

# ANGLICAN NEWS



## Called to be Saints

*An invitation to our Quiet Day.—see inside for details*

THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE, ANTWERP

Anglican / Episcopalian

Nr. 327

September/October 2009

## THE CHURCH OF SAINT BONIFACE, ANTWERP

*Anglican / Episcopalian*

www.boniface.be

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

09:00 HOLY EUCHARIST (BCP)

10:30 SUNG EUCHARIST Creche and Sunday School.  
Coffee and lunch afterwards in the Church Hall

EVENSONG: As Announced

WEEKDAY EUCHARISTS:

Tuesday 19:30 Thursday 10:30

## The Chaplain writes -

The end of the Church's year matches the mood of autumn—there are days of gathering darkness and others of brilliant gold. The flashes of autumn gold give us memories to take us through the cold dark days of winter as the old year dies and a new one awaits.

The darker side of the season is reflected in the liturgies for Remembrance Sunday and for All Souls' day, when we remember the victims of war, and our own faithful departed. At St Boniface, the Requiem for All Souls will be on Monday November 2nd at 10-30am. The Remembrance Sunday service will be on Sunday November 8th at 6-30pm, and will be attended this year by the British Ambassador, Dr Rachel Aron.

All Saints' Day, which will be celebrated on Sunday November 1st gives us one of those brilliant flashes of hope in a darkening world. This year, Fr Aidan CR will be with us to make the most of this weekend.

The culmination of the Church's year is, of course, the Feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday in our liturgical calendar. It falls this year on November 22nd. The festival is like a great Hallelujah Chorus of praise to the Christ who says to us, *Behold, I make all things new*. It is a defiant celebration in the face of everything in our world that is subject to the powers of darkness and the deadening apathy that blights so many people these days. This year

we will be baptising a child at our Sung Eucharist—surely another sign of hope and light.

There will be other signs of hope and renewal too, as the roofers, builders, glaziers and restorers begin to take over our tired old building to “make all things new” once again. These are exciting times!

Without the sure hope of spring and new life, winter darkness can only bring despair and depression. Without the sure hope of the Resurrection, all the ceremonial remembering of Remembrance and All Souls isn't worth much. Without the hope that our Christian faith brings, a restored gothic building is practically useless.

Sustaining everything, from winter blues to the emptiness of bereavement is our Christian faith—and like our church building, it needs a bit of work doing on it now and again. I hope that a good number of new faces will join us for the Quiet Day Saturday October 31st—All Saints Eve, when we will be led by one of the Church of England's best known spiritual directors into discovering our own prayer life and holiness. This is a great way to bring light and confidence and hope into our busy lives. At this time of the year, I think we will really appreciate that.

Fr Andrew

# Called to be Saints

Saturday Oct 31st 11am—4-30pm



Father Aidan CR

How often do you put time aside for a few hours of quiet and reflection? Probably not often enough!

On Saturday 31 October we are offering you the opportunity to do just this under the guidance of Father Aidan CR from the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield West Yorkshire.

The Community of the Resurrection is a Benedictine Order of Anglican Monks who live their lives according to the rules of Benedict which are: Stability, Obedience and Conversion of Life. In addition they are committed to simplicity of life, community of goods, celibacy, and many other things .

We are most fortunate in being able to offer you this opportunity to experience a quiet day with such a gifted leader. Father Aidan will be staying on to worship with

us on Sunday 1 November and will be preaching for us that day.

If you would like to join us please let

Fr Andrew know either by 'phone, email or personally after one of the services. We would like to have an idea of numbers by October 25.

The day will start at 10:30 and finish at 16:00. Lunch is included and the cost is €10.

You can discover more about the Community of the Resurrection on their website: [www.mirfieldcommunity.org](http://www.mirfieldcommunity.org).

**We hope you see you there!**

## Parish Matters—Financial update

### Stewardship

We are very pleased to report that we now have 50 members-individuals and families-of our Stewardship Scheme, all of whom make regular payments to help to keep our church running. Our thanks to our Stewardship Officer, Michael Smith, who can be contacted on '03 238 29 51.

### Plate Collections

Our plate collections have improved since our last newsletter-many thanks to those

who have increased their giving on the Sundays they are worshipping with us.

Please do get in touch in case you have any questions about the financial situation of the church—*John Varghese-Churchwarden & Treasurer vzw*

**Thank you for the generous contributions you make—these help to keep YOUR church running!**

## Harvest thanks

“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness....” The children are settled back in school, the nights are drawing in and getting colder, the leaves are beginning to fall and there’s clearing-up to do in the garden, but it is time to give God thanks for his goodness at the Harvest Festival.

On Saturday, October 3rd, the ladies brought their gifts of flowers, fruit and vegetables, both fresh and tinned. From the humble potato to exotic fruit, they all provided a colourful display.

In the afternoon the church held its annual Animal Service. The pets were well behaved and Fr. Andrew blessed them all individually. There was a tiny Chihuahua, a very lively Labrador and several greyhounds, and a very special cat, but there was no trouble and no mess – St. Francis would have been very pleased.

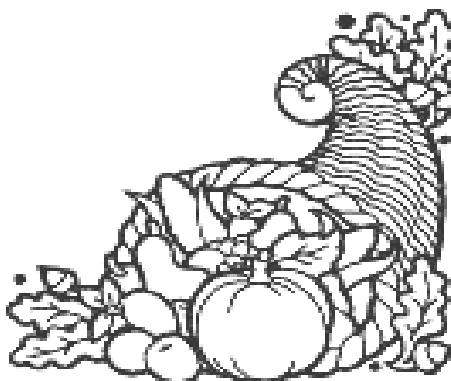
The Sunday Harvest Festival service was well attended and the children brought their own contributions of fruit. It was a joyous time of prayer and worship followed by a special Harvest Lunch. There was delicious pumpkin soup, a selection of casseroles and a large selection of desserts made by members of the Guild.

Monday morning, bright and early, the church was stripped of the fruit and vegetables. These were divided into boxes and baskets for distribution. The dry goods were taken to the Protestant Social Centre to be handed out to the poor and unemployed in the centre of Antwerp. The vegetables and some of the fruit were taken to the children’s home in

Deurne. The baskets of fruit and pots of flowers were taken to the senior members of the congregation who are living on their own, some who are housebound and some living in care-homes and not able to get to church. Their reactions were of pleasure and gratitude – “Is that really for me?” – “I never expected anything like this.” – “The plant brightens up my room.” – “May I keep the basket?” – “Give my love to those who remember me.”

All gifts were distributed in 2 days. This had to be done quickly while the produce was still fresh. Nobody wants to receive droopy greens or bruised and over-ripe fruit. Grateful thanks are extended to all those who donated gifts for our Harvest Festival. You have brought pleasure to all those who accepted the baskets and boxes. This has been shown by the many cards and telephone calls thanking the members of the church for their generosity.

If you missed the Harvest Festival this year it is hoped that you will be able to participate in 2010, with either gifts, decorating or distributing.



## Christmas Fayre

It's that time of year again when we are starting to think about and plan our Christmas Fayre. This year it will be on December 5 from 11 to 16:00 in the Church Hall and Vicarage gardens.

Please put the date in your diary now and make a point of dropping in with your friends to buy some of your Christmas gifts and decorations, stock up on Christmas produce, enjoy a glass of mulled wine or linger in the Hall for a cosy chat and lunch or tea with cake.

It's a chance to catch up with your friends



and you'll be supporting your church.

More information will be in the November newsletter but why not make a note of the date now? If you'd like to run a stall please contact Deacon Ann Babb.

### Restoration work

Work will be starting very soon on the restoration of the church. We do not anticipate a great deal of hinder at this stage but do keep an eye on the weekly sheet or the website for regular updates. [www.boniface.be](http://www.boniface.be)

## Dates for your diary

October 20, 20:00	Parish Council meeting in Vicarage
<b>Saturday October 31</b> from 10:30 to 16:00	<b>Quiet Day Church and Hall</b> <b>see page 4 for details</b>
Sunday November 8, 18:30	RBL Service of Remembrance
Saturday November 21, 10:00	ACB meeting—Brugge, info Fr Andrew
Sunday November 22, 12:30	Ham & Turkey lunch, info Deacon Ann Babb
Saturday November 28, 11-16:00	MTS Bazaar - Stella Maris, Italiaiei
Saturday December 5, 11 -16:00	St Boniface Christmas Fayre
Saturday December 19, 19:00	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

## Bishop's Advent Appeal-ChildAid

Each year Bishop Geoffrey writes to the churches in the Diocese in Europe to recommend a charity that we might like to support during the Advent season. Here at St Boniface it is our habit to hold retiring collections for these charities and to pass on the money to the Diocese.

This year The charity Childaid has been recommended to us. This Christian charity was founded in 1973 and does

dexcellent work among the disadvantaged children and young people in Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine.

Bishop Geoffrey is Patron of the charity and admires the work they do. Much of it is in partnership projects in countries that form part of our our vast diocese.

Please remember this worthy cause during Advent!

## Shoe-Box appeal 2009

Peace, hope, love, joy... It's amazing what you can fit in a shoebox.

The impact just one of these gift-filled shoeboxes can have is enormous. This Christmas, share the power of a simple gift and remind a child in need that God loves them and that they have not been forgotten.

### How can I get involved?

It couldn't be easier, if you have a shoebox, you're ready to begin. All you need to do is ask Sharmini for the promotional leaflet to prepare your

shoebox. Then bring your filled shoebox and €5 to cover delivery to St Boniface Church on a Sunday between 1st & 18th November.

Your box will then be processed by our volunteers and sent to its destination to be distributed through local overseas churches and charities.

**For more information please contact Sharmini Jacobs on 03 354 01 43.**

*Please help us to make a difference this Christmas!*

## Reading Group

Our last book was 'The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher or The Murder at Road Hill House' by Kate Summerscale. The current book - to be discussed at our October meeting—is the latest P.D. James novel - 'The Private Patient' The November read

is 'The Guernsey Library & Potato Peel Pie Society'.

Discussions are held at Michael & Maureen Smith's home on a Friday afternoon but there will be no meeting in December. Suggestions are requested for our January book.

If you would like to join the group please contact Michael Smith or Deacon Ann.

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