



The Herald

Summer 2020



**Newsletter of the
Scots International Church, Rotterdam,
a congregation of the
Church of Scotland and of the
Protestantse Kerk Nederland**

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Letter from our interim moderator Rev. Jan Steyn.

Paris 18 July 2020

To all the people
those strong in faith
those weak and doubting
those who ask questions and those who don't
those who associate them with the **Scots International Church Rotterdam**
or know people who do

from
a minister,
a fellow human being
and someone who journeys through life
and the Covid19 Pandemic

Dear friends

I remember my enthusiasm at the beginning of 2020 expecting it to be a year with new opportunities and challenges but, honestly, I did not expect it to be as it turned out to be.
I suppose no one did.

The world is grappling to survive and make sense of what happened, is happening and might be happening with us and the world.

One of the "voices" that I have been listening to, is a Canadian lawyer/theologian Carey Nieuwhof.

In his frequent blogs, he addresses issues which will affect church and the church. Here are some of his thought-provoking comments:

Church and Digital

Carey says: "We thought we were going on a short-term trip to a place that felt foreign. We got there, and had to immediately learn some new languages and methods. Turns out, this is becoming more like a long-term mission assignment." He reckons that we face (some of) the following changes and challenges:

- 1. Tuning in:** Digital viewership soared (we think)
- 2. Church surfing:** many people viewed sermons, devotionals, music, and content from more than one source
- 3. Re-opening surprise:** as churches opened their doors again, only 35% of people came back
- 4. Habit change:** it's looking like many folks will permanently opt for a more digital (or at least hybrid) model for engaging with the church.

(You can read this very interesting article here: <https://careynieuwhof.com/12-things-covid-has-taught-the-analog-church-about-digital-church>)

One thing is for sure: 2020 have shaken us and will challenge us.

Today I want to bring two words (two thoughts) to all of us: faith and fragile.

What does "faith" mean? Certainly, church as institution and organization has been challenged in many ways. But perhaps this pandemic revealed to us what faith is and what it is not. Faith has never been faith in our congregations. Faith is a relationship between me and God, which fills my life and influences my relationship to others and the world. Where are you when it comes to faith? Perhaps this is the time to return to our "inner chamber" (onze binnenkamer) to meet God at the centre of our lives.

The second word: fragile. If anything has happened to me, it was a painful rediscovery of being fragile. We are breakable. We are weak. And we hide it. We are mere human beings. Beings with two very definite dates: at the beginning and the end. And in between we are fragile. A church is not a gathering of those who have made it in life. A "gemeente" is a gathering of those depending on God's grace every single moment in life. Can you do it alone? Can I do it alone? No. But God is with us.

We are certainly faced with changes. Being honest about how fragile we are, being honest about our faith, will certainly help us and those around us.

God is with You.

Jan Steyn
Interim Moderator



The SICR is 'blooming'

On the 25th of January we had our last flower arranging session with Moira who has taught us so much the last 2 years- she in her own words left us with a heart full of love and memories and so not to forget us we handed over to her a beautiful basket of bulbs. Christine will do her best to take over from Moira - won't be easy to take over from such a 'pro' but she will do her best.

At the moment we are with approx. 10 ladies and try to meet every 2 months on a Saturday at 10:30.

If you love flowers and would like to learn how to make your own arrangements come and join us- it's also a nice way to meet others in the congregation. If you wish to join us please contact Christine Galloway.

For the SICR Flower Arrangers,

Christine Galloway



AGENDA

Church Services during July, August and September

**Sunday 26th July Worship Service led by Interim Moderator Rev. Jan Steyn,
followed by AGM - Annual General Meeting**

Sunday 2nd August led by Rev. Irene Bom

Sunday 9th August led by Rev. Joost Pot

Sunday 16th August Worship Team & Moderator's Reflection

Sunday 23rd August led by Rev. Irene Bom

Sunday 30th August led by Rev. Eric Foggitt

Sunday 6th September Rev. Jan Steyn

Sunday 13th September led by Rev. Irene Bom

Sunday 20th September to be announced

Sunday 27th September Rev. Jacob (Jaap) Theunisz

ANNEKE MULDER

In Memory of Anneke Mulder 28th May 1932 – 4th June 2019.

Anneke was a member of the church since the 1980s. She sang in the choir, was a member of the Guild, the Manse Bible Study and the Monthly evening prayer meeting. She came regularly until her back was so bad that she couldn't sit in the church or travel.

Robert Calvert visited her regularly. A short time after Robert left she went into a home in Ommoord where she lived until she died after a fall. She was the mother of seven children. She is remembered by the older members of the congregation with warmth. I feel that, as the last president of the Women's Guild, I should initiate this 'In memoriam'.

Stay safe God bless,
Anita Ouweleen-Shand.

My friendship with Anneke went back many years, from the time she moved to Spijkenisse and Wim and I brought her to church each Sunday. After Wim's death in 1995 we travelled together in the metro and to the Women's Guild meetings.

We also did voluntary work in the Spijkenisse hospital and she joined a group started up by a lady in my flat who wanted to practice her English. We held this in each other's houses each month.

I also visited her regularly in her flat in Spijkenisse and afterwards in the Hofstee. She was a good friend and deeply missed.

Irene van Ginkel

Anneke Mulder found our church during the time of Rev. Duncan McGillivray. She had lived in Ireland for a long time with her husband and large family, but had come back to Rotterdam and felt at home in our church. She was musical and loved singing, so she was glad to join the choir. She especially loved the Christmas Tea and Carol Services for which she'd invite all her (grown-up) children and grandchildren. At one point those services were packed, and Anneke glowed with happiness and Christmas cheer to be in church, singing, having a good time, and celebrating Christmas with all her loved ones around her. Her life had not been plain sailing, but her faith and her friends



helped her through difficult times. When Women's Aglow Fellowship (now called Aglow) started a chapter in Rotterdam she was one of a number of women in our church who joined, exploring new aspects of experiencing God's presence in our daily lives, and new ways of translating this into our daily fellowship with each other and the way we do and are church.

Some weeks Anneke would not be in church, she'd take the train to Groningen to spend the weekend with one of her daughters, and sometimes a granddaughter would come and stay with her and come to church with her. The whole family looked like her, and had the same smile.

As the years passed Anneke became less mobile, and could no longer negotiate public transport to attend church. She was one of the first people to listen to the services through **kerkdienstgemist**. She kept up with her friends through phone calls and cards till the last.

Writing about her, I hear her ringing, clear soprano voice again and her infectious laugh. Lovely memories of a lovely lady.

Anneke Pot, Director Church Choir

I met Anneke in May 2015, when I visited her in her flat in Spijkenisse together with our Locum Minister Rev. Linda Bradley. She moved around with a walker and was able to service us coffee and tea. Our attention was quickly drawn to the large collection of framed photographs of her children and grandchildren. With a mixed smile of pleasure and pride she told us who they were and where they lived. She was unable to manage the public transport, but regularly listened to the Services of the Scots Church through the internet. She told us that she missed the church and was happy with our visit.

Not too long after, she moved to the Hofstee care home, as

unfortunately dementia caught up with her. I visited her there fairly regularly and found her in changing moods, due to her condition, but nevertheless always smiling!

She always kept repeating, after she had recognized me, 'ik mis de kerk heel erg'.

I attended the funeral service in Schiebroek, Rotterdam, which I found a wonderful rewarding experience. I met so many members of the family, which had come from all over to pay their last respects. There were so many different loving tributes to Anneke that I could only conclude that she had succeeded in spreading and instilling her love to her family and even all she came in contact with.

CORONA-COVID 19 – Trials and Tribulations for the SICR

The SICR-Scots International Church Rotterdam could of course not escape the effects of the global Corona virus pandemic.

The picture shows our Sanctuary made '1.5m proof' by our Treasurer Jim Taylor. By the Grace of God we have been able to offer Worship Services throughout this trial period of virtual lockdowns, which prevented planned locum ministers from traveling, kept scores of worshippers away and an imposed maximum of just 30 persons allowed gathering.

Thanks to two committed Worship Teams alternating Video and Audio Services were produced, while Rev. Irene Bom was inspired to step in as Temporary Locum, when so asked by our Interim Moderator Rev. Jan Steyn.

We are not out of the woods yet, but from 5th July we are fully open and can accommodate 80 persons and are allowed to sing again.

With God's help and 'alleen samen' – 'only together' can we stop the spread of this pandemic and what is more rebuild the community of the Scots International Church Rotterdam into an inspiring and lively congregation of God's people.



EXPLORING THE PSALMS by Irene Bom

According to Rev. Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia, “In these uncertain times, we need the raw honesty and rich promises of the Book of Psalms. The Psalms are timeless, anchoring, and encouraging.”

<https://revlisad.com/2020/04/17/bible-reading-plan-psalms-by-theme/>

I decided to introduce her 11-week reading plan (psalms by theme) as our readings for the week, and to offer support and input for fellow explorers. (All are welcome to join us on Sunday evenings at 8 pm via zoom.)

These ancient prayers give us words to express and channel the whole range of human emotions – fear, praise, anger, thanksgiving, joy, despair. They teach us to be real with God. There are moments of rest and restoration in the psalms, but they are hard won. The psalmist encourages us to keep in dialogue with God, whatever the circumstances, and to trust that God will come through for us in the end. As Psalm 22:4 says, “In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.” The enemies that crop up again and again are essentially God’s enemies, undermining his loving purposes in the world.

The psalms are poetry, sparking our imagination and our hunger for truth and beauty. They are full of imagery and picturesque language, helping us feel what is being said. Another characteristic feature of Hebrew poetry is the use of *parallelism*. This is a two-line pattern of writing in which the lines are connected in some way. As Ronald Allen suggests, this two-line unit helps us hear ‘in stereo’. Here’s an example: “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High / will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.” (Psalm 91:1) ... dwells/rests; shelter/shadow; the Most High/the Almighty

I do hope you find time to connect with the psalms too – as God’s people have been doing for nearly three thousand years – to inform and nourish your prayer life. **Remember, our Lord Jesus did the same.**

**New
OUTLAY-
EDITOR
wanted.**

Who is more important for the Herald than the EDITOR?

Ato or Ni Bob, Bob Hensen, is the Editor-in Chief of 'The Herald'.

He gathers all articles and necessary information, but they only become another Herald with the help of an OUTLAY-EDITOR.

This has been a job done creatively and skillfully by George Ross, 'for ages and more', who now likes to handover.

Are you or yes YOU our new Outlay-Editor in the new format?

Contact Bob and we can work-out something!

Who is who in the church?

<p>Minister: Interim moderator: <i>Rev. Jan Steyn,</i> The Scots Church Paris Tel 00 33 148784794 E: JSteyn@churchofscotland.org.uk</p>	<p>Youth group: <i>Saskia Dorsman</i> Sunday School: <i>Peace Acquah</i> Creche: <i>Christa Jacobs</i></p>
<p>Church Office: Schiedamsesingel 6, tel. 010-4124779 , E:info@scotsintchurch.com</p>	<p>Secretary to the Consistory: <i>Bob Hensen, E:atobobhensen@hotmail.com</i></p>
<p>Rentals Co-ordinator: <i>Molly Foster,</i> tel: 06 25538320, E:info@scotsintchurch.com</p>	<p>Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer: <i>Annemarie Fleming,</i> Tel:06 4100 5611, E:broll-111@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Pastoral Care Team Convener: vacant</p>	<p>Treasurer and offering envelopes: <i>Jim Taylor,</i> Tel:071 3625835</p>
<p>Worship & Nurture team Convener: vacant</p>	<p>Property team Convener: <i>Olaf de Zanger.</i> Finance & Governance team Convener: <i>Fred Booman.</i> Fellowship & Communication team Convener: <i>Bob Hensen.</i></p>
<p>Organists: <i>Jan Hendrik van der Kamp, E:J.kamp15@chello.nl</i> <i>Netty Dijkstra</i> <i>Gulieva Natavan</i></p>	<p>Herald & SICR Weekly Bulletin: <i>Bob Hensen:(editor)</i> 06 016808505 E:atobobhensen@hotmail.com <i>Carol de Groot:</i> E:carolkaedegroot@gmail.com <i>Ranee Damanik:</i> E: ran33d@gmail.com</p>
<p>Choir: <i>Anneke Pot</i></p>	<p>Church beamer: <i>Daniel de Jong</i> E:daniel@dejongweb.nl</p>
<p>Joyful Singers: <i>Emmanuel Asara Awuku.</i> 06 1220 0404 E: dadaawuku@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Childrens's Message: <i>Rev. Irene Bom,</i> E:ibsalem@xs4all.nl</p>
<p>Welcome Team: <i>Steve Russell,</i> Tel: 010 5914959, E:srussell@caiway.nl</p>	<p>Bookstall: <i>Teun Karreman</i> E: karremanski@hotmail.com</p>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND MAY THE LORD
BLESS YOU IN THE COMING YEAR!

August 2020	September 2020
Mary Tataw Wisteria Cairo Virginia Hendriks Rinus Dekker Joyce Mensah Joost Pot Jean Galloway Beverly Bouwman David Dziworshie Evert Dorn Daniel Oppong-Sarfo Solomon Stifanos Max Ferdinandus Margriet van Overbeeke	Gabi Jang Johan Wagenaar Hank Meldrum Jim van Putten Liz van der Velden Ingrid Evovo-Belksma Chanté Fleming Fanny Mensah Jaco Jacobs Brendan van der Velden Kelly Bouwman Sinead Wolfert-Schot Shanon Fleming