

Poetry and Prose

Mothering Sunday

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

A Mother's Prayer

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray my sanity to keep.
For if some peace I do not find,
I'm pretty sure I'll lose my mind.*

*I pray I find a little quiet,
Far from the daily family riot.
May I lie back and not have to think
About what they're stuffing down the sink,*

*Or who they're with, or where they're at
And what they're doing to the cat.
I pray for time all to myself
(did something just fall off a shelf?)*

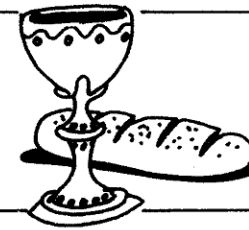
*To cuddle in my nice, soft bed
(Oh no, another goldfish dead!)
Some silent moments for goodness sake
(Did I just hear a window break?)*

*And that I need not cook or clean
(well goodness, even I can dream!)
Yes now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray my wits about me keep,*

*But as I look around I know,
I must have lost them long ago!*
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March



2007

The Chaplain writes

Servants of God and the People of God

Now that's a lofty title. But that is precisely what members of your Church Council are called to be. And, I am delighted to say, that I personally have in general found our Council members and Churchwardens to be remarkably committed and diligent servants of God and servants of the people of God here in the Anglican Church in the East Netherlands.

The job of serving God in this way, as a lay leader in the church community, responsible for making decisions that shape the life and structure of our Christian fellowship, is a weighty one. People who serve on Council share, with me, pastoral oversight for our church. Trust me, I find my own work an intimidating responsibility sometimes. So we should all sympathize with your Council members and Wardens, too. But as the Lord said, 'My yoke is easy and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:29). This work is, mostly, a joy.

Yes, being on Council involves meetings – but only on average 8 or so a year. (Wardens expect to have a few more, to be sure!) But more importantly perhaps,

- being on Council involves setting an example by
- being faithful in worship
- promoting the mission of the Church
- listening to and representing the congregation
- considering and discussing matters of interest to the Church
- administering the financial affairs of the Chaplaincy,
- caring for and maintaining the church 'fabric' (buildings, and their contents, where relevant)
- connecting our own chaplaincy with the larger work of the whole Church of England and our ecumenical partners.

As you can see, there is great responsibility in this high calling. Not everyone may feel they can live up to it.

But I can say from my experience here that many of your Council members have lived up to it magnificently. I draw inspiration from their energy and creativity and professionalism, and I am proud to serve God and God's people with them.

I hope that many of our current Council members will stand again for Council. Sadly, many good Council members have come to the end of their legal term-limits. But I also look forward to working with those who feel called, for the first

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Twente News

Council Report

The highlights of the last council meeting for which approved minutes are available are as follows.

Children and Youth report

The council received a report from Abby van Spronsen, Mariska Olaniyi and Anna Michalska about the ANAC training they

attended in Amsterdam. The council secretary, James

Olaniyi, told the council about the various activities of the youth group, which included making Christmas Cards, and distributing them, with information about the church, in Goor.

Adult Formation Report

Christian Basics: - This chaplain organized and conducted this course every other week to meet a need for people in the chapel. People could join in at any time.

Reader Training: Frances Gothard reported on a training course she held for readers in the chapel after Morning Prayer. Attendance of the course was high and the majority of attendees found it to be useful.

Hut Development

Count Alfred reported on the progress on enclosing the end of the hut. The work was nearing completion and volunteers were required to paint the walls. Caroline Siertsema volunteered to be the point of contact for those who wanted to assist in the painting.

Charity Support

The council has received proposals to support four charities. There were two courses of action to discuss. The first was whether to form a sub-committee to decide on which charities to support, and how much money to give.

The second was to decide on the disposition of the moneys from the Castle Fair.

Following discussion, the council agreed with the chaplain that there was a need for a stewardship committee to take responsibility on which charities to support. The council will take a final decision at a future meeting after they have set the budget for the next year.

Finalize Current Occasional Services Fee Table

The chaplain presented a proposed fee table generally based on the UK fee table. Count Alfred pointed out that the charges for the use of the chapel building is different for the regular chapel users. The chaplain agreed to indicate in the list of charges that Count Alfred

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Q. What do you give a man who has everything?

A. Antibiotics

Church Contribution

The minister in an English parish was worrying about how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. So he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was ill and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," the minister said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

Finally the moment came, and the minister announced solemnly: "Brothers and sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need £10,000 more. Any of you who can pledge £100 or more, please stand up."



MODERN SAINTS

We often think of saints as people who fought or worked for Christ centuries ago. Very few people are made saints these days but that doesn't mean that people have stopped putting their lives on the line for what, or should we say, who, they believe in. One such person was Harriet Tubman who died in America on 10th March 1913.

Harriet was an escaped slave who could have settled for safety in Canada but went back time and time again to help others on what was called the 'Underground Railroad'. This was a series of safe houses and secret ways from the deep south of America to the north and Canada. Harriet was called the 'Moses of her people' (she led over 300 people to safety) and although huge sums were offered for her capture, she lived to see slavery outlawed in all American states and died at the grand age of 90 – still a follower of Christ, doing His work.



TRANSPORT

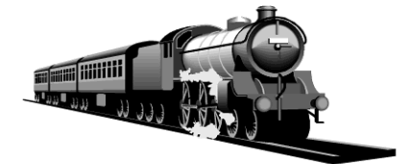
All the answers to this quiz are forms of transport or ways of travelling.

1. On the back of a bride's dress.
2. Where a mole lives.
3. A type of hammer.
4. Teaching a sport.
5. An insect.
6. What a plane does at the airport.
7. A firework.
8. Used in weaving.
9. A form of coal used for jewellery.



Why can't a car play football?

Because it's only got one boot.



How can you tell when a train has gone?

It leaves tracks behind.

What did the traffic lights say to the lorry?

Don't look now, I'm changing.



Answers: 1.train 2.underground 3.sledge 4.coach 5.fly 6.taxi 7.rocket 8.shuttle 9.jet



Social News

Limericks

17 March is St. Patrick's Day so enjoy:

The Limerick packs laughs anatomical
Into space that is so economical
But the good ones I've seen
Are so seldom clean
And the clean ones are so seldom comical!

A sceptical man was Bill
Treater,
He couldn't believe his gas meter,
He took out a match,
And gave it a scratch,
"Good morning!" he said
to St. Peter!

While swimming across the Zambezi
I became rather breathless and wheezy,
For it came as a shock
To be chased by a croc
But I made it across rather queasy.

If Shakespeare were writing today
He would have to adapt to the way
Certain words which he used
Have become quite confused.
For example, "The lovers were gay".

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and telephone calls since I became ill. It has been an indescribable experience - knowing that the thoughts and prayers of so many have been constantly with me - and of tremendous support.

I hope to join you again at St. Mary's before all too long.
Pat Wolstenholme.



Birthdays

Best wishes to Elizabeth van der Heide, celebrating her birthday on the 27 March. Three days later, I, your editor Blair Charles, on the 30 March celebrate another birthday. Looking at us two spring lambs you have to admit that babies born in March are something special!



Anniversary

The same can be said about spring brides as Cathie and Frits Warmink celebrate their anniversary on the 9 March. Congratulations to the two of you. On St. Patrick's Day, 17 March, the editorial team, Marilyn and Blair Charles celebrate their wedding anniversary. If I am to be strictly accurate Marilyn was originally an autumnal bride as we wed in the southern hemisphere. However, we have celebrated our anniversary in more springs than autumns.

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.



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at his discretion could waive specific charges. Following corrections, the chaplain agreed to amend the fees table and hang an amended copy in the hut.

Bequest policy

The council discussed at length establishing a clear bequest policy following a request on the matter. The council agreed to adopt the standard policy of the Church of England for general use, plus a bequest policy for specific bequests.

Magazine Funding

Up to now, two church members have funded the magazine as their contribution to the church. Due to changing circumstances, they are no longer able to continue. The council agreed that the magazine served a useful purpose. Following discussion on the various alternatives, the council agreed to fund the magazine out of church funds. The magazine will remain as a free issue.

AGM 2007 Planning

The Electoral Roll Officer, Simon Yallop needs to plan for a new electoral roll. At the AGM, all attendees on the electoral roll have to elect two new Wardens and two Council members. The council discussed these matters at length.

Any Other Business

The council discussed a request for a change to the All Souls/ Remembrance service in 2007. The preferred option suggested being to have the All Souls and Remembrance Service as separate services. The council agreed that this is a sensitive subject as people have different opinions.

Blair Charles

An Invitation in Holy Week

3 April: Amsterdam 11:00 (Christ Church, Groenburgwal 42)
Eucharist with Blessing of the Oils (Anointing, Catechumens and Chrism) Preacher and Celebrant: the Right Revd David Hamid, Suffragen Bishop, Diocese in Europe. If interested in attending, speak to the Chaplain.



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.

At that moment, the substitute organist played 'God Save the Queen'.

And that is how the substitute became the regular organist.

Thoughts on cats

Behind every cat that crosses the street, there is a dog saying, "Go ahead, you can make it."

Dogs believe they are human. Cats believe they are God.

The only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible is the cat.

Innocent

The judge read the charges, and then asked, "Are you the defendant in this case?" "No sir, your honour, sir," replied Bob, "I've got a solicitor to do the defendant. I'm the guy what done it."

Women

God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.

A new widow requested the epitaph 'Rest in Peace' for her husband's tombstone.

When she later found he had left his fortune to his mistress, she attempted to get the engraver to change the carving. This was impossible; the words were chiselled and could not be changed. "In that case," she said, "please add 'Till We Meet Again.'"

Thing of Worth

Lord,
Teach me to see Your hand
in things
Around me every day.
Help me to be aware of You
Throughout my work and
play.
Acknowledging your beauty
in

The velvet sky at night,
In silken pettaled flowers
And in the morning light
In beauty of a peaceful sea
And glint in early dew
The outline of a graceful tree
And in the rainbow's hue.
In all the little creatures
That live upon this earth -
Give me O Lord, a seeing
eye
To know the things of
worth.

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Some definitions from modern life:

Impatience: waiting in a hurry
Immigration: the sincerest form of flattery
Imagination: what makes some politicians think they are statesmen
Intuition: what enables a woman to contradict her husband before he says anything
Inflation: being broke with money in your pocket

Maria J.H. Tenge

16 June 1912 - 24/ March 2006

Just a few words about the donor of the Tenge bequest, who never visited our chapel. She was my cousin with whom I have had a close relationship all through my life. After my birth she and her two-year older sister Jacqueline came by almost every day from school to change my diapers and play with their little cousin. This relationship (though not the actions) lasted all through her life.

When she finished elementary school, the Great Depression occurred and her father, who was a diamond cutter, became unemployed. Thus she could not go the HBS (VWO nowadays) like her sister, but had to be satisfied with MULO (MBO nowadays). Then both had to find work to maintain their parents, Social Security being virtually non-existent in those days.

Maria went to work for PTT (post, telephone, telegraph) in the telegraph service at the Amsterdam headquarters. She kept studying for every possible diploma and rose through the ranks, ending up as director of the Amsterdam Jordaan post office. She could tell delightful stories about her colourful customers (the Jordaan is about the equivalent of the Cockney district in London). Through her hard work she was far ahead of women's emancipation.

She also led an artistic life as an active member of the PTT cabaret group, and after her retirement she took painting lessons and produced many aquarels. With her sister she spent many years on ferreting out the genealogy of the Tenge family, which took many trips to Germany, from where the family originated. Maria also enjoyed literature, her favourite author being Multatuli, who wrote *Max Havelaar* for whom the present coffee brand is named.

Maria was an excellent care giver, first for many years to her widowed mother and after her death for another twelve years to her sister, who died in 2000. Then at age 88 her caring for others ended, but then she herself became in need of help from others. Fortunately, she received help from several people. This she could stay in her apartment in Purmerend until two days before her death.

During my monthly visits we talked about many topics, but a

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the way you have responded to my news, not only during the meeting but also afterwards in conversations, telephone calls, letters and cards. It makes it much easier to know that you support me.

At the meeting it was mentioned that because of the forthcoming changes in my life it would not be wise for me to stand for the position of Church Warden at the AGM in March. I will of course continue to work for the church but in a less prominent position.

This issue of the magazine comes out at the beginning of March so by the time that you read this article I will already have started living full-time in my new role. On 20 February there was a meeting at the place where I work when I informed my colleagues of my forthcoming transformation. After a few days leave I will be returning to work on Tuesday 27 February as a woman. I will then be known as Simone. Probably the Sunday after that will be my first time in Church in my new role. I look forward to being able to introduce myself to you as Simone. As I said during the meeting, I am very willing to talk to you about this and to answer any questions you may have.

Simon(e) Yallop

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time, to serve God in this particular way. The church benefits immensely from new perspectives and gifts that each new member brings, and Council, too, draws strength from fresh insights from its new members.

So why not prayerfully consider whether you might want to serve God and his people on Council? It is an honour to stand for Council, and it is also an honour to be elected to serve. If you do not feel called to serve on Council, then please do prayerfully consider who should serve. And do lend your support to whoever is chosen by the AGM, by praying for them, encouraging them, and sharing your concerns with them, that our Chaplaincy may be blessed and directed along the path that God desires.

Yours in Christ, *Sam Van Leer*



Observing The Baby

One night a wife found her husband standing over their baby's crib. Silently she watched him. As he stood looking down at the sleeping infant, she saw on his face a mixture of emotions: disbelief, doubt, delight, amazement, enchantment, scepticism.

Touched by this unusual display and the deep emotions it aroused, with eyes glistening she slipped her arm around her husband. "A penny for your thoughts," she said.

"It's amazing!" he replied. "I just can't see how anybody can make a crib like that for only €46.50."

Youth

A small boy was lost, so he went up to a policeman and said, "I've lost my dad!"

The copper said, "What's he like?"

The little boy replied, "Beer and women!"





An Hasidic Tale

Late one night a poor farmer, on his way back from the market found himself without his prayer book. The wheel of his cart had come right off in the middle of the woods and it distressed him that this day should pass without his having said his prayers. So this is the prayer he made: "I have done something very foolish, Lord. I came away from home this morning without my prayer book and my memory is such that I cannot recite a single prayer without it. So this is what I'm going to do: I shall recite the alphabet five times very slowly and you, to whom all prayers are known, can put the letters together to form the prayers I can't remember".

And the Lord said to His angels, "Of all the prayers I have heard today, this one was undoubtedly the best because it came from the heart that was simple and sincere".

A Change of Gender

On Sunday 4 February after the service a short meeting was held at St. Mary's, Weldam, for the members of the Anglican Church Twente. The purpose of the meeting was for me to be able to inform everyone about the forthcoming changes in my life.

Our Chaplain Sam Van Leer briefly introduced the meeting after reading 1 Corinthians 13, which ends with: "and now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love". After this Sam handed over to me to tell my story.

I explained to the meeting that over the past few years, since my divorce in 2000, I have been trying to find out exactly what I am. The conclusion is that I suffer from something called Gender Identity Disorder, which means that my physical gender and my gender-identity do not match.

In December 2005 I contacted the Gender Team at the VUmc hospital in Amsterdam. Throughout 2006 I had intensive psychological tests there to ascertain if gender reassignment is the right thing for me. In January 2007 the Gender Team gave me the "green light" to begin a course of treatment that will change me into a woman.

The treatment begins with an eighteen-month period known as the "real life experience" before the final decision is made regarding the operation. During this period I will be given hormone treatment to change my body into a more female form. During this period I am expected to live full-time in the new role as a woman. This will take some getting used to for everyone at first, but as time goes on, and the hormones do their work, I will become more and more female.

Once I had told my news to the meeting, our Chaplain Sam said a short prayer. After this an opportunity was given for questions and answers. There were a few questions regarding the practical aspects of my transformation to which I was able to give answers. I was extremely encouraged by the way that several people got up and expressed their support for me in the decision that I have taken. It was wonderful to see the love expressed by the members of our Church family here at St. Mary's in the true spirit of 1 Corinthians 13.

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recurring subject was religion and particularly the question of life after death. Not having been brought up in the church, she was amazed that I as a scientist could believe in heaven and resurrection. I explained that we know much about the evolution of the universe and of life on Earth, but that science cannot explain the origin of each. Ascribing this to an 'accident' is rather improbable, that it is more reasonable to believe in a Creator who will bring this creation and us to fulfilment. She then sighed and said: "I understand it, but I wish that I could really believe it." Now she knows, now she has seen the Light. May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

Sjoerd L. Bonting



Announcing a New Memorial Fund for our Church

It is with pleasure that I announce the creation of a new Memorial Fund for the benefit of the Anglican Church Twente: The Anglican Church Twente / Tenge Fund. This Fund has been made possible by the generous bequest of Mevrouw Maria J. H. Tenge, a cousin of the Revd Prof Dr Sjoerd Bonting. (You can read more about this remarkable lady in the previous piece written by Sjoerd, featured above in this magazine.) Mevr Tenge left € 23, 800 to our church with the intention that her gift be used for

- (1) outreach and/or
- (2) as an emergency fund to preserve the viability of the Chaplaincy.

She did not wish for her gift to be used on ministerial or administrative costs (a.k.a. 'running costs'). The Church Council warmly invites the Church membership to reflect on ways that we can make use of this gift for outreach as we grow and develop as a chaplaincy in the coming years. Please prayerfully consider the matter and write the Council with inspired ideas you might have.

Sam Van Leer

Chat up Chihuahua

Three dogs see a really cute poodle bitch tripping down the lane. They are over there in a flash going: "Hey baby, wanna sniff a real dog???"

"Wanna go on a walk with me???"

and other pick up lines.

She says: "I want a date who can hold a conversation. The first of you to put the words "liver" and "cheese" together in a sentence that interests me - gets the date.

The first dog a Golden Lab says: "Liver and cheese? Oh honey, I love liver and cheese. I'll bring some to our picnic."

"Lame answer!" she says.

The second dog, a Dachshund, says: "ja, mein schatzie, I could come up with something better than liver and cheese for a cute pudel like you!"

The poodle, yawns and turns to the third dog, a little Mexican Chihuahua.

He struts up to her confidently, turns to the other two dogs and says, in his best Antonio Bandera's accent:

"Liver alone, cheese mine!"



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

25th March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Passion Sunday	Intercessor	Nettie van Sisseren
	First Reading Mr. C. Lee	Isaiah 43:16-21
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Mrs. A. Lee	Philippians 3:4b-14
	Gospel	John 12:1-8

11th March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Third Sunday of Lent	Intercessor	Marykay Schouten
	First Reading Mrs. M. v. Houten-Hettinga	Isaiah 55: 1-9
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Mr. C. v. Houten	1 Corinth. 10:1-13
	Gospel	Luke 13:1-9

1st April	Celebrant &	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Palm Sunday	Intercessor	
	First Reading	Luke 19:28-40
10:30 Palm Procession & Sung Eucharist	Second Reading	Isaiah 50:4-9a
	Gospel	Luke 23:1-49

18th March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Mothering Sunday	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	First Reading Mrs te West	Exodus 2:1-10
AGM	Second Reading Mr Olaniyi	Colossians 3:12-17
	10:30 Sung Eucharist	Gospel John 19:25b-27

8th April	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Easter Sunday	Intercessor	
	First Reading	Isaiah 65:17-25
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Second Reading	Acts 10:34-43
	Gospel	Luke 24:1-12