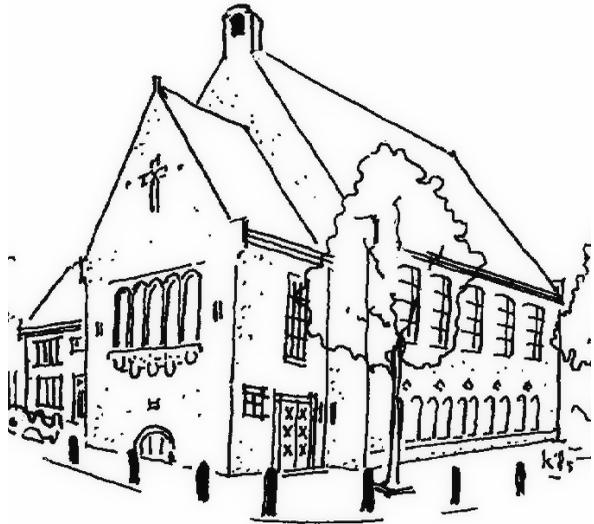


The Herald

Newsletter of the
Scots International
Church, Rotterdam
April and May 2011



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LETTER from the Pastor

EASTER 2011

My dear friends

The last two months have witnessed earthquake, tsunami and nuclear poisoning in Japan and public unrest in North Africa and the Middle East. Disaster and devastation is portrayed almost instantly on our televisions. We have watched the spectacular power of nature as well as prominent national leaders on our screens. What did you think?

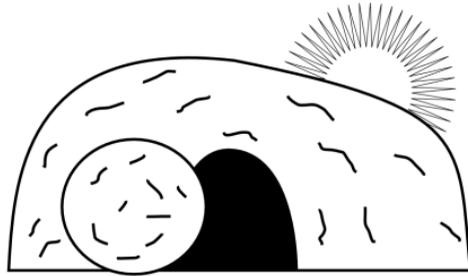
Some respond by asking: 'Where is God? What is he like? Is God omnipotent or not?' These are searching questions. The bible offers two simple but deep statements: God is light and God is love. Where God is present he will show up what is dark from what is light. Where God is love he will draw many (different kinds of) people to himself.

Recently our prayers have been for the people of Japan and for those most marginalised and 'at risk' in these cities. Some respond to the calamities by recalling the biblical language of 'Revelation.' Others jump to conclusions about God's judgment on these particular nations. Where next for the four galloping horses of the apocalypse?

So how do we think of trouble in foreign places? The world's cities are more mixed. You won't get politicians to admit it but the world's peoples are no longer over there! They are here and in a fragile world the world's problems belong to all of us. As an international community we read the news and bibles in inter-cultural relationships.

This month we read chapter six of Paul's letter to Ephesians. We found that the world is not governed by flesh and blood (or not for that

matter by money and politics). It suggests instead that these conflicts which we experience as physical and political are really being fought in the spiritual realm. We are invited to join the fight through prayer.



Death and decay do not have the last word. It just seems like it. We assume that destruction is normal but there really is a new creation. The most amazing news that world ever received came of a graveyard! It was to be precise the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea and he got it back afterwards. New life in Christ is still the hope of the world.

Your friend and minister

Robert Calvert

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

New elders and deacons

At the AGM in February Peace Acquah was elected as a new elder (ordained on 6 March) and Ato Cromwell was re-elected for a second term. Flora van der Zwaan and Joy Okojie were elected as new deacons. We congratulate them and support them in our prayers.

Student placements

Andrei Popirda and Ionut Grecu are on placement here from the Romanian Orthodox Faculty in Iasi under the Erasmus exchange programme. They depart Monday 9 May and will spend a few days in Budapest (with our pastor) at the 'Hope for Europe' Congress. On 14 June Debbie Dobbie will come from Aberdeenshire to join us for ten weeks for a summer placement under the Church of Scotland and stay in the Muller House.

From our Romanian students

Ionut writes: “Coming from the east-European land of Romania, Rotterdam meant for me a spirit’s adventure into which I enjoyed throwing myself in, but not without being initiated and guided by the character of a mythological Hermes, so I won’t get lost into the modern-traditional labyrinth of the conjunction point of an international community. The initiation has been achieved, but the adventure isn’t over! Regarding from the past towards the future, from the perspective of a big Christian family, the horizon seems to have for me new inter-confessional and intercultural dimensions towards my formation as a future minister.”

Andrei writes: “The interaction with everything that has a connection with the Dutch culture, the Scots International Church and a multicultural environment, gave me the opportunity to better grasp and manage interfaith and intercultural differences, helping me to assimilate only the good things and applying them when it’s going to be necessary. I’ve also learned modern urban ministry techniques which will prove to be very useful for me as a future Orthodox priest. With this unique opportunity I’ve made lots of new friends and connections with the Romanian, Dutch and many other nationalities amongst Scots church-goers.”

In memoriam

We record our sincere sympathies to the families of Dawn Neven-Kleiwegt (on 16 February), Martin de Roo (on 4 February) and Daphne Florence Maud Reuijl-Selwood (on 4 March). Our thoughts are with Bas and his young family, with Mary de Roo and her son, and with Hein Reuijl and his wider family who supported him so ably. At Daphne’s funeral service in Barendrecht, Hein played “I heard the voice of Jesus say” on the keyboard before saying a few words to the assembled gathering. We give thanks for these lives well lived.

Baptisms

We have admitted the following persons by baptism since the last newsletter: Nina Kudlicka and Lorraine Gwanmesia (both 13 February), Sijmen den Hollander (20 March) and Andijlis Cuvalay (27 March). “The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all

whom the Lord calls our God will call.” (Acts 2: 39)

Preachers

We are grateful to Rev. Joost Pot, Rev. Irene Bom and Mr. George Aïromwanbor for preaching when the minister was away. On 10 July we expect ds. Hans Visser (former minister of the Pauluskerk) to be our guest preacher.

Sri Lanka connection

Last month we welcomed the family of Margreet and Bernhard Jaspers-Faijer who were involved with our sister church St. Andrew's, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Their children Julia and Daan told our Sunday school about their part in the Church of Scotland Children's Assembly.

Nacht der Kerken

The 'Nacht der Kerken' takes place on the evening of Saturday 25 June. We need your help to make this a night for people to remember when they visit the church. Plans are still underway but include some Scottish/Celtic songs, story-tellers, period costumes, the church DVD, and a guided tour of the church and its artefacts. The 'Nacht der Kerken' is a German tradition where churches are opened up to the public on one night.

Tyndale course

Tyndale Theological Seminary hold an extension course at the church on Saturdays 9 and 16 April. Dr. Drake Williams will offer a survey of the New Testament. The cost is 50% of normal extension courses (25 euros per day) and can be certificated for those who complete it. This excellent opportunity is offered to people from our congregation and migrant churches.

Mission offerings

It has been agreed to give two mission offerings each year to projects connected with our members. By doing this on consecutive months it helps to promote their stories in the church. There can be other fund-raising events and days – for example the International Peace service for S.K.I.N. Ben leaves Mercy Ships in June and Mamre may return to two offerings in 2012.

January	Mercy Ships (Ben Calvert)
February	Mamre project (uprooted people in Rotterdam)
March & April	Living Water Link, Nigeria (Peter & Ineke Aghasomba)
May & June	Aids Orphans Education, Cameroon (Ma Flo)
July & August	Brick Kiln Workers' Education, Pakistan (Shalla Gill)
September	Friends Rotterdam (international students)
October & November	Berhan Foundation, Ethiopia (Menen Tesema)
December in	Presbytery of Europe project (uprooted people Malta)

Property renewal

This year we have renovated the kitchen in the Muller House and bathroom in the Church centre. We are grateful to Freukje Leuken and Wilma Paton in showing ideas on a power-point so that we can make future plans. We are discussing improvements to the garden area as the play area behind the church is being re-developed by the municipality. The church council has given the go-ahead the variety of building renewal work:

Impregnating, cleaning & painting the outside of the church building
Plastering & painting of the sanctuary, stairways, cost of scaffold
Suspended ceiling & inbuilt spotlight of Lower hall & entrance area
Painting of the Lower hall and repair of tiles
Overhaul of the church kitchen and new gas stove
Church roof maintenance and insulation

Celtic trail

This spiritual pilgrimage is excellent value with the offer of sea excursions and a ceilidh. Because of a change in one hotel, the Celtic trail will begin on Friday 1st July and finish on Saturday 9th July. The trail begins and ends at Glasgow International airport from where we will travel direct to Oban, Iona and the Holy Isle. The cost of 685 euros covers travel, accommodation and evening meals. This trip of a lifetime is with an international group that wants to discover our Celtic heritage. Do speak to the minister if you are interested to come.

Hogeschool Rotterdam

We now share the use of the church house with Hogeschool Rotterdam and Peter Dijkstra, head philosophy teacher, has enabled classes and tutorial groups to use it. They appreciate the interesting location and last month more than seven hundred students recognised International Social Worker Day here. There are opportunities for church members to use the space for social or educational projects.

An Easter thought

Spring (or 'lente') is a time for buds and blossom when we can put behind the cold, dark winter and enjoy the promise of a new year. Yet despite the signs of new life, many of us are plagued with relationship difficulties, health worries and employment uncertainty. The future can look just as bleak as the past, and some of us might even begin to despair of life itself. In the message of Easter, no matter how difficult things may be we can find God's peace.

CONGREGATIONAL DIARY**APRIL**

- 03 Sunday 10.30 Worship, Communion, Choir, Rev. J. Pot
- 04 Monday 19.00 Alpha course: "How do I pray?"
- 09 Saturday 09.00 Tyndale seminar: "The New Testament" (I)
14.00 St. Diwa bread-making course (Zebrastraat 36)
- 10 Sunday 10.30 Worship, Sonrise, Ephesians 6: 10-24
12.00 Soup Lunch
12.15 Young adult's bible study
- 11 Monday 19.00 Alpha course: "How do I read the bible?"
- 12 Tuesday 19.45 Consistory meeting
- 16 Saturday 09.00 Tyndale seminar: "The New Testament" (II)
- 17 Sunday 10.30 Worship for Palm Sunday, Choir, Covenant Players

18 Monday 19.00 Alpha course: "How does God guide?"

22 Friday 19.30 Service for Good Friday

23 Saturday 10.00 Alpha course: "The Holy Spirit"

24 Sunday 09.00 Breakfast for Easter Sunday
10.30 Family service for Easter Sunday, Baptism,
Joyful Singers, Sounds of Glory
12.15 Young adult's bible study

26 Tuesday 19.45 Council meeting

MAY

01 Sunday 10.30 Worship, Communion, Choir, Mark 1

08 Sunday 10.30 Worship, Sonrise, Mark 2
12.00 Soup Lunch

09 Monday 19.00 Alpha course: "How do I resist evil?"

15 Sunday 10.30 Worship, Choir, Mark 3
12.15 Young adult's bible study

16 Monday 19.00 Alpha course: "How do I share my faith?"

21 Saturday 14.00 Pastors' appreciation day

22 Sunday 10.30 Worship, Joyful Singers, Mark 4

23 Monday 19.00 Alpha course: "How does God heal?"

24 Tuesday 19.45 Consistory meeting

29 Sunday 10.30 Worship, Sounds of Glory, Mark 5
12.15 Young adult's bible study

30 Monday 19.00 Alpha course: "What about the church?"

Every week: Prayer meeting – Sundays at 09.45 in church centre

Pilgrim's bible study – Wednesdays at 20.00

European Youth Presbytery

Awesome. Amazing. Inspiring. All these words come to mind when I think of the first ever European Youth Presbytery meeting held in



Amsterdam on the 26th and 27th of February. All congregations were asked to send two youth delegates to a weekend of fellowship, discussions and debates and a

total of 19 delegates from all over Europe took part. The weekend started as a hope for the youth to become more involved and play an active role in church, and it quickly snow-balled to become the most inspiring event of the year!

The two focal points were Mission and Leadership in church, and following good presentations, we were dismissed to smaller groups to do what we were called for-discuss the current 'problems' and propose solutions. It was amazing to see the willingness of the youth to not only find solutions to all problems, but also to help implement these solutions. It was a weekend of hard work, intensive discussions and loads of fun, and the end result was 29 proposals that were submitted to the regular Presbytery meeting in Paris. It was encouraging to see how welcoming and supportive Presbytery was not only of the proposals, but also of the entire initiative and it was decided that the EYP meeting will become an annual event, and two



representatives will be invited to every regular Presbytery!! The weekend in Amsterdam allowed the youth a voice and the result was a passionate eagerness to take hands and work together. The time has come for the youth to show up and speak up and together we WILL make a difference!

Celeste Lamprecht, Scots International Church Rotterdam.

Presbytery in Paris

By now Scots International Church members and perhaps regular readers of the Herald too, know that the 17 churches of the Presbytery of



Europe meet every second weekend of March and October. So this time Rev. Robert Calvert and I (Elder Bob Hensen) were in Paris from Thursday evening 10th through Sunday 13th March. From Rotterdam our Rev. Irene Bom was there too, in her function, as well as Hunter Smith in

his capacity as Treasurer of the Presbytery of Europe.

We were well received and accommodated by the Paris Scots church, which is located in the centre of Paris and was recently rebuilt. The old building was demolished and a three story building with a basement constructed. The sanctuary is in the basement, an office meeting rooms, kitchen and patio on the ground floor, while the flats on first and second floor were sold to help finance the new building.

Just for those that may not know, the Presbytery of Europe gathers a minister and an elder from the 17 churches as well as other ministers and elders which have special functions in the Presbytery. There will always be a few visitors from the Kirk head office in Scotland too making it a group of between 40 to 50 people.

The Paris meeting took place in cordial atmosphere, dealing with issues

of the various churches as well as those affecting the Presbytery as a whole.

The standing committees as Business, Education and Training, Finance and Property, Superintendence, and finally Mission met before the general meeting on Saturday and presented their reports.

A particular highlight of the Pars meeting was the presentation of the report of the European Youth Presbytery (EYP) that took place last February in Amsterdam.

First in the Mission committee and later in the plenary the invited EYP representatives pleasantly surprised, delighted and impressed the Presbytery by their concerned, dedicated and progressive suggestions and proposals. It was decided that their deliverances (resolutions) would be put before Kirk sessions (church councils) and reactions forwarded to the February 2012 EYP. Elsewhere in the Herald you will find a report by our Celeste Lamprecht, who represented our church at the EYP.

Interesting was also the reports by invited Scots ministers from Nicosia (Cyprus) and Jerusalem.

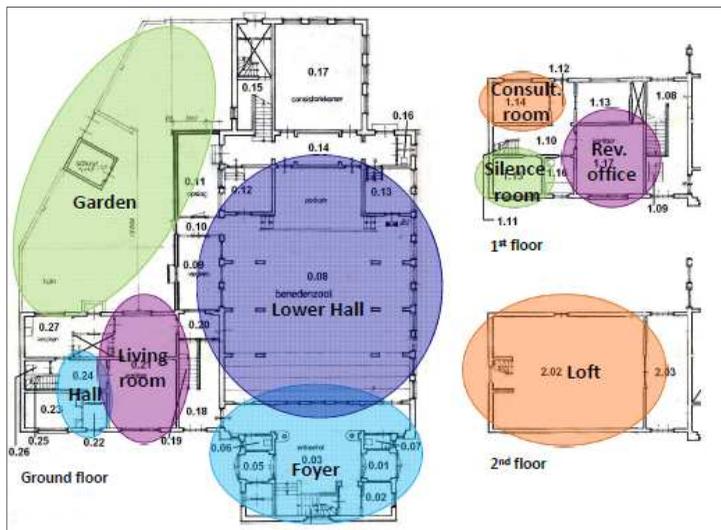
For more on the Presbytery of Europe see:

<http://www.europepresbytery.net/index.php>

Names for rooms of our Cultural Learning Centre & other locations

For some time now the ‘Bewoners Organisatie’, who occupied the ground floor of the old manse (building connected to the church), has gone.

We started calling the space ‘Church Centre’ but have since adopted the name Cultural Learning Centre, as we intend using it as such.



In the Congregational Notes of the last Herald you must have read that the Hogeschool Rotterdam is renting the Cultural Learning Centre to train their students. On Tuesday 15th March there were two groups of 250 (!) female students for an introduction.

This brings us to the point that we need some directions posted in the Cultural Learning Centre, but also in the other locations of the church. So we also need to give names for rooms and spaces. When this was discussed in the Council the idea of a competition was suggested. A floor plan will be placed on the notice board, so you can know where places are and think up some names. It could be a biblical name or one fitting the function of the room, e.g. Crèche: Junior's Refuge. More information will follow.

What Love means to a 4-8 year old..

Slow down for three minutes to read this. It is so worth it. Touching words from the mouth of babes.

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, 'What does love mean?'

The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined See what you think:

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore.

So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.'

Rebecca- age 8

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different.

You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.'

Billy - age 4

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.'

Karl - age 5

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.'

Chrissy - age 6

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.'

Terri - age 4

'Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.'

Danny - age 7

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.'

Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.'

Nikka - age 6 (we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday.'

Noelle - age 7

'Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well..'

Tommy - age 6

'During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling.

He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore.'

Cindy - age 8

'My mommy loves me more than anybody You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night..'

Clare - age 6

'Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.'

Elaine-age 5

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.'

Chris - age 7

'Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.'

Mary Ann - age 4

'I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.'

Lauren - age 4

'When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.' (what an image)

Karen - age 7

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross.'

Mark - age 6

'You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.'

Jessica - age 8

And the final one :

The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there.

When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said,

'Nothing, I just helped him cry'

When there is nothing left but God, that is when you find out that God is all you need. Take 60 seconds and give this a shot! All you do is simply say the following small prayer for the person who sent you this.

“Heavenly Father, please bless all my friends in whatever it is that You know they may be needing this day! And may their life be full of Your

peace, prosperity and power as he/she seeks to have a closer relationship with You. Amen. “



Happy Birthday !!

Birthdays in April

- 01 Sean Luc de Lange
- 04 Felix Dirk Knoester
- 04 Hank Meldrum
- 06 Esinam Dzisworshie
- 07 Pelle Brits
- 09 Caroline Kudlička
- 10 Ian Thomas Calvert
- 13 Olaf de Zanger
- 15 Tina de Groot
- 17 Gladys Acquah
- 17 Frank Knoester
- 18 George Ross
- 19 Emmanuel Asare
- 23 Oritsesegbemi Jethro Stoutjesdijk
- 25 Jenson Rajkumar Giftson
- 26 Michellijne van Putten
- 27 Joke Cromwell
- 28 Robert Ewing
- 29 Sumiko Hara

Birthdays in May

- 01 Klazina Rigters
- 01 Alexander Cuvulay
- 05 Lubomir Kudlička
- 07 Fane Mensah
- 10 Michelle Helena Sebastian
- 15 Mavis Etienne-Massicott
- 16 Anna Bitalova
- 18 Patricia Cuvulay
- 21 Rizal Sebastian
- 21 Anthony Evovo
- 23 Ladislav Brhel
- 24 Safora MacDonald
- 24 Ineke Aghasomba
- 24 Gail Brandse
- 24 Norma Taylor
- 24 Samuel Mensah
- 24 Yvonne Mensah
- 24 John v.d. Vliet
- 24 Marvellous Maga
- 26 Destiny Maga
- 28 Anneke Mulder
- 28 Nnenna Koka

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