

Holy Trinity Newsletter

May 23rd 2010 – Pentecost

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

Genesis 11:1–9 There are several important themes in this familiar story. Invited to cover the earth, humanity huddles together. Invited to depend on God, it seeks security in itself and its technology. The result is scattering and chaos. We need to read this story in relation to what God does at Pentecost.

Acts 2:1–13 The outpouring of the Spirit of the church is one of the key steps in God's work of salvation. Luke presents it as the holding the key to all that is done in the church to spread the gospel of Jesus. What a change from the scattering worked at Babel! The church is still spread across the earth, and has to cope with the diversity of human culture and language, but now is equipped to do so. From the start, the church has been dependent on God's working through it.

John 14:8–17 Jesus sets out something like a step-ladder that connects his people to God. It is through Jesus that we have access to God, and know God. But unlike the world, we have God dwelling in us, in the Holy Spirit, drawing us to Jesus, opening his truth to us. The continuous, two-way traffic of love, truth and obedience between God and his people ensures the closeness to God that is the very opposite of Babel.

Psalms 104 The psalm points us again to the creating and renewing work of the Holy Spirit. It celebrates first the goodness of creation, calling us to rejoice in its beauty and order. Yet the Spirit is not just at work in creation, but also in its renewal. The work of the Holy Spirit is not once-and-for-all, but continuous, adding to the Lord's glory day by day. It moves us to praise our God.

Pointers for prayer

- Pray for the church, spread across the world and its diversity, to draw people together before God;
- That ladder of communication between God and his people is something we are all invited to experience. What does that mean for me?
- Praise is based on humility and wonder. In a posture of praise, we are open to God's work in us.

At the Evening Service tonight Gary Wilton continues the mini-series: "Knowing God", with 'Knowing God -The Anointing of the Holy Spirit' drawing on Acts 2:14–39

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.

Today at the 2 p.m. service we baptise **Sean Gisa** and **Dylan Kimasa**. We congratulate their parents, Florence Uwera and Jean Claude Ruzigandekwe of our Rwandan community who both live in Leuven but worship regularly with us. We welcome them, their families and friends on this special day. You are invited to their reception which will be held after the service at Jozef Pierrestraat 60, Leuven.

The **Diocesan Synod** is taking place in Köln, Germany, from 24th to 27th May. Robert Innes and Gary Wilton have places on the Synod as 'Bishop's Nominees'. They are joined this year by David Fieldsend, who has been elected to represent the lay people of our archdeaconry.

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.

Next weekend (28th–30th May) is our La Foresta weekend away. We have 125 people coming, including a lot of young people and children. Please remember to bring indoor shoes, outdoor shoes – and dancing shoes! We hope that the fine weather will continue so we can enjoy the grounds, forest and lakeside cafés, in addition to an enriching programme of worship and teaching. Please remember that there will be **NO 9 a.m. service or 2 p.m. service next Sunday 30th May** because of La Foresta. There will, however, be a 10.30 a.m. communion service here as usual at which Dr. Andrew Graydon will preach.

A Holy Trinity 7 p.m. evening service 'running team' will be running in the Brussels 20 km on Sunday 30th May to support Retrak (see <http://www.retrak.org> for details). The team has decided to ask Holy Trinity friends to support them collectively via a justgiving account at <http://www.justgiving.com/Sian-Platt>. If you are in La Foresta and will miss the event, you can pray for the team of four (Siân, Usman, Jacques and Kendrah).

Emma Lowe from our 10.30 a.m. service is also doing the Brussels 20 km in aid of the Giraffe Project charity (http://www.giraffeproject.org/About_Us.html). She is one of about 55 runners who make up this year's Giraffe Project team, and they have an online donation page which allows people to contribute at <http://www.justgiving.com/emmalowe-20k>.

On Saturday 5th June from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Council is organising a Church Spring Cleaning morning. The chaplain, assistant chaplain, wardens, several members of Council and a team from the evening service will be coming along. Can you join us? Please let the office know at admin@holytrinity.be if you plan to come so we have an idea of numbers. As a bonus, it would be great if you could bring cleaning equipment. We need feather dusters for high level cobwebs, sponges and buckets for pews, cleaning fluids for the kitchen, estate cars for clearing out the garage. The wardens are supplying glue for sticking down loose panels on the hall floor. This is a great opportunity for practical service. The church is a big area, but remember: many hands make light work!

Holy Trinity cycle stand appeal. Cycling is an increasingly popular way to get to church. Can you help improve our cycle parking provision? We aim to raise €2,000 by end July to buy and install three new 'cycle tubes'. Donations can be made to Holy Trinity's bank account: 310-1613905-08, IBAN: BE63 3101 6139 0508 with the communication "Cycle appeal," or cash donations can be put in an envelope marked 'cycle appeal' and put in the collection bag or given to an usher, warden or the treasurer. This appeal is part of the Church Council's strategy for a more environmentally-friendly church.

During Augustine Nwaekwe's recent trip to Nigeria, he led his home bishop's delegation to the Christoffel Blinden Mission in Abuja for the welfare of rural blind people on 17th April. He visited the Akpodim Blind Centre in the company of Alexander Koistinen and made a presentation of the June Sunday donation. (See photos with some blind inmates in the lobby). On Sunday 25th, he preached at All Saints Cathedral in Port Harcourt. On Tuesday 27th, he led a seminar on "Aspects of pastoral care for people with special needs" for a group of 400 theology students at Trinity College Umuahia. He finally preached on May 2nd at the Anglican Chapel of the Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri, with about 1,800 students in attendance. It was indeed a working holiday, but very rewarding and fulfilling. He gives many thanks for prayers and support while he was away.

David and Evelyn Baines left Brussels last month for Dallas, Texas to continue their software development work for Wycliffe Bible Translators. Holy Trinity was able to help fund their final expenses as they set out on the next phase of their journey in missionary service. You can find an important newsletter from the Baines on the church notice board. They ask us to pray especially for grace and stamina as they do lots of travelling and living out of suitcases this year, and that they would find a place to call 'home'.

Update on the roof works from Richard Craddock (also see photos in the lobby). Final work is being carried out on the slate roofs and the new ridge tiles. Improved access up and into the roof space is now substantially in place, making maintenance significantly easier. The top of the masonry arch between nave and choir, where the cross hangs, has been consolidated. The flat roofs have also progressed. Whilst the bulk of the work is nearly done, some will continue until a Practical Completion meeting on Wednesday 2nd June.

The **St Gilles Home Group** will meet on Wednesdays leading up to the summer. Initially we will be studying "Plan Be" (about the Beatitudes), and then "Sex God" (about marriage within the Christian context in today's world of different types of union between people). Meetings will be held at Richard and Sally Steel's home, 54 Rue de Lombardie, St Gilles, from 8 p.m. We would love to welcome new people, so do get in touch with Sue Bird (0476/41 08 75) or Richard Steel (02/538 74 80) if you are interested.

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.

Accommodation, modestly priced, wanted for young man with excellent references. Contact the Sansons on 02/733 03 90 if you can help.

Dora Demaertelaere is looking for volunteers to help her sort out the secondhand book shop during the week. Please contact her on 0473/52 79 77 if you would like to help.

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 FCJ is organising an **Ignatian Individually Guided Retreat** from Friday 4th June at 8 p.m. –Sunday 6th June at 4 p.m. at La Pairelle Retreat Centre SJ, Wépion, Namur. Space for peace and quiet with God. Further information and on-line booking at <http://www.fcjcentre.be> or by email to fci@fcjcentre.be or 0477/73 45 51.

The Korean Church of Brussels is holding their Annual Spring Bazaar, a Korean community festival, on Saturday 5th June from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. The bazaar will feature various Korean foods, as well as second hand clothes, books, toys and living commodities. See <http://www.koreanchurch.be> for more details.

A free prayer ministry workshop entitled **“Training on How to Pray for People”** led by Revd Charlie Newcombe (new Assistant Chaplain at the Link) will be held on Saturday 12th June from 8.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. at St Pauls Church Centre, Hoornzeelstraat 24, Tervuren .For more information and bookings, please contact admin@stpaulstervuren.be

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.

The **Vacation Bible School 2010**, for children aged 5–11, co-organised by IBC Brussels and St Paul's Tervuren, from Monday – Friday 23rd–27th August (starting at 10 a.m. each morning) seeks enthusiastic volunteers to make it a success again this year. Please contact Martina Wallace at martina.wallace@skynet.be if you would like to get involved.

HOLY TRINITY Rue Capitaine Crespel 29, B-1050 Brussels

Phone: 02/511.71.83 **Email:** admin@holyltrinity.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@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