



Holy Trinity Brussels Newsletter

Today's Services – 9:00 – Holy Communion: Paul Vrolijk

10:30 – Holy Communion: Paul Vrolijk

14:00 – Holy Communion: Paul Vrolijk

18:00 – Taizé Service: John Wilkinson

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

Our readings this week

Advent Sunday marks the beginning of the Christian year. It is a time of penitential preparation for our Christmas celebration of the coming of our Saviour, as we look back to his birth, and forward to his coming again.

Isaiah 64 1-9 We long for God to intervene in the powerful way that he has done in the past. Yet when God seems to be absent, hiding himself, we need to seize the opportunity to prepare for his coming. For our longing for his presence is tinged with a sense of our own sinfulness. When we ask him to save us, it is not just by overcoming our enemies: it is about changing us, too.

Psalms 80 Israel's great virtue was its readiness to cry for help to the God who loves them. The picture of the vine recalls both how he has worked for his people and yet now seems to have rejected them. Knowing that their troubles stem from their own failures, an undercurrent of penitence runs through the psalm, leading to a prayer that God will provide a leader to guide his people. If Israel longed for an earthly king, we know that God's answer far exceeded such a hope.

Corinthians 1:3-9 The Christian life should balance eagerness for Christ's return with a readiness to make use of the grace and peace he has given us. If we do, our lives will make him known. God's intervention has already happened. We must use his gifts, confident that he will sustain us when we do his work.

Mark 13:24-37 In dark and difficult times, Jesus' insistent message to his disciples is to be on guard, to be alert, awake and watchful for his return. His disciples should neither despair, nor become complacent, but should be living in constant expectation of that awesome day.

Pointers for prayer

- What are the evils that prevent our society from enjoying the love of God? We must lay them before God
- God has empowered us with his grace. Do our lives confidently make him known?
- Do we still expect God's power to change the world like fire that sets twigs ablaze?

Would you like to reflect more with us on these passages? Listen to today's sermon and others at www.holytrinity.be/sermons

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.

We look forward to welcoming those of you who are involved in serving or helping in church or in any of our ministries for the **Volunteers Celebration Lunch today** between the 10:30 and 14:00 services.

Bishop's Advent Appeal 2017. This year's Advent Appeal aims to support homeless refugees and asylum seekers in Rome with humanitarian assistance via the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center, which is the major outreach ministry of St Paul's Within the Walls Episcopal Church in Rome. You can read Bishop Robert's full letter on the notice-board in the lobby. If you wish to support the appeal you can either put your donation in an envelope clearly marked "Bishop's Advent Appeal" in the collection, or make a bank transfer to BE14 3100 3441 5383, with the same communication.

Leaflets giving details about the Advent and Christmas Services are now available in the lobby. Please take some to remind yourself and, particularly, to give to friends, neighbours and colleagues who might be interested in joining us in our preparations for and celebrations of the birth of Christ. Of course these details are also on the website.

The book of Advent Meditations prepared by members of the congregation will be available from the 10.30 service today onwards at the back of the church. Do please take a copy for your household to use in their preparations for the celebration of Christmas.

The Christmas Bun Sunday bake sales in December will be held on the **10th** and **17th** after the 10.30 service. **If you have ordered Christmas goodies don't forget to collect them** (delivery will also be possible at the evening services).

Couloir Humanitaire: Many of you will have heard the recent news of the agreement between the Federal Government, Sant'Egidio and all the Recognised Religions in Belgium (Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim) to collaborate to welcome 150 extra Syrian refugees to Belgium between Christmas 2017 and Christmas 2018- known as the 'Couloir Humanitaire' programme. We are really pleased that the Anglican churches in Belgium have been able to collectively contribute to this important project, which has been full heartedly supported by Bishop Robert. What we have jointly committed to with the other Anglican parishes in Belgium is to welcome one Syrian family of 4 people for a maximum of 12 months. The HTB Mission Committee has already allocated 5000 Euros from 2017 & 2018 to contribute towards the cost of hosting this family, but there is a need for additional funding to be secured. The project needs an extra commitment of 3000 Euros to ensure we have enough budget to cover the costs for a family for a year. If you would like to support this initiative, please make a payment to the Anglican Council for Belgium bank account: BE38 3101 1483 6972 putting 'Couloir Humanitaire' in communication. If you

would like to know more about the project, or think you could offer practical support or expertise to the refugee family on their arrival, please contact Jack McDonald (jackmcdonald@hotmail.be).

“Have a Heart Campaign” A big thank you to all who have, over the last two weeks, taken a heart with the names of children who live in a local children’s home and a centre for victimised women in Brussels. We hope you have remembered to bring the present you bought to the 10:30 or the 18:00 service. If you have any questions or problems, please contact Hannah Tank and Isobel Peppiette at hannahtank613@gmail.com. Thank you very much in advance!

Today is our Second Soapy Sunday! Thank you for bringing your gifts of health and hygiene items for the Salvation Army for distribution from their Brussels Food Bank and their services for people experiencing destitution. If you have any questions please contact Heather Roy heather.roy@gmail.com thanks!

A Confirmation Service will be held in the middle of 2018. If you would like to be confirmed, or wish to find out what is involved, please let the office know and our clergy will be in touch with you to discuss the appropriate preparation. Please email: admin@holytrinity.be

A new Hymn Book? This notice is mainly for the 10.30 congregation. Our current hymn books need to be replaced. Our in-house hymnal experts have looked at various options, and the following hymn book seems a very good upgrade: Ancient and Modern (but very much revised!). According to the publisher: *“A brand new edition of the world's best known hymn book designed for contemporary patterns of worship. The world's most famous hymn book has undergone a complete revision and now offers the broadest ever range of traditional hymns along with the best from today's composers and hymn/song writers”*. For more information, click here: <https://newaandm.hymnsam.co.uk/> Several samples are available for those who want to have a closer look (text only copies; melody line; full music). Please pick up your sample copy during the week in Church House, or on Sunday through the wardens or clergy. Let us know what you think. We aim to reach a decision in January 2018.

Relationships: For better OR for worse. The talks and discussions on relationships by Rose Omondi for those in their 20s and 30s are open to both singles and couples. The deadline for registering has been extended to 4 December. The topics of the two parts: Part 1: 7 December, 19.00-21.30 - Chemistry and Foundations of intimate relationships. Part 2: 14 December, 19.00-21.30 - Nurturing and maintaining an intimate relationship. Please feel free to invite your friends. Register by sending an email to either counsellor@holytrinity.be or admin@holytrinity.be

Final reductions on books! 70% off! The remaining stock from our bookstall, which is now closed, is available at 70% off. Maybe there are some good ideas for Christmas presents here! There is a price list and details of how to pay on the book table in the church entrance.

Home groups Holy Trinity offers several groups that meet in member's homes during the week. These are a good way of building friendships and deepening faith. There is a page on the church website dedicated to these Home groups. If you are interested please speak to Jeremy Heuslein or Natalie Jones, or contact a group leader direct. Some of the Home groups follow a special programme in seasons such as Advent or Lent – why not investigate now?

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.

Church weekend at Drogen (near Ghent) 20-22 April 2018. If you are interested to be involved in organising this, please contact Paul Vrolijk.

Warning: Do not leave your belongings unattended.

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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9h15 to 12h30

Tuesday 9h15 to 16h

Newsletter items: to admin@holytrinity.be by 9h Tuesday

Senior Chaplain: The Venerable Dr Paul Vrolijk paul.vrolijk@holytrinity.be

Associate Chaplains: The Revd Canon John Wilkinson (on sabbatical leave until December 2) and The Revd Canon Dr Jack McDonald **Locum Chaplain:** The Revd Chris Martin

National Anglican prison chaplains based at HTB: Mrs Grace West, The Revd Charles Kabera, Mr Eric Sibomana

Lay Minister: Mr David Fieldsend **Intern:** Mr Lloyd Brown

Children, Youth & Discipleship Worker: Mrs Natalie Jones

Pastoral Assistant: Mrs Janet Sayers

Outreach Worker: Mr Jeremy Heuslein

Gift account for pledges and donations to Holy Trinity Brussels:

IBAN: BE14 3100 3441 5383 BIC: BBRUBEBB

Also by *Payconiq*: Look for the merchant called "Offering" to make your donation.

Contributions to La Foresta and Chassepierre

IBAN: BE51 3635 2047 5162 BIC: BBRUBEBB

Also by *Payconiq*: Look for the merchant called "Events" to make your payment.

