

Holy Trinity Newsletter

April 25th 2010 – Easter 4

Today's Services: 09.00 Holy Communion James Day; 10.30 Holy Communion James Day;
14.00 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 19.00 Robert Innes

Our readings this week

Acts 9:36–end Jesus, raised from the dead, brought new life to those whom he met. This did not just happen in the past. The power that was experienced in Jesus and then called forth by Peter is seen and experienced today through the work of his church. It was not Peter who raised Tabitha: it was God. When the church does God's will, great things happen.

Revelation 7:9–end The song of heaven speaks of the triumphant power of God, shown in Jesus. As the elder makes clear, God draws his people to himself so that, in the eternal reality of heaven, those who had seemed to be defeated are seen to be alive and full of joy. That joy comes from their sharing in the triumph of Christ.

John 10:22–30 Jesus uses the picture of the good shepherd who calls to his sheep. We can debate endlessly about whether or not to respond to that call, but it is not to debate that he calls us. Rather, we are called to the decision of faith. Those who respond find that he leads them to rich pastures and to security. Those who answer the call of Jesus will experience God at work in their lives and find eternal life. The decision as to whether to respond rests with us.

Psalms 23 Whatever dangers confront the flock, the one who trusts the good shepherd has nothing to fear, guided by him into security and renewal. In situations that would make others tremble, his care for every need of his flock is extravagant. The shepherd whose call I answer is the Lord. Where else could I look for such riches, where else would I be so secure? Where else could I find that eternal life that is nourished by God?

Pointers for prayer

- Pray for all who are confronted by death, bereavement or loss of relationship to find the restoration and joy of the eternal life that God provides;
- We are the church. How well are we using the power that God makes available to us?
- As Christ the good shepherd calls me, have I the courage to respond in faith?

At the Evening Service tonight, Robert Innes concludes the mini-series: Easter, looking at the Resurrection with new eyes with 'The Resurrection through Thomas's eyes', drawing on John

20: 24–30

Our life together

We extend a warm welcome to those worshipping at Holy Trinity today, both regular members and visitors alike. Please do stay for a cup of coffee or a drink from the bar after our 10:30 service downstairs in the hall.

I would like to thank all those involved in the preparation and running of last week's **Annual Meeting**. The accounting, research, writing and collation needed to produce all the documentation for the meeting represents hundreds of hour of work from many different people. This year's reports were both clear and encouraging. The meeting itself felt, to me, a significant occasion and milestone in Holy Trinity's life, as we were able to record that we had successfully faced and overcome some daunting challenges that have threatened the wellbeing of our church over the last few years. There was an excellent attendance of some sixty or seventy people, and the spirit of the meeting was warm and friendly. The meeting made me feel honoured and proud to be Holy Trinity's chaplain. *Robert Innes*

2010 marks the 60th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, the founding document of the European Coal and Steel Community which over time developed to become the European Union of today. To help stimulate Christian reflection on Europe, Gary Wilton has written a pamphlet examining afresh this declaration and the Christian values that shaped Robert Schuman's vision for Europe. You can find Gary's paper at www.cofe.anglican.org/info/socialpublic/europe/schuman.rtf. May 9th is Europe Day, and Gary will be exploring some of these values when he preaches at our 10:30 service on that day.

Assistant Chaplain Augustine Nwaekwe will be away in Nigeria from 12th April to 3rd May. During this time, he will be meeting with the newly elected bishop of his "home" Diocese of Mbaise to discuss the future of the Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind which the Diocese runs, which has received support from Holy Trinity's Bun Sunday. Augustine goes in the company of Alexander Koistinen from our 2p.m. congregation. Please pray for their time away.

We are still 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@hollytrinity.be.

Finance Committee meets at 8pm on Monday 26th in the Conference Room in Church House.

The Annual Meeting of the British Charitable Fund takes place on Tuesday 27th. The Fund does a wonderful and often unseen job in looking after people originally from Britain but now living in Belgium who have for one reason or another got into difficulty. Traditionally, the Fund has had a particular concern for older people. The Fund links 'protegés' with mentors, supplying moral and sometimes financial help. Janet Sayers represents Holy Trinity in the work of the Fund.

A **Holy Trinity 'running team'** will be running in the Brussels 20km at the end of May. We will all be running to support a street children's charity called Retrak (see www.retrak.org for details) that is well known to the Holy Trinity congregation. To avoid unnecessary competition for funds (of course we will all be competing fiercely for a good time, or at least to finish in one piece!) we have decided to ask Holy Trinity friends to support us collectively. I have set up a justgiving account: <http://www.justgiving.com/Sian-Platt> but the funds will be accredited to all of us. Please give generously, street children in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia deserve it. And if you are in La Foresta and will miss the event, you can pray for the four of us Siân, Usman, Jacques and Kendrah to have a successful run.

One more week to go before La Foresta prices rise. Holy Trinity's La Foresta weekend away will be on 28–30th May. Bookings have got off to a good start, and we have already filled half our room allocation. The children's workers have begun meeting to plan a fun-packed programme for our 3s–13s. The main speaker will be Professor Ted van der Ende, who will be helping us to think about 'biblical travel stories'. Please return your La Foresta booking forms as soon as possible. The reduced rate for booking finishes on the 3rd May.

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.

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.

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 Wednesday Club, an English-speaking social club for older men and women, started on Wednesday 21st April in All Saints' Church, Braine-l'Alleud (see <http://www.allsaints.be>). This secular club 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 voIs@the-wednesday-club.org or info@the-wednesday-club.org for details.

Churches Together is holding a meeting with **Professor John Bowen** of Wycliffe College, Toronto, on "**The Man who invented Narnia**" – a discussion on the work of C.S. Lewis. The meeting will take place on Tuesday 4th May at St Paul's Church Centre (Hoorneelstraat 24, 3080 Tervuren) as of 7.30 p.m. Tickets cost €10 or €15 for a family. Information from Gilbert Dunachie (02–767–9772, dunachie@skynet.be) or Sue Bird (0476/41 08 75).

The **Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven** will be holding a Breakfast Seminar on Saturday 8th May on the subject of **Life-long learning** at which our Associate Chaplain, Canon Dr Gary Wilton, will be speaking. The workshop is designed to help participants explore how life-long learning can help them to cope with the constant change that is a key feature of the life of most contemporary organisations. For further information contact David Sayers on ddsayers@gmail.com.

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