

Poetry and Prose

Remembrance Day

November not only marks the start of winter and the closing of the year; it is also the time to look back and to remember. We remember those who have died in the natural cycle of life, and we remember those, often in the flower of their youth, who have lost their lives in conflict. Throughout the British Commonwealth, Remembrance Sunday is on the nearest Sunday to the 11 November; the day the armistice was signed. In the USA the day is called Veterans Day. Germany has a National Day of Mourning on the second Sunday before the first Sunday of Advent. The Netherlands, which remained neutral in the First World War, but suffered grievously in the Second, observes the 4 May as a day of commemoration and contemplation. Israel, which only came into existence after the Second World War, observes Yom Hazekaron, a time of remembrance, from the evening before Independence day. Around the world, different nations and faiths set aside one day, not to glory in war, but to remember those who laid down their lives for their beliefs, their families and their countries.

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PEACE.

*PEACE will come when people live
In friendship, side by side,
And cherish understanding
More than hatred, greed and pride.*

*PEACE will come when people see
All people as the same,
And no one has to live in fear,
In ignorance, or shame.*

*PEACE will come when people
Who are needy can reach out
For shelter, food, or love,
And none has to do without.*

*PEACE will come when people
Learn to listen and to care
About the rights and dignity
Of people everywhere.*

*PEACE will come when love and trust
And kindness know rebirth,
And on that day all people
Will rejoice in peace on earth.*

~By Amanda Bradley~



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The Chaplain writes

As I write this, two significant service dates approach, one of which will have passed by the time you read this (but whose broader implications will persist) and the other which will not come until the end of the second week of November.

The first is Bible Sunday, on the 23rd of October, when the Revd Paul Rayner, who came to pastor the East Netherlands' congregations during the interregnum, will have returned for locum duty during the October school holiday week. (Many, many thanks to Paul and Margaret for coming back so soon!!)

The Church observes the last Sunday of Trinity (the one just before All Saints Sunday) as Bible Sunday, and so takes the opportunity to give thanks for the holy Scriptures that have inspired, encouraged, and guided us and so many Christians over the past 2000 years. Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, first author of the Church of England's Book of Common Prayer, penned a memorable Collect Prayer which comes to us (with slightly updated language) as our prayer for Bible Sunday:

"Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."

To enable us all better to "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the Holy Word, at least during our services, we have taken two steps recently.

First, the Council has authorized the purchase of a new, full Sunday Lectionary for the lectern at St Mary's. A full Sunday Lectionary is basically a big book containing complete texts of the set Bible readings for Sundays, as well as other things like the Collect Prayer above. Having all the readings for a Sunday (in the excellent New

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If you love something

If you love something, set it free.

If it comes back, it will always be yours.

If it doesn't come back, it was never yours to begin with.

But if it just sits in your living room, messes up your stuff, eats your food, uses your telephone, takes your money and doesn't appear to realize you've set it free...

You either married it or gave birth to it.

Relationships!

There was a guy telling his friend that he and his wife had a serious argument the night before. "But it ended," he said, "when she came crawling to me on her hands and knees."

"What did she say?" asked the friend.

The husband replied, "She said, 'Come out from under that bed, you coward!'"

Hardly any of us are aware of what happens at an Archdeaconry Synod. Therefore, I did not know what to expect when I set out for Antwerp on Thursday, October 6, as it was my first time as an Archdeaconry

Representative. We had been sent a full programme well in advance. The theme of the Synod was: "Bloom where you are planted" (based on the biblical text of Jeremiah 29:5-7). This theme was sourced at the Diocesan Pastoral Conference for the clergy, which took place in Cologne last September. For this reason the Synod had invited four speakers on related issues such as the im-migrant, the traveller, the expatriate, the African, etc.

The venue of the Synod was the Theological Pastoral Centre in the leafy suburb of Wilrijk. The complex dates from the 'sixties' of the last century, in the typical style of the period, much concrete and glass, not very picturesque but purely functional. The setting however, was quiet and the gardens were peaceful. A warm meal was provided when we arrived.

Archdeacon Dirk van Leeuwen opened the Synod at 20.00 and welcomed all. The Reverend Mark Collinson from Christ Church in Amsterdam gave feedback from the Pastoral Conference in Cologne last September. This was followed by the address by Bishop David Hamid, Suffragen Bishop in Europe. His theme was "On the way to fullest flower". The bishop is a former Director of Ecumenical Affairs of the Anglican Consultative Council, and as such, integration and mission are near to his heart. Referring to the Chicago Lambeth Quadrilateral Statement of 1886 and the Lambeth Conference of 1930, he stated that

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are recommended, but a bit bigger or smaller is okay too). You can also ask at shoes stores for a box (we've been successful with this). Choose the age the child you want to help, as well as for a boy or girl. Then collect or buy toiletries (i.e. soap, shampoo, toothbrush, washcloths), school supplies (i.e. exercise books, pencils, pens, pencil sharpeners), and small toys (i.e. small doll, stuffed animal, small car—**no war toys please**). Items can be new or used, but should be in good condition. No food or candy, please. Decorate the shoebox with wrapping paper and put the articles inside. Indicate with the provided label the age of the child and the sex and attach that to the outside of the box. To offset the cost of shipping, a donation of **4.50 euros** per box is also asked for (more or less is also okay). Please put this in the envelope and seal the envelope. Secure the box with an elastic band (do not seal the box) and put the envelope with the box.

All boxes and donated items must be ready before November 27th. Please make sure you get the boxes to me before that date. I will also have some empty boxes ready to be filled (for loose items).

We really had a phenomenal response last year! Get your friends, neighbors and family involved too and let us make 2005 year a topper! I can't say enough good things about this aid program. With so many stories in the news lately about the tragedies around the world, this is a way we can feel like we are helping, and actually help a child in a very concrete way. It is a great way to teach our children and ourselves that giving is often better than receiving. Finally, let us pray together in the coming months for a successful project, for the children we are helping and the mission workers from Samaritan's Purse, who make it all possible.

Kathryn Stoel tel: 055 - 521 1927

Gas Men

Two gas company technicians, a senior training supervisor and a young trainee, were out checking meters in a suburban neighbourhood.

They parked their truck the end of the alley and worked their way to the other end. At the last house, a woman looking out her kitchen window watched the two men as they checked her gas meter:

Finishing the meter check, the senior supervisor challenged his younger co-worker to a foot race down the alley back to the truck to prove that an older guy could outrun a younger one.

As they came running up to the truck, they realized the lady from that last house was huffing and puffing right behind them. They stopped and asked her what was wrong.

Gasping for breath, she replied, "When I see two men from the gas company running as hard as you two were, I figured I'd better run too!"

Happy Birthdays

On the 13 October Tim Olaniyi and his mother, Mariska Olaniyi, both celebrate their birthdays, on the same day! Congratulations and best wishes to the two of you. Do you share one birthday cake, or have one each?



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different countries. In the Netherlands over 214,000 were collected. Last year, our small congregation donated 39 gift filled boxes, quite a feat indeed. This year, we are hoping for even more enthusiasm for this great project! Donations from the Netherlands will help children in Tanzania, India and Moldavia.

Will you help? If you would like to participate, we have information folders, plus envelopes (contact me or see one of the wardens). You can also look on www.operatieschoenendoos.nl. If you cannot fill an entire box, you can also donate loose items or cash.

What do I need to do? First, find a shoebox (the dimensions L 30-35cm/ W21-22cm/H 12-15 cm

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in fact Anglicanism is very open-ended and that we are no use to anybody as long as we are divided. More than half of the bishops are from the third world; only 1.1 million of the 76 million Anglicans live in the UK; and 48% of all Anglicans are Africans. Therefore, we should realise that Europe - where the large churches started - is losing its importance as centre of the Christian world. At 22:00, following the opening there was Compline in the Chapel.

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Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain has been operating for several months and has received many requests for prayer. You are always welcome to request a private prayers if you do not want to request an intercessory prayer in church. The chain is always open for new requests, either to Mariska Olaniyi or Frances Gothard. Preferably in person or by e-mail.

We now have six members and if anyone else would like to join us please contact Mariska.



Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens 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 Church Wardens.



Babysitting

A boy was taking care of his baby sister while his parents went to town shopping. He decided to go fishing so he took her with him.

"I will never do that again!" he told his mother that evening. "I didn't catch a thing!"

"Oh, next time I'm sure she'll be quiet and not scare the fish away," his mother said.

The boy said, "It wasn't that. She ate all the bait."



Sunday School

I needed some supplies from a Sunday school cupboard that was seldom used and was secured with a combination lock. I didn't know the combination, but our clergyman offered to give it a try.

The Reverend Jack placed his fingers on the lock's dial and raised his eyes heavenward for a moment. Then he confidently spun the dial and opened the lock. Seeing how impressed I was with this demonstration of faith, he smiled and confided, "The numbers are written on the ceiling."

Boys?

A little boy watched, fascinated, as his mother gently rubbed cold cream on her face.

"Why are you rubbing cold cream on you face, mommy?" he asked.

"To make myself beautiful," said his mother.

A few minutes later, she began removing the cream with a tissue.

"What's the matter?" he asked. "Are you giving up?"

Innocence

A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother that there were two boy kittens and two girl kittens.

"How did you know?" his mother asked.

"Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."

High Finance

A mother decided that her 10-year-old Cathy should get something 'practical' for her birthday.

"Suppose we open a savings account for you?" the mother suggested. Cathy was delighted.

"It's your account, darling," the mother said as they arrived at the bank, "so you

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On Friday, we heard five speakers. After Morning Prayer and breakfast, the theme of the im-migrant was dealt with by the first speaker, Erika Feenstra. She is on the staff (consisting of two people) of "Het Kerkhuis", a PKN initiative in Amsterdam. They maintain contacts with many of the migrant churches in Greater Amsterdam, trying to find them worship space, maintaining ecumenical relationships, assisting individuals (often refugees, sometimes with nowhere to go and no right to stay), and much more. Her story was impressive; so was her enthusiasm. Most of her work is in the Bijlmermeer suburb, built in the seventies, with no church buildings. Imagine that only in the Bijlmer, where there are now 100 migrant churches, most of them evangelical!

The theme of the traveller was the subject of the second speaker. Howie Adan is one of the chaplains of Christ Church Amsterdam, and Anglican Airport Chaplain at Schiphol Airport. To illustrate what frequent travellers have to cope with, he made an excellent DVD-film, with the personal stories of a number of his congregation members. Then Group discussion, Eucharist and lunch.

The third speech was even more impressive: the Reverend Isaac Mensah spoke on the theme of the refugee. He himself came to Brussels in 1985 as a penniless refugee, after having been removed for political reasons from Ghana, where he was a high-ranking air force officer. His experiences with Europe, which is often regarded as heaven by the people of Africa, were quite shocking. He now is on the staff of the Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Brussels, and has special responsibility for the African style Sunday afternoon service.

The last speaker, and a very eloquent one at that, was the Reverend Joan Lyon, who spoke on 'The expatriate - bliss'. She is Assistant Chaplain in

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Luxemburg. She has extensive counselling experience and challenges the assumption that expatriate life is always great. During her speech, she allowed the Synod members to exchange experiences among each other for a few minutes; the whole meeting room buzzed within seconds! Group work and plenary after that and then an address by Brian Morgan from Bern who is involved at chaplaincy, archdeaconry and diocesan level, on the clergy review scheme that has been started in Switzerland and has proved to be a valuable gift from the laity to the clergy.

At 19.00, there were Alternative evening services, and starting from 20.00 a very enjoyable dinner for all Synod members at which both bishop David and Dirk van Leeuwen were present with their wives. Francis Gothard will report on the second half of the Synod, especially about the business meetings on Saturday and the licensing of two new readers.

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Sorry Vicar

The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet the parishioners. At one house a woman's voice from inside asked: 'Is that you Angel?' The vicar hesitated for a moment then replied: 'No, but I am from the same department.'

A parishioner who was rather fond of drink came out of the pub and bumped into the vicar:

Vicar: "Hello John, you know drink is your greatest enemy?"

John: "Yes vicar, but you always tell us to love our enemies."

Vicar: "Ah yes, but I didn't tell you to swallow them."

Operatie Schoenendoos

Dear Church Family, - Believe it or not, we are gearing up again to begin our mission project "Operatie Schoenendoos". This is the third year our church has taken part in this hands-on project. Many of you will remember from previous years, "Operatie Schoenendoos" is an international program that delivers shoe boxes containing much needed school supplies, toiletries and toys to disadvantaged children around the world. Sometimes this is the only gift these children have ever received! The program is coordinated by an aid organization known as Samaritan's Purse, a non-denominational relief agency. In 2004, over seven million shoe box gifts were collected, worldwide, and brought to children in 95

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Thoughts on a visit to St Mary's Chapel

It seems a long time ago now, but remembering our visit is very much planted in our minds.

On 18 September my wife, Eryl, and I visited the chapel and joined in with you all to glorify the Lord and take communion. We were visiting Caroline and Hans Siertsema in Winterswijk, who very kindly brought us with them.

What a peaceful and beautiful House of God in which to worship. How calm and friendly. We were impressed by the 'Bonding' between the congregation in an act of worship. The 'Coffee Break' was fun and relaxed, which I confess was not what I expected. Here in England we can be so 'starchy' at times, and I have found this in church over here many times. It is not so much a joy to go to church but the thing to do! I can now see I may have been a touch unlucky in the past, or a test I may have failed...? Your worshipping was so genuine, which has to be helped by the real sense of humour of the chaplain. Can I call you Reverend Sam? Good-on-yer!

The highlight for myself was receiving the Blood of Christ from my niece, Caroline. This cherished event, whilst taking communion, was again unexpected, and gave me an extraordinary feeling of satisfaction, which I really do find difficult to put into words.

I shall not forget that this happened in St Mary's Chapel - and perhaps it will again one day. Eryl and I thank you greatly for your welcome and friendliness.

God bless you all

Graeme Hepworth

Vision

Vision is the art of seeing things invisible

Jonathan Swift

Self-discipline

Dear Lord, so far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, lost my temper, been nasty, greedy, overbearing, selfish or obnoxious. I'm really glad I've accomplished all these things on my own. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to have to get out of bed - and from that point on I'm going to need all the help I can get from you. Amen

Adam

Adam, the only man who could say that his wife ate him out of house and home.

Criticism

Don't criticise too quickly. Even a clock that does not work is right twice a day.

I can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because the thorn bush has a rose. It is all up to me.

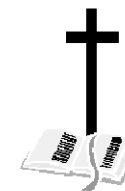
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Revised Standard Version, which we have been using for some years), in large print, grouped together in one place and with their proper introductions and conclusions, will make the job of reading the lessons in worship much easier for our appointed readers - and be a safeguard if a reader accidentally leaves the text of his or her reading at home!

The other step is that we are encouraging everyone to B.Y.O.B. - bring your own Bibles (whatever version you find most helpful) to church on Sunday. This will help you follow the readings and the sermon references more easily. Some of us have superb hearing and memory, and do not need a visual aid, but for the rest of us, having the text to read in hand will no doubt help us to "mark and inwardly digest" it. If you forget to bring your Bible, there will shortly be a few pew copies of the NRSV available in St Mary's for you to follow during services, and personal copies can be ordered by request.

The other significant service date in November is of course Remembrance Sunday (the 13th, at the special time of 10:30). This is our annual commemoration of those who gave their lives in war, that we may live in peace. This year we will also take an opportunity in the service to remember to God all those close to us who have passed away (typically, though not solely, those who have died recently). In the weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday, a list will be placed in the hut for you to add the names of those whom you would like remembered during the Remembrance Sunday service. You may also send names to Sam by e-mail Sam.Van.Leer@hetnet.nl or post, but by the 11th of November please! Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Every blessing to you and yours,
Sam Van Leer



fill out the application." Cathy was doing fine until she came to the space for 'Name of your former bank.' After a slight hesitation, she put down 'Piggy.'

Actual excerpts from military fitness reports...

Not the sharpest knife in the drawer:

Got into the gene pool while the lifeguard wasn't watching.

A prime candidate for natural deselection.

If brains were taxed, he'd get a rebate.

Wheel is turning but the hamster is dead.

Gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.

...and for officers

His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity

I would not breed from this officer

He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.

This young lady has delusions of adequacy.

This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

Since my last report he has reached rock bottom, and has started to dig.

He has the wisdom of youth, and the energy of old age


6th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Rev Sam Van Leer
Third Sunday before Advent	First Reading Mrs Talstra	Amos 5.18 - 24
Sung Eucharist	Psalm	70
	Second Reading Mr Talstra	1 Thessalonians 5.1 - 11
	Gospel	Matthew 25.1 - 13

13th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Rev Sam Van Leer
Remembrance Sunday	First Reading Mrs Romeyn	Zephaniah 1.7,12-18
Sung Eucharist starting at 10:30	Psalm	90.1-12
	Second Reading Mr. Lee	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
	Gospel	Matthew 25.14-30

20th November	Officiant & Preacher	Frances Gothard
Christ the King	First Reading Mrs. Van Sisseren	Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24
Morning Prayer	Psalm	95.1-7
	Second Reading Mrs Schouten	Ephesians 1.15-23
	Gospel	Matthew 25.31-46

27th November	Celebrant & Preacher	Rev Sam Van Leer
Advent 1	First Reading Mrs Collins	Isaiah 64.1-9
Sung Eucharist	Psalm	80.1-8
	Second Reading Mr Olaniyi	1 Corinthians 1.3-9
	Gospel	Mark 13.24-37

4th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Rev Sam Van Leer
Advent 2	First Reading Mr Cass	Isaiah 40.1-11.
Sung Eucharist	Psalm	85.8-13
	Second Reading Mr Charles	2 Peter 3.8-15a
	Gospel	Mark 1.1-8

11th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Rev Sam Van Leer
 Carol Service	Reading	of Lessons
	and	singing
	of	Christmas Carols