

St Boniface
Anglican News



*May
Fair
2017
May 13th
11 to 17:00*



The Church of St Boniface Antwerp
Anglican / Episcopalian
Nr. 369
April - June 2017

The Chaplain writes for the AGM

Churches are full of the strangest people – a mix of races, colours, political opinions, ages and temperaments. It was always like that – and it's one of the things that makes church so wonderful. It makes for difficulties, as well of course, but that's only to be expected. Church should be a place where it is possible to be different and disagree and still love one another.

It's been like that since the earliest days. Think of the apostles, of course, and what a peculiar lot they were. They weren't always sure what was going on, and they weren't always happy with the way things were turning out.

The way they coped in those first Easter days while events unfolded around them was that they met together for prayer. The scattered followers, those who had run away, those who had given up, those who were afraid – they got back together and they met for prayer. And the form that prayer took would have been familiar to us. The

words of the prayer that Jesus taught them – bound up with prayers and psalms and hymns and all in the context of a supper, with bread and wine taking on a wonderful new meaning for them as they celebrated a Eucharist as he had told them to.

Already, things were coming together for the Easter people and they were finding strength and a new vision and purpose together. Well, some of them were. Things were still very shaky. Not everyone was always there. Thomas was one who missed out when Jesus made one of his Resurrection appearances.

And so he was rather "off" with the others when he came back. Unless I see for myself.

I think we can see more than a few parallels in what was going on: There is the core of disciples, regular and faithful, even when things are tough. Their shared experience carried them through, and for most, that shared experience of prayer and praise and

Eucharist was what made them Christians and brought them to Pentecost and the gift of the Spirit. It was this being together as church which laid the foundations for their apostleship.

But Thomas was a little different. He had missed out on something significant – we're not given the reason why – and seems a bit resentful when he comes back. But the important thing is that he does come back, is welcomed back, and he too then meets with the risen Christ.

Because that's what we're here for. The meeting with Christ. And whether as a group or as an individual, the experience has to be genuine. First and foremost it is about a meeting, or a series of meetings, with the risen Christ. We are an Easter people.

When we are gathered together, then we will meet with him. What we do here regularly, week by week is an authentic religious experience - a real meeting with God. There are no "off days". Each time the eucharist is offered here, some-one – perhaps the person

next to us, unbeknown to us – has a meeting with the risen Christ. Some-one's life may have been changed at half past seven on a wet Tuesday evening.

Given that we, for the most part, live ordinary lives, it is here that we will meet the risen Christ; it is here that he will bring us his joy, his comfort and his strength. But only when we recognise him. To be true disciples, we have to be faithful in the simple routine of meeting together, to hear about Christ, and to break bread and take wine as he commanded. This is the key to making our ordinary world hum with the extraordinary perspective of resurrection; of widening our horizons beyond self and time; and of making our ordinary world with all its everyday woes and disappointments bearable.

Which brings us to our Annual Parochial Meetings. What could be more of a contrast, and more ordinary than that? And yet, this speaks to us too of how so many of you have found and served Christ in this place. Without your care for this building and its worship, life in this community

and this city would be seriously diminished. And without your determination to keep the faith, the life of our archdeaconry and diocese would be one step nearer to a dull monochrome and all the poorer for it. You believe in the faith once delivered to the satins; and you believe in the promises of Jesus; you obey his command to do this, and without you, there would be no familiar, traditional Anglican church for anyone and everyone to call their own.

And so we come to the ordinary things. Like giving your collection, generously and regularly, week by week – that is so important. Paying the bills is always a real challenge. And of course there are other things, like cleaning and mending, singing, and serving, filling in forms and sitting on committees and struggling with figures; unblocking drains, polishing, cooking and washing up. Thank-you all for good, ordinary hard work over the past year. God loves you for it.

If we all really value what we have here; if in all this we meet the risen Christ, then Alleluia is our song

Alleluia!
Christ is risen!

Alleluia is a shout of praise, pure and simple.

Perhaps we're not too good at being living alleluias. Have you looked at the faces of those around you sometimes? Not that you should all have silly evangelical grin, but really, we could all be a little more cheerful in the presence of the risen Christ. Remember the two disciples on the Emmaus road. Did our hearts not burn within us ... If there is anything that we might all work towards in this coming year it is to be more generous, yes, but also more joyful, more enthusiastic about the really good people we know here; about the wonderful things we share; about the wonderful meetings with the risen Christ we all experience. It's quite simple. That's how we meet Christ, and that's how we come to believe. Like Thomas.



Stellah Kakura writes:

Here are the future activities of the St Boniface Mothers' Union group.

On the 21st May it will be our first lunch, members of the Mothers Union will be organising it. It is a very important lunch for the members, we want to share with our community the good work we have started in our community. We hope for a very good turnout. The cost is €12.50 for adults and you can book with Kit on Sunday or by email, kitmillson@gmail.com or 'phone 03 249 5922

We have also agreed for a second lunch which will be on the 24th September, we will keep you updated for more details. Next Mothers Union meeting is on the 28th May after 10:30 service.

St Boniface Church Council as of April 23, 2017

Chairman Fr Andrew Wagstaff
Churchwardens, Edward Hiett, Ann Turner (vice-chairman)

VZW Board members
Fr A Wagstaff, Noel Das, John Marshall Doddi, Edward Hiett, George John, Immanuel John (treasurer), Ann Turner

Kerkfabriek
Fr A. Wagstaff, Harry Buyle (secretary), Edward Hiett (treasurer),
Maureen Smith, Ann Turner (chairman), Philip Gray

Safeguarding officer (ex-officio)
Philip Grey
Archdeaconry Synod electors (2017-20)
Embrecht van Groesen, Lucy-Jane Hess

Ordinary members: Francis Morgan, Sharmini Jacobs (PCC Secretary)



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Friends of St Boniface VZW thank
The Abbey of Westmalle
for their support!

The logo features a red 'A' inside a white circle, which is set within a yellow diamond shape. Below the diamond, the word 'Westmalle' is written in a bold, black, gothic-style font, and the word 'TRAPPIST' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font underneath.



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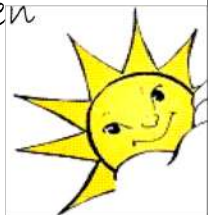
'T IS LEKKER
SCHMECKT GUT

DATES for your diary

May Fair St Boniface Hall and Gardens	Saturday May 13th 11 - 17:00
Mothers' Union Fundraising lunch Book with Kit Millson kitmillson@gmail.com	Sunday May 14th at 12:30 Price €12,50
Thy Kingdom Come	May 25th to June 4th
Mothers' Union Group Meeting	Sunday May 28th after the 10:30 Eucharist
Thy Kingdom Come St Boniface - Holy Hour	Tuesday May 30th, from 19:30 Eucharist, adoration, benediction
Walsingham Pilgrimage	26th to 30th June
Mission to Seafarers BBQ	18th August, Evening Contact Fr Brian Millson
Open Monument Day St Boniface open!	Sunday 10th September 12:00 to 17:00
Safeguarding training at St Boniface	Saturday 23rd September 09:30 to 16:45
Mothers' Union Fundraising lunch	Sunday September 24th at 12:30 Price €12.50
Harvest Festival Grand Tombola Draw + Lunch	Sunday October 8th 10:30 12:30

St Boniface Anglican Church

Grétrystraat 39, 2018 Antwerpen
Trams 2,6,7,15 to Harmonie.



MAY FAIR

A decorative banner consisting of a white strip with a series of colorful triangular flags in shades of blue, green, yellow, orange, and red. The banner is draped across the middle of the page, partially overlapping the word 'MAY'.

Saturday May 13th

11:00—17:00

in the church hall & garden.

Coffee, cakes, lunches, games, books
plant stall, British & home produce
Antiques & bric a brac, Strawberries
Afternoon tea at the vicarage

www.boniface.be



The Archbishop of Canterbury is encouraging Christians of all denominations to #Pledge2pray as part of the global prayer movement, Thy Kingdom Come. Last year more than 100,000 people joined the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to pray in the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. This year even more are expected to join.

There are various ways you can join in, as an individual pledging to pray for 10 days for five people in particular, as a young family using creative ideas found on the website:

[https://
www.thykingdomcome.global/
prayerresources](https://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources)

or you can join in our own **Holy Hour of Prayer on Tuesday May 30th** when we shall

celebrate the Eucharist and pray before the Blessed Sacrament, concluding the hour with Benediction. Whichever way you choose to join in the hope is that:

People will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually or as a family;

Churches will hold prayer events, across the UK and other parts of the world;

People will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

Closer to the time there will be prayer resources available at the back of church.

News from the parish

Bishop's Lent Appeal

In our last newsletter you will have read about Bishop Robert's Lent Appeal - he was hoping to help to raise funds to renovate a home for refugees in Hungary. We collected donations throughout lent, from coffee, mens' breakfasts and the Easter breakfast. We have been able to send £500 to this appeal. Thank you all very much!

Happy Birthday to Joan Bridges!

In May Joan will pass another significant milestone in her long life. We wish her a very happy birthday with her family. Joan is the oldest member of our congregation and has many memories of St Boniface in good times and not so good.

Congratulations

14 of 16

To Nicholas and Aura on the birth of their daughter!

Children's Church

We are trying to hold children's church every Sunday. Numbers fluctuate but it is fine to hear that children are asking when they can come to church again because they have fun and like learning about Jesus.

Safeguarding

Our diocese takes the Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults very seriously. This year there will be a training at St Boniface on Saturday September 23rd for all Children's church volunteers, clergy and others, including our churchwardens. Watch out for details or contact Philip Gray for additional information.

News from the parish- continued

Spartecus Sponsored Run

On Sunday April 30th two of our VZW board members, Sunny Marshall and George John, took part in and completed the Spartacus run in Boom. This was not just a 10km run but there were also many challenging obstacles to be overcome along the route. Both young men were sponsored by members of the congregation and friends. We expect their total donation to the Friends of St Boniface to be in excess of €400! Thank you and well done!



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**V.U. The Rev'd Andrew R
Wagstaff
Gretrystraat 39, 2018 Antwerpen**

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