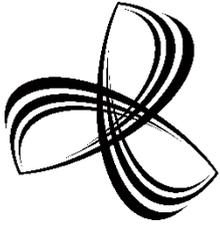


December 16 2018
Third Sunday of Advent



Holy Trinity Brussels Newsletter

Today's Services 9:00 – Holy Communion: Fiona Simon
10:30 – Holy Communion: John Wilkinson
15:00 – Festival of Lessons and Carols: Paul Vrolijk
19:30 – Festival of Lessons and Carols: Paul Vrolijk
Every Wednesday lunchtime, there is a service of Holy Communion in the church at 12:30

Our readings this week

Zephaniah 3:14-end Much of this short book, set just before the exile, is a shrill denunciation of the corruption of Jerusalem. But it ends with a re-assuring promise of restoration. This is the God who punishes but restores, who longs to bless his obedient people. He will gather in his scattered people, and honour them before the whole world.

Philippians 4:4-7 We have a God who is near, listening to our prayers, longing that we should know the blessings that accompany the Christian life. The special gift of which he speaks is peace, using words that we have taken over and use regularly in church. These are verses to meditate and to learn, so that we can enter into the joy of being Christian.

Luke 3:7-18 John the Baptist preached a powerful message of repentance and demanded that repentance should show itself in changed behaviour, in particular among those who habitually exploited others. He warned that on the coming day of the Lord, those who had repented would be separated from those who continued in their sin. While the repentant would be gathered in, the unrepentant would be burned, like unwanted chaff. Such a day of judgment can sound like bad news, yet the gospel writer refers to it as good news. Can you tell why?

Pointers for prayer

- Repentance is about turning away from evil, towards God. Where are my eyes set? That is the key to the blessings that God offers to those who are his people;
- God promises the restoration of his people. Being far away, or lame, will not be a problem. We can be God's agents in that work, if we are willing;
- God offers his people the rescue that brings delight, rejoicing, joy, peace. Praise him!

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 after the 10:30 service, the bar is also open. Do come and join us downstairs and introduce yourself if you are new or visiting Brussels.

Later today we have the next of our special Christmas services: the **Festival of Lessons and Carols**. This year we are doing it twice, at 15:00 and 19:30, to try and allow as many people as possible to enjoy it. The choir and orchestra are playing the same music at both services, so if you have a younger family, why not come to the earlier one which is a little shorter and more child-friendly? There will be no overflow this year, so why not consider coming at 15:00 to make more room for guests at 19:30? Refreshments will be served after both services.

The **Advent books of meditations** are available, and will also be on our Facebook page, the website and holytrinitybrussels.blogspot.com/. Many thanks to the people who have volunteered to write them.

Bun Sunday is holding a second Christmas bake sale today downstairs in the hall after the 10:30 service. Your last chance to buy mince pies and other Christmas goodies. **If you ordered something to be collected on the 16 December in the evening please don't forget to do this.**

We are going to start an **Alpha Course** on Thursday evenings from 19:00 to 21:00 in Holy Trinity, beginning with an **introductory supper** on January 24 2019. The course will then run from 7 February. There are flyers for sign-up in the lobby. Why not take some to give to friends or colleagues? Everyone is welcome, whether they are members of Holy Trinity or are simply curious about faith. Alpha requires a lot of support, so we are looking for people who are willing to take on a number of roles to make this happen. If you have any questions please contact Fiona Simon, fiona.simon@holytrinity.be GSM 0478 81 35 03

Bishop's Advent Appeal 2018. This year's Advent Appeal aims to enable St. Andrew's Moscow to equip their church with a kitchen. 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.

The Prayer Chain welcomes requests for prayer for any situation with complete confidentiality. Please contact Janine Vrolijk on Janine.vrolijk@gmail.com.

Follow the leader. Calling all carpenters or carpentry-minded folks! There are several projects around Holy Trinity that require a team of some Joseph-and-Jesus like hands. If you have some skill with a hammer, a saw, or the like, please contact Jeremy at jeremy.heuslein@holytrinity.be. Thanks!

Salvation Army Christmas Goods Collection - A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed to Soapy Sunday throughout the year. Your donations have made a real difference to many people supported by the Salvation Army around Brussels...

Over the Christmas period we will be having a special collection. From the 16th - 25th December we are asking you to donate some very specific items. Our friends at the Salvation Army have asked us for donations of (new) socks and underwear for all ages and women's hygiene products. Could you help with this over Christmas? Can we encourage you to bring something with you as you come to one of the Christmas services? A box will be available at the back of the Church from 16th December and you can put your donations there. It will then be taken to the Salvation Army immediately after Christmas. Towards the end of January, we will have another collection where we will be looking once again for all types of health and hygiene items. If you have any questions please contact Heather Roy heather.roy@gmail.com

We are looking for **volunteers** for all our **Christmas services**
and also for **Alpha 2019**.

If you have not yet received a pink "volunteer sheet" please take one.

Christmas Services 2018

Sunday 16 December

15:00 **Festival of Lessons and Carols** - a Carol Service with the same choir and orchestra as the 19:30 service but a little shorter and easier for parents with children. There will be readings and a sermon. Why not consider coming at 15h to make more room for guests at 19:30?

19:30 **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** - a Carol Service with choir and orchestra, readings and a sermon.

Sunday 23 December

18:00 **'Light in Darkness'** - a quiet service for any for whom Christmas might be more difficult and are looking for a safe place to bring their needs before God.

Christmas Eve

16:00 **Christmas Eve Service** - a service for people of all ages to celebrate Christmas together. There will be no Holy Communion, and the service should last under an hour.

22:00 **'Midnight' Holy Communion** - a traditional Christmas Eve Holy Communion service, with carols, readings and a sermon too. Preacher: Paul Vrolijk President: Bishop Robert

Christmas Day * no service at 9h *

10:30 **Holy Communion** - a service for all ages Preacher: Bishop Robert President: Paul Vrolijk

15:00 **Holy Communion/Sainte Cène** - in English and French / en français et anglais

Monday 31 December

23:00 **Watchnight Service** in English and French / en français et anglais

Solar Panel Project. As part of aiming to become a more eco-friendly church, we will be installing solar panels on the church roof next year. At a cost of €400 each, the Building Fund can support the investment in 56 panels, but the roof has the capacity for 112 panels, we are inviting donations for the remaining 56 panels in order to have a complete installation. If you would like to invest in this project, please send your donation to the account of The Friends of Holy Trinity asbl. IBAN BE 14 3101 9409 6783, with the message "Solar Panel Project". You may also pay by credit or debit card using our new card reader. If you would like to know more before investing and / or you wish to pay by card, please contact the Treasurer (treasurer@holytrinity.be).

Our **Candlemas Messiah**, directed by Pam Clements MBE, will be sung on Saturday 2 February at 16:00, with choral rehearsal from 9:30 to 12:00. Singers, musicians and an audience all welcome! To participate singers are asked to contact Lieve Cordeel at finance@holytrinity.be, instrumentalists Pam Clements at pamclements@outlook.be or phone 02 731 72 17 – the audience just shows up! Admission free with a retiring collection in aid of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, and the Holy Trinity Solar Panel Project.

A date for the Ladies' diaries: The 2019 Women's Retreat "Time to breathe..." will take place on 15-16 March at Kortenberg Abbey. The guest speaker will be the Revd. Gillian Wilton. Full/practical details nearer the time.

The wider church

The Royal British Legion has written to thank us for our support of their **Poppy Appeal** in November. We raised €195.78 for their work with veterans of the British Armed Forces.

ECC (English Comedy Club) present their annual pantomime "**Robin Hood and The Babes in the Wood**". Fun for all the family from 3 to 103! Performances at Auderghem Cultural Centre on Friday, 18 January 2019 (20:00), Saturday, 19 January 2019 (13:30 & 17:00) & Sunday, 20 January 2019 (13:30 & 17:00). Tickets €16 for adults and €12 for children on sale at: <http://ecc.theatreinbrussels.com/>

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Website: <http://www.holytrinity.be> **Facebook:** @HolyTrinityBrussels **Instagram:** @holytrinitybrussels

Phone: 02/511 71 83 **Email:** admin@holytrinity.be

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, The Revd Canon Dr Jack McDonald and The Revd Fiona Simon fiona.simon@holytrinity.be

Assistant Curate: The Revd Jean Bosco Turahirwa

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

Reader: Ms Heather Roy. **Intern:** Mr Mark Van Eker

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.

Payments for Drogen, Chassepierre, Men's Retreat & other events:

IBAN: BE51 3635 2047 5162 BIC: BBRUBEBB

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

