

Holy Trinity Newsletter

May 2nd 2010 – Easter 5

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

Our readings this week

Genesis 22:1–18 The key issue in this strange story is the demonstration of Abraham's faith and obedience. Abraham is prepared to put God first in any circumstances. After the story, we know that. It also means that God can trust Abraham for a special purpose, that will bless the world. It is unlikely that it was put here as a moral lesson!

Acts 11:1–18 The church's considered approval of both social contact between Jewish and Gentile Christians and baptism of Gentile believers without circumcision marks a turning point in its history. We see God's hand preparing the events. Luke stresses how the presence in believers of the Holy Spirit is characteristic of Christian baptism, as was foretold by John the Baptist and Jesus (see Luke 3:16 and Acts 1:5).

John 13:31–35 The Easter events glorify Jesus and his Father with him. This mutual glorification reflects the love that is within the Godhead and which is brought to humanity by Jesus. It is a love that the community of believers is commanded to exercise between its members. As love is the very character of God, so it is to be the distinguishing mark of the Christian family.

Psalms 148 This a great hymn of praise to God from all creation: heavenly beings (1–6), and the earthly creation, whether human (11–14) or sub-human (7–10). The praise of heaven is particularly directed to the wonder and eternal order of creation, while that of earth is pointed towards God's exalted glory as seen in particular in his raising "a horn" for his people, that is, for providing us with a mighty saviour, Jesus.

Pointers for prayer

- The love of believers reflects God's character, the presence within us of the Holy Spirit and Jesus' command, yet is not automatic. Do others notice our love? In what way can I help make it more real and visible?
- New things are not always easy to accept. Pray that the church will be open to God's initiatives;
- Easter glorifies God. Join joyfully in his praise.

At the Evening Service tonight, Andrew Graydon continues the mini-series: Easter, looking at the Resurrection with new eyes with 'The Resurrection through Cleopas' eyes', drawing on

Luke 24: 13–33

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 a.m. service downstairs in the hall.

Last chance to book for Holy Trinity's La Foresta weekend away on 28-30 May at the specially reduced rate! Two-thirds of the places have now been taken. We already have three good-sized children's groups plus a crèche. On the Saturday evening, there will be a live Ceilidh dance band and bar. If you would like to join us for a weekend of relaxation, fun and biblical thinking in beautiful surroundings and with good food, then we would encourage you to act NOW. **The reduced rate for booking finishes tomorrow 3rd May.**

Assistant Chaplain Augustine Nwaekwe will be away in Nigeria until tomorrow 3rd May. Augustine has been away in the company of Alexander Koistinen from our 2 p.m. congregation. Please pray for their safe return.

Gary Wilton in his capacity as Church of England Representative to the EU is at an International Conference in Corboda, Spain, on 'Religious Freedom' in Democratic Societies hosted by the Spanish EU Presidency and the Alliance of Civilisations. He will be back in Brussels for Thursday 6th May.

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. 9th May is Europe Day, and Gary will be exploring some of these values when he preaches at our 10.30 a.m. service on that day.

The Rector of All Saints' Waterloo, Kempton Baldridge is moving on, and the Clergy and Vestry of All Saints' Waterloo invite all friends of the Parish to give thanks for his ministry, either at his final Eucharist at All Saints on May 9th at 11 a.m., or during a luncheon reception for Kempton and his wife, Isabel, after the service (approximately 12.30 p.m.).

Calling all bakers & buyers! Next Sunday (9th May) 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.

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@holyltrinity.be.

Do be careful where you **park your car** in rue Capitaine Crespel. In particular, do not block any garage entrances as the proprietor of the building has the right to get you towed, and recovery of the vehicle will cost over €200. If in doubt, use the Inno car park next door to Holy Trinity, for which we have ample free tickets.

A Holy Trinity 7 p.m. evening service 'running team' will be running in the Brussels 20 km on Sunday 30th May. The team will all be running to support a street children's charity called Retrak (see <http://www.retrak.org> for details) that is well known to the Holy Trinity congregation. To avoid unnecessary competition for funds, the team has decided to ask Holy Trinity friends to support them collectively. Sian Platt has set up a justgiving account: at <http://www.justgiving.com/Sian-Platt>, but the funds will be accredited to all of the team. 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 team of four (Siân, Usman, Jacques and Kendrah) to have a successful run.

Emma Lowe from our 10.30 a.m. morning service is also doing the Brussels 20 km aid of the Giraffe Project charity (http://www.giraffeproject.org/About_Us.html), which is based in Belgium and provides educational support to impoverished children living in slums in Kenya. She is one of about 55 runners who make up this year's Giraffe Project 20 km team, and they have set up an online donation page which allows people to contribute to the funds being raised. If you would like to support her, please visit her web page <http://www.justgiving.com/emmalowe-20k>

The first copies of Holy Trinity's new summer programme 2010 covering the four months from May to August are now available in the church lobby. This important publication sets out the upcoming reading and preaching calendar, as well as any other key events in our church life. Please feel free to take a copy and let Catherine in the church office know at admin@holyltrinity.be if you find any additions or modifications. More copies will be printed when required.

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 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

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 on Tuesday 4th May at St Paul's Church Centre (Hoornezelstraat 24, Tervuren as of 7.30 p.m. Tickets cost €10 or €15 for a family. Information can be obtained from Gilbert Dunachie (02/767 97 72, dunachie@skynet.be) or Sue Bird on 0476/41 08 75.

The **Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven** will hold a Breakfast Seminar on Saturday 8th May on the subject of **Life-long learning** at which our Associate Chaplain, Gary Wilton, will be

speaking. The workshop is designed to help participants explore how life-long learning can help them 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.

The Christian Classics Book Club will meet on Tuesday 11th May to discuss Cyprian, And Origen On The Lord's Prayer by Alistair Stewart-Sykes. The meeting will start with fellowship and a bag supper from 6.30-7.30 p.m., followed by the book discussion from 7.30-9 p.m. at the FCJ Centre Of Spirituality, 211 Avenue Winston Churchill. This will be the last meeting until September. For more information or to RSVP, contact Joan McGeough, FCJ (0472/42 41 78 or mcgeoughjoan@yahoo.com), or Ron or Maria Bailey (089/56 75 02 or ronald.bailey@telenet.be).

Join Serve the City for Spring Cleaning on Saturday 15th May, a big volunteer day with many opportunities to serve. Jesus is making all things new! Feel his pleasure as you clean, weed, organise, and renew the facilities of non-profit associations in Brussels that are serving the needs of the homeless, asylum seekers, children and the disabled. They especially need men! Sign up to serve on <http://www.springcleaning.be> !

A workshop entitled "**A Human Perspective on the Global and Economic Financial Crisis**" led by Frank Turner SJ, will be held at the FCJ Centre of Spirituality on Saturday 22nd May from 10 a.m.– 4 p.m. Further information and booking can be obtained from fcj@fcjcentre.be or 0477/73 45 51.

Sue Bird will be repeating her **workshop on Christians and work** on Thursday 27th May 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.

Exodus Vision will make a visit to Malawi on 1st –14th August. Would you like to join the party with Frieda Mukanyangezi 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