Luke writes, some spoke only to Jews, but others spoke to Gentiles / Greeks also – "telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus." This is a radical step – radical because, for the first time, the message about Jesus is now being proclaimed in a non-Jewish manner. Jesus was no longer presented initially as 'the Christ' i.e. the Messiah; he is presented as 'Lord', using kyrios, a Hellenistic title given to the Greek deities. This word however was also familiar to Jews. The word Kyrios, was the Greek word used to translate the Hebrew name of God in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures). It was a *vital* step. The Jewish believers when talking with Greeks, "found it was of little use to talk of

Jesus as Messiah." There was no difficult translating the *word*, as the Hebrew word 'Messiah' had been translated into the Greek word for 'Christ'. The issue was the meaning. "The word meant nothing to Greeks and needed endless explanation." Yet 'Lord' Kurios was language they could begin to understand. It is a deliberate shift in language, to speak to the Greeks in a way they could understand better, which enabled their mission to succeed. They were the first Christian apologists.

The Christians in Antioch took a fresh, new, different, but biblically orthodox, approach to sharing the Christian message. They sought a way that would connect with the people in Antioch. The previous approach had worked very well in Jerusalem and Judea, but it would not work with Greeks in Asia. So they adapted their communication.



3. Mother church sends Barnabas (v.22-23) to this new church – a daughter church in effect. They send the 'Son of Encouragement' (see Acts 4:36-37), to see what is happening, and he **encourages** them. I wanted to say thank you again to Holy Trinity Utrecht for all its support – as

- 1. Walls, Andrew F., The Cross Cultural Process in Christian History, (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2002, p.79
- 2. Walls, The Cross Cultural, p.79

CHAPLAIN'S LETTER - CONTINUED

the mother church – from your daughter church of All Saints. The resources you provided, personnel for rotas, the advice, the prayer, the support. Especially I want to thank again past and present wardens, past Councils and current one, and Father David, for all your encouragement for us as a daughter church. And as we move into our new venue in late October, we thank you in advance for the encouragement through words and prayers you will give us. We hope that, as Antioch was able to be of encouragement to Jerusalem (vv27-30), we will be sometime, in the future, able to be of encouragement to Holy Trinity, as well as to Groningen and Zwolle.

4. The Hand of God – not Maradona in this case (only football fans will get that!), but Barnabas sees the true hand of God at work (v21 & v23). He comes to a church that is quite different from Jerusalem. If the Jerusalem church was still meeting in the temple (possible, as Saul was now converted (Acts 9)), then here was a church meeting in homes. While the Jerusalem church was Jewish, this church was mixed – Jews and Gentiles. And the approach to worship was different. Acts 15 and Galatians 2, suggests that before people – other than Barnabas – came to visit Antioch, Gentiles and Jews ate together comfortably, which would have included sharing the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion together. It appears, that Antioch did this from the start, which was not the practice in Jerusalem. Barnabas however, while things are different in

Antioch, he sees the hand, the grace of God at work and "encouraged them to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts," (v24). It is easy to look at something different, a different church, a different denomination, and because they are different and don't do it the way we value and prefer, we somehow can, within us, 'de-value them', saying they aren't as serious about their faith, or not as reverential or not as enthusiastic and so on. But Barnabas' example - and challenge – when we see churches, congregations, ministries etc, that are different, is to begin with asking – do I see the grace of God, the hand of God in this?

5. **Risk taking.** Barnabas takes a risk. He sees what is going on, people becoming disciples and then he goes to Tarsus to get Saul, (v25). After his conversion, Saul left Damascus and visited Jerusalem, where he had met Barnabas. After tension in the city caused by his preaching, the apostles encouraged him to go back to his home city of Tarsus. Why was this a risk? Barnabas sees he needs help and goes and gets someone, we know will be a great apostle. But why did this church exist in Antioch? Persecution. Who led that persecution? Saul. So we don't know how this went. But Barnabas – who I always imagine as a big version of Gimli (Lord of the Rings) - brings in Saul and says, 'hi everyone, this is Saul, do you know him?' and perhaps some church members said 'yes, I know him, he is the reason that my family is in prison, or because of him I am living 640km north from my home etc).

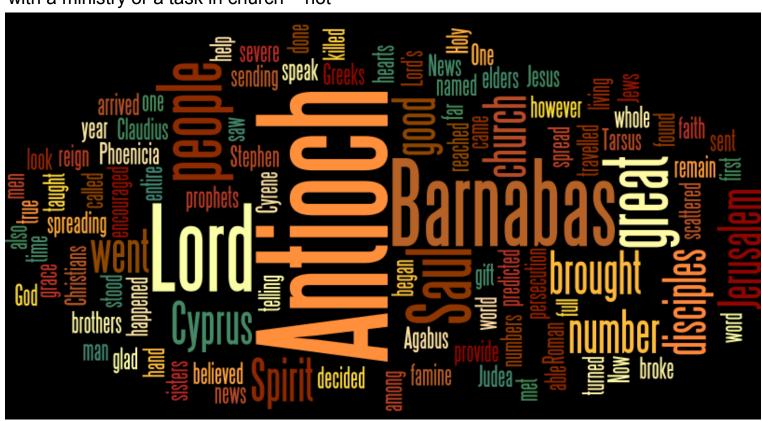
Barnabas brings in someone, who potentially, could have caused great division. But there is no sign of this reaction and when we read the rest of Acts, I feel a great sense of warmth between the Antioch church and Paul, which wasn't there to the same degree as between the Jerusalem church and Paul. The believers in Antioch were people of great generosity in their love, were forgiving, accepting him as a fellow believer and accepting him that he could teach them.

Risk. When you chat to most priests – I think – and ask them about points along their way of discerning the Lord's calling, I think most will talk of being given opportunities to try / do something. Maybe someone invited them help with a youth camp, or to do readings or intercessions, or some other way. Barnabas gives Saul a great opportunity, supported by the Antioch congregation. Can we this autumn, give someone a chance – to invite someone to help us with a ministry or a task in church – not

because we need the help necessarily but because it will perhaps be a step along the way of them serving our God? Can we be a church who allows such 'risks' where people can be invited to try things and if they fail, we do not say 'never again' but help pick them up and encourage them to try again. Barnabas took a huge risk and yet he felt sure under God it was right and he knew Saul, the church supported his actions and blessing – as we read – v25-26 – came to the church and of course, later to the wider Christian church as Saul / Paul grew in his ministry.

So we press the play button, as we head into the autumn, but consider if the church in Antioch has things to say into our individual and corporate lives.

In Christ. Grant





ALL SAINTS HAS A NEW HOME!

As I had mentioned, All Saints had been told that this autumn we would have to move from Heilige Geest Kerk, which has been our home since December 2015. We have been very blessed to have had access and use of that church building for our Sunday and midweek activities. As you know we have been searching, and you have been praying. In July, we believe the Lord led us to the right home for the present time. It is a community centre – called Nieuwe Erven. It is about 5 minutes walk from Heilige Geest Kerk. Here is the website:

http://www.nieuweerven.nl/

The organisers have warmly welcomed us. It allows us to meet on a Sunday morning at our usual time – which was an issue preventing us from other church buildings. It holds up 120 people which is a little larger than our current size. It has a smaller separate building which we can use for our children's work which will offer some new exciting possibilities. It offers good potential for our local mission work as the Nieuwe Erven, through its volunteers, hosts or does quite a lot of community based work, and there may be a way to get involved in that work. And it has a well equipped kitchen – for the all

important coffee and cake! If you had asked us – a year ago – where the Lord may lead us – we would not have imagined this outcome. But we know the Lord has led us there.

We have agreed an initial 12 month contract. We see the Nieuwe Erven as our home but a temporary one. So we will seriously consider any church buildings that do become available – but of course, we will only move again when we have found the right church building suitable for our vision and needs.

Our final service at Heilige Geest Kerk will be on Sunday 15th October. Our first service at Nieuwe Erven – the following week, on 22nd October.

We thank you for how you have prayed for us and with us for a venue. Your prayers have been answered. We'd ask your prayers for two particular things. 1. Our move to go well and smoothly, and that Nieuwe Erven would become quickly a new home for us. 2. Storage, it looks likely we may not have storage room on site, but we pray for the Lord to provide a way to have most of our necessary items onsite.

Thank you. Revd Grant Crowe.



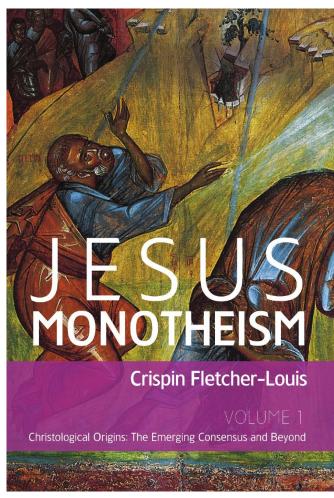


THE 2017 UTRECHT LECTURES: WHY DID GOD BECOME MAN?

Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Utrecht is hosting a self-supporting annual seminar bringing in lecturers from around the world to enliven and deepen our theological discussion. This September we will host the first of these seminars. We are grateful to Fr Jos Strengholt who had the idea and is bringing this new initiative about!

This year New Testament Scholar Dr Crispin Fletcher-Louis will be visiting the Netherlands in September and will offer a 2-day seminar on 'Why did God become man?', Friday 22 September 10-5pm and Saturday 23 September 10-5pm, both at Holy Trinity Utrecht.

The teaching and discussion will be anchored in foundational Old Testament texts (especially Genesis 1) and the Gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry (esp. Mark 1–8) and address these questions: What does it mean to be human? Why did God become a man, in Jesus of Nazareth? What difference does it make to our humanity that God became a human being? The material will be informed by some of the latest research on the meaning of biblical texts in their original first century Jewish and ancient Israelite contexts. It will also be oriented to the practical realities of our lives and spirituality (in the workplace, in our families, in our church communities and the public square).



There is space for 25 participants. Snacks, coffee / tea and lunch are included, as well as all study handouts. All-in 50 Euro per person for both days together.

For further information, contact Jos at jos@strengholt.info.



About the Author

Crispin Fletcher-Louis (D.Phil, Oxford) is the Director of Whymanity Research and Training. He has held posts at King's College London, and the universities of Durham and Nottingham. He was the founder of Westminster Theological Centre, where he served as the Principal until 2012.

See more on his website: www.jesusmonotheism.com

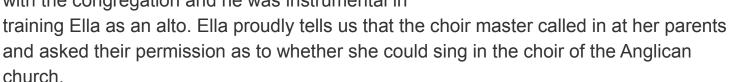


ELLA'S "SONGS OF PRAISE" ANNIVERSARY AT HOLY TRINITY

Ella Schoonhoven celebrates her 60th anniversary as a chorister at Holy Trinity Church Utrecht this September. Her passion to sing in our Church started when she was just sixteen years old - 1956! - and our church remains not only her spiritual home, but also the place where she can express her faith through singing in our choir.

Ella came from a strong Dutch Reformed background, with her father one of the elders of the nearby Wilhelminakerk and her mother one of the sopranos in the choir of the Jacobikerk (St James). She started her musical passion as an eleven year old, joining her mother in songs of praise. She entered our church doors after she had read an advertisement in the local newspaper which said that our church was a place where you could learn the "Queen's English" and she was also immediately drawn to the great British "choral tradition".

It wasn't long before the choir master, Arnie Hutchinson, spotted her talents while she sang hymns with the congregation and he was instrumental in



Ella has thrown herself into songs of praise in our church with great energy and lots of passion. She has formed great and enduring friendships in our choir with fellow choristers, of which her friendship with Oeke Kruythof is most prominent. Throughout the decades Ella has found a source of solace and inspiration in those songs of praise.

She has also served our church in other capacities, such as social secretary in the Council in the 1980s and was one of the hands-on gardeners in the church gardens in the 1990s. Ella enjoys singing with the younger and new generation of choristers at Holy Trinity. As a mother and retired teacher, she has a lot of empathy for young families and individuals who strive to balance the demands of work, study or family obligations, with their desire to sing to God's praise for our Church.



Happy Anniversary, Ella! May you long continue to sing your praises for us all.



KIDS CHOIR

This contribution was written by Beth Houdijk

We're starting up again! The kids' choir has been running for several months now and the children have already sung for us on a few occasions. This season we think it would be great if we could start contributing more regularly to church services, by hopefully singing every first Sunday in the month (during the all-age worship services). To reach this goal we could use some help, and that is where you come in!

We are looking for more **children** who would like to join the choir - please feel free to pass on our contact details (below) to anyone who might be interested - thanks!

We are also (as previously mentioned in the Church bulletin) looking for **musicians** who would be willing to accompany the children every once in a while, for example during the Crib service on Christmas Eve. All instruments and abilities welcome. Kids Choir rehearsal times:

1st Sunday in the month: 9.30-10.15am rehearsal in the parsonage.

Once the children have practised in the preceding weeks they can then sing during the All Age Worship service starting at 10.30am.

2nd Sunday in the month: no rehearsal.

3rd, 4th (and 5th) Sundays: 12.30-1.15pm rehearsal in church. Children who attend the church service should bring a small packed lunch to eat (in the parsonage) before the rehearsal.

For more info or to get involved, please contact Muriel Zwart (mezwart@hotmail.com or 06-51287711) or Beth Houdijk (beth.houdijk@gmail.com or 06-26885323).



AWAY WEEKEND FOR LEADERSHIP TEAMS

We are planning to have an Away
Weekend for members of the Leadership
Teams of our four churches (Groningen,
Zwolle, Amersfoort and Utrecht) and the
Chaplaincy Council at the Nieuw Zion
retreat centre near Deventer for
the Friday evening
and Saturday the 10 and 11 of November.
The purpose is to get to know one another,
to have a clearer sense of our ministry
and mission and to discuss our life
together in the Chaplaincy. In preparation

for this meeting it is hoped that the four leadership teams could discuss in their meetings in September/October a 15 minute presentation of SWOT (strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats) for the first night together. Also we need to think about how the chaplaincy can work strategically in ministry and mission and how we can be interdependent – what can each church give to and receive from the wider chaplaincy.



CHRISTIAN CLASSICS STUDY GROUP

On Friday October 13, the Christian Classics Study Group will explore the mystical dimension of the liturgy. We will look at questions such as, What is the deeper meaning of that which is celebrated in the liturgy? How does the liturgy symbolise and deepen our inner relationship with God? Starting point for our discussion will be selected texts from late medieval mystics of the Low Countries which address the relationship between the liturgy of the Church and what they describe as the 'inner liturgy' of the human

person relating to God. More information and texts for discussion will be posted on the website. The evening begins, as usual, with supper at 6:30pm in the Parsonage Hall and the talk and discussion begins at 8pm. The evening will be led by Dr. Ineke Cornet, who completed a PhD on late medieval mysticism at the Catholic University of Leuven. Currently, she is a lecturer and supervisor for online courses of the Jesuit College of Spirituality in Melbourne, Australia.



WEDDING PICTURES

Over the summer we celebrated many weddings and a vow renewal. Here are some of the pictures!







Bob & Janneke



WEDDING PICTURES - CONTINUED



VOW RENEWAL - CRISTAN & PAULA

Dear friends and family,

We would like to thank you for coming to our wedding vow renewal ceremony last Sunday. We had a really good day. It felt so good to share this day with you. The weather was wonderful, the food you all brought was wonderful and the fact you were there made it all really brilliant.

For friends and family who were not able to come, my mum and sister who really wanted to come but couldn't, my family in Chile who would have really been happy to share this day with us, I just want to say: thank you for your lovely, caring messages and phone calls. You were all present in spirit.

A special thanks to father David who made the ceremony possible and wrote a very meaningful and moving sermon, to Brian Maria and Haikki for the very good sounding, soulful music, to Mamolepa for moving us during the prayer of intercession, to Kit for showing us the way around the church, to Judy, Jan, Juliana and the other great people who helped run the pot-luck. It was incredible how efficient you all were. Thank you! with much love and appreciation,

Paula and Cristan





Welcome

Sunday Septembre 24, 2017
Start time 9:30 pm
Heilige Geest Kerk
Mozartweg 54
Amersfoort
The sermon is in English

Al 60 jaar op de bres voor vervolgde christenen

Wees w kker!

Wereldwijd hebben ruim 100 miljoen mensen te maken met discriminatie, marteling, ontvoering of zelfs doodsbedreiging omdat ze christen zijn. Toch volharden vervolgde christenen. Ze putten hoop en kracht uit het evangelie en spreken van vertrouwen en troost. Open Doors steunt en versterkt hen met bijbels, boeken, training en praktische hulp.

Verbonden met vervolgde christenen

Hoe is het om vervolgd te worden?
Dat kunnen wij ons moeilijk voorstellen. Toch bent u verbonden met de vervolgde kerk. Als leden van één lichaam in Jezus Christus. Tijdens een presentatie leert u uw vervolgde broeders en zusters beter kennen, door verhalen, foto's, video's en persoonlijke ervaringen van Open Doors-medewerkers.

Mercy's verhaal

"Ik zal mijn Redder nooit verloochenen", roept dominee Musa vlak voor gewapende mannen hem doodschieten. Hij is niet de eerste voorganger in Nigeria die wordt vermoord. De kerk in Noord-Nigeria staat zwaar onder druk. Mercy, de vrouw van Musa, en haar vier kinderen lijden omdat ze hem missen. In reactie op de hulp van Open Doors zegt Mercy: "Hartelijk dank voor jullie liefde voor mijn gezin. Moge de Here God ons nog meer samenbinden!"

,, Reactie na een presentatie

Wij hebben nu een indruk hoe het is om christen te zijn in verdrukking. Om dan toch uit te komen voor je geloof. Maar ook dat God kracht geeft op het gebed.







WORDS OF LIFE

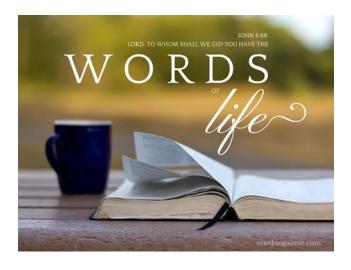


This contribution was written by Ruth Alkema

So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:67-69

God speaks to us. He speaks creative words that bring life. He created our life in the first place, and I think he still speaks to us to create new life in us. Unfortunately, we are often very attached to our old life, so this new life often bothers us. In consequence we are often most busy with trying to define God in comprehensible terms, in terms that we can understand, and feel comfortable with. This way we prevent him from expressing himself fully to us. We need a change in our attitude towards God, before we can hear his words.

Psalm 27 seems to illustrate this change of attitude.2 David starts out really confident: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? But halfway there is an interesting shift in this psalm in verses 6-8: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek." Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! Where is now his confidence? But the interesting thing is, that he is now speaking to God, as opposed to about him in the first verses.



Note also that it seems that he has now really heard something that God said to him.

It puzzles me that it is often such a struggle to hear God. You'd think it ought to be easy enough, but I find it difficult, even when I set apart dedicated time to be quiet and wait. There is a part of me that just keeps wanting to rush off and do something. We might not even be aware that we are shutting him out. How can we learn to detect what is going on, and listen better? It will probably take our whole life to learn this, but I think that a vital step is that we become honest, and speak to God what we *really* feel.³

Just one silly example from my own experience: A few weeks ago Fr. David suggested in his sermon⁴ that we would do

^{1.} See John 12:25

^{2.} I didn't make this up myself, but heard it in a sermon in the Jeruzalemkerk

^{3.} The psalms are great examples in this respect, when you don't know what to say, it can be of great help to pray a psalm.

^{4.} Lent 3

as Jesus said and pray and ask God for the Holy Ghost. So everyone was



read this: This faculty of memory is a great one, O my God, exceedingly

silent and started praying for the Holy Ghost (I assume!). But all I could think was: "No, no, no, I do not want to be taken over". I am just so afraid that God wants to take over my life completely, that I couldn't pray this. 5 When I was younger, I had no problem at all with praying for the Holy Ghost. At the time I thought of him as a handy extra engine of energy that I could then use for my own purposes (of course I had really good and pious purposes!). Now that I have a slightly more realistic view of God, I have swung to the other opposite of being really afraid. So I was struggling with these fears, while at the same time knowing that Jesus would not suggest asking for the Holy Ghost if that weren't a good thing to do. I wanted to follow his advice, but could not bring myself to do SO.

great, a vast, infinite recess. Who can plumb its depth? This is a faculty of my mind, belonging to my nature, yet I cannot myself comprehend all that I am.6 It meant a lot to me, for it seemed that God was pointing out to me a really good reason to ask for the Holy Ghost. I was just so touched by the tenderness of this reply. So wonderful that he shows me the beauty of my own soul, and that the Holy Ghost would help me in getting to know all these depths better! How encouraging that God rewards my struggling with him far more than if I would have simply obeyed. His respect for my boundaries makes me feel personally loved, and makes me love him far more than if he gave me prosperity in everything.

However, thankfully, my honest objections in this situation did help me. In that awkward moment during the sermon I finally decided to pray that God would show me why this would be a good thing to ask, so that I would really *want* to obey this suggestion of asking for the Holy Ghost. Then, a few days later, I continued my reading in the Confessions of Saint Augustine, in the chapter that deals with our mind and memory, and

To my amazement I have just said something very similar to Psalms 63:3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. A special moment, because this text always bothered me. I could not understand how such escapism from real life could ever be right. I had forgotten that the depth of our souls is a very real thing too, and worth attention, especially in God's eyes. When we stand up and express honestly what goes on in our hearts, then finally we can have a true dialogue with God who creates and affirms our life.

^{5.} Even though I have already written quite a few texts on this theme, for example Who lives my life, Who is in control, Quick-sand of Questions, all dealing with trying to find the balance in freedom for me, and what and how much God has to say about my life, and what is the place of obedience in all this.

^{6.} Confessions of Saint Augustine, Book X 8,15



NEW CHAPLAINCY ADMINISTRATOR

Dear friends,

You might be familiar with me as a member of the choir; now it is with pleasure that I take up the post of Chaplaincy Administrator at Holy Trinity. I am looking forward to being more involved in the daily life of this church, in which I hope to play a positive part. Having worked in day-care, call centres for two different banks (and how different they were!) and a number of more physically challenging temporary jobs, it will be great to work in a places which carries so much meaning. And of course, I welcome any excuse to speak English. So from September I aim to faithfully serve to the best of my ability in this new capacity.



David Vollmer-Laarman



MESSAGE FROM MAYA

As many of you know, I try by all means as long as I can and with the help of the Wilde Ganzen, to complete the installing (furniture ?) of the classrooms of the Tibetan University in India.

Like every year, I have folders of very attractive flower bulbs with order forms. I'll put them on the table in the churchhall.

If you give or send me the order forms, I can bring your choice to the church to make your gardens more beautiful than ever before!

30% of the yield I 'll send to the Wilde Ganzen, who at their turn add another 50% and send the final amount to India.

Full of anticipation, Maya



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



POEM

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



Groet

Dagelijks ontrolt de ochtend een eender ritueel opstaan

wassen

aankleden

tassen

deur op slot

dan -

buiten lopend

kijk ik naar

de overkant

zwaaiende hand

omlijst door

erkerrand

de overbuurman -

met een lach

begroet hij mij

in de nieuwe dag

groet

vast onderdeel

in

dagelijks

eender

kostbaar

ritueel

Greeting

Every day the morning unfolds
with the same ritual
getting up
washing
dressing
bags
locking the door
then
going outside

I look over the road
a waving hand
framed by the window
the neighbour

with a laugh

in the new day

every day repeating

the same priceless ritual



SERVICE IN SONG! HOLY TRINITY CHOIR

We are all returning from what should be a summer of rest and recreation, which we hope and pray will bring us to a new purpose in our lives and faith for the next year.

This will be particularly important for Holy Trinity as we get down to re-planting our mission and ministry after the wonderful success of All Saints Amersfoort as it moves towards an independent Chaplaincy.

The Choir of Holy Trinity will enthusiastically play a full part in looking towards this challenge, as it continues to form the base of our church's choral tradition. Our commitment to the Anglican canon of church music is known and respected throughout our Archdeaconry and that tradition is one that we cherish. Of course, there will be new expressions in music and song that open up and welcome the huge diversity to which we minister.

The choir had an interesting year culminating in the "Kerkennacht" event in June that brought the Songs of David to the fore. A wonderful time of reflection that was greatly appreciated by those who came – and almost exhausting for the singers!

This also highlighted how much is achieved by so few in producing this standard and breadth of music. The normal church cycle of times and seasons, which are reflected in our singing, may seem a simple repetitive

recycling of music. However, each service and celebration involves choosing and learning new music of varying styles to suit the particular liturgy – usually, but not always, successfully!

So at the end of August we will embark on rehearsals, already looking forward to Advent and Christmas, with all the notable dates such as All Souls and into 2018. It is hoped that we will again in the summer bring our music to other places. In concert with the re-planting, we may be looking at growing the services we support, all of which will a part of our journey together at Holy Trinity.

Last year I wrote that we are few in number in the Choir, and would dearly love others to join us and we did gain some great new voices. We are all getting older – yes, despite some us trying to emulate Peter Pan - so it would be inspiring if some younger members came forward to contribute to our service in song! We are all amateurs, learning together and from each other, usually in good humour!

When we are looking at so many changes, challenges and opportunities in the re-planting and growth of Holy Trinity in joy and praise, think about joining us at our weekly rehearsals on Thursdays, 8pm in the Hall. We end at 10pm.

You'll get a real welcome and there may be cookies!



ECUMENICAL FLASH

This contribution was written by Xander van Asperen

Holy Trinity Church is an active member of the USRK, the Utrecht Council of Churches. In the USRK churches work together on different matters. Activities range from pastoral care in disaster situations, financing Ecumenical services in care centres for the elderly to organising the week of prayer in January and a lot more.

Sharing ideas and information between churches is also important. The USRK meets four times per year, each time in a different member church.

In regular Ecumenical flashes in the newsletter I hope to keep you informed about the Ecumenical world in Utrecht and beyond.

On June 20th the USRK met in the RC parish Licht van Christus in Vleuten. Parish Licht van Christus is the whole area that is called Leidsche Rijn and Vleuten-de Meern. It is an ancient parish. Its roots go probably back to the days of the Irish missionary Willebrord, Utrecht's first bishop.

The parish has two normal churches and a smaller chapel in shopping Centre Vleuterweide.

The parish membership is declining so the option to build a new church in Leidsche Rijn will not be realized. In fact, there are several new church plants in Leidsche Rijn, but not one new church has been build. Most new churches meet in schools restaurants etc.

The parish has 12.000 members. The newsletter is delivered to 4.000 addresses. It is also used for evangelisation purposes.

The parish believes it has a future, due to the influx of new members since it is in a so called 'new town'.

Birth and death figures are in balance, which is quite unusual for a church in Utrecht.

In the area there are many expats living, they are often highly educated.

The parish is very active on the social media, with a great response.

A delegation from churches and interreligious organizations in Utrecht has paid a visit to Kirkuk in Iraq.

They were invited by the newly appointed RC bishop of Kirkuk.

This is a city of 1.5 million inhabitants plus 600.000 refugees.

The church has taken up responsibility for a refugee camp of 4.000 refugees. In this camp there is a great need for health services and education.

Bishop Mirkis's church provides education in schools on an interreligious basis. Both Christian and Muslim feasts are celebrated.

There are at this moment 700 students. It is financed by sources from all over the world, also from Utrecht, in a miraculous manner. The church provides also housing for the students. Students are not living together by faith, but by profession. Architects live together and so do other

professions. The results are interreligious communities in a society divided through faith.

The delegation lived for 24 hours together with the students in one of their houses which was a moving experience.

The bishop's work main hope is that young people from different creeds will, by living and working together, come to an understanding and will continue building a peaceful Iraq.

The delegation also visited other places, convents mainly, where people are working for peace quite often in cooperation with the mosques in the area. Bishop's Mirkis's initiative is by far not the only peace initiative in Iraq.

The RC parish of Utrecht-west has been collecting money for a long time for the bishop's work. Their hope is that in future the fundraising for this important peace work will be a joint action with other churches.



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

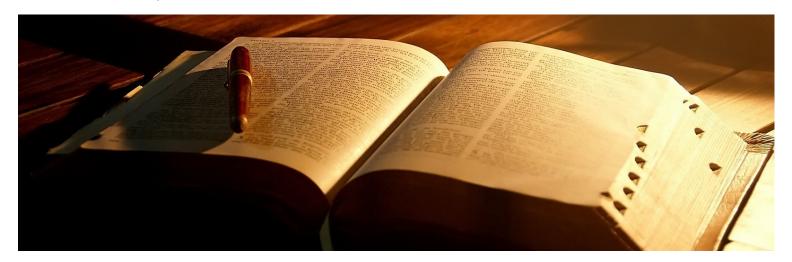
Discover the bible!

Sometimes it is like a journey into the unknown, studying the bible. It brings you to unfamiliar and sometimes very familiar, places, for instance your own kitchen. The bible is the very fundament on wich the Christian faith is build. The Bible study groups offer a chance of studying the bible with fellow Christians, sharing had added value.

Themes for the coming season have not been chosen yet but the will be challenging, that is for sure.

Interested? You (and your friends) are very welcome! The bible studies will start again in September.

- Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 20:00 in the parsonage (door open 19:45)
- Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 10:00 12:00; Kloostertuin 15, 3994 ZJ HOUTEN
- Every 1st Monday of the month 20:00; Waalbandijk 48, 4175 AC HAAFTEN (contact: Hans Baars)





September 29 Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

In the Bible, angels are from God. messengers The word 'angel' comes from the Greek word for a messenger and it appears hundreds of times in the Bible. But the only angels whose names we know are Michael, Gabriel and Raphael who are archangels, captains among the angels. Each of these three has a different task: Michael protects: Gabriel announces; Raphael guides.

In the New Testament, in the book of Revelation, Michael leads God's armies to final victory over the forces of evil and in the Old Testament he is in the book of Daniel, defending Israel against its enemies.

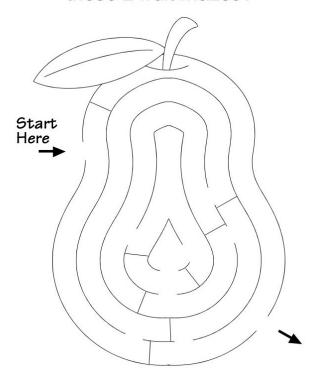


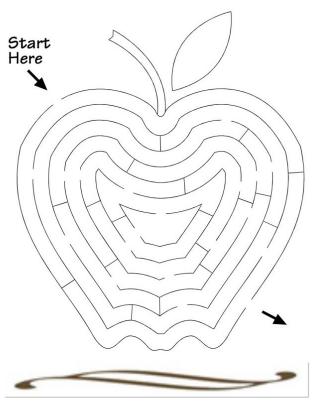
Gabriel is best known for his appearing to a young Jewish girl named Mary to tell her that she will give birth to Jesus.

Raphael is in the Old Testament story of Tobit where he guides Tobit's son Tobiah.

HARVEST PUZZLE

Can you find you way through these 2 fruit mazes?





What kind of nuts sneeze the most?
Cashews.

What's a vampire's favourite fruit?

Nectarine.



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.

THE WEEK OF TRINITY XII – SEPTEMBER 4 TO 9

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and want to give more than we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Ezra 1	Romans 2:17-end	Ezra 3	John 4:27-end
Tuesday	Ezra 4	Romans 3	Haggai 1:1-2:9	John 5:1-23
Wednesday	Zechariah 1:1-17	Romans 4	Zechariah 1:18-2 end	John 5:24-end
Thursday	Zechariah 3	Romans 5	Zechariah 4	John 6:1-21
Friday	Zechariah 6:9-end	Romans 6	Haggai 2:10-end	John 6:22-40
Saturday	Ezra 5	Romans 7	Ezra 6	John 6:41-end

THE WEEK OF TRINITY XIII – SEPTEMBER 11 TO 16

Almighty and merciful God, of whose only gift it comes that your faithful people do to you true and laudable service:
Grant, we beseech you, that we may so faithfully serve you in this life, that we fail not finally to attain your heavenly promises; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Zechariah 7	Romans 8:1-17	Zechariah 8	John 7:1-24
Tuesday	Ezra 7	Romans 8:18-end	Ezra 8:15-end	John 7:25-end
Wednesday	Ezra 9	Romans 9	Ezra 10:1-19	John 8:1-30
Thursday	Nehemiah 1	Romans 10	Nehemiah 2	John 8:31-end
Friday	Nehemiah 4	Romans 11:1-24	Nehemiah 5	John 9
Saturday	Nehemiah 6:1-7:4	Romans 11:25-end	Nehemiah 8	John 10:1-21

THE WEEK OF TRINITY XIV – SEPTEMBER 18 TO 23

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, give to us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which you promise, make us to love that which you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Nehemiah 9:1-23	Romans 12	Nehemiah 9:24-end	John 10:22-end
Tuesday	Nehemiah 13	Romans 13	Daniel 2:1-24	John 11:1-44
Wednesday	Daniel 2:25-end	Romans 14	I Kings 19:15-end	Matthew 6:19-end
St Matthew	Proverbs 3:1-18	Matthew 19:16-end	1 Chronicles 29:9-17	1 Timothy 6:6-19
Friday	Daniel 9:1-19	Romans 15:14-end	Daniel 9:20-end	John 12:20-end
Saturday	Daniel 10	Romans 16	Daniel 12	John 13

THE WEEK OF TRINITY XV – SEPTEMBER 25 TO 30

KEEP, we beseech you, O Lord, your Church with your perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without you cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable for our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Esther 1	Philippians 1:1-11	Esther 2	John 14:1-14
Tuesday	Esther 3	Philip 1:12-end	Esther 4	John 14:15-end
Wednesday	Esther 5	Philippians 2:1-11	Esther 6 and 7	John 15
Thursday	1 Maccabees 1:1-19	Philip 2:12-end	Ezekiel 10:8-end	Revelation 5
St Michael	2 Kings 6:8-17	Acts 12:1-11	Daniel 10:4-end	Matt 13:24-43
Saturday	1 Macc. 3:29-48	Philippians 4	1 Macc. 2:49-end	John 17

THE WEEK OF TRINITY XVI – OCTOBER 2 TO 7

O LORD, we beseech thee, let your continual pity cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your succour, preserve it evermore by your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	1 Maccabees 3:1-26	Colossians 1:1-20	1 Maccabees 3:27-41	John 18:1-27
Tuesday	1 Macc. 3:42-end	Col 1:21-2:7	1 Maccabees 4:1-25	John 18:28-end
Wednesday	1 Macc. 4:26-35	Colossians 2:8-19	1 Macc. 4:36-end	John 19:1-30
Thursday	1 Maccabees 6:1-17	Col 2:20-3:11	1 Maccabees 6:18-47	John 19:31-end
Friday	1 Maccabees 7:1-20	Col 3:12-4:1	1 Macc. 7:21-end	John 20
Saturday	1 Maccabees 9:1-22	Col 4:2-end	1 Macc. 13:41-14:15	John 21



WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

ALL SAINTS' AMERSFOORT

Every Sunday: 9:30am Sung Holy Communion For midweek services see: www.allsaintsamersfoort.nl

Heilige Geestkerk, Mozartweg 54, Amersfoort (moving to a new location 22 October)

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

Sunday 3rd September Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10:30 All Age Worship - Sung Communion

Sunday 10th September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

10:30 Choral Communion 14:30 Choral Evensong

Saturday 16th September **Evening Prayer and Praise**

19:30 Service of the Word with Gospel Band

Sunday 17th September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

10:30 Choral Communion (Harris music setting) (with Healing Ministry offered after the service)

Wednesday 20th September Eve of the Feast of St Matthew

19:00 Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 24th September Harvest Thanksgiving

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

10:30 Choral Communion

20:00 Sung or 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) every Wednesday at 19:00