



February 19 2017
Two before Lent

Holy Trinity Brussels Newsletter

Today's Services - 9.00 - Holy Communion: John Wilkinson

10.30 - Holy Communion: Jack McDonald

14.00 - Holy Communion: David Mitchell

18.00 - Jeremy Heuslein

Every Wednesday lunchtime, there is a service of Holy Communion in the church at 12:30

Our readings this week

Genesis 1: 1-2:3 God moves to drive back the forces of chaos, giving just shape and content to the formless void, and the rhythm of day and night. The whole creation, good and pleasing to God, culminates in humankind, both male and female created in God's image. As Godlike humanity receives stewardship of the created order, the Creator establishes rest over against the work of creation.

Psalms 136 This is a great hymn to God, first as creator, but also as redeemer. God's activity does not stop with the creation. He is continually involved with his creatures, rescuing his people from bondage with mighty acts, sustaining them through the wilderness, bringing them to the Promised Land and sustaining all with his providence. What binds all this together is God's love, steadfast and enduring.

Romans 8: 18-25 The sad fact is that Godlike humanity has not lived up to its potential, and the creation over which God set it groans in consequence. Christian people groan with it, as we wait impatiently for the fulfilment of the work of redemption initiated by Christ will all God's creatures will be set free in a new creation. We wait in confident hope for that day already seen in Christ.

Matthew 6: 25-end This glorious and memorable passage from the Sermon on the Mount contrasts the potential of Godlike humanity, God's stewards of creation, with the anxious, self-seeking of fallen humanity, grasping at wealth, turning away from the providence of the God who made us, to serve the false master of material exploitation. In its back-to-front attitude, humanity is so busy in its own efforts that it has no time for the loving God who offers real and lasting wealth to his people.

Pointers for prayer

- Meditate on the wonder of humanity, placed by God at the pinnacle of creation. What is our responsibility if we are at the top of the created order?
- Let us bring before God the priorities and anxieties of our own lives, and ask him to help us put order among them;
- Praise God for the everlasting love that he shows to all his creation and us in particular.

The flowers today are offered to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sybil May Arthur

Our Life Together

Welcome to Holy Trinity. Coffee and tea are served downstairs after the 10.30 service, the bar is also open. Do come down and join us for this time of fellowship, and introduce yourself if you are new to or visiting Brussels.

You are invited to a 'farewell drink' after the 10.30 service today, when **Catherine Pennington (Roberts)** will be saying 'au revoir' to her Holy Trinity family after over 30 years as part of this fellowship. She is returning to live in the UK where her three daughters and two granddaughters are now based.

This weekend Paul is visiting St Mary's Twente and All Saints Maastricht.

We congratulate **Sam and Cherie Pomeroy** on the safe arrival of their son, **Sébastien Luc**, on February 4.

Our 2017 Discipleship Theme will be: **Living the Psalms**. Throughout the coming year we hope to help people read and pray through the Psalms with special lectures, teaching days, sermon series, music etc. One thing we would like to do is encourage everyone in church to use the following daily devotional by **Timothy Keller: The Songs of Jesus (aka My Rock My Refuge)**. Easily obtainable on-line (book or electronic format). You can also order it through our bookstall or email Ann Milton: ann.milton@belgacom.net.

Lent Meditation Book. Although it's starting quite late this year, we are already looking for contributors! Please contact us if you would be interested in writing a meditation for this year's Lent book. David and Jane Brown- jmdjbrown@gmail.com or 0471 06 07 11.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 1**. There will be services of **Holy Communion**, with the **Imposition of Ashes** (as a sign of penitence) at 12.30 and 19.30. Following the 12.30 services on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent a simple lunch of bread and soup will be served. We will ask for a small donation to cover costs and the surplus will go to a good cause.

Save the Date: This year we shall celebrate Easter with a performance of the **St Matthew Passion** on Good Friday 14 April 2017 at 19h. There will be several rehearsals in the weeks leading up to the performance; if you are interested in participating please speak to David Mitchell.

The **Crèche** is looking for more people to help look after our tiniest members during the 10.30 service. If you would like to volunteer please contact our **Children, Youth & Discipleship Worker**, Natalie Jones (natalie.jones@holytrinity.be).

The **Mission Committee** will be meeting this week to discuss allocations for HTB's collective giving for 2017. Our priorities are care for people, care for creation, spreading the gospel and support for Christians facing persecution. If anyone has any suggestions of projects which fit under these priorities, please contact Sarah Collen scollen@hotmail.com by **tomorrow**..

The **CSW Prayer Diaries** have arrived. You can find them on the table. Feel free to take one home.

The Brussels English-speaking Ecumenical Women's 24 hour retreat will take place on 3 - 4 March 2017 at Oude Abdij Kortenberg, www.oudeabdijkortenberg.be

All women over 18 are welcome. Our theme this year is “Forgiveness”, working from Ephesians 4:32 and we shall be led by Revd. Mary Parish, former curate and associate vicar of St Matthews, Worthing, UK. The retreat begins on Friday evening with check in from 16:30 on. Dinner on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday are included as well as a “bring and share” table of wonderful treats. Although we encourage our ladies to remain overnight, we are again offering a “meals only” option for those wanting to reduce costs by sleeping at home. The retreat price will be €115. The meals only option will be €70. This year registration will be online through the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/18GawTEbLeMyDVRo2>. The link is now open. We hope this will make registration and payment more convenient for all. We have a limited bursary fund and encourage those in need to contact us at brusselsladiesretreat@gmail.com for assistance. Donations are gladly accepted for our bursary fund as well.

The Prayer Chain welcomes requests for prayer for any situation with complete confidentiality. Please contact Janine Vrolijk on Janine.vrolijk@gmail.com or Anne Fieldsend on annefieldsend@hotmail.com or 02 735 1997.

Calling all Readers: The Second hand bookstall on Sundays needs refreshing. Many of you will have finished the books you were reading last Autumn and others will have received new books over Christmas, and need to free up space on your shelves. We would be grateful if you could bring in any books you have finished with, especially those you have enjoyed. Recent fiction and nonfiction is much in demand. We would be particularly grateful for donations of books appealing to male readers, young people and children. We have lots of interest in buying books from those groups but relatively few in stock to offer. Do bring in books and leave them with the office or just bring them with you on Sunday mornings or evenings. Many thanks. This is a valuable service to members of Holy Trinity and earns money for the church funds.

A member of our congregation is moving back to the UK (Derbyshire) for retirement early April. Can anyone help her move her things back - no furniture just several suitcase-loads and a sewing machine? She will be moving into temporary accommodation around 23rd February so if anyone has space for her and a suitcase from/to Brussels after that date it would help too. If you are able to help please phone Carol-Ann on [0485-328852](tel:0485-328852) or e-mail her annbrussels60@gmail.com (email checked weekly). She is also holding a leaving sale; details of items are up on the notice board in the church lobby.

The Wider Church

The Schuman Salon (2nd floor, Blvd Charlemagne 37, 1000 Brussels) is holding a **European Studies Course - *Biblical perspectives on Europe's Past, present and future***. This will comprise six study days, led by Jeff Fountain, on the fourth Saturday of each month from January to June 2017. There is a poster in the lobby with more details, info and registration are on www.schumancentre.eu/salon.

The FCJ Centre of Spirituality 211 Ave. Winston Churchill, 1180, Brussels is organising the following events: Monday 27 February: 19.00-22.00 The Sacraments(cont.) HOLY ORDERS (each sacrament stand-alone session so ALL WELCOME). Part of **Mess'AJE: Adult Faith Formation Programme**. Sundays 5, 12, 19, 26 March: 14.30-17.00: **Through Lent with the Beatitudes**. For further information, visit www.fcjcentre.be or, email fcj@fcjcentre.be, (GSM 0477 734551).

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Tuesday 9h15 to 16h
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Associate Chaplains: Revd Canon John Wilkinson and Revd Canon Prof. Jack McDonald
Lay Minister: Mr David Fieldsend **Intern:** Joshua Peckett
Children, Youth & Discipleship Worker: Natalie Jones
Pastoral Assistant: Mrs Janet Sayers
Outreach Worker: Jeremy Heuslein
Gift account for pledges and donations to Holy Trinity Brussels:
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