

Countdown to Christmas by
colouring in one candle
each Sunday in
ADVENT

Jesus is coming! Christmas is near!
ADVENT is the time before
Christmas when we celebrate the
arrival of JESUS, God's son, our Saviour.
We remember God's promise to
the world, God's message to Mary,
God's love for us and God's promise
come true.



Nov14 ©deborah noble parishpump.co.uk



The Chaplain Writes

Our New Bishop

Next month we will welcome the bishop for the Confirmation Service. It will be his first visit as our new bishop and it is an event to look forward to, because we will be given the opportunity to get to know him. Our archdeaconry representatives will know him from the times they attended Synod. It is the first time a chaplain from within the Diocese has been appointed bishop, and I think it will be very beneficial because he is acquainted with the different circumstances regarding dioceses in the UK.

I have just received the invitation to be present at his installation service in Brussels on 22nd November and, as I am writing now, I intend to attend the service, because it is an important event and, with the distances, we are not always able to be present on important occasions. Just to give an example: his consecration was in Canterbury and his enthronement happened in Gibraltar – not impossible to reach these days, but still not around the corner. Bishop Robert Innes is our fourth bishop: he succeeded Bishop Geoffrey Rowell, who retired last year after serving the diocese for 12 years. The first bishop, +John Satterthwaite, became Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe in 1993, after ten years of service as Bishop of Gibraltar.

The development of the diocese represents a growth in the Anglican Church. Stijn Fens, a reporter specializing in Vatican affairs, recently remarked in a newspaper that he admires Anglicans for their joy and lightness in worship combined with a profound devotion. It may well be the reason why not only English-speaking people, or those with a link somehow with the Church of England, are attracted to become full members of our Church.

We may reflect on this and wonder what we have to offer to newcomers and how we can accommodate their needs. How we can be loving chaplaincies where people feel welcome and cared for. We rejoice over newcomers, but we also have the responsibility to let newcomers rejoice over the chaplaincy we are.

Alja Tollefsen, Chaplain of St Mary's Twente



Paddy and Mick get a pilot to fly them to Canada to hunt moose. They bag six. As they start loading the plane for the return trip, the pilot says, "The plane can only take four." The two lads object strongly. "Last year we shot six, and the pilot let us put them all on board; he had the same plane as yours." Reluctantly, the pilot gives in and all six are loaded. But even with full power the plane can't handle the load and down it crashes in the middle of nowhere. Climbing out of the wreckage, Paddy asks Mick, "Any idea where we are?" "Not sure," says Mick, "but I think we're pretty close to where we crashed last year."

Key Dates

23rd November: Shoebox Action 2014

The decorated and filled shoeboxes can be handed in (at the Hut) until 23rd November. This allows time for onward transportation to the various destinations. For further details of the shoebox action, please see St

Mary's website.

30th November: Celtic Eucharist

A Celtic Eucharist will be held on 30th November. As this is the fifth Sunday of the month, there will also be a healing service.

7th December: Confirmation Service

On 7th December Bishop Robert will be at St Mary's for a Confirmation Service. The Bestman family and Fred Schonewille are to be confirmed at this service. Confirmation classes are being held on Friday evenings in the intervening weeks. If anyone else is interested in being confirmed, or would like to join the confirmation classes (which are focusing on the various aspects of the Anglican Church), please contact Alja.

13th December: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

in the Lebuinus Church in Deventer (see page 9)

14th December: Carol Service at St Mary's

Key Notices

Proceeds from Harvest Festival Sale

The produce used to decorate the chapel for the Harvest Festival on 5th October was sold after the service. This raised the sum of €131 for the Flower Guild.

The poem was written in 1932, when Mary Frye was living in Baltimore. She was inspired by the plight of a friend who had just lost her mother and, such was the political climate at that time, had been unable to return to Germany to even visit her mother's grave. In 2004 *the Times* wrote: "The verse demonstrated a remarkable power to soothe loss. It became popular, crossing national boundaries for use on bereavement cards and at funerals regardless of race, religion or social status."

Major Art Installation

5th August to 11th November 2014

The remarkable art installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* at the Tower of London marks one hundred years since the first full day of Britain's involvement in the First World War. Created by ceramic artist Paul Cummins, with setting by stage designer Tom Piper, 888,246 ceramic poppies will progressively fill the Tower's famous moat over the summer. Each poppy represents a British military fatality during the war. The poppies will encircle the iconic landmark, creating not only a spectacular display visible from all around the Tower but also a location for personal reflection. The scale of the installation intends to reflect the magnitude of such an important centenary, creating a powerful visual commemoration.



It is hoped to sell all of the poppies that make up the installation and, in doing so, raise millions of pounds which will be shared equally amongst six service charities

Source: *Parish Pump November 2014*



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.



Poetry
and
Prose

*Do Not Stand At My Grave
And Weep*



*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.*

*Mary Elizabeth Frye
(1905-2004)*



This remarkable poem was introduced to many in the United Kingdom when it was read on BBC radio in 1995 by the father of a soldier killed by a bomb in Northern Ireland. The poem was among the soldier's personal effects. Listener response was amazing – all the more so because the identity of the poet was unknown. It was not until 1998, after much research, that Mary Frye's authorship was confirmed by Abigail Van Buren, a newspaper columnist.

Books

Some books that belonged to Stephanie Prins, who sadly passed away at the beginning of this year, have been donated to St Mary's by her husband Joop. The books are on sale in the Hut and the proceeds are for the benefit of the Flower Guild.



From the Iona Sessions

Once, the Bishop of Liverpool was on a plane back from Belfast to Liverpool. All of a sudden they found themselves in severe turbulence. A big storm buffeted the plane about and to his horror, the Bishop saw that the composure of the crew had been replaced by very worried looks. Approaching John Lennon Airport, the storm abated and the man next to him said: "I knew it would be bad – you see, I'm a pilot but I didn't want to tell you that." "Well," the Bishop replied, "I'm a priest and I thought I had better not say."

Captain McIntosh, airline pilot by profession, was an old relative of Alastair McIntosh. The man loved a prank and the story goes that occasionally when the passengers had already been seated, he entered the plane wearing a very shabby raincoat and sat himself down in a passenger seat up front. It was on one of these small piston-engined planes used in the Western Isles in those days and everyone on board was anxiously waiting for the pilot to arrive. Finally, Captain McIntosh got up, turned around to the twenty or so passengers, who to their dismay heard him say: "If no one else is going to fly this plane, I will."

Everhard Ottens

(Everhard's article on the trip to Iona can be found on St Mary's website (link [Past Events & Activities](#)))

One Day ...

A husband took his wife to play her first game of golf. Of course, the wife promptly hacked her first shot right through the window of the biggest house adjacent to the course. The husband cringed, "I warned you to be careful! Now we'll have to go up there, apologize and see how much your lousy drive is going to cost us." So the couple walked up to the house and knocked on the door. A warm voice said, "Come on in." When they opened the door they saw the damage: glass all over the place, and a broken antique bottle lying nearby on its side. A man reclining on the couch asked, "Are you the people that broke my window?" "Uh ... yes, sir! We're sure sorry about that," replied the husband. "Oh, no apology necessary. Actually I want to thank you. You see, I'm a genie, and I've been trapped

(Continued on page 10)

Report Archdeaconry Synod 2nd to 4th October 2014

By Joyce Wigboldus



The venue of Synod was again this year the beautiful Old Abbey in Drogen, near Ghent in Belgium. It was built as a Norbertine monastery in the 12th century and became a Jesuit training centre in the middle of the 19th century. For a number of years it was a conference centre. We worshipped in the *Ruusbroec* chapel, named after the great mystic in the South Netherlands in the 14th century. The old abbot's house is still a residence for retired priests.

This Archidiaconal Synod was chaired by Acting Archdeacon Meurig Williams. Our archdeaconry of North West Europe consists of the countries Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Together with six other archdeaconries we form the Diocese of Europe. Archdeacon Williams has visited St Mary's Weldam twice in the past few years.

Synod has a very tight timetable. Every day starts with Morning Prayer and closes with Evening Prayer and/or Compline. Usually a wide variety of different types of services are used. This time we once used the 1662 BCP Evensong, but also a Compline liturgy from the Iona Community! Plenary sessions alternate with group discussions and meetings of the Houses of Clergy and Laity on procedural matters. This year new Chairs for both Houses had to be elected, as well as a new representative for the Netherlands Laity to the Archdeaconry Synod Standing Committee. These were duly elected: the Revd Andrew Gready (the Hague) and Peter Woodward (Arnhem-Nijmegen) as the respective Chairs, and Ms Sandra Sue (Utrecht) as representative of the Netherlands Laity.

The main sessions were: the Luwero Link review on Thursday; the Bishop's address; sharing news from the chaplaincies; the Mission Working Party report; the report from the Diocesan Secretary, Mr Adrian Mumford; an update on the July General Synod; a reflection on prayer by the Dean, the Very Revd John Paddock from Gibraltar, on Friday; and finally the Business Meeting and

Our cordial relations with the veterans stem from the time when our own Joy Romeyn and her late husband Henk were still actively engaged in the Overijssel branch and the Market-Garden Veterans organization. Henk Romeyn was a member of the Wapenbroeders and secretary of the Market-Garden Veterans Association.

We will give these old veterans another warm welcome on 9th November.

Everhard Ottens

A Prayer for Remembrance Day

November 11th

By Bro. Bob Webber



Brothers, We Remember

*Every year we think of those who fell for us to live.
We know not names or faces, only what they had to give.
They all laid down their lives for us, strangers from the past
Their sacrifices changed the world and will forever last.
Many would be brothers from a host of different parts
Strangers to each other, but fraternal in their hearts.
They fought for what was righteous, their absolute belief
Then gave their lives for us to live, the ultimate Relief.
Let not their sacrifice go unmarked; remember every year
That these brave men enabled us to have what we hold dear.
May they all be with the Mighty High, there in Heaven above.
They showed the real Truth of living life with Brotherly Love.*

So Mote It Be

Submitted by Christiaan Koning

Remembrance Sunday 2014

At our service for Remembrance Sunday on 9th November, war veteran Charles Reeves will once again be present and read the well-known exhortation:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*



Charles Reeves is president of the Market-Garden Veterans Association who after the war met a Dutch lady and stayed in the Netherlands. He fought in the 43rd Wessex and landed on Juno beach Normandy aged 19. He spent his 20th birthday under a German tank and when night fell his troop raided a German stronghold, causing casualties. However, their gunfire betrayed their position to the Tiger tanks, which came at them from

both sides. Their commanding officer told them to get out and quite a few got wounded. By the time they reached Nijmegen, they had lost so many officers that they had to be staffed by Canadians. They had driven up from Belgium and there was heavy fighting when German troops counter-attacked. The British were outgunned but had got used to that in Normandy. Charles Reeves survived the war with shrapnel from a grenade lodged in his left arm.

Members of the *Midden Overijssel* branch of the Union of Brothers in Arms (Wapenbroeders) have been most welcome visitors at our services for Remembrance Sunday over the years. They appreciate the opportunity to present themselves at these occasions and their standards add to the atmosphere, both inside the chapel and by the porch. The older members saw action in World War II and the others in later conflicts.

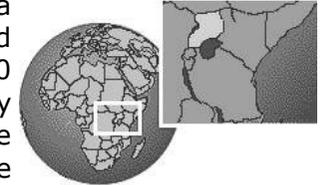
(Photo Henk Hulsegge of the Wapenbroeders)



the AGM of the Anglican Council for the Netherlands on Saturday. Simone Yallop, our Twente Secretary, was asked to take the minutes of the Business Meeting, and a summary will appear the next issue of *St Mary's Magazine*.

Luwero Link

As you probably remember, there has been a twinning link between our archdeaconry and the province of Luwero in Uganda for 10 years. Things were not going entirely according to plan, although there was huge input into the project via the Healthy Vine Trust and church members in the Hague (Jay and Pam Dennett). There existed some doubt about the feasibility of the link and thus Synod commissioned a report on the Luwero twinning last year. This *Report on a Review* was duly drawn up by the Revd Canon Max Oxbrow. He is international director of the Faith2Share organization* and performed this research in a neutral capacity as an adviser. Canon Oxbrow conducted interviews by telephone, sent out many questionnaires, and visited the province of Luweero and Bishop Evans of Luwero. The report goes into great detail concerning all aspects and figures of the twinning and the outcome of the interviews and the questionnaires. At both ends the twinning was appreciated by the interviewees, but less than a third of the questionnaires were returned, and this third originated from only 10 parishes. So only a small number of parishes appeared to have been involved in the Healthy Vine and the twinning. Therefore Archdeacon Meurig asked Synod what we were going to do: (1) end the project in a proper way, (2) continue on the present level and form a committee of three both sides, with a Twinning Oversight Group (TOG) monitoring proceedings in the next 12 months, or (3) invest more in the project. An animated, sometimes heated, discussion followed (as many said, the most animated discussion about the project ever) and a vote followed. It appeared that the majority of Synod members wanted to continue on the same level. Archdeacon Meurig decided that Synod would sleep on it and take a final decision the following day. When the subject was resumed the next day, we had a final vote on option 2: none was against, there were a few abstentions, and a great majority voted to continue the link on the present level. One of the



three people who came forward to form the TOG was our Chaplain Alja.

Address of Our New Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe

This was the highlight of Synod. As the Revd Canon Dr Robert Innes, Senior Chaplain and Chancellor of the Pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity Brussels, had attended our Synod many times, his face was well-known! Bishop Robert was consecrated in Canterbury Cathedral on 20th July, formally instituted in Gibraltar on 4th September, and addressed us on the eve of his installation in St Paul's Pro-Cathedral in Valletta, Malta, on 4th October. He explained that he discerns three main tasks for a bishop: first representing the diocese, second looking after his diocese, and third sharing and communicating with other bishops. He vividly described the circumstances of his appointment and consecration and installation, told us which meetings he had attended so far, and then outlined several strands of vision: our churches must be healthy places of authentic worship, not club- or NGO-like; worship must be of good quality and consistent – never mind the different types of worship; churches must be flexible and open to young people and children (safeguarding is important, and there must be training for leaders); churches must involve lay people, stimulate growth and be intentional to discipleship; churches must be welcoming and invitational; and last but not least, poor people must be supported, as also advocated by Pope Francis.

Sharing News Around the Chaplaincies

This is usually a most interesting part of Synod, as one hears what is going on in other chaplaincies. This year we heard from the Revd Stephen Murray from St George's Knokke/St John's Ghent, who told us that his Ghent congregation will presently move into large, beautiful, but quite inhabitable St Elisabeth's, provided by the Belgian authorities. The Revd Brian Llewellyn from Ypres felt half of the time more like a film impresario than a chaplain (the centenary of World War I this year!). He was besieged by television crews and visitors, with only a small congregation in beautiful St George's on Sundays. Mrs Diana Dammer from Haarlem told us about their main asset: the excellent church choir. The Revd Ruan Crew from Voorschoten

Beyond the Headlines

*Then I saw the wild geese flying
In fair formation to their bases in Inchicore
And I knew that these wings would outwear the wings of war
And a man's simple thoughts outlive the day's loud lying.
Don't fear, don't fear, I said to my soul.
The Bedlam of Time is an empty bucket rattled,
'Tis you who will say in the end who best battled.
Only they who fly home to God have flown at all.*

Patrick Kavanagh, *Collected Poems*

Alastair McIntosh

Alastair McIntosh is ... well that's hard to sum up. He is versatile: a scholar, writer, activist and a bard (a poet who speaks to the community). And he is learned, vital, vibrant, authentic and witty. Coming from a Presbyterian background he now is a Quaker by choice. During the sessions with him he mainly used insights and examples he had gotten from his latest book, *Island Spirituality*. It is a book on a Poacher's Pilgrimage, a meditation through the islands of Harris and Lewis that reflects on war, religion and spirituality in our times. He shared with us some religious and spiritual issues that are specific to the Hebridean Islands, to the community in which he was raised as a child – especially the wisdom of the Reformed elderly he grew up with.



Further information is available on:

www.alastairmcintosh.com

www.iona.org.uk

www.ionabooks.com

and strategies we had for problems and challenges no longer seem to be sufficient and adequate. We look for new energy, new ways to live our lives. The last phase is the return. And in this return it is no longer the 'I' that is leading, but 'Thou'. We have to let go – eventually even of our lives; the ultimate meaning of the cross, according to Alastair.

Alastair reminds us that during the never-ending process of our spiritual transformation we are always safe in Christ, who often said: 'fear not'. Again and again we struggle to break away from our false selves, to be immersed in God. And God is all around us. To be able to live an authentic and profound spiritual life we will have to work with the paradox that in order for us to grow we need to let go. This letting-go is the hardest part, in life and in our spiritual pilgrimage. But we can do it, if we pray and look at ourselves with mercy, from a god's-eye view. The more we are able to let go, the more 'our lips speak the words of God'.

In the return state we bring our life back. It is the state, and I quote Alastair: 'in which we have the wisdom to stand in the storm and suffering and know "be quiet, I am God" (Psalm 46)'. Finally, and ultimately, our personal pilgrimage cannot be thought of without our lives in community. So the final question of the week on Iona was twofold: what of God are you taking back with you in your heart? And what to your community? Bearing in mind that 'your vocation is where your deepest desire meets the needs of the world'. Typical of Alastair's open mind, he at one point stated that Christianity entering its third millennium is only at the beginning of its development.

Pilgrimage Walk

On one day during our stay we were able to go on either a shorter or a longer walk across the island. Alastair walked with us. He stopped at significant spots and gave us some background information about the island: archaeology, history and the life of Saint Columba. He also shared more of his wisdom with us. At one point he stopped and recited a poem about the ultimate destiny of our lives (see photo). Because it deeply touched many of our group that were present I copy it into this article:

told of successful outreach and growth. Canon Simon Tyndall reported from St Paul's Tervueren, which used to be a wealthy, heavily British community, but is now changing into a more international congregation. St Paul's would love to be connected with a newly established Anglican church in Eastern Europe. Finally Adriaan Los, Churchwarden at Utrecht, reported that Holy Trinity is bursting with challenges and talents. The electoral roll has doubled and there are now two services on Sunday mornings, there is Evensong and a Prayer Service, and spoken Communion on Wednesdays. A new students' coordinator has been appointed and there was a successful away-day with the entire congregation.

Mission Working Party Report

We were updated on the Working Party by the Revd Mark Collinson, Area Dean of the Netherlands. The Strategic Review Group within the Working Party produced a strategic report in 2011 on the aspects of growth on the basis of an in-depth sociological study "Where do English-speaking people live?". He also reported on new opportunities to study Anglican Theology in Leuven, Brussels (will start in 2015), and Amsterdam (VU). A sub-committee has almost finished a translation of Holy Communion into Dutch. If successful, Morning Prayer, the Baptism and Funeral Service will follow. There was some discussion whether these translations would be appreciated by Dutch-speaking congregation members.



Report from Mr Adrian Mumford, the Diocesan Secretary

Mr Mumford explained to us the tasks of a diocesan secretary. His province is "order in the church". The issues he deals with include:

- (1) Safeguarding. A very important electronic training programme called the *Chelmsford Report* has been set up for clergy, churchwardens and Sunday School teachers. It will be piloted in the next few weeks.
- (2) Communications. The *European Anglican* is published by the Diocesan Office, and also the website and several apps.
- (3) The database. A new database of the Church of England is

being rolled out centrally.

(4) Discussions on IT strategy for the Diocese

(5) The organization of General Synod and Diocesan Synod

(6) Legal and financial changes connected with the moving of the Bishop's office to Brussels, while the Diocesan Office remains in London. Communication with the church commissioners regarding financial matters.

Update on July General Synod

This was presented by Ann Turner. By far the most important subject this time, of course, was "Women in the Episcopate". It was an exhausting session of four days. Every speaker who wished to do so was allowed to speak on the subject, which meant 150 people speaking. This lasted for 6.5 hours (2 to 3 minutes per person on average). In all three Houses, the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity, the required two-thirds majority was carried.

A Reflection on Prayer

This was given by the Dean, the Very Revd John Paddock of Holy Trinity, Gibraltar. He spoke very movingly on the strength of prayer and the all-importance of listening and the language of silence. His great example is the medieval St Teresa of Avila, who wrote *The Interior Castle* in 1277**.

After the sessions Holy Communion was celebrated by the Dean, followed by drinks and the formal Synod dinner. Then we all participated in a general quiz, hilariously led by the Area Dean of Belgium, the Revd Andrew Wagstaff. The evening ended with Compline.

* *Read more about the report on www.faith2share.net; copy of the report on view in the Hut.*

** *Also read Peter Tyler, Teresa of Avila*



The Pilgrimage of Life A week in the Iona Community in September 2014 Led by Alastair McIntosh



By Sylvia Grevel

As you by now all know, a group of our congregation went to the island of Iona in Scotland this September. Besides enjoying the beautiful weather (some of the braver ones even swam in the Atlantic) and the typical Scottish island landscape, we were spiritually nourished both by our stay in the Abbey and the services with their typical modern liturgy, and a reflection on our personal lives.

In this short briefing I will focus on the reflection led by Alastair McIntosh on The Pilgrimage of Life.

The Pilgrimage of Life

Coming to Iona is a pilgrimage in itself. It involves getting to Amsterdam, flying to Glasgow, a train to Oban, a ferry to Mull, a bus across the island of Mull, and then a final ferry to Iona. That's a two-day journey. But there you are, on a beautiful small island. It is the landscape of bold earth and deep blue water that situates you literally between heaven and earth. Being on an island like this you are cut off from the rest of the world. This makes it easy/ier to be in touch with your inner life, your spiritual life. It was in this scenery that we contemplated and reflected on our personal lives as pilgrims on a journey, a journey leading us deeper into contact with ourselves, others and with the divine.

The pilgrimage of life, according to Alastair, has three stages: calling, initiation and return. These three stages have got their own particular questions. The first phase, the calling, comes with the question: what do you seek? What is it you long for? Have you got the ardent desire for God? The calling draws you out of your metaphorical comfort zone. It is an invitation to step over the edges and plunge into the deep. The second phase, the initiation, is about the time when all of us, at some point, are led into darkness. To the point where our normal ways of coping with life, and the answers

explaining the meaning of the Gospel to lay men and women. Condemning this view made sure as well, in my opinion, that orthodoxy and the fixed meaning of symbols remained unchallenged. By then I had already learned that the Bible was written and (re)edited by multiple persons (undoubtedly inspired), and that the list of books and stories that make up the Bible as we now know it was the result of church and worldly politics. When church politics also came into play when Pope John Paul II was to visit The Netherlands, I quit my studies, very disappointed!

In my (Roman Catholic) church I was told that "*Kerk is God's volk onderweg*". I did not experience that, not in the different churches I frequented (until Weldam) nor while studying theology. The way Alastair talked about the dimensions of faith, about stories in the Bible (and rest assured, the angle of depth-psychology was *not* the only one!) and ways in which to renew our acquaintance or relationship with God, left me with the feeling that Christianity is not on the brink of dying, but can be very much alive. The liturgy, the practical appeal on our (attitude in) daily life and the sharing of stories and experiences with people I met on Iona, then and now, it all made a lasting impression. Life-changing, I'm positively sure. How? Time will tell. For now I rejoice in my homecoming after a long and lonely journey.



From 33 Meditations for The Pilgrimage of Life
Wanderer, your footsteps are the road, and nothing more; wanderer, there is no pathway, the road is made by walking. By walking one makes the road, and upon glancing behind one sees the path that never will be trod again. Wanderer, there is no road - Only wakes upon the sea.

Proverbios y Cantares: Poema 17, Spain, 1912
Antonio Machado (1875-1939)



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

On December 13th the PKN community of the Lebuïnus or Great Church in Deventer will organize a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in close cooperation with our church community and the choir Anthem, a choir that specializes in English church music (see photograph above).

Our chaplain Alja Tollefsen together with ds. Ingrid de Zwart – one of the pastors of the Lebuïnus Church – will take the service. The Festival will start at 20.00 hrs and the door of the church will be open from 19.15.

For more details,
contact Fred Schonewille:
fred@schonewille.se / 06-50230577



(Continued from page 3)
in that bottle for a 1000 years. Now that you've released me, I'm allowed to grant three wishes. I'll give you each one wish, but if you don't mind, I'll keep the last one for myself."
"Wow, that's great!" said the husband. He pondered a moment, then blurted out, "I'd like a \$1 million a year for the rest of my life."
"No problem," said the genie, "You've got it; it's the least I can do. And now you, young lady, what do you want?" the genie asked. "I'd like to own a gorgeous home in every country in the world complete with servants," she said. "Consider it done," said the genie. "And now," the couple asked in unison, "what's your wish, genie?"
"Well, I don't really like to say it,

St James the Least of All On Why the C of E Should Never Combine Parishes



My dear Nephew Darren,

I suppose it had to come, but combining parishes is now firmly on the agenda for our villages. I had always wondered what the first Earl of Stowe was trying to prove, building a church here in 1347 to accommodate 800 people when the total population has never exceeded 250. In the short term – which in this village is measured in centuries – it seems to have been to house the tombs of his 13 successors. I now realize it was to make uniting with adjoining parishes in the 21st century more difficult. Clearly the first Earl had formidable foresight. None of our neighbouring churches seem too keen to share their reserves to help maintain our cathedral-sized building.

The threat of the closure of St Hervé the Bard has inevitably caused outrage – not so much from its regular congregation of three, but from all those in the village who would never think of attending. People do so *like* to have a church not to go to.

St Bregowine, built by a wealthy parishioner in the 19th century because she did not like the high church practices of the parish church of St Iwig, is refusing to re-unite, even though the two churches stand only 100 yards apart in a village with a diameter of 300 yards. If only they could get over the trauma of seeing the incumbent putting water in the wine on Easter Day in 1894. Still it must be conceded that the Bregowinians were equally affronted that, when the daughter church opened in 1895, they found that the Iwigers had provided no brass troughs at the end of the pews for umbrellas. That they have subsequently refused to install them has only compounded the offence.

Meanwhile St Plegmund is in discussions with the Church of South India as a way of avoiding uniting with anyone.

What took a little time to fit into the tight schedule were the chores, part of the daily routine of Iona. The guests were divided into three groups, Otters, Puffins and Seals, who were in charge of laying the table and doing the dishes for respectively breakfast, luncheon and dinner. After breakfast and Morning Service there were also cleaning chores, again in groups. And, yes, both kinds of chores laid a foundation for fellowship. And for a respectful use of the facilities: you're not going to make a mess of things when you know that there is an 82-year-old lecturer clearing up after you. In my experience people are a lot more nonchalant when there are paid hotel staff doing the cleaning-up, pardoning their behaviour by telling themselves that the staff are being paid for it!

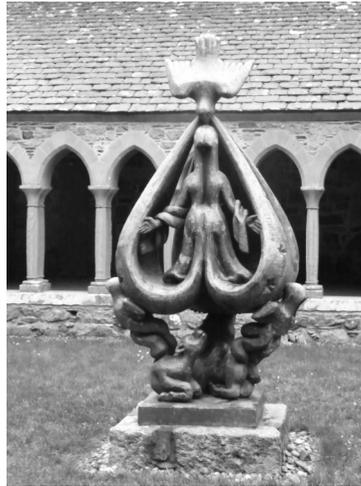
I found the rhythm of having a Morning and Evening Service very beneficial, and I regret there is not a church in the vicinity of my village that offers this. And doing it on your own *is* different! But what touched me most of all was the liturgy. Simplicity at its best, the wording sober and to the point. In a way I find tradition is a good thing, connecting us with prior generations, giving us a sense of belonging. But there's also the danger of being lulled into sleep by reciting the same words and phrases time and time again. I found the liturgy in Iona very refreshing and inspiring, precisely because of the wording: concrete and without ado. I hope that you will experience this too during the Healing Service, the last Sunday of November.

In his article on St Mary's website, Everhard gave a brief introduction to the person(ality of) Alastair McIntosh. (Sylvia will be writing in more detail about the man and his work. Something to look forward to, I'm sure.) Because I hadn't read up on things-to-come I was very pleasantly surprised by the lectures he gave. To put part of my life experiences into the context of a pilgrimage gave me a different outlook on them, and on the future. To once again (after 25 years) hear someone discussing the option of reading stories in the Bible from the angle of depth-psychology (Carl Jung) felt like a homecoming in itself! I had come in contact with this view when I studied (Roman Catholic) theology in my early twenties. I think it will come as no surprise that the powers-that-were did not like this at all. Maybe out of fear that with this – additional – angle the clergy might lose part of its monopoly in

Iona: Coming Home after a Long Journey

By Bernadette Pieterse

There was no hesitation when I heard about the possibility of going on a journey to Iona. The last couple of years of my life had been full of struggle and pain, culminating in the death of both my parents within five weeks of each other, doing two houses up in order to sell them and, because of that, moving three times in a year. In a way I lost my sense of belonging, feeling sad and very tired. So yes, why not go on this retreat, in order to get away from it all, recharge and maybe gain a new perspective?



In the months leading up to the trip, I didn't feel like reading about Columba or the modern-day community of Iona. When I looked up the island on the internet, I saw the landscape would offer me enough opportunities to be out and about, the island's mere location in the Atlantic a guarantee that winds would blow away the cobwebs in my head. Apart from this I had no expectations about the trip, although I had heard there was going to be a series of lectures held by this guy, Alastair McIntosh, on the Pilgrimage of Life. Little did I know what an impact these talks would have on me.

But let's not get ahead of things. To get to Iona was an adventure in itself, using almost every means of transport possible. After an overnight stay in Oban, we travelled on to Iona, the good weather making the crossing via Mull to Iona a lovely, relaxing experience. On arrival at the Abbey, we got time to settle into our rooms: four adult women – with their luggage – in a tiny room with two sets of bunk beds. But everything fitted perfectly, literally and figuratively.

Should it happen, I will be interested to see what travelling expenses the new incumbent claims. It will be difficult to tell when the present incumbent resigns, as he has not been seen at a clerical meeting for the last 30 years. Some of my colleagues suspect he is mythical, that a bloodless coup took place in the 1980s, and that the church is now entirely run by the Mother's Union.

The church of St Maximus of Constantinople in our nearest town has rather grandly offered to take all of our churches under its wing, but as a parishioner has pointed out: how could we possibly consider joining with a parish that fought on the other side at the Battle of Bosworth.

In the meantime, we will serenely carry on, as we seem to have done for the past six centuries. Parish mergers and reductions in numbers of clergy seem to be of less interest than debating the suggestion that we change the brand of coffee served after services.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

© *The Revd Dr Gary Bowness*



Tablet Protection

Here's an unusual way to keep your tablet computer just that bit safer: slip it inside an iPad cover that, when closed, looks like a leather-bound copy of the Bible. Any thief or burglar entering your home or hotel room would be unlikely to grab that first. Lifemac, the company who makes the Bible iPad cover, says that customers who've had homes, cars and hotel rooms broken into have found that their iPad disguised as a Bible has indeed been left alone. There is one danger, however: don't take it into a library. According to a report in *The New York Times*, librarians name the Bible as among the titles most likely to be stolen.

– *Parish Pump, November 2014*

but since I've been trapped in that bottle for 1000 years with no female company, my wish is to take your wife upstairs." The husband looked at his wife and said, "Gee, honey, you know we now have a fortune, and all those houses. What do you think?" She mullied it over for a few moments and said, "You know, you're right. I guess I wouldn't mind, but what about you, honey?" "You know I love you sweetheart," said the husband. "I'd do the same for you!" So the genie and the woman went upstairs where they spent the rest of the afternoon happily together. Finally the genie rolled over and looked directly into her eyes and asked, "How old are you and your husband?" "Why, we're both 35," she responded breathlessly. "No kidding," he said. "Thirty-five years old and you still believe in genies!"

9th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
Remembrance Sunday 	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	Chalice	Count Alfred Solms Pauline Talstra
Sunday School: Patrick Saridjan	Els Ottens	(1) Wisdom 6: 12-16
	Philippa te West	(2) 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 to end
	10:30 hrs Sung Eucharist	Gospel Matthew 25: 1-13

16th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
Second Sunday before Advent	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	John Bestman
	Chalice	Everhard Ottens Pauline Talstra
Sunday School: Jolanda Wessels	Janice Collins	(1) Zephaniah 1: 7, 12 to end
	Linda ten Berge	(2) 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
	10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel Matthew 25: 14-30

23rd November	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
Christ the King	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Janice Collins
	Chalice	Janice Collins Joyce Wigboldus
Sunday School: Caroline Siertsema	Arjen Haffmans	(1) Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24
	Victor Pirene	(2) Ephesians 1: 15 to end
	10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel Matthew 25: 31 to end

30th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
Advent 1 Year B begins	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Jeanet Luiten
	Chalice	Joyce Wigboldus Simone Yallop
Sunday School: Elizabeth van der Heide	Fred Schonewille	(1) Isaiah 64: 1-9
	John Bestman	(2) 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
	10:30 am Celtic Eucharist Healing Service	Gospel Mark 13: 24-37

7th December	Celebrant & Preacher	The Right Revd Dr Robert Innes
Advent 2	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
	Chalice	Janice Collins Caroline Siertsema
Sunday School: Jeanet Luiten	Vivian Reinders	(1) Isaiah 40: 1-11
	Jeanet Luiten	(2) 2 Peter 3: 8-15a
	Confirmation Service	Gospel Mark 1: 1-8
10:30 am Sung Eucharist		

14th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
Advent 3	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Chalice	
	Sunday School: Jolanda Bestman	Readers to be arranged
10:30 am Carol Service		