

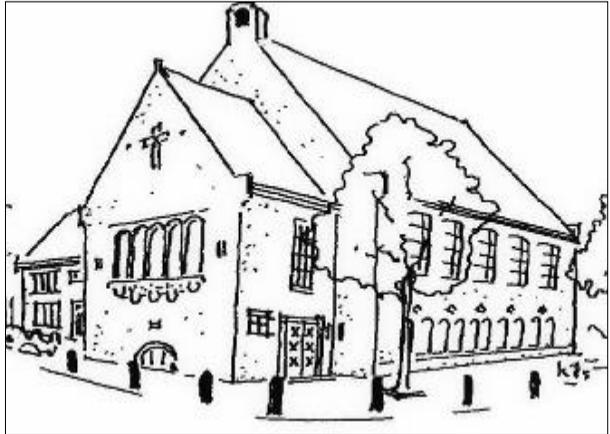


The Herald

Newsletter of the
Scots International Church
Rotterdam

a congregation of the Church of Scotland
International Presbytery

Spring 2019 (June/July)



IN THIS EDITION:

Letter from the Minister	2
Forthcoming Services	4
Sunday morning Bible Studies	6
Soup and Pudding lunches	6
Help for the Beamer and Sound System	7
Visit O.B.S. 't Landje	7
Repair of our Stained Glass Windows	8
International Youth Presbytery	10
Birthdays	11
Who's who in the church	12

Website:
www.Scotsintchurch.com

Email:
info@scotsintchurch.com

Bank Accounts:
NL62RABO.037.3741.006
NL17INGB 000 0175 187



Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends,

Here we are in May and still no Brexit! Good news? Yes, but we await seeing what happens between now and the end of October as, even yet, there may be 'no deal'. Meantime I continue to make plans for the continuing life and worship of the Scots International Church and pray I may be able to continue to do so until towards the middle of next year.

I'm writing this before going off to Scotland for the General Assembly of the Church in Edinburgh (from 18th – 24th May) – a trip I'm combining with spending a little time with our family in Scotland. For me, this will be my first visit to them since May last year, so I'll be delighted to have some time with the grandchildren, rather than just seeing them on FaceTime.

As we approach summer, many people's thoughts will be turning to holidays and/or family visits and I'd therefore wish all who are to be travelling safe travels and a wonderful time spent relaxing or with family (does that count as relaxing?) Both a change in our routine and catching up with family (and friends) is good for all of us – whether we're doing it at home or abroad. Hopefully, we can all find time to appreciate the wonders of God's creation – in the landscapes we visit, in the people we encounter and in our relationships with family and friends. Nowadays we need to

keep in mind our carbon footprint, for we all have a responsibility to help sustain God's good creation and to balance our lifestyle so that we are good stewards of that creation, not just for our own time but for generations to come.

That leads naturally in to our Stewardship Campaign here in the SICR – a campaign that was launched at our Annual Congregational Meeting back in March but which, as yet, doesn't show much sign of bringing about increased congregational giving, in that our weekly offering has consistently been falling well short of what is needed to meet our budgeted expenses for the current year. So, if you haven't already done so, I'd ask you as a matter of urgency to review what you give to sustain the work and worship of our congregation. This may well have importance beyond the congregation itself, as, when the International Presbytery comes to review ministry within and across Presbytery, one of its considerations will be the sustainability of each congregation – both numerically and financially. Thinking on the numerical side, it was a great delight for me on Easter Sunday to baptise 2 infants, as well as 2 teenagers and to admit to our membership by profession of faith these 2 teenagers as well as 3 women. If you're reading this and have never become a member of the congregation (for whatever reason) but would like to do so (or at least think about it), please get in touch with me as I'd be keen to accompany you on your journey of faith and, if it is God's will, bring you to membership of our Church family.

Thinking about the future of our congregation also raises questions about what we see as our role or our mission. Do we exist just to continue what has been done in the past? Or should we be thinking how we might better pursue God's mission in the world of the 21st century? In our particular instance, what do we see as the mission of an English-speaking Presbyterian congregation in Rotterdam? And should we be exploring how we might work with other English-speaking congregations?

These are all important questions for you, for you are the Scots

International Church. For my part, I'm keen we should get our arrangements for the pastoral care of our Church family on a proper basis and I hope that the Pastoral Care Working Group will soon be producing details for this. But pastoral care does not exist in isolation – it connects with what we provide by way of social activities, as well as for spiritual nourishment. Because we are such a scattered congregation, should we consider establishing area groups that might meet from time to time for fellowship, for Bible study, for prayer, as might be determined by each group?

I am not pushing any set agenda on this, but I'm quite sure that we cannot simply stand still and do what we've done for the last 3, 23, 33, 43 or 53 years. At the heart of what we do lies "the story we find ourselves in": God's story. And that's a story that doesn't change, though our understanding of it and its application to the world in which we find ourselves can and must. The Church has changed enormously over its 2000 years and must keep on changing if it is to be the bearer of the Good News of Jesus Christ to contemporary society. If, therefore, you've any ideas you'd like to share, don't hesitate to email me and I'll bring them to the Consistory.

Meantime, both Moira and I would wish you an enjoyable summer and may you be bringers of peace and joy to those you encounter, both in your daily lives and on your summer travels.

Derek

Forthcoming Services

Summer Series on the Theme of "Bad Girls of the Bible"

Last summer I looked at some of the "Bad Boys of the Bible", so it's only fair that this year I turn our attention to some of the "Bad Girls of the Bible".

Once again, I'm indebted to a book by Barbara J Essex in providing the inspiration for these sermons. I've chosen 3 "girls" from the Old Testament – whom I'll deal with in July -and 3 from

the New Testament – who will feature in August.

The Old Testament “girls” are:

Lot’s Wife - Genesis 19 :

Potiphar’s Wife - Genesis 39 : 6 - 20

Delilah - Judges 16

The New Testament “girls” are:

Herodias - Mark 6 :

The woman caught in adultery - John 8 :

Sapphira - Acts 5 :

Derek

June

- 2nd 9.15 Bible Study – The Acts of the Apostles – Part 1
10.30 Worship for the Sunday after Ascension
- including the Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 9th 9.15 Bible Study - The Acts of the Apostles - Part 2
10.30 Worship for Pentecost
- 16th 10.30 Worship for Trinity Sunday
- including the Sacrament of Baptism
- 23rd 10.30 Worship for the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
- 30th 10.30 Worship for the 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

July

- 7th 10.30 Sacrament of Holy Communion
and the Sacrament of Baptism
- 14th 10.30 Morning Worship - Bad Girls of the Bible: Lot’s
Wife
- 21st 10.30 Morning Worship - Bad Girls of the Bible: Poti
phar’s Wife
- 28th 10.30 Morning Worship - Bad Girls of the Bible: Delilah

August

- 4th 10.30 Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 11th 10.30 Morning Worship - Bad Girls of the Bible: Hero
dias
- 18th 10.30 Morning Worship - Bad Girls of the Bible: The
woman caught in adultery

25th 10.30 Morning Worship - Bad Girls of the Bible:
Sapphira

Sunday Morning B4theService Bible Studies
Journeying Through the Bible

These will re-start at the beginning of September on the first two Sundays of each month running from 9.15am until around 10am. In September our journey through the Old Testament will take us through what are often referred to as "The Prophets": that is, the books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

Part 1 will be at 9.15 on Sunday 1st September, and
Part 2 at 9.15 on Sunday 8th September.

Come and continue your journey – or, if you haven't been before, come and join us as we travel through the pages of the Bible.

Derek & Irene

Soup & Pudding Lunches

The last Lunch before the summer break will be on **Sunday 9th June** after the service. It's been great to see so many people enjoying the fellowship of these lunches and they will start up again on the second Sunday of September (8th September). Whilst the soup and puddings are donated, one of the purposes of the lunches (as well as being a social occasion) is to bring in some additional income for the Church finances and it would therefore be wonderful if everyone could put in a donation for the lunch. Every little bit helps!

Help required for the Beamer and Sound System

We are deeply indebted to André v.d. Velden for having taken responsibility for both the beamer and the sound system for many years, but now he is retiring from these roles, we have an **urgent need for volunteers** to come forward to be part of the rota to operate the beamer (and prepare the material for Sunday), as well as for setting up and controlling the sound system during our services.

Daniel de Jong is taking on responsibility for the rota for the beamer and is looking for at least **an extra 3 volunteers to be trained and added to the beamer rota**. If you're interested, please contact Daniel direct at daniel@dejongweb.nl.

In addition we need **at least 2 more people to become acquainted with how to operate the sound system** and, if you're interested, please send me an email as soon as possible and I'll be in touch with you at the beginning of June.

Derek

Visit OBS 't Landje to the SICR

Christine Galloway organized on 15th April a school visit of our neighborhood school 't Landje to the SICR. Three groups of each approx. 28 children visited the church. Bob Hensen and Ruud Witte were great volunteers and had fun explaining our church history and answering all the questions the children had. Rev. Derek Lawson was also happy to hear that they all like Milly the dog – I think she has become our church mascot.



Some of the children had been in our church in the past either visiting with



family, for a baptism or party, but for most it was new and interesting as most pass our church every day. The children were also allowed to explore the whole church which sometimes ended in the pulpit taking a selfie,

looking at the organ or reading from the Bible.

All in all we had an interesting and fun day and we were happy to hear from the teachers that the children found it very interesting. As Derek mentioned on 21st Apr a bridge has been made between the school and our church and on an annual basis we will be welcoming the children into our church.



Christine Galloway, Ato Bob Hensen & Ruud Witte

Repair of our Stained Glass Windows

It can't have escaped you that our stained glass windows were vandalised in December 2017.'

Since then we have been looking at how we can repair them and also protect them from another breakage.

On 22nd May the workmen started on the repairs which include removing those parts that need repair, removing the stonework along the bottom of the windows (which is now rotten), replacing with new stonework, replacing the repaired windows and finally placing a transparent protective shield.



Hopefully this will be finished this summer but the total bill is a little over €20,000. As our funds are not in great shape we have also applied to the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds and Protestantse Fondsen in the hope of getting some help with this. We won't know until probably late June if we have any success with some help.

Writing to obtain funds is a not an easy job and is best suited to a group who write fluent Dutch. We would be grateful to hear from anyone

who thinks they may be able to help here. The first time is the most difficult but we have now passed this point and can give background support. Our next project is to improve the heating and insulation and so becoming a more environmentally friendly church. This again will need quite a lot of money!



Many thanks: Steve and Fred and the Property Team

In the April/May Herald we also payed attention to the next item. In the May issue of Life and Work (the monthly magazine of the Church of Scotland) we discovered an article about this meeting as well. We like to share it with you.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PRESBYTERY MEETS IN ROTTERDAM



Young people from as far afield as Sri Lanka and all over Europe congregated in Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, in February for the International Youth Presbytery.

Representing Church of Scotland congregations from Colombo, Bochum, Paris, Budapest, Rome and Rotterdam, the young people had a weekend of discussion and socialising.

Topics for discussion included 'you and faith' (how would you describe your faith, when there's a discussion about faith do you stand up to be counted, how can we communicate our faith without preaching), 'you and the world' (what do you see as the

greatest challenges facing the world, what can we do to make the world we inhabit more like the kingdom of God?), 'faith and culture' (how does the variety of cultures in most countries impact upon society, what separates and what unites us in a Christian context?) and 'the church and the future' (is the church fit for God's mission in the 21st century, what are the church's greatest problems and its greatest resources).

There was also time to enjoy a guided tour of Rotterdam and a game of bowling, as well as cooking and eating together, and sharing worship at the Scots Church in the city.

Herald Deadline

Items for the Summer (August and September) Issue of the Herald should be given to Bob Hensen or sent to the church office by **17-07-2019**. We hope that issue will be available on **28-07-2019**

June

Ato Cromwell
HunterSmith
Lina Sebastian
André Velden, van der
Stefan Spranger
Anneke Pot
Joanne Zanger, de
Violet Chidiuma Chukwu
Kelechi Koka
Ruth Vissia
Precious Juliet Tiujudy Okoro
Rignalda Fleming
Nnamdi Luther JuochimKoka
Isaac Dierx
Peter Aghasomba

July

Olivia Adu-Poku
Chinedum Koka
Maureen Vollema
Kei Otsuki
Stacey Bouwman
Tjakko Bouwman
Evelyn Koomson

**Happy birthday and may the Lord
bless you in the coming year!**



For subscription and how
you receive your monthly
hard copy of the magazine
see Ruud Witte

WHO'S WHO IN THE CHURCH

Minister:

Derek Lawson,
Schiedamsevest 121,
Tel.: 010 4125709
E:DLawson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Office:

Schiedamsesingel 6,
tel. 010-4124779 ,
E:info@scotsintchurch.com

Rentals Co-ordinator:

Molly Foster,
tel: 06 25538320,
E:info@scotsintchurch.com

Pastoral Care Working Group Convener:

Derek Lawson

Worship & Nurture Working Group Convener:

Rizal Sebastian

Organists:

Jan Hendrik van der Kamp,
E:J.kamp15@chello.nl
Netty Dijkstra
Joseph Hoang Nguyen

Choir: *Anneke Pot***Joyful Singers:**

Emmanuel Asare-Awuku.
06 1220 0404
E: dadaawuku@yahoo.com

Welcome Team:

Steve and Pam Russell,
Tel: 010 5914959,
E:srussell@caiway.nl

Youth group: *Saskia Dorsman***Sunday School: *Peace Acquah***

Creche: *Wenli Wan & Chidinma Chukwu*

Secretary to the Consistory:

Bob Hensen, E:atobohensen@hotmail.com

Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer:

Annemarie Fleming,
Tel:06 4100 5611,
E:broll-111@hotmail.com

Treasurer and offering envelopes:

Jim Taylor,
Tel:071 3625835

Property Working Group Convener:

Olaf de Zanger.

Finance & Governance Working Group Convener:

Fred Booman.

Fellowship & Communication Working Group

Convener: *Bob Hensen.*

Herald & SICR Weekly Bulletin:

Bob Hensen:(editor)

06 016808505

E:atobohensen@hotmail.com

Carol de Groot:

E:carolkaedegroot@gmail.com

Ranee Damanik:

E: ran33d@gmail.com

George Ross:

E:georgeross@home.nl

Church beamer:

André van der Velden,

Tel: 0180-756449,

E:aavandervelden@casema.nl

Childrens's Message:

Rev. Irene Bom,

E:ibsalem@xs4all.nl