

HOLY TRINITY UTRECHT
ALL SAINTS AMERSFOORT
ANGLICAN CHURCH ZWOLLE
AND
GRACE CHURCH GRONINGEN

December 2015



The visit of the Magi to Christ, detail of East Window, Holy Trinity Utrecht

December 2015 Newsletter

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If you have contributions for the next Newsletter we need to receive them by the middle 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 and All Saints' Amersfoort

General Giving: NL84INGB0000132950 – tnv Holy Trinity Church Utrecht
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General Giving: NL02 INGB 0007 2290 06 - tnv English Church Zwolle

Grace Church Groningen

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30 November	New Year's Day Ecumenical Gathering USRK - Augustinian Sisters – Waterstraat 2, Utrecht	p. 11
1 December	Zwolle - Marleen Hengelaar-Rookmaaker 8pm talk on <i>Advent in Art</i> (Anglican Church Zwolle)	
1 December	Advent Bible Study 7:45pm in the Parsonage Theme: <i>Bethlehem – Glory to God</i> . All are welcome.	p. 12
8 December	Advent Bible Study 7:45pm in the Parsonage Theme: <i>Egypt – we are strangers</i> . All are welcome.	p. 12
12 December	HTC Christmas Party 7:30pm in Parsonage Hall Details forthcoming. All are welcome!	
13 December	Hour of Prayer for Amersfoort All Saints At Heilige Geestkerk, Amersfoort from 15:30-16:30	
15 December	Advent Bible Study 7:45pm in the Parsonage Theme: <i>New Jerusalem – we come home</i> . All are welcome.	p. 12
15 December	Student Bible Study on Gluttony (contact Erik Heemskerk for location: 06 311 845 90)	
18 December	<i>Lichtsjestocht in Oost</i> 6pm at Holy Trinity Utrecht the Tour of Lights starts!	p. 8
20 December	<i>Nine Lessons and Carols Services</i> : 4pm Anglican Church Zwolle; 8pm Holy Trinity Utrecht	
21 December	<i>Nine Lessons and Carols Service</i> : 8pm All Saints Amersfoort	

There are lots of opportunities to worship God between
December 24 and January 1! Please see the back page.

Letter from our New Chaplain in Amersfoort



Greetings from Callum, Thirza, Jolanda and Grant! We wanted to share some words for the December newsletter. Thank you for your warm welcome to the Netherlands and to Utrecht and Amersfoort. It probably seems a long time since the interviews happened in June – with all the sun and beautiful weather – and now we have arrived in typical Dutch autumn weather, cold windy and rainy! We wanted to thank you for your prayers over the past months for us as a family as we prepared to move to Amersfoort.

We have felt a sense of God's call to come and help establish All Saints Anglican Church in Amersfoort. All Saints is such a great name for a new church. The name "All Saints" reminding us of our identity in Christ, of what has been achieved through the cross. But also that name reminds us how regardless if we would see ourselves as Reformed, Catholic Apostolic, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Pentecostal, Baptist or Presbyterian, we are all saints – we are united by the cross and by what God has achieved.

And on 20th December will be the launch of All Saints, at 9.30am at the Heilige Geestkerk in Amersfoort. That will be a special set of services as we launch at Christmas time with the Carols by

Candlelight, our Midnight Communion and our Christmas Morning All Age Communion. Do please hold these services and those involved in your personal prayers.

But what can we say about ourselves that perhaps helps you to get to know us? Well Jolanda and I have been married 10 years, and were married in England at the church where I served my curacy, in Burton on Trent (at a church called All Saints!). We have two children, Callum Jelle Crowe and Thirza Kaitlin Crowe. We gave them names which reflect their British / Irish and Dutch heritages. Callum enjoys lego. Thirza loves making cards. They will be attending a Dutch school here in Amersfoort. As a family we enjoy biking, hill walking and exploring new places (our photo is from Mount Snowdon in Wales).

And what would be our thoughts about a new church. Two things we could share. Firstly, in our previous two churches in Telford, we enjoyed seeing people growing in their Christian faith and expressing their passions, using their talents (taught and natural) and spiritual gifts. We valued how people sacrificially gave themselves in serve of God and of his people. Secondly, I think my view of church ministry could be summed up as UP, IN, OUT.

UP – As we gather as Church on a Sunday or in smaller settings during the week, we want to worship our Lord God and bring him our praise and thanksgiving for all done for us in Christ, through the cross. We want to be fed so we are shaped further into the likeness of Christ and are equipped or encouraged further in a day to day

Christian following. Yet in all our Sunday worship we want to embrace both the modern and the traditional and to enjoy the breadth of all that Anglican worship has to offer. And in our corporate worship, we face the challenge of how our worship can be open and accessible to visitors – whether committed Christians or perhaps people exploring Christianity.

IN is about the church – how we can become a community, strangers becoming friends, where no matter how the week has been, when someone comes to Sunday worship or a small group they know they come to friends, fellow brothers and sisters of Christ. Yet we are called to be disciples – as Matthew 28:18-20 reminds us – and so we want to followers of Christ who take his promises, his authority, his example and his commands seriously.

OUT – summed up in the word Mission. Years ago Mission was defined as being like a bird with two wings – Evangelism and Social Involvement. For us to be active in proclaiming our Christian faith by our words, as well as by our actions. But also for us to be seeking to serve others. All Saints will be seeking to serve the city of Amersfoort, to be a transforming influence as part of the Body of Christ in that city. What needs will we see and what will the Lord God be calling us to do?

Ha, that is a lot packed in. I'm a man of many words, and do think as I talk! But as a family we do feel and have felt God's calling to serve in the Diocese of Europe since those sunny days of June. It was sad to leave Telford but we know it was the right time in God's plans. And we look forward to getting to know you, as you get to know us! God bless. ✠

Christmas Message from Bishop Robert



My eldest daughter, Ruth, used to work for a famous high street retailer.

Sadly, the stress in and around Christmas was one of the reasons that she left them. The long hours in the run up to Christmas,

the packed shops and stressed shoppers, and the night shifts just before Christmas Day itself when the shop had to be turned around rapidly into Boxing Day 'sales' mode, piled huge pressure on assistants and management alike. Yet everyone knew that Christmas was of vital commercial importance. And not just for this shop. The centre for retail research suggests that many Northern European retailers make more than half of their sales and profits in the three months around Christmas. www.retailresearch.org/shoppingforxmas.

The main character in the commercial Christmas is of course Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas. But underlying Santa's prominence, is the original Christmas story. Indirectly, at least, the giving of gifts is rooted in the gift of the Christ-child and the costly gifts given by the magi. And so the Christmas story is used to help legitimate the retail sector and the consumption of goods at Christmastime. How ironic, that our own texts can be co-opted to trap us in the very patterns of modern behaviour that many of us would long to escape or at least to control!

In this light, it is important to read the biblical infancy narratives again with fresh eyes and to notice their hugely subversive, liberating and revolutionary intent. In Luke's gospel, when Gabriel announces to Mary that she will have a child, the angel tells her that her baby son will be great and

that God will make him a king inheriting the throne of King David. Everyone was well aware that there was already a local king – Herod – and that behind him was the weight of Roman imperial authority. Yet, after she is visited by Elizabeth, Mary responds with the words of the Magnificat, in which she glorifies the Lord who exalts the humble but brings rulers down from their thrones. When the child is eventually born, the first to see the new born Christ in Luke's gospel are the shepherds, who symbolise the lowest and poorest in society.

The opposition between the infant Jesus and the ruling powers is highlighted even more clearly in Matthew's gospel. Matthew's Jesus is presented from the outset as a king – descended from David, born in the royal city of Bethlehem, worshipped by Magi. He is immediately a

it's clear that the infant Jesus is on the run. He is fleeing persecution. He is a refugee.

Thus both Matthew and Luke introduce Jesus as a king who threatens the oppressive powers governing first century Israel. Jesus is a 'prince of peace' whose kingdom is founded on very different principles from the military rule that underpinned the 'pax Romana'. His kingdom is one where the first will be last and the last first. Even in his birth and infancy he is identified with the poor, the persecuted and the refugee.

Europe faces an ongoing refugee crisis. Many towns and cities across the whole continent are receiving large numbers of migrants. Our own parishes and chaplaincies are doing what they can to bring aid and assistance. There is no easy solution to the crisis. The long term solutions involve peace building and the generation of economic prosperity in the Middle East and Africa. Medium term solutions might involve the creation of safe routes and the speedier processing of asylum applications. But in the short term, the particular calling of the church is to pray and to work for the welfare of those who have been forced to flee their homes and who face a European winter. The book of Deuteronomy 10:19 teaches: *'You are to love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.'* We remember that this was how Jesus began his infant life too.

I have heard some wonderful and deeply moving stories of how care for the stranger has brought unexpected grace. A teacher was telling me how pupils at her school found a new sense of meaning and purpose through ministering to the Syrians who had arrived in their town. Clergy have told me how their congregations have laid aside minor disagreements when faced with the urgency of a common mission and purpose.

This Christmas, we are summoned to see the world with divine perspective and



Flight into Egypt - Rembrandt, 1650

threat to Herod and must be taken for his own safety out of Israel into Egypt. Biblical commentators have usually interpreted the flight into Egypt in theological terms, relating it in some way to Israel's journey into and subsequent exodus from Egypt. But, straightforwardly,

compassion. For our own good and for the good of others, we are invited to reclaim the Christmas story! We are to preach, proclaim and live the amazing news that God enters his own creation to save, console and heal the poor and the lost. God comes amongst us as a vulnerable baby sharing our own human weaknesses and vulnerabilities. He becomes human so that we become divine (to quote Athanasius), but he also becomes human so that we can become more fully human ourselves. And in humanity to reach out beyond ourselves to others as he has reached out to us. That is the real gift.

Finally – aside from the commercial pressures - I am very aware that the Christmas season puts particular opportunities and pressures in the way of

our chaplaincies. We are typically receiving lots of visitors who don't normally darken the doors of our churches. At the same time, many regular church members are away at Christmas itself, visiting family or friends. So those that remain have to work especially hard to keep everything running and to provide a cheerful welcome. To all those who sustain and enable our worship over Christmas I give my warm and sincere thanks: to our clergy, lay readers and leaders, musicians, welcomers, wardens, caterers and cleaners.

And may the God whose message of peace was sung by the angels to herald the birth of his Son, bring his peace to our hearts, our homes, our families and our world over this Christmas time. ✂

Kerstochtend

Here is this month's poem from Oeke Kruythof in Dutch, the English translation / transcreation is by Jenny Narraway.



Kerstochtend

*In de stilte van de ochtend
wiekt een meeuw voorbij -
parmantig hippen mussen
in het gras -
een witte kerstroos
staat te pronken
op de vensterbank -
oranje flitst een goudvis
in zijn kom -*

*Mini-schepping
om mij heen,
schitterend
als een echt juweel
én:
kosten zijn er geen ...*



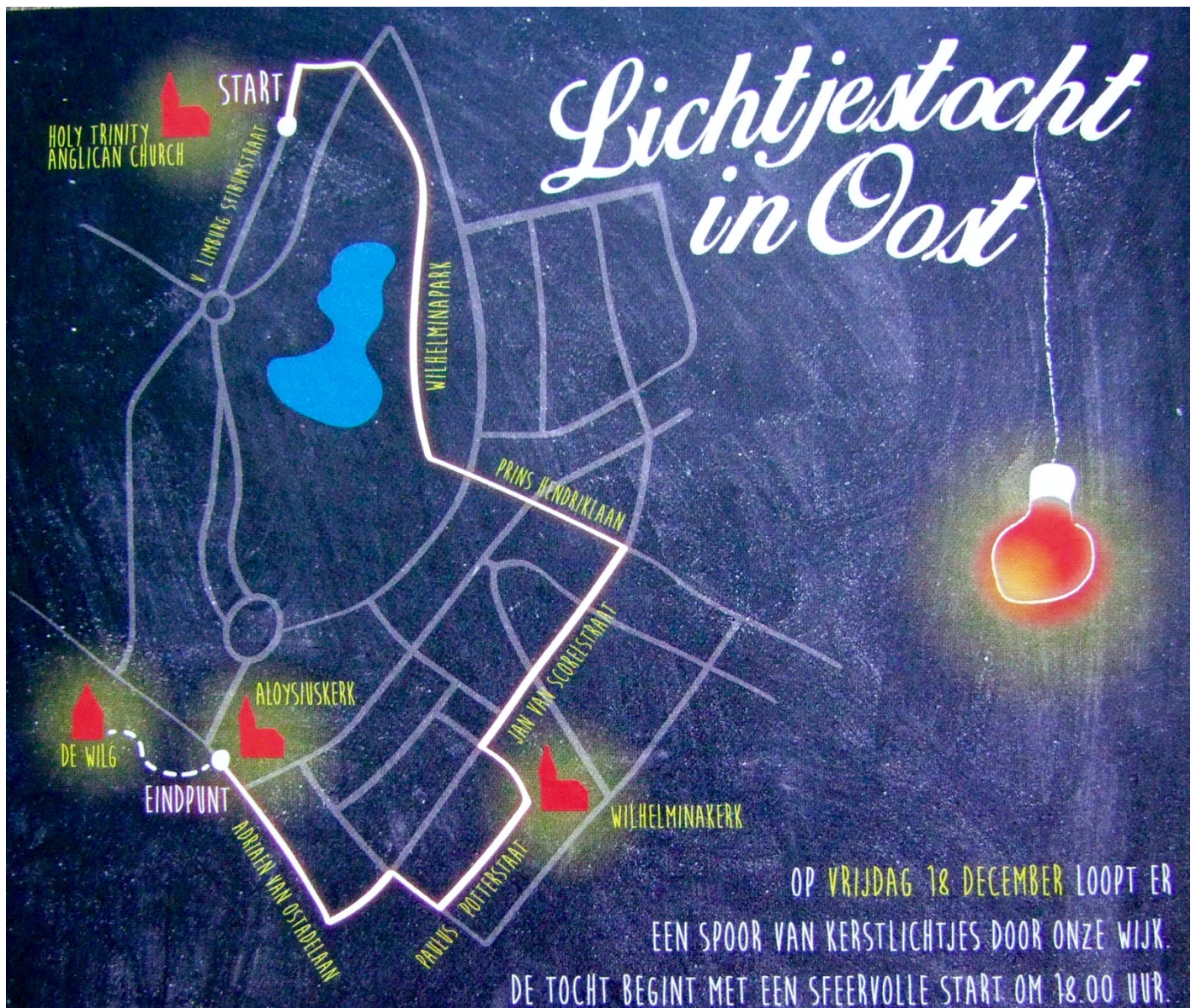
Christmas morning

*In the stillness of the morning
a seagull wings his way -
skittish sparrows skip
in the grass -
a white christmas rose
shows off
on the window sill -
a flash of orange!...
a goldfish in its bowl -*

*Mini creations
all around me,
beautiful jewels
and
all for free*

Christmas Lights Up Wilhelminapark and Churches

Help make the Christmas lights tour again possible in Utrecht East



In Utrecht East, the traders association Puur Oost, a day care for people with disabilities, De Wilg and some of the local churches have once again joined hands to organize a lights tour through the neighborhood and the Wilhelmina Park on Friday 18th December. In Utrecht Oost the Christmas story comes to the streets in scenes and narratives and with Christmas music by choirs with candle flames along the designated route.

In order for this to come about, we still need many volunteers to help. There is help needed for players in the scenes, volunteer to light the candles, singers, security guards, handymen and women.

We would like to get in touch with those who would like to participate actively.

For info and registration:

Gérard Martens

martens@stmartinusutrecht.nl

or 064 719 80 72 ☎

Lichtjestocht in Oost

Photos from Last Year's Lichtjestocht



A Sign from Heaven!



HTC has just received a new sign to give better visibility to our church and its mission in the local community and to the world. Thanks to the Building Maintenance Committee for all its work in organizing this! The content of the sign will be filled in shortly and can include notice of special worship and events. ✂



Ecumenical Events Past and Future

This contribution from Judith Riet, our ecumenical representative.

Report on the National Missionary Festival

On the same day that HTC was hosting a meeting on Anglican mission, a little further in the city there was an ecumenical festival on the same topic! The event was hosted by the Dutch protestant church (PKN) and offered the 500 visitors a full program of workshops. The theme was #daretoask, but the most important question of the day may have been ‘which workshop should I pick?’

Another question that came back several times that day was: how can we lower the obstacles that prevent people coming to church? For people from outside the church the step to just visit a Sunday morning service can be quite difficult. So think creatively. If people don’t come to church on Sunday, why not offer activities on Wednesday evening? Or in a different location? The festival was full of inspiring people sharing their creative views on mission. For example Lucy Moore’s ‘messy church’: it provides a way to draw the whole family into a very accessible afternoon of handicraft and bible stories. Or a minister who started to advertise in the local newspaper that she would spend every Friday morning in the local pub, present for whomever wanted to come by, share a coffee and talk.

I realise HTC is in an exceptional situation. Where most Dutch churches face decreasing numbers of visitors and ageing congregations we are blessed with a growing community of worshippers. But this does not mean we can sit back and enjoy, we can still learn a lot on how to be open and accessible. So an interesting day all together.



The Passion is coming to Amersfoort next year!

Perhaps you know the television event from last years. It is an open-air, live-music retelling of the events of Good Friday in popular Dutch music. It may not be everyone’s idea of celebrating Good Friday, but it does attract a large crowd. In a secular country where people often hardly know why they get a day off work, it is important the story and the deep importance and meaning of Jesus’ death and resurrection are not forgotten.

The event is a cooperation of the Evangelical and Roman Catholic broadcast organisations (EO and KRO) and they always try to make it into missionary event, though covered under a heavy sauce of entertainment. March 24, 2016.

www.thepassion.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 offer this ministry both in Utrecht and Zwolle. If you have requests for the prayer chain, or if you feel called to be a part in this ministry of intercession, please contact:

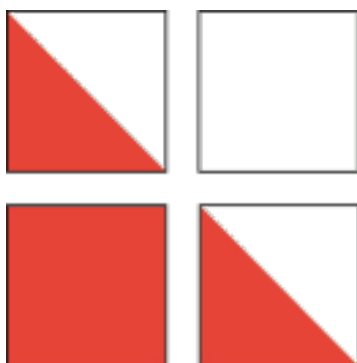


Anne Miechielsen (left)
organizes and participates
in this ministry at
Holy Trinity in Utrecht:
anne@miechielsen.nl

Margreet de Roo (right)
organizes and participates
in this ministry at
Zwolle Anglican Church:
margreetderoo@gmail.com



Celebrate the New (Church) Year



The Utrecht
Municipal
Council of
Churches
(USRK)
cordially invites
you to celebrate
on the first

Monday of Advent together the start of the
new Church year.

This year we are guests of the Augustinian
Sisters of St. Monica in their monastery on
Waterstraat 2. We start at 19.00 hours with
Vespers in the chapel of the monastery,



Window of St Augustine and St Monica

as it is
celebrated daily
by the sisters.

The entrance to
the chapel is
located on the
Oude Gracht, on
the corner of
Waterstraat (2).
After Vespers
we will drink
coffee or tea
while the sisters
tell us about the interesting work they do in
Utrecht.



The president of the USRK will give a
brief preview of the new church year. Then
there is an informal meeting while enjoying
a soda.

At 21.00 we conclude our meeting.

You are all cordially invited to attend this
church New Year's gathering!

Henk Korff
Chairman USRK

Arie Noordermeer
Secretary USRK

For more see: www.zustersaugustinessen.nl ☞

Advent Bible Study in December

In our days we know about travellers like Joseph and Mary and coming from far away like the wise men.

What's different if we compare our time with 2000 years ago?

- We are 2000 years closer to what the prophets prophesied about the kingdom of peace.
- We are 2000 years closer to the fulfilment of the promise given at Ascension day "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Let's prepare for his Advent (adventus (L) = coming)!

All of you are most welcome to join the Bible Study.

The themes for the coming weeks are:

December 1 (preparing Advent 2) – Bethlehem – Glory to God

December 8 (preparing Advent 3) – Egypt – we are strangers

December 15 (preparing Advent 4) – New Jerusalem – we come home

Coffee and tea is ready at 7.45pm. We start our Bible study at 8pm and finish at 9.45pm.

Danielle Los - 030 236 8572

Hans Baars, ebaars@planet.nl ☞



Remembrance Day



Sunday evening November 8 Isabel and I attended the service in the Flying Angel Chapel of the Missions to Seafarer in Flushing / Vlissingen.

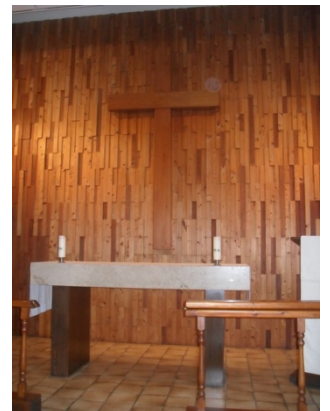
Andy Martherus (left) – the lector – read the

'In Memory'. It was moving for us when we heard "...the old men and women who never knew their fathers. ..." since Isabel's dad lost his life after his ship de "Esso den Haag" was

torpedoed near Land's End in February 1940, before the Netherlands was in already in war. Isabel was a babe of 9 months.

We were with 7 persons: 4 African sailors, Andy and Isabel and I. It was a blessed evening. Praise the Lord! ☞

Hans Baars



All Saints

This contribution is from Ruth Alkema.



Inspired by the name of the new church in Amersfoort, and also because we've just celebrated the feast of All Saints, I've been thinking of the communion of all saints, as we say in the Creed: *I believe in the holy catholic Church: the communion of saints.*

It is a wonderful thought that God gave us all a place in a community that is held together by our shared love for Christ and each other. I have been thinking of how we can act this out in real life. Speaking for myself, I know that I keep a distance from lots of people that I just don't understand. It hurts, it should be different, but how?

One key thing is perhaps that we should not focus so much on *giving* (help, advice, interesting stories), but much more on *receiving*. Receiving is the way to connect, I think. When we open our hearts to receive from our fellow Christians what God has given them, then we will really be connected and the Holy Spirit can really flow through us, like blood flows through the body.

Receiving means that we make a place in our heart for the other person. Sometimes we may be afraid of persons who are very different, but if we could step over that fear and allow people to be different, then we can become genuinely interested in what moves other people, and learn from them. This becomes much easier when we realize that we are not self sufficient, and that the other person has something that we need. If we see no such thing, that is a clear sign that we are blind, because God created each one of us with unique gifts, meant to be shared.

Receiving also means that we ask for help when we need it. Lots of people

really enjoy helping, if only they knew what to do. Also over the past year I have noticed that whenever I ask a fellow Christian to pray for me, God hears their prayers much more than when I only pray for myself. I really think God wants us to realize that we are not capable of solving our own problems, but together we are strong.

Jesus is a great example of someone who is very good at receiving! (e.g. Matt 26:6-13)

He has a place in His heart for all of us. And also of course it is very necessary that we are willing to receive what He wants to give us. I will finish with this beautiful poem about how Jesus receives us, and serves and loves us. ✂



LOVE (III)
by George Herbert

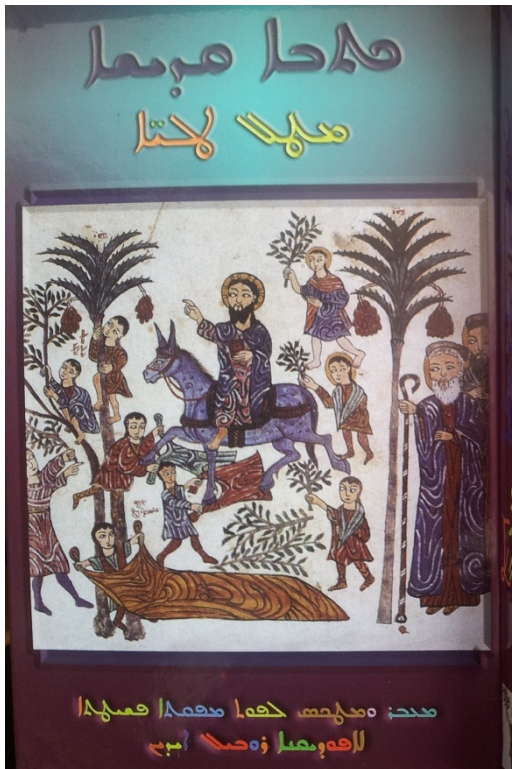
*Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lack'd any thing.*

*"A guest," I answer'd, "worthy to be here:"
Love said, "You shall be he."
"I the unkind, the ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee."
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
"Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve."
"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"
"My dear, then I will serve."
"You must sit down," says Love, and taste my meat."
So I did sit and eat.*

Holy Trinity Utrecht Response to Refugees

In October Newsletter we suggested Holy Trinity Chaplaincy engage in some way in the refugee crisis and blessing for the Netherlands. We have not had a public meeting yet, but have discussed at Council recently ways in which we might help. Two ways have come up immediately: contributing to the purchase of Syrian Children's Bibles, an initiative of Catharina van der Klaauw, who has written the short article below; and offering our church for worship. Also here is a follow up from USRK with suggested ways of helping.



Syrian Children's Bibles

Last year teachers and students of the Old Catholic Seminary were hosted by the Syriac Orthodox Monastery of St. Ephrem the Syrian in Glane.

After an inspiring lecture by Archbishop Mor Polycarpus Augin Aydin and a wonderful celebration in the ancient Aramaic language – the language spoken, most likely by Jesus – the visitors were shown the library. We found many books donated by Professor Parmentier there and the book store.

In the book stores were lovely newly printed Syrian children's Bibles. Archbishop Polycarp would like to give these Bibles to the many Syrian refugees

children so that their parents can read at Christmas the story of light and hope in their own familiar language.

But books cost money, €25 each, and the monastery has already run many projects. Therefore some of the seminarians came up with the idea: Wouldn't it be nice if the Old Catholic faithful could give these refugee children these Bibles for Christmas to forget something of the dismal memories and to give them new joy just now.

If you want to contribute to this idea as a parish or as a believer, you can make a donation to bank account:

IBAN: NL06 ABNA 0214 1901 29

t.n.v. Oud-Katholieke Kerk van Nederland te Amersfoort

Indicate it is for: 'Syrische kinderbijbels'.

The hope is that we could raise sufficient funds to purchase 250 Bibles. ✂

Catharina van der Klaauw

Editor's Note: Catharina spoke with the Chaplain about Anglicans contributing to this project and it was well received. Archbp Joris Vercammen is happy we can participate in this joint outreach. At the November 18 Chaplaincy Council Meeting, members voted to contribute €1000 (40 Bibles x €25) to this project and we are now making this opportunity available for individuals who would like to contribute more (see the above bank information). A note will be put into the Bibles indicating they came from the Old Catholic and Anglican Churches in the Netherlands.

Worship Services

The idea has come to offer our church in Utrecht for services for Syrian refugees at Christmas time. We can offer it for use by the Syrian Orthodox priest in the Netherlands, or if they are not interested, to see if there would be any interest in offering a special service for those who live in Utrecht. Chaplaincy Council is in favour of the idea, but at the time of printing this Newsletter we have no final information. We are following up first with USRK and possibly to contact Syrian Orthodox priests to see if they are interested in using our church and we will also see if there is any interest in offering such services in Amersfoort or Zwolle, for those congregations to follow up on if there is an interest.

USRK Newsbrief

(selections from Nov 24th 5th Informatiebrief)

Dear churches, denominations and Christian organizations,

We would like to inform you about the care afforded to refugees in Utrecht and how we as churches do our part to contribute to.

Information meeting on Friday Nov 13

There were over 40 people in attendance, representing well over 20 different denominations and Christian organizations! We look back to the activities that we have offered in the initial reception and thought about what we would like to offer again.

We think at this moment;

- The running
- Walk and Talk
- Meals (in people's homes, or to a private location for larger groups)
- sports
- Language Support

We are now looking at churches in the district which places we could use. We expect this to be arranged within a few days. Then we plan the activities and we will inform you when and how you can contribute to the activities.

Other offers

We are part of a larger body of organizations

and people of goodwill that contribute to a response to the refugees. See: www.welkominutrecht.nu. We want to highlight one initiative:

Good Practice - for inspiration: New Dutch Connections

New Dutch Connections is looking for companions who want to support the young people in education. See the website www.newdutchconnections.nl for details.

And now we ...

Work is also underway on the first issue of clothing from the Red Cross, with many volunteers from Ulu Mosque and the Salvation Army working together.

Besides examples of activities that we offer, you can of course also as a church or organization itself organize activities. We help you to get from an idea to a successful initiative! Contact us: info@dp utrecht.nl.

To be well informed, it is also very important that you keep us informed of what you are going to organize. Our experience is that it is good to know what is being organized in order to prevent activities are offered at the same hours and days, so together "compete". The best part is when we can spread our activities throughout the week, and also can provide a variety of activities. So keep us informed!

Christmas

The first plans Christmas Eve that we would like to join the group for a big celebration, so much together as possible. For Christmas Day we think it is nice when there are churches that people want to invite. You can email us if you want.

Finally

With faith and good hope we meet the new period. We believe we can make a significant gesture of hospitality with each other. This month, we are inspired by what happened in the house of bread, Bethlehem happened. Two thousand years ago. Or even now?

Sincerely,

Leon Bal, USRK and

Ageeth Weelink, namens Leger des Heils Utrecht en Diaconaal Platform Utrecht 

December Charitable Givings

At every 11am service we use a blue bag for special offerings for particular charities.

During Advent our Blue Bag collections will be for the **Bishop's Advent Appeal** – The Refugee crisis in Greece.



The Anglican Chaplaincy in Athens supported by United Society and Anglican Alliance has worked to bring different church groups together in Athens to coordinate a compassionate and effective ecumenical response for the refugees arriving in Athens and on the Greek Islands. The Anglican Church in Athens has further identified specific programs, which need urgent financial support to assist refugees. Here are some examples:

Lighthouse Refugee Relief, Lesvos Island

Our team visited the island of Lesvos 15 kms from the coast of Turkey. Lesvos receives the highest number of refugee boat arrivals in Greece. Boat arrivals are chaotic and dangerous and many refugees have tragically



drowned within sight of the coast. Typically refugees arrive during the night in small rubber boats crowded with up to 50 people onboard. The vast stretch of coastline is mostly uninhabited and many refugees land in isolated parts of the island where there is no assistance (such as at a remote lighthouse - pictured above). The Lighthouse Refugee Relief are performing critical work on Lesvos. This non-profit organisation has commenced a program to construct temporary accommodation at a lighthouse which tragically attracts refugees arriving at night to an isolated and dangerous part of the coastline. Part of donations to the Advent appeal will go towards Lighthouse Refugee Relief, an example of one initiative that the Anglican Church is supporting in Greece.



Apostoli, Humanitarian arm of Greek Orthodox Church

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Athens has a strong relationship with Apostoli, an organisation providing essential frontline assistance to refugees in Athens and those arriving on the Islands of Chios, Samos and Kos. Apostoli provide food and water, adult and infant hygiene items, and improved shelter and living conditions for refugees on Chios, Samos and Kos. In addition they partner with local medical teams to provide vaccinations for refugee children in Greece. The Anglican Chaplaincy in Greece is already supporting Apostoli's programs and will continue to do so with money donated during the Advent appeal.

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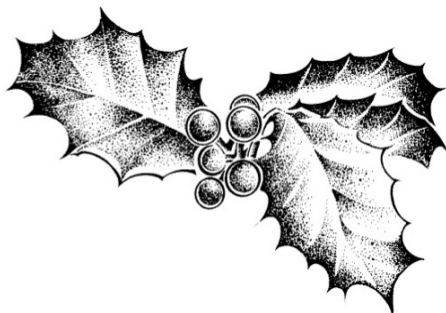


HOLLY

We sing about the 'Holly and the Ivy' and prickly green leaves and red berries are everywhere in Christmas decorations.

In Scandinavian countries the holly is even known as the 'Christ-thorn' and it seems that the name of the holly actually came from the word 'holy'.

The holly reminds us of the death of Jesus – the sharp prickles on the leaves are like the crown on thorns that Jesus was forced to wear on the cross. The red berries remind us of the drops of blood that came where the thorns hurt his head.



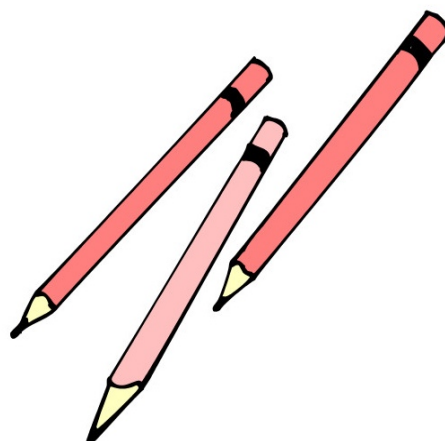
Holly is an evergreen, which means that it does not lose its leaves in the autumn, but keeps them all year round. And because its leaves are always green it is a symbol of eternal life.

SHARP PRESENTS

A quick way to make little presents for all your class and friends.

You will need nice pencils, glue (spray glue is best) and Christmas wrapping paper with a small pattern on it. Choose round pencils rather than the hexagonal type.

Cut a strip of wrapping paper wide enough to wrap around the pencil and as long as the pencil. Put glue on the back of the paper and wrap it around the pencil. When the glue has dried; trim away any excess paper with small scissors.



**What did the werewolf write
on his Christmas cards?**
Best vicious of the season.

**What do
elves sing to
Santa?**
Freeze a Jolly
Good Fellow!



Drinking from the Well of Life

This pattern of daily Bible readings is taken from the Book of Common Prayer (revised in 1922). It leads us each year through most of the Old Testament, the whole New Testament twice, and the Gospels four times. This ordered reading of the Bible is intended to immerse us in the images and stories of Scripture, to liberate and lead us to rest in the saving doctrine it teaches, and to enflame our hearts with the love of God and our neighbour!

First Sunday in Advent – November 30 to December 5

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Isaiah 3:1-15	Mark 1:1-20	Isaiah 4:2	Revelation 6
Tuesday	Isaiah 5:1-17	Mark 1:21	Isaiah 5:18	Revelation 7
Wednesday	Isaiah 6	Mark 8:16-9:7	Isaiah 2:1-22	Revelation 8
Thursday	Isaiah 9:8-10:4	Mark 2:23-3:12	Isaiah 10:5-23	Revelation 9
Friday	Isaiah 10:24-11:9	Mark 3:13	Isaiah 11:10 & 12	Revelation 10
Saturday	Isaiah 13:1-14:2	Mark 4:1-20	Isaiah 14:3-27	Revelation 11

Second Sunday in Advent – December 7 to 12

Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Isaiah 17	Mark 4:21-end	Isaiah 18	Revelation 12
Tuesday	Isa. 19:1-17	Mk. 5:1-20	Isa. 19:18-end	Revelation 13
Wednesday	Isa. 21:1-12	Mk. 5:21-end	Isa. 22:1-14	Revelation 14
Thursday	Isa. 24	Mk. 6:1-13	Isa. 28:1-13	Revelation 15
Friday	Isa. 28:14-end	Mk. 6:14-29	Isa. 29:1-14	Revelation 16
Saturday	Isa. 29:15-end	Mk. 6:30-end	Isa. 30:1-18	Revelation 17

Third Sunday in Advent – December 14 to 19

LORD Jesu Christ, who at your first coming did send your messenger to prepare the way before you: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Isaiah 10:19-end	Mark 7:1-23	Isaiah 31	Revelation 18
Tuesday	Isaiah 38:1-20	Mark 7:24—8:10	Isaiah 40:1-11	Revelation 19
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:12-end	Mark 8:11—9:1	Isaiah 41	Revelation 20
Thursday	Isaiah 42:1-17	Mark 9:2-32	Isaiah 42:18—43:13	Revelation 21:1-14
Friday	Isaiah 43:14—44:5	Mark 9:33-end	Isaiah 44:6-23	Revelation 21:15-22:5
Saturday	Isaiah 44:24—45:13	Mark 10:1-31	Isaiah 45:15-end	Revelation 22:6-end

Fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas – December 21 to 26

O LORD, raise up (we pray) your power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of your Son our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Isaiah 46	Mark 10:32-end	Isaiah 47	Jude 1-16
Tuesday	Isaiah 48	Mark 11:1-26	Isaiah 50:4-10	Jude 17-end
Wednesday	Isaiah 51:1-16	Mark 11:27—12:12	Isaiah 51:17-52:12	2 Peter 1
Christmas Eve	Isa 52:13-53 end	Mark 12:13-34	Zechariah 2:10-end	Titus 2:11—3:7
Christmas Day	Isaiah 9:2-7	Luke 2:1-20	Isaiah 7:10-14	1 John 4:7-end
St Stephen	Genesis 4:1-10	Acts 6	2 Chronicles 24:15-22	Acts 7:54—8:4

Sunday after Christmas – December 28 to January 2

Almighty God, who has given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigns with you and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Innocents' Day	Jeremiah 31:1-17	Matt 18:1-10	Isa 49:14-25	Mark 10:13-16
Tuesday	Isaiah 55	Luke 12:1-21	Isaiah 60:1-12	Colossians 2:6-17
Wednesday	Isaiah 60:13-end	Luke 12:22-34	Isaiah 61	Colossians 3:1-17
Thursday	Isaiah 62	Luke 12:35-48	Deut 10:12—11:1	Luke 21:25-36
Circumcision	Genesis 17:1-13	Romans 2:17-end	Deuteronomy 30	Romans 13
Saturday	Isaiah 63:1-6	Matthew 1:18-end	Isaiah 63:7-end	1 Thessalonians 1

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

*Services are in English (and in Utrecht) unless otherwise specified.
For services in Groningen please see www.gracechurchgroningen.com*

Sunday 6 th December	The Second Sunday in Advent (<i>Preacher: The Rev Grant Crowe</i>) 9:00 Sung Communion 11:00 All Age Worship - Sung Communion Zwolle - 16:00 Sung Communion
Sunday 13 th December	The Third Sunday in Advent (<i>Preacher: The Rev Grant Crowe</i>) 9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch/Eng) 11:00 Sung Communion 14:30 Choral Evensong
Sunday 20 th December	The Fourth Sunday in Advent Utrecht 9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch/Eng) Amersfoort – 9:30 Sung Communion Utrecht 11:00 Choral Communion Zwolle - 16:00 Lessons & Carols Service Utrecht - 20:00 Lessons & Carols Service
Monday 21 st December	The Feast of St Thomas the Apostle Utrecht – 10:00 Holy Communion (said) Amersfoort - 20:00 Lessons & Carols Service
Thursday 24 th December	CHRISTMAS EVE Utrecht - 16:00 Crib Service for families (English/Dutch) Utrecht & Amersfoort 23:00 Midnight Choral Communion
Friday 25 th December	CHRISTMAS DAY Utrecht – 9:00 Choral Communion (Dutch/Eng) Amersfoort – 9:30 All Age Worship Communion Utrecht – 11:00 Festal Choral Communion
Saturday 26 th December	St Stephen's Day 10:00 Holy Communion (said)
Sunday 27 th December	Christmas 1 (St John's Day) Utrecht – 9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch/Eng) Amersfoort – 9:30 Sung Communion Utrecht – 11:00 Choral Communion
Monday 28 th December	The Innocents 10:00 Holy Communion (said)
Friday 1 st January	The Circumcision of our Lord (Octave of Christmas) 10:00 Sung Communion (Dutch/Eng)

In addition to the above services, we have these regular midweek services in 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) (Wednesday at 19.00)