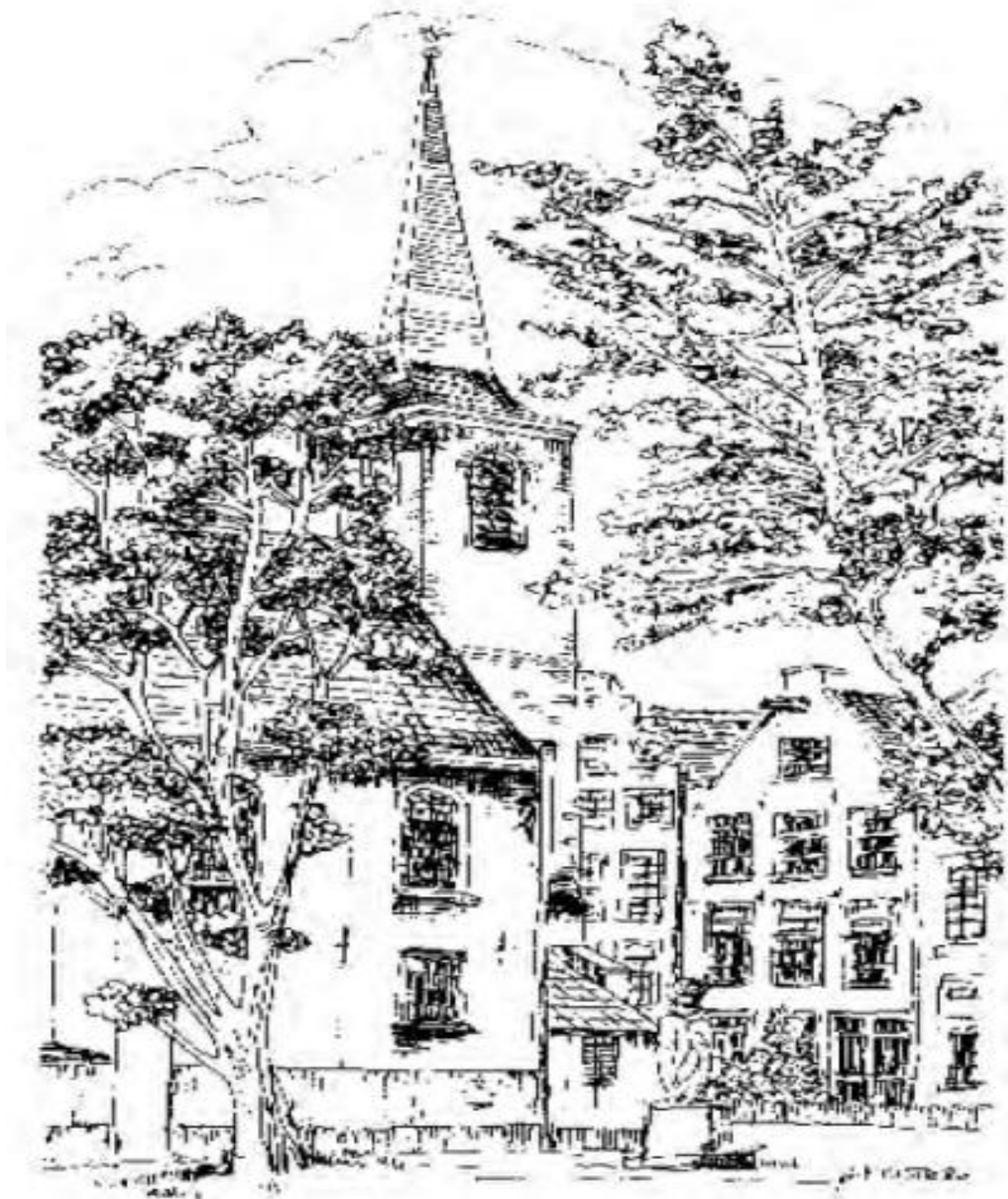


The Record



October - November 2016
Vol. 5

The English Reformed Church
Begijnhof 48, 1012 WV Amsterdam
www.ercadam.nl

Contact Information:

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Rev. Dr. Lance Stone
Minister
minister@ercadam.nl

J.W.Brouwersstraat 9
1071 LH Amsterdam
020 6722288

Heleen Koning
Scriba
scriba@ercadam.nl

Jan de Jonghkade 56
1063 MH Amsterdam
06 13097756

Thorsten König
Treasurer
treasury@ercadam.nl

C.P. Van der Leestraat 36
1396 JP Baambrugge
0294 772934

Veronica Garcia Robles
Lay Assistant, Sunday School Superintendent

layassistant@ercadam.nl
06 30192687

Susan Polstra
Officer, Letting for Weddings
churchofficer@ercadam.nl

Marnixkade 67-2 Church
1015 XX Amsterdam
020 6224158

Richard Zook
Organist, Choir Director
organist@ercadam.nl

Bloemgracht 85
1502 VB Zaandam
075 6311419

Kenneth Ewen
Concert Manager

concertorganiser@ercadam.nl

Nancy Sekyere Owusu
Crèche Duty Rota
creche@ercadam.nl

Roomtuintjes 197
1093 TB Amsterdam
020 6933521

Els Nooij
Church Guiding Coordinator

openchurch@ercadam.nl

Jens Anders Wejsmark Sørensen
Webmaster

webmaster@ercadam.nl

Church Hall

NZ Voorburgwal 282A
1012 RT Amsterdam

English Reformed Church

Begijnhof 48,
1012 WV Amsterdam
020 6249665

IBAN: NL44 ABNA 0547 6235 50
SWIFT address: ABNANL2A

Friends of the English Reformed Church
IBAN: NL90 ABNA 0624 1800 69

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Someone has suggested that the church can be a bit like a jumbo jet: a few people scurrying around busily doing things while the vast majority sit back and enjoy the ride! I am NOT suggesting that the English Reformed Church is like that – far from it. It does, however, serve as a reminder that the church is described in the New Testament as the Body of Christ, made up of limbs and organs, and the body is only healthy when all play their part.

I mention this because ours is a busy church which requires a great deal of us in terms of person power and it's great when people step forward. So I am delighted, for example, that we have a new person to take over the organising of our monthly stint at the Homeless Hostel, the Kloof. Tom Flanagan has been worshipping with us for a while and he takes over from Gillian Walker to whom we are grateful for years of faithful work and who is now addressing some other ideas. Thank you, Gillian, and welcome on board, Tom!

There are, however, other areas that could do with more help. Coffee after Sunday Service in the church has been a great success and we are grateful to Johan de Villiers for many years of organising the coffee rota. Johan has now handed over to Anniek van Engelenburg and to Sally Stone. Again, thank you Johan and welcome Anniek and Sally – but we could do with more people to volunteer occasionally for the coffee rota! Could you help? Speak to Anniek, Sally or a member of Consistory.

Under Church Notices of Upcoming Events on page 15, you will see an item about our Mulanje Mission Hospital Fundraiser in December. Something very ambitious indeed is being planned this year but also great fun – and it's going to need a lot of help and commitment from many people. Check it out – and do what you can to help make it a great evening.

There are other things... We do a fantastic job in keeping the church open so much of the week for the thousands of visitors who pass through the Begijnhof. But we need more guides. Could you spare some time to welcome visitors from all over the world and to tell them a bit about our church?

Do please think about these needs and about how you might help make our Church the living Body of Christ with many members all working together to the glory of God.

Best wishes to you all,

Lance

Consistory Meeting Report September 2016

Consistory met after the summer break on September 5th. What an eventful summer, with a sad goodbye to a faithful member of our congregation in July, a reunion with John Bell, maintenance work on our church & organ, a successful Knit-In and Picnic, and thousands of tourists visiting the ERC thanks to our guides and church officer.

Membership matters

We said a final farewell to *Herman de Bruin*, an active and engaged member of our congregation for decades, husband of Joke de Bruin, whose health was compromised after suffering a stroke in the eighties. Herman passed away on July 13th. The funeral service in the ERC was visited by many. In this Record you'll find an article on Herman.

Seppo Stout announced his decision to step down as property convener and serving elder, preferably before the end of the year, to have more time for his family.

Baafi Owusu Sekyere will continue to be Presbytery elder.

Family service and communion

Consistory evaluated the first Family service combined with Communion, including children (at the discretion of the parents) in which we recognise that Communion is open to everyone who is baptised. The blessing for people who do not want to participate in communion was a moving addition to the service.

It was also decided to continue serving regular bread, and have on each plate a small bowl available with organic gluten-free bread.

Lay Assistant

Consistory reviewed the position of Lay Assistant, reaching the end of the first year. It was decided to continue with the position until 31 July 2016, reduce the hours as of the 15th of October to 12 a week and to allow the lay assistant to focus on three areas (Sunday School and Junior Church co-ordination and development, support of 20-30's group, organizing regular meetings, worship and Christian education). Veronica Garcia-Robles was offered the continuation of her position & we are happy that she accepted.

Committees

Outreach & Social Committee: the July 16th Knit-In was a great success; not only did about 60 people attend the church event, but the knitted squares (which are made into blankets and wraps for refugees) are still coming in. A big thank you to Gillian Walker who coordinated and to all who helped.

The Church Picnic at the end of August in the Beatrixpark also attracted many. Thijs, Ingrid, Chris and lots of other volunteers organized a great event for all ages. Many got acquainted with the game of Smite. Great fun! Big thanks to the organizers & helpers.

In the fall/winter Harvest Thanksgiving (25 September), Stir Up Sunday (20 November) & the Mulanje Charity Concert (8 December) are on the program.

The Property Committee supervised the maintenance work inside and outside the church and Richard Zook supervised the cleaning of the organ.

The Publicity Committee met in August. Changes to the Liturgy sheet were suggested (and implemented). The changes will be reviewed periodically. Consistory also approved a proposal for the use of a digital system for planning activities. Consistory will send an email with more information to all members we have an email address from. - *Heleen Koning (scriba@ercadam.nl)*

Finance Report

January – July 2016, Amounts in €

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016 vs 2015</u>
Income			
Donations	50,777.94	64,471.01	- 13,693.07
Collections	28,924.60	22,939.89	5,984.71
Church hire	11,455.80	15,492.43	- 4,036.63
Concerts	8,380.00	6,049.00	2,331.00
Weddings	4,325.00	6,845.00	- 2,520.00
Flowers	118.55	295.25	- 176.70
Total	103,981.89	116,092.58	- 12,110.69

We all experienced the intense maintenance work carried out in our church this summer. I always feel privileged, honoured and blessed worshipping our GOD with all of you within the walls of our church. For me it is a great blessing to know that for more than 400 years, Christians have continuously sung hymns, shared bread and wine and enjoyed fellowship with one another here. Therefore it is also our obligation and call to maintain this building in proper condition for generations to come so they too may be encouraged in their faith.

Of course as in each treasurer's report you can expect numbers about our finances, so here they are: As we are now almost at the end of the project, we have spent so far €102,051.59 so far. As some of you may remember according to a quite old regulation, the municipal of Amsterdam owns all church towers within the city. Consequently, the city of Amsterdam contributed €13,337 towards the maintenance costs. Overall, when all invoices have been received and paid, I expect that the whole project will cost us about €100.000.

This amount has quite an impact on the reserves of our congregation as well as the ones of the Stichting Friends of the English Reformed Church. Therefore it would be great if you could consider giving generously – according to your availabilities – so that we can continue to worship in a very well maintained historic building.

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

A Letter about the Church Maintenance

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Privileges come with responsibilities. As the English Reformed Church has owned its church building already for over four centuries, we have a responsibility to maintain it. The church, however, does not own the entire building; the City of Amsterdam owns our church tower (along with many church towers throughout the city) because of a legal inheritance from Napoleon. They used to serve as military vantage points and refuges in times of calamities. The Friends Foundation of the ERC works very hard to assist the ERC financially in our maintenance work. Given its historic value, we also rely on Monumentenwacht to provide us with their advice about the necessary work for this up-keep.



This summer, the Begijnhof was occupied by scaffolding around the church, to carry out the necessary work on the plaster of the wall, the windows, the tower itself, and even the rain pipes got a fresh new coat of paint. Inside, the church the walls around the choir were treated and painted, in order to deal



with a very persistent moisture problem. We now have to wait and see how it develops, though both the specialised painter as well as the Monumentenwacht is optimistic that they found the solution for the problem. Also, the big Flentrop organ had its first thorough cleaning as the whole organ was taken apart! Richard Zook supervised this work.

Although some parts of the work took longer than anticipated (it isn't until you are high up on the scaffolding that you can really assess the situation), the church was ready in time for its concerts and weddings that were planned after mid August. We thank Susan, Richard and Kenneth for their co-operation, flexibility and patience! And Thijs Polstra, who was the main contact during the holiday period, when so many were abroad. And we trust that you will keep supporting the Friends Foundation who do such important work in maintaining this great building.

Jaap Maas, Convener of the Property Committee

The church is wherever God's people are praising! 7



This Sunday the trees in the park have decided to rustle gently. The streamlet is doing its best to shimmer. Near the table, which will be set an hour from now, the grass is showing off its verdant green in the daylight. The clouds, which want to play along with summer, see themselves as

fluttering linen and the sky as the washing-line. The wind in its turn is doing its best to dry the rain and the sun shines cautiously because it was actually supposed to be somewhere else today. I love the sun if only because it knows that radiance simply makes everything more cheerful. Not far from here small pies are being baked, some with vegetables, others with apples and sweetmeats, jasmine tea is on the brew, freshly squeezed fruit juice is being poured into jugs, rice grains are covered in water, skewers are threaded, rolls baked, eggs boiled, dishes, glasses, forks, spoons and napkins are packed into handy bags. Here in our little church, just out of view, Richard has meanwhile gone upstairs to take his place at the organ. Just a moment and then the first chord sounds at the touch of his hands. 'Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders', 'unmistakable and clear'. In the manse Finn is once more sleeping peacefully after his first Sunday outing and meanwhile in the park, different hands are laying out the table. Not just any table. The biggest one has been boldly picked, if for no other reason than that it will have to bear the weight of all the many dishes filled with food. Back in the church, the last note has rung out once more. We say 'amen' and set off with a 'see you later' and 'see you just now'. By one o'clock everyone is on their bikes or in the tram heading off to start the afternoon. Before long we are standing in the park in a circle around the table asking for a blessing on the food. The birds hold their breath for a moment, silent. 'Lord, you sometimes speak in silence, through our loud and noisy day. We can know and trust you better, when we quietly wait and pray'. The start of an afternoon. One to be remembered. One which makes you understand that God's church is wherever His people are praising.

by Bianca Rebecca Schriek

English translation, Judi Haynes-Smart



Meet Angela Agresti

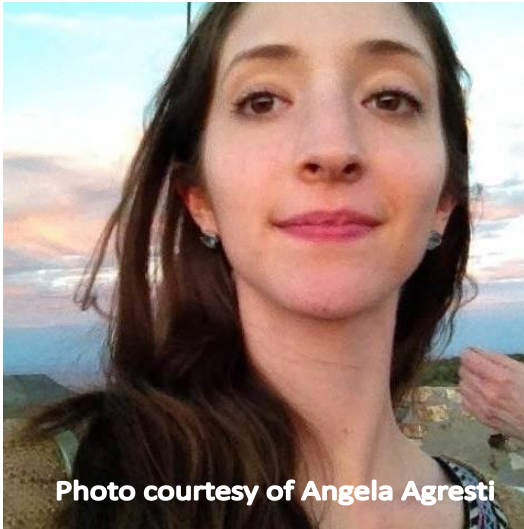


Photo courtesy of Angela Agresti

Angela Agresti, member of our church, was born on February 26, 1990 and grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana. Upon turning 16 years old, she moved to Winston-Salem in North Carolina, USA. She enrolled into the University of North Carolina School of the Arts & for 2 years there she studied her passion: Ballet.

In July 2009, she moved to Amsterdam. She wasn't really nervous, but excited when she made the transition here. Angela came here to audition for the Dutch National Ballet, a great dance company that she wanted to be part of, as she loves their dance style. She had transferred here from the Cincinnati Ballet.

Angela started coming to the ERC around October 2009, not long after she arrived in Holland. She had searched online for an English Church and found the ERC. She comes from the Lutheran tradition and when asked what she looks for in a church, she said "church is a home for me. It is a sacred space for me to sit and feel like I belong". She looked for a place where she could meet up with others in a church community, discuss the message heard in church and feel a sense of being 'at home'.

She recalls how inviting our past minister John Cowie always was, encouraging her to stay after church and meet up with people. Not long after she started attending the ERC, she also met some 20's & 30's members and attended a gathering organized by the group soon thereafter. She says "I feel like the (church) community gives me a feeling of home" and she has always loved the quote "within these walls, let no one be a stranger".

Active in the 20's & 30's group, Angela feels it has been really good for her to meet others her age within the church, as it helps to broaden her perspective by spending time with people outside of her dance community. When asked if she felt God's presence within the ERC, she said, "Yes. In prayer and in sermons that you can really connect to and remember why you're there listening." "The ERC reminds me about God's grace", she replied.

When asked about her future hopes or plans, she spoke about her studies. "I've worked as a Ballet Master, which is someone who helps dancers to process information within the choreography and I enjoy giving in that way". Being a Ballet Master helps her connect with people. She's now studying to be a health coach that can help people in important ways in how they live their lives.

Interview by Veronica Garcia-Robles

Weddings:

- Aug. 20: Nikki Krol and Adam Lucas
- Sept. 3: Shamsheer Sumit Chand and Liisa Paulina Kaskella
- Sept.3: Nike Olarinmoye and Nils Bugge



Remembering Herman de Bruin

Herman August de Bruin, member of the ERC since the late fifties of the past century, passed away on the 13th of July 2016. He was not well for a great many years, but faithfully attended our services until a few weeks before he died. The years before Herman took ill, he was a very active member of our Church Community.

He met Joke in 1964, and in 1966 they got married. Joke became a member too and they raised their four children. As a choir member he took his children with him, so smaller choir robes had to be made! He also helped making The Record during the days of the typewriter era, which made it more time consuming to produce than it is now.

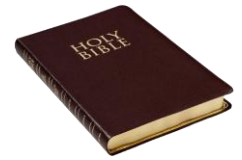
On the 21st of July a Farewell service for Herman was held, the choir sang and many people came to pay honours and to thank God for Herman 's life. We sang the 23rd Psalm but also the Hymn "For all the saints who from their labors rest". Very appropriate!

Joke, who looked after Herman lovingly for so many years, received many letters, emails and cards. She is very grateful for all these signs that Herman was loved and respected by many people. She could not possibly thank all of you personally, but know that she and her family appreciated it very much.

Herman will be missed, firstly by his family, but also in the church. He will not be forgotten.
by Ans van Saagsvelt

Midweek Fellowship, Services & Studies

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Bible Study: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month

Our Midweek Fellowship fortnightly Bible Study and discussion has made a good re-start after the summer with discussion of the TV series presented by Morgan Freeman, The Story of God, as we consider the beliefs of other faiths and what is different and distinctive about Christianity. Thanks to Ingrid and Jens for hosting this at Quellijnstraat 126-A. See you the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

Taizé Service: 2nd Wednesday of the month

Second Wednesday is our joint Taizé service with the Roman Catholic Begijnhof Chapel, a wonderful opportunity to share in ecumenical worship with our near neighbours. If you haven't given this a try, come along. Services start at 7:30pm.

Ladies Fellowship: Last week of the month

The Ladies Fellowship plans to meet on Sept. 29, Oct. 27 & Nov. 24. We will not be meeting in December due to all the Christmas activities. Please be sure to put these dates in your agenda. For those who have not yet been able to attend, we start out by having dinner together and afterwards a time of fellowship. We are now looking each month at a chapter from the book, *Experiencing God's Peace* by Elizabeth George from the Series 'A Woman After God's Own Heart'. If you would like to join us but are not on the invitation list, please contact me at: peggy.krol@planet.nl or call me: 020-6767804 and I will gladly add you to the list. All ladies are most welcome!

Men's Group: Last week of the month

The Men's fellowship group continues to meet on the last week of the month. For more information regarding meeting dates and times, please contact Jaap Maas at jj.maas@upcmail.nl. All men are welcome to join!

Upcoming Concerts in October 11

Sat. 1 Oct. 8:15 pm

Ensemble Hermes

Directed by

Jeroen Spitteler

Program: *Early music from the 16 and 20th centuries - Josquin and Pirenne*

Ensemble Hermes sings works from the renowned 16th century choir books of the Illustre Vrouwe Broederschap te 's-Hertogenbosch. Also works inspired by, and in this style by the 20th century Den Bosch composer Maurice Pirenne (1928-2008) Including Josquin des Prez, Adriaen Willaert, Jean Mouton and Jheronimus Vinders. Ensemble Hermes sings from the original mensural notation

Tue. 4 Oct. 1:00 pm

The Esk Community Choir

Queensland, Australia

Conductor: Alexis FitzGerald

FREE CONCERT WITH VOLUNTARY COLLECTION

Program: Niccola Porpora: Sicut Erat, Christoph Willibald von Gluck: O Sing We This Day, John Rutter: I Will Sing with the Spirit, Linda Spevacek: And So I Sing, Emily Crocker: The Gypsy Rover, James McCray: Rise Up My Love My Fair One, Afro/American Spiritual: Bright Mansions, Lynn Williams: Festival Alleluia, Australian Folk music: Moreton Bay, Bullocky - O, Waltzing Matilda

Fri. 7 Oct. 8:15 pm

Sarah Kapustin: violinist

FREE CONCERT

Program: CD presentation of *Point Counter Point*

Selections to be performed from: Johann Sebastian Bach: Sonata in C-major, BWV 1005, Béla Bartók: Solo sonata (1944), David Fulmer: Sirens' (2016)

Fri. 14 Oct. 8:15 pm

Lauretta Bloomer: piano

Prunella Pacey: viola

Rosina Fabius: mezzo soprano

Program: *Singing in Europe*

Edward Elgar: Chanson de Matin Op.15 No. 2, Chanson de Nuit, Op. 15, No. 1, Alphons Diepenbrock: Berceuse, Robert Schumann: Märchenbilder Op. 113, Maurice Ravel: 5 Chanson Populaire Grecque, Johannes Brahms: Gestillte Sehnsucht Op.91 No 1, Geistliches Wiegenlied Op.91 No 2, Arvo Pärt: Spiegel im Spiegel, Charles M. Loeffler: 3 Songs, Darius Milhaud: Quatre Visages Op 238, Camille Saint-Saëns: Danse Macabre

Music during Church Services by:

Oct. 2: Judi Haynes-Smart, soprano Nov. 6: Choir

Oct. 16: Choir Nov. 13: Men's Choir

Nov. 27: Choir

Upcoming Concerts in November 12

Thurs. 3 Nov. 8:15 pm

Johannette Zomer soprano
& The Tulipa Consort
Lidewij van der Voort & Marc Cooper:
violins, Yoshiko Morita: viola, Robert
Smith: cello, Maggie Urquhart: bass,
Daniel Brüggem, Annelies Schraa:
recorders, Michiel Niessen theorbo &
mandolin, Siebe Henstra: harpsichord,
Bart Naessens: organ

Program: *LAUDATE! Canti Sacri* by Antonio Vivaldi the red priest of Venice, Sinfonia in D major RV 125 for strings and basso continuo, *Ascende laeta* for soprano, strings & b.c., (Introduzione al Dixit) RV 6, Juditha Triumphans RV 644 arias *Vivat in pace*, *Transit aetas*, *Vagaus Umbrae carae*, *O qui coeli terraeque serenitas* RV 631 for soprano, strings & b.c., Sinfonia *Al Santo Sepolcro* RV 169 for strings & b.c., *Laudate pueri* c-Moll RV 600 for soprano strings & b.c.

Sat. 5 Nov. 1:00 pm

The Rietveld Ensemble.
Elisabeth Perry & Chris
Duindam: violin, Richard
Wolfe: viola, Matthias Naegele:
cello, Nancy Braithwaite:
clarinet, with Helena van Heel:
mezzo-soprano & Vaughan Schlepp: piano

FREE CONCERT WITH VOLUNTARY COLLECTION

Program: The Rietveld Ensemble and Friends. Second concert in a series of five. Thomas Oboe Lee: *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* for mezzo soprano clarinet en piano, Jeff Hamburg: *Biography* for mezzo-soprano clarinet & string trio, Frank Bridge: Three Songs for mezzo-soprano, viola & piano, Ottorino Respighi: *Il Tramonto* for mezzo-soprano & string quartet

Sat. 5 Nov. 8:15 pm

Vocaal Ensemble Tien
conductor:
Ulrikke Reed Findenegg

Program: *Des choses tranquilles*. Works by Orlando Lassus & Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck & romantic choral songs by Camille Saint-Saëns & Alfons Diepenbrock. Modern works by the Scandinavian composers Hildor Lundvik, Oskar Lindberg & Karin Rehnqvist & the contemporary American composers David Lang & Eric Whitacre. Compositions by the Latvian Pēteris Vasks

Sat. 12 Nov. 1:00 pm

Het Mandoline Kamerorkest,
Het Consort conductor:
Alex Timmerman

FREE CONCERT WITH VOLUNTARY COLLECTION

Program: Includes: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* KV 525, Antonio Vivaldi: Concerto in D major & works by Isaac Albéniz, Manuel de Falla & Joaquim Malats

Fri. 18 Nov. 1:00 pm

Michael Sellers:
Piano

FREE CONCERT WITH VOLUNTARY COLLECTION

Program: Piano recital. Josph Haydn: Sonata No. 58 in C major, Frédéric Chopin: Polonaise-Fantasia, op. 61, Two Preludes: op. 28, A major & F minor, Two Etudes: op. 10, C minor & F major, Two Mazurkas: E minor & C minor, Scherzo in B minor op. 31, Francis Poulenc: Improvisations No. 15 in C major. *L'hommage à Édith Piaf*, Pastourelle & Toccata, Samuel Barber: Fugue from Sonate. op. 26, Franz Liszt: Valse oubliée, No. 1, Hungarian Rhapsody No 11 in A minor

Sat. 26 Nov. 8:15 pm

Het Prades Sextet
Ruña 't Hart & Mayu Konoye: violins,
Martin Moriarty & Take Konoye: violas
Alexander Warenberg & Chris Ellis: cellos

Program: Antonin Dvorak: String Sextet in A major opus 48, Johannes Brahms: String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat major opus 18



Christ Church, Bermuda Revisited.

Christ Church is a lovely church with beautiful stained glass windows, founded in Warwick Parish, Bermuda in 1719, mainly by Scots who settled there in the Presbyterian tradition. This summer I visited our sister church in Bermuda again.

The Reverend Alistair Bennett was called from Melrose, Scotland and the service of induction held this spring. For over a decade Christ Church is part of the Church of Scotland's Presbytery of Europe. Ministers from Europe have come to take the service when their Minister is away on holiday or acting as interim Minister, such as our previous Minister John Cowie, David Arnott and Allan Garrity. In the congregation I met with fellow countrymen & women living on the island. All services are video recorded and placed on the Church's website and YouTube. Each service ends with the congregation singing "Go now in peace"; thereafter cold beverages and banana bread is served.

Bermuda is the oldest British Overseas Territory, has about 62.000 inhabitants and is most densely populated place in the world, church wise. Although Christ Church has been in existence for a long period of time, the oldest Bermudian church was founded in 1612 in St. George's, the first capital and oldest still inhabited English town in the new world, then part of Virginia. Further information can be found on the church website: <http://www.christchurch.bm>.

by Jolmer Gerritse

Unlawful imprisonment and Human Rights abuse in prisons in Eritrea:

Thousands of Christians are languishing in prisons without due process in Eritrea, a small country along the South Western part of the Red Sea and in the Horn of Africa. A small African country, Eritrea only has been 25 years independent from the rule of Ethiopia (its bigger neighbour to the South), since 1991.

Despite the UN report on Human Rights abuse in Eritrea, the government did not comply with the international laws of handling prisoners humanely. Instead, they are detaining hundreds of prisoners of conscience: ex-government ministers, journalists of the Independent Press and religious leaders of Christian churches and Muslim Clergies all remain in jail in appalling conditions and without due process. There is no independent court in Eritrea, only kangaroo courts that function in secrecy.

Special U.N. Rapporteur for Human Rights in Eritrea, Ms. Sheila B. Keetharuth, said ahead of the 15 year anniversary of the unlawful incarcerations that "the Eritrean Government has denied those arrested their fundamental right to liberty and security of the person, right not to be subjected to torture, right to a fair trial as well as right to freedom of expression and opinion." "Those arrested have been detained incommunicado and in solitary confinement. Even family members have never been allowed to have any contact whatsoever with them."

I write this in order to give you an insight of the human rights situation in Eritrea. Please PRAY for the situation there. For more information, please contact me at Tel. 030 8892390 or 0610397720.

by Tesfai Yitbarek (a member of the English Reformed Church)

Youth Programs available during church services:

Crèche: Open for 0 - 3 year olds
Sunday School: Open for 4-11 year olds
Junior Church: Open for 12+ year olds

Junior Church Pizza Movie Night



On Aug. 24th, the Junior Church group met for a "Star Wars" Movie Night. It was a good gathering, where the teens enjoyed meeting up for a time of fellowship while watching the movie Star Wars & eating lots of pizza! After the movie, we talked about spiritual themes that were present within the film. It was a great discussion & those present had a good time! More monthly JC gatherings will take place on the last Saturday of each month on the following dates: **Sept. 24, Oct. 29 & Nov. 26**. JC teens please R.S.V.P. at layassistant@ercadam.nl two weeks before each event so we have enough food for those joining us.

20's & 30's Potluck Movie Night



Photo by VGR

On Friday evening, Sept. 2nd, the 20's & 30's group gathered at the Manse for some fun & fellowship. This involved a Swedish film, Chinese dumplings, Dutch apple pie...a truly international evening!

It was a great opportunity to meet some new people and speak to others to whom we had never spoken to before, whilst sharing a Potluck meal together. Hopefully, there will be more of these gatherings to come!

by Laura Elliot

20's & 30's Sunday Lunch



Photo by VGR

On Aug. 7th, the 20's & 30's met up for Sunday Lunch after church at the Waterkant. We enjoyed a delicious lunch & fellowship! We'll continue to meet for Sunday Lunch after church every 1st Sunday of the month. For more information, please see our Facebook page, the Lay Assistant or Laura Elliot.

Photo by VGR





Stir Up Sunday

Nov. 20 from 12:30 - 14:30

"Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of they faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- from the 1549 Common Book of Prayer

For Centuries, families inspired by this prayer have gathered on the last Sunday before Advent to prepare for the season and to "stir up" their Christmas pudding together. We are continuing the tradition as a church community with our second annual Stir-up Sunday. Join us for a light lunch, some measuring and weighing, a bit of hearty stirring, and go home with your Christmas pudding, made in warm fellowship.

- Pamela Woolley



Mulanje Mission Hospital Fundraiser



Thursday, December 8th at 7:30 pm

A festive Victorian evening at the Church with carol singing, mulled wine, a mini-market selling delectables, a raffle – and the centrepiece: a one person rendering of Charles Dickens' wonderful Christmas ghost story, a Christmas Carol by professional actor Ashley Ramsden.

That's the plan for December 8th and already work is under way. The evening will require lots of help in planning and execution, so plenty of opportunities to be involved. Let's make it an unforgettable evening and raise lots of money for the Mulanje Mission Hospital.

- Rev. Lance Stone



Photo courtesy of Gilbert Ontiveros

Special Notice:

The Record is now fully digital, though there are some who are still receiving paper copies of it. If you forgot to ask to be added to the list of those still receiving a paper copy of The Record, please contact the ERC Lay Assistant,



Photo courtesy of Gilbert Ontiveros

Veronica Garcia-Robles whose email & phone is listed under "Contacts" on p.2. The Record is online on our ERC website, our Facebook page & you can also sign up for our newsletter, which links to our online copy of The Record at: <http://www.ercadam.nl>

Consistory Members:

Laura Elliott	06 26423799
Mattia Falcone	06 27853671
Giles Francis	020 3200197
Thijs Glasz J.	035 6910408
Judi Haynes-Smart	06 10242250
Thorsten König Treasurer	0294 772934
Heleen Koning Scriba	06 13097756
Peggy Krol	020 6767804
Baafi Sekyere	020 6933521
Rev. Dr. Lance Stone Minister	020 6722288
Seppo Stout Property Convener	020 6798698
Nick Thomas	06 11885017
Sarah Ying Wang	06 46732109



**English Reformed
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A congregation of the Church of Scotland and
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