



Holy Trinity Brussels Newsletter

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

10:30 – Holy Communion: Paul Vrolijk

14:00 – Holy Communion: David Mitchell

18:00 – Evening Service: Natalie Jones

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

Our Readings this Week

Numbers 21:4-9 The desert journey was greatly prolonged because Israel would not enter the Promised Land from Kadesh. Now the Israelites are grumbling about God's miraculous provision for them, the food. Their ungratefulness leads them to suffer a plague of snakes. But they are rescued from the plague by the grace of God. Looking on the bronze serpent lifted up before them, they remember God's love for them and are saved.

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22 Time and again Israel have found themselves in trouble, in the desert, in places of darkness, sick, exposed to the wild elements. The cause of these troubles was invariably their own folly. Yet their experience has always been that, when they cried to God, he transformed the situation by sending his word of power. They have reason for praise.

Ephesians 2:1-10 We must not forget the difference between where we are thanks to Christ Jesus and where we would have been on our own. By following our own desires we were dead, cut off from God. But because of his loving mercy, shown to us in Christ Jesus, we are saved, lifted up to sit with Christ in the heavenly places. All we have to do to lay hold of this gracious salvation is to accept it in faith.

John 3:14-21 When Jesus speaks of being "lifted up", his words speak both of his being exalted as king and lifted up on the cross. They point both to his glory and to the lengths to which God is willing to go, so great is his love for us. They confront us with a choice. Looking on the cross, do we respond to the exalted Saviour of the World, or do we ignore him? Our response is a choice between darkness and light and it judges us.

Pointers for Prayer

- The choices are set before us, lifted on high so that we cannot miss them. What do we choose?
- Pray that all those in trouble through their own folly may find and accept the love of Christ;
- Give thanks to God that at the root of our existence is his inextinguishable love for us.

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, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is traditionally observed as **Mothering Sunday** by both the church and families in England. We take this opportunity to thank God in prayer for our mothers and all they mean to us. 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.

Today is Bun Sunday. The bake sale will be held in the hall after the 10:30 service. Please come down and buy some of our baked goodies, jams, marmalades and chutneys to support smaller charities and projects. We are looking for suggestions for the 2018 giving so please send them in writing to annbarleycorn@belgacom.net or speak to me after the 10:30 service. *Ann Freeman*

Today is “**Soapy Sunday**”. Across all four services, we will be collecting your donations of health and hygiene items that will go to the **Salvation Army** in Brussels – do put them in the boxes at the back of church. They will then ensure distribution to those in need in our city. We thank you for your continuing support of their work, which means so much to the recipients of these often-overlooked necessities.

Lent began on **Ash Wednesday, February 14**. 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. Volunteer soup makers/heaters welcome!

The **Bishop's Lent Appeal 2018** is Sustaining a Ministry of Hope for Refugees in the Calais area of France. There is a detailed letter on the board in the lobby describing the two projects to be supported. If you wish to support the appeal you can either put your donation in an envelope clearly marked “Bishop's Lent Appeal” in the collection, or make a bank transfer to BE14 3100 3441 5383, with the same communication.

New Hymn books. The Council formally decided to buy new hymn books, the latest edition of “Ancient and Modern” at its meeting on 5 March. Members of the congregation are invited to help buy copies for use in the church which can either be dedicated to a loved one or in thanksgiving, for €20. Details of how to get a dedication will follow later. You can also purchase a copy for your personal use, please contact the Treasurer: treasurer@holytrinity.be for details of costs (this will reflect the actual cost of the books, and may be slightly higher, it is also possible to order copies of the full music edition for personal use). We hope to place the order soon so any personal copies should be ordered ASAP.

Holy Trinity's AGM 2018 will take place NEXT Sunday March 18.

The **Spring Tea Party** for older members of HT and helpers will be held on Tuesday 13 March. If you are interested in going, please contact Pam Clements, pamclements@outlook.com, 02 731 72 17 or 0474 97 08 76.

Church Weekend away at the splendid spot of Drongen Abbey: 20-22 April 2018. Speaker: The Archdeacon of Hackney, the Venerable Liz Adekunle. Theme: Evangelism. Adults Euro 120pp (we now have ensuite bathrooms!).

Children's rate unchanged: 0-5 year: free; 6-18: Euro 50pp. Sign up forms now available at the back of the church.

Mission focus: Mission to Seafarers The Mission to Seafarers cares for seafarers who come into the port of Antwerp. We have been here for 125 years. The need of ship visiting and spending time with seafarers is central to the Mission to Seafarers' objectives. It is of vital importance that this work can continue reaching out to the seafarers who come into the Port of Antwerp. I visit up to 20 ships a week listening and providing counselling to seafarers who feel sad and lonely. Just by being there, paying attention, talking, providing a newspaper, a magazine, a warm hat or even just a smile and a nice greeting in their own language can make all the difference in the world.

Prayer for seafarers. Lord God, Creator of land and sea, bless those who work at sea. Be with them in fair weather and foul, in danger or distress. Strengthen them when weary, lift them up when down and comfort them when far from their loved ones. In this life, bring them safely to shore and, in the life to come, welcome them to your kingdom. For Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen*

Exodus Vision is hoping to establish a project to encourage encounters between parents (especially mums), on Wednesday afternoons in the Walker Hall, between 14:00 and 17:00. The meeting will encourage cultural exchanges centred around cookery. Participants will teach each other how to prepare the specialities of their home country, and around the table we will be able to discuss our concerns and share our experiences or raising children in a foreign culture, and how to understand our young people. This conversation will be in French, hopefully everyone will be able to practice their language skills. There will be a modest charge for this activity. If you are interested please contact Frieda Mukanyangezi friedamuk@yahoo.fr tel: 0472 44 94 27.

Easter Lilies. As in previous years, the flower team invites you to give Easter lilies in memory of departed loved ones. Each lily costs €2 and envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please put the name(s) of those you wish to commemorate on the envelope and the corresponding amount of money inside and return to the basket.

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.

Anglican Religious Education. As you might know, you can opt for Anglican Religious Education in Flemish state schools (6 to 18 years) all over Brussels and Flanders. Occasionally we have teaching vacancies, too. If you would like to know more, please get in touch: education@anglican.be

For your diaries: On **Good Friday**, 30 March 2018, at 19:00, Holy Trinity will present our seventh Bach Passion. This year it is the Passion according to Saint John (Johannes-Passion). The soli are Jose Pizarro (Evangelist), Ivan Ludlow (Jesus), Auriane Sacoman (soprano), and Jan Wouters (altus). The orchestra, graduates of the Brussels Conservatories playing Baroque instruments, will be led by Mme Katja Katanova. The 40-strong chorus are members and friends of Holy Trinity. Entry to this Good Friday service is free. The doors will open at 18:30 and the congregation are encouraged to be seated in silence by 19:00. There will be a short break around 19:45, and the performance should finish just after 21:30.

The performance is in German. Given the solemnity of the event, attendance by children under ten years of age is discouraged.

The Wider Church

Karen Armstrong, the well-known writer and theologian, will be giving a lecture at the Palais des Beaux Arts on Saturday 17th March at 3pm. For more details, see the Klara Festival website: <https://klarafestival.be/en/programme/lecture-karen-armstrong-david-van-reybrouck>

Warning: Do not leave your belongings unattended.

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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9:15 to 12:30
Tuesday 9:15 to 16:00

Newsletter items: to admin@holytrinity.be by 9:00 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

Reader: Ms Heather Roy **Lay Minister:** Mr David Fieldsend **Intern:** Mr Lloyd Brown

Precentor/Music Director: Dr David Mitchell

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 "Holy Trinity Offering" to make your donation.

Contributions to Drongen and Chassepierre

IBAN: BE51 3635 2047 5162 BIC: BBRUBEBB

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

