

Thanks



On Monday 12th March my father, John Yallop, sadly passed away in the early hours of the morning. Later that day I travelled to Norwich in England to help my sisters with making the necessary arrangements. Since the funeral was not to be until two weeks later on Monday, 26th March, I returned to Hengelo on the Thursday. I asked Caroline Siertsema to mention my father in the intercessions in church on the Sunday. This gave rise to some very kind responses from people who were there. I would like to thank everyone very much for their kind responses and condolences both then and afterwards.



A copy of the notice that appeared in the *Eastern Daily Press* newspaper in Norwich on Friday 16th March is printed on this page. I will travel back to Norwich on 25th March for the funeral service, where I will read the lesson with the comforting words from Romans Chapter 8: *"For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love; neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below - there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Simone Yallop



**YALLOP
JOHN**
Aged . 80, passed away peacefully at Grenville Court after a very long illness on March 12th. Beloved husband of Verena (deceased), much loved father of Simone, Liz and Nicola, father-in-law of Andy and Chris and very special grandad of Alice, Thomas, Robert, Michael, Charlotte and James. Much loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle of Ann, Joan, Brenda, Colin (deceased), Ron, Ian, Clive, Susan, Pamela and Ian. Loved and respected by relatives, neighbours and friends alike. Will be sadly missed.
Funeral service and cremation at St Faith's Crematorium on Monday, March 26th at 3.30 p.m. Family flowers only please but, if desired, donations for the Lewy Body Society may be sent c/o Peter Taylor Funeral Service, 85 Unthank Road Norwich, NR2 2PE

April

The Chaplain Writes

What do we believe?

We gathered in Weldam and in Arnhem to discuss the title of the evening: "What do we believe?" It seems obvious to some and not so obvious to others. It is a question that we need to ask ourselves and those around us.

As a congregation, a group of believers put randomly together, we are on a journey together. We are given to each other and most of the time we enjoy each other's company, but sometimes it is difficult to get along. It would not be much of a journey or pilgrimage if there were no hurdles to overcome, because we learn more from our mistakes than from what we have done well.

It challenges our patience, our understanding, our courage to forgive. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do," says Jesus in his passion. Very true; we are not Jesus, far from it, but we are supposed to follow in his footsteps and, even hesitantly, we need to take a step.

It is easy to love our children, our spouses, our parents, people who are familiar to us, or people whom we like and who are our friends. But to love those who are given to us is an entirely different matter. I knew a man who was married to a wife who always complained and made his life very complex. He once confided that he accepted her as she was, because he felt that she was given to him and that the situation he was in would teach him things. How unusual in our society! To accept our fate is not something we are eager to embrace. We would rather change our circumstances.

When my husband was becoming increasingly ill and we had to face the fact that his mobility would gradually diminish, he was

(Continued on page 4)



Twente News

Diaries...

... Hers

Tonight I thought my husband was acting weird. We had made plans to meet at a nice restaurant for dinner. I was shopping with my friends all day long, so I thought he was upset at the fact that I was a bit late, but he made no comment on it. Conversation wasn't flowing, so I suggested that we go somewhere quiet where we could talk. He agreed, but he didn't say much. I asked him what was wrong. He said, "Nothing." I asked him if it was my fault that he was upset. He said he wasn't upset, that it was nothing to do with me, and not to worry about it. On the way home, I told him that I loved him. He smiled slightly, and kept on driving. I can't explain his behaviour. I don't know why he didn't say "I love you too". When we got home, I felt as if I'd

Connection Established

As the mobile is less than reliable in deep and darkest Weldam, a landline has now been installed and Alja can be reached at the number 0858 770308 (see also inside cover).

Special Days, Special Flowers

Sjoerd and Erica Bonting recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and a blessing on their marriage was held in St Mary's Chapel on 11th March, when Alja presented them with an impressive candle to light their way. To mark this milestone, they were also presented with a rose by Linda ten Berge in the Hut after the service on the 18th March – a rose that rejoices in the name of Rambling Rector. As this day was Mothering Sunday, flowers were in abundance: in keeping with tradition, the ladies in the congregation had been presented with pots of colourful pansies by the Floral Guild.



Book Sale

St Mary's Floral Guild held its annual book sale after the service on 11th March. Such was its success that it continued on the following Sunday, and the Guild is well and truly back in business. A grand total of €88.55 was raised (€66.05 the first week, €22.50 the second), enabling outstanding bills to be settled, the stock of Oasis floral foam to be replenished, and the financial flow to be reassured. The next fund-raising event on the guild calendar is the Garden Bring & Buy on 6th May.

Lenten Evening at St Mary's

It was Tuesday evening, 18.30 on 20th March, on the eve of Spring, and we were all gathered in the Hut for our supper and discussion evening, led by our new chaplain Alja! The tables had been pushed to-

*With a confident grin the boy walked in
His map of the world complete,
"How did you do it so quickly my son?
It's correct and so perfectly neat!"*

*"On the back of the map," said the little chap,
Is the picture of a man,
And I thought if I only got him straight
I must get the world to plan."*

*"You're right," said the vicar, "My sermon I've learnt,
You've made it so wonderfully plain,
It's by getting men's hearts the right way turned
That the world will come straight again."*



Key Dates

21st April
22nd April
6th May
12th May

"Colourful Christianity on Foreign Soil"
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Garden Bring & Buy
Choral Festival,
St Andrew's Church of
Scotland, Brussels
Ascension Day
Summer Teas (Sundays)



17th May
8th July to
12th August
8th September

Castle Fair 2012



**NEXT COFFEE & CHAT
MORNING TO BE HELD SOON.
FULL DETAILS WILL BE
ANNOUNCED IN CHURCH!**

Poetry and Prose

This poem (and the one below) was contributed by Maureen van der Heide, who discovered it in the Spring 1992 issue of *Our England*. It is usually attributed to Rachel Filewood and Nosmo King (1938), but could possibly be the work of Dr William Greer, a former Bishop of Manchester. The accompanying music was composed by Ernest Longstaffe.

Age is Irrelevant!

Age is a quality of mind.
If you have left your dreams behind,
If hope is cold,
If you no longer plan ahead,
If your ambitions all are dead,
Then you are old.
But if you make of life the best,
And in your life you still have zest,
If love you hold,
No matter how the birthdays fly,
You are not old.

— Autumn 2005



The Sermon



*In his study one night by the fading light,
Sat the vicar, tired and worn,
Trying to dream of a novel theme
For his sermon on Sunday morn.*

*He could think of none, for his little son
Was playing around with his toys,
With laughter shrill as children will,
He was making a terrible noise.*

*To meditate and concentrate
The vicar tried in vain,
If he could only find the key
Some peace and quiet to gain.*

*Just then he noticed a map of the world
And an idea entered his head,
"By a simple ruse, my son I'll amuse
While I finish my sermon," he said.*

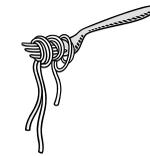
*"Take this map of the world to the nursery my boy.
Cut it up into little bits.
Then try to piece it together again
Till every particle fits."*

*With a sigh of content as the youngster went
His longing to write increased,
And he knew the boy'd be well employed
For over an hour at least.*

*So he took up his pen and paper and then
Beginning his task once more,
He'd scarcely written a single page
When a knock was heard at the door.*

to create a lovely long dining table set for 16 people.

Many thanks to Theda and Jan, who provided the crockery, cutlery and tablecloths. Our supper of spaghetti Bolognese had been made by Joyce and Blair, with the help of Alja's kitchen next door; Caroline had brought some salad; and for desserts of panacotta, fresh fruits and apricot crumble we had Maureen and Philippa to thank. What a delicious meal, and the best thing was that we were seated together, enjoying fellowship together. We thought it was something we could quite get used to doing!



After the meal, Alja led us in our discussion for Lent, the theme being: What do we believe? To start off with, we were wondering what there was to talk about, but, as Alja had explained, by means of key questions around which we could build some answers, we soon realized there was plenty of food for thought. We were divided up into three small working groups and set to work. At 21.30 Alja called the groups together and the spokespeople gave a summary of the thoughts. We learned a lot from each other, building on our Christian fellowship, and the evening closed with prayer and a last coffee.

We look forward to holding another discussion evening again soon.
Caroline Siertsema



Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Churchwardens before the Service.

If you know of anyone who is sick or in need of pastoral care, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Churchwardens.

lost him completely, as if he wanted nothing to do with me anymore. He just sat there quietly and watched TV. He continued to seem distant and absent. Finally, with silence all around us, I decided to go to bed. About 15 minutes later, he came to bed. But I still felt that he was distracted, and his thoughts were somewhere else. He fell asleep – I cried. I don't know what to do. I'm almost sure his thoughts are with someone else. My life is a disaster.



... His

Motorcycle won't start.
Can't figure out why.

Wedded Bliss

Marriage is like the witness protection programme. You get new clothes, you live in the suburbs and you're not allowed to see your friends any more.

— Jeremy Hardy

Tales from the Helpdesk



Tech support: What kind of computer do you have?

Customer: A white one ...

Customer: Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says "Can't find printer". I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says he can't find it.

Tech support: What's on your monitor now, ma'am?

Customer: A teddy bear my boyfriend bought for me ...

Customer: My keyboard is not working anymore.

Tech support: Are you sure it's plugged into the computer?

Customer: No, I can't get behind the computer.

Tech support: Pick up your keyboard and walk 10 paces back.

Customer: OK .

(Continued from page 1)

treated for a number of months to improve whatever could be improved. A programme was set up with physiotherapy, speech therapy and instruction in using various instruments, but the programme also included visits to a psychologist. We expected to discuss how one could accept the handicaps, but much to our surprise the programme included discussions about our relationship. Their experience was that quite often the patient's spouse would leave the handicapped partner because they were not prepared to live with someone with a handicap, so the psychologist was included as some kind of precaution!

We like to shape our own lives, to change or abandon what we don't like or can't "handle". Jesus did not change his fate. He did not try to evade what was to come, but embraced his future. And to what an outcome! Bearing our shortcomings, forgiving all our wrongdoing and still loving us to the end.

We may never be able to come near to what He did for us, but it shouldn't stop us from even trying! We need to make a start – even if a hesitant one.

We are sinners, but we shouldn't be burdened by this. Easter is a feast to acknowledge what we are and to celebrate that we are still loved by God as children who try and fail, entirely dependent on Him because we are sinners. How lucky we are!

I wish you all a Blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Alja Tollefsen



(Continued from page 12)

saw the risen Christ. Here the egg represents the boulder of the tomb of Jesus.

Yet another legend relates to her efforts to spread the Good News. According to this tradition, after the ascension of Jesus into heaven, Mary journeyed to Rome and was admitted to the court of Tiberius Caesar. While dining with the emperor, she told of the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Jesus and how He had risen from the dead. The emperor pointed to an egg on his table and said, "Christ has no more risen than that egg is red" – whereupon it is said that the egg immediately turned blood red.

In Christian iconographic tradition, no saint has as many identifying attributes as Mary Magdalene: an ointment jar, a skull, a mirror, a small cross, a scourge, but perhaps strangest of all a red egg.

A Silver Cross

Simone's description of the Licensing Service of Alja Tollefsen, our new Chaplain, in Arnhem on 3rd March will give you a clear picture of the moving event. It was wonderful that Alja's son and daughter, as well as her aged mother, were able to attend. Together with Arnhem-Nijmegen we had thought a great deal about a fitting personal present for the occasion and we decided to team up. So we ended up with two presents, one of a very practical and useful nature – a bench plus cushion for Alja's dog Guus – and another, which I was allowed to present on behalf of the Chaplaincies. It is a small silver cross which can be used as a bookmark. We had it engraved with the following text: *ENGC (East Netherlands Group of Chaplaincies)*, the date of the Licensing *3-3-2012*, and the words *MUTUA FIDES*, which is Latin for "mutual trust". This refers to our trust in God and His trust in us, and our trust in one another. It is with mutual trust we all enter into this new period in our chaplaincy. We are all so grateful for what God has given us in our new priest, and we hope and pray that she'll work and live here happily, being a blessing to all.

Joyce Wigboldus

(Also see <http://europe.anglican.org/homepage/smartweb/main/blog/post/246-organ-flute-violin-and-voices-welcome-in-the-netherlands/>)



Reflection

Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.



Easter Eggs

How did eggs come to be so closely associated with Easter? On the one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures; on the other, as eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a way of celebrating Easter.

In the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches, Easter eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ shed on the Cross, and the hard shell of the egg symbolizes the sealed tomb of Christ – the cracking of which symbolizes His resurrection from the dead. There is also a tradition that says that Mary Magdalene was bringing cooked eggs to share with the other women at the tomb of Jesus, and the eggs in her basket miraculously turned brilliant red when she

(Continued on page 13)

seating capacity than the church buildings normally used by the chaplaincies.

The service was well attended by church members and visitors as well as by at least 18 clergy and readers from all over the Benelux, who robed for the occasion. The service was brilliantly led by the Archdeacon of Northwest Europe, The Venerable John de Wit. As the patron's representative, The Reverend Canon Ambrose Mason, chairman of the ICS, was there to present Alja for the rite of institution. The service was richly enhanced with music from the organ, a flute and a violin. Many said afterwards that it was a very impressive and moving service.

The service was followed by an elaborate reception, which provided the opportunity for fellowship and sustenance before the journey home.

Simone Yallop



(Photos with the kind permission of Bart Peeren)

AGM and Electoral Roll

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Sunday 22nd April 2012 after the service. At the AGM the church officers for the coming year will be elected. This year five council members are stepping down. Three of them are prepared to stand for re-election. Two of them are not standing for re-election. There is also one seat that was not filled last year. This means that there are three seats to be filled. Please consider if you would like to stand for election for a place on council. In order to be able to do so, you have to be on the Electoral Roll and you have to have been on it for at least six months. We would like to see some new people on council, so please do think about it. Every year we also have to elect the Wardens. Fortunately



both our Wardens are prepared to stand for re-election again this year. In order to be able to vote at the AGM, you need to be on the Electoral Roll. If you are not already on the Electoral Roll and would like to have your name added, please contact the Electoral Roll Officer, Simone Yallop, for an application form. To join the Electoral Roll, you have to be at least 16 years old; to be a resident of the parish or have habitually attended worship in the church in the previous six months, and to be a baptized Christian who belongs (or previously belonged) to a church that affirms belief in the Holy Trinity. Members of the Electoral Roll will receive a copy of the annual reports of the church in preparation for the AGM.

Simone Yallop

Tech support: Did the keyboard come with you?

Customer: Yes

Tech support: That means the keyboard is not plugged in.

Customer: I can't get on the Internet.

Tech support: Are you sure you used the right password?

Customer: Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it.

Tech support: Can you tell me what the password was?

Customer: Five dots.

Customer: I'm writing my first email.

Tech support: OK, and what seems to be the problem?

Customer: Well, I have the letter "a" in the address, but how do I get the little circle around it?

Customer: I have a problem with my printer.

Tech support: Are you running it under windows?

Customer: No, my desk is next to the door, but that's a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his printer is working fine.

Last Request

Shortly before his death, an elderly man instructed his wife: "When I die, I want you to put all my money into the coffin with me. I've worked hard to earn that money, and I want to take it to the afterlife with me." So on the day of his funeral, just before the coffin was lowered into the ground, the wife asked the undertaker to open the lid. Her friend said, "Surely you're not going to go along with such a crazy request?" "I am a woman of my word," replied the wife, and she pushed in a large envelope, in accordance with her late husband's wishes. "You must be mad," exclaimed her friend. "I did what I promised," said the wife. "I collected all the money together, credited it to my account, and a cheque for the exact amount is in the envelope."

St James the Least of All

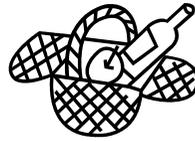
On the Perils of the Church Picnic

My dear Nephew Darren,

A Spring parish picnic is always a good idea – although you must bear some details in mind. First, whatever date you choose will turn out to be the wettest of the year. English picnics are invariably eaten under umbrellas while wearing Wellingtons and the sort of determinedly cheerful look that defies anyone to admit they would rather be home in front of the fire.

Second, no matter how early in the year, wasps will emerge from hibernation in huge numbers, and terrorize Mrs Hornby with the picnic baskets. And thirdly, someone will bring along their (hungry) dog. Last time Colonel Psmith's spaniel outdid herself: she leapt up, head-butted a piece of Madeira cake out of Mrs Horngirdle's hand, and ate the lot before even a crumb could touch the ground. A good piece of field work, that.

Halfway through the afternoon, some over-excited member of the party will decide to arrange a game of rounders. (Mr Poppinjay tried this one year, as in his youth he had been athletic. Fortunately, the ambulance got there quickly, and the ankle healed well.) Then the mothers who join in will completely ignore the ball sailing past them, while they discuss some burning topic of Mother's Union gossip. In the meantime, the young choir members, who were the reason for arranging the game in the first place, will have drifted off to the lake



Institution and Licensing of the Reverend Alja Tollefsen

COLLECT

Let us pray for Alja and for the Chaplaincies to be committed to her care.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whom all virtues are given and perfected, give your grace to your servant Alja that she may worthily fulfil the charge now to be committed to her. Give her vision, courage and love; so that, following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, she may lead your people to serve your kingdom and share its joy; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

On Saturday 3rd March 2012 a wonderful service was held in the Diaconessenkerk in Arnhem in the Netherlands for the Institution and Licensing of The Reverend Alja Tollefsen as the new chaplain of the East Netherlands Group of Chaplaincies. This group comprises the two chaplaincies of Twente and Arnhem-Nijmegen that have three different worship centres. The Diaconessenkerk was chosen as the venue for this event because it has a much larger

Sent Away

An irritated mother complained to her friend, "When I was a kid, my parents sent me to my room without supper if I misbehaved. But my son has his own TV, telephone, computer, and every computer game and CD player in his room!" "So how do you handle it?" her friend asked. "Oh, I send him to my room!"

National Traits

A Brit, a Frenchman and a Russian were viewing a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking in the Garden of Eden. "Look at that garden they are maintaining so well," mused the Brit. "They must be British."

"Nonsense," the Frenchman disagreed. "They're naked, and so beautiful. Clearly, they are French." "Ah, but no clothes, no shoes, no shelter, and only an apple to eat," the Russian pointed out, "and they're being told this is paradise. They are Russian."



6th May	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
Fifth Sunday of Easter	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
	First Reading Jeanet Luiten	Acts 8:26-40
10:30 hrs Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Victor Pirenne	1 John 4:7-21
	Gospel	John 15:1-8

Colourful Christianity

On Saturday 21st April the Syrian Orthodox monastery St Ephrem in Glane will welcome Anglicans, Old Catholics, Oriental and Orthodox Christians. The theme of the day is: "Colourful Christianity on foreign soil". The day will begin with coffee at 10.30am and Bishop Athenagoras from the Orthodox Church will preach at the closing Vespers. In between, small groups can visit the monastery and the church. Questions will be answered in a plenary meeting. The day will finish around 4.00pm.

It is an opportunity to get to know Christians from a different perspective and I think that the day will be worthwhile to broaden our own horizon.
Alja Tollefsen

May Issue of St Mary's Magazine

Learned journals have them, other publications have them, and now it's the turn of *St Mary's Magazine*. For the May issue we are fortunate indeed to have a guest editor well known to you all: Blair Charles! Could you please forward any news, information or articles to blrchrls1@gmail.com or of course hand them to him after the services. His mailbox has an amazing capacity, so no worries on that score.

to throw stones at the ducks while no one is looking.

For our annual picnic, I use my own car, making sure it is so full of clerical robes and church magazines that no one else can fit in. Throughout the day, I keep returning to it to make sure no one has broken in to steal the Communion wine – and taking the opportunity to catch up on the cricket scores. By the middle of the afternoon, I usually remember that some urgent duty, such as blessing a traction engine, demands my departure.

The rest of the party, by now soaked, cold and knowing the coach to take them home is still several hours off, only wish they had such demanding work to tear them away.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace
©The Revd Dr Gary Bowness



Young Achievers

One the charities that St Mary's supports is the Young Achievers Empowerment Project, which bears the slogan "A new generation of young leaders, shaping the future of Namibia". This programme is dedicated to the task of increasing the academic achievement, as well as decolonizing the minds, of Namibian youth by developing their mental, social, artistic and life skills. In their Annual Report 2011, which can be found in the Hut, you can read about the challenges faced and the activities undertaken in 2011, as well as the plans for 2012.

Question

You are driving in a car at a constant speed. On your left side is a "drop off" (the ground is 18-24 inches below the level you are travelling on), and on your right side is a fire engine travelling at the same speed as you. In front of you is a galloping horse, which is the same size as your car and you cannot overtake it. Behind you is a galloping zebra. Both the horse and the zebra are also travelling at the same speed as you. What must you do to get safely out of this highly dangerous situation ?



Answer

Get off the merry-go-round.

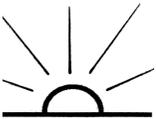
Silver Lining

Lying about my age is easier now that I can't remember what it is.

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you.

5th April Maundy Thursday 20:00 hrs Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Dr S. Bonting
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	t.b.a.
	First Reading Simone Yallop	Exodus 12:1-14
	Second Reading Els Ottens	1 Corinthians 11:23-26
	Gospel	John 13:1-17, 31b-35

6th April Good Friday Stations of the Cross or Passion Drama  20:00 hrs	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	t.b.a.
	N.A.	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
	N.A.	Hebrews 10:16-25
	Gospel	John 18:1-19:42

8th April Easter Day  10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Philippa te West
	First Reading Linda ten Berge	Acts 10:34-43
	Second Reading Els Ottens	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
	Gospel	John 20:1-18

15th April Second Sunday of Easter 10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
	First Reading Janice Collins	Acts 4:32-35
	Second Reading Blair Charles	1 John 1:1-2.2
	Gospel	John 20:19-31

22nd April Third Sunday of Easter 10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Everhard Ottens
	First Reading Philippa te West	Acts 3:12-19
	Second Reading Agnes Lee	1 John 3:1-7
	Gospel	Luke 24:36b-48

29th April Fourth Sunday of Easter 10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	Maureen vd Heide	Acts 4:5-12
	Elizabeth vdHeide	1 John 3:16-24
	Gospel	John 10:11-18