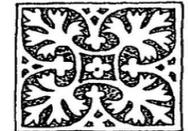




September
2014



A PICNIC ON THE BEACH

The disciples had fished all night but caught nothing. Jesus, standing on the shore, called out "Throw your net on the right side of the boat". So they did and they caught so many fish they could not pull the net into the boat. When they reached the shore there was a fire already burning with fish on it and some bread.

READ the complete story in *John 21:1-25*
How many fish did the disciples catch?

Mouse Makes

Draw some more fish in the picture then colour it in.

Aug14 © deborahnoble @parishpump.co.uk

The Chaplain Writes **Our Church**

During the first week of my holiday I visited the Tourist Information Office in Diepenheim to get some maps for walking and biking in the area. I asked for a specific project and where to find it. The lady explained that you couldn't reach this site by car, but one had to take – and I quote her literally – a path along the Angl... . She stopped in the middle of the word and rephrased what she had in mind. She continued by saying: "Well, there is a small church in the middle of the woods", as she assumed that I wouldn't know there was an Anglican church in the middle of the woods. Obviously this was based on her experience that people in general didn't know there was an Anglican church.

I think she was right, and in fact when I came from the UK, I also needed an explanation about St Mary's. We are not widely known, which is understandable, and this year we should make an effort to become better known, as we have so much to offer as a congregation.

So we need to make new plans for the future of St Mary's, where for the first time in history there is no sharing of the chaplain with another chaplaincy and St Mary's has taken on a new responsibility. Not unwisely, because since I was appointed I have seen quite a number of people join, but we need to make sure that this situation can continue and further expand, so that after I have left, St Mary's can support itself. I have no plans yet, but that time will certainly arrive.

Not only would it be desirable to fortify the numbers and hence, hopefully our financial situation. People will be asked to contribute in jobs and financially, everyone according to their possibility. But as to those who cannot, I hope they will support plans for the future by their fervent prayers. We need to be fortified in our spiritual life as well. Being a church together is first of all being guided by the Spirit, for without bearing that in mind we may become a friendly social club but not a church. And we want to be a church to grow in faith and in discipleship, so that St Mary's will provide a place where newcomers, as well as ourselves, will be nourished.

Alja Tollefsen, Chaplain of St Mary's



Twente News

Summer Services

What a summer this has been! To open the proceedings the Revd Canon Meurig Williams, Archdeacon of Northwest Europe, travelled to Weldam to conduct the service on Sunday 6th July, when the Revd Alja Tollefesen was duly instituted and licensed as Chaplain of the Anglican

Church Twente. A beautiful day, a beautiful service and a milestone in the history of St Mary's.

Came August came the time for Alja to take a well-deserved holiday but she left us in a medley of safe hands. We were very happy to welcome the Revd David Mumford in our midst to lead the services on 3rd and 10th August. The centenary of World War I was commemorated on the 3rd, and the service was most moving and thought-provoking. Our sincere thanks go to Philippa te West who organized the reception afterwards, which featured a display of WWI memorabilia and poetry readings.

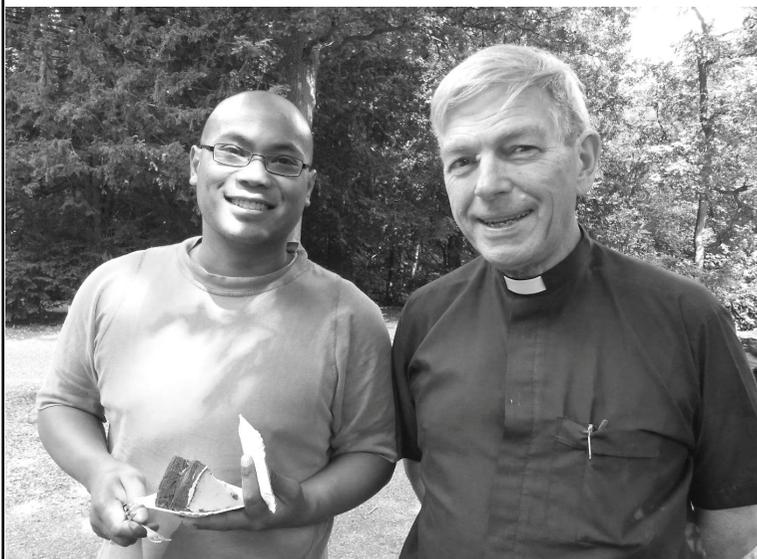


Photo submitted by Els Ottens

Miracle Cure

New to the country, new to the weather, the new hired hand calls into work and says, "I no come work today, I really sick. Got headache, stomach-ache and legs hurt. I no come work."



The boss says, "You know something, I really do need your help today. When I feel sick like you do, I go to my wife and tell her to give me a kiss and a cuddle. And that makes everything better and I go to work. Why don't you try it?"

Two hours later the new man calls again: "I do what you say and I feel great. Be at work soon. Oh, you got nice house."

This poem was submitted by Erica Bonting Schotman, who writes: "I met this eighty-five-year-old lady in the summer of 2010, when Sjoerd conducted a service in the local Episcopalian Church in Idaho. She has written many poems but this was the one – because of the season – that touched me most."

The Revd Marj Denniston retired in 2011 after many years of service within the Diocese of Spokane, both as a deacon and priest.



Robin Williams

Sadly, in August the actor Robin Williams died. He will long be remembered as an incredibly talented and funny actor. Even in his obituary, he managed to bring a smile to the face. In the British paper the *Daily Telegraph*, it quotes Robin Williams saying he belonged to the Episcopal Church, "Catholic Lite - Same rituals, half the guilt."

Contributed by Blair Charles



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.



Ordinary time

*Lent and Easter
Now have passed away
Advent and Christmas
Still far away
And this is ordinary time
Time to walk
On ordinary ground
Yet, out of the commonness
And routine of our lives
God our live-giver
Catches us off guard
And in a moment of beauty
We are startled into seeing
That He is with us
In all his glory
Barely hidden
Always, everywhere
Beneath, beyond, within
The life we breathe.*

*The Reverend Marj Denniston
Retired Episcopal Priest in Coeur d'Arlene
ID, USA*

On 17th August a service of Morning Prayer was led by Simone Yallop. As part of her training as Lay Reader, Simone needs to gain experience in leading worship and this was a good opportunity. It was a service that enabled us to revisit parts of the liturgy that are less frequently used at Weldam, as well as the chance to give full throat to *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, accompanied by Carol on the guitar.

On 24th August the pews were full to welcome the Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen. It is always a great pleasure to see him back at St Mary's – and of course, when it comes to making history, Geoffrey has played an integral part in the growth and development of the community of St Mary's.

Summer Teas

The season of St Mary's Summer Teas has come to a close, and we can look back on a happy time of working together and meeting new friends. And here a message from our gallant organizers:

First of all we'd like to thank all those who helped in so many ways to make this event once again so successful. Without you ... well ...there'd be nothing to report!

The teas attracted a good deal of attention – and now we can even speak of regular customers. This attention stretched down the path from the tables under the trees to the chapel, which received many interested visitors. Our guests were enthusiastic not only about the cakes but also about the warm friendly atmosphere. And the weather too played its part, dry for 95% of the time. The financial result? The net profit was a magnificent €1015: €915 for the Church and €100 for the Flower Fund.

It was lovely that Jan and I were able to organize the event again this year – something we do with very great pleasure!

Jan and Theda ten Barge



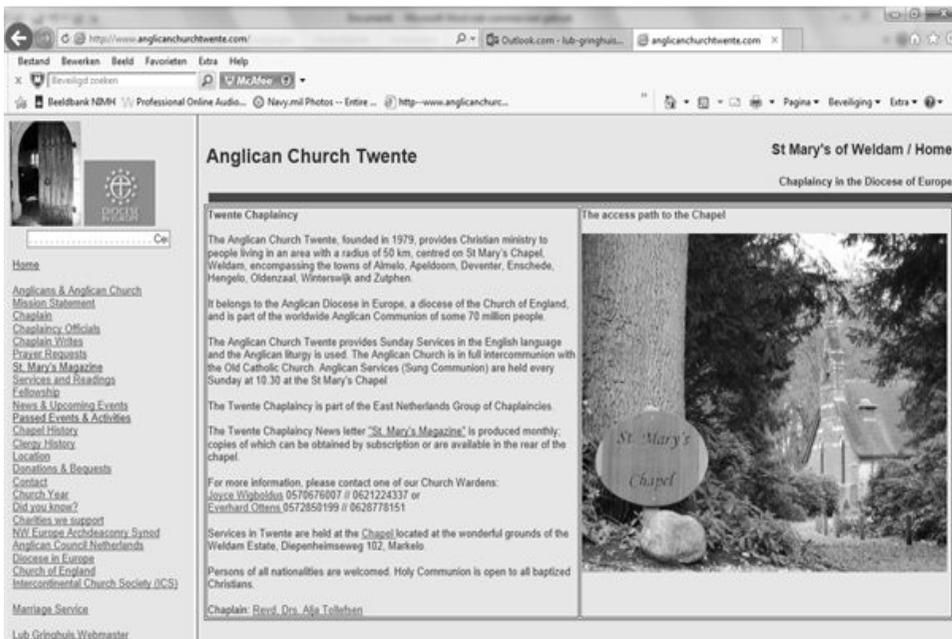
Wrinkles: something other people have ... similar to my character lines.

Proof Positive

One day a man went to an auction, where he saw an exotic parrot. He really wanted this bird, so got caught up in the bidding. He kept bidding, but kept getting outbid, so he went higher and higher and higher. Finally, after bidding much more than intended, the bird was his! As he was paying for the parrot, he said to the auctioneer, "I sure hope this parrot isn't defective. I'd hate to pay this much money only to find out that he can't talk!" "Of course he can talk," said the auctioneer. "Who do you think kept bidding against you?"

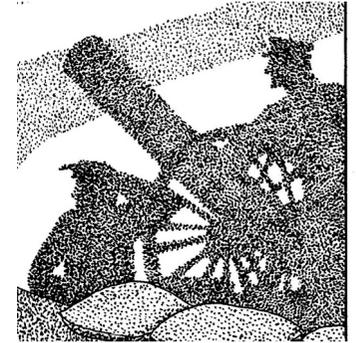
St Mary's Website

The title may appear a bit pretentious; however, it's just the place where you can find a wealth of information concerning our congregation. The website has already been on line for quite some time, yet I still encounter people that do not know what can be found on the pages. It's also not the intention to overtake the magazine as an antiquated means of information; on the contrary, as webmaster of this site I still like to read hardcopy books and magazines. Yet an online medium is just more flexible in dealing with happenings as they come along. Therefore let me (once more) introduce our Chapel's website to you all. All the information on the website which is subject to Church policy and rules has been approved by the Churchwardens. All other information has been compiled over a longer period of time from *St Mary's Magazine* or appropriate sources on the internet.



The scaled-down image above is not the best thing to try and read the text from, so if you do possess a PC, Laptop, Tablet or any other means of accessing the internet, just enter the

Poetry Readings on Sunday, 3rd August 2014



Laurence Binyon (1869-1943):
Eric Bogle:

The Sower, read by Everhard
And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda, read by Pauline

Raymond Briggs:
Rupert Brooke (1887-1915):
Carol Ann Duffy:

Aunties, read by Philippa
Peace, read by Carol
The Christmas Truce,
group reading

Robert Graves (1895-1985):

Country at War
Hate Not, Fear Not
Here They Lie, read by Simone

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936):
Alfred J. Lancefield:

My Boy Jack, read by Blair
Bringing up the Guns, read by Louw

Malcolm McBride:

Another November Sunday, read by Patrick and Ryan

John McCrae (1872-1918):
Moina Michael (1869-1944):

In Flanders Field, read by Linda
We Shall Keep the Faith, read by Dina

Wilfred Owen (1893-1918):

Dulce et Decorum Est, read by Janice
Futility, read by Els

Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967):

On Passing the New Menin Gate,
read by Vivian



to Poet's Corner where we began our tribute by reading poems connected to the war. We opened the proceedings with *The Christmas Truce*, written by the British Poet Laureat Carol Ann Duffy. Each verse was spontaneously narrated by different readers. A moving poem about the Christmas of 1914 out in the trenches, when for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the British, French and German soldiers laid down their weapons and sang Christmas hymns, shared food, and played ball games. A day later they had to resume fighting.

The poems that followed were all very different. Pauline gave us a very interesting background to the part played by Australia and New Zealand, part of the Commonwealth countries which took part in the war, and she and Louw both read poems by Australian poets. We were treated to favourite war poets, and a poem beautifully read by Patrick and his son Ryan that had been written by Malcolm McBride, a previous churchwarden at St Mary's. Everyone who took part in the narrations, and those who listened, all agreed that it was both an uplifting and very moving occasion. And we did justice in our special way to honour the millions who lost their lives, to show overwhelming admiration and gratitude for the courage that that generation had showed, at the Front and at home. But, above all, it is the pity of it, the waste of young lives on all sides, that leaves us with a longing for a world without war. This was re-iterated to us by Ben, who finished up the event with his thoughts on today's world, and a prayer. The more we learn about war, the more important it becomes to sing about peace.

Grateful thanks go to you all for taking part and to Jan ten Barge for his unstinting help in setting up and clearing up, for his endless patience and hard work. Bless you all. *Philippa te West*

following URL: <http://www.anglicanchurchtwente.com/>. Now you will be able to access the Home page with the best suitable resolution. On the left side of the page a Links frame has been created, holding all necessary access links to all the main pages of the site. By selecting, depending on your interests, one of the listed pages, you will see it appear in the Main frame. The main pages are:

Anglicans & Anglican Church, Mission Statement, Chaplain, Chaplaincy Officials, Chaplain Writes, Prayer Requests, St. Mary's Magazine, Services and Readings, Fellowship, News & Upcoming Events, Passed Events & Activities, Chapel History, Clergy History, Location, Donations & Bequests, Contact, Church Year, Did you know?, Charities we support, NW Europe Archdeaconry Synod, Anglican Council Netherlands, Diocese in Europe, Church of England, Intercontinental Church Society (ICS) and Marriage Service

On all these Main pages information is kept as up to date as possible. There is of course a lot of information which may be retained on the pages for quite a long time, like the *Mission Statement, Chaplaincy Officials, Clergy History, Donations & Bequests, etc.* Yet quickly changing items such as the *Services and Readings, News & Upcoming Events* and *Passed Events & Activities* need regular updates to keep the website current. With some items, especially with images, there is a lot of work involved in updating a page; with others it takes just a few minutes to actualize them.

One may also notice that some Main pages do have another frame on the right side, containing a series of links. For example, the *St Mary's Magazine* page provides links to past copies of the magazine dating back to mid-2012. So if you have lost or disposed of the old paper magazines and you still want to look up something, this may be a nice tool.

Also on the *Passed Events & Activities* page a series of links will give access to "interesting happenings" in our congregation from the past. One side note to this page is that it still needs to be refilled after a complete removal of all content some months ago.

The latest addition to the website will be a detailed description of the Chapel itself. It will explain a lot about the construction and the building. Count Alfred and his estate steward have been so kind as to

give me access and permission to publish copies of the original building drawings from 1899 as part of the description.

The lower section of the Links frames contains a series of outside links to The Anglican Council Netherlands, The Diocese in Europe, The Church of England and the ICS. By clicking these links you will be forwarded to websites outside our responsibility.

Your webmaster – Lub Gringhuis

Wood Sculpture for the Chapel

At the end of July the wardens went to Rotterdam to see Bert Kersten, who is now in the final stages of completing the diptych for the chapel. He has been working on it for over two years and was keen to show us the result so far. He started the project as a tribute to the late Dr Bonting, whose published work he admired.

Dr Bonting and Bert thought it best to donate the finished work to the Anglican Church Twente after completion. In Sam Van Leer's final year, the project was discussed in the church council, and in consultation with Count Alfred it was decided that the diptych would be put on the back wall on either side of the bell rope. The Estate also kindly donated two pieces of cherry wood.

Joyce and I were impressed by what we saw. The central figure is the Virgin Mary, around whom various scenes with biblical connotations are depicted. The figures are contemporary, often of African origin. We are extremely fortunate to receive such a gift, which will greatly add to the beauty of the chapel.

Bert has his own bakery which he runs with his wife Liesbeth. Alongside that, he attended sculpting courses and studied with accomplished artists. One section of the bakery is in use as his studio. He showed us pictures of his work, which can be found, among other places, in a theological college in Hungary and a cathedral in Rwanda. His next project, a gift to Desmond Tutu, is being discussed at present.

The idea is to unveil the diptych in a special service one Sunday at the end of autumn.

Joyce Wigboldus and Everhard Ottens

Commemoration WWI Centenary

"They are gone, Yet if ever a generation should be remembered, it is this one"

(Michael Morpurgo, author of *War Horse*)

*Only the truth that in life we have spoken,
Only the seed that in life we have sown.
These shall pass onwards when we are forgotten.
Only remembered for what we have done.*

These are the words that open the play *War Horse*, and also the lines which end it. A marvellous book turned into a play, film and musical, featuring the 1914-1918 War. The Great War, the war to end all wars.

In St Mary's on Sunday 3rd August we held a special Commemoration Service for the centenary of the 1st World War. Led by the Revd David Mumford, it was a very dignified and beautiful service with special prayers, lovely hymns, and a marvellous rendering of Elgar's *Nimrod* played by our organist Louw Talstra. This to show our gratitude to the fallen, and to remember the heroes who gave of their all in a war that shook the world asunder. After the service, having had our coffee, we admired the marvellous exhibition of memorabilia which various members had brought to share with us. Newspaper articles, books, medals, photographs of family members in uniform, a copy of a telegram, a small pocket edition of St John's Gospel that was issued to every soldier to take with them out to war. And much, much more. It was very moving to realize how many aspects of the War had affected our grandparents, and the exhibition was appreciated by our members and visitors alike.



Photos courtesy of Philippa te West

Then it was time to fill our plates and fill our glasses and to retreat

"Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord," he declares. This is where his future lies: in the amazing generosity of God's grace. It is where our future is found, too.

As Christians, we become, mysteriously, members of the body of Christ, the Church which is the body of life. This same body is placed into our hands in the sacrament of the Eucharist; the body of life which makes us prisoners of hope. You may not describe yourselves immediately as "prisoners of hope" but I suggest to you this morning that this is what you are. The fact that this morning is a new beginning for Alja, for this church and Diocese means that we are, actually, prisoners of hope.

"Come to me," says Jesus, "and I will give you rest." This is the wisdom by which we can shape our future ministries, our mission and our lives. This is the call to each one of us, here at St Mary's and far beyond this place – now and in the future which is opening up before us.



Message of Thanks

Dear friends,

We would like to thank you for the wonderfully warm welcome we received during Alja's induction service. It was a delight to see her so happy, and to share this special day with you and so many other guests.

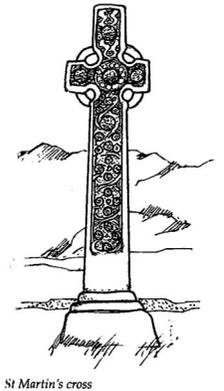
As always, the catering and the setting were simply perfect. Meurig's sermon was reassuring and motivating, and we are sure he will help and support you as you continue to build up God's Church in Twente.

We wish you every blessing, and look forward to returning to St Mary's in the near future.

*Warmest regards,
Debbie & David Kenyon-Jackson, Sylvia Grevel, Patsy Anderson,
Gwendolyne Visser*

Our Church Trip to Iona

At the end of this month 13 of our congregation will travel to Iona to spend a week in the Abbey of the Iona Community – Iona, where St Columba arrived with a group of monks from Ireland in 563 to found a monastery. They arrived in a small boat at the mercy of the elements. We 21st-century pilgrims will travel in comfort and at speed, although we will gradually slow down from 500 mph on a passenger jet to 60 mph on the train and even slower on the ferries, to a final short walk to the Abbey.



Many thousands come to Iona each year – day-trippers from Oban and guests of the Iona Community – to attend open weeks and theme weeks. Why do they come and what do they hope to find? George MacLeod, founder of the modern Iona Community in the 1930s, described Iona as "a thin place" with only, as it were, a tissue paper separating the spiritual from the material.

Our week is on the theme "Pilgrimage of Life", led by Alastair McIntosh, writer, scholar and broadcaster, best known for his environmental and social advocacy work. The week will be co-led by a mentor of his, Catherine MacKinven, who follows a deep interest in Gaelic poetry, song, folklore and spirituality. During the week she will offer brief introductions to the Gaelic language for those who wish to explore this backdrop to the culture.

In the words of Alastair McIntosh, "We will experience a week of community and reflection – a time for walking, shared worship, thinking, the re-evaluation of life and, if we are lucky, some times of stillness. We will explore the spiritual life as informed by Celtic Christianity but with an openness to insights from other faiths and personal experience."

On top of all that there will be song and dance, like the Monday evening ceilidh in the village hall and the Tuesday pilgrimage around the island with a picnic of tea and flapjacks on the west coast.

And if the weather holds, there will be the opportunity to take part in a trip to Staffa and see Fingal's cave.



*At Columba's bay they met; two of Iona's pilgrims.
He a pastor from Zaire; She a broker from Detroit.
And battered by the autumn wind and rain they shared their
stories.
Twentieth-century stories – rooted in contrasting realities, yet
both embedded in a strange, life-giving brokenness.
The hidden stories – of poverty and torture, of cancer and
loneliness; interweaving stories, mirroring our global
interconnectedness.
And stories of faith: of God's unfolding in their lives through
ordinary days.
And suddenly it seemed that for a moment on that distant shore
they glimpsed that basic truth – that truly, we are one in Christ.
(Peter Millar, *An Iona Prayer Book*)*

Everhard Ottens

you are prisoners of hope. That's a remarkable description of what God is calling us to be: prisoners of hope. It says that your future, my future, the future of the one, holy catholic and apostolic Church, the future of every man, woman and child, is not in my hands or yours: it's in the hands of God. If we insist on making our own future, without God's grace, we will probably fail. Like Paul, we do not do the good we want, and the evil we do not want can so easily rise to the surface: in our relationships, in our personal hopes and fears, in the words we speak without thinking.

"My yoke is easy; my burden is light," says Jesus. That is not always easy to hear. But Jesus suggests that those who do hear it are the prisoners of hope: the child-like, the sinners, the tax collectors; in



fact, anyone who is open to the transforming possibilities of God's grace. Ordination is not about being permanently high-minded, or having permanently clean hands, or being right all the time, certainly not ten feet above contradiction. Yes, it helps if we know some theology, and have skills and gifts which build up the body of Christ. It helps if we can be

still, silent, prayerful as well as being able to order our lives in a way that conveys the peace of Christ to others. But, ultimately, it is no more – and no less – than being a channel of God's grace.

"Who shall deliver me from this body of death?" asks Paul in the Letter to the Romans. Who will lighten his burden, so that he finds rest for his soul in a world where life is not always straightforward, where Christian ministry seems to make impossible demands?

Paul sounds even more baffling because he refers to two kinds of law. He says that we live under two different kinds of law. The law of God's grace, which is for our health, flourishing and delight; and the law of sin, which is the law we make for ourselves. We long to be masters of our future, but we are so often prisoners of our past. We long to take control of the world (or the church) we're in; but, because we are who we are, and the story of our lives is often complicated, we dig ourselves deeper and deeper into confusion and unhappiness. We are, to use that striking image in our reading from Zechariah, stuck at the bottom of a waterless pit from which there's no escape. It's as if we want to control our future; but, at the same time, we are controlled by our past.

Just before you start thinking this is all rather gloomy for a day when we should be celebrating new beginnings here in St Mary's, Weldam – for Alja and for all of you – it is always good to remind ourselves that Christian ministry and Christian discipleship doesn't happen in some kind of idealistic dream-world. The Church is not a Nirvana where everything is perfect. Surely the Anglicans of the East Netherlands do not need any reminding of that. Nor does Christian ministry happen when we get angry at the failings of others, or become steamed up with indignation at the Church's faults. But Christian ministry happens in the pain of others and in the reality of failure. It happens when we are willing to work for healing and forgiveness: not from a position of superiority but from within the mess in which we find ourselves.

If we look at the history of Christianity, we are more likely hear the call of God most clearly when life is at its most demanding. God has a habit of calling us during those sleepless nights when the future looks bleak and we wonder if we have reached the end of all our resources. Paul's difficult dialogue with himself speaks to each one of us when we wonder if it is all too much, when other people are being so difficult, when our flaws and failures seem all-too-real, and we wonder how on earth we have reached this point.

But, never forget Zechariah's words to the demoralized and defeated Jews, who need to hear God's call and God's promises. When life feels like you are at the bottom of a waterless pit, remember that

The Society of Ordained Scientists

By Erica Bonting Schotman

"The Society of Ordained Scientists (SOSc) is an international religious order of priest-scientists within the Anglican Communion. The organisation was founded at the University of Oxford by biologist-theologian Arthur Peacocke in order to advance the field of religion and science.

Membership in the Society of Ordained Scientists is open to any member of a Christian denomination upholding belief in the Holy Trinity. As a result, the ecumenical religious order includes individuals from the Anglican Church, Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Orthodox Church, Reformed Church, among other Christian denominations."

The above is taken from the internet and explains what the SOSc means more clearly than I could do.

Sjoerd Bonting, my husband, was a member of this society from the beginning. Nearly every year he and I travelled to England to attend the yearly retreat and meetings. In the early years we went to Launde Abbey, not far from Stamford, where our praying and singing in the chapel was accompanied by the bleating of sheep. After the retreat we used to stay for a week or so in a B&B in one of the corners of the United Kingdom – from Cornwall to Skye. This way I have come to love that country so very much.

The SOSc grew and, as space at Launde Abbey was limited, they had to look for other places, among them Scargil House, somewhere in the middle of the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, and Sneaton Castle in Whitby. The society grew in membership – from 25 members initially to more than 100 last year. They travel from such countries as the USA, Australia and New Zealand. For a long time Sjoerd was the only member from Europe, but now two more priests have joined, one a young man from Kiev. He is going through a difficult time and did not visit the retreat this year. The other is from Denmark, if I remember correctly.

I always enjoyed attending the retreats with Sjoerd very much. I

shared the meditations and walked a lot through the beautiful surroundings, sometimes buying some nice fleeces for my spinning. I let the “hybrid brothers” (as Sjoerd used to call them) do their own thing, since I was there as a spouse and nothing more. The last time we were at the retreat was in 2011, when we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Society. Sjoerd was already experiencing problems with his health and hearing, and knew it could be the last time for him.

Over the years we made good friends with some of the members but when Sjoerd died I was convinced that this was the end of the SOSc adventure for me. But last autumn, to my surprise, I received a letter asking me to be an Honorary Member. I was very moved and delighted too – and so proud that I want to share it with you. I wish I could tell Sjoerd about it.

So this year I went to Whitby, England, with three big banana boxes filled with books from Sjoerd’s library (science and theology) in the boot of my car. There was a lot of hugging and some tears were shed. I was invited to join in all the meetings, since I am now a member and no longer simply a visitor. The meditations were rather funny because the actions of our brains were compared to God’s firmament – as many electric impulses in the brain as there are stars in the universe. Easy to tell you but way too difficult to explain! Are you interested? The introductions to the meditations are on my computer, and I can send them to you by email.

The books were gone in a few hours. I had a wonderful time and I hope to go again next year. I will end with the prayers that all the members are praying daily:

SOSc Collect

Almighty God, Creator and Redeemer of all that is, source and foundation of time and space, matter and energy, life and consciousness: Grant us in this Society, especially your servants and all who study the mysteries of your creation, grace to be true witnesses to your glory and faithful stewards of your gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Stephen Cherry says that, on the day of his ordination, he seriously underestimated what would come to dominate his ministry. Becoming a priest did not take him to a higher plane, he says. Instead, it taught him that three things would be inescapable: buildings, people and money. He recalls how a churchwarden once said to him: “You would be better off with a diploma in Building Studies than a Cambridge degree in theology.”

“He was right,” Stephen Cherry admits; but went on to say “I also needed degrees in fundraising, project management and as a mediator to a diverse and complex congregation.”

What Stephen Cherry recognizes is that ordained ministry exposes you to a huge variety of people and accelerates the speed with which you get to know them. It can also exaggerate the significance of the issues on which you differ. People are far more complex, subtle, vulnerable and unpredictable than we appreciate. They are also much deeper, more spiritual and generally more robust and resourceful than we give them credit for. Being a priest is much less about announcing and directing the right way ahead; it is much more about learning how to be there in the muddle and in the aftermath of it all going wrong. And there is something of that hanging in the air this morning.

I begin like this because the Bible readings which we hear today, along with the majority of Christians around the world, speak of personal struggle, confusion, bewilderment, tangled and mistaken motives, a longing for the promise of peace and resolution which we all long for.

We heard Paul, in the Letter to the Romans, having one of those difficult conversations with himself. The argument goes round and round in circles (how many of us know what this is like when we awake at four o’clock in the morning, unable to sleep, troubled by a situation which has flooded our minds?). “I do not understand my own actions,” Paul admits. “I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate ... I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.” And, as Paul seems trapped in a spiral of despair, he concludes, “I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.”

**Sermon of the Reverend Canon Meurig Williams,
Archdeacon of Northwest Europe,
on Sunday 6 July 2014 on the occasion of the
Institution and Licensing of the Reverend Alja Tollefsen as
Chaplain of the Anglican Church Twente**

This is the time of year when many people are being ordained as deacons and priests. Last weekend, Bishop David ordained three priests in this Diocese. Later this month, four bishops will be ordained in the Church of England. One of them, of course, will be Robert our next Bishop, and let us hold him in our prayers at this time of transition. For those of us who have been ordained for a number of years, this time of the year provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our own ministry by recalling the anniversary of our ordination. For Alja, and for myself, this is especially true today at this service.

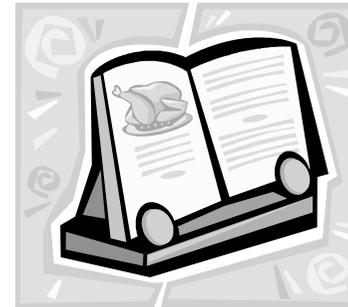


Photos courtesy of Lub Gringhuis

This year I have been helped to reflect on my ordination by some words of Stephen Cherry, an English priest and author, who began life as a psychologist. He will soon become Dean of King's College, Cambridge, famous for its annual Christmas carol service. His words may help all of us – whether we are ordained or not – to understand something of the ministry to which a priest is called, as we celebrate this new beginning for you as a congregation and for Alja who is your priest and chaplain.

For Knowledge of God's Creation

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the Universe with all its order, atoms, worlds, galaxies and the intricate complexities of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfil our role in your eternal purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Cookbook

The Cookbook is still in production but will not be ready for sale at the Castle Fair. The Cookbook will have around 60 recipes donated by members of the multinational congregation and will be printed in a mixture of English and Dutch. The sales strategy is now to promote the Cookbook at the Castle Fair and ask people to place orders.

(Remember family and friends who would love to receive the Cookbook as a gift.) By the end of September, the Cookbook will be ready to print, and by then it will be possible to estimate accurately how many copies to print. The more that are sold the lower the costs and the greater the profits, all of which will naturally go to St Mary's.

Blair Charles



I can never understand why they cook on TV. I can't smell it. Can't eat it. Can't taste it. At the end of the show they hold it up to the camera. "Well, here it is. You can't have any. Thanks for watching. Goodbye."

Jerry Seinfeld

7th September	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
Trinity 12 (Proper 18)	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
	Chalice	Janice Collins Caroline Siertsema
Sunday School: Carol van Straten	Vivian Reinders	(1) Ezekiel 33: 7-11
	Joyce Wigboldus	(2) Romans 13: 8-14
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Matthew 18: 15-20

14th September	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
Trinity 13 (Proper 19)	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
	Chalice	Everhard Ottens Count Alfred Solms
Sunday School: Patrick Saridjan	Victor Pirenne	(1) Genesis 50: 15-21
	Els Ottens	(2) Romans 14: 1-12
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Matthew 18: 21-35

21st September	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Nico Sarot
	Duty Warden	t.b.a.
Dedication Festival	Intercessor	t.b.a.
	Chalice	t.b.a. t.b.a.
Sunday School: Jolanda Wessels	Heleen Rauwerda	(1) Jonah 3: 10 - 4:11
	Arjen Haffmans	(2) Philippians 1: 21-30
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Matthew 20: 1-16

28th September	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
Trinity 15 (Proper 21)	Intercessor	Everhard Ottens
	Chalice	Caroline Siertsema Simone Yallop
Sunday School: Caroline Siertsema	Maureen van der Heide	(1) Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32
	Elizabeth van der Heide	(2) Philippians 2: 1-13
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Matthew 21: 23-32

October 5th	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
Harvest Festival	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
Sunday School: Elizabeth van der Heide	Chalice	Count Alfred Solms Joyce Wigboldus
	Erica Bonting Schotman	(1) Deuteronomy 8: 7-18
	Blair Charles	(2) 2 Corinthians 9: 6 to end
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 12: 16-30

October 12th	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
Trinity 17 (Proper 23)	Intercessor	Janice Collins
	Chalice	Everhard Ottens Caroline Siertsema
Sunday School: Jeanet Luiten	Arjen Haffmans	(1) Exodus 32: 1-14
	Heleen Rauwerda	(2) Philemon 4: 1-9
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Matthew 22: 1-14