

Services held every  
Sunday morning  
10:30 am

Volume 12 Issue 8    October 2016

*Next issue: First Sunday November- 2016*

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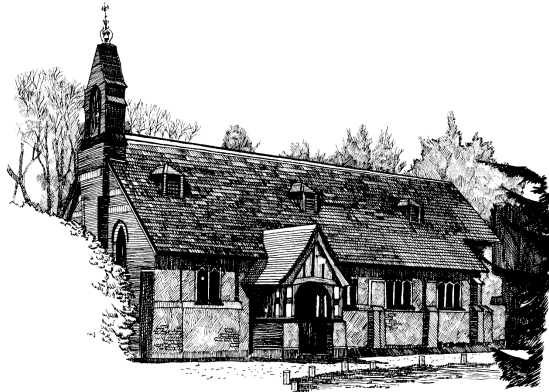
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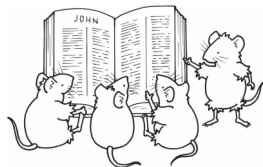
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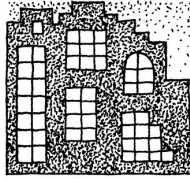
### The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND







## *The Chaplain Writes*

October  
2016

‘De Anglikaanse Kerk’

Late September we celebrate in St Mary’s our Dedication Festival. I say ‘late September,’ because it is usually a Sunday near 20 September, the official date of the Dedication.

But what is Dedication!

On 20 September 1987, St Mary’s was dedicated by the suffragan bishop, the Right Reverend Edward Holland. He blessed the building and pointed out why this chapel or church is a special place. When we think of it, we can imagine a building that will hold a congregation together and be the focal point of the life of the Chaplaincy. It is usually a very solemn celebration. Marking out such an occasion is important.

For St Mary’s this was nearly 30 years ago and from that time on, there has been an Anglican presence in the East of the Netherlands. It is not only Anglicans who have found their way to the chapel, but others have also found a home here.

Just recently, a book was published ‘De Anglikaanse Kerk’ giving an introduction to, and explanation about, Anglicism for Dutch speaking people. It will serve members of our congregations in the Netherlands and in the Flemish part of Belgium. The book is informative and revealing, not only to members new to Anglicanism but also for those who have been Anglicans all their life.

But above all, we need to remember that we are Christians foremost of all and luckily, the ecumenical movement over the years has helped to bring down the barriers between the different denominations. Having said that, it still is an interesting read to see where our roots are.

We are church together and in November, we will have an interactive sermon about the way we are the church, in general, but also about our life here in St Mary’s.

These are the questions:

- how does your perfect church look like?
- what are you missing?
- and what could be changed, added or removed?

Do not only think of the church as a building, but more of a worshipping community gathering in worship.

Alja Tollefsen

Chaplain of St Mary’s Twente

*De Anglikaanse Kerk by Jack McDonald and Jo Jan Vandenheede.*

*A book order list is up in the Hut so that we can order in bulk and get a discount.*



# Twente News

## If you understand it...

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

## Lost in translation

Sign on a door in Istanbul: American dentist – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Teeth extracted by a new Methodist.

## No

A curt reply to a bishop who had suggested that a certain incumbent consider moving read: Dear bishop, I REMAIN, yours faithfully....

## Not any more

Two young tourists went into a Quaker Guest house in the Lake District. As they were strangers, the warden approached them and asked; 'Are you Friends?'

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Discernment process

Readers may know that there are two people in the congregation, Fred Schonewille, and John Bestman, who are considering ordination as priests. Both have attended an enquirers conference organised by the Diocese. The church council has agreed to them proceeding with the so-called 'discernment process,' which is a minimum period of 18 months during

which the Diocese tests their calling. As part of the 'discernment process,' they have to preach a sermon before continuing with the selection process. For this reason, Fred will preach a sermon at the Harvest Festival on 2 October and later on, John will preach. At the end of the process, if they are accepted, they will go on to train for ordination. The ordination course is different from the course Simone is doing to become a licensed Lay Reader.

## A Sad Farewell

On the 17 September, St Mary's Congregation heard the sad news that Irma Koning Smit had passed away after a short illness. For many years Irma and her husband Christiaan, attended the chapel, and where possible, the social events. Our deepest sympathies and support to Christiaan, as he continue his life's journey without Irma by his side, and to their two children and four grandchildren.



## Forthcoming Events

29 October - Choral Evensong (St Mary's)

6 November - All Saints/All Souls Day

A list will go up in the hut for people to write the names of those they want read out

13 November - Remembrance Sunday

23 November - PCC Meeting

26 November - Choral Evensong (Abdijkerk Sion, Deventer)

11 December - Carol Service and Christmas Market

## Food Bank

A reminder that there is a large plastic container in the hut for Food Bank contributions. Your donations of non-perishable food will go to those less fortunate in our community. A list of suggested products is placed by the box.

*(Continued from page 4)*

### **Magazine Contributions**

St Mary's Magazine has a valuable role in helping to keep the congregation informed and in touch with each other. In these constrained financial times, financing the magazine is proving to be difficult. An annual contribution of just €15 per annum will help to ensure that you will continue to receive your copy.

### **Evensong, 24 September**

An Evensong Service was held on the 24 September in St Mary's Chapel. Amongst the nineteen people who attended the beautiful service were twelve visitors. The two Evensong services held so far this year have been well attended and have helped publicise the presence of St Mary's Chapel and as such, are an important part of the chaplaincies outreach.

The next service, planned as a Choral Evensong, will be also be held in St Mary's at 17:00 on the 29 October.

On the 26 November, there will be a fourth Choral Evensong held in the Abdijkerk Sion, Deventer, which for over a hundred years has been a Cistercian Monastery. As the number of monks declined the complex became too big and the monks have moved. The new owners, stichting Nieuw Sion, working with Catholic, Protestant and Reformed Churches in the Deventer region, plan to run the Abby as a spiritual place of rest and reflection.



### **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

*(Continued from page 4)*

The answer came back politely, 'Oh no, not now, we are married.'

### **All Angels?**

The slightly harassed minister stood on the railway station platform with a number of lively Sunday School children, while the two Sunday School teachers went off to buy tickets. A porter came up to him and asked: 'Excuse me, are you St Michael and all the Angels?'

### **Where two or three are gathered...**

A lady was describing the small attendance at her local church. 'We were so few last Sunday that when the vicar began 'Dearly beloved,' I blushed.'

### **Who is God?**

During a youth service, the minister asked if anyone could tell her who God is. One youngster waved a hand, and ventured: "Isn't God the man who saves the Queen?"

### **Ten**

Asked to name one of the Ten Commandments, one little girl replied: 'Do not admit adultery.'

### **Cheap at the price**

A little boy was pestering his parents for a baby brother or sister. They kept telling him 'maybe one day, but we can't afford one yet.' Then one Sunday the little boy dragged his parents over to the notice board at the back of church. It was advertising a coming sale at the church, and announced:  
'Children: free'

### **Sales**

It is getting harder and harder to find a courteous person who isn't trying to sell you something

### **Wear out**

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week."

"Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour."

*(Continued on page 7)*

## **Letter from St James the Least of All –.**

*Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...*



### **On how long a sermon should last**

The Rectory  
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am afraid we will never agree about the appropriate length of sermons. Your 50 minute exposition on the theology of St. Paul concerning women wearing hats in church is, I am sure, of real interest to you. But as your sermon slowly unfolds, I suspect it will prompt quite a different concern among your congregation. Have they set the oven timer to come on too early?

Whenever I even hint that a matter of theological importance may be about to appear in one of my sermons, an expression of benign incomprehension comes over my congregation. You know the look – you see it on golden Labradors whenever they try and work out what their owners are telling them.

There are certain sure signs that should warn you when you have preached for long enough. One is when members of the congregation reach for their prayer books to try to work for the umpteenth time how the date for Easter is calculated. The organist turning on the blower when you say "and finally" is another.

Most members of the congregation will count the number of dead flies on the windowsills during your sermon. But when you can see members of the congregation counting the numbers in the congregation counting the numbers of dead flies, that is absolute

*(Continued on page 7)*

proof that it is time to stop.

There has only been one occasion when I preached for longer than my standard eight minutes. Our former organist was in the habit of taking his dog for a walk during the sermon. I knew I had to carry on preaching until I heard the latch on the vestry door for the second time. That meant he was back, and ready to play the last hymn. Unfortunately one Sunday, his dog ran away.

While he searched for it over every field in the parish, I spent the intervening two hours reading the greater part of Leviticus, discussing the food laws set forth in Deuteronomy, and arguing for a Deutero-Isaiah. I was headed for the Babylonian exile when we all heard the vestry door re-open.

After the Service, the congregation left looking as though they had just been rescued from a major shipwreck. And at the next church council meeting, we unanimously voted to buy our organist a stronger lead.

Your loving  
uncle,  
Eustace

### The Future?



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny

*(Continued from page 6)*

### Choice

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president, and 50 for Miss America?

### Oddest

The parish magazine was reporting on a recent parish away-day at the seaside. It said: 'The results of our competition for the oddest item found on the beach were: First prize: Mrs Wainwright; second prize: The Vicar; and third prize, Mr Simpson.'

### Made in...?

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth... After that, everything else was Made in China.

### Back to school

A little girl came home from school and said to her mother, "Mommy, today in school I was punished for something that I didn't do." The mother exclaimed, "But that's terrible! I'm going to have a talk with your teacher about this ... by the way, what was it that you didn't do?" The little girl replied, "My homework."

## Observations on the Christian pilgrimage

The fruit of the Spirit is not push, drive, climb, grasp or trample....

Life is more than a climb to the top of the heap.

*Richard J Foster*

Under Christ, as the Head, angels are the guardians of the Church.

*John Calvin*

In every culture, and apparently throughout history, it has been normal for man to assume that he has some continuance beyond the grave.

*Arthur Custance*

He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it.

*Martin Luther King*

Genuine art was never created for its own sake, it was always a means of worship, an affirmation of belief, an aspiration pointing beyond itself.

The beauty of art is reflected beauty.

*Thomas Molnar*

*(Continued on page 9)*

## About the tithe

Every year during the Annual General Meeting, an overview of the income and outgoing finances of the church is presented. And nearly always, the most discussed item is the balance. Not long ago, I found the following article from the Rev. Dr. Paul Nancarrow (Staunton, Virginia, USA) in one of the magazines I still receive from abroad. Finding it a good, satisfying article, I, therefore, wanted to share my thoughts on it with you.

An important question concerning the practice of stewardship is "How much should I give?" The answer to this issue is always a matter of personal decision under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, but the Bible and church tradition do provide a basic standard. The tithe. The tithe is the "first fruits," usually calculated as one-tenth of one's income, taken "off the top" as a return to God from the bounty God has given to us.

But the ten percent should not be understood in a narrowly legalistic way. There is nothing magical about the number ten, and God's love and care are certainly not dependent on our "paying our dues." Tithing is not just sticking to the letter of the law, but it is really a matter of sharing the spirit of the law. Jesus himself made it clear in his teachings when he rebuked the Pharisees for their legalistic understanding of the tithe.

"Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone. (Luke 11:42). It is not enough merely to give the ten percent of material goods; what Jesus calls for is a thoroughgoing commitment to justice and the love of God, as these are worked out in concrete ways in personal and community life. The tithe is one part of a whole life of discipleship, and the ten percent that is given is to be understood as a vehicle or an instrument for carrying out the ministries of justice and love. The tithe is a proportion of our *whole life* given to God's service through the church.

And it is the idea of *share* that is perhaps the most important aspect of the tithe. When tithing is understood as a spiritual discipline, and not simply as "giving by the numbers," then the tithe becomes a concrete way of reminding ourselves of God's part in all that we do. One person may give less than ten percent, another may give more; the point is that, for each, there is a



*(Continued from page 8)*

proportion of the whole that is given. Jesus was moved by the widow's gift of two copper coins – even though there were rich people in the Temple whose offerings must have been far larger, the widow's pennies were proportionally a greater part of her wealth, and thus the most generous gift (Luke 21:1-4). From a spiritual point of view, the actual amount of our giving is a secondary concern; it is the portion that is the primary sign of devotion and discipleship.

As you prayerfully, consider your commitment to giving, I urge you to think of it as a matter of proportion. If you've already made your pledge, sit down with your chequebook (or with your financial planning software!) and calculate what portion of your income that pledge represents; ask yourself if you might be able to increase that proportion. If you've yet to make your pledge, think what percentage of your income you would like it to be. Let your tithe become an outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual grace of discipleship, not just "by the numbers," but also truly from your heart. And as you pay your pledge each week or each month, let that portion of giving be a tangible reminder for you of the part God shares in all your deeds and days. In that way, our combined giving can be a genuine instrument of devotion, a way of service, a ministry of justice and the love of God.

©Erica Schotman Bonting

### **Learn to 'wait well' for things**

*'My future is in Your hands...'*

In her helpful book, *When, God, When?* Joyce Meyer writes: "God has taught me to keep living the life I now have, while I am waiting for the things that are in my heart to come to pass. We can become so intent on trying to birth the next things that we neither enjoy nor take care of the things at hand. I had a vision from God ten years before I began to see it fulfilled. During those years, I believe I missed a lot of joy trying to give it birth outside of God's timing."

Learn to enjoy where you are, while you're waiting to get to where you want to be. After all, all your life you will spend more time waiting than you will receiving. And when you receive what you're waiting for now – you'll begin waiting for something else. That's life! If we don't learn to 'wait well', we'll live with endless frustration.



Your Rock is Christ,  
and it is not the Rock  
which ebbs and flows,  
but your sea.

*Samuel Rutherford*

No one is so much  
alone in the universe  
as a denier of God.

*Johann Richter*

Beauty is God's  
handwriting.

*Ralph Waldo*

*Emerson*

There is a living God.  
He has spoken in the  
Bible.

He means what He  
says and will do all  
He has promised.

*J Hudson Taylor*

You can't build a  
church with stumbling  
blocks.

*Fred Beck*

Be united with other  
Christians.

A wall with loose  
bricks is not good.

The bricks must be  
cemented together.

*Corrie ten Boom*

The church is a  
workshop, not a  
dormitory.

*Alexander MacLaren*

### **Honesty**

Teacher: "Which  
book has helped you  
the most in your life?"

Student: "My father's  
cheque book!"

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	<b>Celebrant</b>	<b>Revd Alja Tollefsen</b>
	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Fred Schonewille</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>John Bestman</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Count Alfred Solms</b>
	<b>Harvest Festival</b>	Jan de Beij
<b>10:30 am</b> <b>Sung Eucharist</b>	Linda ten Berge	Philippians. 4. 4-9
	Gospel	John 6. 25-35

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>9<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Revd Alja Tollefsen</b>	
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>	
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Fred Schonewille</b>	
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>	
	<b>Trinity 20</b>	Erica Bonting	2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15c
	<b>10:30 am</b> <b>Sung Eucharist</b>	Blair Charles	2 Timothy 2. 8-15
Gospel		Luke 17. 11-19	

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>16<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Revd Alja Tollefsen</b>	
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>	
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Simone Yallop</b>	
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Everhard Ottens</b>	
	<b>Trinity 21</b>	Arjen Haffmans	Genesis 32. 22-31
	<b>10:30 am</b> <b>Sung Eucharist</b>	Heleen Rauwerda	2 Timothy 3.14 -4.5
Gospel		Luke 18. 1-8	

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>Officiant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Simone Yallop</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>
<b>Last Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Joyce Wigboldus</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>10:30 am Morning Prayer</b>	Victor Pirenne	Ecclesiastes 35. 12-1
	Brenda Pyle	2 Timothy 4.6-8, 16-18
	Gospel	Luke 18. 9-14

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp;</b>	<b>Revd Alja Tollefsen</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>John Bestman</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Joyce Wigboldus</b>
<b>10:30 am Sung Eucharist</b>	Fred Schonewille	Isaiah 1.10-18
	Vivian Reinders	2 Thessalonians ch. 1
	Gospel	Luke 19. 1-10

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>6<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Revd Alja Tollefsen</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>
<b>All Saints/ All Souls' Day</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Fred Schonewille</b>
<b>10:30 am Sung Eucharist</b>	John Bestman	Wisdom 3.1-9
	Linda ten Berge	1 Peter 1 3-9
	Gospel	John 5. 19-25

### **A suggestion for Everhard and Els**

*Nigel Beeton , a regular contributor to the Parish Pump, and his wife have just bought a tandem. He writes: "There is nothing to beat tandem cycling, it's like normal cycling, except with company! Solo cycling is, well, solo; it's all very well if you like being alone. But if you're with someone else, they end up ahead of you or behind you; the only way to communicate is to bellow at them, and it's no good saying later 'Did you see that Hobby sitting on a telegraph pole just outside such and such a village?'"*

### **A Cycle for Two**

A cycle is a thing to bless  
From which to see the view  
But if you like togetherness  
You need one made for two!  
Two bikes? Well, yes,  
that sure beats one  
You each can make your way  
But if you want to have real fun  
A tandem, any day!

*(Continued on page 13)*

## **Cycling along the River Elbe**



In early September, we returned home from Cuxhaven after having completed the cycle trail from where the River Vltava joins the River Elbe at Mělník in the Czech Republic, just short of a thousand kilometres away.

Two years ago, we covered the first part to Magdeburg, which took us along past charming Bohemian towns like Roudnice. As well as the notorious fortress town of Terezín (Theresienstadt), which the Nazis turned into a concentration camp for Jewish scholars and artists.

Crossing the border into Saxony, we were treated to the City of Dresden recently restored to its former splendour, the porcelain town of Meissen and Wittenberg where Martin Luther nailed his ninety-five theses to the door of the Schlosskirche. Next, on the river, we passed Dessau, one of the seats of the Bauhaus design movement and finally Magdeburg, the capital of Saxony-Anhalt.

This time around, we cycled the northern part of the Elbe trail, slightly less spectacular but with some quite beautiful small towns. Places like Tangermünde and Hitzacker and the unspoiled river meadows and stillness of the landscape, sometimes interrupted by the din of multitudes of waterfowl. This was especially the case where the river used to be part of the iron curtain, which was out of bounds for everyone except the East German border guards. The many remaining watchtowers and the odd monument are still evidence of this era.

When covering this idyllic part of the river we had to put up with a heat wave with temperatures of up to 36°C. But with plenty of water bottles, a slight breeze and the river nearby, it was certainly not the worst place to be.

Just as we reached the town of Lauenburg, menacing clouds came our way. We scrambled up the steep streets leading to our hotel, getting there just in time. We missed the brunt of a mighty thunderstorm, which, as we found out the next day, had developed into a mini tornado with uprooted trees and all near Hamburg.

*(Continued on page 13)*

(Continued from page 12)



We took a rest from cycling there, and although the city was hot, we found some relief by the city lake and during a boat tour of the harbour. Wasn't it just our luck to see the Queen Mary 2 there, in her majestic glory!

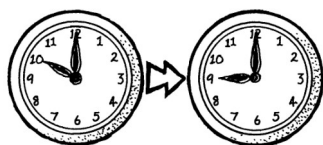
North of Hamburg the river widens and once the port facilities were left behind, the peace and quiet returned. Finishing at Cuxhaven, we felt some elation at having completed the trail along the most German of German rivers.

Long distance cycling with moderate daily distances is mainly very pleasant and relaxing. Weather conditions sometimes spoil the fun but that's life, and you must be prepared for the unexpected and deal with it.

On the way to the Elbe by train, it was hot – the air con had packed up. A relief train was organized for us at Hannover and all passengers had to change trains. And guess what, the relief train had no air con either. It was even more stifling!

Then there was this drawbridge late in the afternoon with both parts upright: closed for maintenance on Fridays meaning a detour of 20 kilometres with a headwind. Will we do it again next year? Absolutely! We're contemplating the German part of the Danube next.

©Everhard & Els Ottens



### Do not forget.

The clocks go back on the 30<sup>th</sup> October

Remember the clocks 'fall' back in the Fall  
And 'spring' forward in the Spring



You bowl along those  
country lanes  
A-chatting as you go  
The blood runs merry  
in your veins  
You have a healthy  
glow.

You puff together up  
the hills  
Together - reach the  
top

And, zooming down,  
your hair in frills  
You never want to  
stop.

So if you have a  
special friend  
And cycling's what  
you like  
Put separate cycling at  
an end  
And get a tandem bike!

By Nigel Beeton

### Tandem Riders

A tandem rider is  
stopped by a police car.  
"What've I done,  
officer?" asks the rider.  
"Perhaps you didn't  
notice sir, but your  
wife fell off your bike  
half a mile back . . ."  
"Oh, thank God for  
that," says the rider - "I  
thought I'd gone deaf!"

### Mark Twain's Wisdom on Cycling

"Learn to ride a  
bicycle. You will not  
regret it - if you live."



### **Clean Your Plate**

The closest I've been to a diet this year is erasing food searches from my browser history.

### **Repeat That, Mate?**

If you understand English, press 1. If you do not understand English, press 2.  
*Recording on an Australian tax help line*

### **Falling Into Water**

The Presbyterians were convening in Scotland. After a couple of days of sitting on hard pews, a group decided to stretch their legs in the countryside. Soon they approached a rickety old bridge over a river. They were so busy talking they missed the Keep Off the Bridge sign. A villager saw them step onto the dangerous span and yelled for them to stop. "That's all right," one of the ministers responded. "We're here from the Presbyterian convention."  
"I dinna care aboot that," came the reply. "But if ye go much farther, ye'll all be Baptists!"

## **Fish and Chips**

This summer we, that is Ruth and I, had a terrific seven weeks holiday in our cottage in Northumberland. The weather was fair for North East England, with average temperatures of around 20°C, good enough to allow us to start our day with breakfast on the terrace. Our cottage called 'Waterside Cottage,' located by the Coquet River, is a beautiful site, with no houses or farms around us. With no through roads, there was no traffic and other than seeing between five and ten walkers a day, we had the place completely to ourselves.

We stayed there in May for the last six weeks of spring, enjoying seeing everything in bloom, which was beautiful. The site is well sheltered by hills and rough woodland. Around the house, we have a large garden, which on the South side, is mainly laid to a large lawn measuring about 400 m<sup>2</sup>. In the spring there were some hares seen playing and enjoying themselves close to the cottage. We also saw a few deer as well.

In the river flowing by the front of the cottage, Salmon swim by and from time to time we hear jump as if they are hunting. Sometimes we even see them as well, but we get our salmon from the local supermarket. Living a few miles from the sea and next to a river makes eating fish very inviting. Thus once a twice we have fish, as a bar meal, a takeaway from the local snack bar or from the supermarket.

Despite the impression we live in an isolated place, we are close to the main towns in the area and just three miles from the A1. That is the main road running between Newcastle and Edinburgh, about 150 km away. Using the A1, we can go to Alnwick, 12 km north, or to Morpeth, 20 km south, where we do our regular shopping.

We have many friends in the region covered by Alnwick and Morpeth, with many smaller towns and villages in between, a result of me having lived there for than twenty years as a commuter between the Netherlands and Northumberland. We keep up our friendships through worshipping together, participating in some of the home groups and in all of the prayer groups, as well as supporting some of the projects in which our friends are involved.

Over the years, I have given support in prayer where it was required and asked for. I continue to do so because it is the ministry God gave me to do here in the North East. It is a ministry of

intercession not connected with one church, but to the 'church of the people,' the body of Christ. This ministry is my life, based on friendship and relationship, as I am not a member of any church. I am sure that is why I am still alive and capable of doing this particular task to be an intercessor in spite of my weaknesses.

My friends tell me they are greatly encouraged by my witness of the faith. I, in turn, am greatly supported by their faith and prayers that kept me from the grave. And so we continue glory to God who is doing miracles in our midst and provides according to his promises. One of His provisions has been that we were given this cottage. God is amazing. Maybe this provision is food for another story sometime. To God be the glory at all times.

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### **Be like a pumpkin**

A lady had recently become a Christian and been baptised. Curious, one of her colleagues at work asked her what it was like to be a Christian.



The lady was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer. Then she saw the office 'jack-o'-lantern' on a nearby desk and blurted: "Well, it's like being a pumpkin."

Her colleague asked her to explain that one. And so she said: "Well, God picks you from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins.

"Then He cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside you. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.

"Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all to see.

"It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine or come inside and be something new and bright."

Are you something new and bright? Will you be smiling today, and shining with His light?

©Parish Pump

### **Empty Nesting**

At an ecumenical round-table discussion, various religious leaders tried to answer the question "When does life start?"

"At conception," said the Catholic priest.

"No, no," said the Presbyterian minister.

"It begins at birth."

"It's in between," said the Baptist. "Life begins at 12 weeks when the foetus develops a functional heartbeat."

"I disagree with all of you," said the rabbi.

"Life begins when your last child leaves home and takes the dog with him."

### **Chess**

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking them, "Does anyone know what the bishop does?"

There was silence. But finally, one little boy answered gravely, "He's the one you can move diagonally."

### Bad Timing

My boyfriend was working in the souvenir shop at Canterbury Cathedral in Kent, England. One afternoon he was talking with an attendant who worked in the cathedral when they were approached by two tourists. "Are you a monk?" one of the women asked.

"No," the attendant explained, "I wear this robe as part of my job, but I'm not a member of any religious order."

"Then where are the monks?" asked the woman.

The man replied, "Oh, there haven't been any monks here since 1415."

Hearing this, the woman looked at her watch and announced to her friend, "Betty, we missed the monks."

### The Castle Fair 2016

After an anxious week of changeable weather, the Castle Fair opened to a glorious day, which happily, stayed at a midsummer level for the whole day. The Castle Fair committee, aided by a legion of loyal volunteers, mainly friends and family, had everything in place, with the result that the whole setup looked most inviting.

The fair was slightly larger this year with five more stalls extending into the side garden along with the fencing and archery exhibition. This year, the fencers, dressed in period costume, fought mock contests around the fair, much to the delight of many of the youngsters. A good selection of musical entertainment was provided throughout the day by various bands and musical groups, ranging from a pipe and drum band to a jazz combo.

The visitors kept coming in a steady stream throughout the day. One of their first destinations was the tearoom and by the end of the day, all the cakes and sandwiches were sold. By the time the fair ended, 940 visitors had paid to come in.

In the chapel throughout the day, a steady trickle of visitors came to look at the beautiful building. Many visitors also came for a well-attended Evensong service, held by the chaplain at the close of the fair. Back at the Castle, the by now weary workforce, enjoyed a singsong with Songs of Praise led by John Bestman, before starting to dismantle and tidy up.

A great deal of hard work but the result was a highly successful Castle Fair. Based on the Castle Fair raising €7,100 net for Chapel funds, it was financially successful. Judged by the way so many people worked hard together all day and enjoyed themselves in the process it was socially a winner. If you were unfortunate enough to miss the Castle Fair this year, well, come next year on the 2 September.

**The Castle Fair Committee** - John Bestman, Hans Siertsema, Joyce Wigboldus, Jeanet Luiten, , Peter Ribbens (Elisa Hannan is missing) Lub Gringhuis, not a committee member but is an ever willing volunteer







### St FRANCIS

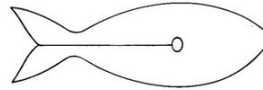
4<sup>th</sup> October is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. When Francis came to God people thought he had gone mad and even his own father disowned him. But Francis' simple way of life soon attracted others. He and his companions went out to preach two by two. Unlike the preachers and priests that people were used to, they wore sackcloth and went barefoot. They were different in other ways too; they lived a very simple life and celebrated God's creation.

And to Francis all of God's creation was equally important. In one famous story a wolf had been eating people. The town wanted to kill the wolf but Francis talked the wolf into never killing again. And the townspeople made sure that the wolf always had plenty to eat.

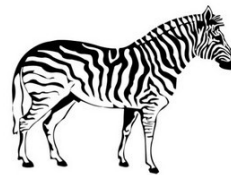
Even blindness did not discourage Francis' spirit when he wrote his beautiful 'Canticle of the Sun' praising God through the miracle of His creation. Francis died aged only 45, worn out with years of poverty and wandering.

### SWIM, FISH, SWIM

How do you make a paper fish swim? Cut a fish shape from a sheet of ordinary writing paper. Make it 10-12cm long, and decorate it making sure that the colours won't run when the fish gets wet. In the centre of the fish's body cut a small circle and then a very narrow slit from the tail to the circle.



Now, keeping its surface dry, gently lay the fish on the surface of a bath or large bowl of water and carefully place a few drops of cooking oil into the central hole. The oil will expand through the slit and drive the fish through the water.



**What's black and white and goes round and round?**

A zebra stuck in a revolving door.

**Why did the homeless turtle cross the road?**

To get to the Shell station.

## Diary of a Church Mouse by John Betjeman

Here among long-discarded cassocks,  
Damp stools, and half-split open  
hassocks,  
Here where the vicar never looks  
I nibble through old service books.

Lean and alone I spend my days  
Behind this Church of England baize.

I share my dark forgotten room  
With two oil-lamps and half a broom.

The cleaner never bothers me,  
So here I eat my frugal tea.

My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;  
My jam is polish for the floor.

Christmas and Easter may be feasts  
For congregations and for priests,  
And so may Whitsun.  
All the same,  
They do not fill my meagre frame.

For me the only feast at all  
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,  
When I can satisfy my want  
With ears of corn around the font.

I climb the eagle's brazen head  
To burrow through a loaf of bread.  
I scramble up the pulpit stair



And gnaw the  
marrows  
hanging there.

It is enjoyable  
to taste  
These items ere  
they go to

waste,  
But how annoying when one finds  
That other mice with pagan minds  
Come into church my food to share  
Who have no proper business there.

Two field mice who have no desire  
To be baptized, invade the choir.

A large and most unfriendly rat

Comes in to see what we are at.

He says he thinks there is no God  
And yet he comes .  
it's rather odd.

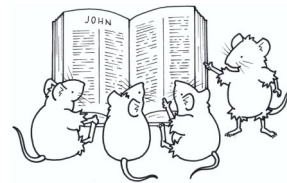


This year he stole a sheaf of wheat  
(It screened our special preacher's  
seat),  
And prosperous mice from fields away  
Come in to hear our organ play,  
And under cover of its notes  
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.

A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I  
Am too papistical, and High,  
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong  
To munch through Harvest Evensong,  
While I, who starve the whole year  
through,  
Must share my food with rodents who  
Except at this time of the year  
Not once inside the church appear.

Within the human world I know  
Such goings-on could not be so,  
For human beings only do  
What their religion tells them to.

They read the Bible every day  
And always,  
night and  
morning, pray,  
And just like  
me, the good  
church mouse,  
Worship each  
week in God's



own house,  
But all the same it's strange to me  
How very full the church can be  
With people I don't see at all  
Except at Harvest Festival.



## Mission Statement

Founded in 1979, the Anglican Church Twente belongs to the Church of England's Diocese in Europe. The Church of England forms a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion of more than 80 million people

The Anglican Church Twente, based at St Mary's Chapel, Weldam provides a Christian ministry in the East Netherlands. Most of the congregation live in the towns and villages of the East Netherlands and across the border in Germany. Some come from further afield.

The Anglican Church Twente holds a service every Sunday at 10:30 am in English. The church offers Holy Communion to all baptized Christians, Sunday School to nurture and educate children in the Christian faith, and a warm welcome to people of all nationalities.

The main aims of the Anglican Church Twente are to:

- † Offer Christian worship by the rites of the Church of England in the English language.
- † Provide pastoral care to all who are in need of such help.
- † Promote a lively fellowship among those who attend the services.
- † Support outreach in Christian ministry wherever there is a need.

## Stewardship

We are a self-supporting church and raise all income from our giving and stewardship. As God has blessed us, we thank Him by giving accordingly.

## A Prayer for St Mary's

*Almighty and everlasting God  
Creator and ruler of all things in heaven and earth,  
Hear our prayer for the St Mary's family.  
Strengthen our faith,  
Fashion our lives according to the example of your Son,  
And grant that we may show the power of your love,  
To all among whom we live.  
Inspire us in our worship and witness,  
Grant us all things necessary for our common life,  
And bring us all to be of one heart and mind  
Within your Holy Church  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit  
One God, now and forever,  
Amen.*



*Views expressed in this magazine are those of authors and contributors and are not necessarily shared by the editor or church leadership.*