



The Record

April & May 2014
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From our Interim Moderator

Dear Folks in the ERC Amsterdam,

Some things come suddenly – like bad news or illness. Others come gradually – like change for the better. Life is full of unexpected surprises, good and bad. Life is full of change which can be gradual and positive. An American singer, Beth Nielsen Chapman, cared for her husband, who had cancer, as he slowly died over the course of a year and left her alone with a 9-year-old son. She documented her experience in her first CD, “Sand and Water”. Then, as she was learning to live in her new situation, she herself had treatment for breast cancer. In one of her latest songs, “Angels by my side”, she reflects upon these ups and downs and how they relate to her faith: *Still the light will pierce the dark, Still the dark will steal the light: And everything will be all right, though change won't be denied.* And she adds, *All these ways, God loves me so, in languages I've come to know.*

As I write this, spring is warming the earth and air here in Paris. Trees are in bud, bushes are blossoming and spring flowers abound. It is both an assurance that through the winter there was hope of new life to come, and a promise of a summer of growth and an autumn of harvest that lies ahead. Change can't be stopped, it happens all the time. Nor should it be feared, for along with the unknown, it brings promise and hope. It brings the challenge of seeing God at work in our lives through the most unpromising situations.

Change has come to the ERC. Over the last few months without your own minister you have experienced a wide variety of preaching and pastoral styles. You may be moving soon into a new era, with a new minister inducted in the next few months. Of course it may take longer, but we pray for the Nominating Committee as they discern the right person for the call. April brings us the celebration of Easter. A season of constant change in the life of Jesus and his followers. A triumphal entry into Jerusalem; a farewell meal; an arrest, a beating, and desertion by friends. Then a lonely Crucifixion; days of despair and doubt followed by a glorious resurrection. Weeping turns to joy – sorrow into dancing. Change after change. Through all this, victory over sin and that which spoils life, together with the gift of abundant life, are won for us.

May you know God's presence and “angels by your side” in the coming months, whatever you face in your own life, and in all that happens in the life of the ERC Amsterdam.

May God richly bless you,
Rev Jim Cowie (interim moderator)

Ministers in the Coming Months

In the coming months we will be welcoming various ministers and preachers to our church to help lead the Sunday services and provide pastoral help. For the month of April, including all of the Easter services, our minister will be the Rev. Alan Garrity, who was with us in December. In May our minister will be the Rev. Dennis Campbell. In June the Rev. Bill Brown, who was with us in November, will return to lead our services.

Easter Services in our Church

Maundy Thursday Service

17 April, 8:00pm
Communion Service

Good Friday Service

18 April, 7:30pm

Easter Sunday

20 April, 10:30am
Communion Service

BREAD: Mid-Week Worship Services

Supper with reflection and worship

The BREAD service is an informal meditative service led by members of the congregation using a blend of different worship styles and including a short meditation on a theme. It is held monthly at 19:30, beginning with soup and bread. The service begins at 20:00 and lasts approximately 45 minutes. We end with coffee and perhaps something sweet.

The BREAD service usually takes place on the second Thursday of each month. The next BREAD services will be held on 10 April, 8 May and 12 June. It would be great to see you there! Please do come and share with us.

For more information see Veronica Garcia-Robles.

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life"



Consistory Meetings, February & March 2014

30 people, a mixture of Consistory and congregation members, attended John Bell's workshop in January on exploring worship. Those who attended reported on an inspiring and informative session. The family service that followed was the result of part of that workshop. Eight members of our congregation took part in that service, some for the first time.

Membership matters: Congratulations to *Iain & Celeste Majcher* on the birth of *Andrew Philip Malcolm Majcher*, born on 27 January.

Marjorie van der Vaart and *George Meerveld* have joined the Visitation Committee. The other members are *Joke de Bruin*, *Els Nooij*, *José Monkau* and *Mattia Falcone*.

Baafi Sekyere will represent the ERC during the upcoming Presbytery meeting in Gibraltar.

Youth Work: With Celeste on maternity leave, Mattia has taken over coordinating the 20s/30s Bible study. Veronica, Sophia and Liz are taking care of the Bread service.

Sophia Pratt and *Carl Darlington* came to talk to Consistory. They represented the ERC in this year's European Youth Presbytery, held in Budapest. "How do we connect Sunday to the rest of our week/life?" was the central theme of that meeting. Other churches have 20s/30s groups, but ours is the largest. The Very Rev. David Arnott called the representatives "trailblazers": this is the only youth Presbytery within the Church of Scotland. The venue for 2015 has not yet been determined. Consistory offered their support if plans would be made to host it in Amsterdam.

Finances: The year 2013 ended with a deficit of €20,000, which can be attributed to the renovation of the church hall. A fundraising committee will be set up, which aims to raise €25,000 in 2014.

The *Wilde Ganzen* group is set to increase our total amount raised at the Mulanje Mission Charity Concert by 55%, resulting in a total of around €13,000. 141 people attended the concert at the end of January. Many thanks to all who worked hard to make the night such a success.

The proposed budget for the Nominating Committee will be €10,000, which will include travel and accommodation for applicants and committee members. Members will be required to travel to hear applicants preach.

A financial package for the new minister was set, following the guidelines of the Church of Scotland, including removal costs, language course, manse rental contract to be paid by the minister, health insurance and costs for communications and transportation.

Fabric: We are preparing for more maintenance work in the church. This is part of the five-year maintenance plan. The first stage is getting bids from contractors.

Pulpit Supply: In the coming months Rev. Alan Garrity (April) and Rev. Bill Brown (June) will return to support our congregation in this vacancy period. In May we will have the Rev. Dennis Campbell with us.

The next Consistory meeting will take place on 7 April.

Heleen Koning

Scriba's AGM Round-up

2013 was filled with joys and sorrows.

The year started off as any other: meetings, services, the usual activities taking place. Then our minister, John, took some study leave (should that have been our first clue?) so things for Consistory and Oliver Lewis, our youth worker, heated up. We welcomed visiting ministers, heard from our own resident preachers, and the Consistory even led a service ourselves. In February Oliver helped prepare the Youth Presbytery in Regensburg and was joined by Sarah Höppener for the weekend's meetings. Then it was our turn to host the Presbytery of Europe meeting. This required many hands and heads, planning everything from maps and welcome packs to dinner venues. We are used to welcoming our own international congregation each week, but there was still a lot to do and a lot of visitors to accommodate and cater for. We wanted everyone to feel at home and for the meetings to be focussed and effective. I think we achieved our goal. Then on the back of that it was time for our Annual General Meeting. That was when most of us heard the news that John and Gill Cowie would be moving back to Scotland. The response was stunned silence; we knew he couldn't stay forever, but it wasn't going to be easy, preparing to leave after 23 1/2 years.

Farewell plans took shape at a fast pace and in the meantime John began wrapping up projects he wanted to complete, the church hall renovation being the big one. Heleen Koning, Thijs Polstra and Seppo Stout worked very hard to make this first phase happen. Clean and fresh toilets and kitchen are a very good start.

Before anyone had time to slow down it was time for John and Gill to say goodbye and for us to say thank you. John received a more extended thank you than he expected. He was awarded the *Andreas Penning* (medal) by the city of Amsterdam, a true sign that his contribution was not only recognised by ourselves!

John's departure could have left us in limbo, but it didn't.

So many people have offered to help, which has been tremendous. We have kept going in every sense. The Christmas cards got written, the Mulanje charity concert went ahead, we continued our youth worker post, the 20s/30s group and Junior Church both did well, Sunday School gained two new leaders, coffee mornings met, coffee after the services was made, the crèche rota was filled, bible study and ladies' fellowship gathered, services took place, Christmas happened, and Easter will, too. I hope you agree that we've had strong preaching and leadership from our visiting ministers, and as we have the Very Rev. David Arnott with us at the moment, let me thank him for his strong and thoughtful contribution.

Baafi Sekyere attended the General Assembly in Edinburgh, the Presbytery of Europe meetings in Geneva and most recently in Gibraltar. Sophia Pratt and Carl Darlington represented us at the Youth Presbytery in Budapest. There were no new Consistory members added last year; in retrospect I wish we had bulked up the team, considering our new workload. Iain Majcher returned after being assessed for the ministry (he was accepted!), and Melissa Ytsma returned to Canada to join her family's business, though we did manage to borrow her designing skills for the Christmas posters.

We welcomed 21 new members, held 71 concerts, 8 weddings and 19 baptisms.

But it was also a year of sad goodbyes. We miss many of our older members,

including Gerard van Vliet, Eva van Beem, Mary Keizer, Gerrie Neuteboom and Els Stijger. We keep them and their families in our prayers.

It has been a challenging time, we've made mistakes and will make plenty more, but it is not our intention!

I would like to thank the congregation for your flexibility and loyalty, the many volunteers for their tremendous hard work and commitment, the inspirational men and women who have led us, our cheerfully spirited staff team, the Consistory for its wide range of skills, and Heleen Koning for all she has done to support and help me.

If we can keep this up, if our patience and humour and prayers don't dry up, we will be in fine form to welcome our new minister in (hopefully) a few months' time.

This is a special place and we are part of a special community. Thanks be to God.

Fiona Poot-Campbell, Scriba

News from the Nominating Committee

This has been a very busy time for the committee. When the February update appeared, we had already invited 3 candidates for interviews, but shortly thereafter a fourth candidate was added. After a great deal of planning, liaising and arranging (since our prospective candidates come from far and wide), we were able to set up 4 interview weekends starting as early as the last weekend in February and scheduled to finish in mid-March. Unfortunately the final interview has had to be postponed until the first weekend of April so the process is taking a bit longer than we had initially hoped.

During the interview weekends the candidates (and accompanying family members) are shown the church, the church hall and the manse by various committee members and are given the opportunity to meet all committee members informally at a lunch or dinner. The interviews are held by a sub-group of no more than 6 members. Finally, the candidates preach at a host church which is attended by as many committee members as possible. All interviews and sermons are recorded and made available to all committee members for assessment.

The first 3 of these very intensive interview weekends have run very smoothly and it has been a real pleasure to meet and engage with the candidates. After the last interview weekend the committee will review all the assessments and hopefully be able to choose a candidate to present to you, the congregation. If we succeed and the candidate accepts, then that candidate will be invited to lead a service at the ERC, after which you will all be able to vote.

Please continue to support us with your prayers in this very exciting and challenging phase, and pray that we will have the wisdom and guidance we need to make the right decision.

Committee members:

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Jolmer Gerritse | Thijs Glasz (convener) | Judi Haynes-Smart |
| Astrid König | Heleen Koning | Peggy Krol |
| Elisabeth van Oudgaarden | Sies Plokker | Thijs Polstra |
| Margaret Richards | Charles van Saagsvelt | Baafi Sekyere |
| Rosemarie Tiggelovend (secretary) | | |

European Youth Prebytery

St. Coloumba's in Budapest, Hungary, March 2014

The EYP delegates (17 of us from Rome, London, Amsterdam, Regensburg, Budapest and Brussels) all arrived on the Friday and got to know each other with some icebreakers and a meal. Saturday was the real heart of the program – with two seminars (in the morning and afternoon) and sightseeing in between. Then on Sunday we concluded by helping lead the worship service at St. Coloumba's (our host) and



had a final meal together. Although the official theme of the weekend was bringing Sunday into the rest of the week – for me the EYP weekend was about community and connection – reminding us we're part of the bigger group: the Church of Scotland. It was also extremely empowering and reassuring to hear other young people from all over Europe pondering

similar questions we as young people face: how we allow our church life to inform our sexual lives and how we connect our faith to our work in the world.

The first seminar on Saturday was led by Erzsébet Komlósi (Director of Scripture Union, Hungary). She opened up the discussion about how we allow our faith life to inform our romantic relationships, specifically before marriage. We read from Scripture and pop culture, reflecting on the various messages about how we should approach our (current and/or future) romantic relationships. The second seminar was led by Tom Hoppel (Yoga Instructor and member of St. Columba's Church) discussing what the connection is between faith and what we do.

On Sunday Carl and I helped lead the worship service at St. Columba's. We were part of the team delivering the message. We acted out scenes depicting a speed-dating scenario gone wrong and the emotional aftermath for the girl involved. We reminded the congregation and ourselves of how God doesn't necessarily abide by our expectations for our lives (Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 8), and to remember that God wants what is best for us; He is always working to bring us to such a place (I Phillipians 4: 1 – 9).

Again, this weekend reminded me that we are part of a wider community of Christians who are also striving to live out Christ's work in the world AND how we can accomplish this in our community with others – helping one another to grow in our love and understanding of Him. This reminder seems especially relevant for the wider ERC community as we face times of uncertainty, transition and change. Because of this experience I feel more galvanized and invigorated, knowing we are part of, and can lean on, our wider community of Christians, fellow sojourners on the journey to walk with Christ.

Sophia Pratt

Treasurer's Report – Mulanje Mission Concert

At the beginning of the year there is not a lot to tell about the income and expenses of the congregation, for the first months income and expenditure is comparable with the year before. Therefore I take this opportunity to report back about the financial results of the Mulanje Mission Concert you read about in one of the last *Records*.

The Background: Mulanje Mission Hospital is a rural population of 650,000 people in the Mulanje district of southeast Malawi. The hospital has expanded over the last decade, with increasing outpatient attendances and admissions particularly due to HIV/AIDS. 7,000 people regularly attend MMH for antiretroviral treatment for HIV infection. The hospital provides the only premature baby unit and neonatal care service for the district population, taking referrals from the government hospital and several rural health centres. The operating theatre is busy day and night, with caesarian sections, surgical emergencies and planned surgical procedures.

All of these services require an ample supply of clean water, and they produce waste water which must be disposed of so that it does not pose a health hazard. The current water supply and septic tank arrangements date from the 1950s and are no longer fit for use. In the dry season the hospital experiences periods of severe water shortage. The sewage system cannot cope with the volumes of waste now produced, and several septic tanks have collapsed, leading to leakage of raw sewage in some areas of the hospital grounds.



The existing water tank

What will this project achieve?

1. Procure and install three new plastic water tanks on 'Mission Hill' with pipe work to connect to existing supply;
2. Drill new borehole;
3. Install solar pump for new borehole;
4. Resisting of pit latrines, replacement of dilapidated septic tanks with new sewer and new tanks;
5. Construct new soak away system;
6. Train local staff in maintenance of solar pumps and maintenance of the new sewage system.

The budget for this project was calculated at Euro 16.600.

What did we achieve?

All of you who enjoyed the Mulanje Concert contributed to the success – thanks a lot! In addition to this we received contributions from Rotary International Amsterdam, the Rotary Foundation InterAdam and *Wilde Ganzen*.

Currently we are following up on some last transactions and once this is done the final result will be: €14,376. Even though this is a little shortfall, it is a great success and I want to thank everyone in the name of Ruth Shakespeare, the medical director, and of course the people of Mulanje! If you now feel encouraged to contribute to this project, it is still possible: Please transfer your donation to the church's account, mentioning "MMH concert project".

Thorsten König, Treasurer

Presbytery Meeting in Gibraltar - March 2014

The first of this year's two meetings of the Presbytery of Europe took place in March in Gibraltar. I had the honour to represent our church there.

Though Gibraltar is in Europe (EU), it took me about half a day to get there from Amsterdam, about twice the time it takes me to get to Accra, Ghana, from Schiphol. You may wonder how or why? Well, the only way to fly into Gibraltar is via London, which is comparatively expensive and also a bit cumbersome, so I decided to go through Malaga in Spain and booked a seat on the evening flight. I later got the information that I would miss the last bus to the frontier, so I had to change the flight to an early morning one. This meant catching the 06:55 flight to Malaga, then by train to Fuengirola and then wait to take the 14:30 bus to La Linea (the Spanish frontier town). After a two-hour bus ride, I walked across (maybe) the only real frontier crossing in Western Europe and continued to my hotel per taxi. Anyway, it was not all that gloomy, as I was fortunate enough to remember to take nice weather along, which enabled me to enjoy the undulating Andalusian landscape and scenery.

To touch on the core issue, the meetings started on schedule on the Friday, 7 March with the installation of the new Moderator, Rev. Aaron Stevens of the Budapest congregation. He took over from Rev. Rhona Dunphy of the Regensburg congregation. The agenda of the meeting was religiously followed and in order not to bore you with the nitty-gritty, here are the decisions taken by the various committees in the form of deliverances and affirmed by Presbytery.

On the Business Committee it was decided to:

- thank the Working Group of Presbytery on the progress it has made in advancing discussions on the future of the Europe Act; request that a written report be circulated with the Minutes; and request that regular progress reports be circulated to Presbytery;

- endorse the Business Committee's appointment of Derek Lawson to serve on the Presbytery Plan Group;

- receive the report of the Presbytery Plan Group;

- approve the process for preparation, by the Presbytery Plan Group, of a new Presbytery Plan as outlined in the report;

- suspend (suspend) all vacancies within Presbytery where permission to call has not yet been granted until the new Presbytery Plan is in place;

- place the congregations of St. Andrew's, Lisbon and Fuengirola, Costa del Sol under guardianship until the new Presbytery Plan is in place;

- instruct all Kirk Sessions (Consistories) to complete and return the questionnaire to be issued by the Presbytery Plan Group not later than 30 June 2014.

On St. Andrew's Scots Kirk in Colombo-Sri Lanka, Presbytery decided to sustain the call to Rev. Roderick D.M. Campbell. The induction will take place on 4 May 2014. Presbytery appointed Rev. Rhona Dunphy as Coordinator of European Youth Presbytery.

On Mission Committee, Presbytery:

- welcomed Rev. Willie McCulloch's appointment as Secretary of Mission Committee;

- encouraged congregations to make use of the promotional material provided by the publicity officer and to treat the project "A Place at the Table" as one that congregations can donate to, throughout the year;

- noted the approval of €300 for Scots Kirk, Lausanne to lower the individual costs of participation for a church weekend away in Pentecost and €2000 to St. Andrew's Scot's Kirk Colombo to fund urgent infrastructure developments at Ward 19 of Mulleriyawa Mental Hospital from the Development Fund grant; instructed congregations who have not already done so, to return the Mission Audit Questionnaires to Rev Robert Calvert by Easter;

- encouraged congregations to give to Alec Grant, to place on the Presbytery website, successful stewardship materials and encourage all congregations to use these materials in order to comply with General Assembly instruction;

- agreed to apply for a display marquee at "Heart & Soul 2014" event in May 2014.

On the Superintendence Committee, Presbytery:

- appointed Rev. Andrew Gardner to replace Rev. Páraic Réamonn on the Local Church Review to Rotterdam;

- welcomed the report on developments in the English-Speaking Church (ESC) in Turin;

- requested Rev. Páraic Réamonn to continue his conversations with the ESC and the Waldensian Evangelical Church about the future of the congregation, visiting Turin where necessary;

- placed the ESC under the care of the Superintendence Committee;

- asked the Superintendence Committee to actively seek ways to strengthen the ESC congregation's English-language ministry and pastoral leadership;

On the appointment of a Presbytery Chaplain, it was decided that:

- In any vacancy, the interim moderator will continue to support and mentor the new minister and family during the transition for a period of up to one year after the induction to help deal with any pastoral matters arising from the new ministry.

- Presbytery, on the proposal of the Business Committee, shall appoint a Chaplain for active ministers within the Presbytery.

- All serving ministers within Presbytery shall be eligible to be appointed as Chaplain.

- The Business Committee will seek nominations from any serving minister within the Presbytery for the post of Chaplain and make a recommendation to Presbytery.

- The appointment of Chaplain will be for three years and will be reviewable before the end of the three-year period. The current Chaplain may be reappointed.

- The Chaplain will have a non-voting seat on the Business Committee but will not serve in any other role within the Presbytery during the appointment.

- The Chaplain will be given from Presbytery the necessary resources to fulfil the role, including legitimate expenses incurred.

- While respecting confidentiality, the Chaplain will submit a report annually in general terms to the Business Committee.

On Education & Training Committee, Presbytery:

- welcomed the news of the ordinations and inductions of Revd. Julia Lewandowska, Revd. Michael Mair, and Revd. Will Stalder and extended its wish for God's blessing on their respective ministries;

- noted that Mrs. Julie Gardner has volunteered to undergo training to be Presbytery Safeguarding Trainer;

noted the receipt of study leave reports from Revd. John Cowie and Revd. Dr. Andrew Gardner and commended them to Presbytery's attention;
 noted the application for study leave of Revd. Ian McDonald;
 offered prayers for Alice Goodman as she attends Assessment Conference for Ordained Local Ministry;
 noted the application for Readership of Cindy Campbell (Bermuda);
 noted that the Education and Training Committee has approved Revd. Irene Bom's request to initiate research in congregations' areas of growth; and encouraged congregations' cooperation;
 thanked Revd. Jim Sharp for his role in Presbytery's establishing the Education & Training Committee and his leadership in that Committee's first years.

On the Finance & Property Committee Presbytery:

in the context of the ongoing work on Presbytery's relationship with the central church, agreed to keep the Presbytery dues for 2014 at the same level, but to review each congregation's contribution for this year into Mission & Renewal Fund at our next meeting;
 requested the Finance & Property Committee to look again at all cost effective possibilities for holding Presbytery meetings, and encouraged congregations hosting the Presbytery to make use of the liaison services offered by Rhoda Grant on behalf of the Presbytery;
 reminded congregations of their obligation to submit the 2013 accounts by 30 June 2014 to the Finance & Property Committee;
 reminded congregations to submit their proposed budgets for 2015 by October 2014 to the Finance & Property Committee, and encouraged them to plan ahead with projections for future years, especially relating to any capital expenditure;
 noted, with gratitude, the exceptional grant of €60,000 made by the Salvessen Trust to bring the Lisbon Manse up to standard for rent or sale, and awaits the detailed work plan to be submitted to the Finance & Property Committee before any expenditure can be incurred;
 commended St. Andrew's Scots Kirk, Colombo on its initiative to refurbish the Manse awaiting the new minister and his wife, and on its initiative to install solar panels to produce electricity;
 encouraged St. Andrew's Church, Gibraltar to submit an urgent request to the Finance & Property Committee for a grant to replace the front windows and shutters of the Manse.

As usual, the Presbytery Service was held on the Sunday morning and I left afterwards to retrace my tracks to Amsterdam, touching down at Schiphol a few minutes before midnight that day.

The next Presbytery Meeting will be held in October, to be hosted by our sister congregation in Budapest.

Dear reader, please note that the Presbytery of Europe has adopted "A Place at the Table" as this year's Presbytery project to raise funds to support Syrian refugees in the neighbouring countries through sister and partner churches and organisations. We will be giving more information in due course as to how and when to donate. For further information or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Baafi Owusu Sekyere (Presbytery Elder)

IN THE ARMS OF GOD

by Veronica Garcia-Robles

The following was first printed in the USA, in the magazine Gather:

I have always felt the shelter of God in the arms of my mother. Being a mother now, I have a deeper understanding and appreciation of this, as I would move heaven and earth to provide my daughter with a safe sanctuary should she ever need it. Perhaps this is simply what it means to be a mother. To be a mother is to be a protector, nurturer, shelter, teacher, friend, and a rock.

In Israel I visited a site in Bethlehem, called the Milk Grotto, that claims Mary and Joseph took shelter there and while Mary was breastfeeding Jesus a drop of her milk fell upon the ground, turning the rock milky white. Now many women who visit take powder from the rock believing it can help increase lactation and fertility. What most impressed me, however, was a statue above the entrance and paintings located inside, all of Mary breastfeeding Jesus; an image I'd never seen in a church, yet heartwarming to imagine Jesus like any other baby suckling from his mother's breast.

It reminded me of a birthing class video I watched, while pregnant, showing a baby's innate instinct to nurse from its mother. In it, the doctor placed the newly born baby below the mother's belly and though the infant could barely open his eyes or move on his own, without any help from anyone, his survival instinct kicked in as he laboriously inched his way up to his mother's breast and latched on to suckle. Throughout the entire time, the mother guarded the child within the shelter of her arms, ensuring he wouldn't fail in his struggle.

Imagine that we are that baby and God is our mother, having conceived us in Eden, grown strong in the womb of the garden, then being cut off and expelled from its gates to enter the wilderness of the world. Since then, we have been in survival mode, struggling and trying to find our way back to the protective arms of our mother, our Creator.

Even though at times it may feel like we are alone trying to survive in this worldly wilderness, we are never abandoned in our struggle. How could we be, when Jesus himself roamed the wilderness, facing his own demons, conquering them and, through His sacrifice, ensured that the arms of God will always be open to us?

As the season of Lent shows us, it is our struggle and journey back to God that prepares us to be fully open to receive the reward God has for us, a holy banquet that does more than just feed us. It transforms us, because it is a feast of life-giving water and the bread of life that only God can provide. In the arms of our Creator, our God will feed us a spiritual food that is life-giving and soul-saving. The milk that God provides doesn't satisfy hunger and thirst; it ends it. The "pure, spiritual milk" (1 Peter 2:2b) that God provides, doesn't simply shed light in the dark; it eradicates it. And, having "tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Peter 2:3b) cleanses, purifies and renews us more than anything else ever could.

Concerts in Our Church

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| 6 April | 3:15pm | The MirAnDa Trio: "Gitana", cd presentation and concert, works by Saint-Saëns, Dvořák, Albeniz and DeFalla. |
| 21 April | 1:00pm | Andrea Tjäder (soprano) & Anthony Abouhamad (forte piano): works by Haydn, C.P.E. Bach, etc. <i>Free concert</i> |
| 4 May | 3:15pm | Nationaal Gemengd Jeugdkoor: works by Fauré and Durufle. |
| 11 May | 3:15pm | Franz Liszt Chamber Choir: "30 year jubilee concert", works by Grieg, Liszt, Dvořák, etc. |
| 18 May | 3:15pm | Camerata 1800, "Camerata 1800 goes Irish": A potpourri of Irish compositions and folksongs including works by Beethoven, Stevenson, Britten, Stanford, Martin, etc. |
| 24 May | 3:15pm | Olja Bučo (organ) with help from Norbert Veel and audience interaction. Works by Bach, Bossi, Boëllmann, etc. Free ERC concert! |
| 24 May | 8:15pm | Chamber choir Douce Memoire, "Running to Paradise": works by MacMillan, Howels, O'Regan, Bullard, etc. |
| 25 May | 3:15pm | Chamber choir Con Amore, "40 year jubilee concert": works by Henry Purcell. |

Tickets may be obtained at the church 30 minutes before the concert. Should you require more information, updates and changes are listed on the church's website and copies of the concert lists available in the foyer of the church.

Coffee Mornings

The monthly Tuesday coffee mornings are open to anyone who would like to join in some informal fellowship. The gatherings are hosted by various people at their homes, and begin at about 10:30am. If you would like more information about the coffee mornings, or if you would like to host a coffee morning at your home once in awhile, please contact either Elly Kalf (020 6479174) or Sies Plokker (020 4707944).

The next coffee mornings are:

| | | |
|---------|--|-----------|
| 1 April | Elly Kalf | Amsterdam |
| 5 May | Joke & Herman de Bruin | Amsterdam |
| 3 June | Pancakes in the <i>Amsterdamse Bos</i> | |



Baptisms

Cornelis Pieter Adrianus Maria Nøderstigt

16 March

Emily Sophia Thorsen

16 March

Food Bank

These are hard times for a lot of people in our city. If you would like to help out those who are going through difficulties financially, a good way is to help stock the Food Bank (*Voedselbank*) in Amsterdam. You are welcome to bring non-perishable food items and other household items such as toothpaste, soap, etc. to our church on Sundays. A box will be provided in the vestibule of the church for these items. It's a good way to help our neighbours!

Ladies' Fellowship

Several of the women in our congregation meet about every five weeks for dinner and conversation, sharing our experiences of life and faith. We meet in each other's homes and take turns organising a theme about which to talk. We have tried to reach as many women as possible but realise that, inadvertently, we may have missed some. It is an all-age group from young to much older! If you would like to join us and are not yet on our contact list, please e-mail Peggy—peggy.krol@planet.nl

A Paperless Record

The Record is also available by e-mail. If you would like to receive your copy of *The Record* by e-mail instead of through the post, please let Susan Polstra know. Her contact details are below.

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The deadline for the next *Record* is May 20th...



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