

**Mouse Makes**

CHRISTMAS is coming,  
ADVENT is near!

Colour in **one** section of the Advent candle (starting at the bottom) on each of the **four** Sundays before Christmas and read about God's **promise**, God's **message**, God's **gift** and God's **good news**.

On Christmas Day colour in the flame at the top of the candle, cut the candle out and hang from the tree.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | A | V | I | O | U | R |
| H | D | B | I | R | T | H |
| O | V | A | J | L | J |   |
| P | E | A | C | E | O | O |
| E | N | E | S | V | Y |   |
| P | T | O | H | U | E | E |
| G | O | O | D | S | O | I |

Can you find these words?  
ADVENT•PEACE•JOY  
HOPE•LOVE•GOOD•NEWS  
JESUS•BIRTH•SAVIOUR

**ADVENT**

**November**  
ADVENT **2013**

**After Judgment**

*The Chaplain Writes*

In November one week is designated as Prison's Week.

This year it's from 17th till 23rd November – and for those who manage to stay out of prison it may seem irrelevant. However, as Christians, prisoners should be our concern and St Paul reminds us in his letter to the Hebrews that we need to remember them (Hebrews 13.3). Criminal justice involves a whole stack of issues we need to look at if we want to take the Gospel seriously.

Have we ever wondered how criminals came to act in this way? It can be due to unfortunate circumstances, like being influenced by the wrong kind of friends; it can be that they were bullied at school when they were younger, or neglected at home; it can be weakness, as in the case of drug addiction – just to name a few examples.

As a society we seem to have no other alternative than putting offenders into prison. But what do we really want to happen? Do we want revenge or do we want to cure the problem? Do we want to put them away in order to make our environment a little safer? If we feel for prisoners, are we then "soft"? I don't think so, but rather that we want to do the will of the Father. Besides, I believe that more problems are cured with gentleness than with harshness. During Prison's Week we also want to think about the victims of crime, because they often feel ignored by the criminal justice system. And what about the families of prisoners? They may not even have known what the criminal was doing and yet still get the blame and the shame. What about prisoners sentenced without being guilty?

As members of a society, we are responsible for the why and the how of crime, and we need to allow ourselves to think about it and not simply say: "Oh well, they get what they deserve" – because we are asked to do more!

*Alja Tollefsen*  
Chaplain of the East Netherlands

Nov13 @deborahmobile @paristipump.co.uk



# Twente News

## Harvest Festival

Our thanks go to all who supported the Flower Guild on 6th October by buying the produce after the Harvest Festival – with special thanks to Brenda, Pauline and Jeanet for their work in decorating the chapel in readiness for the service. The profit made for the Flower Guild was the

substantial amount of €126,40, ensuring that their work will safely continue.

### Reminder

Remember, remember ... no, not the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot, but the Shoebox Action. Information flyers are available in the Hut for those who would like to take part in this initiative and the shoeboxes can be handed in until the end of November. (For further details of the shoebox action: [www.actie4kids.org](http://www.actie4kids.org))

### Key Dates

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 10th November | Remembrance Sunday* |
| 15th December | Carol Service       |

\* As in recent years, the collection on Remembrance Sunday is to go to the Royal British Legion.

### Christmas Fair

The Middachten Castle Fair in De Steeg, which offers the opportunity for the main fund-raising activity of our sister chaplaincy Arnhem-Nijmegen, will open on 10th December and run to 15th December.



### Deep Meaning

One day a man who was writing a book that explored old myths and customs of ancient tribes got into deep conversation with an elderly American Indian. He listened engrossed as the old Indian recounted the wanderings of his tribe and his own family history. "What was your wife's name?" enquired the writer. "The Indian replied, "She was called Five Horses. "Eager to know more, the writer said, "That's an unusual name for a wife. What does it mean?" "It's an old Indian name," came the reply. "It means ...



*My wants are no different from others who share,  
The warmth of a fire, cool rain or fresh air,  
My earth has all these, and much more in her store,  
Though great is their measure, we can still overdraw,  
My time now is shortening, there's much to be done,  
To secure any future for our daughters and sons.*

*My wish when my time comes from life to alight,  
Is to see that our victory is clearly in sight,  
My knowing our efforts have not been in vain,  
The balance of nature being level again,  
My cry for our triumph, and from grace not to fall,  
Shall be heard by those favoured, who inherit my all.*

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## MY ALL

*My hymns are the sounds of great waves on the shore,  
That rise to crescendos, and shake the soul's core,  
My prayers are like voices, of wind in the trees,  
Which carries my thoughts far and wide on the breeze,  
My praise of earth's beauty is loud as the storm,  
When I make with the world my communion each morn.*



*My friends are the creatures that share this good earth,  
Whose trust and whole being is stored in its worth,  
My love is the nature of things all around,  
The lustre of sunlight and pureness of sound,  
My vigil is constant to help stay the hand,  
Of anything evil that threatens the land.*



*My shame is in seeing where I should have been,  
Or letting the sun to go down on a sin,  
My hope dwells in dreams of winning once more,  
The battles to save, and the cause to restore,  
My hate is in losing where destruction has won,  
Where something of beauty is lost, or has gone.*

## Autumn Course



This year there will be an autumn course held on Saturday mornings at 10:30 in the Hut and it will last about one hour. Coffee/tea and biscuits will be provided.

The theme of the course is about how we keep our spiritual batteries charged and will explore four areas of the Christian faith that are important to keep us going as Christians. There will be something for everybody, whether you are new to Christianity or whether you have been coming to church for many years.

There will be four sessions:

- *The Power of Faith* (16 November)
- *The Power of the Holy Spirit* (23 November)
- *The Power of Prayer* (30 November)
- *The Power of being Church Together* (7 December)

The course will be prepared and led by Simone Yallop as part of her application process to train as a Lay Reader.

John Bestman, who has much experience in working with groups in the Baptist Church, will assist in the discussions during the course.



## 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.



Nag, Nag, Nag, Nag, Nag!"

Do you know you're getting old when you wake up with that morning-after feeling, and you didn't do anything the night before.

## Job Interview



*Interviewer:* What would you consider to be your greatest weakness?

*Applicant:* Honesty.

*Interviewer:* Honesty? I don't think honesty is a weakness.

*Applicant:* I couldn't care less what you think.

Sometimes the easiest way to get your husband to do some chore or other is to simply suggest that he's too old to do it anymore.

## Dialogue

Keep this in mind the next time you are about to repeat a rumour or spread gossip.



In ancient Greece (469-399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day an acquaintance ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I've just heard about Diogenes?" "Wait a moment," Socrates replied, "Before you tell me I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test." "Triple filter?" asked the acquaintance. "That's right," Socrates continued, "Before you talk to me about Diogenes let's take a moment to filter what you're going to say. The first filter is Truth. Have you made

## Terms and Conditions



*You would like a new car or maybe a house  
A loan makes it easy to buy.  
You find your bank manager mean as a mouse  
His terms and conditions apply.*

*They can do this, you can't have that.  
They never will tell you why.  
It's something they always keep under their hat  
Just terms and conditions apply.*

*I read in the papers that you really should  
Learn like the birds how to fly.  
And do it all here, you probably could,  
But terms and conditions apply.*

*But Santa Claus does it with reindeer and sleigh  
To land on the rooftops up high  
To bring gifts for the kiddies who are good and who  
pray.  
Those terms and conditions apply.*

*So when at last you reach that good age  
And seek rest in peace in the sky  
You fervently hope on that heavenly stage,  
NO terms or conditions apply.*

By Denis Leonard (Dublin)  
Friend of Cathie and Frits Warmink

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> A detailed description of the process for the appointment is available digitally and I will only be too happy to send it to those who are interested.

<sup>2</sup> Tutor, Bristol Baptist College (1977-1990), Coordinating Secretary for International Affairs of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland (1990-1997), General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches (1997-2005)

<sup>3</sup> Three recommended books on the subject: Europe – The Exceptional Case: Parameters of Faith in the Modern World by Grace Davie; God's Continent: Christianity, Islam, and Europe's Religious Crisis by Philip Jenkins; Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith by Diana Butler Bass

<sup>4</sup> Diocesan Strategic Review Group report, 2009, 3.3.1

<sup>5</sup> The Revd Canon Mark Collinson, Area Dean and Chaplain in Amsterdam, the Revd Canon Dr Robert Innes from Holy Trinity Pro-Cathedral in Brussels, the Revd Canon Jack MacDonald with a parish in Leuven and teaching at Leuven University, and the Revd Sam Van Leer from Groningen and Utrecht, who does not need any introduction to our readers! Complete text available on request.

**BAYEUX** is home to the famous tapestry depicting the invasion of England by William the Conqueror and his victory at the Battle of Hastings. At the British War Cemetery in the town there is a Memorial that pays tribute to all those who lost their lives in the Normandy landings, between D-Day and the end of Operation Overlord on 25th August 1944. The inscription reads:

*"Nos A Gulielmo Victi Victoris Patriam  
Liberavimus"*

*"We, once conquered by William,  
have now set free the Conqueror's native land"*

She watched that old stile through her tears,  
Through long days of rain and of sun,  
She watched it for sixty more years  
And never lost hope that he'd come.

By Nigel Beeton



Joy seems to me a step beyond happiness – happiness is a sort of atmosphere you can live in sometimes, when you're lucky. Joy is a light that fills you with hope and faith and love.

– Adela Rogers St. Johns

We do not want, as the newspapers say, a church that will move with the world. We want a church that will move the world.

– G.K. Chesterton



### The Stile

He turned, with his  
foot on the stile,  
And gave a last nod of  
his head,  
Blew a kiss, and gave  
her a smile –  
“I’ll be back home for  
Christmas,” he said.

She waved back to  
him with great pride,  
As he went off to fight  
in the war,  
No sense of  
foreboding inside  
He’d soon be back  
home, she was sure.

From time to time o’er  
that stile,  
Came the post, with  
mail from abroad.  
Though apart by many  
a mile,  
There was love in  
every word.

The letters then  
suddenly ceased  
A telegram came in  
their stead,  
She read it, and said,  
“Well at least,  
He’s only gone  
missing, not dead.”

need is felt to have translations of the principal services, to make the liturgy more accessible to native Dutch speakers. Jack McDonald told us more about the two theological university courses started in Leuven and Brussels, and Miriam Adan, member of the Translation sub-group, reported on the progress of the translation of the Funeral Service, Baptism Service, Marriage Service and Holy Communion Prayer B.

As a test we used parts of these translations in the services during Synod. Quite an unusual experience to hear our Chaplain Alja speak Dutch in a service! Simone and myself each have a copy of these translations and anybody who is interested is invited to borrow them from us. It is by no means a definite version. Comments are welcomed.

On Friday afternoon we were divided into groups for an excursion into the city of Ghent. We visited the ruins of *Sint Bataaf’s Abdij* on the original site where Ghent was founded, and then after a pleasant walk through the beautiful medieval centre of Ghent we saw the famous painting by Jan Van Eyck, *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*, in St Bataaf’s Cathedral. The presentation at the end of the afternoon, with concluding reflections on all sessions, was missed by our group due to heavy traffic in the centre – so alas we cannot report on this!

Bishop Geoffrey arrived just before the Synod Dinner and was to attend Synod to the end. Dinner in the Old Abbey on Friday evening was, as usual, a great occasion for fellowship and sharing the Christian spirit. And there was also a great deal of laughter! We felt blessed when we went home on Saturday morning. Simone remained, having been asked by the Archdeacon to take minutes at the business meeting that day.

*Joyce Wigboldus*

### Halloween

The origin of Halloween dates back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. November 1st is the date the Celts celebrated their New Year. It marked the end of summer and the beginning of the dark winter. The Celts saw the dark as a sign of strength not something to be afraid of. The Celts believed that on the night before New Year the boundary between the living and the dead became blurred.



On the night of 31st October they celebrated Samhain, when they believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. To commemorate this event they built large, sacred bonfires where people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices. They made costumes from animal skins to dress up in. When the bonfires had died down, they took hot embers from the sacred bonfires to re-light their own hearth fires to protect their homes for the coming winter. They communicated with the spiritual world to learn how to get through the long dark winter.

By the 9th century Christianity had spread into Celtic lands, where it was gradually blended with and removed the old Celtic rites. In 1000 AD the church made 2nd November All Souls Day to honour the dead. All Souls Day then was celebrated again with bonfires, parades and dressing up like animals, saints and angels. All Saints Day was also called All-Hallows Eve and eventually Halloween.

Halloween is widely celebrated in Ireland, the home of many Celts, with parties, sweet treats and dressing up. In the 20th century many Irish families emigrated to America taking with them the Halloween traditions.

*(continued on page 9)*

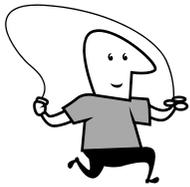
absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?”  
“No,” the man said, “Actually I’ve just heard about it.”  
“All right,” said Socrates, “So you don’t really know if it’s true or not. Now let’s try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about Diogenes something good?”  
“No, on the contrary ...”  
“So,” Socrates continued, “You want to tell me something about Diogenes that may be bad, even though you’re not certain it’s true?”  
The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.  
Socrates continued, “You may still pass the test though, because there is a third filter, the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about Diogenes going to be useful to me?”  
“No, not really.”  
“Well,” concluded Socrates, “If what you want to tell me

is neither True nor Good nor even useful, why tell it to me or anyone at all?"

The man was bewildered and ashamed.

This is an example of why Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem.

It also explains why Socrates never found out that Diogenes was making secret assignments with his wife up on the Acropolis!



One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor.

\*\*\*\*

One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.

## War Horse

Nearly three years ago I was passing through London and, never loath to miss the opportunity of visiting the West End theatre, decided to try my luck across the road from Victoria Station and secure a returned ticket for *Wicked*. The board clearly read "Full House" but there was always a chance. And lucky I was! February's dismal blustery weather spurred me to take my seat early and entering the circle I saw one lone figure across the aisles – and of course my seat was next to his. It turned out he was Dutch, and whenever business took him to London for a couple of days or so he went to the theatre every night. "If you can see only one production, see *War Horse*" was his advice.

It was out of the question at the time but, as this acclaimed National Theatre production is still playing to packed houses in Drury Lane, I followed up on his recommendation this September. And what an amazing theatrical experience it was!

The play is based on the book of the same name by Michael Morpurgo, who was inspired to write this story of the sufferings of war seen through the eyes of horse by a painting of a cavalry charge during the First World War. The First World War – a war that cost the lives of an estimated ten million people and unknown millions of horses. But how on earth was it possible to bring such a story from page to stage? The answer lies



people, ecumenically, not nationally. He ended with the question: how does this work in your church? And he advised, don't make assumptions and just be there to accompany people spiritually<sup>3</sup>.

The next session was a report from the Mission Working Party (MWP). This MWP was set up at the Archdeaconry Synod in 2010 and originally had a twofold purpose: first to embrace the changes as proposed by the Diocese<sup>4</sup> in funding four full-time free-standing Archdeacons in Europe instead of seven Archdeacons who combine their office with chaplaincy duties (more about this in Simone's report about the business meeting on the Saturday); and second to implement the recommendations of the General Synod Report *Mission-shaped Church* (2004) in the countries of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. This is the third MWP Report since 2010. During the past year four contributors have written a paper called "Developing a vision for Anglican Ministry in Europe"<sup>5</sup>. Each contributor works out an aspect of the strategy to shape and resource the Church's mission in every diocese and parish. Robert Innes writes on the tension between individuals and society in religious thinking; Jack McDonald charts some of the ways in which the Anglican tradition has grappled with contextualization (i.e. adaptation to the society in which the church is situated); Sam Van Leer describes the complicated relation between Church and culture (especially in Western society since the 19th century), using several model theories; and finally Mark Collinson relates various practical parish experiences, mentioning especially ecumenical and diaconal realities.

During the past year the MWP focused mainly on two areas: theological education and the translation of some liturgical services. A general

## Remembrance



1939 and George, my father, was eager to enlist. He soon chummed up with Bert. Together they faced the hell of the gunfire and the trenches. One day there was a loud explosion. George threw himself down and Bert fell on top. Shrapnel riddled Bert's body, some going through into George. His chum was dead, but miraculously George was still alive.

Remembrance Sunday at the Albert Hall. Thousands of petals were falling, each one representing a lost life. Tears welled up as George remembered his chum. He knew that but for Bert he would have been one of those petals.

By Megan Carter

## Prayer for Syria



Gracious God  
We pray for all  
those who suffer  
from violence;  
May they know your  
healing and peace.

We pray for those  
who have died and  
those who are  
bereaved;  
May they be com-  
forted and sustained  
by your love.

We pray for political  
leaders in Britain  
and across the  
world;  
May they seek  
wisdom and work  
together for peace.

May your kingdom  
come, your will be  
done  
And the earth be  
filled with your  
glory.

*The Revd Ruth Gee*

the candidates. Finally our Bishop, the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, will be appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, and a third Bishop nominated by the Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council, the Archbishop of Lokoja in Nigeria. The entire procedure will at least take nine months<sup>1</sup>.

The next session was about the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The Revd Chris Lyon (Luxembourg), who was to report on this subject could not be present however, so a short explanation of the current state of affairs with regard to this issue was given by the Revd Canon Robert Innes (Brussels).

We ended the day with the Eucharist, celebrated by Acting Archdeacon Canon Meurig Williams.

On Friday we started again with the Eucharist, celebrated this time by the Revd Canon Mark Collinson.

The morning presentation was given by the Revd Dr Keith Clements from Bristol. He spoke in a very inspiring way on *The Church and Europe*<sup>2</sup>. He started most unusually by comparing religion in Europe with an empty chocolate box. We keep it because it is beautiful, but there is nothing inside. He mentioned migration and secularization as great influences on the "inherited church" in Europe. He discerned "believing" and "belonging". People in the inherited church may feel they belong, but really do not believe any more, and just cherish beautiful churches and music. There are also many people these days who believe in God but do not belong to a church. Dr Clements quoted Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who said that both types are necessary and need each other. A new type of Christianity is emerging: in Europe people are learning how to be the church for all the

in the incredible sound, lighting, artwork and stagecraft, all heightening the movement and theatrical imagery, and of course in the magnificent creations that were the full-scale horses Joey and Tophorn. These horses each came to life through the three puppeteers handling the head, heart and hind. Such was their mastery that, after the initial thrill and wonder, the power of the grim story took over and there was many a misty eye in the house. It is often said that actors should beware of performing alongside children or animals, but in this case the actors were more than equal to this tremendous challenge.

As the war began to bite ever deeper, horses were even shipped over to Europe from Canada, America and Australia to cope with increasing needs in the fields of transport, agriculture and ... war. Few horses returned home at the end of hostilities in 1918 and the reward of many for their service was slaughter for the table. Max Hastings, writing of these "Forgotten Heroes" in the theatre programme, ends his article with a paragraph on the work of Brooke Hospital. The programme also carries an advertisement for this organization:

*"We work with some of the world's poorest communities offering veterinary treatment and animal welfare training. Our practical approach improves both the welfare of working equine animals and secures the livelihoods of people relying on them to earn a living."*

And of course Brooke Hospital is one of the three charities supported by you at St Mary's!

*Janice Collins*

## Friendship

Sometimes ...  
you feel on the edge  
of abyss  
Or caught in a trap  
Totally depressed



But what can you  
do?  
Shed tears of  
despair?  
Rage at the world?  
Drown your  
sorrows?



But even if you feel  
Sad  
Alone  
Guilty  
Anxious

Just stop and think!  
There is someone  
who will never  
forget you, who  
will stay at your side  
even when everyone  
else leaves you

... WE, the income tax inspectors, will always be there for you!

### Maths and Logic



WOMAN: Do you drink beer?

MAN: Yes

WOMAN: How many beers a day?

MAN: Usually about three.

WOMAN: How much do you pay per beer?

MAN: \$5.00 which includes a tip.

WOMAN: And how long have you been drinking?

MAN: About 20 years, I suppose.

WOMAN: So a beer costs \$5 and you have three beers a day which puts your spending each month at \$450. In one year, it would be approximately \$5400 ... correct?

MAN: Correct.

## St James the Least of All

### On Using Glebe Land for Allotments

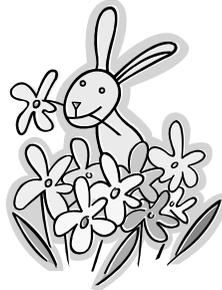
My dear Nephew Darren

I hear you have joined the committee which wants to convert the waste land between the abandoned soap factory and canal in your parish into allotments – although I would have thought there were holier sorts of conversions you could have concentrated on. I am sure you will soon be caught up in arguments which make that little disagreement over an apple in the Garden seem quite trivial.

Some years ago, we similarly decided to let part of our Glebe land become allotments; the outcome was not wholly as may have been anticipated. Colonel Wainwright saw it as an opportunity for re-living his War years and was only just restrained from digging trenches around his plot; no doubt he would have offered to play football with neighbouring allotment holders on Christmas Day.

It caused some surprise when the Earl of Stowe applied for a plot, but it has become something of an attraction to see his daily procession: preceded by his gardener pushing the wheelbarrow, the under-gardener carrying the tools and, following him, his butler with the newspaper, a deckchair and a flask of coffee. He then settles down for a comfortable hour, while occasionally supervising the work once reports on the local hunt have been read.

Miss Simpson managed to unite everyone in communal outrage by using her plot to encourage fluffy bunnies, darling foxes and sweet squirrels. She seemed to be particularly grateful to everyone else for providing fruit and vegetables for their happiness. Resolution was only



On Thursday afternoon Acting Archdeacon the Revd Canon Meurig Williams in the chair opened Synod and invited a number of Chaplains to come forward to share their news informally and truthfully. Quite a *novum* at Synod! Among Chaplains from Brussels, Tervuren, the Hague, Ypres and Rotterdam, our Chaplain Alja Tollefsen shared good news, but also concerns. In many chaplaincies there is spiritual growth; new Alpha courses are set up; at the universities of Leuven and Brussels courses (in Anglican history, texts, doctrine, sacraments, spirituality, ethics, mission and in Anglican religious education) have been started; and even a Church of England primary school, St Paul's, has been founded in Brussels! The Chaplain in Rotterdam reported a wealth of volunteers in the Missions to Seamen.

Concerns shared were of a varying nature, such as shortage of staff, financial tightness, dwindling numbers and congregations in which certain people felt hurt. Alja told the audience she had only been in office for 17 months and that there are many things to be thankful for – a happy congregation and positive outlook in Twente – but that there is less hopeful news from Arnhem-Nijmegen. She asked Synod to pray for improvement in the situation.

In the evening Canon Dr Jack McDonald from Leuven (also professor at the universities of Leuven and Brussels) and lay reader David Fieldsend from Brussels informed the audience about the impending procedure to elect a new Bishop, as Bishop Geoffrey will retire in November. It is a complicated procedure whereby first the needs of the Diocese are determined and the gifts and qualities are identified which the next Bishop is likely to need. The Vacancy-in-See Committee, which consists of the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod, together with the diocesan members of the General Synod, plays an important role in the preparation of the selection of

when you've had a disagreement. She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and passion whenever you need it.” Adam asked God, “What will a woman like this cost?” God replied, “An arm and a leg.” Then Adam asked, “What can I get for a rib?” The rest is history.

*Contributed by Erica Schotman-Bonting*



I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman where the self-help section was. But she said if she told me it would defeat the object.

## Lost Chapter in Genesis

Adam was hanging around the garden of Eden feeling very lonely. So God asked him, "What's wrong with you?" Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to. God said that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman. He said,



"This person will gather food for you, cook for you, and when you discover clothing, she will wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong

## Archdeaconry Report

(Synod: Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th October 2013)



At the beginning of this report it may be useful to repeat the purpose and values of the North West Europe Archdeaconry Synod (Benelux countries) as written in 2005, when it was established that *"the Archdeaconry Synod has the following legal purpose: to conduct the legal requirements of electing clerical and lay representatives to Diocesan and General Synods and to conduct the business of our corporate archidiaconal life and mission."* And: *"In addition to these we seek to: engage with the major issues facing the Church of England; be inspired, equipped and encouraged to further the mission of the church in our local setting and maintain an ecumenical dimension."* Finally: *"We aim to achieve these purposes by having a Synod once a year in which we: enjoy fellowship with one another, worship together, have stimulating input, engage in discussion with one another, produce an output (i.e. do something together in the Synod itself or which we can take home to our chaplaincies), use the arts as a means of expressing who we are and what we believe and celebrate our corporate life and what God is doing among us."*

Well, we tried to do most of these things in the beautifully restored monastery *De Oude Abdij van Drongen*, near Ghent in Belgium. Simone Yallop, Secretary of our church council, replaced Caroline Siertsema, who had to go to South Africa to attend to her mother. During Synod many subjects were dealt with in five sessions and we attended three Eucharist services and one Evening Prayer. I'll try to give you the most relevant news in chronological order.

achieved when she was convinced to grow potatoes, helping the Colonel in his War Effort. Fortunately, he did not ask her to arrive equipped with the regulation gas mask.

Our local architect seems to spend most of his time beautifying his garden shed, rather than growing produce. With its gothic arched windows, Norman tower and flying buttresses, I do wonder if he may have spent rather too much of his time renovating ancient churches. Neighbouring plot-holders look forward to the agricultural equivalent of the Dissolution of the Monasteries!

I am sure you will find you have committed yourself to many hours of unnecessary work. Just make sure you garner a percentage of their produce for your Harvest Festival.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace  
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(continued from page 5)

Gradually these Halloween celebrations became part of the American way of life. Making a Jack-o-Lantern is one tradition which many of you will know. The idea of hollowing out pumpkins, potatoes, swedes, beetroots or turnips and cutting a face in the side so that the light inside shows through to frighten away evil spirits is taken from a very old Irish myth.

Maybe you would like to celebrate Halloween by baking a sticky ginger cake or parkin and giving away some sweets to children that live near you, or by making a Jack-o-Lantern. Whatever, enjoy yourselves!

Brenda Pyle

WOMAN: If in one year you spend \$5400, not accounting for inflation, the past 20 years puts your spending at \$108,000, correct?  
MAN: Correct.

WOMAN: Do you know that if you didn't drink so much beer, that money could have been put in a step-up interest savings account and, after accounting for compound interest for the past 20 years, you could have now bought a Ferrari?



MAN: Do you drink beer?  
WOMAN: No.  
MAN: Where's your Ferrari?

We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea.

– W.H. Auden

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| <b>10th November</b><br><br><b>Remembrance Sunday</b><br><br><br><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><b>Sung Eucharist</b> | <b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b> | <b>Revd Alja Tollefsen</b>                    |
|  | <b>Duty Warden</b>              | <b>Everhard Ottens</b>                        |
|  | <b>Intercessor</b>              | <b>Simone Yallop</b>                          |
|  | <b>Chalice</b>                  | <b>Count Alfred Solms<br/>Pauline Talstra</b> |
|  | Els Ottens                      | (1) Jonah 3: 1-5, 10                          |
| Philippa te West   | (2) Hebrews 9: 24 to end        |   |
| Gospel   | Mark 1: 14-20                   |   |

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| <b>17th November</b><br><br><b>Second Sunday before Advent</b><br><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><b>Sung Eucharist</b> | <b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b> | <b>Revd Alja Tollefsen</b>                 |
|  | <b>Duty Warden</b>              | <b>Joyce Wigboldus</b>                     |
|  | <b>Intercessor</b>              | <b>Pauline Talstra</b>                     |
|  | <b>Chalice</b>                  | <b>Everhard Ottens<br/>Pauline Talstra</b> |
|  | Janice Collins                  | (1) Malachi 4: 1-2a                        |
| Linda ten Berge  | (2) 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13     |  |
| Gospel   | Luke 21: 5-19                   |  |

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| <b>24th November</b><br><br><b>Christ the King</b><br><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><b>Sung Eucharist</b> | <b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b> | <b>Revd Alja Tollefsen</b>                |
|  | <b>Duty Warden</b>              | <b>Everhard Ottens</b>                    |
|  | <b>Intercessor</b>              | <b>Janice Collins</b>                     |
|  | <b>Chalice</b>                  | <b>Janice Collins<br/>Joyce Wigboldus</b> |
|  | Louw Talstra                    | (1) Jeremiah 23: 1-6                      |
| Victor Pirene  | (2) Colossians 1: 11-20         |   |
| Gospel   | Luke 23: 33-43                  |   |

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| <b>1st December</b><br><br><b>Advent 1</b><br><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><b>Sung Eucharist</b> | <b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b> | <b>Revd Alja Tollefsen</b>                   |
|  | <b>Duty Warden</b>              | <b>Joyce Wigboldus</b>                       |
|  | <b>Intercessor</b>              | <b>Pauline Talstra</b>                       |
|  | <b>Chalice</b>                  | <b>Janice Collins<br/>Caroline Siertsema</b> |
|  | Vivian Reinders                 | Isaiah 2: 1-5                                |
| Joyce Wigboldus  | Romans 13: 11 to end            |  |
| Gospel   | Matthew 24: 36-44               |  |

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| <b>8th December</b><br><br><b>Advent 2</b><br><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><b>Sung Eucharist</b> | <b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b> | <b>Revd Alja Tollefsen</b>                    |
|  | <b>Duty Warden</b>              | <b>Everhard Ottens</b>                        |
|  | <b>Intercessor</b>              | <b>Simone Yallop</b>                          |
|  | <b>Chalice</b>                  | <b>Everhard Ottens<br/>Count Alfred Solms</b> |
|  | Pauline Talstra                 | (1) Isaiah 11: 1-10                           |
| Els Ottens   | (2) Romans 15: 4-13             |   |
| Gospel   | Matthew 3: 1-12                 |   |

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| <b>15th December</b><br><br><b>Advent 3</b><br><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><b>Carol Service</b> | <b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>   | <b>Revd Alja Tollefsen</b> |
|  | <b>Duty Warden</b>  | <b>Joyce Wigboldus</b>     |
|  | <b>Intercessor</b>  | <b>Caroline Siertsema</b>  |
|  | <b>Readers to be arranged</b>   |                            |
|  |  |                            |