

St Boniface Anglican News

Open again for public worship



The Church of St Boniface Antwerp

www.boniface.be

Nr. 381

April- June 2020

The Church of Saint Boniface, Antwerp

Anglican / Episcopalian

www.boniface.be

Facebook - St Boniface Anglican Church, Antwerp

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MTS & Port chaplain	The Rev'd Brian Millson	03 233 34 75
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Safeguarding Officer	Mr Philip Gray	safeguarding@boniface.be
Churchwardens	Mr Philippe van Hissenhoven Lay Canon Ann Turner	03 239 99 90 03 440 25 81

Services

SUNDAY 09:00 HOLY EUCHARIST (BCP)
 10:30 SUNG EUCHARIST

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 Netherland	Stichting Saint Boniface Foundation, Vlissingen	
	NL10 INGB 0004 2600 80	

*The Friends of St Boniface is recognised by the tax authorities in the Netherlands and has an ANBI listing.
For more information, contact Mrs Lucy Hess, treasurer.(treasurer.vzw@boniface.be)*

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The Chaplain writes

How good it has been to re-open the church for public worship albeit in a restricted way. Those of you who have attended a service will know that things are not quite the same - even though we have tried to keep the visual impact to a minimum.

Perhaps it's worth repeating: these measures are to protect you and your neighbours, and they have been carefully adapted to suit St Boniface from regulations issued by the Bishop, the Anglican Central Committee in Brussels as well as the Belgian authorities. We would not be permitted to re-open without their guidance and permission.

One of the stranger rules is that congregational and choral singing are forbidden. This is because they produce many more of the droplets that can carry the virus.

The wearing of face masks is mandatory as it is on public transport; but in church, from the beginning of July, masks may be removed while you are seated. That will make coming to church rather more comfortable.

Social distancing presents some difficulties, but we are able to seat 40 people safely. We just get everyone in! To maintain the distancing at weekday services, we will use the high altar and the choir stalls.

However, the hall remains a problem in this respect so at the moment it is not available for the Sunday school or for refreshments. This decision, disappointing as it is, is regularly under review.



It has been heartening to see so many people returning to worship. All, with one or two exceptions, have accepted the measures as inconvenient, perhaps, but necessary. Others, through ill health or frailty have felt it too much of a risk to come... we quite understand that, and hope that circumstances will soon permit them to attend - we miss you!

To make this happen, we rely on our volunteer welcomers and cleaners who ensure that not only is the church tidy, but that all pews and surfaces have been wiped clean before the next service.

As I have mentioned before, Christianity is essentially a social religion - we are called to gather together for worship, prayer and the grace of the Sacraments. Our Christian lives may be lived outside our churches, but they are nourished and commissioned within.

Worship in times of Covid-19

Our regular public worship came to an abrupt close in March 2020. All places of worship were closed and no public services were allowed. This was true, too, for the whole of the C of E in England by the end of March and in many countries around the world churches were closed.

Very quickly there were a multitude of services to be found on the internet - some infinitely better than others. The Society Priests and bishops maintained a high standard of services, meditations and sermons throughout the closure.

Fr Brian said Mass most days during the pandemic shut down from his

own home. These services were live streamed for both the seafarers and our people at St Boniface. The link was available on both Twitter and our website that was updated daily during this time.

Father Andrew said Mass at the altar in St Boniface at noon, six days a week for the whole of the closure. This was not streamed but there were regular reminders to pray with Fr Andrew at noon each day.

Thank you to everyone who enabled a praying presence to continue in these unique times.

Re-open for public worship

From July 1 we shall be open for public worship on:

Sundays at 09:00 and 10:30

Tuesdays at 19:30

Thursdays at 10:30

Saturdays at 10:30

These services are subject to a protocol and you're asked to wear a face covering when entering and leaving church. Please only use the pews indicated, and respect the requests of the stewards who are working to our Anglican regulations.

Welcome back- albeit a little different!

Other activities are still suspended.

KWA Hilda & Mothers' Union

Our support for the Kwa Hilda feeding scheme is ongoing. This scheme, which has also been supported by the Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham relies on financial support from a number of sources since government support was stopped. The programme provides a nutritious lunch six days a week to children, mostly AIDS orphans, who would otherwise go hungry. €1 feeds one child for a week, €50 for a year.

We'd planned a fund-raising Mothering Sunday lunch but Covid-19 lockdown put a stop to this!

The children are still there and need their meals. If you would like to support



stock photo

the Mothers' Union group at St Boniface in their efforts to ensure these children do not go hungry, please make a donation to the Friends of St Boniface account marking your gift "Kwa Hilda".

World Elder Abuse awareness day

One member of our congregation, Stellan Kakuru, works very hard together with volunteers for an elderly peoples home in Uganda - Nyumba Ya Wazee.

On June 15th she wrote saying, "Since the COVID-19 pandemic started,



we've seen many examples of elder abuse, including financial scams and domestic violence. Today - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - is our chance to tell people that elder abuse exists, and that all older people have a right to be free from it".

Please support Stellan in this request.

photo: Stellan Kakuru

Parish news

Wedding blessing of George and Barbara

At the end of February, just before lock-down, George John and Barbara Murano were fortunate and able to have their marriage blessed in St Boniface.

We wish them a long and happy life together.

photo: Barbara Murano



R.I.P. Lesley Leeson

We were sorry to hear of the death of Lesley Leeson in March. Lesley was the oldest regular member of our congregation and had, together with her late husband (known affectionately to everyone as Buster) been a staunch supporter of St Boniface and a regular worshipper.

The Chaplains' board at the back of church was donated and updated by the Leesons.

We offer our condolences to her children and grandchildren.

R.I.P. Susan Tuffin

Susan died on 13 April in Gent. We send our condolences to her husband Marc and her children.

Thank you to those who worked during church closure

We owe a token of thanks to the few people who worked hard behind the locked doors of our church between March and June. Linen has been sorted, the altar array kept up to date and the sacristy kept clean. This was all done in a safe fashion, usually with only one person present at any one time and following all the Covid-19 regulations. Most people are unaware of these tasks but without dedicated volunteers we would soon notice a difference!

Thank You!

Remember all updates, events, newsletters, photos and much more can be found on our website, boniface.be

Royal Maundy Money

Royal Maundy is a religious service in the Church of England held on Maundy Thursday. At the service, the monarch or a royal official ceremonially distributes small silver coins known as the Queen's Maundy money, symbolic alms, to nominated recipients. The coins are legal tender but do not circulate because of their silver content and value to collectors. A small sum of ordinary money is also given in lieu of gifts of clothing and food that the sovereign once bestowed on Maundy recipients.

The name "Maundy" and the ceremony itself derive from an instruction, or mandatum, of Jesus Christ at the Last Supper that his followers should love one another.

In the Middle Ages, English monarchs washed the feet of beggars in imitation of Jesus, and presented gifts and money to the poor. Over time, additional money was substituted for the clothing and other items that had once been distributed.

This year, 2020, the ceremony should have been held at Windsor Castle and one of our churchwardens, Canon



Ann Turner, was nominated as a recipient by Bishop Robert in acknowledgement of 35 years service to the Diocese in Europe.

Unfortunately, the ceremony was cancelled because of the Covid-19 outbreak. Ann did still receive the purses of Maundy money- but by post! One contained £5.50 clothing allowance and the other 94 pence in specially minted coins - one pence for every year of the sovereign's life.

photo:Ann Turner

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