

An Autumn Morn

*When summer's sun begins to fade,
And the countryside takes an autumn
shade,*

*The gossamer threads of spider's webs,
Are brought to light,
By dew that has settled there overnight.*

*As morning breaks, but makes no sound,
And mist clings tightly to the ground,
Trees are swathed and the meadows bathed,
In a shimmering gown,
That glistens brighter than any crown.*

*The creatures that have spent the night,
Hiding from what gives them fright,
Now make haste as they are chased,
By those who hunger too,
To break their fast on the unlucky few.*

*In distant yards the bovine bellow,
Contrasts the harmony of church bell, mellow,
Farm-hands lumber though half in slumber,
Instinctive as their wards,
To serve their needs, as they do their Lord's.*

*The season's ever shortening days,
Forewarns the world, with a smoky haze,
The cold of winter, when waters splinter,
Those times are closing fast,
When nature grips all in her icy grasp.*

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October



2012

The Chaplain Writes

Spiritual Growth

As a child my mother or father would mark our growth on the wall. Our height at a particular time was marked with pencil on the wallpaper and next to it there would be a date. When we moved, we all felt sorry that we couldn't take the markings with us, but in fact I did, because I can still remember the excitement when all of a sudden my height was 5 centimetres more compared with last time.

Over the last couple of weeks I have preached about growth, and not in the first place about the growth of our parishes but rather about our own growth. Not our height, but our own spiritual growth.

The holiday period has come to an end and we are now returning to business as usual. Maybe we need to make it less usual this year and think of things that will help us to grow.

I would like you to think about growth. How do you see your own discipleship? Have you ever realized that certain habits or shortcomings have changed in your life and that you have indeed grown? Has your relationship with God changed? Also, how do you think that growth can be induced? What can we actually do to make it happen? Are we waiting for particular events in our life? A book to read that will enhance our vision about growth? Or do we embark on action to create "fertile ground"?

The faith community should be a place where we grow. Discussing with one another, inspiring one another, praying together, being excited together – excited because we have noticed some changes.

It is also possible that we are missing things in church, and new ideas are always welcome.

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Twente News

Baptism

Aurelia Boerboom, granddaughter of our Churchwarden Joyce Wigboldus, was baptized during the service held on 16th September – a day blessed with good weather and a service blessed with a moving liturgy and fine music, as befits the happy occasion when the Church welcomes

Need for Speed

A retired millionaire bought himself a Mercedes convertible for his 75th birthday. He was soon driving along a Florida highway, enjoying the sensation of the wind blowing through what hair he had left.



This is the life, he thought; he saw himself leaning elegantly against his car, bikini-clad young ladies hanging on his arm, gazing adoringly into his eyes. He increased his speed to 80 mph, then 85, 90 ... but was that a siren he could hear above the rushing of the wind? A glance in his rear-view mirror revealed

a new member.

Coffee and Chat Morning

Another coffee and chat morning will be held on Wednesday, October 24th, when coffee, tea and a light lunch will be provided. If you'd like to attend this informal get-together but need transport, please call Jeanet (0049 2567 9395 750) or Caroline (0543 521821).

Emmaus Course

As you know, our Chaplain, Alja, will be conducting an Emmaus Course (in English) this autumn. The course is intended not only for Parish members, but also for people not belonging to the congregation. So if you are interested in taking part in this course, please sign up on the list on the notice board or contact our Chaplain Alja Tollefsen by telephone: 0858770308 or e-mail: alja.tollefsen@xs4all.nl. More background information can be found on pages 8-10.

Call for Singers

Are you interested in singing in an *ad hoc* choir? We have certainly been inspired and uplifted in our worship by the musical contributions of visiting choirs over the past months. But perhaps some members of St Mary's congregation would also like to exercise their vocal talents. Very important, Victor Pirenne is willing to lead such an initiative. So if this appeal speaks to you, please contact one of our Churchwardens, Joyce Wigboldus or Everhard Ottens ... and very likely a list will soon appear in the Hut.

Mouse Makes

Jesus said:
"The kingdom of heaven is like a _____ seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the _____ of all the seeds, but when it has grown it becomes a tree, so that the wild _____ come and nest in it's branches".

Read Matthew 13:31-32

"You do not need more faith. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. if you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree "Go jump into the lake", and it would do it" Luke 17:6

So the one who plants is not important, and the one who waters is not important. Only **GOD** is important, because he is the one who makes things grow. 1 Corinthians 3:7

"So begin planting early in the morning and don't stop working until evening. You don't know what might make you rich. Maybe everything you do will be successful" Ecclesiastes 11:6

GOD is the one who gives seed to those who plant, and he gives bread for food. And **GOD** will give you spiritual seed and make that seed grow. He will produce a great harvest from your goodness" 2 Corinthians 9:10

Look out for seeds in the garden and the park and in the kitchen store cupboard. How many different seeds can you find?

This was to be the celebration of 25 years of St Mary's, with the presence of the Acting Archdeacon, a choir with many members, visitors, past members and, of course ourselves!

Why my hesitation? Well, because this past year, with the Jubilee celebration, when everyone surpassed themselves with goodies that had a link with England, the Summer Teas, the Fair – with all the vast amount of baking that entailed – and every week coffee plus, I felt I might have overstepped your good will. I need not have worried. You all galvanized yourselves into action once again, and the staggering volume of delicious sandwiches, quiches, and original savouries, the sublimely beautiful and enticing spread on the tables, transcended *All*. It was, with the euphoric service we participated in, indeed "Super Sunday"!! I stand and salute you all, together with Jan and Theda, whose Olympian and dynamic help is phenomenal in its perfection. I think we were all in peak form, and definitely raised the bar in our supreme efforts. The pinnacle was when Alja agreed to cut and serve the magnificent cakes.



Photo courtesy Philippa te West

The use of all superlative words to describe this after-Church reception was taken from "Winning Words", which were used by the commentators in their efforts to describe the powerful performances of the Olympic athletes. I found these descriptive adjectives so inspirational that I wrote them down, and have found a use, by now being able to give praise and plaudits to you all. And a medal ... gold, of course!

With poetic licence, and grateful thanks for all we share at St Mary's.
Yours, in Christ
 Philippa te West

All Saints & All Souls Sunday Memorial 4th November 2012

Names of those who have died in the past year, and any others whom church members would like remembered, will be read out during the Act of Memorial at the Service on 4th November.

Please write the names of those you would like remembered on the list available in the Hut, or notify the Chaplain (alja.tollefsen@xs4all.nl) preferably by Wednesday, 31st October.

Key Dates

- 3rd October Emmaus Course begins
 - 11th-13th October Archdeaconry Synod, Leuven, Belgium
 - 11th November Remembrance Sunday*
- *As in recent years, the collection on Remembrance Sunday is to go to the Royal British Legion.*

Website

As you may have noticed, this issue of *St Mary's Magazine* contains rather more pages than usual. In fact the "insert duplicate page" has been working overtime! This is quite understandable as September 2012 has been a very special month for us all at Weldam. However, format and colour limitations mean these pages fail to do justice to photographs, but hopefully they will point you in the direction of our website, where pictures speak a 1000 words. Our sincere thanks go to our webmaster, Lub Gringhuis, who, while updating news, views and information, so graphically keeps our memories alive.



Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Churchwardens 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 Churchwardens.

a highway patrol car behind him, blue lights flashing, gaining on him. "I can get away from him, no problem," thought the man, flooring the pedal so that he was flying along at 100 mph. The needle crept up and up. "What am I doing?" he suddenly said to himself. "I'm too old for this kind of thing." He pulled over to the side of the road and waited. The trooper pulled in behind him. "Sir," he said, looking at his watch. "It's Friday and my shift ends in 20 minutes. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go." The man looked at the trooper and rather sorrowfully said, "Well, you see years ago my wife ran off with a Florida State trooper." He gulped. "I thought you were bringing her back." "Sir, have a nice day," said the trooper and went on his way.

Shaggy Dog Story

A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana and sees a sign in front of a broken-down shanty:

Talking Dog For Sale. He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the yard. The guy goes into the yard and sees a nice-looking Labrador sitting there.

"You talk?" he asks. "Yep," the Lab replies. After the guy recovers from the shock, he says, "So, what's your story?"

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eaves-

(Continued from page 1)

Quite a number of people are active in making things possible, but not everybody can be physically active, for a number of reasons: lack of mobility, lack of energy, and sometimes simply not being well. I would like to ask these people to make time to pray for the growth of our communities. In fact it is the greatest support you can give – because all we do should happen under the guidance of God.

It is only with his help and when we ask for help to grow closer to him that we will succeed.

Alja Tollefsen



Five Cappuccinos and an Apple Pie!

As your treasurer, staying in touch with you about finances is unavoidable. I would like to use the imagery of spending money on friends visiting during the week for coffee: spending, but sharing fellowship at the same time!

So, spending money on God (giving to the church) is really all about sharing in (the costs of) fellowship. God gives us gifts all the time – love, compassion, guidance, gratefulness, comfort ... and in return we give gifts to God – money to the church. Indeed, we give other gifts to God as well; we use our talents as he has given to us, so that we can serve him: by our baking, flower arranging, organizing teas and fellowship, castle fairs. In order for our church to survive, we need both serving and giving; they go hand in hand because, after all, we use our talents to help us grow in God, by giving to God, to share his fellowship!

Part 1

FWOs and Colls and ANBIs

Seeing as I am the new kid on the block at this job, I thought I would do some investigation about FWO

Mary's is a miracle. We started with five or six people and now the attendance is about 50 to 60 on a Sunday. Bishop Edward must have looked into the future when, in his sermon, he told us of the man walking his dog and throwing a stick into a lake, which the dog retrieved running OVER the water. Seeing this, a passer-by remarked: "Funny dog, can't he swim?" So here too we have a small miracle: the growth – but we must see it as such.

Not everything here always went smoothly and we have had our ups-and-downs, but I think if one tries to solve problems in a Christian spirit, much can be achieved and it makes one happier in the end.

With my best wishes to you all and for our future, I want to ask for God's Blessing for all of us at St Mary's.
Alfred Solms



Maureen Underwood, who was visiting from the UK and was Church Secretary at the time of the Dedication 25 years ago, led the congregation in the intercessions

The service was both moving and inspiring, and greatly enhanced by the musical contribution of the visiting choir, under their conductor Henk Ophoff, to the setting *Missa Festiva* by John Jordan. The service booklet produced by the Chaplain has now found its way into a great many homes, where it serves as a reminder of a joyous day indeed!

After the service ...

... people wended their way to the Hut, as is usual after a Sunday service. But then this was no usual Sunday and this was no usual service – Philippa now takes up tale:

It was with some trepidation that I stood up in Church on the day of Joyce's granddaughter's Christening and asked, once again, if anyone would mind providing some food for the following Sunday.

Festival of Dedication: 25th Anniversary St Mary's Chapel (1987-2012)

As the notes of the organ sounded, the people who had gathered in the Chapel of St Mary the Virgin on this special day rose en masse to sing the opening hymn – the Festival of Dedication had begun. This well-loved hymn, *Give me joy in my heart*, set the tone for the whole service: one of joy and praise.

Our Chaplain, the Revd Alja Tollefsen, gave a warm welcome to all present: the regular worshippers, the choir from the Collegium Musicum Salland, the many visitors from near and far, and in particular to the Revd Canon Meurig Williams, acting Archdeacon of Northwest Europe, who had travelled from the UK to conduct the service and preach on this occasion.



Photo courtesy of Lub Gringhuis

Alja then went on to read a letter from our Honorary Churchwarden Count Alfred Solms:

I am very sorry that we are not able to be present today to celebrate with you the Consecration of this chapel 25 years ago, but we have another engagement in East Germany which had been arranged before I knew about today's event.

Looking back these 25 years, the growth of the congregation of St

and then share my findings with you all. This is the nutshell approach, so it's concise, but hopefully clear.

What does FWO stand for?

It stands for "free will offering". This means your giving, via the bank, regularly throughout the year, either as a monthly or as a lump sum payment.

What is the difference between FWOs and Colls: the collection basket?

The collection is giving weekly cash in hand; a FWO is giving through transfer, recorded in your bank statements.

Is the one more anonymous than the other?

Actually no, seeing as this treasurer is (as all treasurers are) sworn to absolute secrecy!!

What does ANBI stand for?

It stands for the way in which our church is registered at the tax office in the Netherlands (*Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling*).

When I give to God, what in Heaven's name does this have to do with the ANBI taxman?

It means that the taxman will give you back some of what you have given: tax deductibility!

So, what's the deal?

Any giving above 1% of your taxable income is eligible for tax return, in accordance with your relevant level of tax.

Does this apply to all the tax levels?

I admit that the nutshell approach is too short to deliberate on tax details, but, yes, this is for all of us together. In the eyes of God, and the taxman, we're all equal!

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me at: carolinesiirtsema@hotmail.com

Or alternatively, just pop into your bank and speak to your local advisor, or your accountant.

P.S. ... to be continued!

dropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years. But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover work, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible deals and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired." The guy is amazed. He asks the owner what he wants for the dog. "Ten dollars," the guy replies. "Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?" "Because you can't believe a word he says. He's never been out of the yard!"

Wish List

A man and his wife, now in their sixties, were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. On their special day a good fairy came to them and said that, because they had been so good, each one of them could have one wish.



The wife wished for a trip around the world with her husband. Whoosh! Immediately she had airline and cruise tickets in her hands. The husband wished for a female companion 30 years younger. Whoosh! Immediately he turned ninety!

Executive Decision

If you've ever worked for a boss who reacts before getting the facts and without thinking things through, this is for you.

St James the Least of All

On Publishing My Book

My dear Nephew Darren,

After all these years, who would have believed it: to have my own book printed. I must admit, I had imagined a leather-bound volume with gold leaf lettering on the spine – perhaps even titled *Volume One*, implying future delights when further work would appear. A paperback held together with glue was a slight disappointment. The publisher's reason for a print run of 50, saying that it meant fewer would have to be dumped in cut-price bookshops, was not what I had expected either!



Dickens

He seemed to think that my commentary on Eusebius's tables for cross-referencing the gospels, as explained in his letter to Carpius, would not have mass interest. While I concede it will be unlikely to dent the sales of Harry Potter, and that I am unlikely to be involved in negotiating the film rights, I had hoped for slightly more enthusiasm for this stride forward in global knowledge.



Stowe

The excitement of the book launch and signing was also tempered when only the Bishop arrived, expecting a free copy so he could mark it for theological errors. My suggestion that he take a copy to colour it in did not go down well. I suspect I will not now be asked to deliver a paper on it at the next clergy conference.



Shakespeare

I was briefly excited when several parishioners came into the shop. But it turned out that one wanted to book a baptism with me, and another wanted to

English people at work and I attended some services such as the Carol Service at Christmas. However, I had the idea then that to integrate with the local people it would be better to go to a Dutch church.

In the beginning I did not understand much of the Dutch language. Consequently, I could not follow the sermons very well, with the result that I became spiritually undernourished and slowly drifted away from the church. Fortunately God did not let me drift away completely. I began to miss the Anglican church. The need to integrate into Dutch life by going to a Dutch church was no longer so important because I was integrating in other ways. So I started to attend the Anglican Church Twente regularly and gradually became more and more involved. I was quite settled and plans were underway for getting married and buying a house. I was now employed by Thales and was no longer working on contract basis. That was the same year that the chapel was dedicated on 20 September 1987 by Bishop Edward Holland. When he visited earlier in the year, in March, to see the work being done in the East Netherlands, he celebrated Holy Communion at a special evening service. I remember attending that service and being very impressed. After the service I had a short conversation with Bishop Edward and he asked me how long I expected to be here. I said that I was now settled and was planning to stay here. Bishop Edward said that was good for the continuity of the Anglican Church here in the East Netherlands. In a way that was confirmation for me that I was now in the right place and doing the right thing. That was 25 years ago and I have not looked back since. St Mary's is a wonderful community and I am very grateful for all the love and support that I have received here during all that has happened over the past 25 years.

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time to clean the house and fix the waste disposal. Take care of the golf balls first – the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand. One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented.



The professor smiled and said, "I'm glad you asked. The beer just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers with a friend."



passions – and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else – the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first,” he continued, “there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit with grandparents. Take your spouse out to dinner. Take time to get medical check-ups. Play another 18. There will always be

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and two weeks later I spent a couple of days at Oakhill Theological College in London. I found it very interesting. I had several good conversations there with both mature and younger students, as well as with the principal. I also attended a service and a lecture or two. The weekend before this I had attended a conference for those thinking of applying to join Campus Crusade staff. I came away from this conference and my visit to Oakhill with many questions in my mind, particularly about how well suited I was to any of my alternatives.

After leaving university I had been completing my 1:3:1 industrial sandwich course. I realized that I also had a moral obligation to continue to work for a few years for a company that had gone to some expense to train me. Also I had been challenged to consider that secular work can be just as much a calling as full-time Christian work. I read a book called *Secular Work is Full-Time Service*. I came to the perhaps unexpected conclusion that God was calling me to secular work at this time. I wrote a letter thanking all those who had helped me through this time and explaining the decision that I had made. I settled down to work in industry for a few years.

However, I was still restless. At the beginning of 1981 a business trip took me to Turkey for a couple of months. Although I would not want to live in Turkey, I liked the idea of working abroad. Not long after this I saw an advertisement for contract work as a technical author in the Netherlands. I applied and at the end of June that year I was living and working in Hengelo. Before I arrived in the Netherlands I had been in touch with some Dutch members of Campus Crusade to ask their advice on which church to attend. They put me in touch with the *God is Liefde* Baptist church in Hengelo, which I attended for a year or two. I heard quite soon after I arrived about the Anglican Church Twente via other

complain that at his recent wedding I had nearly married the best man to the bride. I was tempted to tell him that the time may come when he wished I had, but decided that would be another sale lost.

I could not even console myself with a free drink. The publisher had only brought two bottles of that particular white wine of unknown origin which seems specially reserved for book launches and retirement parties. I suspect it derives less from a vineyard and more from a laboratory. One bottle he kept for himself and the other disappeared after my Confirmation class came in to ask whether the book would be serialised on TV.

In the end, I bought all 50 copies myself and placed a note in the bookshop window saying that, due to exceptional demand, the print run had been entirely sold out. It has also solved the annual problem of Christmas presents. In your case, a second copy will probably arrive for your birthday too.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

© *The Revd Dr Gary Bowness*

Contributed
by Nicole
Zonnebeld



Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the plant, he noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, “How much money do you make a week?” A little surprised, the young man said, “I make \$400 a week.” The CEO said, “Wait right here.” He went to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, “Here’s four weeks’ pay. Now get out and don’t come back.” Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, “Does anyone want to tell me what he actually did here?” From across the room a voice called, “Pizza delivery guy from Domino’s.”

Living Scripture
(Jn5:36b-end, Ps
119:105)

We go to church,
Study the scriptures
Wonderful words in
so many forms,
Historic, prophetic
Poetic and dignified,
But meaningless
Without the light of
the Spirit
Who inspired them,
Light to bring
revelation
Of the one who
inhabits the words,
Who *is* the Word.



Lord, send us your
Spirit,
Open our eyes,
Open your word
To truly be a lamp to
our feet
And a light for our
path,
Lord, show us Jesus
In every word,
That we might come
to him
And have life.

By Daphne Kitching



Emmaus Course on 3 October 6.30 pm in the Hut

Quite a few people have asked us for more information about the Emmaus Course. On the website of the Upper Waveney Benefice in the UK, we found the following rather useful details.

The Emmaus Course was first put together just over ten years ago. It differs from the Alpha Course in that it is a bit more church orientated, but like the Alpha Course it is a good course for those new to the faith.

In this Benefice we tend to use the Emmaus Course not so much as a seeker's course but more so for those who want to deepen their knowledge and understanding of God. We run a module (normally five sessions) in the Spring and we find this fits in very well with the Alpha Course we run in the Autumn. So far we have done modules on the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and the Church and what her function is.

Some FAQs about Emmaus

Q1: What is Emmaus?

Emmaus: The Way of Faith is a course designed to welcome people into the Christian faith and the life of the church. It aims to involve the whole church in evangelism, the nurture of new believers and ongoing Christian discipleship. It is rooted in an understanding of evangelism, nurture and discipleship modelled on the example of Jesus as told in the story of the Emmaus Road.

Q2: How does it work?

Emmaus encourages a journey of faith that is life-changing, enduring and that has an impact on the community of believers, as well as the individual. The Emmaus Course progresses through three stages – contact, nurture and growth.

of their training courses in the Christmas and Easter vacations. I also attended their annual Summer School of Biblical Studies held at Aberystwyth University in Wales for two full weeks every summer. Over the four years that I attended I completed the full course, which covered subjects such as the doctrine of salvation, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, the Gospel of John, Old Testament times, New Testament times, the book of Romans, church history, the doctrine of the church and much more.

When I left university, after graduation in 1978, I was invited by Campus Crusade to consider applying to join their full-time staff. It was quite hard to decide what to do. I already had a job in industry but was God calling me to go into full-time Christian work? I decided not to make a hasty decision but first to discuss the matter with various people, including my priest and my parents. My father said that he would be much happier if I were to become a minister in the Church of England if I wanted to be involved in full-time Christian work. My father was Church Warden at St Andrew's church in Norwich. He suggested that I talk to a friend of his, Canon Maurice Burrell, who at that time was diocesan director of education. I went to talk with him at his home in Norwich Cathedral close. We talked about my ideas to possibly join the Church of England as a minister after having worked with Campus Crusade for a few years. Maurice asked, if that was the case, why not join now? He suggested that it might be useful if I spent a couple of days at a theological college, where ministers are trained, to help me decide.

A visit to a theological college was then arranged



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into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes". The professor then produced two beers from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed. "Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things – your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favourite



Mayonnaise Jar & Two Beers

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the two beers. A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he



wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled

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An Unexpected Calling

By Simone Yallop

It is not only St Mary's that is celebrating 25 years. This year I am celebrating the fact that on 1 April 2012 it was 25 years since I started working for Thales in Hengelo. Actually I had already been working there for six years since 1981 on contract basis via Howard International, but those six years did not count as official *Thales dienst jaren*. I had planned my *jubileum* celebration at work for 11 April this year, but just as I was about to send out the invitations in mid-March my father passed away. Therefore I postponed the celebration until after the summer. It is now going to be in October.

I have been thinking back over the past years and the events that led me to come to the Netherlands and to St Mary's over thirty years ago. I thought it might be nice to write about that for the magazine. I will start my story back in the years 1975 to 1978, when I was studying at the University of Southampton in England for my degree in Electronic Engineering.



As well as spending time on my study I also got very involved in Christian student activities. In my first year at university I took part in a basic Bible study course and by my third year I was the Anglican Chaplaincy representative and Christian Union Bible study group leader for my Hall of Residence. I was also quite involved with an organization called Campus Crusade for Christ and followed many

Q3: Who is it for?

- Emmaus begins by encouraging the vision of the local church for evangelism and giving practical advice on how to develop contact with those outside the church.
- The core material (nurture) covers the basics of the Christian life and is aimed at enquirers, new Christians and those that would like a refresher course.
- The four growth books that follow offer maturer Christians an opportunity to deepen their understanding of Christian living and discipleship.

Q4: What makes Emmaus distinctive from other resources?

- Emmaus is comprehensive. It tackles each stage of the journey of faith from enquiry through to discipleship.
- It's flexible. Churches can adapt the self-contained sessions to fit their local programmes.
- It's practical. The authors give clear advice on how to start, run and maintain an Emmaus Course.
- It's easy on the pocket. All the hand-outs for group members are fully photocopiable, and many are provided as PDF files on a CD-ROM, which means that only group leaders need the book itself.

Q5: Is Emmaus widely used?

Emmaus is used by over 6,000 churches in the UK. You can read about the experiences of some of them in the book *Emmaus: Introduction*.

Q6: Is Emmaus only for Anglicans?

Emmaus is ecumenical – although written by five Anglicans, it is used across the denominations by many churches including Anglican, Methodist,

Prayer for Bible Sunday

(Jn5:36a-end)

Lord, thank you for the precious gift of your word to us, to bring light to every situation, guidance and comfort, hope and encouragement. Just the right word, just when we need it. Send your Holy Spirit so that when we study your word we will hear your voice and discern your will. May we reflect your love. May we shine for you, as we live each day in your service, in thankfulness for Jesus, who is the living Word and our living Lord and Saviour, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Till I Come Back

Life be in my
speech,
Sense in what I say,
The bloom of
cherries on my lips,
Till I come back
again.



The love Christ
Jesus gave
Be filling every
heart for me,
The love Christ
Jesus gave
Filling me for
everyone.



Traversing corries,
traversing forests.
Traversing valleys
long and wild -
The fair white Mary
still uphold me,
The Shepherd Jesu
be my shield,
The fair white Mary
still uphold me,
The Shepherd Jesu
be my shield.

From *Carmina
Gadelica*

Baptist and Free churches.

Q7: *Is Emmaus available outside the UK?*

Emmaus is being used in the USA, Europe and Africa, with translations available in German, Dutch, Chinese, some African languages and Welsh.

Q8: *Who wrote Emmaus?*

The authors are Stephen Cottrell, Steven Croft, John Finney, Felicity Lawson and Robert Warren, all of whom are well known in the fields of adult initiation, spirituality and discipleship.

Q9: *What can I expect to find in a typical session?*

Each session includes time for Bible study, input and discussion, group exercises, meditations, ways to put faith into practice, and prayers. Each book includes detailed leader's notes and hand-outs for group members.

Q10: *Does the leader have to be a trained minister?*

Not at all. The materials provide ample information for lay and clergy leaders alike to conduct groups that will help develop individuals' personal faith and identity within a Christian community.

Q12: *What Christian tradition does Emmaus come from?*

Emmaus does not come from any single Christian tradition. Emmaus has been inspired by the recent renewal of interest in the catechumenate as an accompanied journey into faith. The catechumenate is a process of enquiry, instruction and transformation as an individual encounters the living Christ through his body, the church.

(Source: *The Upper Waveney Benefice*
www.upperwaveneybenefice.com)

*The course at Weldam is on six successive
Wednesdays, each time at 6.30 in the Hut and always
starting with a meal.
Chaplain & Wardens*

"goings on" that have been happening around here for a very, very long time – at least for two thousand years. And it doesn't take a crystal ball to see them; just a quick look behind the trees will reveal all.

To be continued ...

(And if you turn to page 20, you will find that Malcolm is equally at home in the realms of both prose and poetry.)



Stap over de Drempel! – Symbolen Spreken

This is the title of an intercultural journey that will give participants the chance to visit various meeting places in Enschede: the *St Jacobuskerk* and the synagogue on 8 November; the *Apostolisch Genootschap Gemeenschap Enschede-1* and the *ISN Selimiyemoskee* on 15 November; and *De Wonne* and *St Yakub van Sroeg Kerk* on 22 November. It is a unique opportunity to learn about some of the different dominations and backgrounds that can be found in Enschede.

The journey is an initiative of the *Koninklijke Nederlandsche Heidenatschappij* and the *Stichting Synagoge Enschede*, two organizations that feel it is important to increase understanding between people of different cultures.

Full details concerning this unusual event can be found on the invitation (in Dutch) hanging up in the Hut. Or if you would like to receive a copy via e-mail, please contact Janice Collins (indigeny2@home.nl).

Family Feeling

Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed to find a wife with whom to share his fortune. One evening, at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary guy," he said to her, "but in just a few years my father will die and I will inherit \$200 million." Impressed, the woman asked for his business card and three days later, she became his step-mother.

⌘ I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back.

– Zsa Zsa Gabor



New High School Exit Exam

- (1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- (2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- (3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- (4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- (5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- (6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- (7) What was King George VI's first name?
- (8) What colour is a purple finch?
- (9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- (10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial aeroplane?

1. 116 years. 2. Ecuador. 3. Sheep and horses. 4. No-venberg. 5. Squirrel fur. 6. Dog. 7. Albert. 8. Crim-son. 9. New Zealand. 10. Orange (of course)

readjust to the new situation again. Not easy, and even today it still presents problems. However, we find ourselves "settling down", but more often than not our thoughts tend to travel down the road and across the North Sea to the Netherlands. The only problem is that in the period since we have lived here things over there have changed too, and, if we were to return, we could find ourselves in a similar predicament to that when we first arrived back here! I hope that you are keeping up.

If you look at the map of Suffolk, you will see that the village of Hollesley is situated in quite an easterly part of Britain, and our nearest foreign neighbour is the Netherlands ... closer even than Wales! In fact, with a little imagination and when the wind is blowing from the east, which is very often the case, we can smell the *patat winkels* of Zandvoort! Looking out in the morning from where I walk with the dog, I often see the Stena Line ferry on its way to the Hoek. "That's another one I've missed," I think to myself.

It's further along this coast, to the north, that the village of Butley can be found, and it's here where I have taken up the position of Churchwarden. This responsibility I share with another chap who lives there. How did that happen you may well ask? It was during a quick visit I made to the Church when I saw that a brass plaque on the south wall was in rather poor condition. This had been caused chiefly by salt from the sea air and a mixture of agricultural influences, which attack anything that is made of metal. I offered to restore the plate (as this is one of the things I do) and via the contacts made during this work I somehow got roped in to becoming a Churchwarden.

This was the beginning of a whole new adventure for me. To discover a world that is hidden by shadows from the past, shadows that have darkened the

Castle Fair 2012

Dismal skies, torrential rain and devastating floods in parts of England this week. Moods sink ... was it ever thus? Well, of course, the answer is a resounding "No!". Just a few short weeks ago we were blessed with the most beautiful summer weather imaginable – on Saturday, 8th September, the day of the Castle Fair.

"I love it when a plan comes together!" I wish I could claim to be quoting one of the metaphysical poets rather than a crack commando unit, but still we do have an A-Team at Weldam. After months of meetings, brainstorming and planning, the Castle Fair Committee saw their patient hard work bear abundant fruit on the key day in question. And they were supported on all sides by helpers of every description:

event managers, ticket sellers, carpenters, bakers, servers, artists, guides, stall holders, cashiers, cleaners, washer-uppers, coffee makers ... well, you could probably add at least another twenty job descriptions to this list yourself. Members from within our own congregation came accompanied by family, friends and neighbours, all willing to put their shoulders to wheel. In fact the neighbouring towns must have seemed rather quiet on that particular Saturday, such was the exodus of inhabitants!



God of All

Our God is the God of all,
The God of heaven and earth,
Of the sea and of the rivers;
The God of the sun and of the moon and of all the stars;
The God of the lofty mountains and of the lowly valleys.
He has his dwelling around heaven and earth, and sea, and all that in them is.
He inspires all,
He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun,
He furnishes the light of the night,
He has made springs in dry land ...
He is the God of heaven and earth, of sea and rivers, of sun, moon and stars,
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven, and in heaven, and under heaven.
A prayer of St Patrick

The Inimitable Tommy Cooper

My wife is really into Do-it-Yourself. Every time I ask her to fix something, she says, "Oh, do it yourself!"

I always call a spade a spade ... until the other night when I stepped on one in the dark.

My wife wanted to go to the ballet.



I said, "I'm not going to sit and watch a lot of people on their toes in long underwear." She said, "You don't have to. Wear your tuxedo."

I always sit at the back of a plane. It's much safer. You never hear of a plane backing into a mountain.

She was so beautiful, when I took her home in a taxi, I could hardly keep my eyes on the meter.

And again records were broken. Almost 1400 visited the fair ... we even ran out of the tickets! And after costs had been deducted, an amount in the region of €11,500 was likely to replenish church coffers. A magnificent result!



Of course none of this would have been possible without the great generosity of Countess Christine and Count Alfred in making the castle grounds and garden available for this event. As the day edged to a close with *Songs of Praise*, Hans Siertsema presented them with a beautiful bouquet of flowers as a token of our

gratitude – for all that they do and have done for St Mary's Weldam. Flowers certainly have an eloquence uniquely their own.

After all the work and rising tension of the past days, some empty pews may well have been expected on the Sunday. But nothing could be further from the truth. The congregation turned out



in force to give thanks and praise. As our Chaplain Alja said: "It was a wonderful day – a day of solidarity and friendship, and a great success." And our grateful thanks go to absolutely everyone who contributed to this remarkable happening.

pass the test. This feat had now become quite essential, as in the meantime we had found a suitable property in Suffolk and arranged all our lives – including those of my parents, who would be moving with us into the five-hundred-year-old hostelry – so we could live, earn a living, and look after them all at the same place.

At that time any thoughts of my returning to being a Churchwarden couldn't have been more remote, especially as my choice of occupation placed me fairly and squarely in the opposing camp – even though the local vicar often used to sup a pint or two with us!



Time as "Mine Host" went by and fortunately we survived the course – though at times we certainly thought this deep end was just a little deeper than we had imagined it to be.

Nevertheless, after four years of long hours, relative poverty, and little to look forward to apart from more of the same, we finally decided to give it up and move back into a more recognizable human existence, and one where some enjoyment for ourselves could be had, rather than seeing to it that other people could have a good time as had been the case for the last four years.

In selling the pub we were fortunate and made enough extra to buy a house in the village of Hollesley, where we began to "settle down" and where we now live, leading a more regular existence. Here we have all the usual facilities: one church, one pub, one school, one shop, a garage and a very varied assortment of houses where we all live – not forgetting of course the prison! Cosy you may think, but going back to what I said earlier, we were now way out of touch with English society, as we had left in 1977. So from then on we had to

When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.



A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Contributed by
Blair Charles

Wise Words

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

Drive carefully ... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker..

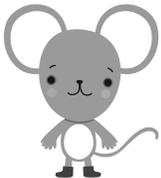
If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

Never buy a car you can't push.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

The second mouse gets the cheese.



My Butley Story

Return to England

By Malcolm McBride,
ex-churchwarden of St Mary's Chapel, Weldam

After twenty-five years of living in the Netherlands, with twenty of those years working in Germany, it was no wonder that our return to England was to be spiced with difficulties and littered with adjustments that had to be made. During the time we were living "over there", it would have been difficult to imagine just how much living abroad could change one's outlook on so many things, but the greatest surprise is how much your homeland can change as well. So for a long time, and to some extent still, we are living in a limbo, when sometimes our thoughts turn to returning "home" to the Netherlands. But luckily we are made of stronger stuff, and it's now twelve years since we returned to England, to a life and surroundings so very different from the ones we left.

With family responsibilities foremost in our minds, we packed up our things at Kasteel Twickel, stuffed the removal van with more than one hundred and sixty boxes, plus our furniture, and headed for the ferry, leaving all behind that we'd enjoyed for a quarter of a century of life.

Having no job or home to go to, it was imperative that we quickly found both. This we managed in one bold move by buying an English country pub. So one morning there I was in Watford Technical College (ironically the same place where many years earlier I had earned my printing engineer's certificate), attending a course that would allow me to pass an exam and become eligible to hold a publican's licence. Needless to say, I was the oldest in the class, but I surprised myself in being mentally agile enough to



Keeper of the Spring

The following story was a favourite of the late Revd Peter Marshall, who for several years served as the chaplain of the US Senate.

An old man who lived near an Austrian village high in the Alps was hired by his village council to clear away the debris from the pools of water high up in the mountain crevices. These pools fed the spring that flowed through the town. So with faithful regularity, year after year, the old man patrolled the pool, removed the leaves and branches, and wiped away the silt.

In time the village became a popular attraction. Swans and ducks floated along the sparkling spring, the mill wheels of various businesses turned day and night, farms were irrigated, and the view of the spring from restaurants was picturesque beyond description. Then one evening the town council met to review the budget. Someone queried the salary paid to the obscure keeper of the spring. Others joined in: "He is a waste of money. Drop him." And so they did.

For several weeks, nothing changed. Then in early autumn, the trees shed their leaves. Small branches snapped off and fell into the pools. Down in the village, they soon noticed a slight yellowish-brown tint in the water. Soon a slimy film covered sections of the stream. The mill wheels got entangled with twigs. Soon the stench of rotting vegetation in the water drove away the swans and ducks ... and the tourists.

In a panic, the village council met. Quickly they set off to visit the old man, and pleaded with him to keep the spring clean again. Within a few weeks, the village's "river of life" began to clear up. The water ran pure and clear, the birds returned, the mill wheels turned, and even the tourists came back.

Are there leaves of anger, twigs of resentment, or a silt of unforgiveness clogging your spring of living water? Just as little by little the stream became contaminated by debris, so our spirits can become obstructed by the "small sins" of daily life. Let's allow our Keeper of the Spring to do his job in renewing and cleansing us, so that we can "run free" and bring blessing to others.

(Source Parish Pump)



7th October	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
	First Reading Elizabeth vd Heide	Joel 2: 21-27
Harvest Festival	Second Reading Maureen vd Heide	1 Timothy 2:1-7
	10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel Matthew 6:25-33

14th October	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Jeanet Luiten
	First Reading Simone Yallop	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Els Ottens	Hebrews 4:12-end
	Gospel	Mark 10:17-31

21st October	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
Twentieth Sunday after Trinity	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Philippa te West
	First Reading Arjen Haffmans	Isaiah 53: 4-end
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Hans Siertsema	Hebrews 5:1-10
	Gospel	Mark 10:35-45

28th October	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
Last Sunday after Trinity	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	First Reading Linda ten Berge	Jeremiah 31:7-9
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Caroline Siertsema	Hebrews 7:23-end
	Gospel	Mark 10:46-end

4th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
All Souls and Saints	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Everhard Ottens
	First Reading Philippa te West	Isaiah 56:3-8
10:30 am Sung Eucharist with All Souls Memorial	Second Reading Agnes Lee	Hebrews 12: 18-24
	Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12

11th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
Remembrance Sunday	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	First Reading Maureen vd Heide	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Elizabeth vd Heide	Hebrews 9:24-end
	Gospel	Mark 1:14-20

