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The Record

October 2017

Vol. 2017/5



The English Reformed Church
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www.ercadam.nl

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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Since the last Record I have been to Malawi, along with our Treasurer Thorsten Koenig, his wife Astrid and my wife Sally, where we visited the Mulanje Mission Hospital which our church has supported for many years. This hospital is the main focus of our church's international outreach and in that time we have contributed significantly to a number of projects that have benefitted the hospital and helped to address some of the huge challenges it faces, operating as it does in the seventh poorest country in the world. I have visited the hospital once previously and it was wonderful to be back and to see developments and improvements.

My reactions to the visit - as with last time - were mixed. On the one hand, I found it a very troubling experience. On this occasion we spent more time out in the villages where the hospital supports projects and we were in closer contact with the everyday life of rural communities. Here the poverty is extreme. Here life is lived at the most basic level. It seems like another world, or - to put it another way - it seems appalling that such a world exists within our wider, modern world. It's a huge step from some of these villages with their sparse clay-brick shelters, their shared water pump and their lack of electricity or sanitation to the Kalverstraat, with its flaunting of goods and excess. You are left wondering how these things can coexist in one world.

Yet on the other hand I was so struck, as I was last time, with the resilience, the graciousness and the humour of the people. From staff at the hospital to little children playing and yelling with laughter as we played with them in the villages there is such extraordinary buoyancy and generosity of spirit. And there is faith. As ever, the service I preached at in the Mission Hospital Church was so uplifting with its spirit of joy and praise. And once again I was so inspired by the work of the hospital and the amazing work done by Medical Director Ruth Shakespeare and her staff. And I was heartened too to see the ways in which money donated by our church has been used in the most concrete, practical ways to benefit the hospital, to help bring healing and to save life.

So - mixed feelings. I am so glad, though, that our church has this link and that we are able to look beyond our immediate horizons and to see what the realities of poverty and underdevelopment look like in our unequal world. We continue every first, Communion, Sunday of the month to take up a collection for the Mulanje Mission Hospital, and on November 17th we host our annual Mulanje Mission Concert (see details elsewhere in this Record). Please support these as much as you can so that our faith may find expression in very tangible ways.

With best wishes,
Lance

Report from Consistory

Consistory reconvened after the summer on September 12 and October 2. We ended the summer holiday season with a picnic at the end of August on the grounds of the Protestant Church of Amsterdam and the Worldhouse.

Membership matters

Balasz Bistey, Ahmed Hassan, Fang Xiaobing (Frank) were admitted into membership after being baptized in the service of September 17.

Bram and Sascha Sizoo, who transferred to another church after moving to the east of the country, requested to be re-admitted into membership. By resolution of Consistory this request was granted. We are happy to welcome Bram and Sascha in the service of October 22.

On September 20 the news reached us that *Charles van Saagsvelt*, together with his wife Ans one of the most longstanding members of our congregation, passed away, after a short but serious period of illness. Charles, supported by Ans, served the ERC in numerous capacities for sixty years. Pastor Lance led the funeral service at the end of September. On October 13 a memorial service will be held in our church at 2:00 pm for all who want to remember Charles.

Christian nurture: Bible reading, Book Group and Advent Series

A number of ongoing initiatives are taking place (or will soon commence), which will be structured as an ongoing Christian education program. These are:

- A Whatsapp Group is being formed, aimed especially at new believers or people young in the faith. The group will follow a New Testament commentary by Tom Wright, which is easy and informative. The Whatsapp group will serve as a platform to raise any issues encountered (or thoughts arisen). The group will meet monthly after the Sunday service with Pastor Lance, Sarah Wang and others for discussion.
- A special series on Sundays in Advent might be offered. More news will follow.
- Book Group: a group in our church, has shown an interest in talking and discussing about faith. Pastor Lance is meeting with them regularly.

If you are interested in these initiatives, please speak to pastor Lance or Sarah Wang.

Community/Outreach

In September a church meeting was held on September 17, where Rev Cor Ofman and Annet from the Worldhouse informed the audience about the work that they do for refugees. An informative meeting.

Together with the Worldhouse the Swap and Shop event was organised on September 30. A great number of people helped by donating clothes, cakes, time and special skills, all co-ordinated by Pamela, Sally and Judi. Our church was turned into a place where refugees could pick clothes for the upcoming season. All the remaining items were transported to the Worldhouse.

Gillian Walker takes part in a network of Amsterdam churches and Vluchtelingenwerk to discuss what help could be offered.

After more than a year of activities aimed at refugees we will evaluate what works and what programs we can build upon.

Other issues

- The library books are brought from the church hall to the deaconry room in the church.

- Shelves will be put up so that the library can be accessed again soon.
- Pastor Lance and Baafi Sekyere will represent our church in the meeting of the Presbytery of International Charges (new name for the International Presbyery) the second weekend in October.

The next Consistory meeting will be held on the 6th of November. If you have a matter to discuss with Consistory, please let me know.

Heleen Koning, scriba@ercadam.nl

Finance Report

Income January - August 2017, Amounts in €

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017 vs 2016</u>
Donations	51,755.34	60,670.28	- 8,914.94
Collections	32,786.79	32,854.95	- 68.16
Church hire	14,087.20	13,035.20	1,052.00
Concerts	8,148.24	7,800.00	- 348.24
Weddings	4,000.00	6,475.00	- 2,475.00
Church shop	650.00		- 650.00
Flowers	205.30	153.55	- 51.75
	<u>111,632.87</u>	<u>120,988.98</u>	<u>- 9,356.11</u>

Back from Malawi a couple of weeks (you will find an article about our visit elsewhere in this issue), I look at the finances of our congregation and feel humbled and impressed by the blessings God provides us here in Amsterdam.

The largest banknote in Malawi is of 2.000 Kwacha, which is equivalent to about Euro 2.30 (yes 2 Euro and 30 cents!). The minimum wage is Kwacha 962 per day (which means Euro 1.18) - and most of the people in the villages MMH is serving do not have even this!

This gives you an impression of what money means in Malawi. In the last years our congregation has transferred about 35.000 Euro to support Mulanje Mission Hospital, which mainly was raised during our annual concert and by loyal donors giving every month. Putting this amount into perspective with the information above, you get a glimpse of how important and impactful your donations are. Also Dr. Ruth Shakespeare, MMH's medical director, confirmed to us that our reliable support over the years is a cornerstone of MMH's operation.

Now about our own finances: Our income is still below the year before - fortunately our expenses are only slightly higher, consequently we are currently facing a deficit of "only" Euro 3.000.

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

Thorsten König, Treasurer

In memoriam Charles van Saagsvelt

21 December 1931 - 20 September 2017

Palm Sunday 1998

An early walk through the center of Amsterdam. Burning a candle in the Roman Catholic Church at the Begijnhof, for all we love.

Opposite the church stood a man in front of the “Engelse Kerk”, he greeted us and invited us to come in and share the service. We, my husband Hans and I, stayed from then on. The church felt like a warm blanket.

After the service we were invited to drink coffee in the Church Hall at the Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal. We walked over and to my surprise it was in my old primary-school “De Prinsenschool”!

That was coming home, the place of my childhood, sweet memories.

I don't believe in coincidences, but for me the circle was closed.

I am happy that Hans always is coming with me and together we found friends.

THANK YOU, CHARLES
with love, Hans and Anne Sieveking



Photo by Jens Sorensen

Just one story of the many, many memories people have, thinking of Charles van Saagsvelt.

For decades Charles van Saagsvelt was one of the faces, if not thé face of the English Reformed Church.

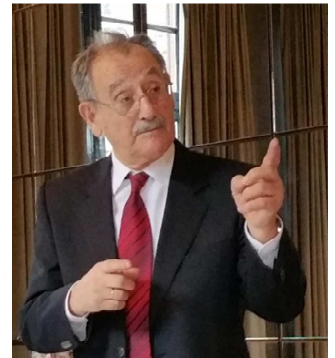
Charles, born on the 21st of December 1921, first set foot in the church in the late fifties when Rev J. Keillor was minister. Charles was born and raised in Amsterdam, from a mother who belonged to the Salvation Army and his father, French Belgian and catholic. Charles initially attended the Westerkerk, but in the late fifties he changed to the English Reformed Church, after visiting a number of times with guests that stayed in the family home from the UK. Charles decided to wait a while before becoming official member. Charles and Ans became members on 26 March of 1961.

In the past sixty years Charles took on many roles in the congregation.

He was asked for Consistory in 1962, first as deacon and later elder. He served until 1986. In the time of the big renovation of the church (ended in 1975, Charles was “Clerk of Works” (property convener). He knew every piece of wood, every bolt in the building. He had an incredible knowledge of the church building and the history of the church, knowledge that he loved to share within the congregation but also with the thousands of visitors we receive. Another position that Charles loved to do in later days was guiding.

He was also involved in children’s work: teaching Sunday School and giving children talks. Charles represented the church in the classis of the Dutch Reformed Church in Amsterdam and in the Presbytery of Europe. He served as Presbytery Elder for sixteen years. And Charles was a long standing member of the choir which he joined in the times of Rev Colin Bell and choir director and organist Jos van der Kooij.

Although no airman himself, Charles was asked to join the Royal Air Force Association by John Tilleard. No sooner had he left than he was asked to join the Royal British Legion [which takes care of ex-servicemen and their families; the poppies that we wear on Remembrance Sunday in November, marking the Armistice at the end of the First World War, are sold by the British Legion]. Although he was not a committee member, he helped with the remembrance services. Working with these two organisations was Charles’ way of saying ‘Thank you for my liberation,’.



And then there was the work behind the scenes. Charles took care of office supplies, stencils, printers and photocopiers for the church. In his professional life Charles traded in office supplies. He assisted his wife Ans, who took care of the preparations of the Communion table for more than forty years.

But most of you will remember Charles as the friendly man at the door of church, with a kind word for everyone or a story to tell. He would point out to consistory members on duty old members visiting again after a long period, he recognized grown up children from Sunday School classes, and could welcome people by name even if years had passed after their last visit.

In the beginning of this year Ans and Charles both celebrated special birthdays with the visitors of the Coffee Mornings, a group that had a special place in his heart. After a period of not feeling well, it became apparent in the beginning of July that Charles had a serious illness, which he could not beat. Charles passed away on September 20.

Charles had his own place, in the last pew under the flags, next to the door. A tribute of roses was set up for him. He will be remembered by many.



A memorial service will be held on 13 October 2017, 2:00 pm in our church.

Heleen Koning

(With thanks to Jan Michael. Some parts are taken from an interview Charles had with Jan Michael for “People in the Pews”)

Photo by Jens Sorensen

Visiting Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi

With a car packed full of goods for the hospital (this time it was rubber boots) a small delegation from the English Reformed Church (Sally and Lance Stone, Astrid and Thorsten König) visited the Mulanje Mission Hospital from 1st until 10th of September. This was the first visit for Sally, the second for Lance and the fifth for Astrid and Thorsten. In September Malawi experiences the middle of the dry-hot season. Because of this the temperature rises during the day up to 36 degrees Celsius (and at the start of October up to 47 degree Celsius). The next rain is not expected until the end of October.



On Monday the 4th, Tabu Gonani, the Matron of the hospital, guided us during a visit of the hospital departments. She has worked as a nurse for the past 10 years, and at the Mulanje Mission hospital for the last 8 years, 3 years as Matron.

During our tour, we saw the new refurbished antenatal ward with its 20 beds. The renovation was made possible by the contribution of the Mulanje Mission Event at the English Reformed Church in January 2015.



The nurses expressed their deep gratitude for this support. Before this room was installed, it was not possible to monitor pregnant women closely who were not yet in labour, but either lived far away or showed additional health problems. At that time, the women had to stay in a dark hallway, with mattresses on the floor and curtains separating the place, without dedicated nurses.

Now two nurses monitor the medical condition of the women and send them to the labour ward next door, when they do go into labour. With this new facility, care for pregnant women has reached new levels of quality.

Just to let you know, the labour ward, with five individual rooms, was renovated in 2010, also with the support of the English Reformed Church, and it is quite busy with about 70 deliveries a week.

For Thorsten and me it was impressive to see the improvement in a variety of fields. The hospital is very well maintained, the staff is dedicated providing optimal service in extreme circumstances. For example, due to frequent power cuts the x-rays can occasionally only be done at 3 am, when ESCOM provides power for some hours. Then the radiology assistant comes in at that time to just do this job.

Visiting the small villages, you see many children (>50% of the Malawians are under 16 years old!), but now no signs of severe malnourishment. There are more chickens and in general more livestock (goats, pigs and some cows) around, compared to 10 years ago, and on a small scale meat is sold at the local markets. However, every family is gambling every year if the harvest (corn, pigeon peas, cassava, sweet potatoes) will be sufficient to survive the next 12 months. The periods of rain and drought appear to be less predictable compared to 15 years ago, increasing the insecurity of the rural population. In reaction to this situation the hospital has employed Hastings Chitengu, with a background of agricultural and natural resources management and a degree in community development, to improve small scale farming. He implements the MMH livelihood programme and reaches out to villages via “lead farmers”. They get training in home gardening and function as role-models and trainers to their fellow villagers. At this moment 4 of the 75 villages participate in this programme.



The employees of the Mulanje Mission Hospital are very grateful for our friendship and appreciation of their work. They seek not only for our financial support, but more our brotherly love and prayers to our common father.

Astrid König

Overview of past projects and status in 2017:

2007 Renovation of female ward	Re-done with the help of USAID
2008 Renovation of children's ward	This may need new work soon
2009 Renovation labour ward	Up and running, but needs new painting
2010 Renovation of male ward	Up and running
2011 First phase of solar power	Expanded, majority of hospital runs on solar power now
2012 OR-refurbishment	2 ORs up and running, 1 Glostavent (ventilator) in use
2014 Water supply and sewage	2 boreholes working, septic tank installed
2015 Installation antenatal ward	Up and running
2017 Refurbishment laboratory	Construction work has begun

Project 2018

After surgery, some patients need above-average care and attention. At the moment this care has to be provided by the nurse in the ordinary ward, so attention for critical patients is very limited. The hospital needs a high care unit with four beds and dedicated nurses.

With the concert on 17th November we again have the chance to continue our partnership with the Mulanje Mission Hospital.

Café des Chansons play for Mulanje Mission Hospital



Please join us for an evening of “Chansons” starring the highly talented Charlotte Haesen and her Quartet. They will perform gems from the great French classics by Serge Gainsbourg and Edith Piaf. For more details follow the links on the ERCADAM website.

All proceeds from this year’s concert will be used for the development of a High Dependency Unit for surgical and other critically sick patients at Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi.

The ticket price is a donation of €25. In case you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation to help achieve our goal.

You can buy your tickets online at Eventbrite or reserve via email: mmh@ercadam.nl
Donations can be made to: English Reformed Church NL32ABNA0547623550

Please mark the payment
“MMH Project”
2017 MMH Benefit Concert

Friday 17 November 2017 at 19:30
English Reformed Church - Begijnhof 48 - Amsterdam

The Reformation (III)

The third in a three part series on the Reformation, begun 500 years ago this year, looks at **The Radical Reformation**.

Inevitably, when a great movement like the Reformation shakes the very foundations upon which the world is built, questions long suppressed are raised and ideas are pushed into realms previously considered out of bounds. Hence what is known as the 'Radical Reformation'. The term describes a number of movements that flourished from the 1520s onwards, emerging out of the protests and reforms of people like Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli but which wanted to go far further. As such, the Radical Reformation was heir to various medieval movements of popular piety and social protest that often simmered beneath the surface among peasants and lower orders of society. Common to the Radical Reformation was a rejection of what Christianity had become under 'Christendom' - i.e. since it had become the official religion of the Roman Empire and thereafter the glue that bound together European society, legitimating the power of rulers and authorities.

So there emerged from Zurich, the city associated with the reformer Ulrich Zwingli, the movement known as Anabaptism. Its adherents called themselves Baptists (because they practised 'believers' rather than infant baptism) and they were convinced that the church was a voluntary society of convinced believers who could not be coerced into belief (hence the opposition to baptising infants), who were separate from the state and its control and who lived under the authority and Lordship of Jesus Christ alone. This conviction that the church should be separate from magistrate and state was a key tenet of the Anabaptists. It led them to reject the means by which the state enforced its power and authority - i.e. the sword - and therefore they were mostly pacifists, taking literally the Sermon on the Mount with its injunctions to turn the other cheek, not to offer resistance to evil and to refuse to take oaths.

In some cases, however, the Radical reformation turned violent and led to destructive extremes. So when Anabaptism was spreading through the Northern Low Countries in the 1520s John of Leiden and his followers took over the city of Munster, expelled Roman Catholics and set up a form of communism based on the practice of the early church. The aim was to restore Old Israel, with John of Leiden as king, and to set up Paradise in anticipation of the return of Christ. Inevitably it all ended badly and with much bloodshed. More positively, the Dutch leader Menno Simmons, from Friesland, opposed John of Leiden, travelling through the Netherlands and the north German coast preaching his version of the Gospel. This stressed the importance of the new community of Christ, sealed by believers' baptism, living a new life in tight fellowship with one another and in contrast to secular society. This led them to refuse to take part in politics or to bear arms. His descendants are the Mennonites.

Anabaptists and those who followed them in the Radical Reformation were often persecuted severely, being rejected by other 'mainstream' elements of the Reformation. In recent years, however, with the decline of Christendom, the waning of the power of the church and the spread of secularism, there are many who look to the Radical Reformation and its emphases as pointing the way forward for the future of the church.

Lance

Music in the Church

With the choir singing twice in September, twice in October, and for the Remembrance Day service in November, the musical season is already in full swing. I just wanted to take a moment to let everyone know about the Advent/Christmas season which is rapidly approaching. While you might not be doing your Christmas shopping just yet, the choir has been busy preparing the music for the holidays since the end of the summer! And it promises to be another year with splendid, festive music.

We will start off on the first Sunday of Advent, 3 December, with Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria for choir, soloists, and orchestra. This will be a morning communion service packed with splendid music and the text of the angels' message: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!" The various sections of this popular work will be spread throughout the service, with the opening parts during the prelude, so be sure to arrive early!

Hopefully this will kick off your season in style. But the choir will have no time to rest, as the annual Carols by Candlelight, our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols, will be on the evening of the 15th of December at 8:00pm. This is a Friday night, in contrast to the Tuesday service in past years. Please make a note on your calendar of the change. As always, there will be plenty of music by the choir and lots of carols for you to join in singing, all interspersed with and echoing the familiar words of the Christmas story. The incomparable beauty of the candle-lit English Church of the Begijnhof decorated for the holidays, the Christmas message and music, and warm fellowship and refreshments following the service, make this an ideal occasion to invite your friends and family from outside the church to join us. Spread the word!

And, of course, all of this leads to our lovely Christmas Eve service, with yet another round of Christmas music, for you and with you, from the choir.

Make a joyful noise!
Richard



Reformation Celebration

To commemorate the start of the Reformation 500 years ago this year a gathering is planned in our church for Sunday October 22nd, from 14.30 - 16.00 hrs. We are hoping to bring together members of our church, members of the Begijnhofkapel across the yard, and residents of the Begijnhof. There will be brief presentations of the history of the Chapel, the Church and the Community followed by refreshments. Do come along for this gathering of all who are located in the Begijnhof.

Lance

Study, Services, Fellowship

Coffee Mornings

The coffee mornings take place on the first Tuesday of each month, a wonderful opportunity for fellowship with members of our congregation who carry the history of our church. Please join if you are interested, you are most welcome to come. You can contact Sies Plokker or Joke de Bruin for more information.

Next Coffee morning on 7 November will be at the home of Joke de Bruin.



Midweek Fellowship

Midweek fellowship continues with our usual pattern of Bible Study the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, Taizé service the 2nd Wednesday, and Ladies Fellowship the fourth week (with Men's group meeting bi-monthly).

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 19:30 hrs.



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 volunteering once in a while or regularly. We always need help in this vital ministry.

Please contact Anniek van Engelenburg or Sally Stone (via info@ercadam.nl)

Ladies Fellowship

For those who have not yet been able to attend, we start out by having dinner together followed by 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 in 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

Concerts in the ERC



Saturday 14 October 2017 8:15 pm

Vocaal Ensemble Frascanti

Conductor: Alfrun Schmid

Simone Boland: soprano

Femke de Graaf: piano

Programme: Bleib bei uns

To include:

Gustav Mahler (arranged Clytus Gottwald): Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen

Johannes Brahms: Deutsche Volkslieder and Schicksalslied

Josef Rheinberger: Die tote Braut and Abendlied

Sunday 15 October 2017 3:15 pm

Vocaal Ensemble Frascanti

Conductor: Alfrun Schmid

Simone Boland: soprano

Femke de Graaf: piano

Programme: Bleib bei uns

Please see above

Friday 17 November 2017 19:30 hrs

Café des Chansons

Charlotte Haesen: chanteuse

With the Tobalita Quartet

Lisanne Soeterbroek: violin

Giles Francis: violin

Odile Torenbeek: viola

Anjali Tanna: cello

Programme:

The annual benefit concert for the Mulanje Mission Hospital, Malawi.

An evening of French classic chansons by, amongst others, Barbara, Serge Gainsbourg and Edith Piaf.

Sunday 19 November 2017 3:15 pm

Deborah Nemko: piano



Programme: Piano music in the time of Anne Frank

Henriëtte Bosmans: Six Préludes (1917-18)

Daniel Belinfante: Lento Mystiek (1941) and Sonatine No. 3 (1939)

Leo Smit: Suite pour Piano (1926) and Hommage à Sherlock Holmes

Dick Kattenburg: Tempo di Blues (1940-41)

Also works by George Gershwin

Friday 24 November 2017 1 pm

Michael Sellers: piano



Programme: For his annual piano recital, the American pianist, Michael Sellers will perform the following works by Frédéric Chopin:

Fantasia in f minor Op. 49

Two Preludes Op.28

Fantaisie - Impromptu in c sharp minor Op. 66

Nocturne in B-major Op. 32 No. 1

Three Waltzes in A-flat major, D flat major and A flat major

Ballade No 3 in A flat major Op. 47

Five Mazurkas

Scherzo No. 1 in B minor Op. 20

Friday 24 November 2017 8:15 hrs
Het Loman Ensemble
Conductor: Annemart Franken

Programme: Full Fathom Five
Het Loman Ensemble sings Shakespeare
Compositions based on texts by William Shakespeare.
To include works by Robert Johnson, Thomas Morley, Johannes Brahms, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Niels Lindberg and Jurriaan Andriessen

Sunday 26 November 2017 3:15 pm
Het Purcell Kamerorkest
Conductor: Mimi Mitchell
Ireen van Bijnen: soprano

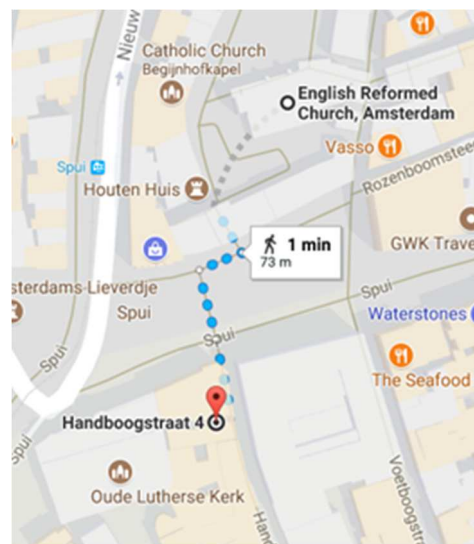
Programme:
Jan Dismas Zelenka: Hypochondrie
Henry Purcell: Fantasia 5 and Fantasia 7
Johann Sebastian Bach: Cantata BWV 208: Schafe Können sicher weiden
Georg Philipp Telemann: Ino Cantata TWV20, 41: Ungöttliche Saturnia
Cantata TWV 1:1075: Jesu komm in meine Seele
Concerto à 4 Violini
Suite in a minor TWV 55: a 4



Sunday School/Junior Church

New venue

After the summer break, the Sunday School and Junior Church classes started up again on Sunday, September 10th, at a new venue. Classes are now being held at the Lutheran Church across from the Spui, at Handboogstraat 4, which is only a minute's walk away from our church. The space we are renting there is big enough to house both of the Sunday School classes as well as the Junior Church. So far, the space is working out quite well. Sunday School Parents are asked to pick up their children after the service. The Handboogstraat is located at the back of the Lutheran Church.



Church Prayers and Gift Presentation

On Sunday, October 1st, we celebrated the start of the new Sunday School and Junior Church season by praying for our teachers as well as children during the service. We also presented the kids with a small gift to celebrate the start of the new Sunday School/Junior Church year. We ask that you keep both our children and teachers in your prayers throughout the year as they share and learn from the word of God together. We also ask you to pray that more congregation members may prayerfully consider making use of their spiritual gifts by becoming Sunday School and Junior Church teachers.

Veronica Garcia Robles, Lay Assistant

Short News and Activities

Swap and Shop event September 30

By the hands of many and coordinated by Pamela, Judi and Sally our church turned into a place where refugees could shop and swap clothes, shoes and accessories. Ask members of the congregation for donations and you will get them (thank you, all). Racks and racks full. The people who came were welcomed with coffee, tea and wonderful cakes, they received help with choosing items and there was time for fellowship.

All items that were not chosen during opening times were picked up by volunteers of the World House (the Wereldhuis), whose leaders, Rev Cor Ofman and Annet, were with us during the church meeting on September 17.

They will make sure that everything will be used well.

Lots of thanks to all who contributed in whatever form.



Youth Programmes 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

For more information, please speak to Veronica Garcia-Robles, Lay Assistant, in church or send her an email:
layassistant@ercadam.nl

20's & 30's

The 20's and 30's group continues to meet for lunch every first Sunday of the month, after the service. We tend to go eat at a nearby restaurant. This is a great opportunity for fellowship within the group. Newcomers are also always welcome. For more information, please speak with Veronica Garcia-Robles, the ERC Lay Assistant.

On the 17th of September the group said farewell to Angela Agresti, who moved back to the United States.



Membership notices

Admitted to Membership

Ahmed Hassan

Balasz Bistey

Fang Xiaobing

Bram Sizoo

Sacha Sizoo

Baptized

Ahmed Hassan

Balasz Bistey

Fang Xiaobing

(all on 17 September 2017)

Deceased

Charles van Saagsvelt (20 September 2017)

The Publicity Committee acts as editorial board for the Record:
Laura Verhaaf, Ferry Haris, Heleen Koning, Thijs Polstra,
Johan Sloet de Villiers, Jens Anders Wejsmark Sørensen, Lance Stone

Editor (a.i.) for the Record is Heleen Koning (06 130 977 56,
scriba@ercadam.nl

The deadline for the next Record is 15 November, 2017

Did you know that the English Reformed Church sends out a weekly newsletter? Receive news about services, activities and events and a PDF-version of the Record automatically. You can subscribe via the website: www.ercadam.nl



**English Reformed
Church Amsterdam**

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

NEWSLETTER



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