

**Holy Trinity Church Utrecht**  
and  
**The Anglican Church in Zwolle**

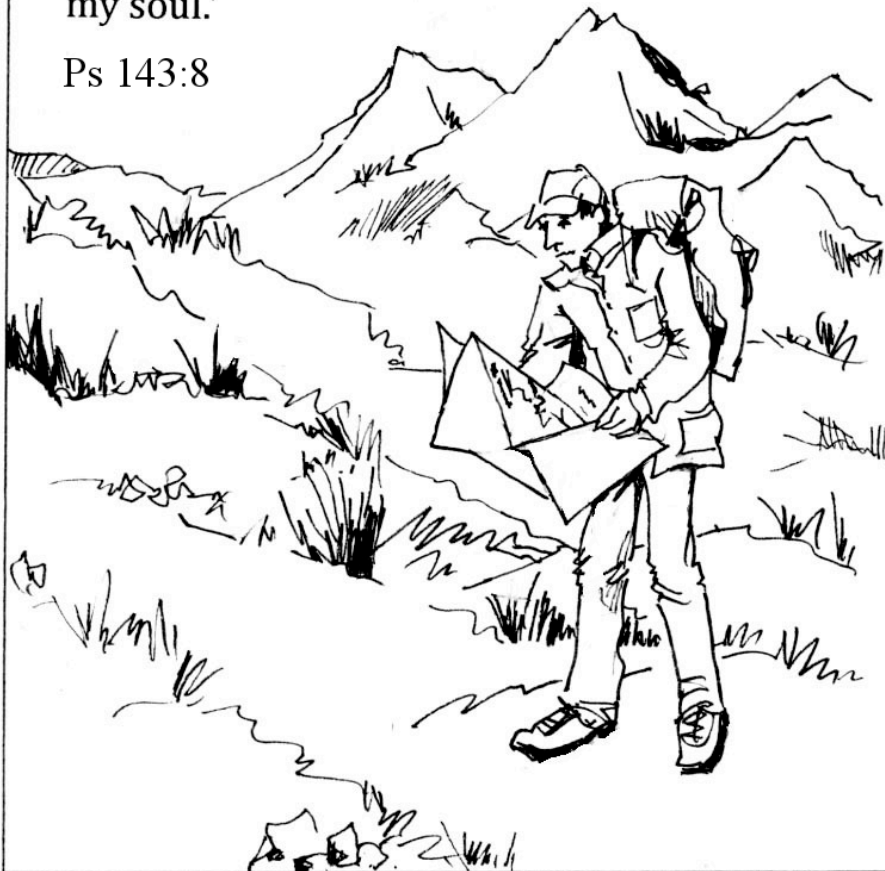
July



2014

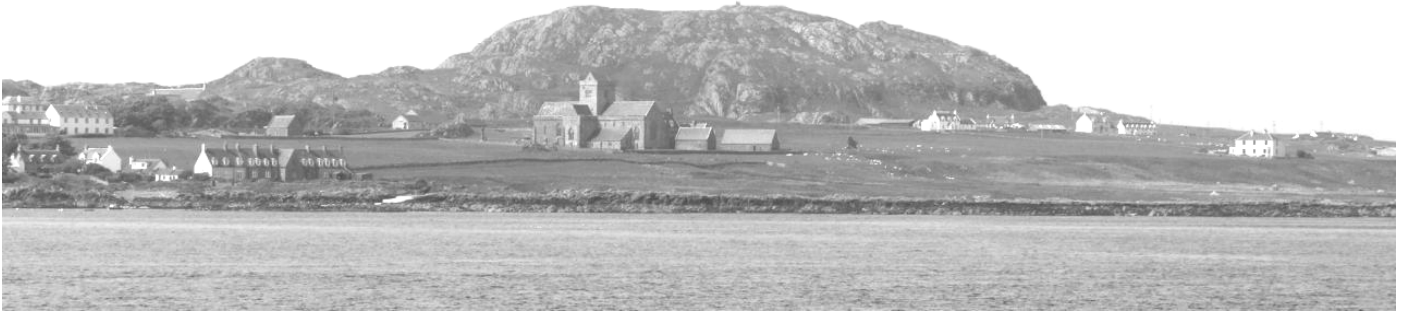
'Make me know  
the way I should go,  
for to you I lift up  
my soul.'

Ps 143:8



The contents of this newsletter are copyright.  
If you wish to reproduce any part of it elsewhere please contact the editor.

## Chaplain's Letter



*Iona Abbey.*

Dear Friends in Christ:

This past month I was blessed to travel on a pilgrimage with 4 others from our area to the Isle of Iona and stay in the Abbey. Madeleine de Boer made it very easy by her excellent organization of the trip as we made our way by plane, train, ferry, bus and ferry.

The importance of Iona in the life of the Church began with the decision of St Columba and twelve fellow monks to come to this Scottish island from Ireland in 563 AD. St Columba had been involved in a foolish dispute that escalated and resulted in a war between two Irish factions in which about 6000 men died in a battlefield. Horrified by his part, St Columba's penance was to leave his beloved homeland and the comfort of his well established monastic life in Ireland to bring the Gospel to the peoples of Northern Scotland, converting as many souls as died in the battlefield. He was 42 years old at the time. Monks who gathered at Iona were responsible for the conversion of Northern Scotland to the Christian faith.

The Monastic community on Iona that St Columba established lasted for over 200 years until invasions by Vikings, who slaughtered all the monks on the Island. Around 1200 AD, a Benedictine monastery and an Augustinian nunnery were built and the Island again became a centre for prayer and pilgrimage until the dissolution of the monasteries at the time of the Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century George McLeod founded the Iona Community, an ecumenical church community, which restored the Abbey and now hosts groups of pilgrims from all over the world throughout the year. There are also other retreat centres on the Island that host pilgrims. Iona as well as being a place for spiritual rest and renewal is a centre for reflection and practice of Celtic Christian spirituality and worship.

Iona is an example of how God can bring greater good out of permitting a tragedy to happen than if he had not. Whatever we regret from the past in our lives, we can always respond with a loving embrace of the future possibilities that God has in store. It is never too late and our actions in faith can have a ripple effect far into the future.

Madeleine, Renée and Chris have given wonderful contributions in this Newsletter with their experiences that give a flavour of the time we spent there. I hope you enjoy reading them and are inspired to consider going on a pilgrimage in future.

Yours in the love of Christ,

David

## **Reflections on the Iona Pilgrimage 2014**

*Contributed by Madeleine de Boer*



On May 30 we set off with our small HTC group to Iona. There were Father David, Chris Los, Renée van Beuningen, Gerda Blok and myself. We flew to Glasgow, stayed in the Euro hostel, took the train to Oban the next morning, the ferry to Mull, the bus across Mull and finally the ferry to Iona. The sun was shining gaily as we crossed the Sound of Iona on the four o'clock ferry and we could see the Abbey of the Iona community standing proudly – backed by the highest hill on Iona: Dunn I – and quietly beckoning us.

It was wonderful to be back on Iona! We had, what they call, one of the 'open weeks', with no specific program but with lots and lots of activities. There were sessions on 'listening to God', 'decision making', information about the work of the Iona

community, big sings, creative possibilities in the craft room, gardening, an evening of Scottish dancing (ceilidh), a long walk across the island ('pilgrimage') on Tuesday, and on Thursday a boat trip - on a stormy choppy ocean - to Staffa to see the puffins. There were lots of puffins this time; they flew up to us as soon as we arrived near their burrows. There was also spare time in which we climbed Dunn I – and drank from the well of eternal youth, which is also on Dunn I - walked to the beaches at the North end, read books and did some sketching outdoors. And we made new friends!



The daily rhythm of the community I find very pleasant and energizing: I was in the Otter task group (there are also the Seal and the Puffin task groups). The Otters set breakfast at 8 am in the refectory. At 9 am there is the morning service of half an hour and then there are the different tasks everyone does. This time my task was to help chop the vegetables, in the Abbey kitchen, for the midday and evening meal. After that there were the sessions, tea break – with delicious scones – more sessions or walks or arts and crafts etc. At the end of the day, at 9 pm there is an evening service of half an hour, followed by fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee. After that most retreat to bed, although there is the possibility to go to the one pub Iona has for a night cap.

On Wednesday evening was a guest concert. It was a very entertaining evening of songs, poems, jokes, music performance and the 'debut' of a stand

up comedian. Renée played her flute, Chris, Gerda and I did a story: “the city of God”. While I told the story, Chris played the part of the searching man and Gerda the part of the angel.

What I especially liked this time on Iona was the session on ‘listening to God’ led by Ali Marshall, who is a staff member of the Iona community and an ordained priest. God speaks to us in a subtle way and if we are busy all the time we tend to miss His words. So the suggestion for busy people - who find little opportunity to pray - was to connect God’s presence to an object of their work and then prayer will automatically be woven in. Some of the examples Ali gave were of a doctor connecting God to the stethoscope and every time the doctor uses it God will come to mind; or of the chef connecting God to a pan or kettle often used and so being reminded of God’s presence and word all day long. Ali also advised us to take up *Lectio Divina* – of which I am already a great fan and to read the book: “Practicing the presence of God”, by Brother Laurence.

As always, I was sad when the week was over and we were waved off by the Iona Community staff, while the ferry departed back to Mull. But hopefully and God willing - before too long – there will be another trip to Iona!



## IONA 2014

*Contributed by Renee van Beuningen*



It must have been some 18 years ago when my friend Thom (member Anglican Church, who is not with us anymore) and I were on Iona for only one day. I have never forgotten the time we spent there, because there was some special serenity and quietness we could feel around us.

Just before Pentecost I finally had a chance to go back, staying days and nights. I had resurrected my long neglected flute to bring with me, but didn't really know what to expect, living in a community this time. How to survive, I thought, as I am used to being on my own. But somehow I felt God had a meaning and I just had to wait and trust.

Then, on the third day, I knew why I was there: I heard Richard Lockley, the Abbey's director of music, playing the piano. It was all love and warmth which moved me deeply.



Since that moment I rediscovered my flute and realised how much music actually means to me. Music has found me again and it is through this 'voice of God' that I want to grow in love, caring for the people I meet and for all beautiful creatures of God's creation.

Thank you, Madeleine, for taking me with you to your holy Iona.

## IONA 2014

*Contributed by Chris Los*

An island of peace and tranquility where the prayers of Saint Columba and his followers can still be felt in the stones and buildings of the Abbey.

The turquoise sea, the white sand, the flowers growing between the rocks and all the sheep add to the beauty of this special place.

The Iona Community welcomes pilgrims and visitors from all over the world whom they encourage to worship and sing together twice a day at services in the Abbey.



This basis of community building is continued in practice through eating and working together. Bible based sessions as well as a long walk, a concert and a dance complete the picture.

wind drops and the sun comes out.

Included in the Iona experience is a visit to the island of Staffa. This you will never forget if you have the good fortune to sit at the cliff edge and see the puffins fly in from the sea and land at your feet.

This pilgrim place of Iona brought many pilgrims, including our own group together for the week before Pentecost. We were mostly unknown to each other until the week on Iona made us part of a new community.



# Drinking from the Well of Life

These daily readings are meant to augment and fit with the Sunday readings used at the services of Holy Communion. The Anglican Church produced 39 Articles of Religion at the time of the Reformation in the 16th century that gave clarity on where it stood certain issues. Here are two Articles that relate to an Anglican understanding of the authority of and how it reads the Bible:

**VI. Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation.** *Holy Scripture contains all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation.*

**XX. Of the Authority of the Church.** *The Church has power to decree Rites or Ceremonies, and authority in Controversies of Faith: and yet it is not lawful for the Church to ordain any thing that is contrary to God's Word written, neither may it so expound one place of Scripture, that it be repugnant to another. Wherefore, although the Church be a witness and a keeper of Holy Writ, yet, as it ought not to decree any thing against the same, so besides the same ought it not to enforce any thing to be believed for necessity of Salvation.*

## The Week of Trinity II – June 30 to July 5

*O LORD, who never fails to help and govern those whom you bring up in your stedfast fear and love:  
Keep us, we beseech you, under the protection of your good providence,  
and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of your holy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Job 27	2 Peter 1	Job 28	Mark 8:11-9:1
Tuesday	Job 29:1--30:1	2 Peter 2	Job 31:13-end	Mark 9:2-29
Wednesday	Job 32	2 Peter 3	Job 33	Mark 9:30-end
Thursday	Job 38:1-21	Jude	Job 38:22-end	Mark 10:1-31
Friday	Job 39	1 John 1:1--2:6	Job 40	Mark 10:32-end
Saturday	Job 41	1 John 2:7-end	Job 42	Mark 11:1-26

## The Week of Trinity III – July 7 to 12

*O LORD, we beseech you mercifully to hear us; and grant that we, to whom you have given  
a hearty desire to pray, may by your mighty aid be defended and comforted  
in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Proverbs 1:1-19	1 John 3:1-12	Proverbs 1:20-end	Mark 11:27--12:12
Tuesday	Proverbs 2	1 John 3:13--4:6	Proverbs 3:1-26	Mark 12:13-34
Wednesday	Proverbs 3:27--4:19	1 John 4:7-end	Proverbs 4:20--5:14	Mark 12:35--13:13
Thursday	Proverbs 6:1-19	1 John 5	Proverbs 8	Mark 13:14-end
Friday	Proverbs 8	2 John	Proverbs 10:1-22	Mark 14:1-26
Saturday	Proverbs 11:1-25	3 John	Proverbs 12:10-end	Mark 14:27-52

## The Week of Trinity IV – July 14 to 19

*O GOD, the protector of all that trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, you being our ruler and guide,  
we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal:  
Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord. Amen.*

	<i>Morning Prayer</i>		<i>Evening Prayer</i>	
<i>Monday</i>	Proverbs 14:9-27	Romans 1	Proverbs 15:18-end	Mark 14:53-end
<i>Tuesday</i>	Proverbs 16:31--17:17	Romans 2:1-16	Proverbs 18:10-end	Mark 15:1-41
<i>Wednesday</i>	Proverbs 20:1-22	Romans 2:17-end	Proverbs 22:1-16	Mark 15:42--16 end
<i>Thursday</i>	Proverbs 24:23-end	Romans 3	Proverbs 25	Luke 1:1-23
<i>Friday</i>	Proverbs 26:12-end	Romans 4	Proverbs 27:1-22	Luke 1:24-56
<i>Saturday</i>	Proverbs 30:1-16	Romans 5	Proverbs 31:10-end	Luke 1:57-end

## The Week of Trinity V – July 21 to 26

*GRANT, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered  
by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

	<i>Morning Prayer</i>		<i>Evening Prayer</i>	
<i>Monday</i>	1 Samuel 1	Romans 6	1 Samuel 2:1-21	Luke 2:1-21
<i>Tuesday</i>	1 Samuel 2:22-end	Romans 7	1 Samuel 3	Luke 2:22-end
<i>Wednesday</i>	1 Samuel 4	Romans 8:1-17	1 Samuel 7	Luke 3:1-22
<i>Thursday</i>	1 Samuel 8	Romans 8:18-end	1 Samuel 9:1-25	Luke 4:1-30
<i>Friday</i>	1 Samuel 9:26--10:16	Romans 9	1 Samuel 10:17-end	Luke 4:31-end
<i>Saturday</i>	1 Samuel 11	Romans 10	1 Samuel 12	Luke 5:1-16

## The Week of Trinity VI – July 28 to August 2

*O GOD, who has prepared for those that love you such good things as pass man's understanding:  
Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things,  
may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

	<i>Morning Prayer</i>		<i>Evening Prayer</i>	
<i>Monday</i>	1 Samuel 13	Romans 11:1-24	1 Samuel 14:1-23	Luke 5:17-end
<i>Tuesday</i>	1 Samuel 14:1-24	Romans 11:25-end	1 Samuel 15	Luke 6:1-19
<i>Wednesday</i>	1 Samuel 16	Romans 12	1 Samuel 17:1-30	Luke 6:20-38
<i>Thursday</i>	1 Samuel 17:31-54	Romans 13	1 Samuel 17:55--18:16	Luke 6:39--7:10
<i>Friday</i>	1 Samuel 19	Romans 14	1 Samuel 20:1-17	Luke 7:11-35
<i>Saturday</i>	1 Samuel 20:18-end	Romans 15:1-13	1 Samuel 21:1--22:5	Luke 7:36-end

## **Bible Study in the Summer months**

Reading the Bible together in the summer months will be limited to services in the church. In July and August there will be no Bible studies in the parsonage hall.

We hope to restart Tuesday September 9.

We intend to continue with Holy Spirit related subjects, eg. the armour of God.

The armour of God consists 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.

Everybody will be welcome. We wish you blessed Bible reading in the Summer months!

*Danielle Los - 030 236 8572*

*Hans Baars, ebaars@planet*

## **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 by phone 030 220 5049.



The Mofish Concert held on June 7 was organized by Grant and Alison Cooney to raise funds for Imibala, a charity to provide education for children in the townships of South Africa. Harry Barrowclough was MC.

## Shana

As small as you are  
you are a wonder of  
billions of molecules  
your dark brown eyes  
laugh colours  
to the day  
and turn tears into rainbows

as small as you are  
you are a link to the sun  
infinite  
eternal  
more than  
the sum of the parts

as small as you are  
unknowing  
you are  
the light for us all

Oeke Kruythof

Translation/transcreation Jenny Narraway

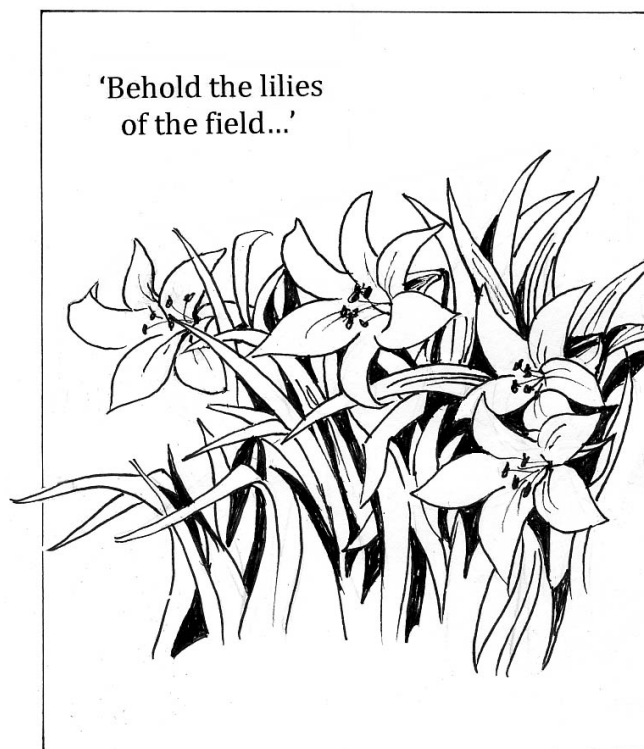
Shana

Zo klein je bent-  
je bent  
een wonder van  
miljarden moleculen  
je donkerbruine ogen  
lachen kleuren  
in de dag en  
buigen tranen om  
tot regenbogen

zo klein je bent-  
je bent  
een schakel in de zon  
oneindig meer dan  
som der delen

zo klein je bent-  
onwetend ben je  
licht voor velen

Oeke Kruthof



## **Visiting Churches in Utrecht**

The city of Utrecht has a large number of historic churches dating from its rich medieval past and from the 19th century. Every year a number of the historic churches in the centre of Utrecht are open to the public as part of Kerken Kijken Utrecht (Visiting Churches in Utrecht).

The rich history of Utrecht is reflected in its many historical churches, including the central Cathedral with its tall tower, where St Willibrord built St Martin's and St Saviour's in 695 AD. In the 11th century, Bishop Bernold designed a cross of churches around the Romanesque Cathedral, of which only St John's and St Peter's have survived. St Paul's and St Mary's have disappeared completely. The common people had parish churches, all four of which are still in their medieval form: the Buurkerk, St Nicholas', St James' and St Gertrude's. St Catherine's is the only large convent church left. The chapels of the St Agnes and St Ursula convents (now the Lutheran Church) have stood the test of time.

After the Reformation (1580), the Utrecht churches were used for the Protestant service or for non-religious purposes. Other denominations gathered in clandestine churches such as the chapel of St Gertrude's or the Mennonite Church. New Roman Catholic churches were not built until the 19th century: St Augustine's, St Willibrord's and St Martin's. The Old Catholic Cathedral St Gertrude's was finished in 1914. Every year, some of the historical churches in the centre of Utrecht are open to the public as part of "Visiting Churches in Utrecht".

Season 2014:

All churches will be opened from the first of July until September 10. Generally the churches will be opened from Tuesday afternoon until Saturday afternoon. For the exact opening hours please check the specific church page on this website.

There is also a reference to **Holy Trinity Church**

The church contains beautiful stained-glass windows. They were all designed by Henry Thomas Bosdet (1856-1934). [www.holytrinityutrecht.nl](http://www.holytrinityutrecht.nl)

### ***Guides required***

**Kerken Kijken Utrecht invites historic cultural interested persons who are willing to spend one day a week (Tuesday till Saturday) to guide visitors. Experience is not required, interest in the visitors is a prerequisite. A short introduction will be given and information books are available. See: [kerkenkijken.nl/aanmeldennfo@kerkenkijken.nl](http://kerkenkijken.nl/aanmeldennfo@kerkenkijken.nl)**

Sent in by Hans Baars



## Information Page

Chaplain	The Rev David Phillips
	Van Hogendorpstraat 26
	3581 KE Utrecht
Telephone	06-124-104-31
Website	<a href="http://www.holytrinityutrecht.nl">www.holytrinityutrecht.nl</a>
Director of Music	Henk Korff
Church Wardens	Rosemarie Strengolt
	Adrian Los (acting)
Newsletter Editor	Judy Miller
	<a href="mailto:judymiller3@msn.com">judymiller3@msn.com</a>

### Church Bank Accounts

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



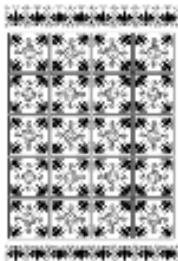




## NOBODY'S PERFECT

None of us are perfect, we all make mistakes. But Jesus came to tell us that God is always ready to forgive and pardon our mistakes. God forgives, but we often make the mistake of holding on to what went wrong – and when we do this we are doubting God.

There is a tradition that people who make patchwork quilts and those who weave Persian carpets both share: every piece they make has a mistake in it. The idea behind this is that only God is perfect and if the quilt or rug was perfect then its maker would be trying to be equal with God, and that would be a sin. Sometimes you have to look very closely to see the mistake in the pattern.



Like the quilter and the weaver, we should blend our mistakes into the pattern of our lives, not ignoring them but using them to remind us of God's love and forgiveness.

## SEW, SEW

The answers to all of the following are types of fabric or cloth. Can you say which fabric is...

1. One of the Channel Islands?
2. What felt is made out of?
3. Named after a town in France and used to make strong trousers?
4. Made from flax?
5. A jockey's racing colours?
6. A single stocking?
7. A fabric woven in little blocks?
8. The coat of an animal?
9. What an artist paints on?
10. Woven in a Scottish pattern?



**What kind of clothes are you going to make with all these tea bags?**



Baggy tea shirts.

**I bought a carpet in mint condition today.**

As good as new, do you mean?  
**No, it has a hole in the middle.**



Answers: 1.Jersey 2.wool 3.denim  
4.linen 5.silk 6.nylon 7.gingham 8.fur  
fabric 9.canvas 10.tartan

## CTC CHILDRENS TRINITY CORNER

Hi there! Here we are fully in Summer with some wonderful sun-filled mornings and golden evenings we have already been able to enjoy – how uplifting they are. In Huis ter Heide we have been charmed by the many little duck families marching about, sometimes along the road and often popping into gardens to have a dip in the ponds where they began their courting rituals. One such duck family counted 12 chicks and several others seem to have reared their young to a phase that they are not so likely to be preyed upon. I hope many of our children (and grown-ups) will have been also enchanted by Springwatch.

PLEASE NOTE:

DATES of SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE SUMMER:

Last session is on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July

First session new season is Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Gonny reports that CTC will be busy finishing off posters for the Away Day. CTC was focussed on Pentecost (Pinkster) and the children heard how this anniversary of the giving of the Law to Moses was celebrated fifty days after the Passover. Thousands of Jews from all over the world came to Jerusalem for the feast and a babble of languages could be heard in the streets. The disciples had gathered together, probably in a room within the Temple courts, and at 9 o'clock in the morning, the hour of public prayer, suddenly there came a noise like a fierce wind rushing through the room. Above them appeared a mass of fire which separated into individual flames and came to flicker over the head of every one of Jesus's disciples present. They felt flowing through them a tremendous power and ecstasy unlike anything they had known before in their lives, and eventually they were shouting praises to God in foreign tongues at the tops of their voices.

Gonny reports that the team leaders will be guiding the children through the stories of Paul in Romans; that Paul was totally devoted and single-minded in showing people how Jesus Christ could redeem and save them. It is a story to be proud of. Also, in Acts 8:26-40 Philip meets an important official, in charge of the treasury of the Queen of Ethiopia and explains to him who Jesus is and what He did for us. They travel a little further together and Philip baptises him.

No-one can be perfect, it is impossible for people always to be good. This topic will be discussed with the children and they will focus on the good things that they do and the wrong things; and about laws and rules that have no other purpose but to help us to live close to God. They will round off with the story of Abraham's faith, who is sent on a journey and must trust completely in God to lead him to a new place to settle.

Well, that's about all for this month – and until 31<sup>st</sup> August, we ask you to pray for the Sunday School, Teenage Group and Creche, and wish you all a great Summer! Oh and look forward to seeing each other – as many as possible – at the Away Day!

Nicky for CTC & the Teenage Group

## **THE BLACK MADONNA OF HALLE**

I'm not into the veneration of religious statues, to my mind it smacks too much of idolatry, but the history and traditions surrounding them do fascinate me. Take the black Madonnas for example. Now I know that that sounds like a 1970s pop group, and maybe it was, but I'm talking about statues of the Virgin Mary, often but not always, holding the infant Jesus. To digress, and I know how unusual that is, talking about 1970s pop groups, I was unbelievably 'square' in those days. In my late teens I tended to wear pin-striped suits and grey waistcoats and you can't get much squarer than that! An acquaintance of mine who actually had an amateur pop group once remarked: "Harry! You are so without 'it' that you are actually really with 'it'!" I took that as an enormous compliment and square I remained!

But to get back to the other black Madonnas: these were statues or paintings, mainly of mediaeval origin (12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century) that were popular in Europe and depicted Mary with dark or black features. Most of them were made of wood and showed the Virgin either seated, often on a throne, or standing up. The really special examples were not only black but showed the Virgin breast-feeding the Child. One of these black, nursing Madonnas is located in the West Brabant city of Halle, a place that is world famous - at least it is in Belgium!

The Halle black Madonna was originally inherited from the sainted queen Elizabeth of Hungary by the church of St Martin in that city and rapidly became the focus of pilgrimage. According to tradition, Elizabeth's husband acquired no fewer than four black Madonnas while he was away on the crusades and he sent them to his wife. Many years after she died at the age of only 24, one of the statues made its way via her granddaughter, Matilda Countess of Holland, to the church in Halle. There is no record of what happened to the other three. So, when my Belgian friend suggested a trip to Halle I was very interested to see this special piece of 13<sup>th</sup> century art. Halle has two other attractions: one is the forest which is particularly popular in the spring, and the other is the West Brabant regional museum which at this time of the year is only open on a Sunday.

And so it was that on Passion Sunday, instead of being in church, I was driving down to Belgium. This reminded me of a somewhat similar trip made very many years ago when I flew to Atlanta on Good Friday. I had just finished re-reading one of the John Donne poems that I had studied for A-level English Literature: *Good Friday 1613, Riding Westward*, so appropriate since I was doing the same and here I was again, moving away from where I perhaps ought to have been on a special day.

The drive from Antwerp to Halle took nearly an hour and we arrived just as the regional museum was opening. This is a chaotic collection of all manner of artefacts related to the area, housed on the top floor of a mediaeval building in the centre of town. It is a dusty, tired but utterly fascinating assortment of material dating from pre-history right up to recent times. I could have spent several hours in that treasure trove but after about an hour and a half the dust was getting to my throat. Sadly we were the only visitors there. Such a pity for a tremendous if somewhat haphazardly laid out collection.

After a much needed break for coffee, the Halle forest called. Now my pal Daniel is not particularly horticulturally inclined or gifted, in fact he is distinctly challenged in that direction, so I was somewhat puzzled when he told me how much he was looking forward to experiencing the ‘hyacinth’ trail that he had found on the Hallerbos website. Now when I say that my dear friend is short on the gardening stakes I am not being unkind: he reminds me of a comment made by one of my contemporaries at university who declared that she could even kill a Busy Lizzie! He managed to kill off some ivy that he had in a pot on his patio; now that takes some doing! Although, thinking about it, he’s not as bad as an old girlfriend of ours in Amsterdam whose skills in destroying plant life exceeded even Daniel’s. We helped her move house once and there was a plastic tray on the table with little compartments, each full of dried out earth and little brown fragments that might once have been plant life. Jamie cast his eye over it and asked if she wanted the ‘seed cemetery’ to go as well. But there I go, digressing again. Back to the Halle forest.

We had a map from the website which showed not only the ‘hyacinth’ trail but several others as well so we felt sure that we would find what we were looking for. Once in the woods Daniel seemed disappointed. He’d been expecting hyacinths such as you find in the garden centres; what was on offer were wild hyacinths – bluebells – which were blooming in profusion. Seeing the blue haze of the flowers apparently floating above the green of the grass made me understand just why so many painters have been fascinated by bluebells. It was beautiful. They must have been English bluebells too because the perfume was positively intoxicating. Now I’m not being chauvinistic here. There are basically two varieties of bluebell: the English and the Spanish. The blooms of the English variety droop and the ‘bells’ hang down from the stem and are rich in perfume. The Spanish type is much sturdier and the flowers tend to stand straight up, more like their cultivated cousins. They have practically no scent. They are also the dominant species and are gradually taking over from the English bluebells in many parts of Britain. But not in the Hallerbos! The map from the website, sadly, bore little resemblance to the reality of the trails through the woods and I began to wonder if we might actually get lost. When I commented on the uselessness of the website map, Daniel’s only comment was ‘in Belgium there’s no logic’ (it rhymes in French). But we didn’t get lost, even though we ended up on the Sequoia trail instead!

Back in town we went to check on the Black Madonna. The church, elevated to basilica status in the 60s, was closed for restoration. I must admit to feeling really rather disappointed, despite my attitude to religious statuary. However, we were not going to be totally frustrated. There was still a small chapel at the west of the church open to the public and there, high up on the wall, was the Black Madonna. All right, I wasn’t planning to venerate it, but there was something humbling to be standing in front of a statue that had been a source of inspiration and pilgrimage for countless generations of the faithful. And so, even though I had skived off from church that morning, here I was in church after all, gazing across time to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the devotion of St Elizabeth of Hungary.

*Harry*

## **Services in July**

(services are in English unless otherwise specified)

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July

### **Third Sunday after Trinity**

9:00 Sung Communion

10:45 All Age Worship – Communion

**Zwolle Anglican Church** – 16:00 Sung Communion

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July

### **Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch/Eng)

10:45 Sung Communion

*No Evensong in the Summer*

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July

### **Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch/Eng)

10:45 Choral Communion

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July

### **Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch/Eng)

10:45 Choral 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

\*HOWEVER, the chaplain plans to be on holidays from July 10 to 31 and so during this time there will be no Daily Offices or the midweek Holy Communion on Wednesdays and no church celebration of the Feast of St Mary Magdalene on July 22.

-----

Please send your August Newsletter contributions by 10<sup>th</sup> July at the latest.

