Here’s a story to share with those wondering about the existence of God/Jesus. Once upon a time there lived a family of mice who spent their time sharing and eating cheese. They lived in a large house and their front door was a round hole into the music room. There was a piano there and from time to time they heard beautiful music. “Ah, it is so lovely,” they said, but they could not agree where the music came from. They were sure that there was a piano but they had a long debate over whether there was a musician.

Some mice were certain. “There is no-one. If we were able to look into the piano, we would know. It comes from the piano but it does not need any one to play it.” Other mice were quite certain and said, “If only we could see inside the piano we should understand how music is made. All this talk about intelligence and design would quite unnecessary.” Other mice simply believed and said, “Beautiful music like that does not happen by chance. If there is music, there must be a musician.” “Not so,” said the agnostic mice. “We don’t have enough evidence upon which to decide one way or the other. We are in the dark about it so let’s get on sharing and eating the cheese.”

There was one very curious mouse, however, who decided to go on a journey of discovery. The mouse was called Michael and he wanted to settle the argument.
now. So he crept to the hole into the music room, crawled through it and ran up the leg of the piano. When he was half-way up, the beautiful music stated again. He was bursting to find out where it came from. At last he climbed up the shiny surface of the piano top and peered inside. He gasped in shock and immediately ran back down the leg of the piano across the floor and through the hole in the all. As he returned, the family of mice gathered round and asked, “What did you see?” Still out of breath, Michael panted, “I saw it. I saw it. I saw how music is made! I saw lots of little wooden hammers striking against lots of metal wires. But I saw no pianist.”

That night as the mice went to bed, some were very happy. They had been right all along. There was no pianist. He was just in their imagination. Other mice had mixed feelings. It was good to know the truth but they were disappointed that there was no playing the piano. Others were very sad. It was not just that they had been wrong but that they were empty. It seemed that there was nothing more in life than to get on sharing and eating the cheese.

This story has been adapted from “The Case against Christ” by John Young. Like the mice, we decide about the existence of God by looking at how the world is made and the coming of Jesus. Lesley-Ann and I wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas in the knowledge that there really is a pianist.

Your friend and minister

Robert Calvert
CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Christmas guests
This year we welcome the “Glasgow University Chapel Choir” to lead our Carol service on December 16 after the Christmas Tea. The connection was made following a weeding that Rev. Calvert took in Glasgow last July. Please make a point of bringing a friend to one of the Christmas services on carol singing event in the week before Christmas.

Stewardship
This autumn the call to stewardship is our theme for the season. Cards will be given to everyone to present the clear challenge of how we give “a fitting proportion of our time, talents and money for the Lord’s work in the world”.

Baptisms
In August we celebrated the baptisms of Jacyn Paulune and Japino Jordan Osei, children of Hilda and grandchildren of Paul and Rosamond Osei and on 11 November we will do the same for Lionel Nicky Cuvalay the grand-son of Patricia Cuvalay.

Communion
Next month the elders propose to say “The Body of Christ, broken for you.” and “The Blood of Christ, shed for you” as they serve communion. We have been reflecting on our practice of Communion both in the consistory and discipleship meetings. If you have thoughts to share please let the minister or one of the elders know. Receiving Christ in the bread and wine lies at the heart of our worship.
Sermons and bible studies
In the month of November we read through the first six chapters of the book of Daniel. The story of Daniel and his three friends portray ways of living faithfully in a secular society. Our bible studies on Thursday nights are using the Emmaus Programme. Three overviews of the contents of the Old Testament will be followed by advent themes of Death, Judgment and Christ’s coming.

Peace service
The International Peace Service is at 19.30 on Sunday 11 November. We will hear different languages used and some choirs. The preacher will be Rev. Andrew Gardener of St. Andrews Church in Brussels and the current Moderator of the Presbytery of Europe. Our choir will be joined with choirs from the Dutch Lutheran Church, Holland Methodist Church and Mehaber Church. Make it a date in your agenda! We would be glad of help in ushering guests from other churches, clergy and serving coffee.

Mission offerings
We were delighted to Dr. Jember Teferra, head of the organization IHA-UDP, to preach in October. The mission offering taken up in November is dedicated to Ethio-Berhan foundation which started in the Netherlands seven years ago at request of this organization works in the slums of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Ethio-Berhan looks for sponsors and keeps in touch with them concerning the supported children. Menen Tesema will hold a Christmas stall on two Sundays in December. Further information from <www.ethioberhan.nl> At the Peace service we will
take up an offering for SKIN and in December our mission offering will be given to the Presbytery project in Tanzania where The Vine Trust will extend basic medical service to those living on islands in Lake Victoria. You will find an article on this elsewhere in the Herald.

**English language lessons**

English lessons are offered every Thursday morning (during school times). Students will pay €27.50 for three months (75 minute lesson) and €30.00 for three months (90 minute lesson). For more info, contact Pam Russell at 010 591 4959. Over 15 November – 13 December a class for beginners’ in English language will meet on Thursdays from 12.45.

**Piano needed**

We are interested in finding a piano that plays well and can be stored safely and securely in the Lower Hall. If you have ideas or suggestions, please speak to Ruud Witte or Molly Foster.

**CD project: “Send us a friend”**

To raise funds for Stichting Ethioberhan, Irene Bom and friends plan to record a CD of Irene's songs on relevant themes (including songs featuring children). She's looking for singers (of all ages), additional musicians (drums, bass, keyboards, whatever), people with recording experience or studio connections, and people to help with artwork and general support. We hope to have the CD ready before Christmas. If you'd like to be involved, contact Irene at 06-52576892 or <ibsalem@xs4all.nl>
## CONGREGATIONAL DIARY

### NOVEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Worship, Communion, Choir, Daniel 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>SKIN-Rotterdam board</td>
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<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>19.45</td>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>Meet with members of the “buurt”/community</td>
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<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>Discipleship: running through the Old testament (1): <em>From Abraham to Joshua</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Worship, Sonrise, Remembrance, Daniel 3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>International Peaceservice</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“A time for war and a time for peace”</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>Discipleship: running through the Old testament (2): “From Joshua to the Exile”</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Worship, Choir, Daniel 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>Discipleship: running through the Old testament (3): “The Exile to John the Baptist”</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Worship, Joyful Singers, Daniel 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>Discipleship: season of Advent (1) “Death and resurrection”</td>
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### DECEMBER

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Worship, Communion, Choir, Daniel 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>SKIN-Rotterdam board</td>
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<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>19.45</td>
<td>Consistory meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>Discipleship: season of Advent (2) “Judgment and eternal life”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Worship, Youth Service, Sonrise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE HERALD

PRESBYTERY MISSION PROJECT 2012 – RETIRING COLLECTION 2ND DECEMBER 2012

The Presbytery of Europe selects the Presbytery Mission Project for the year at its March meeting. As you may remember, last year it was the ‘Out of Africa – into Malta’ boat refugees supported by St’ Andrews Scots Church on Malta. This year it is a project of The Vine Trust concerning basic medical care to people living on small islands in the Tanzania sector of Lake Victoria. The Vine Trust will provide the medical care by stationing a refurbished and refitted ship in Lake Victoria at
Mwanza or Bukoba ports which will then go round the islands.
I, Bob Hensen, worked in Tanzania during three different periods for a total of nine years and know the area well. I can confirm that this medical outreach is highly wanted. The Presbytery Mission Committee decided to give a targeted donation to the project, e.g. for a set of equipment or the like. You will find some more information below and the Vine Trust leaflet on our church’s notice board in the lower hall.

**Tanzania Jubilee Appeal**
On Lake Victoria there are over 150 island communities with over 450,000 people in the Tanzanian sector alone, with little or no access to a meaningful health service. By partnering local health professionals and NGOs we aim to build a quarterly Primary Care service which will serve an estimated 100,000 patients a year.

**But first we have to get our 160 ton ship there: via South Africa to Mombasa and then 520 miles overland – in as few pieces as possible!**

Currently it’s in Gibraltar being readied as a medical ship. GIBDOCK are carrying out a substantial amount of work at no cost but there are fittings that need to be acquired before it heads to the UK for re-
naming, re-commissioning and recruitment of volunteers. Want to help? We’re breaking the ship’s refit and journey into stages to give you, our supporters, time to raise the funds necessary to make the dream of medical care for some of the most marginalized in Tanzania a reality.

**EthioBerhan CHRISTMAS MARKET**

EthioBerhan Foundation will be holding their annual Christmas Market on 2nd & 9th December to raise money for children’s education in Ethiopia. If you can bake cakes or cookies for this Christmas sale please let me know. There will be a stall of Ethiopian products for sale on 9th December.

*Please think of us for your Christmas, maybe the gift you need will be in our stall.*

*Menen Tessema (010-4510024)*

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Europe; the Americas; Africa; Asia… all were represented at the recent meeting of the Presbytery of Europe. The Church of Scotland’s most international body met in Malta – that most international of islands – and brought together ministers and elders from Europe and well beyond.

Just how international was brought home by the Presbytery’s 2012 Survey, carried out once every four years on a designated Sunday – a “snapshot” of each congregation. Elder Alice Tulloch, the survey co-ordinator, reported growth in many congregations, and said “All our congregations are multinational – many with over 20
nationalities, and with Amsterdam topping the bill at 40…”

She also reported that around 1 in 3 of all worshippers have come within the last three years – “Our congregations only survive because they continue to attract newcomers.”

The total number of worshippers recorded across the Presbytery this year was 1,672 – and, by coincidence, that is precisely the number of African refugees recorded by the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR as being resident in special “open centres” in Malta in August of this year, the last time records were updated. Members of the Presbytery visited one of these open centres to see for themselves some of the work being undertaken by OUT OF AFRICA... INTO MALTA, the mission project started by St. Andrew’s Scots Church, Malta, which was last year’s Presbytery Project, and is now a Guild Partner Project. Even as Presbytery was meeting, yet another refugee boat arrived in Malta; the 26th this year...
The Church’s World Mission Council Convener, the Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan, kept the international theme prominent, as he reported on this year’s mission focus on China – and next year’s on Africa. He urged churches within the presbytery, many of which have mission links to Africa, to continue this work. One clear focus for this is the current Presbytery mission project – the Vine Trust’s Jubilee Project.

This is converting a former Royal Navy ship into a floating medical centre which will operate on Lake Victoria, bringing healing to the poorest of the poor in Tanzania. The ship is undergoing conversion in Gibraltar.

Guests at this Presbytery meeting included ministers and elders from both Trinidad and the Presbytery of England; part of continuing discussions on how closer co-operation, and mutual support, can be developed. And this theme of international – and inter-denominational – fellowship was enhanced when the Archbishop of Malta, Paul Cremona, welcomed the Presbytery to the island.
With fellowship goes food; and while the Presbytery enjoyed the hospitality offered by the island that welcomed Paul almost 2,000 years ago – when the island’s governor also hosted his visitors for three days and nights – Mission Convener Rev. Aaron Stevens asked members to think carefully about achieving the right balance between sharing and enjoying food within fellowship. The Presbytery’s churches were encouraged to do all they can to help with food sharing initiatives, including food banks, wherever they are. Real food for thought...

**A GUILD FELLOWSHIP?**

At the Presbytery meeting we were asked to consider if we want to have a Guild in the church. This is fellowship for women and men. Guilds offer the opportunity for regular fellowship, talks, bible studies and public service. If anyone wants to know more, speak to the minister or Bob Hensen.

**SIXTY YEARS OLD!**

In September the Scots International celebrated sixty years at the site on Schiedamse Vest. In May 1940 the Scots Church was wiped out in hours by enemy
bombardment. After a few years some Dutch members requested for a new Church of Scotland minister. The church continued in the School for Social studies while the new building was constructed and opened in 1952. See: http://www.scotsintchurch.com/History/1951.htm

SKIN-Rotterdam celebrates her first lustrum

Saturday 3rd November saw the celebration of the first lustrum for SKIN-Rotterdam. The festivity took place at the Wijkcentrum in Rotterdam-Lombardijen, also the home of the Glorious Chapel International of Pastor Ola Asubiaro. Participating were representatives of the various migrant churches in Rotterdam, members or connected to SKIN-Rotterdam. Special invitees included Mrs. Korrie Louwes, Alderman of Rotterdam City Council, Pastor Mrs. Rhoinde Mijnals-Doth, Chairperson of SKIN-Netherlands and Ms. Dorine Cleton, Chairperson of L&R (Way of Life and Religion) Platform. The program of the day saw an Education & Training Market, two very informative workshops, a plenary session and a reception.

“how to discover, stimulate and mobilize talents of your church members” and “how to reach and include youth in your activities” were most important and stimulating subjects of the two workshops.

The Chairperson of SKIN Rotterdam, Bishop Nana of the Christian Family International Church, related the history
of the celebrating organization. He told his audience how it started with our Reverend Robert Calvert taking him around to the various migrant churches in Rotterdam, after which with a few other enthusiastic pastors the idea for SKIN-Rotterdam became a reality and registration took place five years ago. Alderman Korrie Louwes and SKIN-NL Chairperson both gave encouraging speeches expressing the importance of a strong and well organized civil society, which rendered services to the community.

Our church member Captain Tjakko Bouwman was lauded and thanked for his dedicated service as a board member of SKIN-Rotterdam as he stepped down.

**Happy Birthday!!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birthdays for the month of November</th>
<th>Birthdays in the month of December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Bob Hensen</td>
<td>01 Daniel Calvert</td>
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<tr>
<td>01 Boluwatif Mary Kisters</td>
<td>03 Rebecca Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>02 Gilberto Fleming</td>
<td>16 Toluwani Kisters</td>
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<tr>
<td>02 Betty Polley</td>
<td>17 Menen Tesema-Betre</td>
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<tr>
<td>02 Ann-Lynne Bouwman</td>
<td>17 James Essel</td>
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<tr>
<td>05 Irene van Ginkel</td>
<td>19 Richmond Mensah</td>
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<tr>
<td>06 Wil Ross</td>
<td>22 Janette van de Ben</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 Sow Kheen-Elizabeth Dorn-Lee</td>
<td>23 Doreen Asare-Awuku</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Herman Schoneville</td>
<td>24 Pam Russell-Knott</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Elizabeth Adzra</td>
<td>24 Isabella Snoeren</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Denis Galloway</td>
<td>26 Esther Abang</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Eunelda Cairo</td>
<td>26 Sophie Tataw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Meriam van der Velden</td>
<td>28 Robin Atu-Poku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Wim Griesdoorn</td>
<td>31 Calvin Ruvdberg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## WHO’S WHO IN THE CHURCH

### Mininster
- **Rev. Robert Calvert**  
  scotsintchurch@cs.com  
  tel: 010 412 4779

### Church Administrator
- **Ruth Kraaij**  
  (Thursday morning)  
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  tel: 010 412 4779

### Rentals Co-ordinator
- **Molly Foster**  
  info@acpcontrols.nl  
  tel: 010 412 4779 or 06 25538320

### Organists
- **Jan Hendrik v.d. Kamp**  
  lkamp15@chello.nl  
  tel: 010 466 5289
- **Nettie Dijkstra**  
  Nettydijkstra@live.nl

### Choir
- **Anneke Pot**
- **Joyful Singers**  
  Thomas Tanyi Besong  
  ttbesong@yahoo.com  
  tel: 06 2205 9748

### Welcome Team
- **Steve and Pam Russell**  
  srussell@tiscali.nl  
  tel: 010 5 91 49 59

### Recording
- **Brendan v.d. Velden**  
  010 7851509

### Church Beamer
- **André van der Velden**  
  aavandervelden@casema.nl  
  tel: 0180 756449

### Youth group
- **Saskia Dorsman**  
  sdorsman@hotmail.com

### Sunday School
- **Nyomi Cairo**  
  lovelync@hotmail.com

### Creche
- **Sylvia Airomwanbor**  
  tel: 06 2037 3754
- **Maaike van der Eerden**

### Secretary to the Consistory
- **Bob Hensen**  
  atobobhensen@hotmail.com

### Convenor of the Council
- **Ruud Witte**  
  tel: 06-22411465  
  ruudwitte@planet.nl

### Secretary to the Council
- **George Airomwanbor**  
  georgeairos@yahoo.com

### Treasurer
- **Jim Taylor**  
  tel: 071 362 5835

### Offering Envelopes
- **Jim Taylor**  
  tel: 071 362 5835

### Property
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  aavandervelden@casema.nl  
  tel: 0180 756449

### Children’s Message
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### Financial Team
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### Social Team
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  06-51709230

### Esther Abang
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  Tel: 06 16 808 505
- **Hank Meldrum**  
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  Tel: 078-6314599
- **Joy Okojie**  
  okojiej@yahoo.com

### Bookstall
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  tel: 0165 556 811

### Church Website
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  tel: 0165 556 811

### Child Protection Officer
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  010 4524230

### Recording
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  010 7851509

### Church Beamer
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  tel: 0180 756449