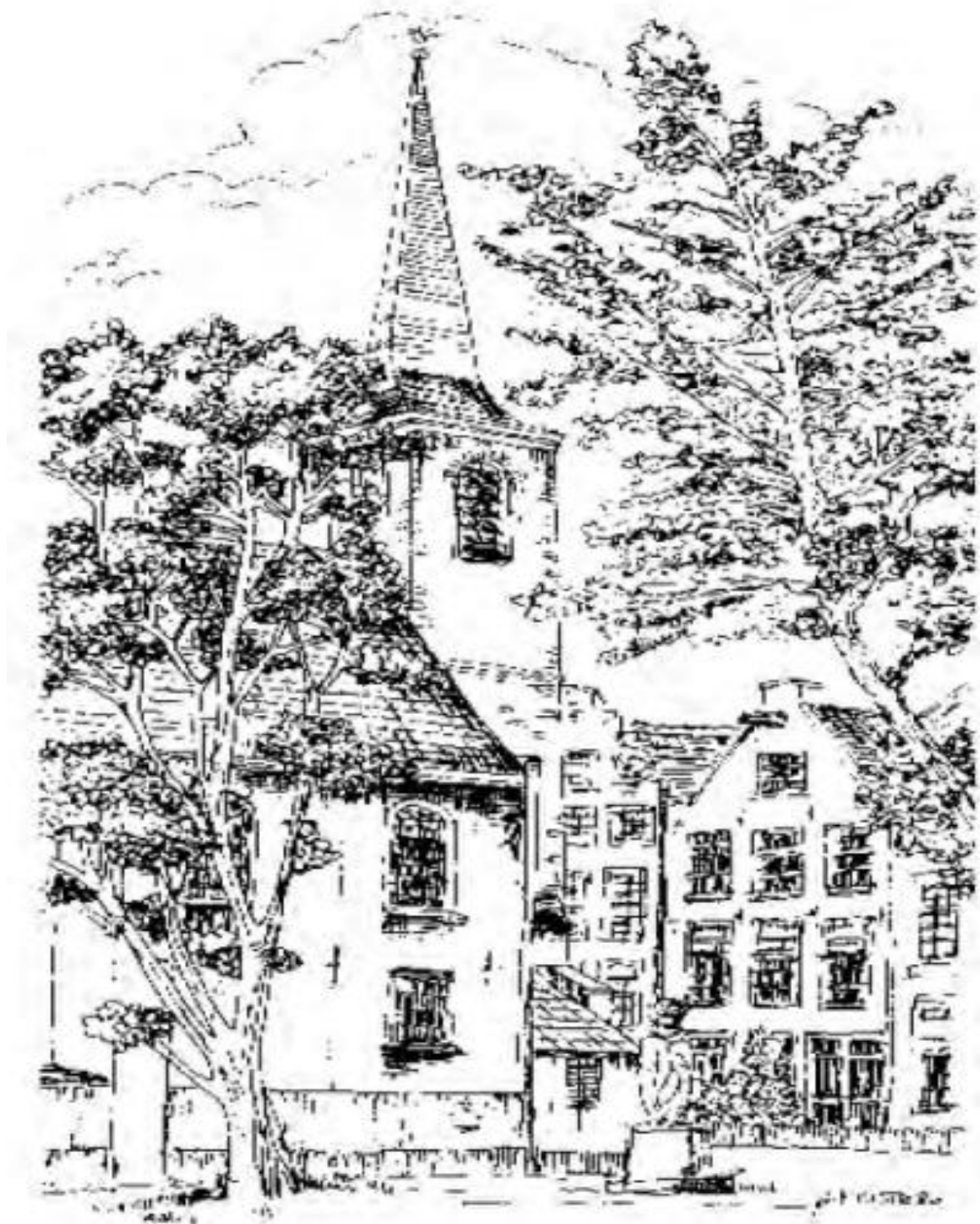


The Record



June - July 2016
Vol. 3

The English Reformed Church
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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on the eve of departing for Edinburgh to attend the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. This is the body that represents the Church of Scotland, consisting of equal numbers of ministers and elders drawn from parishes all over Scotland, and meeting annually to discuss matters relating to the church and its life and witness.

My presence at the Assembly this year along with Judi Haynes- Smart, one of our elders, is a reminder to us (should we need it) that the English Reformed Church in Amsterdam is in fact a Church of Scotland. Our church actually belongs to two denominations – the Church of Scotland and the Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PKN) – but we are networked in to the Church of Scotland more than to the PKN and are more engaged with its life and practice. To some that might seem puzzling. After all, what has Amsterdam to do with Edinburgh? Ours is an extremely international congregation that only has about three Scottish members – so why this link with a country that many in the congregation know little about and have probably never even visited? Well, the answer to that lies in the complexities of history. The Scots have always been a scattered race, exiles from their homeland, and the Church of Scotland in times past considered it important to provide Scottish communities abroad with worship familiar to them from the mother country.

All that is of much less relevance today in our modern world, but perhaps this history of our church has some deeper, symbolic meaning that still speaks to us today. Our church exists because Scottish people were scattered, far from home, and that is surely an apt description of us as Christians. We too are pictured in the Bible as belonging to 'another country', that kingdom where Christ rules. And the Christian life is one in which our lives are shaped by the language and the practices of that other country. As a Church of Scotland in Amsterdam therefore we 'take our bearings' from Edinburgh – just as the people of God 'take their bearings' from that new Jerusalem that is coming down out of heaven and which transforms the earth and to which we truly belong. In this world we are forever aliens and exiles, our citizenship rooted in another realm. Perhaps being a Church of Scotland in Amsterdam can be some sort of symbol or reminder of that truth. In the next Newsletter Judi and I will report back on the Assembly and its proceedings. Meanwhile I wish you all every blessing!

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Lance

Consistory Meeting Report - April and May 2016

After the Easter period, the Consistory focused on the preparation of the Annual General Meeting and the holiday of our minister. We also welcomed Sarah Wang, our newly ordained elder, who had her first meeting in April. The Consistory also gathered in May, though it was an informal setting because of the absence of our chairman.

Membership Matters

A couple of wedding ceremonies took place in the months of April and May. On the 23rd of April, *Katka Balatkova* and *Pancras Dijk* got married. Also, the marriage between *Hilde Neels* and *James Lawrie* was blessed by Rev. John Bell on the 7th of May. Congratulations to both couples!

On May 8, the Rev. John Bell baptised *Valentin Bernard Mauny*, the son of Julia and Olivier Mauny-van den Burg.

George Meerveld has been in our thoughts and prayers. After being in the hospital for a while, his recovery at home is going quite well. We expect him back in Amsterdam by the end of May.

Committees

The conveners of the Committees reported back.

Worship and Christian Education Committee: in their meeting they looked back at the Easter services: pastor Lance was heartened by the big turnout on the Saturday evening service. The Easter Day service was wonderful, with choir and music director in great shape with excellent music. The family service will be topic of discussion in the coming period. Also, the ERC and the Roman Catholic Chapel joined forces and started holding the Taizé services together.

Outreach & Social Events: twenty people participated in the Seder meal before Easter which turned out to be a great event. A big thank you to all who helped. Johan announced that he will step down as coordinator of the coffee rota before the summer after five years. We thank him for all



The Outreach and Social Events Committee,
Photo by Marjorie Lake

Consistory Meeting Report - April and May 2016

the work that he has done, so faithfully. We are currently looking out for a new coordinator.

Property committee: a remit was discussed and approved. After the committee was announced at the AGM, it started to meet. So far Jaap Maas, Seppo Stout, Jolmer Gerritse, Thorsten König, Thijs Polstra and Heleen Koning are participating. The date of the next meeting will be announced and members of the congregation who are interested in joining are most welcome to do so.

Property

The new system for entrance to the Begijnhof after 17:00 hrs has been installed and is in a testing stage. The Stichting installed a special phone line in Consistory room, with which we can open the porch. The evenings we have services, concerts, meetings, choir rehearsals the door will stay open until after the start of the gathering. We established a good working relationship with the board of the Stichting Begijnhof so we can discuss any problems and seek a solution together.

Church of Scotland

Baafi Sekyere and pastor Lance reported back from the International Presbytery meeting in March (please see the previous issue of the Record).

The ERC will send pastor Lance and Judi Haynes-Smart to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland which will be held as of 20 May.

Annual General Meeting

The meeting took place on the 17th of April. A brief report is printed on page 14 of the Record.

The next Consistory meetings will be held on 6 June and 4 July, 2016. If you have any questions or would like to bring a topic to the meeting, please feel free to contact me.

Heleen Koning

Finance ⁶ Report

January – April 2016, Amounts in €

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016 vs 2015</u>
Income			
Donations	30,584.56	42,294.42	- 11,709.86
Collections	14,817.79	11,665.93	3,151.86
Church hire	6,517.60	9,454.23	- 2,936.63
Concerts	2,512.00	4,133.50	- 1,621.50
Weddings	1,675.00	2,625.00	- 950.00
Flowers	52.55	170.25	- 117.70
	56,159.50	70,343.33	- 14,183.83

Since the beginning of this year, I've observed a continued and significant decline in income in general, but mainly in donations, which to date results in more the Euro 14.000 or 25% less income. Our expenses are slightly higher than expected, which results in a total shortfall of about Euro 11.000 in the first quarter.

We all are contributing to our congregation with our talents and gifts – and this is great. But I would also urge you to consider and to pray about contributing to the financial health of our congregation. This can be done in multiple ways, via the collection on Sundays or via bank transfer – and then these gifts could be deducted from your taxes.

As we are going to have some major renovation planned this summer, you can also donate towards the foundation “Friends of the English Reformed Church”, which holds the funds for the maintenance of the church and the Manse.

As always if you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me anytime at treasurer@ercadam.nl or (0294) 77 29 34.

Thorsten König, Treasurer

Midweek Fellowship ⁷ Services & Studies

Bible Study:

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month

In our fortnightly Bible Studies, entitled 'Seeing Ourselves in Those Confronted by Jesus', we're looking at some groups that Jesus interacted with in his ministry, studying so far the Pharisees & the Sadducees. An understanding of these groups & Jesus' engagement with them has shed considerable light on Jesus and his ministry.

Taizé:

2nd Wednesday of the month

An important development over the past two months is that our monthly Taizé service has become a joint one with the Roman Catholic Chapel, across the yard from us in the Begijnhof. These have been wonderful worship services with rich fellowship over refreshments after the service. Please consider coming along to our monthly Taizé service and reaching out to our brothers and sisters in Christ so close to us. Services start at 19:30.

Ladies Fellowship:

Last week of the month

The next meeting will be in June (23rd or 30th - definite date still to be determined) and on the 28th of July. Any who are interested in joining but aren't on the invitation list, please contact Peggy Krol to add you to the list at peggy.krol@planet.nl or call her at 020-6767804. All ladies are welcome!

Men's Group:

Last week of the month

The Men's group meets during the last week of the month. For dates and times, or any other info., please contact Rev. Stone.

Thresholds

For Gillian, 31st December 2008

by Keith McFarlane

Full forty years since, Sunday schooled,
I passed the threshold of that grander kirk
of choir and chapter, word and book,
that seemed to me authority:
compassion's lack. A childish vision
then? Perhaps. And yet all depth and rigor
went. The screen between this world and next
was strengthened, first by doubt, and then
by blindness born of intellect.
And though such judgement served me well,
I find myself, these recent days,
in lesser kirk, The English Church
in Amsterdam, a lifetime since,
like me reformed with softness battled
for not won: uncertain. And yet...
the sermon's steady weight on help;
the need this world still has; the fellowship
of word and prayer; our strength in song,
our raised compassion mending wrongs
with salve and action. What's lost is seldom
found. Yet in that stillness we create
is heard one voice that all embrace.
All come together in this place, that here,
in silence, we might remember grace.

We're blessed in our congregation to have many talented people – including poets. Keith McFarlane is one such. Above is one of his poems which featured in The Record before. In this poem Keith links two churches: Dunblane Cathedral, a Church of Scotland dating back to about 600 AD, which Keith attended as a child, and our church here in Amsterdam which he now attends. Are there any other poets out there in our congregation with something to offer for future editions of The Record?

Who's Who in the ERC

Meet Nina Schroeder



Photo courtesy
of Nina Schroeder

“Finding a church and finding a choir are among the first things that I try to do after moving to a new place”. Nina Schroeder came to Amsterdam in September 2015 to do a year of field research for her PhD in Dutch Baroque art history. She found the ERC in October 2015 and enjoys singing soprano in our choir.

Nina, born 25 years ago in Winnipeg, Canada, studied English literature as an undergraduate at Canadian Mennonite University, and completed minors in music, theology and psychology. “Since I was twelve years old, I had this dream of going to Oxford. So, as I was finishing my BA I applied to go there for a master’s degree in art history. It was a wonderful British adventure. My grandfather did a lot of research about Mennonite history and shared these stories with me as I was growing up. Mennonite engagement with art production and the art marketplace became a focus of my master’s dissertation and my current PhD research at Queen’s University (Kingston, Canada)”.

Her interest in art of the Dutch Golden Age brought her to the Netherlands this year. “I spend a lot of time at the University of Amsterdam’s *Bijzondere Collecties* (Special Collections library), which has an extensive collection of rare books and prints. I've also been doing research at art museums in Amsterdam and elsewhere in Europe: this usually involves locating relevant paintings and prints, analysing the iconography and the various contexts of production. It has also been nice to participate in doctoral research groups at the Amsterdam Doopsgezind Seminarium and the art history department at the UvA. I will hopefully finish my dissertation by the end of summer 2017”. After finishing her PhD, she hopes to pursue work as a museum curator, through which she can contribute to research and public arts education.

“Before I came to Amsterdam I looked through an online list of English-speaking churches. I visited a number of different congregations when I first arrived in the city. The ERC was so welcoming that it quickly felt like a ‘church home’ away from home. I am thankful for the welcoming community, and I enjoy taking part in the choir, the taizé services, the 20-30’s group, and other church gatherings.” Nina is a member of a Mennonite church in Canada, so she also worships in the Doopsgezinde Singelkerk (the Mennonite church beside the Krijtberg) in Amsterdam. “I get to practice my Dutch and connect with the Amsterdam Mennonite community.” This connection is further 'historically' enhanced, as she lives with a group of Dutch students in a ‘hofje’ originally built to be a hidden Mennonite Church (late-17th c.), and later used as a Mennonite orphanage and an old folks’ home (18-20th c.). In addition to researching and taking Dutch courses, Nina sings in the Toonkunstkoor Amsterdam. “This year we got to sing Bach’s *Mattheus Passion* in the Concertgebouw on Good Friday. It was amazing to take part in this Dutch Easter tradition.” Currently, they're working on Mendelssohn’s *Elias*.

Nina concluded our conversation by noting that she feels privileged to have these two years to explore Amsterdam and become involved in a church with such history. “During my research I keep coming across 17th and 18th century illustrations of the English Reformed Church in early modern books and prints. It is wonderful to know that such a historic spot is home to a vibrant faith community hundreds of years later. My art history research and my day-to-day church experience in Amsterdam so often intersect- it brings the research to life in an exciting way”.

Nina will extend her stay in Amsterdam until April next year.

- Interview by Heleen Koning

Church Member Notices

Births:

Mar. 26: Valentin Bernard Mauny
(son of Julia Mauny - van den Burg and Olivier Mauny)

Baptisms:

May 8: Valentin Bernard Mauny

Weddings:

April 23: Katka Balatkova and Pancras Dijk

May 7: Hilde Neels and James Lawrie

Consistory Elder Ordination:

April 3:

Sarah was born and raised in China. She studied in Singapore and came to know Jesus at University.

Brought up as an atheist, and trained in science and engineering, she says knowing Jesus is the greatest thing in her life. Her life has been transformed by the love of God and His truth.

She started to attend the ERC when she moved to Amsterdam in 2014. She became a member of the ERC in 2015 and joined the consistory in April 2016. She works as a chemical engineer.

Sarah Ying Wang



Photo courtesy of Sarah Ying Wang

"In each church they appointed elders, and with prayers and fasting they commended them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust."
(Acts 14:23)

Church Notices

Save the Date!

On Sunday, June 26th, after the Family Service we will hold our annual summer party, which this year will be a **Pot-luck Picnic**.

The venue is still to be decided, but in the meantime please mark this special occasion in your calendar.

If you would like to attend please add your name to the Summer Party list on the notice board in church or contact Ingrid Zimmermann-Sørensen directly on telephone: 020 7701341 or email: mail@in-grids.net.



Photo: dreamstime.com



Photo by Janet Dönszelman

Coffee Morning:

On April 5, 20 people met at the Keukenhof, a beautiful spring garden near Lisse, for the coffee morning. After a 2 and a half hour stay, the group then enjoyed lunch in a restaurant nearby. It was a beautiful day!

Each first Tuesday of the month, the ERC coffee morning group meets. All are welcome to join. Please contact Sies Plokker or Elly Kalff in church or send an email to info@ercadam.nl for more info.

"What good fellowship we once enjoyed as we walked together to the house of God". (Psalm 55:14)



Photo by Janet Dönszelman



Photo by Janet Dönszelman

De Kloof:

Every first Monday of the month, the ERC is committed to cook for the homeless at De Kloof. Would you like the opportunity to put your faith in action and feed the hungry? Please volunteer & sign up to cook with Gillian Walker at dekloof@ercadam.nl.



Photo by Ingrid Zimmermann-Sørensen

"If you feed those who are hungry and take care of the needs of those who are troubled, then your light will shine in the darkness, and you will be bright like sunshine at noon".

(Isaiah 58:10)

Church Maintenance Letter

Dear friends,

As we announced last year, and again at the last AGM, this summer we will have extensive maintenance work and painting carried out on the Church building. For this work it will be necessary to erect scaffolding all around the church and the tower.

The work itself will be done between July 18 and August 15, and preparations for the scaffolding will begin on July 14.

In this same period our main organ, the Müller-Flentrop Organ, will also be cleaned and repaired. This has never been done since the building of the organ in 2000. Our small organ will also be cleaned, but at a later date, so there will still be an organ available for the services.

We are pleased that this timetable has been agreed, although it remains difficult to navigate between all the services, concerts and other activities, and the many different interests in the church.

We hope and pray that the work will be completed swiftly and successfully, and that the inconvenience for everybody in and around the Church will be limited.

Please remember we rely on your support and donations for the upkeep of our Church. Maintenance of our historic building will remain necessary to ensure continued worship by future generations until he comes. Praise be to God!

Greetings,

Seppo Kristian Stout,
on behalf of Consistory and the new Property Committee.

PS: Please let us know if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

Upcoming Concerts ¹² in June

Sat. 4 June 3:15 pm

Ruña 't Hart & Shin Sihan: violin
Elisa Karen Tavenier & Anna Lysenko: viola
Pieter de Koe & Kalle de Bie: cello
Daniel Kramer: piano

Program: Béla Bartók: Sonata no 2 for violin and piano, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: String Sextet in D Minor *Souvenir de Florence* Op. 70

Sat. 11 June 3:15 pm

Het Gaasperdams Gemengd Koor
Conductor: Frank Hameleers
Karin van Arkel: soprano
Rolf Wolfensberger: organ

Program: *Kings and Queens:*
English choral music. Works by Henry Purcell, Georg Friedrich Handel and Will Todd

Sat. 11 June 8:15 pm

Cappella Nova, Amsterdam
Conductor: Jurjen Vis
Piet Hulsbos: organ

Program: Marialieder and Maria Motets from the Middle Ages, the Renaissance & the 20th century

Sun. 12 June 3:15 pm

Purcell Kamerorkest and
Cantus Valerius, Kamerkoor
Conductor: Gottfried Stöhr

Program: Henry Purcell: *King Arthur*

Tue. 14 June 1:00 pm

Royal Holloway Univ. Gospel Choir, London;
Conductors: Kit Sainsbury,
Ben Coates & Nickie Hughes

(Free concert with a voluntary collection)

Program: Traditional & modern gospel music mix includes: Let The Sun Shine, In Awe of You, Bridge Over Troubled Water, Wanna Be Happy, Make You Feel My Love, Presence of the Lord

Fri. 17 June 1:00 pm

St Chad's College Chapel Choir,
Durham University, England.
Conductor: Roger Muttitt,
Peter Swift: organ

(Free concert with a voluntary collection)

Program: William Byrd: Ave Verum, Giovanni Battista Pergolesi: Stabat Mater, John Ireland: Greater Love, Anton Bruckner: Graduals, Thomas Tertius Noble: Magnificat in B minor, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford: Beati Quorum Via, Louis Vierne : Messe Solennelle, Peter Aston : Alleluja Psallat, Organ music by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck & Johann Sebastian Bach

Fri. 17 June 8:15 pm & Sat. 18 June 5:00pm

Vocaal Ensemble Frascanti
Conductor: Alfrun Schmid
Wim Dijkstra: organ

Program: *Woman!* Various compositions around the theme of Woman: includes compositions by Virgilio Mazzocchi, Salvatore Sacco, John Tavener, Velio Tormis & Avro Part.

Sat. 18 June 1:00 pm

Mannenensemble Cantare
Conductor: Evert van Dijkhuizen, Bert Roest: organ

(Free concert with a voluntary collection)

Program: Sacred and classical choral music, Community singing of well-known songs

Sun. 19 June 3:15 pm

Het Plantagekoor, Vocaal Ensemble
Amadeus and instrumental ensemble
Conductor: Bert 't Hart, Ruña 't Hart: violin

Program: Johann Ludwig Bach: Cantate Die mit Tränen säen, Antonio Caldara: Mass in G, Eric Whitacre: Five Hebrew Love Songs, Enrique Granados: Salve Regina

Tue. 21 June 1:00 pm

The Methodist Ladies College Choir,
Melbourne, Australia;
Conductor: Christopher Hill

(Free concert with a voluntary collection)

Program: Sacred Works & Songs of Australia includes: Mendelssohn Elijah: Lift Thine Eyes, Sandra Milliken: Missa Piccola Kyrie, Gloria, French Carol: Il est né Le Divin Enfant, Andre Caplet: Sanctus, Songs from Australia, Paul Jarman: Towards Infinity, Ruth Mccall: Waltzing Matilda, Stephen Leek: Tunggare, Mark Puddy: Lachlan tigers, Lisa Young: Thuele Mamma Ya Seseree

Sun. 26 June 3:15 pm

Eline Bergmann: piano

Program: Piano recital include works by Franz Schubert, Frédéric Chopin & Claude Debussy

Upcoming Concerts ¹³ in July

Sat. 2 July 3:15 pm

Huntingtower String Orchestra, Australia
Conductor: Lynley Bramble

(Free concert with a voluntary collection)

Program: Antonio Vivaldi: Concerto Grosso in d op. 3 No. 11, Edvard Grieg: Holberg Suite op. 40, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Serenade voor Strings in C. op. 48, Percy Grainger: Irish Tune from County Derry and Mock Morris

Sat. 2 July 8:15 pm

Amilcar Vasques-Dias: pianist/composer

Program: ENCANTANTE; Developed from a musical experience with the *cante* of Alentejo in south Portugal, this is a concert for solo piano. Improvisation & composition go hand in hand in a journey from Minho, the birth place of the composer in the north, to Alentejo in the south of Portugal.

Sat. 9 July 3:15 pm

Choir of Hertford College Oxford, England
Conductor: Aaron King

(Free concert with a voluntary collection)

Program: Orlando Gibbons: Hosanna to the son of David, John Tavener: As one who has slept, The lamb, Pablo Casals: O Vos Omnes, Anton Bruckner: Christus factus est pro nobis, Josef Rheinberger: Abend lied, Aaron King: O nata lux, Robert Parsons: Ave Maria, Hubert Parry: My soul, there is a country, Charles Villiers Stanford: 3 Motets, The blue bird, John Ireland: The Hills, William Henry Harris: Faire is the heaven, A selection of English Madrigals

Sat. 23 July 3:15 pm

Esprit Chamber Chorus, Toronto, Canada
Conductor: Mervin W. Fick
Ron Gredanus: piano

(Free concert with a voluntary collection)

Program: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina: Missa Aeterna Christi Munera en Missa Brevis in F, Maurice Duruflé : Quatre Motet, Sur Des Thèmes Grégoriens, Felix Mendelssohn: 3 Motets, Also works by various Canadian composers

Sun. 24 July 3:15 pm

The Latymer School, Chamber Orchestra
and Chamber Choir, London
Conductors: Jim Harrison and
Michael Spence

(Free concert with a voluntary collection)

Program: Johann Sebastian Bach: Suite No 3 Air, Ottorino Respighi: Antiche arie e danze Suite No 3 Siciliana, Eduard Grieg: Twee elegische melodieën, no 2 op. 34, Percy Grainger Mock Morris, John Ireland A Downland Suite: Rondo, Eric Whitacre: Sleep, Alan Menken: Colours of the Wind, Doreen Rao: Total Praise, Sherwin: A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square, Bob Chilcott: A little Jazz Mass, David Bowie: Heroes, Coldplay: Adventures of a Lifetime

Special Music in Church Services:

5 June - Margaret Richards,
mezzo-soprano

12 June - Choir

*"O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day."*

(Psalm 96:1-2)

Annual General Meeting ¹⁴ Recap Report 2016

Each year around April the Annual General Meeting (AGM) takes place. This is an official meeting in which the minister and Consistory give account over the past year. The Annual Report, discusses not only finances (including the consolidated accounts) but also looks at church life in general, the various groups and membership matters as well as our relationship with the world around the ERC. The Annual Report 2015 can be found on the ERC Website: www.ercadam.nl/anbi.

On the 17th of April around 50 people stayed after the service to take part in the ERC's Annual General Meeting. Pastor Lance highlighted a number of issues he raised in the minister's letter. In his first full year a number of new developments have been initiated: The employment of our lay assistant, who has been doing a lot of work especially with our children, young people and young adults. Plans for the coming months include exploring ways in which, under Veronica's leadership, the church might offer support in parenting and the Christian nurture of our children. The choir, which flourished under the strength of Olja Bučo's years of work has now been further built upon by Richard Zook, as the choir's offerings are a crucial component of our worship. The committees which were formed this year, though small in number, have been doing great work in the areas of publicity, social events and outreach and in reflecting upon our worship, as have the many people who serve in our community in whatever capacity. Pastor Lance also had concerns: the turnout for the midweek Bible Study and Taizé services could be higher.

Thorsten König presented the financial accounts, giving examples of work "behind the scenes." Baafi Sekyere (overseeing collections), Thijs Glasz (keeping the books) and Jolmer Gerritse (Treasurer of the Friends) play an important role, as do various members of our congregation. One example are the tax returns on energy costs, in which Mark Olie played an important role. We ended 2015 with a surplus. The accounts were audited by the Audit Committee (Carla Bergsma-Griffioen and Eduard Starrenburg).

Baafi Sekyere informed the meeting about some developments about the International Presbytery. Thijs Polstra was elected as chairman of the Business Committee. The International Presbytery Act, in which the transformation of our Presbytery from a mission status to a full-fledged presbytery of the Church of Scotland is laid out, will be discussed in the General Assembly at the end of May.

The committee convenors briefly overviewed their activities and the start of the Property Committee was commemorated: the committee will support the Property Convenor and Consistory in the work and decisions regarding church buildings (church, manse and hall).

As a special topic, Mark Jory talked about an initiative to start a food co-op for organic food. A part of the proceeds would go towards Mulanje Mission Hospital. The initiative is still in early stages. Mark is happy to share information about this.

As your scribe, I commented on my report as well as asking for your continued prayers and support in the work that we all do for our church and congregation.

After the meeting we all enjoyed a great potluck lunch. A tradition we are looking forward to continue next year.

Paper copies of the Annual Report 2015 are available. Please ask me in church or send me an email at scriba@ercadam.nl.

Heleen Koning

Youth Notices

Crèche:

The Crèche is open during Sunday services for children ages 0 - 3 years.

Sunday School:

The Sunday School (for ages 4-11 years) is held during Sunday services at the ABC Treehouse, Voetboogstraat 11. Classes end at 11:45. Parents, please pickup your children at the Treehouse after church. Thank you!

Junior Church:

The Junior Church (for ages 12+ years) is held during Sunday services at the ABC Treehouse, Voetboogstraat 11.

Prayers for our youth programs:

As the Lay Assistant for the ERC, I invite you to keep the Crèche, Sunday School and Junior Church programs in your prayers. Please pray for the spiritual lives of the children, that they may grow strong in their faith. Also, pray for the teachers, all of whom have volunteered their time and talents to teach and help guide the children as they learn more about God's word and His love for them. In particular, I ask that you pray for more church members to be inspired and called to volunteer to become teachers for our youth programs. The children are the future of the church and I ask that we always keep them in our prayers. Thank you!

May God bless you all!

- Veronica Garcia-Robles, ERC Lay Assistant

*"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.
If your gift is...serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach."
Romans 12: 6-7*

20's & 30's Group:

The 20's and 30's group gathers on occasion for various events or activities throughout the year, thus providing the opportunity for those in their 20's and 30's to meet up with other young Christian adults. If you would like to know more about the group, please contact Consistory Member Laura Elliott or Veronica Garcia-Robles, the ERC Lay Assistant and ask about joining our Facebook page, where most events, gatherings and information are posted.

Special Notice:

The Record is going paperless for environmental and cost saving reasons.

*We understand some may prefer to keep receiving the paper version of The Record. If you'd like to continue getting the paper copy of The Record, please contact the ERC Lay Assistant, Veronica Garcia-Robles, by **July 15, 2016** via email at layassistant@ercadam.nl or call (number listed under contact information on page 2) so she is aware.*

The Record is currently available online on our ERC website. You can also sign up for our newsletter, which links to our online copy of The Record at: <http://www.ercadam.nl>.

*You will receive **1** more paper issue of The Record before we go fully digital.*

Consistory Members:

Laura Elliott	06 26423799
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English Reformed
Church Amsterdam

A congregation of the Church of Scotland and
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