

# St Boniface Anglican News



The Church of St Boniface Antwerp  
[www.boniface.be](http://www.boniface.be)

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**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)  
Newsletters are only sent outside Belgium if the subscription is paid

# The Chaplain writes ....

These days, it's a bit of a cliché to say that life is a journey. But for the Christian, that is a profound truth. Followers of Jesus follow Him who is the Way; indeed, the earliest Christians were called the People of the Way. A journey implies movement, progression and change. All the best adventure stories involve a quest, a journey.

Unlike other religions, we are not people of a book, no matter how important the Bible may be to us. We are people of the living Word, followers of his teaching.

And Lent is a time to reflect how far we have come on our journey, how we are keeping up. If nothing has changed in our spiritual lives, if we are stuck in a spiritual rut, now is the time to get moving.

Bishop Norman will be with us at the start of Lent to encourage us in our spiritual journey. He will be focussing on one of western Christianity's greatest spiritual guides, St Teresa of Avila. Her insights have been the inspiration of countless People of the Way for centuries. She inspired the Carmelites' way of living the religious life, and has found a new popularity for men and women in our own age.

Do make every effort to be with us

on Saturday 17th February. Further details are elsewhere in the newsletter, or on our website [www.boniface.be](http://www.boniface.be)

This Lent, Bishop Robert Innes, our diocesan bishop is encouraging us all to reflect on another journey - the perilous journey undertaken by migrants fleeing from violence or poverty. The end of their journeys is often exploitation or even death as they try to enter Britain via the Channel ports. Read Bishop Robert's appeal letter, and consider how we might respond to these travellers and their needs. It is a complicated problem which raises many issues. But behind the politics are real people with real and urgent needs.

The way we respond to the call of Christ and the way we respond to calls for help from the needy will define this year's Lent journey for us all. Find time to reflect and pray about your response. Come to the quiet day with Bishop Norman; come every Sunday to the Eucharist, and prepare quietly and reverently to hear the Word and receive the Blessed Sacrament; come to one or more of our weekday Eucharists; come to the Men's breakfasts, or the Thursday group. Do everything you can to open the way forward to a Christian life refreshed and renewed, a faith on the move.

# Lent and Easter 2018

Ash Wednesday February 14th



Services at: 10:30 - The Eucharist (said)  
19:30 - Sung Eucharist

Both with imposition of ashes

## *SLOW BURN, BRIGHT FLAME*

Evangelism the Carmelite Way- a lent journey with St Teresa of Avila, led by the Bishop of Richborough, the Rt. Rev'd Norman Banks.



Saturday 17th February, 10:00-16:00. Lunch provided.

Please let us know you're coming: [chaplain@boniface.be](mailto:chaplain@boniface.be)

Men's Lenten Breakfast 07:00 to 08:30 in the Vicarage  
February 21st, 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st.



We shall be using the book "Experiencing God" by Rt. Rev'd Stephen Cottrell,

available from Fr Andrew Wagstaff at €2.50

Thursday Study Group

February 22nd, March 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd.

This group meets after the 10:30 Eucharist in the vicarage.

We shall also be using the book

"Experiencing God" available from Fr Andrew price €2.50

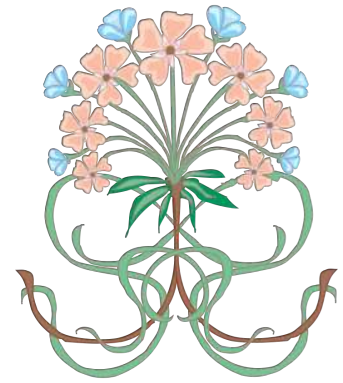


## Mothering Sunday Lunch

On Sunday March 4th at 12:30 we shall be holding our traditional Mothering Sunday Lunch.

Price €12:50, children over 5, €5.

Names and payment before February 28th to Sunny,  
d\_jm\_1@hotmail.com



## Palm Sunday and Holy Week

Sunday March 25th: 10:30 Procession with palms  
Monday 26th: 19:30 Eucharist and address  
Tuesday 27th: 19:30 Eucharist and address  
Wed 28th: 19:30 Eucharist and address  
Thursday 29th: 19:30 Sung Eucharist and ceremonies for Maundy Thursday  
Friday 30th: 12 noon Stations of the cross (NL)  
Friday 30th: 15:00 Good Friday liturgy

## Chrism Masses

Tuesday March 27th:

Canterbury Cathedral at Noon - Bp Norman  
Brussels Pro- Cathedral at Noon - Bp Robert  
Madrid St George's at Noon - Bp David  
Wednesday March 28th at 11:30  
Paris, St George's- Bp Robert



## EASTER 2018



Solemn Mass of the Dawn - 07:00  
Followed by breakfast  
The Eucharist (BCP) 09:00  
Family Eucharist - 10:30

# First things first -one approach to mission from Bp Jonathan Goodall

When we think about 'mission' – that is, if we think about mission (and I really hope that mission is quickly coming up the PCC agenda of every parish) – we're probably thinking about some kind of plan – even a local 'mission action plan'. Where to start? What to say? What to do? Who to? Why do it? 'Have we all got the plan? Synchronize watches ...' And then—stupid creatures that we are, only then—we ask God to bless it, to swing in behind us, to endorse what we've put together, to fill our plans with his life and love, and give success to the work of our hands.

Put it like that, there's something clearly not quite right about that approach. It's dangerously close to thinking that it's our job to work out how we can take God, even smuggle God, into places and into lives where he's never been before, when—of course!—God is always, always already in people's lives, long before we turn up. When we stop and re-think (or when we've learnt the hard way because our precious plans have collapsed) we realize that the real mission God gives to us is where he is already opening the door.

Which gifts has God given in the congregation that need to be given room to grow? Which new ministries can be offered? What opportunities or people, in our local neighbourhood is God

bringing to our attention? Which needs we can meet in the name of Jesus? Which places or needs further afield capture the compassion and imagination of our fellowship?

Now of course, at some point, in any of these possibilities, parishes must be prepared and equipped for whatever possibilities for mission or service they channel energies into. But our plan is not the first thing.

The first thing, the really key thing in mission, is something quite different, as every bishop, priest and deacon in the C of E knows. At every ordination, after a lot of questions by the bishop and promises from the candidates, the bishop abruptly changes tack and says, 'I assume you do know (don't you?) that you can't do all this on your own? You can only do it with the grace and power of God. So then, we'd better start praying!'

I wish that were something we said to people who come to be baptized and confirmed as well, because the point is the same: 'You do know, don't you, that you can't be a Christian in your own strength? The first thing in Christian life, the most important thing, is the grace and power of God. And that means, quite obviously, falling in love with God,

allowing ourselves to become dependent on his mercy, and kindness, and gentleness. And only then, when we love God and one another, have we got anything to share in mission, whatever kind of mission it is.

If we think about it, we already know all this, because these two things—falling in love, and letting it show—happen every time we celebrate the Mass. There are two very ancient moments in the Mass when, instead of being encouraged to do something ('Let us do such and such ...'), we're ordered, pretty abruptly, to do something. First, the bishop or priest says – 'Up with your hearts!' Give God your love and gratitude. Hold nothing back. And the congregation thunders back, 'We already have – they're with the Lord!' And the second order is when the deacon says, 'Go! The mass has ended; the mission has begun!'

Falling in love with God, and then letting it show.

What makes any parish effective in terms of mission and witness is this apostolic way of life –being in love with God in prayer and the Eucharist, and extending that love to others. The main point is clear: the mission of the Church is bound up with people who are in love with God the Father of Jesus Christ, who are not ashamed of depending on him, and with our willingness to share with everyone what we have received.

Now that we're passing into 2018, let's help the whole Church to learn to put first things first: 'the love of Christ before all things!'

+ Jonathan, Ebbsfleet

*Taken, with permission, from "Together" Newsletter 2017*

## Diary Dates

February 14th: Ash Wednesday - Eucharist and imposition of ashes  
at 10:30 and 19:30

February 17th: Quiet Day for Lent- 10:30 - 16:00 with Bishop Norman  
Banks, Bishop of Richborough

March 11th: Mothering Sunday Lunch at 12:30 after the Eucharist

April 1st: Easter Day - See Lent page, notice board or website for times of  
services

June 23rd: Friends of St Boniface Summer Fair - 11 to 17:00

October 7th: Harvest Festival and Lunch with Summer Tombola Draw

November 24th: St Boniface Christmas Fayre - 11 to 16:00

# Bishop Robert's Lent Appeal 2018

Sustaining a Ministry of Hope for Refugees in the Calais area of France

I send you this appeal on the day when we remember the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. In all the fragility of human flesh, the baby who had been born far from home and laid in a manger is presented by his proud young parents in the Jerusalem Temple. It is a day when we especially recall the immense dignity of human nature. God not only makes human beings in his image, but redeems them by taking human nature upon himself.

Sadly, in today's world the dignity of those who are refugees is often not regarded or respected. This year's Lent Appeal relates to a group of refugees who are in particularly acute need. The purpose of the Appeal is to aid the plight of unaccompanied child migrants in the Calais area. These youngsters have been reduced to sleeping rough in the open since the closure of the refugee camps last year. They are extremely vulnerable.

The funds raised will be shared between two projects.

Firstly, a safe house and outreach ministry to child migrants run by an Old Catholic monk – Br Johannes Maertens – who is a member of our congregation in Calais. The project is called Maria Skobtsova House,

named after an Orthodox Saint and Martyr who took care of Russian refugees, migrants, the homeless and Jewish people in Paris during the last century. Brother Johannes asks us to help in the following words:

*“As you have seen on social media the situation in Calais is getting tense and goes from worse to dramatic. It is estimated that around 600 refugees now live on the streets, parks and grasslands of Calais. The refugees are dependent on the local associations for a warm meal, clothes and sleeping bags. Refugees are often exposed to violence on the streets and their sleeping bags are taken by the police. One Eritrean refugee who speaks good French says he wants to leave France as he doesn't feel safe anymore. ‘They treat us almost as if we are animals. I don't feel safe here.’”*

*“The average age of refugees is young to young adults, some boys are only 14 years old, and girls 16. These are very vulnerable to being trafficked as they are often unaccompanied minors. The police don't seem to distinguish between the adults and minors; they DO NOT guide the minors to the social services responsible for minors. We need an urgent Christian response to this inhumane situation.”*

In partnership with Canterbury



Diocese and the USPG, we are recruiting a priest who will serve as Chaplain to the Pas-de-Calais congregations and as a refugee project officer to give pastoral support and assistance, liaising with the various NGOs and agencies present on the ground. So, the second purpose of the Appeal is to raise funds to help the new priest by having financial resources to hand to support small projects.

Being able to get out of the cold for a while and talk to a friendly face, to have help to understand the administrative system, to have help with language learning or other practical skills, these are all small tasks that our fund could help with. Helping with these small tasks could make a world of difference to the lives of the stranded migrants in the Calais area.

The plight of the many migrants from the horn of Africa and the Middle East, including many children without accompanying parents, who have ended up on the north coast of France is repeatedly in and then out of the news. When the news cameras move on elsewhere they do not cease to exist. If anything their plight is worse than when they are in the spotlight of media attention. The Calais Jungle Camp which was demolished in October 2016 may no longer be there nor the official refugee camp which caught fire in Dunkirk, but the number of migrants subsisting in the surrounding area sleeping out

under the trees or the stars has hardly changed. Valiant volunteers from France and Britain struggle to meet the most basic needs of these migrants (with generously donated food, clothing & blankets). But what they and the migrants themselves are urgently seeking is human warmth and hope.

In the middle of 2017, a survey of unaccompanied minors who had been living in the area on average 7-9 months was undertaken. A fifth had been there for more than a year. More than 95% had experienced police brutality. 75% had been arrested and detained for varying periods of time. More than half had experienced being woken up in the middle of the night and moved on with nowhere to go. More than a third had family in the UK but the process of getting permission for reuniting with their family was causing long delays. Less than five percent had been given any access to information about asylum law.

Do keep an eye out for regular updates on the Diocesan Website. And please do consider how you can support my appeal. As usual, you can give money to this appeal through your church treasurer, who will forward money to the diocesan office.

With every blessing,

Bishop Robert

# ACB helps Syrian asylum seekers

The Anglican Church in Belgium, often known as Anglican Council for Belgium (ACB), has joined other religious groups in the country to support and fund visas for 150 asylum-seekers from Syria.

With the help of the Christian charity San't Edidio, the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Protestant and Eastern Orthodox Churches, together with Judaism and Islam, have come together to raise money for the initiative.

The president of the Central Committee of the Anglican Church in Belgium, Canon Jack McDonald, said, "*Occasionally miracles happen*".

On November 22nd, 2017, the group agreed to fund 150 visas and support the asylum seekers once they came to Belgium. This plan was supported by the government.

Canon McDonald was quoted as saying it will help 150 refugees who are in the most dire situations to have their lives rebuilt in Belgium. It is a good concrete project of absolute worth. We are doing it together through religious solidarity, and I'm delighted.

ACB has together raised enough money to support four assylum-seekers, possibly a family, of the total 150 who are expected to come to Belgium.

The 10 parishes have raised €17,000 to pay for visas and then care for the family for a year when they arrive.

There has been real encouragement from smaller, poorer parishes such as Luik where there's a large Nigerian and Ghanaian congregation. The Bishop in Europe, Robert Innes has given the project his full support, too.

The Syrian refugees will be chosen by the charity from camps in Turkey and Lebanon and they'll arrive on humanitarian visas.

The religious groups are relying on San't Egidio, which is seasoned and experienced in this work. They will be selecting people in the worse situations- those who are handicapped, in danger of death or who have medical needs: people who would otherwise have no chance. Refugees will not be chosen or allocated based on their religion.

There are currently 5.5 million Syrian regugees and between 2011 and 2017, Belgium took in 19,384 asylum seekers.

**The Friends of St Boniface has supported this initiative and in 2017 made a donation of €500 to Anglican Council for Belgium, towards this important work.**

# News from around the parish.

## **R.I.P. Willy Bogaert**

We were saddened to hear of the death of Willy Bogaert in January. Willy had been ill for many months . May he rest in Peace and rise in Glory. Our thoughts and sympathy are extended to Denise and family .

## **Joan Bridges - now in the U.K.**

Many of you remember Joan Bridges with fondness - Joan has now moved to a retirement residence in England close to her daughter, Anne.

We shall try to stay in touch with her and she'll keep up to date on our news via this newsletter.

## **Sunday morning assistance?**

We are looking for some extra people to hand out the books on a Sunday and tidy up after the service. Could you do this once every 6 weeks or so? Please let Egbert van Groesen or one of the Churchwardens know.

## **Walsingham Pilgrimage, June 2018**

There are still two places available on our Walsingham pilgrimage June 24 to 28. Accommodation (full board) is €250 depending on the exchange rate. It may be possible to share transport with other pilgrims. If you'd like more information please contact Ann Turner, [ann@turner.be](mailto:ann@turner.be), before March 1st.

Do you sometimes lose your Anglican News and wonder when events are taking place?

Search no further than:

**[www.boniface.be](http://www.boniface.be)**

All dates and events are updated here very regularly!

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