

St Boniface Anglican News

St Boniface Anglican Church

Grétrystraat, 2018 Antwerpen www.boniface.be



Christmas Fayre



Saturday

December 2

11:00–16:00

Christmas lunch,
English goods, books, decorations
Irish coffee, cakes, tea, coffee,
tombola &c &c

The Church of St Boniface Antwerp
www.boniface.be

Nr. 371
October - December 2017

The Church of Saint Boniface, Antwerp
Anglican / Episcopalian
www.boniface.be

Facebook - St Boniface Anglican Church, Antwerp

Chaplain	The Rev'd Canon Andrew Wagstaff SSC email Fr Andrew: chaplain@boniface.be	03 239 33 39
MTS & Port chaplain	The Rev'd Brian Millson	03 233 34 75
Reader & Lay Prison Chaplain	Mr Egbert van Groesen	0470 67 35 46
Churchwardens	Mr Edward Hielt Lay Canon Ann Turner	03 449 44 14 03 440 25 81

Services

SUNDAY	09:00	HOLY EUCHARIST (BCP)	
	10:30	SUNG EUCHARIST	Coffee / lunch in the Hall
WEEKDAY	Tuesday at 19:30 Thursday at 10:30 Saturday 10:30		
	Confession by appointment with the clergy		

Bank Accounts

Belgium	vzw Stewardship & Donations	BE87 2200 7812 9694
	Kerkfabriek & Anglican News	BE57 2200 2369 7035
The Netherlands Stichting Saint Boniface Foundation, Vlissingen		
Postbank Giro Account 426.00.80		

The Friends of St Boniface is recognised by the tax authorities in the Netherlands and has an ANBI listing. For more information, contact Mr Immanuel John.

Anglican News Annual subscription

€ 14 (Belgium), € 20 (Europe), € 30 (outside Europe)
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The Chaplain writes

This Advent is going to be one focussing on our journeying. There is the long journey of God's people, looking forward to the coming of the Messiah which speaks to us of faith and hope, even in the most challenging circumstances. There is the journeying of Mary and Joseph setting out into the unknown darkness of a sinister and dangerous world carrying with them the most precious gift ever given - the infant Son of God - journey that remind us of the countless similar journeys made by vulnerable migrants in our own age. As the Christmas story unfolds, we hear of the journey of the Magi, wise men who through their persistence and intellect find the Christ child, and through their gifts help us understand just who and what he is to be.

God with us: Your Christmas Journey is our Advent guide to the journey we all make at Christmas. the Archbishop of Canterbury writes:"

Christmas can be a time to pause and unwrap the true gifts of Christmas - a moment of peace in the busy-ness, a breakthrough of



hope in our sadness or a rediscovery of love in a relationship that has become stressed.

This Advent booklet seeks to help you explore what the Christmas story might mean in your life. The constant refrain of Christmas, in carols and readings is that God is with us. In whatever situations you find yourself in this Christmas, God is with you.

Copies of the booklet are available in church, price 2 euro; they can be used at home, or on Thursday mornings at our informal Advent group, which meets after the 10:30 Eucharist.

Join us on the journey of a lifetime!

R.I.P.

Luc Michielsen died peacefully on 17 October after a long illness. May he rest in peace.

Reflections and report from Lucy Hess on her first Archdeaconry Synod

The Archdeaconry of North West Europe held its Synod at the beginning of October in the Abbey at Drongen. During the welcome session Bishop Robert delivered a thoughtful and thought-provoking presentation of some of the specific challenges faced by the Diocese in Europe. These include: ecological threats; the refugee and migration crisis; insecurity in the East; religion and violence; economic injustice; questions of nationalism (including identity & Brexit) and continuing secularisation. Bishop Robert explained each of these in further detail, underlining their interconnectedness and the need to address them together. In case these problems seem insurmountable, he reminded us that ours is a Gospel of Hope that we should proclaim afresh in our new age.

Bishop Robert demonstrated this by describing some of the ways in which the Church is tackling these problems head on and where we witness hope in action. These activities range from the more secular to the spiritual, via the horticultural! In tackling the

ecological threat for example, the Church Commissioners are working with other pension funds and financial institutions in developing an initiative to hold companies to account over carbon emissions. At the other end of the scale inner-city chaplaincies have turned over what little outdoor space they have, to greenhouses to nurture the land and grow their own fruit and vegetables. As the largest institution in the world, if all Christians took up the challenge of protecting the environment we could save the world!

Other areas where we witness the renewal of hope are the continually improving relations between Anglicans and the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. These strengthening links are very important during dangerous times.

In Izmir, Turkey, there is again a burgeoning Christian community with its own chaplain, whilst Ankara recently saw over 50 Iranian refugees confirmed.

In Serbia the Diocese has been working with the Serbian

cont'd on P7

Bishop's Advent Appeal 2017

Nafuma Refugee Centre, Rome

This year's Advent Appeal aims to support homeless refugees and asylum seekers in Rome with humanitarian assistance (a daily, cooked breakfast and essential items for personal dignity and warmth) for 6 months. We are doing this through a well-established and well-run project established by our Episcopal sister church of St. Paul's Within the Walls.

The Nafuma Refugee Center is the major outreach ministry of St Paul's Within the Walls Episcopal Church in Rome. The center assists approximately 17,000 people per year, and is the only day center open to receive homeless asylum seekers and refugees in Rome. They can be as young as 18 or 19.

While they wait for shelter, they are welcomed at JNRC, given a nutritious,

cooked breakfast, as well as items for their personal dignity (toiletries, second-hand shoes, clothes and blankets), and offered legal advice. If they wish, they can join a language lesson, learn to use a computer or simply watch the news on the TV. JNRC has a multi-faith prayer space where guests can meditate and pray. deportations from Scandinavia.

We aim to raise enough money to support the breakfast programme and to provide basic supplies and sleeping bags for JNRC guests for 6 months, this totals £13,250.

If you wish to donate to this appeal please send to or give via Immanuel John our vzw treasurer, carefully marking your donation Advent Appeal.



Running the Berlin Marathon

After 64 solitary training runs it is time for the big event, the Berlin marathon. Forty eight thousand runners group together in the park, eagerly awaiting the start of the race. A million spectators line the streets, the drizzly weather cannot dampen their enthusiasm. The atmosphere is electric and literally explodes when the Mayor of Berlin sends the runners towards their ordeal. A huge running train starts to roll through the streets of Berlin. As I cross the starting grid the adrenalin kicks in giving me a healthy boost. The track is wet and littered with puddles. 10 kilometers are covered in a mere 54 minutes, the halfway mark in 1 hour 53 minutes. My sports watch whispers to me to slow down. I throttle back to 135 heartbeats per minute.

As expected the organisation shines with German efficiency, en route beer-stalls fuel the runners and energy drinks bring much needed relief to the cheery crowd (or was it

the other way around ?). Germany at its very best.

At kilometer 35 the man with the hammer strikes, the running train almost grinds to a halt, runners become walkers, my body cries out to slow down. I glance at the faces of my fellow runners and agony is written all over them, the suffering unites us. My mind decides to persevere at the same pace and ignore the pain. At last the pain eases and before long Berlin's most famous icon, the Brandenburg Tor, is in sight, marking the last stretch of the race. I try to pick up speed but my tired legs refuse. Emotions run high as exhausted bodies stumble and fall across the finish line. The Red Cross is quick at hand to raise the fallen heroes. My watch reads 3 hours and 47 minutes.

Just for one day I can say *'ich bin ein Berliner'*. Thank you Berlin !

Frank Hiett



Are you interested in joining our branch of the Mothers' Union?

Please contact Stellah or Lucy after the service or get in touch via Fr Andrew.

Cont'd from P4

Orthodox church in refurbishing a local gym that will be used by the local refugee camp and the local community. This work not only helps build relationships between the two local groups, but also to heal some of the wounds between the two churches following the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

All of this, believes Bishop Robert, points to a Christian faith that is very much active and alive throughout the Diocese in Europe.

On the Friday morning the working sessions of the Synod began. In the first Bishop Robert gave a presentation "Building for the Future in the Diocese in Europe". A copy of the slides will be made available in the Church Hall is anyone is interested in reading further.

In the second session we enjoyed a

lively and engaging presentation on "How to do Mission Action Planning" by the Venerable Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn. In his approach, developed over the last 20 years with a former Churchwarden (& Philips Lighting executive), business problem solving and project management techniques are used to help identify mission needs and to plan subsequent activities. It is an interesting method for trying to establish the aims and hopes of a congregation, presented in practical "layman's" terms. If you are unsure what "Mission" means (let alone "Action Planning"), the Ven. Mark's approach is worth a read. Both the slides of his presentation and his book will be made available in the Church Hall.

Diary Dates for the end of the year

December 2nd: (11 - 16:00) Christmas Fayre St Boniface

December 17th: 18:30 Nine lessons and Carols

Dec 24th: **No service at 9:30**, 10:30 The Eucharist (said)

23:00 Midnight Mass

December 25th: 09:00 Holy Communion BCP, 10:30 Sung Eucharist

December 26th: St Stephen's Day - **Eucharist at 10:30**

December 28th: Holy Innocents - Eucharist at 10:30

December 31st: 09:00 Holy Communion BCP, 10:30 Sung Eucharist

January 1st, 2018: 10:30 The Eucharist

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**V.U. The Rev'd Andrew R
Wagstaff
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