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# The Record

September 2018

Vol. 2018/3



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 thought I would use my letter in this edition of The Record to write about a very important event coming up very soon in the life of our Church: the meeting of the International Presbytery in October. I don't know how much people know about this but we all need to know what is going on - so forgive me if I'm telling you things you know perfectly well.

As a Church of Scotland we adopt a form of church government known as 'Presbyterian', which derives mainly from the great 16<sup>th</sup> century reformer John Calvin, a Frenchman who was based for much of his life in Geneva. Calvin organised his church in Geneva along what have become known as Presbyterian principles. These he derived from his study of the early church as described in the New Testament and they were imported to Scotland via the great reformer John Knox who spent time with Calvin in Geneva. (Attempts were made in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century to make the Church of England Presbyterian and they failed - but that is another story.)

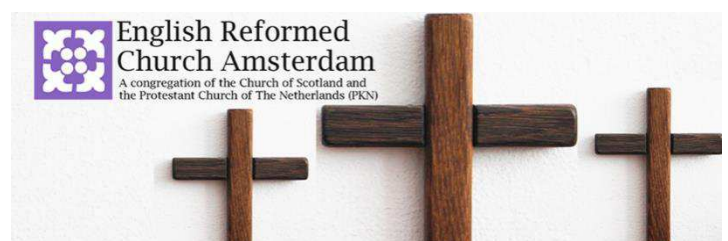
One important feature of Presbyterianism as it has developed since is that individual churches like ours are part of a network of churches, known as a Presbytery. This means that they are not entirely autonomous and self-governing but are subject to the Presbytery. Thus, for example, when I was inducted as minister here, this was done at a service conducted by the Presbytery and it was not simply a matter for the English Reformed Church. Similarly, with regard to certain matters relating to finance and property, we are under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery. Our church is part of the International Presbytery which includes congregations of the Church of Scotland all over the world - 16 churches in 14 countries at last count. The International Presbytery meets twice per year with - according to good Presbyterian principles - each church represented by its minister and one elder. And this time it's our turn!

The date of Presbytery is the weekend of October 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>, so representatives from all these churches will be gathering here then and will be present at our service on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Meetings will be taking place in various locations - the main one taking place on Friday evening and Saturday and which anyone is welcome to attend. There will be a programme for spouses of ministers and elders and a fair amount of food to be prepared and shared.

We are going to need quite a bit of help and support for all this so that we can give our international brothers and sisters a warm welcome and generous hospitality. Nearer the time there will be more publicity and we will be looking for help. Let's try to make this a very memorable weekend for all.

With all good wishes,

Lance



# Report from Consistory

With the past warm weeks behind us, the June and July Consistory meetings already seem long ago. Another factor that contributes to this feeling is the fact that this Record comes out three months after the last issue. Given the fact that we have so many other ways of informing the congregation (newsletter, notice board, website, Facebook page etc) Consistory decided to reduce the number of issues to four a year, following the advice of the Publicity committee.

## Membership

On June 24th Enzo Slangen, the son of Paula Vieira de Almeida and Erwin Slangen, was baptised.

Iain and Celeste Majcher had triplets. Iain, now studying Divinity in Edinburgh, was an elder in this church, Celeste youth worker. The family is doing fine.

In the autumn all members and adherents on our membership roll will receive a letter to confirm their details and give options for contact, all in the light of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

## Student minister will start at the end of September

Alexander Noordijk, proposed Student Minister, presented himself during the June meeting and Consistory members had a chance to ask Alexander questions. Alexander, who has a lot of experience working as a youth worker for the PKN, is presently finishing his training in ministry within the Protestantse Kerk Nederland. Consistory decided to invite Alexander to our congregation as Student Minister. Alexander will work at the ERC 7 hours a week, he will be in church two Sundays a month and will be appointed from September 2018 to November 2019.

## Finance

Thorsten presented the income and expenditure overview for May. The trend of income slowly declining is continuing. Towards the end of the year we might want to think about a stewardship effort.

## Property

The wooden floors of the Consistory room and of the Deaconry room will be sanded and undergo further maintenance.

Jaap now has regular meetings with the priest of the Catholic Chapel and with a representative of the Stichting Het Begijnhof. Topics, *inter alia*, are a safety plan for the Begijnhof and devising some measures to contain the stream of tourists to the Begijnhof.

The annual inspection of the manse has recently taken place. As a result, a number of minor refurbishments will have to be made.

## Outreach

Two social events went well: a dinner with refugees attended by people from the ERC and representatives of other churches too, and a theatrical performance at the public library.

Shelter requests: a number of requests were received. Shelter requests are routed directly to Pastor Lance, who processes them further.

The ERCadam team raised €2500 for Stichting Vluchtelingenwerk walking 10 kilometres in the Night of the Refugee on June 16.

### Publicity

The privacy statement, in light of the GDPR, is available on the website of the ERC. The publicity committee is working on a proposal for cloud storage of documents, and a replacement for the outside sign of the church on the Spui.

### Church Community

The ERC Church picnic was held on July 8 in the grounds of the Wereldhuis. You can find a report on this event elsewhere in this Record. The 70th Anniversary of the World Council of Churches will be marked with a symposium, a walk of peace and a prayer service on August 23.

### Mark this date: Thursday November 29

Preparations for the annual Mulanje Mission Hospital Fundraiser are well under way. The project this year is a solar powered digital X-ray machine. We aim to raise a part of the necessary funds. The evening will be centred around Tchaikovsky. Richard Zook and Iain Goldcrust will play parts of the Nut cracker. Giles will play with Fred Edelen (cello).

### General Assembly

Pastor Lance, Baafi and Ingrid reported back to Consistory from the General Assembly they had attended in Edinburgh. A report has already been published in the previous edition of this magazine.

The next meeting of Consistory will be held on Thursday September 6.

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

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## Night of the Refugee 2018



On Saturday, June 16th, around 10 people from the ERC participated in a 10 km sponsored walk as part of the Nacht van de Vluchteling. This was the second time we have joined this event, with the goal to raise money for refugees, meeting all kinds of needs from providing emergency food and shelter to support for those suffering from trauma.

This year the ERC team was able to raise more than EUR 2,500, which was a big increase on last year. Thanks to all who donated for this good cause. We hope that many at the ERC will participate in next year's walk again: we aim to walk 20km then.

*Thijs Glasz*

# Coffee Morning Club Outing 2018

This year's outing was a big success, and do you know why? I will tell you, but first something about the Coffee Club as such. Of course, we cannot beat the Sunday school, but apart from that, this club is one of the longest existing activities in our Church. Mainly elderly people come, some of them disabled.

Still they can come, because there are also members with cars who will see to that. If you should have to plan an outing for this group, would you choose one with three different locations in, say 6 hours? Probably not, but Elly Kalf and Joke de Bruin thought differently and thanks to their careful planning, all went well!

At 9.00 o'clock we assembled at Elly's place, to go to Bergen, for coffee and cakes. The Baristo Bar "Julie" was an excellent venue, which we all enjoyed.



But not for long because after an hour or so, we went off to the Museum "Kranenburgh". In the invitation it said that an exhibition of modern art had just been opened. Modern art, elderly people? But that was no problem, there was also a lovely garden and the weather was not too bad! And some of us really enjoyed what the museum had to offer.

After a couple of hours, we had to go again, direction seaside. Elly and Joke made again an excellent choice, Beach Pavilion "EVI". It was a bit windy, but they told us that it was lovely on the terrace. That was true, and we could eat outside. Mind you, it was the 5th of June, long before the heatwave started. The food was very good; everybody could choose what they fancied.

From the photographs, taken by Els Nooy, you can see that we all had a wonderful and interesting day. A big thank you to all who made that possible!

The next Coffee Morning, to open the new season, is at the home of Ans van Saagsvelt in Hoofddorp, on the 4th of September 2018

*Ans van Saagsvelt*



# Music Notes

After a well-deserved summer break, the choir is now back in full swing for another season. You may have noticed in recent years that the choir no longer adheres strictly to a schedule of singing only once a month, on the second Sunday. We do our best to provide good music for the services as often as possible, certainly not missing any of the festival services or special occasions in the church year. I plan to list the “choir Sundays” on the calendar of the church website, and it should also go out with the weekly newsletter. We will certainly be singing the second Sunday of September as well as the last Sunday, which is **Harvest** celebration. For that service we will welcome a small orchestra and soloists for Haydn’s “The Heavens Are Telling,” which you last heard here for the big 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary service in 2007 - high time to bring it out again!

It may seem strange to talk about Christmas music while we’re still sitting out at the cafés in nice weather, but the next issue of *The Record* won’t come out until the beginning of December, so you might want to mark some things on your calendar before it’s too late! This year’s **Carols By Candlelight**, our annual service of *Nine Lessons and Carols*, will be on Friday, 14 Dec. at 20:00. You won’t want to miss this glorious, evening service in the beautifully decorated, candle-lit English Church - a chance for you all to join in singing Christmas carols and to listen to the Christmas story. It’s also the perfect opportunity to invite your friends and family! There’s no place like the ERC for the holidays!

The choir will also participate again this year in the joint carol service held in the Singel Kerk with our good neighbors from around the Spui, the Lutheran, Catholic, and Mennonite communities. This is always a delightful service, this year held on Sunday afternoon, 16 Dec. at 16:00.

In previous annual reports I’ve mentioned plans to purchase new choir robes. While this project is as yet “out of sight,” it is definitely not out of mind. We still hope to re-dress the choir in the coming season, and you may notice some choir fund-raising activities to that end.

Watch the calendar for more music news and dates. And do be sure to read further in this issue about the **Mulanje Benefit Concert** on 29 November!

Richard Zook

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## Concerts in the church

Please consult our website for up to date information on concerts

<http://www.ercadam.nl/activities/concerts/upcoming-concerts>

Or visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ERCamsterdam/>



*The Churcher's College Junior Choir that visited last July*

# Presbytery is coming to Amsterdam

The English Reformed Church is part of the International Presbytery, since 2016 a full-fledged Presbytery within the Church of Scotland. Every six months presbyters (ministers and elders in preferably equal numbers) come together to discuss matters of the Presbytery. Each year the Presbytery elect ministers and elders to represent the Presbytery in the General Assembly held in Edinburgh, which is the highest church body. Both Presbyteries and the Church of Scotland are presided over by a Moderator, who changes each year.

In October (12th -14th) around 35-40 Presbyters from congregations in Rotterdam, Lausanne, Brussels, Geneva, Budapest, Gibraltar, Paris, Colombo, Bochum, Malta, Lisbon, Bermuda, Jerusalem and Fuengirola will come together in Amsterdam. Our church is hosting this occasion.



*Members of Presbytery at St Andrew's Church, Lisbon, March 2018*

The presbyters will meet officially on Friday and Saturday (in the halls of the Lutheran Church and the Betty Asfalt Theatre). On Saturday evening there will be a formal dinner in restaurant Luden on the Spuistraat.

All those coming would appreciate meeting members of our congregation, not just elders, and there will be some places available at the dinner on Saturday evening (cost around € 40 per head for presbyters and members alike). The presbyters will join us in Worship on October 14th, followed by a potluck lunch (provided by us all).

And if you can spare some time on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning, we would love some assistance in various tasks, e.g. accompanying our guests from their hotel in Buitenveldert to the church, making lunch on Friday, and helping with a dinner for the participants on Friday evening.

Please contact me if you would like to help, and/or join us at the dinner on Saturday October 13th.

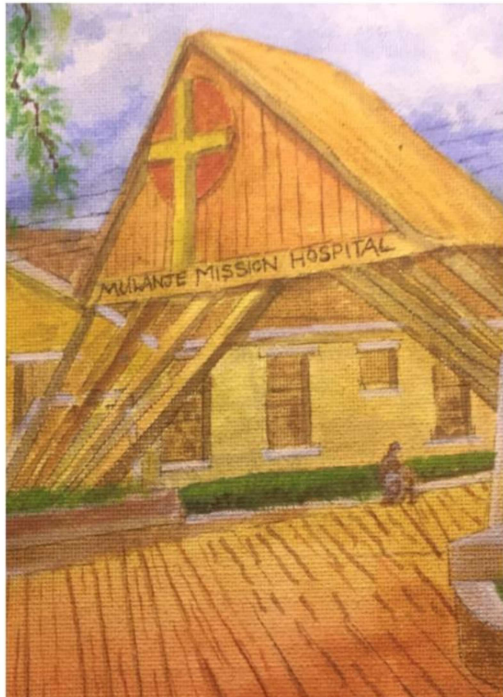
*Heleen Koning*  
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06-13097756

*Presbyterianism is a part of the [reformed tradition](#) within [Protestantism](#) which traces its origins to [Britain](#), particularly [Scotland](#), and [Ireland](#).*

*Presbyterian (or presbyteral) polity is a method of church governance ("ecclesiastical polity") typified by the rule of assemblies of presbyters, or elders. Each local church is governed by a body of elected elders usually called the session or consistory. Groups of local churches are governed by a higher assembly of elders known as the presbytery or classis; presbyteries nationwide often join together in a general assembly. Responsibility for conduct of church services is reserved to an ordained minister or pastor known as a teaching elder, or a minister of the word and sacrament. [Source Wikipedia]*



# Mulanje Mission Hospital Benefit Concert



Figuur 1 Painting by Richard Stokoe

A Date for your Diary: the 2018 benefit concert will be held in our church on Thursday November 29th at 20:00 hrs.

This year's project is once again sponsored by Wilde Ganzen.

The ticket price is a donation of €25, and the funds raised will help provide the hospital with a Solar-Powered X-Ray machine.

To reserve your tickets or to make a donation please contact Ingrid Sorensen +31646077045, or email: [mmh@ercadam.nl](mailto:mmh@ercadam.nl)

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## MMH benefit concert: The Programme

The annual **Mulanje Benefit Concert** has a long history of programmes of the best music performed by some of the best musicians in what is one of the best musical towns in the world. We are indeed fortunate here at the ERC of Amsterdam! This year is no exception. We welcome four outstanding, local musicians, each with his own connection to the ERC.

The first half of the programme will feature the *Piano Trio no.1 in D minor* by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847). It is considered one of his greatest chamber works, and one of his most popular. Due to changing musical tastes (and, alas, anti-Semitism) Mendelssohn's works fell out of favour in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Today, fortunately, his genius is recognised (Schumann called him "the Mozart of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century") and his works are popular among performers and audiences alike.

Our performers will be **Giles Francis** (violin), **Fred Edelen** (cello) and **Ian Gaukroger** (piano). 'Our own' Giles needs perhaps no introduction, but few people in the church realise just what an accomplished and busy musician this Englishman is. Playing violin as well as viola, he is much sought-after by orchestras and chamber ensembles in both the Netherlands and Great Britain. If you've never seen him in the pit of the Muziek Theater or on the stage of the Concertgebouw or on one of the musical programmes on TV, then you haven't been paying attention. He has also graciously shared his talents in numerous Mulanje Benefit concerts over the years, going back to the very beginning of the series.

Joining him will be American cellist **Fred Edelen**, also not unfamiliar to members of this congregation. Fred was last heard here in June when he joined his wife and organist

Christina to play for one of the Sunday services. While they considered this ‘their’ church when first arriving in Amsterdam, work obligations (Fred is a member of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra) and Christina’s post as organist at a church in The Hague pulled them away from regular attendance. Nevertheless, the ERC still feels like home and we are very pleased to have Fred ‘return’ to us for this occasion. Like Giles, Fred, too, has played in previous Mulanje Benefit concerts and he was happy to fit this around his busy schedule with the orchestra.

The pianist **Ian Gaukroger**, born and raised in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) is ever-present in this church in a less obvious, but no less appreciated way. It was Ian who kindly sold his splendid piano to the church three years ago for a price that can only be considered a donation to the church. We are ever grateful! Ian has played with every major Dutch orchestra since arriving here from his previous activities in and as soloist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. Like all our players in this concert, Ian is an accomplished chamber musician with wide knowledge of the repertoire and experience with every formation from soloist to large orchestra.

After the interval the programme will turn to Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) with a transcription for piano/four hands of his *Suite from the Nutcracker Ballet*. This perennial favorite loses nothing in its transition from orchestra to piano. It is a virtuosic tour de force for both players and a delight for the audience. Joining Ian will be our own organist **Richard Zook**. Born and raised in America, Richard trained as an organist as well as a singer. After moving to the Netherlands he made the choice to pursue a singing career, which he did with success for 35 years, singing with the major professional ensembles in the Netherlands as well as performing as soloist in concerts and operas here and abroad. As we know, Richard returned to his ‘roots’ when he accepted the position of organist/director of music at the ERC. With the singing career now behind him, he is delighted to be able to inject his broad musical experience into the church music programme.

Richard and Ian have previously played together, and performing this suite has long been on their wish list. Ian has played with Giles. Giles has played with Fred. Richard has sung with Fred. Giles has played for Richard. But the four of them are delighted to be playing all together for the first time in one concert. We hope you all can come - with your friends - to share in this marvellous programme.



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## 20s & 30s activities

### Mark your calendars

#### Mexican Potluck and Movie Night

On Friday, September 21st, the 20s & 30s group will meet at 18:30 at the Manse for a Mexican Potluck and Movie Night. This is a great chance for the group to enjoy both a time of great fellowship, tasty food and a good movie. If you are in your 20s or 30s and would like to join us, please let Pastor Lance or Veronica, the ERC Lay Assistant (at [layassistant@ercadam.nl](mailto:layassistant@ercadam.nl)), know, so that we know how many people to expect and what food you might bring to share.

## Light Lunch and Bible Study

On Sunday, September 30th, the 20s & 30s group will be having a light lunch and Bible Study at the Manse at 13:00 (after the service). If you are in your 20s or 30s and would like to join us, please let Pastor Lance or Veronica know so that we know how many people to expect.

## Monthly Luncheon

The 20s & 30s group continues to meet up the first Sunday of every month after the service for a time of fellowship over lunch. If you would like to join us, please let Pastor Lance or Veronica know, or ask us for more information.

*Veronica Garcia,  
Lay assistant*



*The July lunch*

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## Summer picnic

On Sunday, July 8th, the ERC held its annual summer picnic in the grounds of Het Wereldhuis at the Nieuwe Herengracht.

We were very lucky with beautiful weather, a clear sky and no rain. At least 70 people from the ERC and Het Wereldhuis attended the picnic, sharing drinks and a meal together and enjoying each other's company.

The Ethiopian coffee made by Hannah, Alem and Ruth was a big hit and special thanks to them for their contribution. Pastor Lance brought his famous game of Smite along and many of us joined in the fun.



With all the wonderful food and snacks that were prepared by our congregation the ERC Summer Picnic was, once again, a tremendous success. A word of thanks to Ingrid and Thijs for coordinating the logistics and preparations.

We are already looking forward to our picnic next summer.

Photographs by Jens Anders Wejsmark Sørensen

# 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. The next coffee mornings will be held on the following Tuesdays:

4 September at the home of Ans van Saagsvelt-Melse in Hoofddorp

2 October at the home of Joke de Bruin

6 November at the home of Elly Kalf-van Beusekom

4 December at the home of Pat Rood-van Beem in Sassenheim



## 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).

During the autumn in our fortnightly Bible Studies we are going to be studying the Book of Daniel, a book that has fascinating contemporary relevance and which is crucial for Jesus' understanding of himself. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 19.30 hrs at 9, Jan Willem Brouwersstraat, 1071LH. All welcome.

## 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 and to welcome visitors. 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 Anniëk van Engelenburg or Sally Stone (you can reach them by sending an email via [info@ercadam.nl](mailto:info@ercadam.nl) or put your name on the list on the notice board).

## 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.

## 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 visitors to the homeless shelter De Kloof. A great outreach. If you are interested, please contact Tom at [dekloof@ercadam.nl](mailto:dekloof@ercadam.nl)

## Men's Group

A varied and exciting programme for the Men's Group is on offer as we aim to meet every two months in the coming year. We are meeting on Thursday September 27th at 19.30 at 9 Jan Willem Brouwersstraat to watch the film 'Come Sunday' about a bishop and rising star among evangelicals who runs into trouble for questioning the existence of hell. Should



# MEN'S GROUP

## Program for 2018/19

Thursday 27 September 2018: Come Sunday (film)  
Thursday 22 November 2018: Bowling  
Sunday 30 December 2018: New Year get-together  
Thursday 31 January 2019: Board game Articulate  
Thursday 28 March 2019: The Last Temptation of Christ (film)  
Thursday 30 May 2019: Game of petanque  
Thursday 25 July 2019: Discussion on a religious text

If you want to be on the mailing list please contact  
Jens Sorensen 0681242403 / [webmaster@ercadam.nl](mailto:webmaster@ercadam.nl)

provoke some interesting discussion!

## 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

Sunday School and Junior Church start up again on Sunday, September 9th for children from ages 4-11 years.

During this service, we will also pray for our Sunday School and Junior Church Students, and both returning and new Sunday School and Junior Church Teachers. Students who will be moving on to Junior Church will be receiving the gift of Bibles that day.

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)

# Finance Report

## Income January - June 2018, Amounts in €

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018 vs 2017</u>
Donations	33,905.98	37,405.13	- 3,499.15
Collections	25,535.57	24,219.32	1,316.25
Church hire	9,476.40	10,628.40	- 1,152.00
Concerts	8,875.00	7,473.24	1,401.76
Weddings	1,575.00	4,000.00	- 2,425.00
Church shop	240.00	450.00	- 210.00
Flowers	105.75	197.25	- 91.50
	<b>79,713.70</b>	<b>84,373.34</b>	<b>- 4,659.64</b>

AS you read this issue of the Record I hope you had a great time enjoying the wonderful weather with a lot of sun, either here in The Netherlands or wherever you have been.

You may wonder what this has to do with the finances of our congregation. Despite the holiday season we continued to meet our financial obligations: paying for electricity, water, gas (less in the summer ☺), and salaries - just to mention a few.

But even though the sun is shining in my garden while I write this, there are still clouds overshadowing our financial situation - as I reported in the last Record. Our income slowly but steadily declines, while our expenses remain stable. Or they even slightly increase, as there is always something to be replaced or being repaired.

GOD has given us such a gorgeous summer this year, could you consider sharing some of the joy also in monetary form with our congregation?

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

Thorsten König, Treasurer

# Membership notices

## Baptised

Enzo Slangen

son of Erwin Slangen and Paula de Almeida Vieira  
24 June 2018

## Deceased

Ms Yke Jongejeugd  
20 November 1930 - 15 July 2018

Ms Elize Caroline Clementine Jacobs  
Lily  
29 August 1926 - 31 July 2018



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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 for the Record is Sascha Sizoo - Adema (06 132 59394), [sascha.adema@hetnet.nl](mailto:sascha.adema@hetnet.nl)  
The deadline for the next Record is 8th November 2018

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Nick Thomas	06 11885017
Laura Verhaaf	06 26423799
Gillian Walker	06 40586654
Sarah Ying Wang	06 46732109
Pamela Woolley	06 21151921



English Reformed  
Church Amsterdam

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