

Holy Trinity Newsletter

January 31st 2010 – Epiphany 4 : The Presentation of Christ

Today's Services: 09.00 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 10.30 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 14.00 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 19.00 Arttu Makipaa

Our readings this week

This Sunday we celebrate the presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Malachi 3:1–5 The Lord will come in judgment, suddenly and unexpectedly. Who will be able to stand before him? His coming will be less comfortable than many expect, for his judgment will lead to a process that will purge his people of all that is impure, making them acceptable to him.

Hebrews 2:14–end Jesus is one with us in our human nature. It is because he understands our every human weakness, because he has shared in the pains of suffering humanity, that he can help us. He will be able to present a sacrifice for the sins of the people that sets them free forever of the power of death. This is indeed a merciful and loving high priest.

Luke 2:22–40 It is hard to imagine the arrival of the Lord in his Temple in a way more unexpected than that described by Luke: a helpless baby, brought by parents who could only afford the offering of the poor person. Yet Simeon and Anna, the representatives of all that is best in Israel, are there to welcome him. This is one who will not just save Israel, but the world and who will replace the world's order with that of God. God's order is not the order of the world.

Psalms 48 How wonderful is Jerusalem, the city of God, this joyful place of security, whose glory overwhelms her enemies. To the pilgrim, three things are particularly important: to ponder on the justice and love that are to be found here; to become thoroughly familiar with every aspect of the city; and to pass this knowledge on to the next generation. Jerusalem stands here for God himself.

Pointers for prayer

- Do we look for God in places of worldly security and comfort, or among the poor and the weak? Do we see the world God's way around?
- Jesus sets believers free from the power of death. Pray for all those who are dead to his love;
- Pray that we may indeed have the grace to pass our Christian faith on to the next generation – and beyond.

The flowers today are offered to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Blackie.

At the Evening Service tonight Arttu Makipaa begins a new series on 'Real Life Issues: Money' with 'Makes the world go round?', drawing on Matthew 22:15–22

Our life together

We offer a sincere welcome to Holy Trinity, 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. Today's service marks the end of the Epiphany season. We look back to the day of Christ's birth and look forward to the coming days of his passion.

Congratulations to Eliane and James Pitts on the birth of Tabitha Rachael, who arrived on Tuesday weighing 3.6 kg. Tabitha's arrival makes the Pitts clan a nicely-balanced four girls and four boys. We celebrate the arrival of a baby girl to a much loved and admired family! Tabitha will be baptised on Saturday 6th February at 2 p.m.

If last Sunday you noticed a number of our ladies looking both blessed and exhausted, they were probably the ones who went on **last weekend's 'Ladies retreat'**. Around 10 ladies from Holy Trinity joined 50 others from about six English speaking churches for 24 hours in Waterloo to pray and learn and receive healing together, led by Rev. Anne Hibbert of 'The Well' healing centre in Leamington Spa, England. Participants cried and laughed, ate and drank, sang and prayed together. Many came away having met with God in an important way, so we give thanks for this occasion.

A very big thank you to all those members of Holy Trinity who worked so hard to make the **Wine, Cheese and Worship service** at 7 p.m. on Sunday 24th January such a special occasion. It was a lovely experience of 'cafe church'.

Our Church Council meets on **Monday 1st February** at 8 p.m. in Church House.

Next **Sunday 7th February** at our 10:30 a.m. service, we **baptise baby Hugh Warfield**. We pray for Neil, Rachel and their family as they prepare for this special event.

New Year Sale! After the 10.30 a.m. services on Sundays 7th and 14th February, all items on the church bookstall – books, CDs and DVDs – are available for 20% off the marked price. This is a great opportunity to stock up on Christian material for you, your children, colleagues and friends, or for your home group.

Lent begins on Wednesday 17th February and is traditionally a season in which Christians take up some extra study or spiritual discipline. During Lent, The FCJ Centre for Spirituality in Avenue Winston Churchill is offering three afternoon sessions on Lady Julian of Norwich and four evening sessions on prayer. Sr. Teresa White is coming to our 10:30 a.m. service today to tell us more.

Contributions to 2010 AGM report. Please note that all contributions to this year's written report to the Annual Congregational Meeting on 18th April should be sent to Council Secretary Simon Robbins at simon.robbins@scarlet.be **no later than Monday 1st March**. If you sent in a contribution last year, you should also provide one this year. We need contributions on Finance including ASBL; Electoral Roll; Youth Activities and Child Protection; Mission including Bun Sunday; Bookstall; Ecumenical Activities; and Archdeaconry activities. If you are involved in an activity not mentioned above and would like to send a few lines, you are most welcome to do so.

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.

CDs from our 13th December Carol Service are still 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.

Parking arrangements. The church benefits from an agreement with Inno which gives us 30 free tickets for the car park each Sunday morning. We have changed the system for the administration of the car park so that these tickets are 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!

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.

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**. If you can offer a room or know of a suitable establishment please contact stephbotero@googlemail.com.

For your diaries

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. Harvey Thomas CBE (PR and presentation consultant) 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 **European English speaking New Wine Network** is holding a Training Day from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on Saturday 13th February at Christ Church, Amsterdam, Netherlands, with the theme 'A **Vision for Distinctiveness** – Discipleship and Disciple-Making in 21st Century Europe' led by Bishop Graham Cray from New Wine England. Cost €10 per person payable on arrival, includes lunch and coffee/tea. For full details visit the website http://city.christchurch.nl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=60.

The Institute of Leadership & Ethics (ILE) will be holding its next breakfast seminar on Saturday 6th March from 8.30–10.30 a.m. on the campus at St Jansbergsesteenweg 97 in Leuven. Many of us struggle daily with the challenges presented to our Christian faith by the workplace.

Professor Patrick Nullens will speak on the topic of Christian Professionals in the Post Religious World and the lessons that can be drawn from the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer to help them in the workplace. For more information and to get onto the ILE mailing list, email: ddsayers@gmail.com.

The World Day of Prayer service will be held this year at Holy Trinity on Friday 5th March at 10.30 a.m. We will be worshipping God and praying for the people of Cameroon. The service will be followed by refreshments. Please join us! For more information, contact Ann Milton on 02/772 4704 or email ann.milton@belgacom.net.

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 meeting will comprise a presentation from the Chaplain on the future of our Pro-Cathedral, a presentation from Architect Richard Craddock, and opportunities for questions. If you are interested in the development of our church, please 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. 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.

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, general office organisation and communication tools including a website and newsletter. Find out more at <http://www.eurodiaconia.org>.

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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