

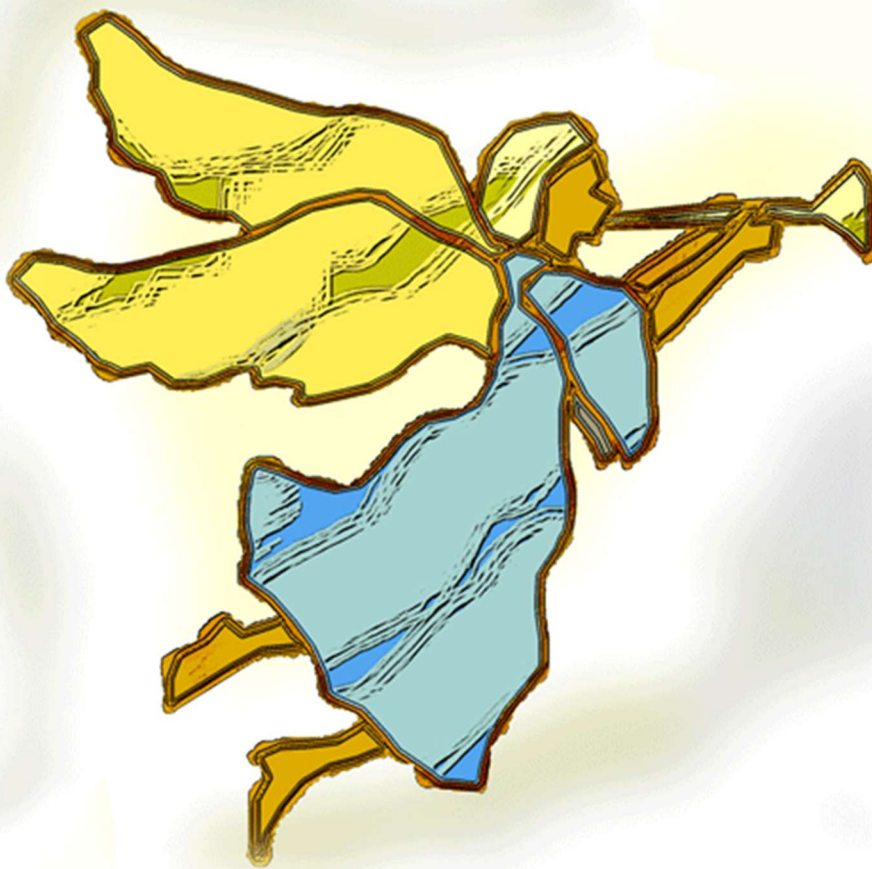


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# The Record

December 2017

Vol. 2017/6



The English Reformed Church  
Begijnhof 48, 1012 WV Amsterdam  
[www.ercadam.nl](http://www.ercadam.nl)

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# Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter while also preparing for next Sunday which is known in some traditions as Christ the King Sunday. The (relatively recent) origins of that celebration need not detain me here, but what matters is that this Sunday marks the end of the Christian year, with the following Sunday being the first Sunday in Advent.

Not all churches sit very tightly to the Christian Year and so not all follow the Lectionary, the set of readings for each week which are designed to take us through the whole Biblical story each year. Drawing on different sections from the Bible each week the Lectionary takes us from creation through to the new creation. The readings retell the story, over and over again, of God's creation of a good world; its spoiling by sin and evil; the process of salvation which begins with Israel and that culminates in the coming of Jesus; his life and death, resurrection and ascension; the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and Jesus' return. And accompanying that story go particular seasons such as Advent (preparing for Christmas) and Lent (preparing for Easter).

What I love about the Christian year and the use of the Lectionary is that it reminds us that our lives are grounded in a story, with a beginning, a middle and an end. Each human life, of course, is a unique, one-off story, with our own particular circumstances. But each human life is part of a bigger story, the one that is told by the Bible, and that gives to our lives a wider frame of reference, a sense of being part of something bigger, and meaning and purpose. And the year is given shape by that story and by the observances, celebrations and festivals that go with it. Of course, secular society has its festivals and celebrations too, and the Dutch are very good at them. There is King's day and Liberation Day and these are wonderful community events. They are however somewhat disconnected, whereas the Christian festivities and observances are part of this coherent narrative which carries us along.

The Jewish writer and holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel once said that God created human beings because He loves stories. Each human life tells a unique story, but our lives are deepened and enriched by being taken up into this bigger story that is told with rituals and with food and with symbols - all of which seasons human life.

On this last Sunday of the Christian year I look forward to Advent, and Christmas, and to telling that story one more time, over again...

With very best wishes to you all for Advent and Christmas,

Lance

# Report from Consistory

Since the last issue of the Record Consistory has met once, at the beginning of November.

## Membership matters

*Riet van Hoek*, member of the congregation and former Koster, passed away on the 29th of October. Her funeral service was held in the church on November 2nd, followed by the burial on the Ooster Begraafplaats. In this Record we pay tribute to Riet.

Julia Vandenburg Mauny and Olivier Mauny will bring their son *Gabriel Willem* for baptism on November 19.

Pastor Lance and Sarah Wang are moderating a Whats App group to discuss a book that the group studies. Once a month they meet face to face.

Pastor Lance currently leads an "Exploring the faith" group with four people who have shown interest in becoming a member of the church.

## Community/Outreach

The organisation of the *Mulanje Mission Charity* concert on November 17<sup>th</sup> was discussed. (You will find an article about the evening in this issue of the Record).

The *Stir up Sunday* will not be organised this year, partly because we also have an *Advent Study series* on the Sunday evenings this year, and because of the organisation. This series is held on the first three Sundays of Advent, led by Elisabeth Cavert Morrison.

There will be *Carolling after the service* of December 10. The question was raised whether we would hold a collection during the carolling. We decided against it, putting the topic of collections for other goals than the *Mulanje Mission Hospital* on the agenda of the next meeting.

*Burns Night* will be held on January 27. The traditions will be followed with having a dinner, music, poetry etc. We will be looking for help from within the congregation to make this possible.

Consistory decided to start with a welcome desk: a central point (high table, banner) where people new in the congregation can get more information, have a chat etc. And of course anyone with questions or ideas can come to the Welcome Desk.

## Finance

Our treasurer presented his proposal for the ERC budget of 2018. In line with the budget of 2017, and preparing for the financial changes due to the fact that the Presbytery of International Charges (as our presbytery is now called) is now a fully-fledged presbytery of the Church of Scotland.

For maintenance Jolmer approved - as treasurer of the Friends - a contribution of EUR 12.500, which is required to balance our budget 2018. We are still awaiting the formal confirmation of the Salvesen grant for 2018.

Consistory formally approved the proposed budget, without changes, thanking Thorsten for his work in this, as well as thanking Thijs and Baafi for their part in the work in bookkeeping and collections.

## Publicity committee

The committee is looking into the best way to organise a cloud based storage of documents so that it is easier to share documents with the people who need them. Safety of data is of course an issue that will be taken into consideration.

Laura Verhaaf distributed the house style guide for the ERC as well as a number of templates for letters, posters etc. A big thank you to Laura, it looks very professional as well as workable.

And the church has a new notice board. Richard Zook presented the church with a beautiful piece of handcrafted furniture. On behalf of the Consistory and the Congregation many thanks to Richard for his wonderful work.

Heleen Koning  
[scriba@ercadam.nl](mailto:scriba@ercadam.nl)

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# Finance Report

## Income January – October 2017, Amounts in €

	2017	2016	2017 vs 2016
Donations	61,930.44	70,112.53	- 8,182.09
Collections	40,430.50	40,573.52	- 143.02
Church hire	17,486.00	14,614.60	2,871.40
Concerts	10,192.24	11,210.00	- 1,017.76
Weddings	5,675.00	7,200.00	- 1,525.00
Church shop	720.00	1,579.40	- 859.40
Flowers	21.86	139.35	- 117.49
	<b>136,456.04</b>	<b>145,429.40</b>	<b>- 8,973.36</b>

Since my last report the congregation's income (slightly behind previous year) and expenditure (on track with the planning) has not changed significantly.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Record you can read about this year's Mulanje Mission Concert and therefore I want to give you some insights into the financials here.

The goal we set ourselves to support the construction of the High-Dependency-Unit at MMH is EUR 15,000. As in previous years we collaborate with the Dutch organisation "WILDE GANZEN", which adds 50% to each Euro we raise. Consequently, if we raise EUR 10,000, Wilde Ganzen will add EUR 5,000, resulting in the required amount of EUR 15,000.

At this moment - just two days after the concert on November 17<sup>th</sup> - we have collected EUR 6,200, means we are EUR 3,800 short.

I want to encourage each of you to consider donating towards this year's special MMH project. For every Euro you give, Wilde Ganzen adds 50 cents - and you may even be entitled to a tax deduction for your donation. When you donate into the church's bank account please mention "MMH concert". On behalf of Dr Ruth Shakespeare, the hospital staff, but especially the 750,000 individuals Mulanje Mission Hospital is serving, I want to thank you for your prayers and donations.

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

*Thorsten König, Treasurer*

# In memoriam Riet van Hoek

*On the 29th of October Riet van Hoek passed away. Riet, long time member of our church and Church Officer (koster) for decades, will be remembered by a big part of the congregation as the friendly lady, always in service, always looking out for everyone. We were very happy that she could come to church until the end. During the funeral service her brother Ernst spoke about the life of Riet.*

“Describing the life of Riet and presenting that here would keep you here at least unto midnight, so I will take out certain highlights that will form a kind of red line throughout her life, helping us to understand who Riet was, what made her do the things she did, in such a wonderful determined way.



*Riet during the last ERC Picnic  
Photo by Jens Sorensen.*

Born before the second world war she experienced the hardships of violence and dictatorship. It perhaps pushed her to be independent, free from petty tradition as well as injustice. Thus: valuing freedom and independence stayed with her until the end.

After passing through primary and secondary school the question came up: what next? Becoming a teacher, as she wished, was according to our parents not possible. She did however find a way to work with children, and children with medical and psychological problems. Right after the war the city of Amsterdam had established a centre to provide support for such children in an old empty villa at the Amsteldijk. This centre was named the “Kabouterhuis”. There she followed a training course of two years, preparing her for what had become almost a calling: caring for vulnerable people, starting with the very young.

After the “Kabouterhuis”, she went to The Hague, the Juliana children’s hospital. It was in a very nice neighbourhood close to the dunes and the beach of Scheveningen, and close to Madurodam, a miniature version of Holland, that she revisited again only three weeks prior to her passing. After this visit she was very satisfied and told people that now she had no further wishes.

After finalising her training there, she had found that caring for grown-ups also had positive aspects and she wanted to become a certified general nurse. She also wanted to return to Amsterdam, a city way more vibrant and fitting her own mentality than The Hague. She went to the Diaconessenhuis on the Overtoom in Amsterdam. She formed deep friendships with some colleagues there, that lasted a lifetime. She also got in touch with work from the Salvation Army, where she also formed friendships. Later on she was in particular friends with Major Boschhart, a national symbol for the work of the Salvation Army. After finishing this formation period, again: what next? Yes, she wanted to serve people, but rather not organisations. It was the people that counted. This was possible as a “district-” or better named “community-nurse”.

Again a period of additional training followed and a staging period. After that it was time to bring all this training into practice. She found a job in a place that was really close to her heart, in the very centre of Amsterdam, including the “Red light district”. This is the

place where she could grow roots and she stayed there until retirement in 1993. This also brought her close to the Begijnhof, the “Every-day-church” and the community of the English Reformed Church, to which she felt very attracted. She was at home here. After her retirement as a community-nurse it was almost a given that she would spend time and energy for this church community as Church officer, a function that she held for many years.



*Riet engaged in a conversation with Prince Philip, during the celebrations of the William and Mary year (1988). Riet lived in the Begijnhof before she moved to Diemen*

So far for Riet’s professional life. Now a more personal approach. We were three children, an older brother, André, then Riet, and almost ten years later I joined in. André and Riet had in their younger years been with a scouting group in Amsterdam Watergraafsmeer, in the eastern part of Amsterdam. Riet stayed active in the scouting community, including joining summer camps, and keeping her friendships and loyalties active. Today we would say that she certainly was a networker, not for personal gains, but for true friendships. One of the things she did with some friends from the Diaconessenhuis was to go on holiday in Norway, years before that became a popular holiday destination. She established friendships with deaconesses in Norway and mastered the Norwegian language. From Norway with its mountains and fjords you can also see the attraction of Scotland and thus this church. As far as travel, she certainly liked it. In the time when my family and I lived in France, she visited us there relatively often.

This apartment brought her to Diemen. Her favourite transportation has always been a bicycle. When travelling on a daily basis from Diemen to the Centre of Amsterdam became too bothersome she moved to a house in the Begijnhof in Amsterdam, where she has lived for close to ten years. She really loved it, the atmosphere, the closeness to the church, the quiet in the evenings and the freedom that her cat could have here. Cats have played a major role in especially the later years of her life.

Riet has also always loved music. At our parental home in Amsterdam we had a harmonium on which she loved to play. Later on, when she was on her own in Amsterdam, she even took organ lessons with Piet van Egmond in the Westerkerk. In her apartment, and later in her own house in Diemen she had a rather sophisticated electric organ: a Philicordia. Riet simply could not do things only halfway, she had to be involved to the full. So, living in Diemen she had to become involved in Diemen Historical circle, she became a member of the local Christian Democratic party and was involved in numerous charities. Riet combined all these activities with a typical Amsterdam mentality. Optimistic and driven forever she was.

We will remember her as such, the last years of illness and suffering perhaps quickly forgotten. She would not want us to linger on negative things. She would want us to look to the future, putting out our hands to our fellow human beings, in the firm belief that we can make a difference, small perhaps in the start, but ultimately reaching into eternity.

Riet, thank you for everything, and live on in our hearts!”

Ernst van Hoek

# Café des Chansons play for Mulanje Mission Hospital

In church on the evening of Friday, 17th of November we held our annual benefit concert for the Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi, compered by Pastor Lance looking splendidly louche in a red velvet smoking jacket appropriate to the mood of the occasion. For this year more than 200 ticket holders were treated to an evening of French cabaret music performed by the group Café des Chansons, which consists of the thrilling young Belgian chanteuse Charlotte Haesen backed by a polished professional string quartet that included our own church elder Giles Francis on the violin. When Charlotte introduced her colleagues to the audience it was good to hear Giles get a rousing cheer from his home crowd. This is a group that is very much on the way up - as a recent feature in *Het Parool* testifies - so we are especially grateful to these first-class musicians for giving their time and talent to support a cause that is very dear to all our hearts in the ERC.



*Chanteuse Charlotte Haesen*

As a regally attired Astrid Koenig explained in her introduction, the aim was to raise enough money to fund a new High Dependency Unit for critically ill patients who cannot be adequately treated and nursed in the general wards of the hospital. With some donations still to come, the proceeds from the concert took us more than half way to our target in one go. The hospital's Medical Director, Ruth Shakespeare, happily was able to join us again



*The string quartet Café des Chanson, with Giles Francis*



this year, and express her gratitude before the audience to ERC, Amsterdam Rotary and Wilde Ganzen, which will match private donations with a 50% top-up.

After the concert Ruth said: "I feel truly blessed for having been in Amsterdam on such a special evening to witness some wonderful music in a fantastic setting. On behalf of the Mulanje Mission Hospital I would like to thank the musicians, the volunteers, and everyone who attended the concert and in other ways supports us in Malawi."

Nick Thomas



*Animated discussion during the interval and after the concert, Pastor Lance as master of ceremonies.*

*All pictures of the concert were taken by Jens Anders Wejsmark Sorensen*

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## Presbytery Meeting October 2017

This year's second meeting of the International Presbytery was hosted by our sister congregation, St. Andrew's Church in Valletta, Malta, from the 5<sup>th</sup> till the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. Our congregation, the English Reformed Church, was well represented by our Minister, Rev Dr. Lance Stone, our Presbytery Elder, Mr. Baafi Owusu Sekyere and Mr. Thijs Polstra, the Presbytery Treasurer.

The meeting and church services were led by the current Presbytery Moderator, Rev Ewen Maclean, of Saint Andrew's Church in Gibraltar.

Some of the topics at the meeting were:

- Congregations are encouraged to consider the results and recommendations of the recent Education & Training Committee survey on Elder Training which will be sent to congregations.
- Presbytery noted plans for the International Youth Presbytery in Lausanne from 16-18 February 2018 under the theme 'Hope and Balance';
- Presbyters were encouraged to communicate about the Presbytery mission projects, to promote them within their Kirk Session and Congregation, so that they will be prepared to contribute.

*Article continues on the next page*

- Presbytery celebrated the ongoing contribution of women across the worldwide church, and encouraged Kirk Sessions and members to continue to challenge any theology that is used to persecute and discriminate against women.
- Congregations which are involved with work or special projects with refugees (for example, football programme in Amsterdam) are encouraged to produce video/slide show material for wider circulation.
- Congregations are encouraged to build their financial reserves to a level of at least 12 months of normal operating costs and consistent with ensuring that their minister's stipend is paid and that the needs of their congregation are met.
- All the Salvesen grant applications from the congregations of the Presbytery were supported.
- It was noted that the Finance Committee will be reviewing Presbytery dues in the light of changing circumstances and will bring proposals to the March 2018 meeting of Presbytery.
- Mr Chandan de Silva was appointed as Convener of the Finance Committee with effect from the end of the March 2018 meeting of Presbytery.

The next presbytery meeting is on the second weekend of March 2018 in Lisbon. Should you have any questions or need any explanation, please don't hesitate to ask me at church or per email.

*Baafi Owusu Sekyere (Presbytery Elder)*

*(A longer version of the report is available, please send an email to [info@ercadam.nl](mailto:info@ercadam.nl))*

## Christmas is coming

### Prepare your heart for Christmas!

Sunday evenings Dec 3rd, 10th, 17th, Advent Studies led by Elizabeth Cavert Morrison at the Manse (Jan Willem Brouwersstraat 9), 7:30 pm. Connecting the Bible to your experience, your culture, your life. Study with a difference. Come to one, two or all sessions.



On Saturday, December 9th, all are invited to the ERC Potluck Christmas Party and Christingle at our Church Social Hall on the Nieuwezijds

Voorburgwaal 282A from 15:00 - 17:00. As it is a potluck, those who come are asked to bring some food to share, so that we may have enough for all. At the party there will be Christmas crafts for the kids to do, games to play, food to eat, Christmas songs to sing and finally, Pastor Lance will lead us all in a Christingle. If you would like to join us for some Christmas merriment, please do join us for this festive time of fellowship. All ages are welcome.

# Make a joyful noise

As you receive this December issue of The Record we are probably already into the holiday season. We started off Advent Sunday, 3 Dec. with Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria for choir, soloists, and orchestra. I hope you were all able to attend the service and enjoy this classic favorite. If you had to miss this, don't worry - there is still plenty of festive music to come this Christmas season!

The second Sunday of Advent, 10 Dec. offers us a chance to move beyond the walls of the church to do some communal **Carol Singing on the Spui**. This is not a choir event but a chance for everyone to join in singing our favorite carols. After the morning service (and a quick cup of coffee) we will move out to the Spui, where we will regale the passers-by with some holiday cheer - hoping they might like to join in, too! Come along and sing!



Next is one of the highlights of the year (for choir and congregation, I hope!) with our annual **Carols by Candlelight**. This 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 of 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!

Music in the morning service on 17 Dec. will be provided Judi Haynes-Smart, and on the 24th (morning) by Persephone Abbott.

The third Sunday of Advent, 17 Dec. at 16:00 will be our annual **Joint Carol Service** with our sister congregations from around the Spui. This year we will be in the Singelkerk (Mennonite) just across the Singel. Our choir will provide music and there will be, as always, a chance to join in with carols.

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. There will be caroling from 22:00 when the doors open. Come early and raise your voice in song!

Make a joyful noise!  
*Richard*

**Advent and Christmas Services**

- Sunday, 3 December, 10:30am**  
**Advent Sunday**  
- our choir, soloists and orchestra perform Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria -
- Sunday, 10 December, 10:30am**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
- children's Nativity Play -  
- carol singing on the Spui after the service -
- Friday, 15 December, 8:00pm**  
**Carols by Candlelight Service**  
- traditional service of 9 lessons and carols, music by our choir and soloists -
- Sunday, 17 December, 10:30am**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**
- Sunday, 17 December, 4:00pm**  
**Multilingual Carol Service**  
- with the churches around the Spui -
- Sunday, 24 December, 10:30am**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**
- Sunday, 24 December, 10:30pm**  
(doors open at 10:00pm)  
**Christmas Eve Service**  
- music by our choir -  
- carol singing in the church from 10:00 pm -
- Monday 25 December, 10:30am**  
**Christmas Day Service**

English Reformed Church Amsterdam  
a congregation of the Synod of the Netherlands  
the Reformed Church of the Netherlands (RKN)

Drawing by Morag MacDougall

# New piece of furniture

When visitors enter the church during the week they are presented with a guide, providing them with lots of details about the church building and its furniture.

We have an 18<sup>th</sup> century carved organ case by Jacob Hulstman that holds the big Flentrop organ. The lectern, bearing the symbols of the four evangelists, was carved in 1977 by Nico Onkenhout. The pulpit is decorated with a set of carved panels designed by Piet Mondriaan and carved by Edema van der Tuuk to commemorate the accession to the throne in 1898 of Queen Wilhelmina. The Bible stands on a desk supported by a fine brass lectern donated to the church in 1689 by Stadholder William III of Orange and his wife Mary Stuart when they were called to be joint monarchs of Great Britain. The Celtic Cross is a gift from the Alledag Kerk etc etc.

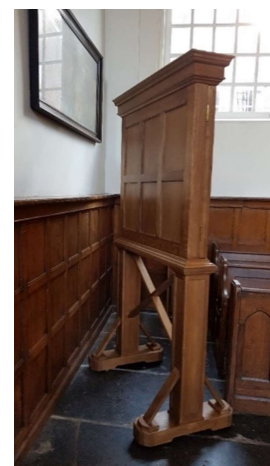
We have a new addition to this wealth: notice board, handmade by Richard Zook, not only a gifted music director, choirmaster and organist, but also an excellent carpenter, with an amazing eye for detail. Richard set out to make a notice board that is functional during services, can be closed during concerts or services of the Alledagkerk and the Dienst met Belangstellenden, so that you still look at a good piece of furniture.

The wood chosen for this piece is oak that matches the panelling of the church walls. In fact Richard copied the pattern of the panelling onto the back of the boards and the front panels of the board. When I say copy, it means that he did every stroke with the chisel himself. The board rests on a sturdy frame, with the wheels cleverly hidden under the wood, but so that it glides lightly. There is so much detail in the decorations; the logo of the church on the front panels, the hooks to hold the doors, even a small box to hold pushpins.

When it is time to renew the visitor guides, we will have to find the word for Notice Board in 40 or so languages. Until then we pay tribute to its maker Richard Zook through this article, and please go and take a look yourself when you are in the church.

Richard, thank you so much!

*Heleen Koning*





# Concerts in the ERC



**Friday 8 December 2017 8:15 pm**  
**Het Grand Stand Classickoor**  
Conductor: Adriaen van der Veen  
Ensemble Amsterdam

**Programme:** A varied Christmas concert to include works by Heinrich Schütz, Jacques Arcadelt and Juan del Encina. Also well-loved and less well known songs from all corners of the globe.

**Saturday 9 December 2017 8:15 pm**  
**Balkankoor Slavuj**  
Conductor: Ivo Boswijk

**Programme:** The light of a thousand Stars. Balkankoor Slavuj sing songs of hope and despair, to include the famous Armenian oratorio by Khachatur Avetisyan.

**Sunday 10 December 2017 3:15 pm**  
**Het Franz Liszt Kamerkoor**  
Conductor: Eric Jan Joesse  
Cees van de Poel: organ and piano

**Programme:** On the way to Bethlehem. To include works by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, Tomás Luis de Victoria, Hans Leo Hassler, Johann Pachelbel, Felix Mendelssohn and John Rutter.

**Thursday 14 December 2017 8:15 pm**  
**Final concert of the vocal project**  
**Bulgarian Polyphony**  
Conductor: Tatiana Lina

**Programme:** The project choir will sing traditional songs from various regions of Bulgaria. Guest performers: The world music quartet Rusalki will perform songs for mixed voices from many countries.

**Saturday 16 December 2017 1pm**  
**Het Randstedelijk Mannenkoor**  
Conductor: Arjan Breukhoven  
Matthijs Breukhoven: piano and organ  
Gerlinda v.d. Berg: pan flute

**Programme:** Well-loved Christmas classics to include: Stille Nacht, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, Joy to the World, Es ist ein Ros entsprungen and Carol Brothers Carol.

**Saturday 16 December 2017 8:15 hrs**  
**Coro Encanto**  
Conductor: Felix van den Hombergh

**Programme : Oggi è Nato**  
A concert of radiant Italian music to light up the dark days. Special Christmas music from Sardinia, Sicily, Corsica and mainland Italy. Atmospheric songs from the madrigal comedy L'Amfiparnaso by Orazio Vecchi. Also works by Claudio Monteverdi, Luzzasco Luzzaschi, Giovanni Gabrieli, Giuseppe Verdi and Ildebrando Pizzetti.



**Sunday 17 December 2017 3 :15 pm**  
**Het Plantagekoor, Vocaal Ensemble**  
**Amadeus and instrumental ensemble.**  
Conductor: Bert 't Hart  
Ireen van Bijnen: soprano  
David Cohen: countertenor  
Ruña 't Hart: violin

**Programme:**  
Johann Sebastian Bach: The Christmas  
Oratorio BWV 248 part 4 and 5  
Also works by Domenico Scarlatti en Giovanni  
Pierluigi da Palestrina



**Saturday 23 December 2017 3 :15 pm**  
**Het Rootskoor Amsterdam**  
Conductor: Herbert de Jonge

**Programme:**  
A Christmas programme to include:  
Orland di Lasso: Kyrie, Camille Saint-Saëns:  
Ave Verum, Gabriel Fauré: Cantique de Jean  
Racine and Benjamin Britten: A Child was born  
An Irish Blessing, Away in a Manger, Entre le  
boeuf et l'ane gris, Stille Nacht, Jul, jul  
stralende Jul and much more.

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## Junior Church Outing

On November 26th the Junior Church went out to lunch together. Afterwards they attended a current exhibition at the Nieuwe Kerk on Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, and Mandela. This gathering was both educational and a great opportunity for fellowship for our ERC teens (and yes, some adults got to go as well...).

*(Pictures courtesy of Veronica Garcia Robles)*



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# Short News and Activities

## Coffee Morning: Trip to Madurodam

Each year the group that organises the monthly coffee morning plans an outing for the visitors. This year they visited Madurodam in the Hague, the Netherlands in miniature.

Quite something to organise, since some members of the group needed a wheelchair to go about the place. After a tour of the park, a nice lunch was welcome.

Thanks to all who helped.

*(pictures courtesy of Els Nooij).*



## Reformation Celebration

We had a good gathering on September 29th when people from our church, from the Begijnhofkapel and residents from the Begijnhof gathered for a time of sharing of our different histories, some music and refreshments. Presentations included one by Kitty Bouman, Begijnhof resident and scholar, on the history of the Beguines. Richard Zook played some beautiful music from different periods in our history and most people stayed for refreshments and chat. A measure of the success of the occasion was that several people commented to me afterwards that we should do something like that more often.

Lance

## 20-30s Thanksgiving Potluck

The 20's and 30's group gathered on Friday, November 24th for a Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner together at the Manse. Those who came contributed to the meal by bringing along something to share among all. About 20 people attended and had a great time of fellowship as they came together in the spirit of Thanksgiving.

*(picture by Veronica Garcia Robles)*





## Welcoming newcomers

Since a couple of weeks ago, you can see a new phenomenon during coffee: The Welcome Desk. A recognisable point where new people in the church can go to for a chat, receive information about the church in general, membership, Christian education and social events. There is a general welcome brochure available, and if you want more information you can fill in a connect card that will be passed on to the appropriate person. If you are not so new to the church, then you are also welcome to see what else there might be.



## 20-30s Lunch continues

The 20s and 30s continue to meet every first Sunday of the month to have lunch together. Anyone in their 20s and 30s is invited to join us for this time of fellowship. The next gathering will take place on December 3rd. We will walk to a restaurant together after the service. For more information, contact Veronica Garcia-Robles, the Lay Assistant or Pastor Lance.

## 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](mailto:layassistant@ercadam.nl)

## Burns Night 27 January 2018

Please mark your calendars for this wonderful opportunity to be part of a Scottish historic and cultural event that commemorates the birthday of Robert Burns (1759-1796). Tartan, haggis, reciting of Address to a haggis, some whisky and definitely poetry and music are involved as the traditional rules will be followed. Scots have to recite or sing work by Burns, non-Scots can choose any work they like... More information via notice board and newsletter. If you would like to help, please send an email to [info@ercadam.nl](mailto:info@ercadam.nl) or sign up on the notice board.



# Membership notices

## Baptised

Gabriel Willem Mauny (19 November 2017)

## Deceased

Riet van Hoek (29 October 2017)

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**Input requested:**

We are looking for ways to adjust our means of communication to the needs of the congregation.

Do you only read news online? Would a Record once every three months be sufficient? Would you like to get more information via email? Please let us know. We will bring these questions to the various groups in church, but you can also give us your point of view via email ([info@ercadam.nl](mailto:info@ercadam.nl)).

Thank you.

**The Publicity Committee acts as editorial board for the Record:**  
Laura Elliot, 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 January 2018**

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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](http://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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