

Poetry and Prose

St Valentines Day around the world.

In Japan and Korea, possibly due to some skilful marketing, 14 February has developed into a day on which women working in offices give chocolate to all their male co-workers, quite often at considerable expense to themselves.

This chocolate is called *giri choko*, meaning obligation chocolate.

However, to a man they love, or have strong feeling towards, the chocolate is called *honnei choko*. You can probably work out for yourself what *honnei*. However, to their friends, and this usually means other women, the chocolate gift is called *tomo choko*, or friends chocolate.

So remember if you have a Japanese or Korean female colleague and they give you a gift of chocolate, ask them what it is. From the answer you should be able to work out just how close you are!



I Corinthians 13

*Valentine's Day is a day of love,
For showing that we care,
And if we read the Bible,
God describes love there:*

*If we speak like celestial angels
From heaven up above,
All our words mean nothing
If we don't have Christian love.*

*Love is patient, love is kind;
It doesn't brag or boast;
Love conquers pride and envy;
It is never self-engrossed.*

*Love is not rude or angry;
Forgiveness counters wrong;
Love stays away from evil;
It sings a truthful song.*

*Love is full of trust and hope;
It always perseveres;
Love never fails; It's faithful;
To the Bible it adheres.*

*And if you give this kind of love
To your special Valentine,
You'll be loving right in harmony
With God's own sweet design.*

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February



2007

The Chaplain Writes

'Tis nearly Lenctentid'

According to Hilary Brand, author of *The Power of Small Choices* (DLT:

London, 2004), 'Lent' comes from an Old Saxon word, 'Lenctentid' (=March), which denotes the lengthening of days. My days seem to be shortening, rather than lengthening. March is not here, but our Lent begins in February.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 days (not counting Sundays) of penitential reflection and preparation before Easter. This year Ash Wednesday falls on 21 February. Ash Wednesday is a Principal Holy Day of the Church, so we will be keeping it at St Mary's with a special service of Holy Communion at 20:00. This Eucharist will make for a quiet and meditative beginning of Lent, with music drawn from the hauntingly beautiful, simple chants of Taizé. Those who wish can receive the sign of the cross, in ash, on their foreheads. This ancient practice reminds us that we mortals are but dust, though, in Christ, we share in God's ultimate victory over death. Join us for this poignant worship service.

In some contrast to Ash Wednesday, our final Sunday service before Lent, on February 18, at 10:30, will have as its theme the radiant glory of God and His Son. This will be a Service of the Word with Communion – one of four or so annual 'All-Age Services' we have agreed. The worship will be for all age groups of our church family, and will be led, for the most part, by me and the new Youth Group and its leaders. So come with great expectations for a wonderful Eucharist in a slightly freer form than a typical Sunday service. (See Common Worship pp 21-27 for full details about this sort of Anglican service.) The Youth Group will do their part so I am sure that we will all want to give them support and encouragement as they bring their special gifts and insights to our worship.

Our Christian Basics Course, offered for any who have questions about the Christian Faith, (and also designed to prepare any adults for Baptism and Confirmation), will have a sessions on Prayer and on the Bible later in February. Please contact me for full details. All are welcome!

May the Lord grant you a peaceful, restful and reflective Lent, so that you may be spiritually prepared to celebrate the wonder of his resurrection at Eastertide.

Yours in Christ,
Sam Van Leer





The Council Retreat - Due to Hans and Maureen Ribbens generosity in arranging and paying for the accommodation, the council were able to hold a retreat over the weekend of the 20/21 February. The venue was the Oud Schooltje de Linde, Wijtschate, Heuveland, near Ypres in Belgium. We are all most grateful to Hans and Maureen.

Hans, Maureen, Joyce Wigboldus and I travelled together on the Friday. We stopped in Antwerp for lunch, went onto Ghent before finally arriving in the early evening. Situated high on a ridge, the beautiful old school overlooked the battlefields of Flanders, where so many fought and died 90 years ago.

Hans and Caroline Siertsema with Arthur Cass arrived an hour later. A communal dinner was prepared and eaten in the huge kitchen/dining room. Later that evening Sam, who had taken the train to Ypres, joined us.

The next day, Sam led the Morning Prayer, in the old school room upstairs, for those who wanted to attend. Following this was breakfast and lively discussion. Food was prepared and cleared up communally with everyone playing a part somewhere in the work. Towards the end of breakfast Simon Yallop arrived by car.

After the meal, we gathered, as we were to after each meal, in the large sitting room. That cold windy morning we spent discussing the Apostle Creed and the meaning of 'Holy' 'Catholic' and 'Apostolic'. We also had the first session of council business. Following lunch, we went in two cars to Ypres, collecting James Olaniyi from Ypres station on the way.

The afternoon, after looking around Ypres, and finding that the main museum was closed for winter, we visited a museum at Hill 62. The remains of some of the trench emplacements were preserved in the grounds. Standing there in the cold, looking down on the muddy trenches and trying to visualize the scene ninety years earlier was deeply moving.

After what we had seen we needed a change of venue so went to a beer cellar at a Trappist brewery. This I think proves that your council can organize a drinking party at a brewery!

There was more discussion back at the school on the creed and council business. In the evening, we went out for dinner in an incredible

(Continued on page 3)

Where have you been?

Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands. When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged. "You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth."

The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve.

"What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded. "Counting your ribs," said Eve.

My Dad's Better Than Your Dad

Three young boys were walking on the sidewalk arguing over whose daddy was the greatest. One said, "My dad is the greatest because he is the president of the town bank." The second boy said, "That is pretty good, but my daddy owns two grocery stores in town!" The third boy said, "That's nothing, my dad is a



**St BRIGID
1st February**

As with all the early saints, we don't know much about St Brigid. She was born in Ireland around 450 and died at the abbey she founded at Kildare in 523.

Brigid started the first women's religious community in Ireland. Stories tell that when she took her vows as a nun fire appeared above her head.



Legend says Brigid made a tiny cross from rushes she found on the ground beside a dying man in order to convert him. A Brigid's Cross is said to protect a house from fire. A new cross is made each St Brigid's Day, February 1st, and the old one is then burned to keep the fire from the house.

Her impact on the Church was wider than just Ireland and in England there are churches dedicated to as St Bride and in Wales as Fraid Santes.

BIBLE Bs

All answers to this quiz begin with the letter B. So which B is...

1. the blind beggar who Jesus cured? (Mark, chapter 10)
2. the village where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived? (Luke, chapter 10)
3. Ruth's second husband? (Ruth, chapter 4)
4. what Cain and Abel were? (Genesis, chapter 4)
5. where the baby Moses was found (Exodus, chapter 2)?
6. where Jesus was born?
7. what the loaves were made of at the Feeding of the 5,000? (John, chapter 6)
8. what Paul escaped from Damascus in? (Acts, chapter 9)



What did the bookworm say to the librarian?

Can I burrow this book?



What did the beaver say to the tree?

It's been nice gnawing you.



1. Bartimaeus
2. Bethany
3. Boaz
4. brothers
5. bulrushes
6. Bethlehem
7. barley
8. basket



Social News

Birthdays

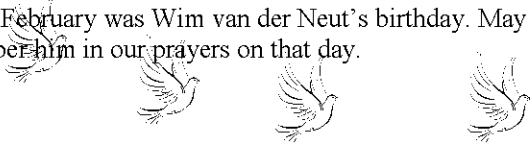
The 3 February is Anja van der Neut's birthday, and Joyce Chesmond's birthday on the 6 February. Both Joyce and Anja have done so much for the church over the years, they are both trying to live with the loss of their husbands, and they both especially need our prayers and support at this time.

I Am There

*Alone in your room, in your bed or a chair?
You are never alone, precious one, I Am There
When visits from family and friends become rare
You are never alone, precious one, I Am There
Do you feel no one loves you, wants you, or cares?
I love you, I want you, precious one, I Am There
On Holidays and Birthdays, beloved, please don't despair
You are never alone, precious one, I Am There
When you call unto Jesus, He hears every prayer
And He lovingly whispers, precious one, I Am There*
©Cheryl AMariano



The 27 February was Wim van der Neut's birthday. May we all remember him in our prayers on that day.



Math is like love ...

Math is like love; a simple idea, but it can get complicated

God the Artist

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question.

"Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy.

"Really?! How do you know?" the teacher asked.

"You know - 'Our Father, who does art in Heaven.'"

The trip to the rifle range had been cancelled

At one Army base, the annual trip to the rifle range had been cancelled for the second year in a row, but the semi-annual physical fitness test was still on as planned.

One soldier mused, "Does it bother anyone else that the Army doesn't seem to care how well we can shoot, but they are extremely interested in how fast we can run?"

Anniversaries

On the 7 February Colin and Agnes Lee celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to both of you. Normally the magazine does not disclose personal details, such as age, or number of years married, but as Colin and Agnes were married twenty years and a month before the editors, it helps us to keep track of our number of years. Congratulations again.



Note: Please remember, if there is any event that you would like to share with your friends at St Mary's Chapel, please feel free to use this page. Contact information is on the back cover.

restaurant attached to a brewery. Both the food and drink were quite superb so we were ready for more work when we got back. Our discussions on the Apostle Creed, church business and council business went on to well past midnight. Compline in the schoolroom was around 2:00 in the morning.

After Morning Prayer and breakfast, we returned to Ypres and St. Georges Memorial Church. As the resident chaplain was in Ostend, Sam took the service and we provided the congregation. This also included David Beattie, one of the Church Wardens of St. Georges, the organist and two tourists for the service in this beautiful memorial church.

Lunch was a business lunch in the schoolhouse and was the only minuted discussion. Poor James had to eat with one hand and write with the other. Lunch, council business and tidying up over we said our goodbyes and made our way back home. First

In my opinion, as a council member, the retreat was a great success. Council members normally only see each other after church, or at the council meetings. Hans Ribben's aim was to put us together for two days so we could get to know each other better. In this aim I think he succeeded. Under Sam's understated, but firm guidance, the weekend was spiritual and immensely enjoyable. My thanks to Sam, Hans and my fellow council members and their spouses for a great weekend.

© Blair Charles

Council: The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for the 18 March. Everyone who wishes to vote has to register as a new electoral roll is required this year. Look for details in the hut, or contact Simon Yallop. Likewise if you want to stand for election to the council see either Simon or James Olaniyi.

Ash Wednesday: The service is at 20:00 on the 21 February and will be a Taizé service. Praying in the chapel on a dark winter's evening, participating in the chanting, taking communion, taken together, an ideal way to prepare for Lent.



Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens before the Service.

If you know of anyone who is sick or in need of pastoral care, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens.

vicar and he owns hell. He came home last night and told my mom that the Church Council gave it to him!"

It's a very simple operation

A man was wheeling himself frantically down the hall of the hospital in his wheelchair, just before his operation.

A nurse stopped him and asked, "What's the matter?"

He said, "I heard the nurse say, 'It's a very simple operation, don't worry, I'm sure it will be all right.'"

"She was just trying to comfort you, what's so frightening about that?"

"She wasn't talking to me. She was talking to the doctor!"

A Jew and a Christian

A Jew and a Christian were arguing about the ways of their religion.

The Jewish man said, "You people have been taking things from us for thousands of years; The Ten Commandments, for instance."

The Christian replied, "Well, it's true that we took the Ten Commandments from you, but you can't actually say that we've kept them!"

St James the Least of All

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...

The Confession Session

The new priest is nervous about hearing confessions, so he asks an older priest to sit in on his sessions. The new priest hears several confessions, then the old priest asks him to step out of the confessional for a few suggestions.

The old priest suggests, "Cross your arms over your chest and rub your chin with one hand."

The new priest tries this. The old priest suggests, "Try saying things like, 'I see, yes, go on, and I understand, how did you feel about that?'"

The new priest says those things, trying them out. The old priest says, "Now, don't you think that's a little better than slapping your knee and saying, 'No way! What happened next?'"

Holidays

An atheist complained to a friend, "Christians have their special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter. And Jews celebrate their holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur. Muslims have their holidays, too."

"Every religion has holidays to celebrate. But we atheists," he said, "have no recognized national holiday. It's an unfair discrimination!"

Page:4

Letter from St James the Least of All – on the perils of parish cook books

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for your contribution to our proposed parish cook book, "My favourite weekday dinner at home" – although I have to say that baked beans in a baked potato was a little unadventurous, even if I suspect, sadly, true.

Those who think football is a competitive sport should see the manoeuvring that has gone on for submitting a midweek dinner that tries to appear wholly unostentatious while simultaneously being massively exotic. It is remarkable how many parishioners, when they know they will appear in print, apparently dine sumptuously every evening in their own homes. I could not help but feel that Miss Carruthers' recipe for "Gratinee de Coquilles Saint Jacques" was taking imagination rather too far, when everyone knows she has a dinner of scrambled eggs on toast on a tray in front of the television. Besides, not only does she not speak a word of French, she has enough trouble with English.

Asking the bishop to write the preface for our cook book has not turned out entirely successfully, since the greater part of it extolled the virtues of fasting. I suspect this may have something to do with his attraction to lean, muscular Christianity and his disapproval of my ample waistline. And when attending a social occasion at the bishop's palace, "lean" would definitely be my description of the size of the sherry he pours.

When you buy a copy of the book – which I am sure you will do as an act of solidarity – do not attempt to follow Colonel Humphrey's recipe for a Madras curry. He acquired a taste for it when he was serving in India and, regrettably, he brought the recipe back to England. It is guaranteed to reduce the bravest of men to tears; the Colonel's four pink gins before dinner seem to give him a certain anaesthetic protection.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 8)

THE FINAL WORD ON NUTRITION

After an exhaustive review of the research literature, here is the final word on nutrition and health.

1. Japanese eat very little fat and suffer from fewer heart attacks than us.
2. Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
3. Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
4. Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
5. Germans drink beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

CONCLUSION

Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you!!!

ENGLISH CHOCOLATE CAKE

This is the recipe I learned as an au-pair in Oxford in the summer of 1968. On returning home it proved a big hit with my family. But it really came into its own during my teaching career, when I used to bake six or seven cakes on the eve of my birthday to treat all the staff at my school. On entering the staff room quite a few people immediately realized that it was my birthday before I was even present! They all loved it!

©Els Ottens

Ingredients

140 grams butter (or margarine) 280 grams sugar 200 grams flour 45 grams cacao 3 small/medium-sized eggs 150 ml milk (approx.) 1/4 teaspoon baking powder 1/4 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda (dubbelkoolzure soda bij de drogist) pinch of salt vanilla sugar

Method

1. Mix creamed butter, sugar and vanilla sugar.
2. Sift flour, cacao, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, salt and most of the milk into the mixture.
3. Add eggs and more milk if necessary. Grease a medium-sized baking tin, preheat oven with fan at 180 degrees (C) and bake for approx. 45 mins. Check regularly towards the end. Chopped nuts are optional.



out into the back garden!"
The cabdriver hit a parked car...

The new baby brother

Little Johnny's new baby brother was screaming up a storm. He asked his mom, "Where'd we get him?" His mother replied, "He came from heaven, Johnny?" Johnny says, "WOW! I can see why they threw him out!"

Go Forth and Multiply

After it was all over and Noah lowered the ramp of the ark for all the animals to leave, he told the animals "To go forth and multiply."

All the animals left except two snakes who lay quietly in the corner of the ark.

"Why can't you go forth and multiply?" demanded Noah.

"We can't," answered the snakes. "We're adders."

Water Gun

When my three-year-old son opened the birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink. I was not so pleased. I turned to Mom and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?"

Mom smiled and then replied....."I remember."

PAGE: 9

Satan's Temptations an English viewpoint

In the beginning God covered the earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach, with green, yellow and red vegetables of all kinds so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

The Empty House

A couple was dressed and ready to go out for the evening. They turned on a night light, turned the answering machine on the phone line, covered their pet parakeet and put the cat in the back garden. They phoned the local cab company and requested a taxi. The taxi arrived and the couple opened the front door to leave their house. The cat they had put out into the garden scoots back into the house. They don't want the cat shut in the house because "she" always tries to eat the bird. The wife goes out to the taxi while the husband goes inside to get the cat. The cat runs upstairs, the man in hot pursuit. The wife doesn't want the driver to know the house will be empty. She explains to the taxi driver that her husband will be out soon. "He's just going upstairs to say goodbye to my mother." A few minutes later, the husband gets into the cab. "Sorry I took so long," he says, as they drive away. "She was hiding under the bed. Had to poke her with a coat hanger to get her to come out! Then I had to wrap her in a blanket to keep her from scratching me. But it worked. I hauled her downstairs and threw her

Page:8

Then using God's bountiful gifts, Satan created Dairy Ice Cream and Magnums. And Satan said, "You want hot fudge with that? And Man said "Yes!" And Woman said "I'll have one too with chocolate chips". And lo they gained 10 pounds.

And God created the healthy yoghurt that Woman might keep the figure that Man found so fair. And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat and sugar from the cane and combined them. And Woman went from size 12 to size 14.

So God said Try my fresh green salad"
And Satan presented Blue Cheese dressing and garlic croutons on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the repast.

God then said "I have sent you healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them". And Satan brought forth deep fried coconut king prawns, butter-dipped lobster chunks and chicken fried steak, so big it needed its own platter. And Man's cholesterol went through the roof.

Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with potassium and good nutrition. Then Satan peeled off the healthy skin and sliced the starchy centre into chips and deep fried them in animal fats adding copious quantities of salt. And Man put on more pounds.

God then brought forth running shoes so that his Children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan came forth with a cable TV with remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering light and started wearing stretch jogging suits.

Then God gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonalds and the 99p double cheeseburger. Then Satan said "You want fries with that?" and Man replied Yes, and Super size em". And Satan said "It is good." And Man and Woman went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed. And created quadruple by-pass surgery. And then Satan chuckled and created the NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 4)

The editor returned my own recipe, mentioning that the "two large glasses of red wine" specified in the list of ingredients was not mentioned in the recipe. I had thought it was perfectly obvious that they were there to be drunk while making the meal.

The project is to raise funds to repair our mediaeval tower, which our architect tells us is largely held in place by its own weight. It is rather comforting to think that we shall preserve it for another generation by selflessly eating our way through bacon and beef pies, beef Wellington and chicken in wine and mushroom sauce. The baked beans will probably be of minority interest.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace
©Revd Dr Gary Bowness



It was Edna's first day as stand-in for the recording angel and already her spelling was causing trouble.

dish that reminds them of home, a cake that brings back sweet memories or a savoury platter we can all enjoy. On page nine there is an example of the recipe/anecdote that is been sought.

The Annual Book Sale - The 11 March is the date for this auspicious event and the 'Hut' is the venue. Please look through your bookshelves for books to donate. Clear out those books you either never going to read again, or maybe, just never going to read at all. Obviously, because of the location, English books are a priority, but books in other languages are welcome. Then on the big day come prepared to spend, spend, spend and restock those now empty book shelves. All the money made goes to the Flower Guild, so you not only get a whole new pile of books to read, but you also get a beautifully decorated chapel.



His friend replied..."Well, why don't you celebrate April 1st?"

How can I get to heaven?

I asked the children in my Sunday School class, "If I sold my house and my car, held a big sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?"

"No!" the children all answered.

Then I said,

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the lawn, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "No!"

"Well," I continued, "then how can I get to heaven?" A five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead!"

Grandma's Home

When I stopped the bus to pick up Chris for preschool, I noticed an older woman hugging him as he left the house. "Is that your grandmother?" I asked.

"Yes," Chris said. "She's come to visit us for Easter." "How nice," I said. "Where does she live?"

"At the airport," Chris replied. "Whenever we want her, we just go out there and get her."

PAGE: 5

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4th February | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd. Sam Van Leer |
| | Intercessor | Youth Group |
| Third Sunday before Lent | First Reading Youth Group | Isaiah 6:1-8 |
| | Second Reading Youth Group | 1 Corinth. 15:1-11 |
| 10:30 All Age Eucharist | Gospel | Luke 5:1-11 |

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 21st February | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd. Sam Van Leer |
| | Intercessor | Chaplain |
| Ash Wednesday | First Reading Mr Pirenne | Isaiah 58:1-12 |
| | Second Reading Mr Charles | 2 Corinth. 5:20b-6:10 |
| 20:00 Taizé Service | Gospel | John 8:1-11 |

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 11th February | Officiant & Preacher | Frances Gothard |
| | Intercessor | Simon Yallop |
| Second Sunday before Lent | First Reading Mrs. ten Berge | Genesis 2:4b-9,15-25 |
| | Second Reading Mrs Michalska | Revelation 4:1-11 |
| 10:30 Morning Prayer | Gospel | Luke 8:22-25 |

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 25th February | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd. Sam Van Leer |
| | Intercessor | Frances Gothard |
| First Sunday of Lent | First Reading Mrs Collins | Deuteronomy 26:1-11 |
| | Second Reading Mr Ribbens | Romans 10:8b-13 |
| 10:30 Sung Eucharist | Gospel | Luke 4:1-13 |

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 18th February | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd. Sam Van Leer |
| | Intercessor | Linda ten Berge |
| Last Sunday before Lent | First Reading Mr Yallop | Exodus 34:29-35 |
| | Second Reading Mr Cass | 2 Corinth. 3:12- 4:2. |
| 10:30 Sung Eucharist | Gospel | Luke 9:28-36 |

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|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4th March | Celebrant & Preacher | Revd. Sam Van Leer |
| | Intercessor | Joy Romeijn |
| Second Sunday of Lent | First Reading Mrs M v.d. Heide | Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 |
| | Second Reading Mrs E v.d. Heide | Philippians 3:17-4:1 |
| 10:30 Sung Eucharist | Gospel | Luke 13:31-35 |