

The Prayer Chain welcomes requests for prayer for any situation with complete confidentiality. Please pass your request to Mary-Jo Nimmons – tel 02/640 50 18, email: cnimmons@brutele.be or Jennifer Le Jeune 01/061 48 85.

Wider Church News

The Christian Classics Book Club will be meeting next on Tuesday, 12th January to discuss *An Interrupted Life* by Ety Hillesum. You are welcome to attend even if you have not read the book, but naturally you will get the most from having read it. The meeting will start with fellowship and a bag supper from 6.30-7.30 p.m. and will be followed by the book discussion from 7.30-9 p.m. It will take place at the FCJ Centre Of Spirituality, 211 Avenue Winston Churchill, Brussels. For more information or to RSVP contact Joan McGeough, FCJ at 0472.424.178 or mcgeoughjoan@yahoo.com. You may also contact Ron or Maria Bailey at 089-567502 or ronald.bailey@telenet.be.

Further Ahead

The Archdeaconry of North West Europe is holding a retreat on 19th-21st February 2010 at the Beziningscentrum Emmaus, Udenhoutseweg 15, 5268 CG Helvoirt in the Netherlands (<http://www.conferentieoord-emmaus.nl>). The event will be led by Reverend Kevin O'Brien, Chaplain to the Diocesan Bishop in Europe. Contact Mrs M.P. Jägers at maryon.jagers@planet.nl or call +31/30 63 71 780 for more information.

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Phone: 02/511.71.83 **e-mail:** admin@holytrinity.be

Website: <http://www.htbrussels.com> Office hours: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday, Wednesday Thursday and Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

Newsletter items: to admin@holytrinity.be by 9 a.m. on Tuesday..

Chaplain: Canon Dr. Robert Innes. **Associate Chaplain:** Canon Dr. Gary Wilton.
Assistant Chaplain: The Revd. Augustine Nwaekwe. **Hon. Assistant Chaplain:** The Revd. Prof. James Day. **Pastoral Assistant:** Mrs. Janet Sayers.

Gift account for pledges and gifts to HTB, the **Clergy and Friends of HTB** is 310-0344153-83. **IBAN:** BE14 3100 3441 5383 **BIC:** BBRUBEBB

Holy Trinity Newsletter

January 10th 2010 – Epiphany 1: the Baptism of Christ

Today's Services: 09.00 Holy Communion Andrew Graydon; 10.30 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 14.00 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 19.00 Jonathan Mark

Our readings this week

Isaiah 43:1-7 God is our loving creator. When he calls us to himself, we need not fear to respond. The dangers on the way, he will overcome. The cost of paying off all our old associations, he will pay. Every one of us is called to him, by name. There is nothing to fear in responding to God's overwhelming love for us.

Acts 8:14-17 The word is spreading beyond Israel. The proof that this is approved by God is that, not only do the Samaritans recognize what God has done for us in Jesus, but God transforms their lives by the gift of the Holy Spirit. God's love is not only for those apparently born to it, but for all who are willing to receive it.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of his ministry in all four gospels. It points to two aspects of his ministry. The first is Jesus' complete identification with us in accepting baptism at John's hands, a sign of human repentance. The second is that Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit. That he brings the Holy Spirit to us is attested both by the picture of the Spirit descending on Jesus and by John's words. It is for this double purpose that he came. That is why God is pleased with him.

Psalms 29 The court of heaven sees and hears God as he enacts his will with great power. Portrayed as the God of the storm, he drives back the forces of chaos. As they see the power of his action, the whole court assembled in the heavenly temple cries out in recognition of his glory. Enthroned on high, he strengthens his people. Like the message of the Christmas angels, he brings them peace.

Pointers for prayer

- Think of all the problems that can separate us from entering into the love of God: Jesus has dealt with each one;
- Pray for the dangers that we and others will encounter on the path of the Christian life, that the power of God will carry us safely through them;
- Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness and enjoy his peace.

At the Evening Service tonight Jonathan Mark continues the series on Philipians, speaking about "A Right Attitude", drawing on Philipians 2

Our life together

We extend a sincere welcome to everyone to Holy Trinity today. At this time of the year we are thankful to God for Christmas holidays enjoyed and for safety in travelling during the cold weather. After the break, Church life begins to gear up for another year. Our Sunday School and CYFA groups re-start today. And the Church Council has its first meeting of the year tomorrow at 8 p.m. in Church House.

Christmas at Holy Trinity was a wonderful celebration. We are particularly grateful to everyone who decorated the church with candles and flowers, making it look so beautiful. Over the last few years we have developed a series of Christmas services, each of which represents a different aspect of our church life and a different part of our community. Thank you to all who took part in these in many and various ways.

Last Tuesday, **the Chaplain Robert Innes represented the Anglican church** at a reception in Mechelen to mark the retirement of Cardinal Daneels. The Cardinal has been a much loved figure in Belgium and has served the Roman Catholic church with distinction. Robert was able to convey the Anglican church's warm greetings to him and our hopes that he will have a happy retirement. It was a great honour to be invited to this occasion, which took place in the room where the first modern day formal ecumenical conversations between the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches took place, in 1921.

On Saturday 16th January we are (at last!) convening a **'Safety Working Group'**. David Sayers will be taking the lead on this initiative. Those of us who work in these buildings are aware that keeping them safe is a major priority. It is particularly good to be including in the working group the four new 7 p.m. service wardens. Fire safety is our initial concern. The Lord has graciously preserved our premises from fire and flood on more than one occasion, but there remains much work to do if we are to have an organized and systematic approach to this vital area.

Calling all bakers & buyers! Bun Sunday this month is on **17th January**. Our baked goodies, marmalades and jams will be on sale then after the 10.30 a.m. service.

Reverend Gillian Wilton will be licensed as a member of the staff team at St Paul's Tervuren on Sunday 17th January at 10.30 a.m. Please remember Gillian and the Wilton family in your prayers. Members of Holy Trinity are warmly welcomed to attend.

"When I was in prison you visited me." On Sunday 24th January at 2 p.m. we shall be licensing Grace West for her work in prisons. Grace has begun work as the lay Anglican chaplain to Francophone prisoners. Her work is based mainly at the Brussels prisons of Forest and St. Gilles. Her colleague in this work is Egbert van Groesen, based in Antwerp, who ministers to Dutch-speaking prisoners, and whom Holy Trinity has been supporting from its mission budget. Grace's work is carried out under the supervision of the Anglican Council of Belgium. Grace will be expected to undertake theological training for her ministry equivalent to that expected of a Lay Reader. Her licensing will be a commissioning and celebration of this vital work of outreach and care, which Grace engages in on behalf of our whole church community.

On Sunday evening 24th January at 7 p.m., the evening service will be a bring and share Wine, Cheese and Worship event in the hall. Please bring some wine and cheese and your friends. For more details please contact markus.kankaanpaa@holyltrinity.be.

Please note that the **Chaplain will be away on Study Leave** at Ridley Hall in Cambridge **from 8–28th February inclusive**. His aim is to catch up on developments in the world of theology since he left the UK four and a half years ago. Please take care not to organize events at which you hope the Chaplain will be present between these dates. During the Chaplain's absence, the church will be in the capable care of the church wardens, assistant Chaplains and administrative staff.

CDs from our 13th December Carol Service are now on sale for €7 each (or €20 for three). They are available from our Music Director David Mitchell on a Sunday or by email at precentor@holyltrinity.be.

Voice for Life. We are now welcoming a new batch of seven year-olds for our Voice for Life singing and music course. Interested parents please contact David Mitchell directly on 02/289 09 23 or via the Church Office at 02/511 71 83.

The Bun Sunday bake sales raised about **€3,400** in 2009. So a big thank you to all bakers and buyers! Please let me know of any projects you would like to support with this money (in writing to my pigeonhole or to annbarleycorn@belgacom.net).

New spring programme for 2010 now available at the back of church. Please take a copy to keep up to date on Holy Trinity's key services and other events to take place between January and March 2010. Contact admin@holyltrinity.be if you have any additions or modifications before the next print run takes place!

Please check if your name is on the **list of Holy Trinity parishioners** that is available at the entrance to the church. If you are not featured on the list, please complete a form that you can find on the welcome tables or ask Paulina Robbins van Rijn, who kindly keeps the list up-to-date.

Mission partner update. Over the summer this year, Holy Trinity's mission partner Exodus Vision became a member of a Belgian asbl (non-profit organisation) called Hands of Friendship. Hands of Friendship is an umbrella organisation which also supports other projects in difficult countries. The first project is called Projects to Support Refugees from Burma (PSRB) and the second, called Zimbabwe Humanitarian Crisis, is to support those who have been affected by the ongoing emergency in Zimbabwe. This means that Exodus Vision, managed by Holy Trinity's Frieda Mukanyangezi, is now officially registered in Belgium and holds a Belgian bank account. David Sayers is giving administrative and financial assistance. Contact Frieda at friedamuk@yahoo.fr for more information.

Do you regularly attend the 10.30 a.m. service? We are still looking for **volunteers to help with the sound** at the 10.30 a.m. service on Sunday. The only requirement is that you turn up at 10.15 a.m. one Sunday every 4–5 weeks to man the microphones during the service. Full training is provided! No technical background required – anyone can learn. If you are interested, please contact Petra Zollner at zollner_petra@yahoo.co.uk.