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The Record

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The English Reformed Church
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www.ercadam.nl

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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

One of the joys of a church like ours is its variety and diversity. Not least when it comes to theology and spirituality, our fellowship includes people from all views and perspectives and that, as far as I am concerned, is as it should be. I would not enjoy being part of a church where everyone 'toes a particular line' and is expected to believe exactly the same things.

This does however present something of a problem for preaching. The sermon plays an important role in our worship and a preacher needs to be aware that for everyone in the congregation who is listening and thinking to themselves, 'amen!', there is probably someone else thinking 'no way!' For what it's worth, therefore, I would like just to say a word about how I understand the sermon. I do not think that the sermon is delivered with a sense of 'thus says the Lord!' The preacher does not have a hotline to heaven. I think the preacher delivers a sermon with the attitude of 'this is what this passage has stirred up in me - now over to you!' And if you dissent or are provoked by what has been said, that might be God's way of speaking to you - by way of disagreement.

This is why I always like it when people comment on a sermon after a service - in agreement or disagreement. Often that deepens my understanding by opening me up to the perspective of another - and that lies at the heart of church.

You may have noticed that I now put the passages for the forthcoming weeks on our notice sheet so that people can see in advance what texts we will be following in worship. It would be great if people could have read and considered those passages before the service so that there is a better chance of dialogue and a meeting of different minds.

At this time of year, of course, we prepare to celebrate the good news of the Christian Gospel, that 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.' Words, and sermons, are not enough. The Word must become flesh and it has done so decisively and definitively in Jesus Christ. I pray that you may have a blessed and joyful celebration of this good news and join in the many Advent and Christmas activities at the English Reformed Church.

Best wishes to you all,
Lance

Report from Consistory

Consistory met in October and November as usual on the first Monday of the month. Apart from the regular topics,

Membership matters

John Tilleard passed away on 16 October 2016. On page 6 you will find an article remembering this remarkable man with a big heart for our church.

Pastor Lance will start a new enquirer's class, seven people will participate.

Reports from committees

Worship & Christian Education (Pastor Lance) did not convene.

Consistory looked at the way Communion is organized now that it is open for children as well.

Pastor Lance and Richard Zook started early with their preparation of the Christmas services.

Outreach & Social Events (Thijs):

Gillian Walker officially handed over the work for the Kloof to Tom Flanagan. We thank Gillian for the the years of dedicated co-ordinating this outreach activity. Already for a number of years volunteers cook a good meal for visitors of the homeless shelter the Kloof once a month. Gillian Walker will take on new outreach activities regarding support for refugees.

On 20 November another Stir Up Sunday will be organized in Church Hall. Just before Advent the Christmas puddings will be prepared.

The committee is contributing towards the organisation of the fundraiser of December 8th for Mulanje Mission hospital. The project for this year's fundraiser is the laboratory of the hospital which needs new equipment. Morag MacDougall made the poster. Thorsten put the application for the Wilde Ganzen subsidy toward the Mulanje Mission Hospital in motion.

Property Committee (Seppo):

After finishing the maintenance on the church 19th of September the Property committee dealt with the financial side of the work.

Another new topic was the lighting in the church. It was agreed to do some maintenance work in this. We keep on using the classic lighting for the time being.

Church Hall: two new groups started. A meeting with the City of Amsterdam about the future of the hall will be set up in December. It was decided that Heleen will step down as Church Hall co-ordinator before March 2017. Consistory will be looking for a new co-ordinator.

From time to time we encounter problems with the Spui door regarding access for evening programs. We try to get this solved in co-operation with the board of Stichting Begijnhof, who set up the new system.

Publicity Committee

The committee worked on proposals for the renewal of the Liturgy sheet. You have seen some changes in the past months.

The October issue was the last one Veronica edited. She handed over the work for the Record. The Publicity committee will function as an "editorial board". We thank Veronica for stepping in as editor since the beginning of this year.

We noticed that only a small number of people have sent a message that they want to continue to receive the Record in the paper version. The committee feels that we will miss out on too many people, so it was decided to actively approach everyone on the old mailing list by letter.

After ample consideration and research into systems, it was decided to start using a digital calendar program to invite members of the congregation to special events. People can opt out if they do not want to receive messages.

A new elder

Seppo Stout informed Consistory about his decision to step down as property convener and member of Consistory by the end of this year to have more time available with his family. A decision that was met with understanding, but we are also sorry to see him leave.

This means we have to look for a new elder who can take on the responsibility of property convener. In the November meeting Consistory decided on the profile. The congregation will be asked to bring possible candidates to the attention of Consistory by the end of November.

Finance

Thorsten presented a proposed budget for 2017, in line with this year's budget. The Friends of the ERC foundation keep on being very important regarding contribution towards the maintenance of the church. Consistory approved of the budget, thanking Thorsten for his work.

Other competent business

The ERC wants to be an open church. However, we decided that coffee after the service is a fellowship for the church. Tourists will be asked by a member of Consistory at the door to come back another time.

Consistory will meet on December 12 and January 9. If you have anything to bring forward to the meeting or are you are interested in coming to a meeting, please let me know.

Heleen Koning
scriba@ercadam.nl

Finance Report

January - September 2016, Amounts in €

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016 vs 2015</u>
Income			
Donations	64,881.81	74,558.07	- 9,676.26
Collections	37,019.61	30,741.73	6,277.88
Church hire	13,035.20	18,651.23	- 5,616.03
Concerts	9,375.00	6,839.00	2,536.00
Weddings	6,475.00	7,470.00	- 995.00
Church shop	1,579.40	121.00	1,458.40
Flowers	152.55	330.25	- 177.70
	132,518.57	138,711.28	--6,192.71

In my last report I already talked about the maintenance work of our church which we now finished. This was a major step in keeping our church building in good shape for the years to come to worship our GOD. The total amount spend so far is a bit more than Euro 118.000 and a few invoices still to come. I estimate at the end we will have spent around Euro 125.000.

The Municipality of Amsterdam paid about €16.000 towards the maintenance of the tower and also the Friends of the English Reformed Church contributed Euro 25.000. With all this I expect that we can close the project with a total cost of around Euro 85.000, which we have taken from our reserves - consequently they are quite depleted now. And this not the end of the road of maintenance for this year: Just as I write this, one of the three heating vessels, which are located on top of the Deaconry, said good-bye and is being replaced. Also the balcony of the Manse needs urgent structural repair. You see there is a lot going on "behind the scenes" and a lot of individuals spend their time, expertise and love to enable us to worship our God in a well maintained and heated church - and a good place for our minister and his family to live and to welcome people.

If you want to know what you can do to support all this there are three things coming to my mind:

If you want to do something practically, please get into contact with our property committee (property@ercadam.nl) - we are always happy someone joining. Secondly you can make a donation to help to re-build our reserves - and do not forget: your donation is tax beneficial most of the times.

And the third and most important thing is: Thanking our GOD that HE provides for us that we are able to worship and enjoying HIS love and fellowship among each other.

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

Thorsten König, Treasurer



Christmas Services in our Church

Sunday, 27 November, 10:30am

First Advent Sunday

-music by our choir -

Sunday, 4 December, 10:30am

Second Advent Sunday

-music by Judi Haynes-Smart, soprano-

Sunday, 11 December, 10:30am

Third Advent Sunday

-children's Nativity Play and our choir-

Tuesday, 13 December, 8:00pm

Carols by Candlelight

-traditional service of 9 lessons and carols, with our choir-

Sunday, 18 December, 10:30am

Fourth Advent Sunday

-music by Margaret Richards, mezzo soprano-

Saturday, 24 December, 10:30pm (doors open at 10:00pm)

Christmas Eve Service

-music by our choir, carol singing from 10:00pm-

Sunday, 25 December, 10:30am

Christmas Day Service



Christmas Party

This year's Nativity Play rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 10th from 13:00 - 15:00 at the church.

Afterwards, the kids and all others who wish to come are invited to join us for a **Potluck Christmas Party / Christingle** which will take place at our church social hall on the Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 282A from 15:00 - 17:00.

Please contact our Lay Assistant, Veronica Garcia-Robles if you plan on coming to the party, especially to let her know about any children who will be there, so that she might arrange for there to be a small gift awaiting them under the Christmas Tree.



Remembering John Tilleard

John Tilleard (September 1920-October 2016) was a remarkable man who affected many. He joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) when he was sixteen, and graduated in 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War. After working on bombers at RAF stations in the U.K., he was shipped off to Malta and there endured the terrible blockade of the island. From Malta he was moved to north Africa, and he spent the rest of his wartime service in the Middle East. Like many Second-World-War veterans, he rarely spoke of his war experiences. Towards the end of the war, he married Jo in Heliopolis; after honeymooning in Haifa, they lived in Cairo. On VE Day they returned to the U.K. After the birth of their second child, John underwent officer training, and then further training as an engineer. Eventually he was sent to Iraq, to be joined a little later by his family, now larger. The next few years he had postings both in the U.K. and in the Middle East. He resigned his commission in 1961, but in some ways his RAF ways never left him (he often described someone, male or female, as 'a jolly good chap').

In civilian life John worked for a firm making valves, but the job didn't satisfy him and when the firm's representative in The Netherlands became ill, he came over to keep things going. That was forty years ago, and it was to be the longest period he stayed in any one place, living with Erna and her two children, though he continued to maintain his roots in Buckinghamshire in England.



John Tilleard at his 90st birthday celebration

In Amsterdam, he helped organized the Spring Charity Ball for the Royal Air Force Association (RAFA), which raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for RAFA charities. In the mid-1970s, Rev Colin Bell, our minister and John's friend, noticed his fundraising and organizational skill and roped him in to help look after the church and later - a masterly stroke - to set up and run concerts in the church. This has been a vital part of our church life, bringing visitors in and helping the church financially. Just as importantly, John became the face of the ERC to many a stranger, whether coming to worship, to visit, or to sit and listen to a concert. His Tuesday lunches in the Consistory Room were legendary. The warmth of his welcome, his enthusiasm and his openness were remarkable. He was active in setting up the Academy of the Begijnhof under conductor Roderick Shaw. Raising money for the restoration of the church organ was one of his major works for our church. He never stopped. In the nineties he was awarded the MBE for his efforts.

John was unfailingly courteous, warm, enthusiastic and open to all, whoever, whatever they were. He was keenly interested in politics, literature, art and music. He drew people

in to his enthusiasms, made them feel special. He loved his families and was proud of all that they were. For his zest for life, we are all the richer. John used to say at the end of a phone conversation, 'I'll go quietly.' Rest in peace, good man.

John is survived by Jo, and four of his five children, James, Jo, Margaret and Paul and their families; and by Erna and his two step-children, Iris and Philip.

Jan Michael
Malcolm Mason



Blankets for Refugees - the story continues

Inspired by a group in London organising a KnitIn for refugees, a small group of Ercadam church members (Ingrid and Gillian) decided to organise a copycat event. We would knit squares to make blankets for refugees. Helped hugely by a professional knitter, Alice, we set up our own KnitIn. Putting our efforts, energy and love into a gift that would surely come to good use during the cold, damp winters in the Netherlands. We set about advertising the event on Facebook, the Ercadam site, made posters and flyers for handicraft shops and pressurised our personal contacts. This received a huge response. Wool donations, knitted squares, and cakes for sale poured in both before the event, on the day itself, and ... some people are still knitting squares!

On Saturday, July 16th in the afternoon we opened the church doors to knitters, well-wishers and anyone else who just wanted to come in. Soon the church was buzzing with chatter about casting on/off, how big the squares should be (we had cards to demonstrate), and general chat as strangers became strangers to each other no longer.

Some had this event in their diary weeks beforehand. One lady brought her knitting group of elderly and not very mobile ladies along - a huge effort for her but they all enjoyed it and knitted at very high speed! Many of our own church members attended and some learned to knit whilst there (Lance!). Others on holiday in Amsterdam from as far as Columbia and Hungary had seen the event on Facebook and came along to knit a square or two. One lady doing a whole day of exams near the church stepped out for a break, saw our sign and popped in to knit a square.



Foto by Ingrid Sorensen

The knitting seemed to go at great speed. Around sixty people attended, we produced around 300 squares, sold cakes and made E 220 on those. Sewing the squares into blankets has proved more difficult than the knitting. Pouring in large doses of patience and determination we now have finished five blankets. After putting the finishing touches to these they will be delivered to Startblok Riekerhaven - an organisation which helps refugees start a new life in the Netherlands.

It was a heartwarming event showing us how much people want to help the refugees. Getting together to do something that can clearly be useful brought warmth and love to the project which surely will be felt by those receiving the blankets. It's not just about the gift, it's about all that has been put into it. We'll be posting more news on delivering the blankets and keep your eyes peeled for the next KnitIn after the New Year.

Last of all - again thank you to all who helped in any way whatsoever - from knitting and sewing, baking cakes to giving words and smiles of encouragement. All was and is appreciated.

Gillian Walker
Coordinator KnitIn

Ans van Saagsvelt spent weeks putting together some of the knitted squares to make a fabulous blanket. When she got tired she thought of the little boy, Alan Kurai - and all the other refugees who didn't have a safe crossing - washed up on the beach in Greece. She wrote this poem in memory of him and all those he represents.

Lief, koud, nat en dood
Lag je daar in de branding
Wie: Alan Kurai

Dear, sweet boy, so dead
Swallowed by the waves
Dressed to live!

Een beter leven
Het streven van je ouders
Dat niet zo mocht zijn

A better life
Was your parents wish, for you
Score not made

Twee jaar in een kamp
Vernederd en bedrogen
Leven zonder hoop

Two years in a camp
Betrayed, humiliated
No sign of hope

Een gammele boot
Een risico, met uw kind!
Maar een kans nemen

An unsafe ship
Take the risk, child on board
A chance to win!

Oordeel niet te gauw
Hoe heb je je naasten lief
Wat kan ik nog doen

No quick judgement
To love and be wise
Hard, but we should help!



Foto by Ingrid Sorensen

Online Advent Calendar

The Church of Scotland website has a link to a lovely Advent Calendar, with photo's of various places in Scotland and a devotional for each day during Advent. You can find the link on the website of www.churchofscotland.org.uk.

From our Property Convener



Dear friends,

As I wrote in The Record last year, 2016 is my last year as your Property Convener, so this is my final article in that capacity. Apart from stopping as your Property Convener, I have also, for personal reasons, decided that the time has come for me to step down from Consistory altogether. One score may suffice, for now.

As most of you know, last year we've done away with the distinction between elders and deacons, and now we only have serving (active on Consistory) and non-serving elders (retired from Consistory), so now I'll join the ranks of my predecessors as a non-serving elder. Still, I hope to continue to serve and contribute by remaining on our Property Committee.

After several years of having to postpone work on the church, this year we finally have been able to have some major work done. In the previous issue of The Record, Jaap Maas, our new Property Committee Convener, already wrote about the work done in and on the church over the summer. A more detailed report will be presented at the next AGM.

The oldest bits of our church were built in the fifteenth century, and ever since the tooth of time has tested the very fabric of the building. As with everything, entropy is relentlessly at work on our church.

Entropy can be defined as the measure of the number in which something can be rearranged. Something very ordered or structured has low entropy, and spontaneously, inevitably and gradually dissolves to a state of high entropy: lack of order or structure.

Professor Brian Cox, the renowned physicist, explains the concept of entropy and the arrow of time from the the Second Law of Thermodynamics in an episode of BBC Wonders of the Universe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQSoaiubuA0>

In this he explains that entropy always increases and time always travels in one direction by building sandcastles in the Namibian Desert. Everything in the world always tends to move from order towards disorder, and time only goes in one direction. A glass of boiling water gradually loses its energy to its surroundings, but a cold glass of water cannot concentrate energy from its surroundings, it cannot spontaneously start boiling!

Entropy is not about disorder per se. It is about the inevitability and irreversibility of time and change. What makes a sandcastle a sandcastle, is not the grains of sand it is built from, but the way in which it is organised or ordered.

When our church building was built all those centuries ago, the bricks and beams were ordered in a specific way, so that together they form the building we know and love today. In order to preserve and maintain the building we need to inspect, plan, repair and maintain, otherwise these old walls would inevitably gradually fall to pieces.

I'm very happy that the idea of a Property Committee has finally been realized, has finally materialized. I am convinced that through the Property Committee we can ensure that the entropy of the church is kept as low as possible. Together we must keep looking after our property, and as true stewards share the burden of the responsibility of making sure the church will still be there for future generations. With the Property Committee the future of our buildings is in good hands.

Finally, Brian Cox takes the concept of entropy even further, until the bitter end: *"The story of the universe finally comes to an end. For the first time in its life, the universe will be permanent and unchanging. Entropy finally stops increasing because the cosmos cannot get any more disordered. Nothing happens, and it keeps not happening, forever. It's what's known as the heat-death of the universe. An era when the cosmos will remain vast and cold and desolate for the rest of time, the arrow of time has simply ceased to exist. It's an inescapable fact of the universe written into the fundamental laws of physics, the entire cosmos will die."*

Here I must wholeheartedly disagree with Professor Cox. I believe that God and life itself is the living proof that the Second Law of Thermodynamics and entropy can be broken: God did create everything, turned chaos into order, God decreased our entropy and made us Man. God has flung the stars into space and given the impetus and momentum to creation. God was there at the Beginning, and will be there at the End. That is only the end of what is now, God will think of something new. A new beginning. God is the God of Creation and Recreation. With God there is no end, only new beginnings.

Thank you all for your love and support.
Seppo Kristian Stout

Pulpits Swapped

On October 30 Rev Derek Lawson, the minister of the Scots Kirk in Rotterdam, inducted in July this year, swapped pulpits with our minister Rev Lance Stone.



Rev Derek Lawson (Foto by Ingrid Sorensen)

International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)

The IFFD is an international organisation devoted to the enrichment of family and married life, including support for parenting. We are in contact with their Netherlands branch and they would be willing to come and run some workshops for us on these topics if there is interest in our church. Please speak to Lance if you would like more information or if you think you might be interested.

International Presbytery meeting in Lausanne

The second and last of this year's Presbytery meetings of the International Presbytery of the Church of Scotland (formerly Presbytery of Europe) took place from the 7th till 9th of October 2016 at our sister church, the Scots Kirk, in Lausanne, Switzerland. Our congregation, the English Reformed Church was represented by our Minister Rev Dr. Lance Stone, our Presbytery Elder Mr. Baafi Owusu Sekyere and Mr. Thijs Polstra, incoming Presbytery Treasurer as corresponding member.

Presbytery appointed Rev Ewen Maclean, minister in Gibraltar, as the Moderator of Presbytery, Mr. Thijs Polstra as Treasurer and our Presbytery Elder, Mr. Baafi Owusu Sekyere as Convener of the Mission Committee for next year, 2017.

Presbytery urges Kirk Sessions/Consistories to keep data protection in mind in their communication and record keeping and also encourages them to consult with local law enforcement about best practices for the security of the church, its members, visitors and property.

Our congregation, along with sister congregations in Bochum, Costa del Sol, Geneva, Gibraltar, Malta and Rotterdam got the approval to receive grants from the Salvesen Trust. Our grant is to help us with the financing of the appointment of our Lay Assistant.

As part of the reorganisation and integration of our Presbytery, the Stewardship staff from the Church of Scotland Offices in Edinburgh will attend the next Presbytery meeting in March 2017 in Rotterdam to assist congregations in understanding how effective programmes can be introduced locally to increase giving. Also the Finance Committee in conjunction with the finance personnel in Edinburgh are going to organise a Treasurers' Conference early 2017 to clarify and bring the treasurers in the International Presbytery up to speed with the financial repercussions the reorganisation brings to the congregations in our Presbytery.

As mission projects for the coming two years, Presbytery adopted two projects concurrently and these are:

- "Equestrian Club Hope" in Algeria and
- "Italian Earthquake Support" through St Andrew's Church in Rome.

All congregations in the International Presbytery are encouraged to contribute and support them. Also congregations are reminded that the "Let us Build a House" project of the Church of Scotland for Nepal is still active.

Congregations and presbyters are encouraged to actively explore new ministry opportunities to Scots and other English speaking people within the catchment area of our Presbytery.

With the new status of the International Presbytery within the Church of Scotland, members are encouraged to offer their services on the different Councils and Committees of the mother Church and have their names put forward to the Nomination Committee. Next year's Local Church Reviews (LCR) will take place in Brussels, Lausanne and Gibraltar and they will be lead by Rev Dr. Lance Stone, Rev Derek Lawson and Rev Aaron Stevens respectively.

The next Presbytery meeting will take place at the Scots International Church in Rotterdam in second weekend of March (10-12) 2017.

Should anyone have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at church, by phone or email.

Baafi Owusu Sekyere
Presbytery Elder

Stichting Friends of the ERC

The English Reformed Church in Amsterdam's Begijnhof has been the home to an English language congregation since 1607 but it has been a gathering place for over 600 years. The present building is over 500 years old and requires constant care and maintenance. In 1970 a friend of the church, Mr Gerard Rhee, registered a foundation called the "Friends of the English Reformed Church" (registered as a Stichting, at the Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce). The aim of the foundation was to give support in any way possible to maintain the presence of the church in the city as a place of worship, as a concert venue and as a meeting place for many people and cultures. The board of the Friends Foundation is chaired by the Reverend Dr. Lance Stone and further consists of Maria-Louise Genet, Henk Keizer, secretary, Thijs Polstra and Jolmer Gerritse, Treasurer.

Few buildings are more loved and treasured in Amsterdam than the English Reformed Church. The Begijnhof setting, the unique culture, and its historical place in the city make it a very special place. The Manse offers a suitable home for our Reverend and family and the many ways it facilitates church activities such as the weekly bible studies, Reverend office & various meetings.

In 2016 the final part of a 5 year refurbishment plan of the church building was completed for an estimated cost of €60.000, again to be primarily covered from the Friends Foundation reserves, as subsidies have largely subsided in the Netherlands for National Monuments, such as the church.

It continues to be goal of the Friends Foundation to be able to maintain & rebuild the reserve fund, to allow us to offer help in a timely way when future problems may arise. We are grateful to all those who have supported the Friends Foundation in the past and those who offer their support in the future. You can give your support through single gifts or periodical donations:

by bank transfer to: IBAN NL90ABNA0624180069 - BIC CODE ABNANL2A, in the name of: Stichting Friends of the English Reformed Church, BEGIJNHOF 48, AMSTERDAM-NL.

in cash in the treasury box, situated at the porch of the Church entrance, or through a bequest, to be arranged with your notary.

As an affiliation of the English Reformed Church the A.N.B.I. status applies to donations to the Friends Foundation as well. Further information can be found on the church website. The accounts of the Friends Foundation are published together with the ERC accounts, audited by the ERC audit committee, available, presented and approved at the Annual General Meeting.

Jolmer Gerritse,
Treasurer of the The Friends

Study, Services, Fellowship

Coffee after the service

Meet your fellow members of the congregation over a cup of coffee after the service each week! And if you enjoy these gatherings, please consider to volunteers once in a while of regularly. We always need help in this vital ministry. Please contact Anniek van Engelenburg or Sally Stone.

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

We have now completed the Story of God series in our midweek discussions and Bible Studies and we will be taking a break over Christmas. In the new Year we will be doing Bible Studies on Matthew's Gospel, the Gospel flowed by churches all over the world in 2017. First and third Wednesdays of the month at 9-11 Jan Willem Brouwersstraat, 1071LH Amsterdam.

Taizé Service

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

The Ladies Fellowship will not be meeting in December due to all the Christmas activities, but resume the meetings in January.. 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 Peggy Krol and you will be added to the list. All ladies are most welcome!

Men's Fellowship

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

Coffee Mornings

The coffee mornings take place on the first Tuesday of each month.

De Kloof

Tom Flanagan is always looking for people to help out on the second Monday of the month. A group of four will prepare a meal for the visitors of the homeless shelter De Kloof. If you are interested, please contact Tom at dekloof@ercadam.nl.

Concerts in the ERC



Saturday 10 December 2016 8.15 pm
Het Grand Stand Classic koor
Conductor Adriaen van der Veen
Barok Ensemble Amsterdam

Programme: A varied Christmas concert
Including works by Juan del Encina, John Dowland and Antonio Vivaldi.
Also, well-known and less well known Christmas songs from all corners of the globe.

Sunday 11 December and Saturday 17 December 2016 3.15 pm
Balkankoor Slavuj
Conductor: Ivo Boswijk

Programme: Songs from the Black Sea
Amsterdam choir Slavuj sings songs from countries around the Black Sea.
Songs for choir alternate with solos, duets and quartets

Friday 16 December 2016 8:15 pm
Closing concert of the vocal project
South African polyphony
Conductor: Tatiana Lina

Programme: The project choir sings traditional and modern songs in the Xhosa, Sotho, Zulu en Tsonga languages
Guest appearance by the Amsterdam vocal group Angels with polyphonic songs from many countries.

Sunday 18 December 2016 3.15 pm
Plantagekoor, Vocaal Ensemble
Amadeus and instrumental ensemble
Conductor: Bert 't Hart
Ruña 't Hart: violin
Vocal soloists to be announced

Programme: Gioachino Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle



Monday 19 December 2016 1 pm
The choir of St. Columba's College,
Dublin, Ireland
Conductor: Geraldine Malone Brady
Peter Maxwell Brown: organ
Free concert with a voluntary collection

Programme: Choral music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Anton Bruckner.
Also, madrigals and Irish songs.

Thursday 5 January 2017 1 pm
The Sutton Valence School Chapel
Choir, England
Conductor :Jonathan Soman
Philip Horley: organ
Free concert with a voluntary collection

Programme: Works from Mozart, Joseph Haydn, John Ireland, John Rutter, Gabriel Fauré, Charles Villiers Stanford, Hector Berlioz, Bob Chilcott, Harold Darke, and traditionals

Sunday 29 January 2017 3:15 pm
Het Lassus Consort
Conductor: Enrico Ruggieri
Bart Klijnsmit: organ

Programme: Epiphany from Portugal.
18th century Portuguese music for the Christmas season. With works by Domenico Scarlatti, Giovanni Giorgi, Davide Perez and Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck.

Music in the ERC



Foto by Ingrid Sorensen

Men's choir Remembrance Sunday

Richard Zook, music director of the ERC, invited members of the congregation and friends to join in a project choir, to support the service on Remembrance Sunday, which was held on November 13. The men's choir was accompanied by Ivo van Gennip on trumpet, Brian Fieldhouse on organ and Kelsey Graham played the drum.

save
the
date

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

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.

The market starts at 18:00 hrs, the performance at 19:30 hrs.

A Victorian Christmas Evening
featuring Ashley Ramsden retelling
'A Christmas Carol'

8th December 2016
Doors open at 18:00 with
festive music, food, drink,
& market. Performance at 19:30

For information and tickets:
www.ercadam.nl/victorian

English Reformed Church
Begijnhof 48 - Amsterdam

Proceeds go to Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi

Short News and Activities

Youth Programs available during Sunday Services

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

The Junior Church is planning on doing a volunteer service project with the Serve the City organization on Saturday, December 17th. If any teens would like to participate, please contact the ERC Lay Assistant, Veronica Garcia-Robles or Pastor Lance for more details.



20-30's Luncheon

On October 2nd, the 20's & 30's continued with their monthly Sunday Luncheon that takes place the 1st Sunday of every month. That day, 15 people gathered together to enjoy good fellowship, conversation and lunch after the service at Cafe de Jaren. The group was also happy to invite along 3 refugees from Syria who attended our church service that day.



On Nov. 6th, the 20's & 30's group met up once more for Sunday Luncheon after the service at Museumcafé Mokum. Despite the rain that day, 8 of us gathered for lunch, lively conversation and some good laughs together. These gatherings have been a great opportunity for the group to catch up with one another while enjoying fellowship with other young Christian adults within our congregation.



Joint joint carol service on December 18th

This year the service which is organized together with the churches around the Spui/Singel will be held in the Krijtberg. Please check the ERC website for the exact time.

Membership notices

Deceased

John Tilleard (1920-2016)

Married

Martin Veen & Magali Millou (2 December)

The deadline for the next Record is January 15, 2017

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English Reformed
Church Amsterdam

A congregation of the Church of Scotland and
the Protestant Church of The Netherlands (PKN)