

Services held every
Sunday morning
10:30 am

Volume 15 Issue 9 November 2019

Next issue: First Sunday December 2019

St Mary's Magazine

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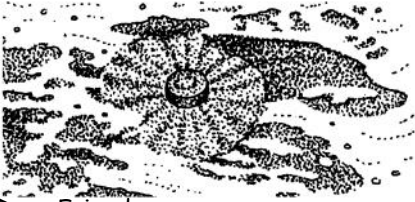
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The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente



DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND





November 2019

Dear Friends,

In September the sixteen-year-old, Greta Thunberg, harshly criticised the United Nations Climate Change Conference: "This is all wrong", she said, "I shouldn't be up here - I should be in school ... You come to young people for hope? How dare you? You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words ... And yet, I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering, people are dying, entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are at the beginning of mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you?" While there have been criticisms of her, there is little doubt that Greta has meaningfully influenced the imagination of young people across the world.

Greta has not been alone. For some time now Extinction Rebellion has been protesting in cities around the world. In the UK, the movement has picketed several significant sites and close to 1500 people have been arrested in London alone. The movement's logo, a circled hourglass known as the extinction symbol, emphasises that time is fast running out for many species, including humankind. I am in no way condoning any sort of violence, but I do endorse the democratic right of people to demonstrate while recognising that everyone has the right to move around freely and get on with their daily lives.

More than 30 years ago, in 1988, the Lambeth Conference formulated a model of mission work for local churches, which became known as the Five Marks of Mission:

1. to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
2. to teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. to respond to human need in loving service
4. to seek to transform the unjust structures of society
5. to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The fifth mark of mission emerges from the biblical narrative that God is the creator of the entire cosmos, stressing that absolutely all that is comes from God. The book of Genesis begins with two accounts of creation: Genesis 1.1-2.4a and Genesis 2.4b-3.24. Both of which have shaped the doctrine of Creation: the world and all that it contains comes from the free creative action of a loving God. Though good, Creation, is in some sense, fallen and not quite as God intended it to be. However, the key thing we need to take from these two narratives is that it is God's world, and we are his stewards. We are responsible for his creation.

Whatever the disagreement among politicians, scientists, family, friends and neighbours, surely, the only sensible approach is to take the precautionary principle and act on it. So, we then come to the question, "What must we do about it?" Despairing paralysis is clearly no option!

Dear Brothers and sisters, in only looking to others, we diminish our own influence and our own responsibility. In so doing, we neglect our Christian calling and the power and strength of who we are affirmed in faith to be. Being Christian is a full-time occupation and an eternal privilege. Being Christian is looking after everything and everyone in God's creation, as far as we humanly can, by God's grace. God bless you all, Fr. B.



St Mary's Chapel The 13th October - Looking back at a wonderful day News

Expectant

The rector of a church had just made the happy announcement that a member of the congregation was with child. Then he reminisced a bit: 'As far as I know, there have been no pregnancies in this church for years - until I arrived!'

Lead us not...

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail. Amen"

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The thirteenth was an important day, especially for the people at St Mary's Chapel who were participating in a most unusual service. We welcomed the Right Reverend Michael Langrish, former Bishop of Exeter, to the Chapel. The bishop was leading the service of baptism, confirmation and reception into the Church of England. Also present was The Venerable Dr Paul Vrolijk, Archdeacon for North-West Europe, who would admit and licence our Reader in Training. Our Chaplain, Canon Brian Rodford, introduced the visiting clergy to the congregation at the beginning of a fascinating, unique day of worship.

After his entertaining and insightful sermon, Bishop Michael invited the baptismal candidates, a teenager and his younger sister, to join him at the altar. Ryan and Sylvie Saridjan, with some degree of trepidation, gathered around the font, to take their baptismal vows before they were baptised by Bishop Michael.

Following the baptism service, Bishop Michael went on to confirm Ryan and Sylvie, along with Lea Meijnen, Annemarie De Leon-Tijink, Marco Zonnebeld, Erick Wanjala, Anne van Dijk and Rachel Koster.

Once all the confirmation candidates had returned to their pews, Klaas Prins and Geert Janssen were invited to come forward to be received into the Communion of the Church of England by Bishop Michael.

With the Prayer after Communion said, Canon Rodford led Simone Yallop from her pew and presented her to the Archdeacon. The Venerable Dr Paul Vrolijk admitted Simone to the office of Reader. He vested her with the precious blue scarf she has so long and hard for and read out Simone's licence from the Bishop of Europe to serve in the office of Reader. It was a wonderful moment for so many of us and congratulations Simone.

The service over, everyone traipsed out and head for the Hunting Lodge where a wonderful Bring and Share lunch was waiting. Bishop Michael and Archdeacon Paul were great company, doing their best to chat to as many people as possible. A memorable day and at this point, there are a few thanks to give out. To all those who came along on the 12th to get the chapel clean and decorated.

A big thank you to my fellow warden Jeanet Luiten who organised the cleaning, the lunch, as well as coffee for a visiting choir as well. Her efforts in the background often go unnoticed.

Carol Service - 15 December

This year the Carol Service is planned for the 15 December. More details will follow in next month's magazine.

Choir Concert

The Veluwe Cantorij are putting on a concert in the Dorpskerk te Voorst on the 16 November at 20:00. There will be German, Baroque, Romantic and English language components.

One of the members of the Cantorij is Louw Talstra, St. Mary's organist.

Coffee Rota

The coffee and tea served after the Sunday is not only a wonderful opportunity for everyone to meet up and chat, it also makes a valuable contribution to the chaplaincy funds. However, it does need a regular supply of willing, enthusiastic, cheerful volunteers to provide baked goods and to serve. Please check the coffee rota regularly. Please put your name down to help whenever and where ever you can. If you haven't tried it before you will find it great fun and rewarding.

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://anclichurchtwente.com/home/service%20%26%20readings/prayers%20requests.html>

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Why not war?

The history teacher was trying to impress upon her class the advantages of peace and disarmament. "How many of you boys object to war?" she asked. Up went several hands. "And why is that, Charles?" she went on. "Because wars make history," Charles responded soberly.

Lot's wife

"When Lot's wife looked back," said the Sunday School teacher, "what happened to her?" "She was transmuted into chloride of sodium," replied the boy with the high IQ.

Farming

Reporter: "What do you think is the trouble with farming these days?"
Old farmer: "Well - in my day when we talked about what we could raise on 60 acres, we meant maize, not bank loans."

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Money

A financial genius is one who can keep up with both the neighbours and the monthly instalments.

Church council

Regardless of how many items there are on the church council agenda, a meeting will take the same amount of time.

Ten

People nowadays treat the Ten Commandments like a history exam - they attempt only three.

Ketchup

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle.

During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her four-year old daughter to answer it.

"It's the minister, Mum," the child said to her mother.

Then she told her caller:

"Mummy can't

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St James the Least of All

On the perils of eating with members of your church

My dear Nephew Darren

One of the rather dubious pleasures of being rector here is to dine twice a year with Lord and Lady Shuttlingsloe. I was summoned to go along yesterday evening.



As usual, I was greeted by the footman and led into the entrance hall, where only a few weeks ago we held the parish Harvest supper for 200 people. I relinquished my coat, took a deep breath, and set off to follow him down endless corridors to the drawing room. The house is rumoured to be haunted, but I suspect any sounds of footsteps come from guests of previous years, still wandering the corridors trying to find their way out.

There were the usual guests - most of whom were merely continuing conversations they had had the previous evening at another stately, decaying pile in the county. They were standing, because all the chairs were occupied by the Lord's dogs, and everyone agreed that the dogs looked far too comfortable to move. Since one aged golden retriever recognised me, having developed an over-familiarity with my own dog, he amicably let me squeeze beside him on a sofa - even if it left me for the rest of the evening looking as if I was wearing an Afghan coat.

When the meal was ready, the butler arrived with our overcoats, because the dining room is a cavernous chamber which is largely unheated as birds are nesting in the chimney. Lord Shuttlingsloe considers this perfectly acceptable, since his family have been eating in this way for the past 500 years, which is how long most of the present staff have worked there. Conversation at my end of the table was less than easy, since Lady S dozed throughout the meal and my companion on the other side seemed to hold me personally responsible for the Spanish Inquisition. Had I been, she would most definitely have been on my list for questioning.

As Rector, one has one's social responsibilities, but I confess, there were moments when I rather envied your own

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evening, with a meal on a tray in front of the television - in a warm house.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Archdeaconry Report 3rd-5th October 2019

For the 7th time, the annual Archdeaconry Synod of North-West Europe was held at the beautiful 'Oude Abdij' in Drogenen, near Ghent in Belgium. Extensive renovations are going on in the venerable old building at present, and in a figurative sense we could say that the same is happening in our Archdeaconry of North-West Europe!

Many new plans were launched during the days we were together, and we were able to exchange thoughts and ideas in a truly inspired atmosphere.

The Bishop's Address

Bishop Robert Innes opened the meeting in prayer, and then he started with the famous opening paragraph of Charles Dickens' novel, 'A Tale of Two Cities': *"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness ..., it was the season of Light ..., it was the winter of despair, "*

Bishop Robert mentioned the continual feelings of hopelessness and the pessimism about politics, nature, and climate change.

He continued with saying, however that despair is no Christian option. Despair is the abandonment of God and Christianity is the religion of *hope*. God does not give up on us. The bishop continued with a PowerPoint presentation of places he visited in the past year in his vast Diocese which stretches from Finland to Italy and from Gibraltar to Moscow and Turkey. His visits included Ypres in Belgium at the commemoration of the First World War, Helsinki, refugees in Greece; the Syriac Orthodox Church in the extreme south-east of Turkey alongside the Syrian border south of the great city of Diyarbakir; the Ladine people in Tyrol, and Chernobyl. Even though in many of these places

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come to the phone right now. She's hitting the bottle."

Health

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. - Mark Twain

Tempted?

Don't worry about avoiding temptation...as you grow older, it will avoid you. - Winston Churchill

If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished!

Gone out

I am a mental tourist. My mind wanders.

Asking

Definition of a Stewardship Campaign: 'Putting all your begs in one askit.'

Cats!!!

The vet prescribed daily tablets for our geriatric cat, Tigger, and after several battles my

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husband devised a way to give her the medication. It involved wrapping Tigger in a towel, trapping her between his knees, forcing her mouth open and depositing the pill on the back of her tongue. David was proud of his resourcefulness until one hectic session when he lost control of both cat and medicine. Tigger leaped out of his grasp, paused to inspect the tablet—which had rolled across the floor—and then ate it

Cross Breed

Q: What do you get if you cross a Beagle with an Australian dog?

A: Dingo Starr

Minty Fresh

Q: What do scientists use to freshen their breath

A: Experi-mints

Bad Driver

I didn't realize how bad of a driver I was until my satnav

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there still is disaster and great pain, there is also hope. He also mentioned the title of the Archbishop's Lent Book for 2020, "Saying Yes to Life" by Ruth Valerio.

Pairing

On the same note of hope, Bishop Robert commemorated the 50th anniversary of the meeting between Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Michael Ramsey in 1966 - which was the first such public meeting between a Pope and an Archbishop of Canterbury since the Reformation. On that occasion Archbishop Justin Welby and Pope Francis commissioned and sent out 19 pairs of Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops from all over the world for joint mission: 'From Canterbury to Rome'. The bishops were chosen by their home churches to represent them on the ecumenical body, IARCCUM - the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission. The pairs had to live in the same region. Thus Johan Bonny, Bishop of Antwerp, and Bishop Robert were selected to form one of these pairs. The 'pilgrimage' was regarded a great success and in the words of Bishop David (our suffragan bishop) 'there is a growing sense of unity, common faith and common calling'. Thus, Bishop Robert announced with great pleasure that Bishop Bonny was going to address us the next day.

Welcome and Invitation

After the Morning Prayer service and breakfast, we heard Michael Harvey, internationally recognised mission expert, speaker and coach. In his inimitable Manchester accent and with a great deal of humour he spoke about welcome and invitation. Michael Harvey has written several books including *Unlocking the growth* (2012) and *Creating a Culture of Invitation in Your Church* (2015).

He started his talk by asking: 'Are the churches you are representing welcoming churches?' None of the synod members thought his/her own church unwelcoming or uninviting (extensive research has shown there is hardly anybody who will acknowledge that his/her church is unwelcoming!).

Clearly, we all know the benefits to be gained by being welcoming and invitational, so *why don't we already invite?* Many excuses were brought forward: unpreparedness, embarrassment, fear to be rejected, fear to spoil a friendship, respect for other opinions, fear of being unprofessional in a professional setting, shyness, fear of lack of quality in one's own church, fear to evangelise etc etc. Everyone has his/her own reasons not to invite, but the main barrier is the fear of rejection. A survey by Michael Harvey in 14 countries showed that: 70% of all respondents admitted

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that they had someone in mind who they thought would be interested in coming to church, but 80% of the respondents are not prepared to invite someone!

The reasons for not-inviting are similar everywhere.

Apparently, we prefer to stick to what we have got instead of exploring what we can gain. There are many examples of people in the bible who were called by God and initially did not want to listen, (Jonah, Moses, 'the burning bush' syndrome, you must be joking I'm not doing this'). We need to *reset our environment and release the fear*.

We've got to forget success, and leave the result to God, we mustn't think of growth; God is leading the invitation, *not us*. This makes it easier for us to ask.

Diocesan Office

The next speaker was Andrew Caspari, the recently appointed Chief Operating Officer (Diocesan Secretary). His office is, in fact, the core of the Diocese. Andrew had a long career in the BBC as Duty Editor of Radio Four's Today Programme and as Commissioning editor for Radio Four. He was also Churchwarden of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London at the time of a major renovation. He calls himself a storyteller (his BBC background), a Christian (with ups and downs) and a European (no Italian name, he is from German descent; his family suffered in the holocaust).

What does the Diocesan Office for us?

The Diocesan office deals with Mission, Stewardship and Care (Safeguarding). Mission deals with walking in faith, building up the body of Christ, evangelisation of Europe, a just and sustainable world, reconciliation and research ministry. Stewardship deals with income (the Common Fund), health care of the clergy, the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), recruitment, rights of residence and Brexit-related problems. The principles of the Common Fund to which all chaplaincies contribute considerably, aim at fairness and complete transparency. The amount to be paid is defined by not only the numbers on the electoral roll but also by the weekly attendance, each for 50%. Most money goes to the Archdeacons and Safeguarding. Safeguarding has professionalised over the last years, courses are obligatory for Church Officers and all who deal with children and vulnerable adults; the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) can be consulted at all times.

Benelux café,

On Friday afternoon we had the so-called *Benelux café*, repeated because of its great success last year. Projects in chaplaincies all over the Benelux could present themselves.

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said, "In 400 feet, do a slight right, stop, and let me out."

In Memoriam

Seeing her friend Sally wearing a new locket, Meg asks if there is a memento of some sort inside.

"Yes," says Sally, "a lock of my husband's hair."
"But Larry's still alive."

"I know, but his hair is gone."

Natural Bull Enhancements

A week after John bought a bull, he complained to his friend, "All that bull does is eat grass. Won't even look at a cow."

"Take him to the vet," his friend suggested.

The next week, John is much happier. "The vet gave him some pills, and the bull serviced all of my cows!" he told his pal. "Then he broke through the fence and bred with all my neighbour's cows! He's like a machine!"

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Forthcoming Services

10 November 2019

10:30 Sung Eucharist

Remembrance Sunday

Celebrant and Preacher

Canon Brian Rodford



Duty Warden:

Blair Charles

Intercessor:

Jeanet Luiten

Chalice:

Joyce Wigboldus

Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Vivian Reinders

Job [19. 23-27a]

Heleen Rauwerda

2. Thessalonians [2. 1-5, 13-end]

Gospel

Luke [20. 27-38]

17 November 2019

10:30 Morning Prayer with
Holy Communion from the
Reserved Sacrament

2nd. Sunday before Advent

Officiant and Preacher

Simone Yallop

Duty Warden:

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Simone Yallop

Chalice:

Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Jan de Beij

Malachi [4. 1-2a]

Arthur Cass

2. Thessalonians [3. 6-13]

Gospel

Luke [21. 5-19]

24 November 2019

10:30 Morning Prayer
with Holy Communion from the
Reserved Sacrament

Christ the King

Officiant and Preacher

Simone Yallop

Duty Warden:

Blair Charles

Intercessor:

Lea Meijnen

Chalice:

Jeanet Luiten

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Erick Wanjala

Jeremiah [23. 1-6]

Ann Powell

Colossians [1. 11-20]

Gospel

10 Luke [23. 33-43]

Forthcoming Services

1 December 2019

10:30 Sung Eucharist

Advent 1

Celebrant and Preacher

Canon Brian Rodford

Duty Warden:

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Maureen Underwood

Chalice:

Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Frances Gothard

Readings

Isaiah [2. 1-5]

Elisa Hannan

Romans [13. 11-end]

Gospel

Matthew [24. 36-44]

8 December 2019

10:30 Sung Eucharist

Advent 2

Celebrant and Preacher

Canon Brian Rodford

Duty Warden:

Blair Charles

Intercessor

Philippa te West

Chalice:

Jeanet Luiten

Sidesperson/Reader

Maureen Underwood

Readings

Isaiah [11. 1-10]

Patrick Saridjan

Romans [15. 4-13]

Gospel

Matthew. [3 1-12]

15 December 2019

10:30 Service of Lessons
and Carols

Advent 3

Celebrant and Preacher

Canon Brian Rodford

Duty Warden:

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor

Joyce Wigboldus

Chalice:

n.a.

Sidesperson/Reader

t.b.a.

Readings

t.b.a.

Gospel

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"What kind of pills were they?" asked the friend. "I don't know, but they've got a peppermint taste."

Relaxing Location

While my parents were making their funeral arrangements, the cemetery salesman pointed out a plot that he thought they would like. "You'll have a beautiful view of the swan pond," he assured them. Dad wasn't sold: "Unless you're including a periscope with my coffin, I don't know how I'm going to enjoy it."

Now You Know

The most common ghosts are the visions dressed in white sheets flailing their arms about. These are people who died changing their duvets, destined to roam bedrooms forever trying to find corners

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There was 'Open Doors' a society which supports persecuted Christians all over the world, Prison Ministry, the Luweero Twinning, Pakistani outreach in Rotterdam, and a representation of 'Christian Climate Action' an action group concerned about the climate change.

Address Bishop Johan Bonny

Then followed the address by Bishop Johan Bonny, RC Bishop of Antwerp. He told us more about the project of the pairing of RC and Anglican Bishops by Pope Francis. He also quoted from the apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis' 'Evangelii Gaudium' (the Joy of the Gospel) issued in November 2013: 'Let us go forth, then, let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ.' And: 'I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.'

Bishop Bonny then discerned four themes: the Listening Church, the Welcoming Church, the Accompanying church and the Church moving forward. He expressed his sadness about certain political issues in various European countries, especially the rise of populism. If we listen, we hear many disconcerting things. The idea of a welcoming church is generally not very popular: 'we' is exclusive, meaning 'only we', not 'you'; we seem to exclude LGBT-people, people living in different styles from the usual (here the bishop included his own family members). In this regard we should realise that only 2% of the population is churchgoing. Many church helpers live 'irregularly'. Then there are Christians from other countries and continents. They form most of the minorities, as their numbers surpass the natives. These people were not welcomed in our churches either, at least not in the province of Flanders. (The same happened in the Netherlands, especially in Amsterdam South-East: many new churches were founded as they were not welcomed into the Dutch churches.)

To welcome is not the same as accompanying. Many youngsters are not ready in their personal development to be interested in religion. Many students of religion are therefore mature. Also, young families usually keep a safe distance from the church, follow their friends and postpone contact with the church. Many children lose contact after leaving secondary school.

Our society also needs accompaniment, and the church and her bishops are not doing very much about the destabilisation of society. There is propagation of hate, climate change and poverty. Pope Francis sets an example by visiting poor countries rather than the rich ones.

Bishop Bonny also mentioned that the RC and Anglican bishops

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paired by region had more in common with each other than with their 'own' colleagues from Africa and Asia. Cultural and racial differences are much larger than religious ones.

Dinner and Pub Quiz

In the evening we enjoyed dinner with lots of fellowship, meeting old and new friends. Afterwards, we had a hilarious pub quiz in the bar, led by Reader Heather Roy from Brussels.

The day was concluded with Compline, led by Simone.

Business meetings

Saturday morning started off with the AGM of the Anglican Church in the Netherlands (ACNL). The meeting was chaired by Ruan Crew, our Area Dean. Sam van Leer acted as Secretary, and Sandra Sue from Utrecht was re-elected as Treasurer. There was an attendance of about 25. Apart from the usual items on the agenda there was an announcement of a Church Officers' day at Amersfoort on February 8th, 2020. It is meant for all Wardens, Secretaries, Treasurers, Safeguarding Officers and Archdeaconry Representatives in the Netherlands. The day will be organised by the Area Dean, Anneke Barends (Rotterdam) and myself.

Then the General Business meeting followed, chaired by Heather Roy.

It was a short and effective meeting: the finances of the archdeaconry have been found in excellent order in the safe hands of David Sayers, as always. It came out that there are funds available for training laypeople, if necessary.

The Revd Sunny Hallanan, Rector at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Waterloo, the only (American) Episcopal parish in Belgium, reported that the Episcopal Church had just appointed a new Bishop.

A discussion followed about the new regulation that Archdeaconry Representatives must resign after 6 years. It is not quite clear yet whether this rule will be in force next year.

Eucharist and Farewells

The official part of Synod was concluded with the Eucharist in the Ruusbroeck chapel.

Archdeacon Paul preached an inspired sermon. The Revd Barbara Noordanus from Eindhoven officiated.

We had lunch in excellent spirit, firmly resolved to convey all we had heard and seen to the parishes at home.

Joyce Wigboldus

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Dream Home

We'd finally built our dream home, but the builder had some concerns about the placement of a window for our walk-in shower. "I'm afraid your neighbours might have a good view of you au naturel," he said. My middle-aged wife put him at ease. "Don't worry," she said. "They'll only look once."

On Retirement Time

Retirement is the best thing that has happened to my brother-in-law. "I never know what day of the week it is," he gloated. "All I know is, the day the big paper comes, I have to dress up and go to church."

Wrinkles

My nine-year-old daughter walked in while I was getting ready for work. "What are you doing?" she asked.

"Putting on my wrinkle cream," I answered.

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"Oh," she said, walking away. "I thought they were natural."

Chosen One

Never laugh at your wife's choices

You are one of them

A Months worth of Rain

Q: What do you call a month's worth of rain?

A: England

Good for Some, Bad for Others

My dog had been deaf and blind for years. When she started to suffer painful tumours, it was time to put her down. As I explained this to my seven-year-old son, he asked if Jazzy would go to heaven. I said I thought she would, and that in dog heaven, she would be healthy again and able to do her favourite

My Journey



It must have been when I was about nine years old, that I was visiting the Royal Norfolk Show with my parents. As well as all the latest agricultural equipment and lots of animals, there was also a Church of

England stand. There was a man there with some leaflets in his hand. My dad spent what seemed like ages talking with him. As we walked away, my dad said to me, 'He's a Lay Reader.' 'What's a Lay Reader Dad?' I asked. My dad explained that this person had both a secular job and he led worship in church. He said it in such a way that it was clear he thought this was a very worthwhile thing to do. I never forgot that moment.

As a family, we attended St. Andrew's Church in Norwich, where my dad was Church Warden and my mum sang in the choir. My parents also encouraged me to attend the evangelical Crusader classes on Sunday afternoons. I was confirmed at the age of 14.

When I went to the University of Southampton to study, I became involved in the Anglican Chaplaincy and a Christian Union Bible Study group in my Hall of Residence. In my first year, I was also invited to a course organised by Campus Crusade for Christ. It was also a university mission year. With all that input, my simple conception of Christianity was transformed into a much deeper knowledge of God. It became a personal relationship with the living Lord and I began to experience the power of the Spirit in my life. By the time I left Southampton I had followed all the courses Campus Crusade had to offer, including their annual Summer School of Biblical Studies. They also challenged me to consider joining their full-time staff.

There followed many weeks trying to discern what God might be calling me to do. I had several discussions with my parents and priest. I even spent time at a theological college looking at ordained ministry. However, I came to the unexpected conclusion that God was calling me to secular

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work at this time. I settled down to work in industry. However, I was still restless.

Early in 1981, a two-month business trip took me to mainland Europe. I had never been outside the UK before. I liked working abroad. Shortly after my return, I saw an advertisement for a job as technical author in the Netherlands. I applied. By the end of June that year I had moved. Many years later I am still here. During this time I have been worshipping at the Anglican Church Twente, St. Mary's Weldam, which has become my spiritual home.

Some things needed to happen in my life first, but in 2012 the call to preaching ministry began to grow stronger. In 2014 I began training to become a Lay Reader. I gained my Certificate in Christian Studies from St. John's Nottingham in July this year. It has been a wonderful five years of training, in which I have been greatly supported by my tutor, the Revd Canon Elaine Labourel as well as by present and former chaplains of St. Mary's.

On Sunday 13 October 2019 the Venerable Paul Vrolijk, Archdeacon of Northwest Europe, Admitted and Licensed me as Reader. It was a lovely service at which Bishop Michael Langrish also baptised, confirmed and received several of our members.

That morning I was particularly moved by the Collect, with words from Augustine of Hippo: *'Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.'*

When I was vested with the blue scarf, I remembered a Reader once saying how she felt that its weight reminded her of its responsibility. Then I recalled the words of Jesus: *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:29,30)* A yoke was a piece of agricultural equipment. When we are yoked with Jesus, he carries the weight.

Having first heard about Reader ministry at an agricultural show, it is perhaps fitting that my first service, as a Licensed Reader, should be at our Harvest Thanksgiving. I look forward to working as a labourer in His harvest.
©Simone Yallop, Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)

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thing: chase squirrels. Jacob thought about that for a minute, then said, "So dog heaven must be the same as squirrel hell."

Church Sign

'Get in touch with God by knee mail'

Empty Nester?

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."

Halloween Costume

My six-year-old son was excited about his Halloween costume. "I'm going to be the Pope," he said.

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"Ian, you can't be the Pope," I said. "You're not Catholic. You're Lutheran." Ian hadn't thought about that. So he considered his alternatives. After a few minutes, he asked, "Is Dracula a Lutheran?"

Flexing

Our vicar was preaching about Proverbs 16:24: "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones."

The minister then added, "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." My wife leaned over, put her head on my shoulder, and whispered in my ear, "I just love to watch your muscles ripple when you take out the garbage."

HUHI

You can see the strangest things if you look hard enough. The other day I saw a piece of toast in a cage at the zoo. It was bread in captivity.

How Armistice Day began, 100 years ago



It was 100 years ago, on 11th November 1919, that the first Armistice Day (now Remembrance Day) was marked in the UK. King George V had issued a proclamation calling for a two-minute silence at 11:00am to remember the members of the armed forces who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The two-minute silence was in fact adopted from a South African idea that had spread from Cape Town through the Commonwealth in 1919.

The first minute was dedicated to those who died in the war, and the second to those left behind - families affected by bereavement and other effects of the conflict.

The Cenotaph was erected temporarily in Whitehall for a peace parade for Armistice Day in 1920. After a tremendous nationwide response, it became a permanent structure, and in the following years war memorials were created in other British towns and cities.

In 1939, the two-minute silence of Armistice Day was moved to the nearest Sunday to 11th November, so that it would not conflict with wartime production. This tradition continued after World War II - Remembrance Sunday is still marked with a national service, and by special services in most churches throughout the country and beyond.

Americans mark Veterans Day instead.

©Parish Pump

75 years after Monte Cassino, D-Day, Kohima and Imphal

This year The Royal British Legion is asking communities to remember the service, sacrifice, and collaboration of the armed forces of Britain, the Commonwealth and Allied nations who fought together 75 years ago.

In 1944 this collaboration resulted in victory in three critical battles; Monte Cassino, D-Day, and Kohima and Imphal.

At Monte Cassino, an Allied Army over 240,000 strong, with contingents from six continents, opened the way to the liberation of Rome. At D-Day 13 nations collaborated to land 156,000 men in Normandy. At Kohima and Imphal one of the most ethnically diverse Armies in history joined forces to win.



The British Legion points out that "The collaboration of Britain with our Commonwealth friends and Allied nations in 1944 continues to shape our society today. Many communities, whose ancestors served side by side, now live side by side in a multicultural Britain."



Church of England Ministry Statistics Who are we? - How are we doing?

The number of female clergy in the Church of England continues to rise with more women than men entering training for ordained ministry for the second year running, according to recently published statistics.

More women, 54%, than men began training for ordained ministry in 2018, for the second year running. Just under a third, or 30%, of the estimated 20,000 active clergy in the Church of England were female compared to 27% in 2014, according to Ministry Statistics for 2018.

The report also shows the proportion of senior posts such as dean or bishop occupied by women rose from 23 per cent to 25 per cent over the last year. The figures do not take into account six new appointments of female bishops this year, bringing the total so far to 24.

The proportion of people identifying as from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds starting training for ordained ministry in the Church of England rose to 8% in 2018, compared to 4% in 2016.

Around a third, or 33%, of people beginning their training last year were under 35 years old and more than half, or 53%, were under 45.

Meanwhile the number of men and women ordained as deacon rose from 485 in 2016 to 535 in 2019.

The figures have been released as the Church of England seeks to fulfil a key target of a 50% increase in the number of candidates for ordination as part of its programme of Renewal and Reform.

Mandy Ford, Interim Director of the Ministry Division of the Church of England, said: "I am thankful for the hard work and prayers of the parishes and dioceses in helping us to increase the numbers of people coming forward for ordained ministry, a key aim of the Renewal and Reform programme."

Through the Valley

(after Psalm 23)

©Brian Rodford 2011

1

When I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
You have promised,
loving Shepherd, you'll be there;
Deep within my heart I know
you'll never leave me,
With your rod of comfort
I'll be in your care.
*Through the valley,
Through the valley,
Through the valley of the shadow
I will go.*
*You will lead me,
You will lead me,
And the peace of life in Heaven
I will know.*

2

When I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
The cares of life will be with me
no more;
With a feast and overflowing cup
before me,
Where my innocence
and goodness you'll restore.
*Through the valley,
Through the valley,
Through the valley of the shadow
I will go.*
*You will lead me,
You will lead me,
And the peace of life in Heaven
I will know.*

3

When I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will follow where your steps
have gone before;
By the waters of the valley
you will lead me,
'Till you set me, in your love,
on Heaven's shore.
*Through the valley,
Through the valley,
Through the valley of the shadow
I will go.*
*You will lead me,
You will lead me,
And the peace of life in Heaven
I will know.*

4

When I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
A bright new day of rapture
I will see;
I will join with angels singing
of your glory
And at rest with loved ones
in your house I'll be.
*Through the valley,
Through the valley,
Through the valley of the shadow
I will go.*
*You will lead me,
You will lead me,
And the peace of life in Heaven
I will know.*

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.*

