

Services held every
Sunday morning
10:30 am

Volume 19 Issue 6 July/August 2023

Next issue: First Sunday September 2023

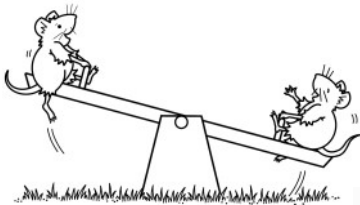
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The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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Jan de Beij

Karel Slootstra

Ferdinand van Dijk





July & August 2023



Our unity is in our diversity.

Dear Saints,

We are People of the Way, living in love and faith.

This is definitely not a walk in the park. During our 2022 Lenten journey, we joined the Church in learning, listening, discerning and deciding what our experience is regarding identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage in our community and what God is saying to us by following a five-week Living in Love and Faith course. At the end of our course, we responded to the Church in the form of a letter from St Mary's Twente. Our response was first shared with the chaplaincy as a whole, as our response was in the spirit of the radically inclusive nature of our community.

The Church of England, of which our chaplaincy is part, embarked on the Living in Love and Faith process of more than six years to enable all members of the Church of England to

Learn together about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage, each other, about God and about our calling as a Church.

Listen to what is emerging from our learning together in church communities and as a national Church.

Discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church today.

Decide how discernment is translated into a way forward for the Church.

Our response was that we need to accept Christ's call to choose life. We asked the Church as a whole to choose life with us, as we accept that the diversity of Christ's body, as seen in our sexual expressions, our race, our gender, and our choice of life partner, should not exclude us from participating in the whole of the life and ministry of the Church. We recommended that the Church change its laws and doctrines to facilitate God's radical inclusiveness for all its members because the Word of the Lord endures forever, not our human laws and doctrines.

A map with clear time frames was developed to embark on and stay on this journey.

After learning and listening from and to each other, the following was done by the College of Bishops:

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We are pleased to announce the Castle Fair will take place on September 9. There are several new stalls this year, with a total of 38 stalls. Our thanks to our lovely bakers. They have already committed to filling the freezer with marvellous cakes and scones.

Church bulletin notices that didn't turn out quite right....

~ Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday from 7 to 8:30 pm. Please use the back door.

~ Ushers will eat latecomers.

~ The third verse of 'Blessed Assurance' will be sung without musical accomplishment.

~ Next Sunday, Mrs Vinson will be the soloist for the morning service.

The minister will then speak on 'Terrible Experiences'.

~ Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.

~ Stewardship Offertory: 'Jesus Paid It All.'

~ The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's

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We have already done much of the work behind the scenes to achieve this. Now we rely on all able-bodied members of our congregation to make it all happen. We still need a lot of help, in the Tea room, at the entrance, and in the kitchen to allow a smooth running of our hospitality.

Many other small tasks must be done on the Friday before the Fair. That is when we will all come together to work. It will be an exhausting but rewarding, happy and fellowship-building event. So please put your name on the list in the hut, or call or app Jeanet.

We are looking forward to yet another sunny Fair.

Notices from the last Sunday of June

World Youth Day

The World Youth Day event will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, in the first week of August. It is intended for anyone of age between 18 and 30. A flyer is attached to this email and there is an article on the diocesan website:<https://www.europe.anglican.org/news/latest-news/rooted-unity-youth-event-lisbon-1-6-august-2023>

Please pass this on you anyone you know in this age range who might be interested in attending. The website for registration is as follows:<https://registration-wyd2023.chemin-neuf.org/home-rooted-in-unity/>

Summer Teas

The Summer Teas will take place again this year starting on 9th July. On six Sunday afternoons in July/August we have a Tea Room at the Hut and the chapel is open for visitors. The afternoon ends with a service of Evening Prayer.

Reading and voice projection practice

There will be a session for readers and intercessors to practice reading and voice projection in the chapel. This will be on Sunday 16 July after the service.

Prayer for Ukraine and Russia

Please do continue to pray for peace and particularly for the people of Ukraine and Russia.

Prayer for Turkey and Syria

Please do continue to pray for the people of Turkey and Syria.

Prayer for the charities that we support.

Please continue to pray for the charities we support: "Our Daily Bread" working in Ukraine, "Young Achievers" working with young people in Namibia, and the food bank in Goor.

Foodbank

At St. Mary's we continue to make a weekly collection for the foodbank. There is a box in the chapel where you can put non-perishable food items for the foodbank. Please do continue to support this action.

Contributed by Simone Yallop



Magazine Payments

St. Mary's Magazine plays a valuable role in helping to keep the congregation informed on what is going on in their church and the chapel community. If you wish to receive a printed copy of the magazine, issued ten times a year, an annual donation of €15 will help to cover printing costs. If you cannot pick up your copy in the chapel and want to have it posted to you, we need to ask for an additional donation of €20 to cover postage.

Last year only two thirds of the magazine costs came from donations, the balance came from chapel funds. It would help the survival of the magazine if all costs were covered by voluntary donations. Thank you.

Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercessions, or who is in need of a pastoral visit, please contact one of the Churchwardens or the Chaplain, before the Service.

Alternatively, if you want to have someone included in the intercessions you could contact the Intercessor via the Prayer Request Tool on the Chapel Website. The Chaplain, the Wardens and the Intercessor will simultaneously receive your message via this tool. The link below will take you directly to the Prayer Request.

<http://anglicanchurchtwente.com/home/service%20%26%20readings/prayers%20requests.html>

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daughter, who laboured the whole evening at playing the piano, which as usual, fell upon her.

~ In the church bulletin during the minister's illness: 'GOD IS GOOD! Dr Hargreaves is better.'

~ Don't miss this Saturday's Christian Martian Arts group exhibit.

~ At our recent church council, the agenda was adopted, the minutes were approved, and our secretary gave a final grief report.

The third hut

A man was stranded on a deserted island in the ocean for several years.

Finally, one day a boat came sailing by, and the crew stopped to rescue the man.

One of the sailors asked, "What are those three huts you have here?"

"Well, that's my house there."

"What's that next hut?"

"I built that hut to be my church."

"Then what about the other hut?"

"Oh, that's where I used to go to church."

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Which staff?

Several years ago, the then Bishop of London reported to the General Synod that he had said he would bring his pastoral staff when attending a church function.

"And how many seats will you want?" came the reply.

Church School Test

Young children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments for a church school exam. These were some of the (actual) results...

1. In the Bible's first book, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, and the animals came on in pears.
3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The Jews were a proud people;

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The Rectory

St James the Least of All
The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

On why we don't bother to lock the church

My dear Nephew Darren

Since I happened to be in your area last week, I tried to call in at your church, and was sorry to find it was locked and bolted, with surveillance cameras watching me.



We tend to be a little more relaxed about matters of security. The key to the medieval lock was lost some time during Queen Victoria's reign and never replaced. How someone managed to misplace a foot long piece of cast iron, weighing about 10 pounds is a mystery. If it had fallen out of someone's pocket, it would certainly have broken their foot. Ever since, no one has bothered with locking the door - which makes me wish our burglars last year had thought of trying it, before wasting so much energy smashing a stained-glass window when they visited in the early hours one morning. On the other hand, were the key still in use, I should probably be arrested these days for carrying an offensive weapon.

As with most rural churches, keys which open just about everything in the village are hidden in various parts of the church. The vestry key is under my seat cushion, the organ key under a vase on the altar, the church hall key on top of the hymn book cupboard, and Miss Simpson's spare front door key inside the font. I have never been certain whether the latter is there for safety, or as a general invitation. I am sure someone could usefully produce a book suggesting the many places that keys are likely to be found secreted in churches for the use of vergers, flower arrangers, cleaners - and thieves wanting to save themselves time and effort.

I suspect that the burdened look that many urban clergy wear is not because they are weighed down with parish troubles, but because they are obliged to carry with them a superfluity of keys needed to negotiate every door in church, hall, school, and vicarage. And why is there always one for which no one has any idea what it opens?

The only occasion I have ever thought it would be useful to be able to lock a church is when you have a party of visitors

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inside. So often, on hearing the words "let us pray" or the start of an appeal for funds, they bolt for the door.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



God's Garden -

*A poem for gardeners, and all who count
their bountiful blessings*

Plant three rows of peas:

Peas of mind
Peas of heart
Peas of soul

Plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant three rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be obedient
Lettuce love one another

Plant three rows of turnips:

Turnip for services
Turnip for meetings
Turnip to help one another

Plant three rows of thyme:

Thyme for God
Thyme for Bible study
Thyme for prayer.

Finally -

Water freely with patience,
Cultivate with love,
And remember - you will only reap what you sow.

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Throughout their history, they had trouble with unsympathetic Genitals.

5. Sampson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.

6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

7. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.

8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert.

Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.

9. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

10. The seventh Commandment is Thou shalt not admit adultery.

11. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

12. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still, and he obeyed him.

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Grandchildren

Grandchildren
don't stay young
forever,
which is good
because
grandfathers have
only so many horsy
rides in them
- Gene Perret

Swim?

If a lot of
swimming is so
suitable for your
shape, why do the
whales look the
way they do?

Puppy

I arrived home
from work to find
all the windows and
doors wide open.
Apparently, our
new puppy had had
an accident. "Yeah,
it was awful," my
daughter told me.
"When we first
walked in, I
thought you had
come home early
and were cooking
dinner."

Water

My friend was
working at an
amusement park
when a couple
stopped him.
"Excuse me," said
the woman,
pointing to a pond.
"What is that
water made out
of?" Bemused, my
friend replied,
"Two parts
hydrogen and one
part oxygen."
"See?" she said to

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David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the possible pitfalls of travelling...

Happy Holidays

'From Troas, we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace... we went on to Neapolis. From there, we travelled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there for several days. (Acts 16:11-12)

I wonder if travel was, in some ways, easier in St Paul's day! No waiting at airports, cancelled flights or passport problems. The Roman Empire had an amazing system of well-maintained roads, provided with inns, guards, signposts and milestones. Everyone spoke Greek, and the currency was interchangeable. We do not live in classical times, so how should we prepare for holidays?

Choose your holiday from a reliable travel company that is a member of the professional bodies that protect customers if it all goes wrong. Pay for the holiday using a credit card, so you can claim against the credit company if there is a serious problem.

Prepare and research where you are going. Look up the Government travel advice pages on staying safe and healthy in that country.

Get someone to look after your house and pets while you are away. Make sure it does not look as though it is empty.

Get proper insurance that covers what you need. The Association of British Insurers has advice online about travel insurance, including how COVID-19 can affect it, and a guide on choosing the right travel insurance policy.

Rules on claiming health benefits in Europe have changed. It is now the Global Health Insurance Card.

When on holiday, keep your belongings safe and avoid dangerous places. Do not keep all your holiday cash in one place. If you lost your wallet, would you have details of what numbers to phone to stop your card? Take more than one credit/debit card with you, and keep them separately.

Finally - have fun. You deserve it! As always, this is a light-hearted introduction, and do get professional advice.

This article is more biased towards UK residents, however most of the advice is still applicable in the EU. And if you take this magazine with you, you will have something to read in the airport as you wait for your flight.....and wait!! You may need a bigger magazine.

Forthcoming Services

2 July 2023

10:30 Eucharist

Trinity 4

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden:

Klaas Prins

Intercessor:

Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Anne Powell

Readings

Genesis 22. 1-14

Elizabeth v d Heide

Romans 6. 12-end

Gospel

Matthew 10. 40-end

9 July 2023

10:30 Eucharist

Trinity 5

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden:

Caroline Siertsema

Intercessor

Lea Meijnen

Sidesperson/Reader

Erica Bonting

Readings

Genesis 24. 34-38, 42-49, 58-end

Erick Wanjala

Romans 7. 15-25a

Gospel

Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-end

16 July 2023

10:30 Sung Eucharist

Trinity 5

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden:

Klaas Prins

Intercessor:

Klaas Prins

Sidesperson/Reader

Linda ten Berge

Readings

Genesis 25. 19-end

Geert Janssen

Romans 8. 1-11

Gospel

Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23

Forthcoming Services

23 July 2023

10:30 Sung Eucharist

Trinity 7

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden:

Klaas Prins

Intercessor:

Jeanet Luiten

Sidesperson/Reader

Lea Meijnen

Readings

Genesis 28. 10-19a

Arthur Cass

Romans 8. 12-25

Gospel

Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43

30 July 2023

10:30 Sung Eucharist

Trinity 8

Celebrant Revd. Jacqueline
Williams

Preacher Lay Minister Simone Yallop

Duty Warden:

Caroline Siertsema

Intercessor:

Caroline Siertsema

Sidesperson/Reader

Louw Talstra

Readings

Genesis 29. 15-28

Jaccolien Molenaar

Romans 8. 26-end

Gospel

Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

6 August 2023

10:30 Sung Eucharist

Trinity 9

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden:

Caroline Siertsema

Intercessor:

Simone Yallop

Sidesperson/Reader

Vivian Reinders

Readings

Genesis 32. 22-31

Arthur Cass

Romans 9. 1-5

Gospel

Matthew 14. 13-21

Forthcoming Services

13 August 2023

10:30 Sung Eucharist Trinity 10
Celebrant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams
Duty Warden: Klaas Prins **Intercessor:**
Joyce Wigboldus
Sidesperson/Reader **Readings**
Erica Bonting Genesis 37. 1-4, 12-28
Jeanet Luiten Romans 10. 5-15
Gospel Matthew 14, 22-33

20 August 2023

10:30 Eucharist Trinity 11
Celebrant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams
Duty Warden: Caroline Siertsema **Intercessor:**
Lea Meijnen
Sidesperson/Reader **Readings**
Jan de Beij Genesis 45. 1-15
Joyce Wigboldus Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32
Gospel Matthew 15. {10-20} 21-28

27 August 2023

10:30 Sung Eucharist Trinity 12
Celebrant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams
Duty Warden: Caroline Siertsema **Intercessor:**
Caroline Siertsema
Sidesperson/Reader **Readings**
Patrick Saridjan Exodus 1. 8 - 2. 10
Ann Powell Romans 12. 1-8
Gospel Matthew 16. 13-20

Forthcoming Services

3 September 2023

10:30 Sung Eucharist

Trinity 13

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden:

Caroline Siertsema

Intercessor:

Klaas Prins

Sidesperson/Reader

Elisa Hannan

Readings

Exodus 3. 1-15

Erica Bonting

Romans 12. 9-end

Gospel

Matthew 16. 21-end

10 September 2023

10:30 Sung Eucharist

Trinity 14

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden:

Klaas Prins

Intercessor:

Simone Yallop

Sidesperson/Reader

Arthur Cass

Readings

Exodus 12. 1-14

Geert Janssen

Romans 13. 8-end

Gospel

Matthew 18. 15-20

17 September 2023

10:30 10.30 Morning prayer

Trinity 15

Res Sacrament

Officiant and Preacher

Lay Minister Simone Yallop

Duty Warden:

Caroline Siertsema

Intercessor:

Jeanet Luiten

Sidesperson/Reader

Lea Meijnen

Readings

Exodus 14. 19-end

Jaccolien Molenaar

Romans 14. 1-12

Gospel

Matthew 18. 21-35

Reflecting Faith – the Pulpit

The pulpit is one of a church's four most prominent pieces of 'furniture'; the others are the lectern, the altar and the font.

Today the pulpit is usually the place where the preacher stands to give the sermon during a service. It is generally raised higher than the chairs or pews, so the congregation can see the preacher more easily. Pulpits often have a 'sounding' board canopy above them, so the words may 'resound' more audibly.

The pulpit may be simple or heavily ornamented, engraved with pictures and/or words in a creative manner. There are examples of some pulpits which require the preacher to climb up over a dozen steps to reach the preaching platform. In contrast, others have only five or six steps.

Anglican church pulpits will likely be placed between the nave, where the congregation sits, and the chancel, where the choir or church leaders sit. In Methodist chapels, pulpits are usually centrally placed above the altar.

In bygone generations, the pulpit was used for all sorts of announcements. Without microphones, it was better to use a raised area to address people.

So the pulpits were used not only by priests for preaching but also by the churchwardens for notices. The pulpit was also where Marriage Banns were called, excommunications were pronounced, and indulgences were advertised.

In fact, pulpits were not much used for sermons before the Reformation! This is because the clergy in those days were required to preach only four times a year.

Most commonly, the pulpit was used for bidding prayers. These, partly in English, were said for the leaders of the Church, the King, the governing orders, the people, special needs, and, finally, for those parishioners who had paid to have their names read out.

Contributed by The Revd Dr Jo White

Life after sixty

I was working out with an exercise program early one morning. My 7-year-old granddaughter Lily entered the room and watched me for a while. "Why are you doing this?" she asked. "To lose weight," I gasped. After a moment's pause, she said, "It's not working." Then she walked out.

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her boyfriend. "I told you it wasn't real."

Forgiveness

Late for a meeting and unable to find parking, I pulled into a spot behind a church. After getting out of the car, I spotted this sign: "No parking. Forgiveness is our business, but don't make it harder than it already is."

Excuses, excuses

A curiously labelled folder was found in a heap of recycled files donated to our school: "Excuses I Have Used."

Bathroom tidy

Constant nagging didn't provide any relief from having to clean up the bathroom after each of my three teenage children. After I cleaned it one day, I resorted to posting a sign that read: 'Please leave the bathroom as you found it'.

Then I noticed the bathroom was in the usual mess after my son used it, so I called sharply:

"Brian, how did you find the bathroom?"

After a brief pause, he replied, "Straight down the hall, first door on the right."

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Couch

Friends sympathized as our curate complained that her back was sore from moving furniture. "Why don't you wait till your teenage son gets home?" someone asked.

"Well, I could," our curate replied, "but the couch is easier to move if he's not on it."

The nervous nun

"People get nervous when they think that they have to call me 'my Lord', said an Irish bishop. "Especially the poor nuns. One was giving me a cup of coffee. As she pushed the sugar bowl towards me, she said, 'How many lords, my lump?'"

Sun

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

Not like it used to be

I used to be able to do cartwheels. Now I tip over while pulling on my socks.

Coming or Going?

There is a knock on St Peter's door. He looks out, and a man is standing there. St

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September 2022, they started the discernment process in the light of the LLF Book, the findings of 'Listening to the Whole Church' and 'The Gift of the Church', including the April 2022 letter from our chaplaincy.

In October 2022, they started working on proposals for a way forward, indicating the implications for formal decision-making.

In December 2022, the College and House of Bishops finalised proposals. They reflected on what was needed to support the decision-making processes in General Synod.

In February 2023, General Synod considered proposals from the College and House of Bishops and agreed on a clear direction to travel.

At the February 2023 meeting:

Synod approved a motion to "lament and repent" of the failure of the Church to welcome LGBTQI+ people and for the harm that the LGBTQ+ people have experienced - and continue to experience in churches.

The motion also detailed proposals which would, for the first time, enable same-sex couples to come to Church following a civil marriage or civil partnership for prayers of dedication and God's blessing on the two people.

The proposals would not change the Church's doctrine on Holy Matrimony.

The use of Prayers of Love and Faith would be voluntary, with protections for both those who, on the grounds of conscience, will not be able to offer them and for those who will.

You can read the entire motion, as amended and approved by Synod, can be found on the Church of England website (<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/press-releases/update-living-love-and-faith-implementation-working-groups>).

We, therefore, rejoice in the knowledge that our Church

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has moved towards recognising LGBTQI+ people and has further committed to continuing and deepening this conversation. We are also aware of this process's divisive power on the Church as a whole, as the Anglican Communion has developed into polarised factions around these issues. We are particularly concerned that some Churches in the Anglican Communion seem to be either keeping a blind eye or encouraging extreme violence of their governments and societies against LGBTQ+ people.

We need to find ways of witnessing to our Church's unity in its diversity 'Ways that give life. The reality of the body of Christ witnesses to this unity in diversity and shows the price we pay daily to keep this balance. Our Lord is a broken and wounded Healer, and so are we, the body of Christ, in a broken world. Let us, therefore, continue to choose life in all our brokenness and diversity.

Yours in Christ as always,
Revd Jacque Williams'



Observations on church life....

How beautiful to have the church always open, so that every tired wayfaring man may come in and be soothed by all that art can suggest of a better world when he is weary of this. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

A parson should light fires in a dark room, and then go on lighting them all his life. - *Dick Sheppard*

For bells are the voice of the Church; they have tones that touch and search the hearts of young and old. - *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

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Peter is about to begin his interview when the man disappears. A short time later, there's another knock. St Peter goes to the door, sees the man, opens his mouth to speak, and the man disappears once again.

'Hey, are you playing games with me?' St Peter calls after him when this all happens a third time.

'No,' the man's distant voice replies anxiously. 'They're trying to resuscitate me!'

Gladys Dunn

Gladys Dunn was new to the area and decided to visit the church nearest her new home.

She enjoyed the service, the fine church and the lovely music by the choir, but the morning sermon went on and on. Worse, it wasn't even very interesting. Glancing around, she saw more than one person in the congregation nodding off. Finally, it was over.

After the service, she turned to the still sleepy-looking gentleman beside her, extended her hand, and said, 'I'm Gladys Dunn.'

'Me too!' he replied.

Final Advice

The 98-year-old Mother Superior from Ireland lay dying.

The nuns gathered around her bed, trying to make her last moments on earth more comfortable. They gave her some warm milk, but she refused, so one of the nuns took the glass back to the kitchen.

Then, remembering a bottle of Irish whiskey received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened it and poured a generous amount into the warm milk.

Back at the bed, the nun held the glass to Mother Superior's lips. Mother drank a little, then a little more and before they knew it, she had drunk the whole glass down to the last drop.

'Mother,' the nuns asked earnestly, 'Please give us some final wisdom before you die.'

Mother Superior raised herself slowly up in bed and, with a pious look, said: 'Don't sell that cow!'

Who is who at St. Mary's

Do you recognise this? You regularly see people in the church but don't know them and discover that you want to meet them after church. But other people want to talk with you, and the opportunity is gone before the coffee is finished. Rob Dijkstra is one of those people. I knew he was the husband of Joke Dijkstra, and that was all.

But then, on the Lenten course, the discussion was about poverty. There were not many of us, but Rob was, fortunately, one of them. I admired his visions on the discussed subjects and how he explained that clearly. I asked him if he wanted to talk about himself in this magazine.

A Refuge in Saint Mary's

It seems to be a sign of the times as King Charles III proclaimed to be the defender of faiths instead of The Faith. So giving the word to something Rob Dijkstra experienced in the Anglican Church of St. Mary's.

Not being an Anglican or even a Christian in the strict sense, he, who had tried to travel in the footsteps of Abraham, felt himself welcomed, accepted and at home in the community of St. Mary's. Born into a Protestant family, he had always felt out of place in this religion, longing for mystery and wonder.

Discovering at a young age the classical Celtic fairytales, he found a world of recognition and comfort. As shown in these stories, the Other World seemed to be more natural as the daily reality to his young and longing heart. Growing up as a teenager, a sense of Oneness of the Divine revealed itself to him, which brought him into conflict with the pastor and teacher in high school. His understanding of the Divine was declared heretic as there was only one way to the Divine, being the doctrine of orthodox Calvinistic religion.

As a result of this encounter with institutionalised orthodoxy, the young boy embarked on a long journey. Turning away from the faith of his parents, he explored aspects of atheism, esoteric Christianity, and Zen Buddhism until, in the end, experiencing what might be called 'a calling'.

This calling happened to be the works of Mevlana Rumi, a 12th-century Persian mystic and poet. This calling turned out to be coming home. Mevlana showed the Sufi path of love and surrender that was fulfilling for his heart in searching for an encounter with the Divine. On this path, new vista's opened, showing the fundamental oneness of being, the direct relationship with the Divine and the practice of bringing the restless mind and the whims of the ego to calm.

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Mevlana explains the holy words:: 'If God had so willed, He could surely have made you all one community, but He willed it otherwise, to test you using what He has vouchsafed unto you. Live than with one another in doing good works! Unto God must all return; and then He will make you truly understand all that you are, and how you differ.' And: Do not argue with the followers of earlier revelations other than in a courteous manner...for our God, your God are one and the same, and it is to Him that we all surrender ourselves!"

A tone, a melody resembling so much Psalm 139: "The God that knows me", and the Talmudic commentary on this psalm, as rendered by the Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas: "Always the hand of God grabs me and guides me. It is impossible to escape God, not to be present for His sleepless gaze. A gaze which is not experienced as a calamity. Certainly, God's presence means: to be besieged by God or obsessed by God. An obsession which is experienced as a choosiness."

And now this spiritual wanderer, brought by unseen hands into our midst, finds refuge in the beautiful chapel dedicated to Saint Mary. Mary, for whom Sufis have such great love and admiration. (In the Qur'an, more verses are devoted to Mary than are found in the Bible).

Rob finds in this chapel the soft, embracing energy of Mary. And also the fellowship and friendship of a community of lovely and loving people. A resting place on the journey Home. A place reflecting the following words of the 12th-century Sufi mystic and philosopher Ibn Arabi:

*My heart has become capable of every form:
It is a pasture for gazelles and a convent for Christian monks,
And a temple for idols and the pilgrims Ka'ba
And the tablets of the Torah and the book of the Qur'an.
I follow the religion of Love:
Whatever way Love's camels take,
that is my religion and faith."*

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And Now I Know Sign seen in Ohio, USA:

"Now that I've lived through an actual plague, I totally understand why Italian Renaissance paintings are full of fat naked people lying on couches."

The Long Drop

These three trainee padres were undergoing assessment and were told they had to undertake a parachute drop. They could refuse but were urged to take the plunge and identify with the life of a soldier.

Up in the plane, the R.C. trainee waited for the green light. When the sergeant signalled him, he stood still. The sergeant touched his shoulder and said: 'The cardinal orders you to jump'. He jumped.

The Free Church minister likewise froze. The sergeant leant forward and said: 'Your congregation wills you to jump'. He jumped.

Finally, the Anglican was called forward - and he, too, froze at the doorway. The canny sergeant shouted, 'Your bishop absolutely forbids you to jump!' He jumped.



Summer Flowers

*Behold the flowers of June! how fair
And bright their buds appear,
As, opening to the summer air,
Our eyes and hearts they cheer!*

*Who would have thought there could abound
Such beauty and delight
Beneath the cold and wintry ground
That hid those flowers from sight?*

*That power which made and governs all--
The mighty power of God--
Alone could life and beauty call
Out of the lifeless sod.*

*And He, who from the Winter's gloom
Can Summer thus disclose,
Shall one day make the desert bloom,
And blossom as the rose.*

~ Author unknown



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St Mary's Magazine is the monthly publication of the Twente Chaplaincy. If you wish to receive the magazine, or know someone who does, please contact one of the Wardens. For magazines collected in church, a donation of €15 pa will ensure your magazine continues to be produced. If you want the magazine posted to your home, an additional contribution of €20 pa to cover postage is required. The Digital version is free, contact the Editorial Team for details. Please make the payment to: Anglican Church Twente, ABN AMRO, IBAN: NL62ABNA0593634 012. Copy for the next issue of the magazine should reach the editor by the third Sunday of the month and can be handed in after the church service or sent by e-mail blrchrls1@gmail.com erica.schotman@wxs.nl - mari2hack@gmail.com

Donations and Bequests

The policy of the Anglican Church Twente is to use donations and bequests to help fund significant development projects in the Chaplaincy, whether buildings, equipment, staff, or other major needs. As circumstances change over the years, it may not be possible to fulfil specific donor requests, so church members are encouraged to make donations and leave legacies for the general purposes of the Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy Council will discuss with donors or their executors the most appropriate use of the gift in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church: for example, children & youth, music, buildings.

Donations or bequests can be paid into the current account of the Anglican Church Twente, ABN AMRO Lochem, IBAN: NL62ABNA0593634012.

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.