

Holy Trinity Newsletter

April 4th 2010 – Easter

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

Our readings this week

Acts 10:34–43 Anointed with the power of God, Jesus' ministry of service led to a shameful death. But he rose from the dead, vindicated by God, to be seen by a group of witnesses. God has made him the judge of all, but he is a judge who forgives all who believe in him. The disciples, who were his witnesses, are charged to preach and testify to these amazing events – which is exactly what Peter is doing in this passage.

1 Corinthians 15:19–26 Christian hope, real in this present life, yet reaches beyond it. For Christ's rising from the dead is a foretaste, the first fruit of the harvest that is to come, when all who trust in him will be made alive in the kingdom of God. People say that death is the last enemy. Jesus' resurrection is the guarantee that the last enemy is defeated.

John 20:1–18 As darkness of the early morning of the first day of the week turns to light, so the disciples each experience the new dawn in different ways: a perplexed woman; impulsive Peter; the beloved disciple, who sees and believes. The spine-tingling story of Mary shows her passive weeping giving way to hope, and an unexpected interruption turning suddenly into a transforming encounter. Her message to the disciples begins a new world: "I have seen the Lord".

Psalms 118 This Messianic Psalm was probably the closing prayer of the Last Supper, as Jesus went to his Passion. Now it has become a triumphal hymn to the victorious Messiah. Notice some of the important themes: God's rescue of his servant; his reversal of the human order (22); the day of the Messiah's triumph (24). The psalm begins and ends with the community's thanks to God for his steadfast and enduring love. What could be more appropriate?

Pointers for prayer

- It took time for the disciples to grasp the full significance of Easter. Where am I in that process?
- Pray for all who still fear death, and for the preaching and testimony of the church to its defeat;
- Thank God for the steadfast love with which he has redeemed us.

At the Evening Service tonight Heather Roy begins a new mini-series: Easter, looking at the Resurrection with new eyes with 'The Resurrection through God's eyes', drawing on John 11:

Our life together

On this Easter Sunday our church welcomes friends, family and those visiting Brussels. Please do stay for a cup of coffee with us after the 10:30 a.m. service downstairs in the hall. Over the Easter period, many people from our regular congregation are away, and we wish them a refreshing break and safe travels.

The Collections and Offerings at our services go towards the general running expenses of Holy Trinity. Our Pro-Cathedral costs about €750 per day to run, 365 days per year. This cost is mainly born by the pledged giving of our regular church members. We are not a rich church, and any donations that visitors can make towards our operations are very gratefully received.

We extend sincere thanks today to our flower team for their splendid work. The Easter lilies have been offered by members of the congregation to the glory of God and in memory of departed loved ones. The flower team is especially grateful for these donations which help in beautifying the church on this special day.

There will be a **2 p.m. elders meeting** immediately after the 2 p.m. Easter service today.

Holy Trinity's Church Council met last Monday 29th March. We considered a Diocesan strategy which recommends the appointment of four free-standing archdeacons for the diocese, one of which will be based in Brussels. We also reviewed progress with our environment strategy and approved a quotation for a hearing loop system.

Please note that **the chaplain will be taking a break in the week after Easter** (5th–9th April), and the church office will be closed on Monday 5th April.

On Thursday 8th April there will be a **lunch prayer meeting at 1.15–1.45 p.m.** led by Augustine Nwaekwe at the Chapel of Resurrection, 22–24 rue Van Maerlant, Brussels. All are welcome.

Calling all bakers and buyers! Next Sunday (11th April) is **Bun Sunday**. This is your chance to support smaller charities and missionary projects by buying our baked goodies, jams, chutneys and marmalades. We do also still need plastic carrier bags or save the environment and bring along your own bag next Bun Sunday.

The **Church Annual Meeting** will be held on **Sunday 18th April at noon**, immediately after the 10.30a.m. service. This meeting is the annual opportunity to review before God the church's work over the previous year. 2009 was a really important year for our church, not least because it has marked the successful re-building of our financial reserves following the Centenary Renovation Project. If you care about the prospering of our church, please do come along to be informed on the wide range of activities in which we are involved, and play your part in making sure we steward our resources wisely. Copies of the Annual Report are now available in the church lobby for you to take and read before the meeting.

We are looking for an **accompanist** for the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) exams on Saturday 22nd May. Can you play the piano? If so, please contact David Mitchell at precentor@holytrinity.be.

Holy Trinity's **La Foresta weekend away** will be on 28–30th May. The main speaker will be Professor Ted van der Ende, who will be helping us to think about 'biblical travel stories'. Ted has a wide range of pastoral and teaching experience in America and Europe. Following last year's very successful children's work, we have the same team of leaders – Ruth Faber and Ilse ten Cate. And the dance band which provided such excellent entertainment last year will be back with us. We are managing to hold prices at the same level as the last two years. Please be aware that the booking charge increases for payments received after 3rd May, so take advantage of the early bird prices and book soon. Programmes and booking forms for La Foresta are now available in the church lobby.

Congratulations to our 7 p.m. service who raised some €500 as a special gift to the Anglican church of St. Martha and St. Mary Leuven. Fondly known as St. "M and Ms", this church was originally founded by Holy Trinity. Its congregation is composed mainly of people involved in the university life of the city. Whilst it is currently quite small, we hope and expect that it will see significant growth in the future.

Thank you also to all the people from the 7 p.m. service who helped to make the Evening Service's Passover meal last Sunday evening such a success with delicious food and drink.

Use of the pigeonholes at the back of the church is being reviewed with the aim of improvement. If you already have a personal pigeonhole and wish to keep it, or if you would like us to set up a personal pigeonhole, please contact Catherine in the church office at admin@holyltrinity.be.

The second-hand bookshop is looking for helpers to sort out books during the week, following recent donations of a large quantity of books. Volunteers are also welcome to help sell the books on Sundays. Contact Dora on 0473/52 79 77 for more information.

White (not yellowed) cotton or real lace is now needed for communion linen. Contact Paulina Robbins van Rijn (paulinaemma@scarlet.be) if you can help.

Please note that **the Electoral Roll has been posted in the church lobby** for you to take a look at. Contact Paulina Robbins van Rijn (paulinaemma@scarlet.be) for any information.

A limited supply of '**Holy Trinity crosses**' in solid silver, 3_ by 2_ cm are available from Paulina Robbins van Rijn for €60. For more information, contact paulinaemma@scarlet.be.

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.

For your diaries

The Christian Classics Book Club will meet on Tuesday 13th April to discuss *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. The meeting will start with a bag supper from 6.30 – 7.30 p.m., followed by the book discussion from 7.30–9 p.m. at the FCJ. For more information or to RSVP contact Joan McGeough at 0472/42 41 78 or mcgeoughjoan@yahoo.com. Ron or Maria Bailey at 089/56 75 02 or ronald.bailey@telenet.be.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), a human rights organisation focusing on religious freedom around the world, will co-sponsor two films during the One World human rights film festival from 12th–19th April in Brussels. *Kimjongilia*, a film about the human rights situation in North Korea, will be screened on 14th April at 6.30 p.m. in the European Parliament. *Moving to Mars*, a film about the experience of Karen refugees from Burma who have been resettled in Sheffield in the UK, will be screened at Bozar on 16th April at 7.30 p.m. (cost is €5). Seats are limited so if you would like to attend any films, visit http://www.mzv.cz/representation_brussels/en/culture/archive_of_events/one_world_2010.html to register online. Please note for any films being shown in the European Parliament, you must register at least one week in advance and bring photo id. with you.

Sue Bird will be repeating her workshop on **Christians and work** on Thursday 15th April and Thursday 27th May, both to be held in Church House starting at 8 p.m. When all of us spend so much time "at work", this is a topical subject to take a closer look at. We hope you will support this initiative.

Sunday 18th April will be a **Global Day of Prayer for Turkey**. Please take a few minutes to read the notices about this in the church lobby, or visit <http://www.prayforturkey.com>

The Wednesday Club, an English-speaking afternoon social club for older men and women, will start on Wednesday 21st April in All Saints' Church, Braine-l'Alleud (see <http://www.allsaints.be>). The club, which is secular and has no religious affiliations, will provide a caring environment for members from 2–4.30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Membership is open to residents and "grannies and grandpas" of visiting families. Light refreshments will be provided. The premises are wheelchair-accessible and the club is recruiting volunteer drivers for those without transport. Email vol@the-wednesday-club.org or info@the-wednesday-club.org for details.

Exodus Vision will make a visit to Malawi on 1st –14th August. Would you like to join the party with Frieda Mukanyangezi, her brother Faustin Uzabakiliho and his group of six from California on this visit to give pastoral training and evangelistic outreach? They will be visiting the refugee camp "Dzaleka" which houses people from many African countries. If you are interested, please contact Frieda on 0472/44 94 27.

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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@holyltrinity.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