

Holy Trinity Newsletter

January 24th 2010 – Epiphany 3

Today's Services: 09.00 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 10.30 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 14.00 Holy Communion Augustine Nwaekwe; 19.00 Gary Wilton

Our readings this week

Nehemiah 8: 1–3, 5–6, 8–10 Israel returned from exile and rebuilt the temple and the city walls, but this only became a secure base when God's self-revelation to his people could again be heard and understood. It is read to the people, at their request, in an atmosphere of worship. The scribes help the people understand. As they come face-to-face with what God has done for them, it becomes a day of emotion and rejoicing.

1 Corinthians 12: 12–31a The Christian community crosses the boundaries that separate people. The Spirit creates this community, makes us part of it and endows us with gifts. Each of us is nothing outside the community, but uniquely precious within it. Everyone is special, but none is more special than the others: we each bring the gifts God has given us to the service of the whole church.

Luke 4: 14–21 Jesus begins his public ministry by announcing that God's long-foreseen redemption is happening at last. This is uncomfortable, for it is one thing to read about this happening to others, but "today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." For some, this is a moment of great emotion and joy: a liberation. For others, it is more than they bargained for. There is no avoiding taking a position. How do we react to Jesus' news for us?

Psalms 19 The whole creation testifies to God's glory. His light shines on us all, his voice speaks and his word is addressed to the very ends of the earth, full of truth and insight. If we recognize it, we know that we can rely on it and that there is nothing more precious in the world. Before God's purity we sense our own inadequacy and we can only pray that we will be acceptable. We know the answer to that prayer. After all, we have a redeemer.

Pointers for prayer

- Pray that God's redeeming word will be heard and understood across the world.
- Each of us is uniquely gifted to serve in the Christian community. How well am I using my gift?
- Meditate on how God has made himself known to us, and rejoice.

At the Evening Service tonight Gary Wilton concludes the series on Philippians, urging people to "Be the Best You Can", drawing on Philippians 4

Our life together

We offer a sincere welcome to Holy Trinity today, both to visitors and to regular members of our church. Please do stay for a cup of coffee or a drink from the bar downstairs in the hall after our morning service.

“When I was in prison you visited me.” Today 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. 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. Grace’s licensing will be followed by a reception in the hall.

Tonight’s Evening Service at 7 p.m will be a bring-and-share wine, cheese and worship event in the hall. Please bring some wine and cheese and your friends. The bookstall will also be open, with a special display of books on the persecuted church worldwide, along with information, magazines and leaflets from Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Congratulations to those involved in organising last week’s ‘Messiah from Scratch’. The event raised about €850 for the church. We plan to give half the amount collected to the Haiti Earthquake appeal. This will be added to the sums for Haiti collected after last week’s services.

Parking arrangements. The church benefits from an agreement with Inno which gives us 30 free tickets for the car park each Sunday morning. We are changing the system for the administration of the car park so that, in future, these tickets will be available at the end of the morning service from a box at the back of church. If your car is in the Inno car park please do pick up a ticket. Note that the tickets are timed and dated, so that – unfortunately – you cannot use them for future Sundays or weekdays. Like manna from heaven, if you do not use your ticket on the day it is supplied, then it is no use!

We do apologise though that there were no car tickets last Sunday as, very unusually, Inno failed to supply us with them.

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@holytrinity.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 Ann Freeman know of any projects you would like to support with this money (in writing to her pigeon-hole or to annbarleycorn@belgacom.net).

Lost property. A number of items of lost property have been handed in to the Church Office. Please check the box at the back of church to see whether anything belongs to you.

Several items of mail have arrived in the Church Office postbox and the intended recipients either do not have pigeon-holes or cannot be identified. Please check if there is anything for you in the cardboard box labeled 'mail box' in the church entrance area.

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 April 2010. Contact admin@holytrinity.be if you have any additions or modifications before the next print run takes place!

In preparation for the church's Annual General Meeting on 18th April, 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.

Do you regularly attend the Sunday 10.30 a.m. service? We are still looking for **volunteers to help with the sound**. 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 rollner_petra@yahoo.co.uk.

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, or Anne Fieldsend – tel: 02/735 19 97.

A Christian gentleman, working in Brussels about once every 6-8 weeks is seeking accommodation in a Christian guest house or guest room. He has a tight schedule of meetings and would appreciate a more restful environment than that offered by most hotels. If you can offer a room or know of a suitable establishment please contact stephbotero@googlemail.com.

Wider Church News

Serve the City are seeking representatives from the English-speaking churches in Brussels, including ourselves. This could be an exciting service opportunity. The role would involve encouraging, recruiting and developing volunteers and attending a monthly gathering. More details from Robert (chaplain@holytrinity.be) or Gary (gary.wilton@holytrinity.be).

Eurodiaconia is searching for an **Administration and Communications Officer** for their Brussels secretariat. Working in a Christian environment, the post holder will be responsible for organising meetings and events, general office organisation and for a range of communication tools including a website and newsletter. If you would like to find out more about this position, please go to <http://www.eurodiaconia.org>.

For your diaries

The **Finance Committee** meets in Church House on Monday 25th January at 8 p.m.

Please note that the **Chaplain will be away on Study Leave** at Ridley Hall in Cambridge **from 8–28th February inclusive**.

African Enterprise will be holding a **fundraising dinner** on Friday 12th February at 7.45 p.m. at the Christian Center, Chaussée de Waterloo 47, Rhode St Genese. The main speaker will be Harvey Thomas CBE (PR and presentation consultant). He now manages AE's administration in the UK and will share his testimony under the theme 'Love in Action'. Tickets are €25 per person available from Lynn Nwagbara on africanenterprisebelgium@telenet.be or 0479/28 16 51.

The Archdeaconry of North West Europe is holding a retreat on 19th–21st February 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.

On Monday 8th March from 7.30 – 9 p.m. we plan to present our hopes and aspirations for the development of our church house office and accommodation building. This evening meeting will comprise a presentation from the Chaplain on our hopes for the future of our Pro-Cathedral, a presentation from Architect Richard Craddock, and opportunities for questions. If you are interested in the future development of our church, please do note this date in your diary.

Please do note that Holy Trinity's **La Foresta** weekend away this year will be the last weekend of May, Friday 28th to Sunday 30th May. **Please write the dates in your diary now!** The main speaker will be Professor Ted van der Ende, who will be helping us to think about 'biblical travel stories'. We will be thinking about our own travels, and the question of migration, in the light of the travelling we read about in scripture.

HOLY TRINITY Rue Capitaine Crespel 29, B-1050 Brussels

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