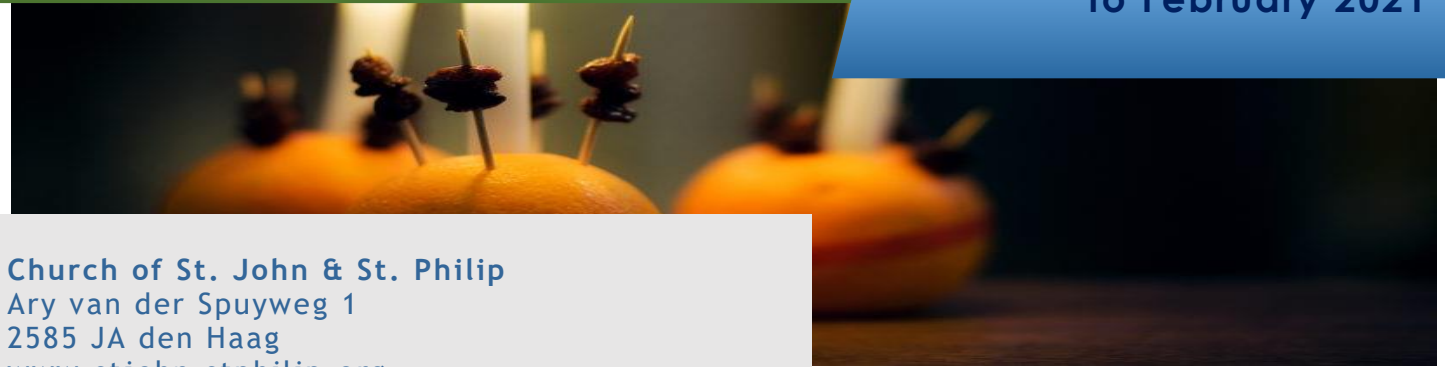


The LINK

Church of St. John & St Philip

December 2020
to February 2021



Church of St. John & St. Philip
Ary van der Spuyweg 1
2585 JA den Haag
www.stjohn-stphilip.org

CH_ _CH: What's missing?

by Andrew Taylor (Interim Minister)

Welcome to the Winter edition of The LINK! Over the next three months God's Church will enter into one of the most beautiful and reflective periods of the Church Year, as we move through Advent, into the great Feasts of Christmas and Epiphany and then, towards the end of February, the beginning of Lent. Liturgically these three months form the first half of the story of God in Jesus Christ.

There is a "Wayside Pulpit" poster with which you may be familiar, and part of which forms the title of our opening page. Two letters are missing from the word CHURCH. What are they? Well, of course, the answer is obvious! "UR"

The Church of God is nothing if it is not the People of God. And over these last nine months we have been made painfully aware of this fact, as people have "gone missing" from the life of our community. We have had to find new ways of being present to one another; new ways of being Church. Some of our members we now only see via a computer screen. Many others, we are so glad to say, can also be physically present through our daily acts of worship in Church. We now have a new "mixed economy" for being Church and, as we begin the recovery from the ills that have come our way, we are discovering new ways of doing exactly that.

As we were putting together this edition of The LINK, it struck me that it is all about people. We hope that the contents inside will make this obvious. This month we welcome Michael and Janet Roden as they settle into their new life in The Hague. They are coming, while others, of course, are going. It is always the way in God's Church, as this community with its ever transient membership knows only too well. One member of our Chaplaincy who died earlier this Autumn, Sylvia Serlie, left us an article reflecting on her love of Choral Evensong, and we are glad to print it here. Chaja Verkerk brings

us up to date on her Roman adventure. And this month we begin to introduce the five new members of our Chaplaincy Council, beginning with Carolyn Wiersum. In future editions of the LINK the other four new members will introduce themselves. Finally, our "Sixty Seconds with...." column features three members, one long serving and two most recent.

As every year we bring you news of our Advent and Christmas Appeal this Year, to be shared between three charities that we already seek to support.

This, of course, will be the last first-page from me! It has been a real joy to put the LINK together with others over my time as Interim Minister. But not least, has it been a real joy to be with all of you in that time. I have said many times over the last week or so how rich and fulfilling these past 18 months have been for me, and as a family we always feel that we are part of Church here. We will cherish our memories of being with you and wish to thank you for all that you have done for us. We anticipate many visits back to see you all, and we hope that you will always feel welcome to visit us!

We hope that you will enjoy these pages; that they will bring you joy as we journey together and that they will remind us all of our common incorporation within the Body of Christ.

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Packing for the Journey

by Michael Roden

I am sitting in my study at Bristol cathedral going through a mental check list of tasks we need to do before moving. Outside it is raining. It actually rains quite a lot in Bristol. My cousins in Holland have always, slightly unfairly, told me off for sending bad weather from the UK.

At home, when the weather clears up, there will be the usual autumnal tasks to do, like sweeping the leaves and generally tidying the garden for my successor. There is a van to hire and a little bit of furniture to sort out for our 22-year-old son Pieter. He has just graduated in Geography and has started work for a homeless advice



centre in Bristol. There are pet passports to collect for the cats and arrangements to be made for our daughter Willeke, who lives in Delft and works for Exxon Mobil, to collect the Riouwstraat key. She will open up early for us to come off the Harwich ferry, a little to bleary eyed, into the vicarage on December 5th braced to meet a shower of pepernoten from Sinterklaas.

As soon as quarantine is lifted, my wife, Janet, who left Nederland in 1987 is looking forward to making soep and having her sisters around. After we have unpacked several more boxes, found the steam iron, stored the jars of marmite and then run around to Albert Heijn to buy komijnekaas, we are looking forward to meeting you all!

We all know it will be a huge task to rebuild church life when this coronavirus is finally sorted. I really love a challenge and, from everything I hear about you and the way your predecessors rebuilt the church after it was

destroyed in the second world war, it is clear you have a strong communal tradition of rebuilding and then, crucially, improving. Looking at the world outside the walls, we know that we are called to build positive community for all God's children. We are a 'cross of nails community' a place of reconciliation in a time when there are ugly forces at work that wish to divide people. I can think of no better or more enjoyable task.

~ CHRISTMAS SPECIAL ~ St John & St Philip Sale of Marmalades, Jams, Chutneys and Lemon Curd



Good news! Even without our Christmas Market this year, you can still enjoy our church Marmalades, Jams, Chutneys, Lemon Curd

~
PLUS Mark Jones' super-special Sloe Syrup!

We have fewer pots than last year, therefore we are supplying strictly on a first come first served basis. So if you are looking for gifts to give to friends or simply to eat yourself, don't delay.

We guarantee every cent raised will go to church funds.

Just complete the Order Form and return to Angela Katz at
jmkatz@casema.nl

Most of all thank you for your support!

For I was *hungry* and you gave me food,
I was *thirsty* and you gave me something to drink,
I was *a stranger* and you welcomed me.
MATTHEW 25:35

At Christmas we are invited to push open a stable door in an unstable world. We stand around the crib as simple and wise, from east and west. We learn how Jesus is born into the mess of our communal life. Having grasped this mystery and good news, we cannot, however, hang around too long. As we look to the new year we will need to harness the gifts of everybody to make sure the church rebuilds and that we live lives of faith and hope and love relentlessly. We have got our work cut out. Our church is called to help diverse strangers from all over the world form a true community, feel spiritually at home and then to make a difference. The great thing is we are not doing this alone. God is with us.

A Tribute to Guy Diakiese

by Mark and Carolyn Jones

In this edition of The LINK we publish this short tribute to Guy, written for us by Mark and Carolyn Jones. By the time of the next LINK in the Spring, it is likely that Guy will have moved on to new pastures in ministry. Members of our Church will want to know that he will be with us for a little longer, and more will doubtless be said about him when the time for farewell eventually arrives. This is a little taster for then!

It is remarkable now to think back to our first encounter with this neatly dressed, modest young African man. He had already had quite a faith journey through the Roman Catholic Church in his native D.R. Congo, then West Africa and then northern Italy before arriving in The Hague. He came as an



intern, exploring his vocation with the Anglican Church. Coming under the mentoring of Rev. Andrew Gready, who had come to us from South Africa, was a comfortable, even seamless, fit. From the start he flowed easily with our predominantly Western congregation in this Northern European city which speaks of his readiness to adapt to a new culture.

Guy was well-loved from the start - a pleasant, affable personality and disarmingly cheerful as well as having a very genuine, enthusiastic faith. He was obviously happy to be here, despite the weather and maybe even the food!

After his internship with us he spent some time in the UK in a high church setting to broaden his experience, and then more time pursuing his studies at college. After this he returned to us as our curate - which was great! He continued to work and learn as a staff member here. We were so happy for him on the day he was priested, and we remember how now as a priest, he could put more of his own stamp on the services he led.

His indomitably positive nature and faithfulness were put to the test in the difficult, turbulent period our church went through. He held up so well in that situation, serving the congregation with real constancy and even-handedness. As a series of locum ministers came to help out, Guy was one of the stabilizing factors that kept us together and moving in the right direction. For someone who was effectively in a training position it was truly remarkable that he carried that so well. It was a lot to ask of a junior priest.

In his pastoral care, his preaching, and leadership we have seen Guy grow, mature, and discover the shape of his ministry as an Anglican priest. He is deeply motivated to see the people in his care thrive in a committed, Spirit-filled, fruitful Christian life. It is with joy and sadness we realize he has come to the point where he will be moving on to his next posting - joy in knowing he will serve his next community so well and sadness that we will miss a good friend and valued minister.



Church of
St. John & St. Philip
The Hague

Morning Prayer

Monday through Friday at
9:15 in the Chancel of the
Church

This short, 25-minute service follows the form used in the Church of England for Daily Prayer. We, as the Church in this place, can use this as an opportunity for us to pray for God's world, the life of our parish, and our own concerns and opportunities.

Come once, come often! All are welcome.



Should you have any concerns or items for prayer, but cannot be present yourself, please let one of the clergy know.

At a Glance - Chaplaincy Diary: December 2020

Tuesday, 1 st December	
17.30	Monthly Prayer Meeting (Church)
Friday, 3 rd December	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Sunday, 6 th December – Second Sunday of Advent	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Morning Prayer (Hall); Holy Communion (Church)
17.00	Wellspring (ZOOM)
Tuesday, 8 th December	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
19.30	Advent Course (ZOOM)
Wednesday, 9 th December	
12.30	Midweek Communion and Lunch
14.30	Afternoon Home Group and Bible Study (ZOOM)
Friday, 11 th December	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Saturday, 12 th December	
18.30	Service of Nine Lessons & Carols (Church)
Sunday, 13 th December – Third Sunday of Advent	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Holy Communion (Hall); Morning Prayer (Church)
17.00	Wellspring (ZOOM)
18.30	Service of Nine Lessons & Carols (Church)
Tuesday, 15 th December	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
19.30	Advent Course (ZOOM)

Wednesday, 16 th December	
12.30	Midweek Communion and Lunch (Church)
14.30	Afternoon Home Group and Bible Study (ZOOM)
Friday, 18 th December	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Sunday, 20 th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Morning Prayer (Hall); Holy Communion (Church)
17.00	Wellspring (ZOOM)
Tuesday, 22 nd December	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Wednesday, 23 rd December	
12.30	Midweek Communion and Lunch (Church)
14.30	Afternoon Home Group and Bible Study (ZOOM)
Thursday, 24 th December – Christmas Eve	
17.00	Holy Communion with Children's Nativity (Church)
23.00	First Communion of Christmas (Church AND Hall)
Friday, 25 th December – Christmas Day	
09.00	Holy Communion Service with Carols (Church)
10.30	All-Age Service (Hall); Holy Communion (Church)
Sunday, 27 th December – First Sunday After Christmas	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Holy Communion (Hall); Morning Prayer (Church)
17.00	Wellspring (ZOOM)
25 th December – 3 rd January	

The Church Office is closed for the Christmas holiday from Thursday, December 25 thru January 3 (inclusive).

THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ST. JOHN & ST. PHILIP

Sunday, 29 November 2020 – 1st Sunday of Advent

- ✦ 10:30 Service of the Word – Jesse Tree
- ✦ 10:30 Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, 06 December 2020 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

- ✦ 10:30 Service (Contemporary)
- ✦ 10:30 Service (Traditional)

Nine Lessons and Carols *

- ✦ Saturday, December 12 at 18:30
- ✦ Sunday, December 13 at 18:30

Sunday, 13 December 2020 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

- ✦ 10:30 Service (Contemporary)
- ✦ 10:30 Service – Choral Mattins (Traditional)

The Advent season is a time for preparation.
A time for remembrance. A time for faith. A time for family.
Come join our church family this holiday season.



Church of
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Sunday, 20 December 2020 – 4th Sunday of Advent

- ✦ 10:30 Service (Contemporary)
- ✦ 10:30 Service (Traditional)

Thursday, 24 December 2020 – Christmas Eve

- ✦ 17:00 Communion Service with Children's Nativity
- ✦ 23:00 Holy Communion Service (Church)
- ✦ 23:00 Holy Communion Service (Hall)

Friday, 25 December 2020 – Christmas Day

- ✦ 9:00 Holy Communion Service (Church)
- ✦ 10:30 All-Age Service (Hall)
- ✦ 10:30 Service of Holy Communion (Church)

Sunday, 03 January 2021 – Epiphany

- ✦ 10:30 Morning Prayer Service
- ✦ 10:30 Service of Holy Communion

All services will be streamed. Please click on a service or
contact the email below for the YouTube links.
Services are limited to 30 people, please reserve your place
with the Church Office@stjohn-stphilip.org.

60 Seconds with...Angela Duncan

Where are you from originally, and how did you arrive here at St John and St Philip?

I was born in Kenya East Africa, where I lived for the first nine years of life, after which my family lived in different corners of the UK, including Kent, Sussex, the Isle of Man and Scotland. Later I studied at Edinburgh, Colchester, London and The Hague. My work as a music teacher and performer, has taken me to Iceland, the Faroe Islands and then back to The Hague in 1990.



I first attended a service at this church while a student at the Conservatorium in 1983, and from there onwards attended occasionally during holidays from Iceland and The Faroes. In 2002, I started attending regularly, after severing a long period spent in various organizations in the New Age movement.

Do you have a particular role of responsibility in the life of the chaplaincy?

Not one particular role. Since being at St J and St P, I have regularly played the flute and recorder in various church services, both traditional and contemporary. I have also played the piano as a stand in for the organist when needed in the Traditional Service and am on a rota for the contemporary service. I served on the coffee team as a reserve member and have been a member of the Church welcome team. From time to time, I also do Bible readings in the church services.

What do you do when you are not in church?

I work as an instrumental teacher, both privately as well as for two music schools (The Malcolm Davies Music Centre at the International School, and Grace Music). Both schools were established by two former members of our congregation, Dr Malcolm Davies, and Emma Scott. As a free-lance musician I have worked in many different performing areas, with very different genres, and on all three of my instruments: the flute, recorder and piano. The flute and recorder can be considered my main instruments, although I am fairly regularly asked as a stand in on the piano at other churches, when an organist is away.

What do you do with your leisure time?

I read a lot, and love to sit cuddling my super affectionate cat Simba. As so much of my life is taken up with music, leisure time is often squeezed into the margins. In a sense work and leisure often merge, sometimes in un-expected ways. I love having friends to my flat for dinner or just for a cup of coffee and a chat, and once Covid 19 is over, will resume these activities more broadly once more.

What's your favourite food?

I don't really have a favourite food. Unfortunately, I love it all, and as a result have to keep from putting on too much weight. Chocolate is generally very tempting, and hard to say no to!

What book or piece of music could you not live without?

There is no single piece of music I could call my favourite. I love total silence at certain times when I am not working with a piece of music. My favourite piece of music is just what I happen to be working on at the time, be it for flute, recorder or piano. I love listening to sacred choral music (e.g. the Mormon Tabernacle Choir). As a professional musician, it's quite hard to find the time and energy to sit down and listen to music as often as I would like to.

My taste in books varies quite a lot - from novels, to books on religion, and books about various countries. These days though, the Bible features more and more as a book which cannot be lived without.

What do you like about St John and St Philip?

The friendly, warm and welcoming congregation is easily one of our Church's prominent and outstanding characteristics. The support given throughout the years from various members of the congregation has been really very valuable indeed, and I am grateful for it. The music is absolutely fabulous, thanks to our organist and choir director Christina, as well as to the choir and various dedicated professional and amateur musicians within the church.

What do you feel we can do differently?

During these Corona times, not a lot more than what we are already doing I suspect, at least on our own strength. Once the Corona times are over, our church congregation will hopefully return to being the innovative people we always were.....inventing new social activities, welcoming new people into the church etc. At the moment our hands are tied by government regulations, even though our hearts are not. If we can do anything differently to make a positive difference to our current situation, the more of us who pray about it, the more likely it is that God will come through and help not only our church, but all churches and people who need help at this current time. God uses our limitations and opens them up into possibilities that we people generally cannot see. We can be so grateful about this divine intervention. If we can do anything more as individuals, it is probably to do with deciding to pray more for the life of the church during these times, and to even pray using the telephone or Zoom if necessary.

Letter from Rome

By Chaja Verkerk

(From Andrew: We've asked Chaja to keep us updated on her time on the Ministry Experience Scheme in Rome. Here are her thoughts about her involvement with the Anglican Centre there.)

I promised to keep you all updated of my time in Rome. When writing this we are slowly going back into lockdown, so I am trying to see and visit as many places as I can before being confined at home.



One day a week I am working in the Anglican Centre, and I thought it would be an interesting subject for this Link edition.

The Anglican Centre was founded in 1966, as a way to have a permanent presence of the Anglican Church in Rome. The Director of the Centre is the Personal Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and he is there to bridge the gap between the Pope and the Archbishop, between the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican. But of course, the work goes beyond that, and the Centre's focus is to extend hospitality to everyone. In real life this means that they are holding, for example, seminars for scholars, interfaith services and mission initiatives.



I work there on Tuesdays, and we always start the day with Morning Prayer. Then I set up the chapel for our 12.45 Eucharist where we welcome friends from all different backgrounds. I usually have some time to spare to meet visiting clergy, read through some articles or books, or help out in other ways. In October we had a

sermon in the service which was pre-recorded by a priest in England, so I spend half my morning figuring out the technical side of things; never a dull moment!

During our service I assist as a server, sometimes do a reading, and help where help is needed. Our services are streamed live on Facebook, and we have a lot of visiting clergy presiding, which is very interesting and inspiring!

The afternoons are spent working on projects for social media, planning seminars and writing essays for my educational curriculum. Alongside leading the Centre, Archbishop Ian is also my educational mentor, and I am very lucky and blessed to have some-one like him as a mentor. Because of his experience and studies, we have plenty of enriching conversations to aid me in my studies.

You can find out more about the Centre on www.anglicancentreinrome.org. And our livestreamed services can be watched on the Facebook page of The Anglican Centre in Rome!

At a Glance - Chaplaincy Diary: January 2021

Sunday, 3 rd January – Epiphany	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Morning Prayer (Hall); Holy Communion (Church)
17.00	Wellspring Prayer and Praise (ZOOM)
Tuesday, 5 th January	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Wednesday, 6 th January	
12.30	Midweek Communion and Lunch (Church)
14.30	Afternoon Home Group and Bible Study (ZOOM)
Friday, 8 th January	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Saturday, 10 th January	
xx.xx	Licensing and Induction of Canon Michael Roden
Sunday, 10 th January – Baptism of Christ	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Holy Communion (Hall); Morning Prayer (Church)
17.00	Wellspring (ZOOM)
Tuesday, 12 th January	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Wednesday, 13 th January	
12.30	Midweek Communion and Lunch (Church)
14.30	Afternoon Home Group and Bible Study (ZOOM)
Friday, 15 th January	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)

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At a Glance - Chaplaincy Diary: January 2021 (*continued*)

Sunday, 17 th January – Second Sunday of Epiphany	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Morning Prayer (Hall); Holy Communion (Church)
17.00	Wellspring Agapé (ZOOM)
Monday, 18 th January	
19.30	Church Council Meeting (ZOOM)
Wednesday, 20 th January	
12.30	Midweek Communion and Lunch (Church)
14.30	Afternoon Home Group and Bible Study (ZOOM)
Thursday, 21 st January	
19.30 – 21.00	Theology Book Club (ZOOM)
Friday, 22 nd January	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
14.30 – 16.00	Theology Book Club (Hall)
Sunday, 24 th January – Third Sunday of Epiphany	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Holy Communion (Hall); Morning Prayer (Church)
17.00	Choral Evensong (Church)
17.00	Wellspring (ZOOM)
Tuesday, 26 th January	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Wednesday, 27 th January	
12.30	Midweek Communion and Lunch (Church)
14.30	Afternoon Home Group and Bible Study (ZOOM)
Friday, 29 th January	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Sunday, 31 st January – Candlemas (Christingle)	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Intergenerational Christingle Service (Hall) Holy Communion (Church)
17.00	Wellspring (ZOOM)

Christingle Celebration Sunday, 31st January at 10:30 in the Hall

We will be celebrating Christingle on Sunday, January 31st - the Feast of Candlemas or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.



Christingle is a custom associated with the Moravian Church which traces its origins to the early 15th Century in what is the present-day Czech Republic. It has become popular as an Advent/Christmas celebration over the last 50 years or so and, in the dark Winter months, its theme of light is one that we can embrace especially at Candlemas.

During the Christingle Service on January 31st we will have a workshop where you, both young and old, will be able to make your own Christingle (all parts supplied)!

Meet Your New Council Members

In their own words

Carolyn Wiersum

Originally from Australia and the UK, I've been living within a short walking distance of our church since 1993. I am married to Berry and we have four adult children. My background is in advertising, and event organising. Over the years, I've loved been involved in several different areas of church life, from teaching young teens to welcoming duties and working on the Christmas Market team: from cooking and co-ordinating the monthly homeless meal for the Straatpastoraat to helping co-ordinate an active home group. A few years ago, I helped start up Café Connect and am so pleased we can still enjoy keeping in touch with church members via zoom from my kitchen...although it does mean I end up drinking all the coffee and tea (and eating far too many biscuits). I love being part of a team and sharing ideas so am really looking forward to serving on our council.



Lighten Our Darkness

By Sylvia Serlie-Thomas

(From Andrew: Many members of St John and St Philip will know that Sylvia died in October after bearing her final illness with great fortitude. She, along with Bram her husband, was a servant of our chaplaincy over many years and a devoted attendee at Choral Evensong. Below is an edited version of an article that she wrote some years ago, and we are glad to include it now as a tribute to her.)



When I was ten years-old we moved from Liverpool, where I had never been to church, to Yorkshire. There my mother joined the Primitive Methodist Sisterhood, and I was sent to Sunday School, where I was encouraged to play the harmonium and recite poetry. Once I gave a five-minute homily and won a hymn book as a first prize for having attended 101 times during the year.

After morning Sunday School we went upstairs into Chapel for the service, where a variety of lay-preachers, from local teachers to fishermen from Filey (who, like the disciples, had experienced the comfort of Christ's presence during storms at sea) encouraged us to live Christian lives. I signed the teetotal pledge, promising never to drink alcohol. Very occasionally, for the adults, there was Communion, with Ribena, in small individual glasses. We sang rousing hymns such as 'Throw Out the Life-line', 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus' (a great comfort when falling out with my friends at school) and 'Trust and Obey'; so encouraging when facing the dreaded Latin and Maths exams!

As a Church we were one united, caring family, but I always felt an outsider, possibly because in those days I went to a school in a different part of the town than the other girls.

When I was fifteen, my school-friends asked me to go with them to the Church of England youth club. Unfortunately, there was one proviso: I had to attend Evensong once a month. How I HATED that service. I was used to the uplifting

Methodist Services, with preachers whose prayers and sermons dealt with contemporary problems, and now I had to sit through an hour of what I regarded as misery. I objected to the fact that the same prayers were repeated every week, thinking, "It's like the heathens do," every time that we both said, and later in the service sang, the Lord's Prayer.

But after many months I began to appreciate Evensong. The Methodist service had helped me with my immature emotions, but I found the Anglican liturgy laid more emphasis on the adoration of God, so I left the Methodist Church (much to my parents' dismay) and was confirmed when I was sixteen.

Evensong is today becoming more popular with students and people looking for solace in this hectic world. Richard Dawkins, although an atheist, has been quoted as saying, "I have a certain love for Evensong." When the BBC attempted to reduce the times it was broadcast, the campaign to retain the weekly service was led by a Jewish atheist, Marghanita Laski. It is the longest running BBC outside broadcast (93 years) in history, and there is a broadcast service on BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday afternoon, which is repeated on Sundays.


Evensong grew of Archbishop Cranmer's desire for a prayer book in English suitable for ordinary people,

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The Service of
**Anglican
Choral
Evensong**

17:00

2020	2021
Sep 27	Jan 24
Oct 25	Feb 28
Nov 22	Mar 28
Dec 12 & 13	Apr 25
Lessons and Carols (starts at 18:30)	May 23
	June 27

 Church of
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The Hague

Ary van der Spuyweg 1 - 2552 JA

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translating the prayers of the monks' daily offices from Latin into English and using, among other works, the Sarum Missal, fashioning the offices of Vespers and Compline into a single Evening office (which accounts for the Lord's Prayer being repeated twice).

According to W.K. Lowther-Clarke in an article 'Evensong Explained' the services may even go back in time when the Jews were exiled to Babylon, and to the synagogue services which Jesus Christ would have attended with the apostles.

The first version of the Book of Common Prayer, from 1549, was revised in 1552 and amended in 1662. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1, composers such as William Byrd and Thomas Tallis developed choral music for the services. One of the glories of Evensong is the rich beauty of the music.

Evensong starts with us confessing our sins, then saying the Lord's Prayer. It is divided into two parts, before and after Christ's nativity. After singing a psalm, there is a reading from the Old Testament followed by the *Magnificat*, Mary's song of praise when she visited Elizabeth, linking the two Testaments. The service then moves from the time preceding Christ's birth to afterwards, with a reading from the New Testament and the *Nunc Dimittis*, Simeon's song of Christ's glory which, with the birth of Christ, offers God's salvation to both Jews and Gentiles. After the Creed, the Lord's Prayer is sung again. The versicles and responses are followed by the collects, the last being '*Lighten our darkness*', and the final hymns, prayers and blessing.

Within the history of the Church here in The Hague, It is possible that Evensong was held during the time of Elizabeth I while the Earl of Leicester was living in the Netherlands. Charles 1 enforced the use of the Prayer Book in 1629. Archbishop Laud, who wished to maintain the uniformity of worship in the Church of England, opposed the Puritan clerics (who wanted to purify the church of anything remotely Catholic while at the same time remaining within the Church of England) as he thought they threatened the stability of the church. Some clerics here in The Hague were Puritans and, although traditional Anglicans were supported by Laud, Ambassador Boswell, and the military commanders, the lower ranks favoured the Puritans, as did many of the English settlers. William Ames, chaplain to Sir Horace Veere, commander of the British troops in the Netherlands, was a Non-conformist minister at The Hague.

When Mary Stuart, sister of Charles II, married "Stadhouder" Willem II in 1641, their marriage contract guaranteed her right to exercise her religion according to the Church of England. Mary Stuart, daughter of James II, a High-Anglican and wife of "Stadhouder" Willem III,

attended prayers at least three times a day, twice in the evening, using the Book of Common Prayer. One of these services was, possibly, Evensong.

In 1822, King Willem I suppressed the English Church, declaring that its members should be regarded as members of the Dutch Reformed congregation. The congregation continued to worship, however, with visiting chaplains from the Embassy, and later the church was re-established again. The church on the Bezuidenhoutseweg was consecrated in 1873 and, during the Second World War when there were no public services, the evening service was held in private homes. In the 1970s, when John Lewis was chaplain here, an evening service was also held once a month in Leiden.

As well as Anglicans, even non-sectarian visitors appreciate Evensong, held every 4th Sunday at 5p.m. at St. John and St. Philip's. We are so fortunate to have such an excellent choir and professional Choir Director.

For me, the highlights of the service are the Magnificat and the final collect, which is so consoling during these times of dark evenings.

*Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by Thy great mercy defend us from all perils and
dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus
Christ.
AMEN*



At a Glance: February 2021

Tuesday, 2 nd February	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Wednesday, 3 rd February	
12.30	Midweek Communion and Lunch (Church)
14.30	Afternoon Home Group and Bible Study (ZOOM)
Friday, 5 th February	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Sunday, 7 th February – Second Sunday Before Lent	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Morning Prayer (Hall); Holy Communion (Church)
17.00	Wellspring (ZOOM)
Tuesday, 9 th February	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Wednesday, 10 th February	
12.30	Midweek Communion and Lunch (Church)
14.30	Afternoon Home Group and Bible Study (ZOOM)
Friday, 12 th February	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Sunday, 14 th February – Sunday Next before Lent	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Holy Communion (Hall); Morning Prayer (Church)
17.00	Wellspring Agapé (ZOOM)
Tuesday, 16 th February – Shrove Tuesday	
18.30	Shrove Tuesday Online Carnivale
Wednesday, 17 th February – Ash Wednesday	
12.30	Midweek Communion and Lunch with Ashing
14.30	Afternoon Home Group and Bible Study (ZOOM)
19.30	Ash Wednesday Communion with Ashing
Friday, 19 th February	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Sunday, 21 st February – First Sunday of Lent	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Morning Prayer (Hall); Holy Communion (Church)
17.00	Wellspring (ZOOM)
Tuesday, 23 rd February	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
Wednesday, 24 th February	
12.30	Midweek Communion and Lunch (Church)
14.30	Afternoon Home Group and Bible Study (ZOOM)
Thursday, 25 th February	
19.30 – 21.00	Theology Book Club (ZOOM)
Friday, 26 th February	
10.30	Café Connect Online (ZOOM)
14.30 – 16.00	Theology Book Club (Hall)
Sunday, 28 th February – Second Sunday of Lent	
08.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Holy Communion (Hall); Morning Prayer (Church)
17.00	Choral Evensong (Church)
17.00	Wellspring Holy Communion (ZOOM)

60 Seconds with... Roue Robbe and Florence Mtajuka

Roue and Florence are two of our newest chaplaincy members and were married a few weeks ago in Florence's native country, Tanzania. They originally came to us for marriage preparation, and we are delighted that they have stayed! You will see them around quite a lot.

Where are you from originally, and how did you arrive here at St John and St Philip?

Originally I am from Tanzania and my husband is from Surinam. We arrived at the church beginning of 2020 after we had moved to The Hague. It is actually very funny as I just did a search of churches in The Hague and arrived at St John. But the funny thing is that it was the church my family and I used to attend when growing up and once here I just started seeing familiar faces which was a very re-assuring feeling.

What do you do when you're not in Church?

My husband works and studies in The Hague at HTM and I am currently searching for new work opportunities.



What do you like best about St John and St Philip?

The welcoming and friendly nature of its members.

And what do you feel we could do differently?

I think we haven't been here long enough nor experienced the full congregation since we started attending to truly give constructive feedback on this!

What do you do with your leisure time?

Sadly, right now we cannot do much as a result of the times we live in. But usually we enjoy a nice night out for dinner or a movie. Other than that a walk outdoors is also very enjoyable to the both of us.

What's your favourite food?

Well my husband eats everything, but we both enjoy Zege or Chipsi Mayai very much. This is a Tanzanian style omelette which contains chips and eggs.

And what book and/or piece of music could you not live without?

I find the sound of the ocean rather soothing. But music wise we listen to everything from Pop to African beats.



Advent Meal Appeal 2020: Reaching Out to the Poor and Needy

by Mission Team

Introduction: It has long been the tradition within our chaplaincy to have an Advent Appeal. Usually this has been for the work that Tabitha does with Palestinian Christians, enabling them to buy presents for children, medical supplies and food packages for the needy. This has always been one of the highlights of the year for them and brings a strong message of love and support from The Hague.

It has also been our tradition to hold a Christmas Fair, where a portion of the proceeds is given towards the work of one of our Mission Partners. Last year we donated funds for Christmas boxes for the Homeless in The Hague. This year, of course, the Fair cannot take place.

We are, therefore, having a combined Advent and Christmas Appeal to supply food packages for three separate charities. Below we say more about what each charity hopes to achieve and the approximate cost of a package.

In total, we aim to raise about €3,000, as follows:

Tabitha Ministry

Tabitha has been advised that the municipality of Zababdeh will not allow it to organize a Christmas party for the children there, as there are now several cases of Corona virus in the town. Instead Tabitha will concentrate on supplying humanitarian aid, food packages and supporting families in need.



The content of the food packages will include rice, sugar, oil, spaghetti, dry beans, dry lentils, chickpeas, canned tuna and sesame oil. Powder milk (only for families with small boys and girls), and Christmas sweets

Each package will cost between \$25 - \$40; the aim is to raise € 1,000.

STAD

STAD has just started an Open Space Learning Program (OSLP) for primary school refugee and national children at the refugee villages it supports in Northern Uganda. Due to COVID-19 measures, STAD can not organize the annual Christmas celebrations for refugees, but instead would like to support these children and their families with some small Christmas food items.

The target beneficiaries are children, teenage heads of households, widows, people with disabilities, the sick, and elderly. Each house will receive a food packet



comprising 5kg of poso (maize flour), 3 kg of beans, 3 kg of mukene, 1 litre of liquid soap, and biscuits and sweets for the children.

The aim is to raise € 1,000, which will assist approximately 350 people.

Local Mission

One of the Local Missions we support is **Het Aandachtscentrum**, a Christian organization that is situated in the town centre. Its mission is to provide warmth and social support to the homeless and extremely poor, but with the current Covid-19 restrictions it has not been able to provide this help. We aim to support its work by creating care packages for those people who live below minimum income. These packages will contain food and also relatively expensive items in the supermarkets, such as coffee or laundry detergent.



The aim is to raise € 900 for this part of the Appeal, supporting approximately 30 people with a package costed at € 30.00 each.

Alongside this, and building on our association with the Straatpastoraat, we also aim to raise enough money (between €100 and €250) to donate small gifts that will accompany the food that will be handed out as part of its traditional Christmas celebration for their guests. This year they will not be able to organize a big event, but they do intend to provide a small worship service and food.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

First Tuesday of every month
(Dec 1st ~ Jan 5th ~ Feb 2nd)
at 19.30 - 21.00 in the Church

We meet to worship God,
to pray for the work
of God's Church in this place,
our mission in the world
and those in need of prayer.
Please join us.

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Midweek Communion and Lunch

Holy Communion
Every Wednesday at 12.30,
in the Chancel of the Church

Midweek Lunch:
Please bring your own lunch
and join us for fellowship
at 13.00 after the Service

All are welcome! Join us for one or both.

Wellspring Has Gone Online!

As physical meeting for worship remains a challenge due to the current pandemic crisis, Wellspring which is an informal service continues online via Zoom until further notice.

Based on what our Lord Jesus says in Matthew 18:20: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them", **it doesn't matter where we meet, but it does matter that we meet for Jesus.**

Zoom is a virtual platform where we have been meeting since the Covid-19 outbreak to worship God praying for one another, for the needs of others, and for our church. We also share God's Word, "a lamp to our feet and a light to our daily path (see Psalm 119:105)."

Words are not enough to describe the benefits of worshipping as a community via zoom in this time of crisis: we see each other's face; we do break-out rooms where people have the opportunity to chat with and pray for one another in small groups, etc.

It is quite simple if you would like to join us:

1. You need to download zoom on your device (Smartphone, Tablet or Laptop)
2. Create a free zoom account
3. Contact stj.stp.wellspring@gmail.com for the Wellspring Meeting ID to connect
4. The Service is **every Sunday 17.00 CET**

Wellspring
St. John & St. Philip