



Holy Trinity Brussels Newsletter

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

10:30 – Holy Communion: Bishop Robert

14:00 – Holy Communion: Jean-Bosco Turahirwa

18:00 – Evening Service: Paul Vrolijk

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

Our readings this week

1 Samuel 3:1-10 Times were not good. The priesthood was corrupt and the God seemed to be silent. But God was still at work. His call went out for someone who would carry his work forward. That Samuel was listening and was receptive to God's call changed everything. Once we have heard this story, we do not forget it, for it is full of striking pictures that can work on our imagination to expand and redirect our vision.

Psalms 139 The God who made us knows us through and through. We are an open book to him. He knows our thoughts, our weaknesses, far better than we do. Yet still, graciously, he calls us to his service and none of our excuses prevail. God has chosen to set things right through his people. Knowing our failings well, he still calls us to his service.

Revelation 5:1-10 Who will be able to open the seals of the future so that God's loving purposes can come to pass? Expecting a mighty lion, we find *a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain*. Yet by his work, a multitude of servants have been provided to undertake God's tasks. That multitude is the church - you and me.

John 1:43-51 Jesus, starting his ministry, needs close disciples. They come, through challenge and response, through personal insight and messages passed. There is both call and openness as the future disciples find that they are better known than they had expected. Jesus suggests that we underestimate the extent of the traffic of God's involvement with humanity.

Pointers for prayer

- Pray for all those who work in God's service, remembering the place of honour that Revelation gives to the prayers of the saints. Ask God to supply their weakness.
- We often dream of being mighty lions: but lasting glory is given to a lamb that looks as if it has been slain. Meditate on God's view of lasting value.
- Aware of our own weaknesses and failings, let us lay them before God. He will deal with them.
- If I do not respond when God calls, will the world ever be a better place?

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. Today we begin our celebrations of **two hundred years of Anglican worship in Brussels.** There will be a number of special celebrations throughout the year but we begin today with a visit from Bishop Robert at the 10:30 service. After this service we are holding a Birthday Party downstairs in the Walker Hall, with cake and other treats! Do come down to join us!

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018** begins this Thursday 18 and runs till Thursday 25 January. The service of prayer for it will be on Thursday 25 January at 20:00 at the Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel, ave Stalingrad 34.

Following the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, an **Ecumenical Service of Prayer for Peace (with songs from Taizé)** will take place in the **Eglise Sainte Croix**, Place Flagey on **Tuesday 6 February 2018 at 20:00.** There will be a rehearsal of songs of those who can make it, at 19h30. Leaders of a number of the churches in Ixelles will be taking part.

Lent Meditation Book – You may only just have put your crib figures back into their storage box, but the beginning of Lent is only 4 weeks away and it is time to start preparing the book of daily meditations as we do each year. If you would like more information or to write a meditation contact David or Jane Brown jmdjbrown@gmail.com or SMS/call 0471 06 07 11.

Our next **Council meeting** will take place on **Monday, January 15th at 20.00.** The agenda can be found on the notice board in the main hall. If you are on the Electoral Roll and would like to receive papers for this meeting, please contact the office: admin@holyltrinity.be If you have any questions, please contact your Council representatives or the wardens.

Our next **Soapy Sunday will be on 28 January.** Across all four services, we will be collecting donations of health and hygiene items that will go to the Salvation Army in Brussels. They will then ensure distribution to those in need in our city. Of particular need are women's sanitary products, underwear for men and women and general items such as shampoo, toothpaste etc. If you would like a more detailed list there are some on the table in the lobby, or please contact Heather Roy. Please bring your items on 28 January. However, if you can't come then but still wish to supply a donation please email Heather and she can help you out. heather.roy@gmail.com

Evangelism & Follow-Up Training for The Turning Brussels Mission: Two opportunities for training for the inter-church 'The Turning Brussels' mission in February are being offered this month at Church House on 20th and 27th January. They are both on a Saturday morning from 9:30 to 12:15. On both days there will be a first session covering street evangelism, then a coffee break and then a second session on follow-up one-to-one discipleship training. If you are planning to come it would be helpful if you could let David Fieldsend (davidfieldsend@hotmail.com) know in advance

which Saturday you will be coming and in which language (French or English) you would like to receive your training materials.

Praise & Prayer Evening for The Turning Brussels Mission Whether or not you are able to help with street evangelism or follow-up, you would be very welcome to join the team for a praise and prayer evening in preparation for the mission which will take place at the Vineyard church, Boulevard du Souverain 220, from 20:00 on Friday 26th January.

This year's "**Candlemas Messiah**" will take place on Saturday February 3. Singers, musicians and of course an audience are all welcome. The chorus rehearsal will take place on the Saturday morning from 09:30 till 12:00 noon, and the full performance will start at 16:00. To participate singers should contact David Mitchell (precentor@holytrinity.be), musicians should contact Pam Clements (pamclements@outlook.com or phone 02 731 72 17). A retiring collection will be taken in aid of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, and the New Hymn Book Fund, Holy Trinity.

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

For your diaries:

The **2018 AGM** has been scheduled for 18 March 2018.

The cold season always brings complaints about the church heating. We are walking the tightrope of comfort and cost and trying to get the balance right. The church heating is set at 19°C which is probably lower than you have your heating at home. Our heating adviser recommended 18°C as churchgoers are expected to wear street clothes in church. Following complaints last year we increased it 1°C to 19°C. We would love everyone to be warm in church and I think we can all play a part by coming warmly dressed, keeping doors closed and also pointing out to Admin where there are problems such as draughts or cold spots which we can investigate to keep everyone warm whilst staying within our budget. We also ask the congregation not to adjust the controls on the radiators as these are set to give balanced heating in the church. Adjusting "your" radiator will only upset this balance by taking out more heat and depriving those further along the chain and most notably in the choir area which is the end of the line.

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.

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.

The Wider Church

The **FCJ Centre of Spirituality 211 Ave. Winston Churchill, 1180, Brussels** is holding the following events: Sunday 14 January: 14.30-17.30 **A Spiritual Journey** (rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius) Session 4; Saturday 20 January: 10.00-13.30 - **Ignatian Prayer of the Heart** (including praying with Scripture); Mondays, 19 February: 5 March: 19 March: The Passion according to St. John (**Mess'AJE**); Saturday 10 March: 10.00-16.00: **Discernment: Making Choices from a Place of Freedom** (Listen to the music of your life) Presenter: Joanna Walsh FCJ. For further information, visit www.fcjcentre.be or email fcj@fcjcentre.be, (GSM 0477 734551).

St. Paul's Church Tervuren has invited **Dietmar Roller** from **International Justice Mission (IJM)** to visit over the weekend of the 20th and 21st January 2018. The St. Paul's Mission Interest Group have organised events to help everyone to find out more about IJM and its work with people vulnerable to trafficking and modern-day slavery. On Saturday 20 January at 8:30AM all are welcome to meet Dietmar at the Church Centre, Hornzeelstraat 24, over coffee and croissants, when Dietmar will talk a little about IJM, its aims and work. In the evening they have a curry night at Krishna's (Overijse), and on Sunday at 10:30AM they have a service where Dietmar will continue to speak on the topic. They would like to welcome everyone to attend these events. For more information visit: <http://stpaulstervuren.com/whats-on>

'Family Life' (<http://familylifeuk.org/>) a Christian organisation which seeks to support family life is offering 'A Day Together', looking at a 'Biblical mode of marriage' at the Christian Centre, in Sint-Genesius Rode, on Saturday 24th February. More details at <http://www adaytogether.org/brussels>

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 and The Revd Canon Dr Jack McDonald

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.

