



January 22nd 2012
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Holy Trinity Brussels

Newsletter

Today's Services: 9.00 Holy Communion David White
10.30 Holy Communion David White
14.00 Augustine Nwaekwe; 19.00 Gary Wilton
Sunday School focus: King Manasseh of Judah forgets God

Our Readings this Week

Malachi 4:5-6 These last verses of the Old Testament provide a bridge to the New Testament, pointing to the role of John the Baptist as God's messenger. He will bring the people to the repentance that prepares for their divisions to be ended. Those divisions scandalise God, because they are associated with the anarchy that he will judge on the great and terrible day of the Lord.

Psalms 133 This short and beautiful psalm rejoices in the blessings that flow from the unity of God's people. That blessing is pictured through the precious oil which soothes and comforts the dusty hair and parched skin of Israel's elder, and the dew which moistens the dry land. There is a downward movement, not just of the oil and the dew, but of the blessing, as unity brings restoration and new life. Unity is God-given for blessing.

Ephesians 2:14-20 Paul is convinced that the redemption won by Jesus is not only for a select few, but for all who will accept it. Rigid divisions and the hostility that they provoked are finished, put to death by Christ. Christians are like a single household, building blocks of the one temple in which God lives. Christ brings peace to replace hostility.

John 20:19-23 This deeply symbolic passage shows us how the disciples' encounter with the risen Lord changes them from a small, frightened group into God's fearless agents, ministering forgiveness in his power and with his authority. Where does that encounter take place? When the disciples meet together on the first day of the week.

Pointers for Prayer

- When we are challenged by differences within the church, are we displaying human fear, or the fearlessness and peace of those empowered by Christ?
- Pray that the church may become more effective in ministering the forgiveness of sins that can reconcile people with God.
- Paul could hardly be clearer about the work done by Christ in breaking down divisions. Pray that all who bear the name of Christians may work to build up the household of Christ in the world.
- Meditate on the blessings of unity as they are presented in the psalm.

At tonight's 7 p.m. service Gary Wilton continues the mini-series on the theme "Proverbs for a New Year" with a talk entitled "Words that give Life" drawing on Proverbs 10:6-20

Our life together

A warm welcome to Holy Trinity to visitors and regular church members alike.

Do join us for coffee, tea or something stronger in the hall downstairs after the service. This is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is celebrated in churches across the world. This year, the readings and prayers for the week have been produced by Christians in Poland. We use these readings for Unity Week in our services today.

The **church heating system** now has a new pump and new control systems. We continue to monitor the system. In very cold weather, our huge, largely un-insulated space appears to need two hours of heating for each one degree rise in temperature! The heating is switched on at 3:00a.m. or earlier to provide heat for Sunday worship. Draughts have a big impact on the temperature, so please do try to keep doors to the outside closed to reduce energy loss and improve comfort.

We are delighted to report that **Planning Permission** for the redevelopment of Church House has now been issued in full. The planners had been particularly interested in changes to the facade, the design of new ground floor frontage and fixings for the proposed art work. These have now been agreed and signed off. The granting of planning permission is a significant milestone for the project. Congratulations are particularly due to Richard Craddock, our architect, for steering the design successfully to this point. The permission gives us two years in which to commence building work.

The church finds itself in a legal dispute with QPark, the company that manages the car park next to the church. The Council decided that we should contest QPark's claim for payment for tickets issued to us in 2010 in respect of car parking places that had for several decades been provided free of charge, and we went to court on January 11th to put our case. The case has now been adjourned until April to give us time to prepare properly. If any of the longer-serving members of the congregation can remember what arrangements existed or have any documents that might support us please could they email David Sayers at cathedraladmin@holyltrinity.be.

Jessica Mensah, an active young member of our congregation left over the weekend for a 6 months exchange program in the United States. Do keep her in your prayers as she takes this significant step in her studies in Journalism. We hope she will settle quickly in her new academic environment. We shall miss her special contributions to the music of the 2pm service and the Ambassadors youth group over the coming months!

Lenten Meditation Book. If you would like to write a meditation for this year's Lenten Meditation Book please contact David or Jane Brown jmdjbrown@gmail.com or 0470 96 29 92. Meditations will need to be written by 5th February.

The **Spring Term Programme** is now available at the back of the church, please do take a copy.

There will be an **Elders meeting of the 2pm Service** after the 2pm service TODAY.

The Mission Committee will meet on Tuesday at 7:30p.m. to consider HTB mission funding allocations in 2012. Chair / Contact - Diana White (dianaewhite@gmail.com).

St. Matthew Passion. This year we are planning to perform some or all of Bach's St. Matthew Passion on the evening of Good Friday. The Passion is one of the greatest and most beautiful pieces of church music ever written. Several soloists have kindly offered their expertise. We are assembling an orchestra. The event will be sponsored by Deutsche Bank and

some generous individuals. The work is difficult, and we're not sure at this stage how much we'll master in the time available. This will be the major item on our 10:30 choir's agenda over the coming term and will mean a 'fast' from other musical works during Lent. Please do hold our Director of Music and choir in your prayers as they engage with this daunting but hugely enriching music.

New Year Resolution! Would you like to get more involved with the running of Holy Trinity? We rely on many people using their talents 'behind the scenes', and all our voluntary ministries (sacristans, 'Live Wires', who run the sound system, Flower Team, sides-men and women, Coffee Team (see below)) would love to hear from you. Contact the Church office in the first instance, admin@holytrinity.be, who can put you in touch with the appropriate person.

Can you help the **Coffee Team**? They would appreciate two or three more people to be on the rota for preparing and serving coffee each week after the 10.30 service (please contact Philip or Nathalie Bastos Martin - Leroy bastosmartin@gmail.com). Help is also needed to bring back the new style coffee cups from England. Have you got room in your car for one or two boxes? Please contact Church Office if you can help: admin@holytrinity.be.

The Prayer Chain welcomes requests for prayer for any situation with complete confidentiality. Please pass your request to Mary-Jo Nimmons (call 02/640 50 18) or Anne Fieldsend (call 02 735 1997).

Our **Ladies Retreat 2012, 'For a Breath of Fresh Air'**, will take place on February 10th - 11th 2012 (5pm- 5pm) in Waterloo. The speaker will be Rev. Penny Frank, who is a chaplain to a small English-speaking church in Switzerland. This retreat will cost €70. For full details please take a flyer from the lobby, speak to Ann Milton or contact Rev. Gillian Wilton on 0488 185 364.

Advance Notice that this year's **La Foresta weekend away** will take place from Friday 30th March to Sunday 1st April. Please do note these dates in your diary now. Our main speaker this year will be the Revd. Philip Mounstephen, the chaplain of our sister church of St. Michael's in Paris. Philip has been ministering at St. Michael's for 5 years, and before that he had a leadership role with the Church Pastoral Aid Society, working with churches across the UK and Ireland. Philip is a gifted and lively preacher and teacher who has much experience of the joys and challenges of life in a major European capital. La Foresta programmes and booking forms will be available at all our services from next Sunday.

Children and Communion. On 5 February, Birte Day is beginning a preparation course for children who are regular members of our Explorers Sunday School group and who are aged 8 or over, to be admitted to communion at Pentecost 27 May.

We are holding a **Candlemas Messiah** in the church on Saturday January 28th. Singers, instrumentalists and an audience will all be welcome! There will be a chorus rehearsal from 10.00 to 12.00 and the full performance will be at 16.00. To participate contact David Mitchell (precentor@holytrinity.be) if you're a singer, or Pam Clements (pamela.clements@telenet.be or 02 731 7217) if you want to play an instrument.

Homegroups Holy Trinity offers several groups that meet in members homes during the week. These are a good way of building friendships and deepening faith. There is a list of homegroups in our termly programme. If you are interested please contact a group leader direct, or the Church Office.

Please help us keep the address list up-to-date: you cannot assume that HTB knows that you have

- **changed your name** (got married/divorced)
- **moved to another address**
- **changed your e-mail address or phone number**

So if any of these apply please let Paulina know by e-mailing at aumonier.anglican@scarlet.be so that she can update the records.

If you have never done so, **please** fill in a Parishioners form (leave it in her pigeon hole or the file on the desk, please...).

The Wider Church

Give Eur-Hope asbl (www.giveeurhope.eu) is an association of EU staff which finances small projects across the European Union to help people living in poverty or social exclusion. In 2011 Give Eur-Hope funded projects in Belgium, Hungary and Poland and they are currently actively looking for requests for financial support submitted by communities or local associations for the completion of micro projects working to combat poverty and social exclusion. If you know of any such organisation, please have a look at the website for more information about the criteria - or speak to Sarah Ironside (0485 323647 / ec-give-eur-hope@ec.europa.eu).

Dr Ravi Zacharias, the well-known Christian apologist and evangelist, will be giving a series of lectures with the general theme "The Changing European Identity" during his visit to Belgium between the 31st January and the 2nd February. See the poster downstairs or visit www.rzim.be for further details. Contact person: John van der Dussen GSM: 0486 252 404.

The **International Christian Women's Club of Brussels** warmly invites you to a Brunch on Tuesday 14th February 2012. For reservation and further details see poster up in the foyer.

Eurodiaconia, the European Network for Christian Social Services and Social Justice work wants to employ a part time Finance Officer for 6-8 hours a week. Applicants should be familiar with book keeping and accountancy procedures and relish the challenge of working with a small yet dynamic international team. A full job description and information on how to apply can be found on our website at <http://www.eurodiaconia.org/who-we-are/staff-and-board/jobs-at-eurodiaconia> For more information please contact Heather Roy heather.roy@eurodiaconia.org

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Website: <http://www.holytrinity.be>

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9a.m. – 12 p.m. Tuesday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Newsletter items: to admin@holytrinity.be by 9 a.m. Tuesday

Chaplain: Canon Dr. Robert Innes. **Associate Chaplains:** Canon Dr. Gary Wilton and Canon Dr. Jack McDonald. **Assistant Chaplain:** The Revd. Augustine Nwaekwe. **Hon Assistant Chaplain:** The Revd. Prof. James Day. **Pastoral Assistant:** Mrs Janet Sayers. **Assistant to Gary Wilton:** James Christie Brown

Gift account for pledges and donations to Holy Trinity Brussels is 310-0344153-83.
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