

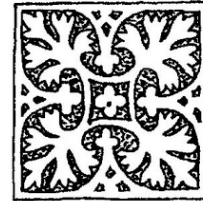
Holy Trinity Church Utrecht

and

The Anglican Church in Zwolle



September
2014



Chaplain's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ:

This past June we enjoyed together Holy Trinity Day, a gathering at the Oranjerie at Landgoed Vollenhoven in de Bilt. It included music led by our Gospel band, talks on mission in the Netherlands and beyond, and possibilities to attend a great variety of imaginative workshops. Foremost, it was an opportunity for us to get to know one another better. Special thanks are again due to Susanne van Rossum and Kristen Postma, who did the lioness' share of the organizing, to the speakers and leaders of music and workshops. There was widespread enthusiasm that this was an event to be repeated!



As we enter into Autumn there are a number of things for us to set our minds to and to pray about for our churches in Utrecht and Zwolle:

- ❖ On September 12 and 13, Holy Trinity Church Council will have an “Away Day” to reflect together on the present and future of our ministry at Holy Trinity. Council decided in June on areas of priority to consider in the coming months. There will be various presentations by members of the Council and discussion on four main subjects: (i) Fostering Community Life; (ii) Steering Growth: Capacity of our buildings; (iii) Outreach to newcomers, welcoming worshippers; and (iv) Developing a Mission Statement.
- ❖ On September 20 and 21 there will be special services to commemorate 100 years of music ministry in the chaplaincy, supported by our church organ. Arnold Rietveldt and Henk Korff have written articles in this Newsletter to give more details (pp. 6-8).
- ❖ We are still looking for a full time Assistant Priest who will be able to join our ministry team at Holy Trinity in Utrecht and the Anglican Church in Zwolle – we are re-advertising at present. Council has also approved funding to hire a part time Administrative Assistant – see the advertisement in this Newsletter (p. 3). Please continue to pray that God would lead the right people that our ministry might flourish.
- ❖ New lay ministries begin for three members of our congregation: Peter Boswijk is volunteering for one to two days a week for a one year ministry as Lay Pastoral Assistant in Utrecht and Zwolle as he discerns God's calling. Likewise Thomas Fink Jensen will begin a one year Lay Pastoral Assistant ministry, but at Pusey House and St Barnabas in Oxford England. Jonathan Fink Jensen has offered to help organize and lead ministry to University students here in Utrecht.

So many blessings to be grateful to God for. Let us pray that we may be good stewards of the opportunities, spiritual gifts and the mysteries that our Lord has entrusted us with.

In the love of Christ,

David

Chaplaincy Administrator

Function

Holy Trinity is growing! Consequently we need to professionalise our organisation, communication and management of our affairs. Therefore we are looking for a person within Holy Trinity who is willing to take up the responsibility to be a Chaplaincy Administrator.

Tasks include:

- a. Supporting the vision and core values of HTC;
- b. Administrative support for worship, such as making service sheets;
- c. Parish communications, making promotional materials, parish mailings, updating Facebook and website pages, reports, translating English materials to Dutch, etc;
- d. Scheduling of appointments, management of premises and lettings;
- e. Administrative support to the Building Maintenance Committee; and
- f. Office Management and General Administrative Services, such as keeping up the digital archive of the church.

Profile:

- You are independent, creative and flexible. You are able to take initiative;
- You can lead, organise and motivate other volunteers who fulfil tasks in the church;
- You are a team player and have good people and communication skills;
- You have good English and Dutch writing skills;
- You have experience with computers and software, word, excel, etc.;
- You are responsible and self-reliant; and
- You heartily endorse the mission of Holy Trinity Church and are on the Electoral Roll of Holy Trinity or are willing to be on it.

It is a paid position for up to 16 hours a week at a gross salary of €256/week (details to be negotiated when a candidate is found). There is some flexibility in how this work can be scheduled. We hope to have interviews and to fill this position by the end of September. If you are interested, please send a CV and a cover letter explaining your suitability for the position by September 14 to our Council Secretary: Sandra Sue at sue19990@lycos.com.

The Imibala Trust.

From the Editor

The Charity committee have received a letter of thanks from the Imibala Trust for the generous contribution to their work sent to them following the concert last June. The original letter of thanks is on the noticeboard in the parsonage for all to read. This tells us how our money helps to support the trust as they encourage children to obtain their potential through education.

Drinking from the Well of Life

These daily readings are meant to augment and fit with the readings used at the services of Holy Communion on Sunday. What follows is from a sermon Archbishop Thomas Cranmer wrote commending the reading of Scripture:

These books ought to be much in our hands, in our eyes, in our ears, in our mouths, but most of all in our hearts. For the Scripture of God is the heavenly meat of our souls: the hearing and keeping of it makes us blessed, sanctifies us, and makes us holy; it turns our souls; it is a light lantern to our feet; it is a sure, steadfast, and everlasting instrument of salvation; it gives wisdom to the humble and lowly hearts; it comforts, makes glad, cheers, and cherishes our conscience; it is a more excellent jewel, or treasure, than any gold or precious stone; it is more sweet than honey or honey-comb; it is called the best part, which Mary did choose; for it has in it everlasting comfort.

The Week of Trinity XI

*O GOD, you declares your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of your grace, that we,
running the way of your commandments, may obtain your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	2 Chronicles 15	2 Corinthians 5	2 Chronicles 16	Luke 20:27--21:4
Tuesday	1 Kings 16:15-end	2 Cor. 5:20--7:1	1 Kings 17	Luke 21:5-end
Wednesday	1 Kings 18:1-16	2 Cor. 7:2-end	1 Kings 18:17-end	Luke 22:1-38
Thursday	1 Kings 19	2 Corinthians 8	1 Kings 21	Luke 22:39-53
Friday	1 Kings 22:1-40	2 Corinthians 9	2 Chronicles 20:1-30	Luke 22:54-end
Saturday	2 Kings 1	2 Corinthians 10	2 Kings 2:1-22	Luke 23:1-25

The Week of Trinity XII

*Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray,
and 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	2 Kings 4:1-37	2 Corinthians 11	2 Kings 5	Luke 23:26-49
Tuesday	2 Kings 6:1-23	2 Cor. 12:1-13	2 Kings 6:24--7:2	Luke 23:50--24:12
Wednesday	2 Kings 7:3-end	2 Cor 12:14-13 end	2 Kings 8:1-15	Luke 24:13-end
Thursday	2 Kings 9	Galatians 1	2 Kings 11:1-20	John 1:1-28
Friday	2 Kings 11:21--12 end	Galatians 2	2 Kings 13	John 1:29-end
Saturday	2 Kings 14	Galatians 3	2 Chrn. 26	John 2

The Week of Trinity XIII

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	2 Kings 15:17-38	Galatians 4:1-5:1	2 Kings 16	John 3:1-21
Tuesday	Isaiah 7:1-17	Galatians 5:2-end	Isaiah 8:1-18	John 3:22-end
Wednesday	2 Kings 17:1-23	Galatians 6	2 Kings 17:24-end	John 4:1-26
Thursday	2 Kings 18:1-8	Ephesians 1:1-14	2 Chronicles 30	John 4:27-end
Friday	2 Kings 18:13-end	Ephesians 1:15-end	2 Kings 19	John 5:1-23
Saturday	2 Kings 20	Ephesians 2:1-10	2 Chronicles 33	John 5:24-end

The Week of Trinity XIV

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, give unto 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	2 Kings 22	Ephesians 2:11-end	2 Kings 23:1-20	John 6:1-21
Tuesday	2 Kings 23:21-35	Ephesians 3	2 Kings 23:26—24:17	John 6:22-40
Wednesday	2 Kings 24:18—25:7	Ephesians 4:1-16	2 Kings 25:8-end	John 6:41-end
Thursday	Jeremiah 19	Ephesians 4:17-30	Jeremiah 21:1-10	John 7:1-24
Friday	Jeremiah 22:20—23:8	Eph. 4:31—5:21	Jeremiah 24	John 7:25-end
Saturday	Jeremiah 25:1-14	Ephesians 5:22-end	Jeremiah 27:2-end	John 8:1-30

The Week of Trinity XV

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	Jeremiah 28	Ephesians 6:1-9	Jeremiah 29:1-20	John 8:31-end
Tuesday	Jeremiah 32:1-15	Ephesians 6:10-end	Jeremiah 32:15-35	John 9
Wednesday	Jeremiah 32:36-end	Philippians 1:1-11	Jeremiah 33:1-13	John 10:1-21
Thursday	Jeremiah 33:14-end	Philippians 1:12-end	Jeremiah 34:8-end	John 10:22-end
Friday	Jeremiah 37	Philippians 2:1-11	Jeremiah 38:1-13	John 11:1-44
Saturday	Jeremiah 38:14-end	Philippians 2:12-end	Jeremiah 39	John 11:45-end

Bible Study this Autumn at Holy Trinity Utrecht

We are restarting on Tuesday September 9 at 7:45pm at the Parsonage. At Holy Trinity Day we organized events around the theme of the fruit of the Spirit. We are planning to continue this Autumn with reflecting on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as we consider “the whole armour of God.” The Bible studies will be on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

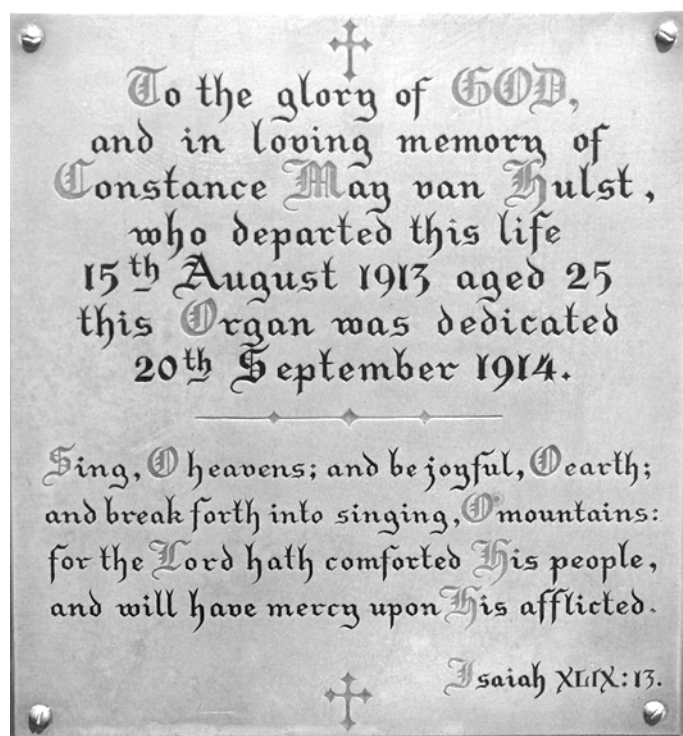
The armour of God contains of the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, as shoes for your feet, readiness given by the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Everybody is most welcome. We wish you blessed Bible reading!

*Danielle Los - 030 236 8572
Hans Baars, ebaars@planet*

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH **Organ Centenary**

On the 20th September, the English Church in Utrecht is celebrating the inauguration of the organ by Utrecht organ builder, Johan de Koff. The organ owes its existence following a tragedy in which a young woman had her life cut short much too early. Not a lot is known about the life of this woman except what was in the newspaper articles on her death, and the inauguration of the organ



Her name was Constance May van Hulst, aged 25, and she was a talented organist.

Whilst staying with relatives in the Utrecht region, she went out in a sailing boat on the Loosdrechtse Plassen on 15th August 1913. It was a warm day with temperatures around 13 to 19 Celsius, with a moderate North North West wind. A local storm blew up, leaving a trail of fallen trees right through the Utrecht region. There were even several trees blown down at the home of the co-founder of the English Church in Utrecht, the De Bilt Councillor, John Edward Willem Twiss.

As the official report from the archives was destroyed some years ago, so we have no real details about the ill-fated boat. Just that sadly,

Constance May van Hulst was knocked overboard and drowned. Her body was found three days later.

The only memorial to her short life is a gravestone in the 1^e Brandenburgerlaan op de Algemene Begraafplaats, De Bilt and the De Koff organ built to honour her memory and

with a plaque of dedication bearing the names of "Church workers past and present". Sadly there are no survivors to tend the memory of her grave.

Her involvement with the Church of England was evident from the fact that the Anglican clergyman, Joseph Chambers, presided at the funeral ceremony. The small English community in the City and region of Utrecht mostly consisted of governesses, who were employed by the middle classes, and for years, Reverend Chambers, who was Pastor of the English Church in Amsterdam, had travelled to small church halls in the Utrecht region holding Evening Services.

From June 1913 the English community had its own church building on the corner of Van Limburg Stirumplein and Van Hogendorpstraat near Utrecht's Wilhelminapark, named Holy Trinity Church. The Church music was almost exclusively a women's affair: the choir, conductor and organist were all women, although the choir was also open to men. However, the church had no church organ, but only a harmonium. The English Church was dependent on donations, and Reverend Chambers readily agreed, following the written offer from the parents of Constance May, the gift of an organ in honour of her memory.

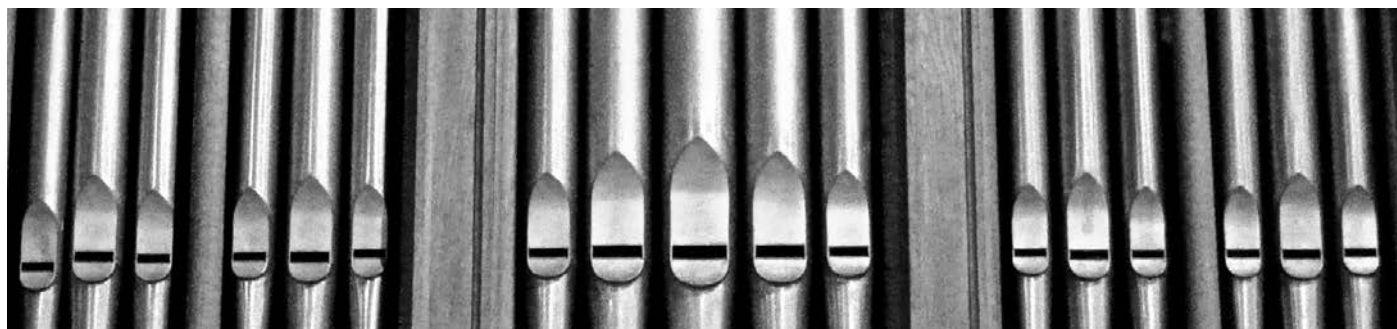
Thanks to this donation, the Utrecht builder Johan de Koff could begin construction of the church organ. As this was a later addition to the construction of the interior of the church, it resulted in some complications. On 20th September, 1914 - when Europe was under the threat of the clouds of war - the De Koff organ was inaugurated in a simple ceremony, with Gertrude van Hulst, a sister of the deceased, playing the organ.

The De Koff organ has therefore been an established part of the Anglican musical tradition at Holy Trinity since 1914. Many students from the Faculty of Theology of the University of Utrecht came to the services then, as they do now, together with professors such as Willem Hendrik van der Pol, as they were so impressed by the ceremony of music from the services after 1914.

On 20th September, 2014 – a Century later - current and former members of the choir will come together for a special Service of Choral Evensong, giving thanks for this piece of musical heritage here in Utrecht. Everyone is welcome to attend this service and you are cordially invited to the reception after the service and to meet choir members over an English Cream Tea.



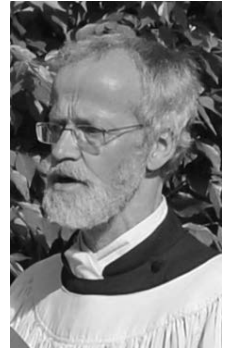
Arnold Rietveld



Choral Evensong with a 100 Year Old

and with music by Stanford, Nardone, Vaughan-Williams and Rutter.

Saturday the 20th of September marks the Centenary of the inauguration of the organ at Holy Trinity Church, which we are celebrating with a special Choral Evensong. We will be joined in singing the service by many former members of the choir of the English Church in Utrecht, together with current choir members. The reunion will be more than just singing, with generations of singers sharing their experiences from past days as well as today. In the last century, the Church of England prescribed various services



such as Mattins (Morning Prayer), which is usually replaced today by the Eucharist.

Happily the tradition of Evensong (Evening Prayer) is still celebrated at Holy Trinity at 14:30 every second Sunday of the month (except in July and August), using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

The organ was a gift from Mr and Mrs C M van Hulst in memory of their daughter Constance May, who at the age of 25 drowned in the Loosdrechtse Plassen on 15 August 1913. The instrument was built by the Utrecht organ builder J de Koff and first used for worship on 20th September, 1914.

We will celebrate the Centenary with 35 visiting choir members, from many countries, all joining us to sing to God's glory.

The music of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis is by Charles Villiers Stanford and the Responses by William Smith. Frederick Ouseley wrote the chant of Psalm 34. Peter Nardone wrote a wonderful setting for *Ubi caritas est vera* cleverly combined to Jesus's words in John 13.34-35. The Blessing will be sung to the music of John Rutter. The service begins with the introit by Ralph Vaughan-Williams with words from verse 8 of today's Psalm. Everyone may join in singing the hymns *O praise ye the Lord; The Lord's*

my Shepherd; Ye that know the Lord is Gracious, and we close this festive Evensong with *How shall I sing that majesty*.

The service begins at 16:30 on Saturday, 20th September at Holy Trinity, the English Church of Utrecht, at van Limburg Stirumplein. The lovely building, with its gorgeous stained glass windows, is in the vicinity of the Wilhelminapark and not far from the bus stops of line 4 (Rosarium) and line 8 (Burgemeester Reigerstraat). There is ample parking around the church, but on weekdays a parking ticket must be bought.

We cordially invite you to join us after the Choral Evensong to come and chat over the day, and enjoy a wonderful "English Cream Tea" on this special occasion.

We look forward to welcoming you on Saturday 20 September.

Henk Korff

Living with God in Bali

Sent to the editor by Madeleine de Boer following her holiday with her husband in Bali



When abroad it is nice to be able to attend a church service on Sundays. In a lot of places we visited there are Anglican or Episcopalian churches, like in Addis Ababa, Hong Kong, Vienna, Berlin and Boston; all serving coffee after the service, making you feel welcomed and immediately at home. This summer we went to Singapore and Bali (Indonesia).

In Singapore there is an Anglican Cathedral: St Andrews. On Bali there are also English spoken services (Roman Catholic and Protestant), but they are mainly in Kuta and Denpasar, which is a few hours drive away from Ubud, where we were staying. Actually, Ubud is only about 40 miles from these cities in the south of the island, but the roads are so narrow, full of potholes and traffic jams that it takes ages to get anywhere and you never know at what time you will arrive for a service. So instead of undertaking time wise risky journeys to the south I decided to join in some of the local Ubud region religious practices, to see how they offer prayer and devotion to God.

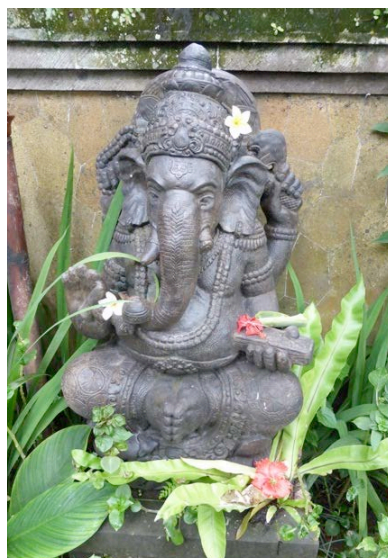


It took a little getting used to, as these are a combination of Hindu and Buddhist practices; being the main denomination on Bali. Each village on the island has three temples: one for Brahma (God), one for Vishnu (sustainer of life) and one for Shiva (changer of life). I couldn't decide whether this is similar to 'our' concept of Trinity or if it is more comparable to God and the angels Gabriel and Michael. I understand that those who have worked in Christian missions in these societies have tried to see in what way the Hindu concept is similar and if it can be a starting point for introducing a Christian understanding of the Holy Trinity.

In addition to temples in the villages, each extended family compound has its own elaborate family temple at the centre or the corner of the gardens.

In the temples there are no religious services on a regular time basis as such, but rather gatherings for the numerous ceremonies. There are spiritual cleansing ceremonies, conflict solution ceremonies, ceremonies for different deities, wedding and cremation ceremonies, to mention just a few. Special dress is required if you want to participate in a ceremony in a temple: men and women have to wear a sarrong (batik or woven cloth which you wrap around your waist to form a long skirt). Then you need to wear a long sleeved shirt with a scarf tied around the waist. Attired in this traditional dress I attended different ceremonies, which have the character of social gatherings.

Women bring plates stacked with fruit, baskets full of flowers and incense as offerings, people sit in groups cross legged on the stone temple floor. The priest - sitting bare-chested on a high platform - performs ritual prayers, burns bunches of incense, rings a small bell and sings mantras (holy names or sounds). The atmosphere is filled with magic.



Apart from the temple ceremonies there are private offerings going on all the time. Each morning a lady in sarrong came to the corner of our veranda, to the statue of Ganesha (intercessor), to place a frangipani flower behind his elephant ear and at his human feet a small banana leaf basket with some rice, flowers, a wrapped sweet and burning incense; all the while saying a prayer.

This procedure was repeated at the other statues around the hotel compound, the hotel temple, the reception desk and the surrounding rice fields. In the centre of Ubud

similar small offerings are found on the doorstep of each shop and restaurant; you have to be careful not to step on them while strolling along. In every taxi we took there was a small banana basket offering tucked away in the corner of the dash board.

The meaning of all these offerings is twofold. Firstly, these small 'gifts' are a symbol of thanks to God (and the spirits) for the abundant blessings of life and, secondly, the offerings are supposed to humor evil spirits so they won't bring down their wrath on the individual or the family.



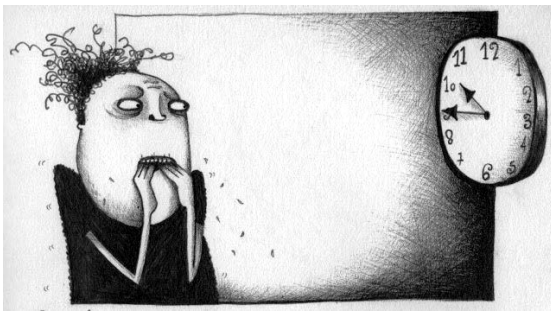
It is not possible in such a short visit to see how the people of Bali are being held back in their daily life from not knowing more explicitly about Jesus Christ. But how wonderful it is to be able simply to call on the name of Jesus to relieve my fears. My time there certainly made me think, like St Paul when he went to Athens and saw all the offerings, "I perceive that in every way you are very religious!" [Acts 17:22]

For me, who see in these offerings a universal human desire to have a deeper communion with God, seeing offerings everywhere and sharing in the frequent (home) temple ceremonies really gave me a feeling of literally witnessing God's presence every minute of the day. Even leaving Bali there was the reminder of God: sitting on the passport control counter was a small banana basket with rice, flowers, a sweet and ... a cigarette!

Madeleine de Boer

NEW SERVICE TIME IN SEPTEMBER

Dear Holy Trinity Utrecht brothers and sisters,



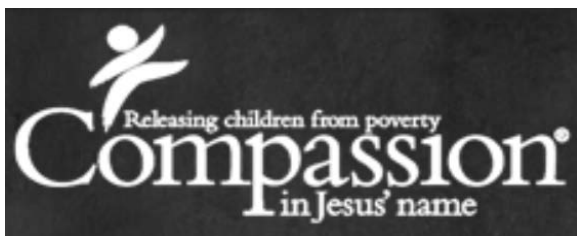
We have been greatly blessed by our steadily growing church, and this brings along with it many joys such as meeting new people, being able to minister to a larger group and to have an increasingly varied community. This blessing has, however, caused some inconveniences, particularly when the 9.00 am and the 10.45 am services find overlap and there is too little

time for the stewards to prepare the church, for the 9am attendees to have a comfortable chat and of course for Fr David to find a quick moment of rest. We would like to add 15 minutes more between the two services. For these reasons, and others, **we, the Church Council, have made the decision to change the time of the second service to 11.00 am.** This new service time will **start on the first Sunday of September.** We hope this will not cause too much inconvenience.



Rosemarie Strengolt, Churchwarden

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This summer I was approached by people from **Compassion.** **Compassion** is a Christian Aid Organisation who are appalled by the devastating effects of poverty. They believe poverty can be

overcome by helping children through local churches. The way it is done is that rich families (often from the West) financially sponsor a specific child in need. That means poverty has a face, but also that your support is gratefully received by a living child somewhere across the globe. You can picture, pray for, write to and even visit the child you sponsor. It takes a monthly donation of € 29 to actually make the difference for a child and open the door to a decent future.

The people from compassion gave me a colourful book full of living people who have helped or been helped by **Compassion.** It is on the table in the parsonage, for you to look into. If you like, please visit **www.compassion.nl** where you can find more information or even select a child for sponsoring.



Adrian Los, Churchwarden

Church Bank Accounts:

- General Giving: NL84INGB0000132950 – tnv Holy Trinity Church Utrecht
- Charitable Giving: NL92TRIO019772361 – tnv Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Utrecht



Gezocht: gastheren/vrouwen in het Stiltecentrum in Hoog Catharijne

Het Stiltecentrum zoekt vrijwilligers die als gastheer of gastvrouw bezoekers ontvangen. Het Stiltecentrum is een unieke plek voor bezinning en ontmoeting met een enthousiast team van ca. 15 vrijwillige medewerk(st)ers, ondersteund door de coördinator. Het centrum is van oorsprong oecumenisch en verwelkomt mensen van alle religies en spiritualiteiten.

Van maandag t/m vrijdag zijn er enkele vrijwilligers aanwezig in de ontmoetingsruimte tussen ca. 12 en 16 uur. U werkt met een gemotiveerd team met als belangrijkste taken dat u de bezoekers een luisterend oor biedt, u hebt gesprekken met mensen van allerlei pluimage en u verstrekt desgewenst informatie.

Ook zijn er vrijwilligers die een bijdrage leveren aan de dagelijkse middagviering in de kapel van het Stiltecentrum.

Voor interesse kunt u een e-mail sturen naar: informatie@stiltecentrum.nl
Voor meer informatie: www.stiltecentrum.nl

Adres: Stiltecentrum Hoog Catharijne
Godebaldkwartier 74
3511 DZ Utrecht

Hoop

Ik heb de dood gezien
op straat in alle hoeken
het leven kaalgeslagen
de hoop ontvreemd
waar moest ik haar nog zoeken—

bij jou zag ik haar weer
jij weefde al lachend en spelend
een kring van licht om mij heen
bij jou vond ik haar weer

hoop herkreeg haar woning
in mijn ogen
een nieuwe wereld
in een nieuwe dag
voor mijn bevrijde ziel--

Oeke Kruythof

Voor Harrison-1 jaar oud



Hope

I have witnessed death
on all corners of the street
life beaten bare
hope stolen
where could I find it again?

I saw it again in you
you were laughing and playing
a ring of light surrounding me
I found it again in you

in my eyes
hope had returned
a new world
a new day
for my liberated soul

Oeke Kruythof

Jenny Narraway, translation/transcreati



The Prayer Chain

If you have any requests for the prayer chain, or if you feel called to take part in this ministry, please contact Anne Miechielsen, who organizes this at Holy Trinity Church in Utrecht. She can be reached by telephone at 030 220 5049.

A Message from Maya:

MICHIEL OF THE MIRACLE

Michiel turned up at my house a couple of years ago again: the young man who a few years before that had come to my home to have his documents translated. This time he told me how he had been cured from a terrible illness from which he had suffered for many years and that, out of gratitude to God, he wanted to spend his life working in the Brazilian slums. He had come now for the translation of more documents, because he had met a lovely Brazilian lady who helps him in the slums and whom he was going to marry!



THE COST OF COMPASSION

by Harry Barrowclough



This month it will be just 13 years since our house in Buren burned down. We lost most of our furniture and clothes, all of our books, many of the old photographs, including some of me as a toddler on the beach at New Brighton (another tale waiting to be told!) and worst of all, three of our 7 cats. To be honest, I can't say that I shed any tears over the loss of the stuff, but the loss of the cats was quite another matter. The blaze had attracted a fair bit of attention, including that of the Lord Mayor of Buren who must have been passing at the time and who assured us that everything would be dealt with as quickly as possible. I don't know how to spell a sarcastic sneer but 'as quickly as possible' turned out to be over a year! Once we had come to terms with our losses, the excitement of planning a new home started to develop. Oh there were reams of red tape to be dealt with as well and there was no excitement there at all. We fell between two stools; we needed to leave the wreck to prove that there had been a house on the site (the house was an only partially legal barn conversion) but we couldn't sort out the insurance until the wreck had been cleared. A bit of a catch 22 situation.

While we were dealing with the corporation and the insurance, we were working hard with the architect and the plans were coming together nicely. Once we got the green light things would be able to move quite quickly. Eventually we got permission to demolish the wreck; the stormy weather was already doing part of the job and endangering any passing traffic with flying bits of old roofing, and then we were able to settle with the insurance. Now I have heard horror stories about people's experiences with insurance companies but I can only say that ours could not have been more helpful or more generous and the settlement was more than enough to build a splendid house and furnish it. I began to understand why people torch their properties! I hasten to add that our fire *was* an accident!

In the meantime we were living in a sort of caravan which was a marvel of miniaturisation; in other words it was tiny. I suppose it was a supreme test of the quality of our relationship and our patience that we not only survived the 18 months or so in the shed, but we came out with our sense of humour intact! And there was all the anticipation of watching the new house grow. We were so looking forward to moving in and making the house a home. But so too was much of the local wild-life. And so it was that even before we had moved in, various insects and arachnids had beaten us to it! About the only creature that showed no desire to live in the new accommodation was one of our cats. She had been so attached to the old house that she turned her nose up at the place and went to live with Barbara, our neighbour and friend who rented the front house from us. That part had survived thanks to the wind direction; so Popsie moved in with Bar.

Once the building permit had been issued, the contractors could get to work and within 6 months the house was ready. The last project was to convert the ex-building site at the back of the house into a garden. Since I have zero talents in that direction and even less enthusiasm, I got a local garden architect to come and design something for us. Once that

was all established even more animals began to look upon our place as a 'des. res.'. As soon as the cats had got used to the new property, they started discovering the joys of hunting and dining out. Mind you, they had been pretty good at that before the fire as well and I had become a dab hand at rescuing various small rodents that they had brought in, alive, to snack on later. Popsie, in the front house, didn't really have to go to much trouble to catch the odd bit of extra food: that place had a fair population of field mice, certainly in the winter months, and they lived in the lounge ceiling. The house had been renovated on a shoe-string budget during the 1960s and instead of a plaster ceiling there were rough wooden slats spaced out over a black background. The mice moved gingerly along the slats but every now and then, they missed their footing and Popsie was waiting below with an open mouth. In her day she had been a formidable huntress and had been quite able to leap out of a tree and catch a passing bird on the wing. Popsie survived Bar by about 6 months and was around 22 years old when I had to make the dreadful decision to have her put to sleep.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, sorry the new house, the cat population was dwindling. Our oldest Devon Rex developed diabetes that was impossible to regulate and she too had to be euthanized. Popsie's arch-enemy, Mary, an alley cat from France, had reached the stage of feline dementia that she was messing all over the place and yet another dreadful decision had to be made. Jamie wondered if we should get some kittens to bring our cat population back up to scratch (!). By chance a girlfriend who also bred Devon Rexes phoned. She was chronically sick and indeed died not long after. I asked about kittens. She was expecting a couple of litters from her cats but they were all ordered. When I pointed out that I was actually looking for ordinary alley cats she told me that her health visitor had just taken in a stray female that had had a litter of four kittens. I immediately claimed two of them and so it was that Scamper and Sparks came to live with us. Jamie had a little less than 6 months to get to know them and he delighted in their company. Since they were cats without airs and graces, they rapidly developed good hunting skills, not that they needed to hunt as I feed them well, in Sparks' case, too well: he's overweight. Only the other day I found Scamper keeping guard in front of the cooker. Obviously he had let his snack go and it had disappeared behind the oven and the kitchen units. Ah well, I thought, the smell will tell me when it has become past tense and I went for a bath. When I came out, there were four of the cats in a semicircle around a feisty little creature that had backed up against the kitchen units. It looked like a rather large vole and seemed unharmed so I quickly picked it up and put it outside the kitchen door. Since I wasn't wearing much, I left it there while I got dressed. It was lying in the sun and would be able to recover from its shock. When I checked it was still lying there but once it saw me, it tried to dig a hole in the bricks. Clearly there was plenty of life left in this little creature so I picked it up to put it out in the undergrowth. The little blighter sank its teeth into my finger and there was blood all over the place – MY blood! Talk about gratitude! But I had to admire its spirit. It had held its own against four hungry cats and had won the battle with a huge human being. But as I nursed my finger and tried to staunch the bleeding I couldn't help thinking that this was the cost of compassion – but in many ways, it was a price well worth paying.

Harry Barrowclough

Services in September

(services are in English unless otherwise specified)

Sunday 7 th September	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity 9:00 Sung Communion 11:00 All Age Worship – Holy Communion Zwolle Anglican Church – 16:00 Sung Communion
Sunday 14 th September	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Preacher: <i>Mr Peter Boswijk</i> (Lay Pastoral Assistant) 9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch/Eng) 11:00 Choral Communion 14:30 Choral Evensong
Saturday 20 th September	Organ Centenary Festival Evensong 16:30 Evensong, followed by a Cream Tea in the Garden
Sunday 21 th September	St Matthew the Apostle 9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch/Eng) 11:00 Festival Choral Communion (Haydn Mass setting) Zwolle Anglican Church – 16:00 Evensong
Saturday 27 th September	Memorial Service for Ron Shargool 14:00 Memorial Service Evening Prayer and Praise Service 19:30 Service of the Word with Gospel Band with preacher: <i>Frank Boneschanscher</i>
Sunday 28 th September	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity 9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch/Eng) 11:00 Choral Communion
Monday 29 th September	The Feast of St Michael and All Angels 10:00 Sung Communion (Dutch) 20:00 Sung Communion

In addition to the above services we normally offer at Holy Trinity Utrecht:

Daily:	Morning Prayer (Tuesday to Friday 8.00; Saturday 9.00) and Evening Prayer (Tuesday to Friday 17.30; Saturday 17:00)
Weekly:	Holy Communion (said) (Wed at 19.00)
Saints & Holy Days:	Holy Communion at 20.00

Please send your October Newsletter contributions to the Newsletter editor Judy Miller (judymiller3@msn.com), by the 10th September at the latest.