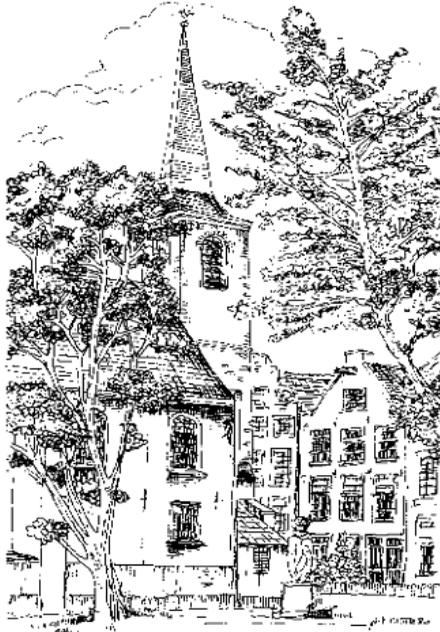




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# The Record

August & September 2015  
Vol. 2015/4



The English Reformed Church  
Begijnhof 48, 1012 WV Amsterdam  
[www.ercadam.nl](http://www.ercadam.nl)

Rev. Dr. Lance Stone  
Minister  
*minister@ercadam.nl*

Heleen Koning  
Scriba  
*scriba@ercadam.nl*

Thorsten König  
Treasurer  
*treasury@ercadam.nl*

Susan Polstra  
Church Officer, Letting for Weddings  
*churchofficer@ercadam.nl*

Olja Bučo  
Organist, Choir Director  
*organist@ercadam.nl*

Kenneth Ewen  
Concert Manager

Christa Oudshoorn-Hobo &  
Veronica Garcia Robles  
Sunday School Superintendents

Nancy Sekyere Owusu  
Crèche Duty Rota  
*creche@ercadam.nl*

Astrid König  
Junior Church Coordinator  
*juniorchurch@ercadam.nl*

Els Nooij, Church Guiding Coordinator  
Jens Anders Wejsmark Sørensen, Webmaster

Church

IBAN: NL44 ABNA 0547 6235 50  
SWIFT address: ABNANL2A

Friends of the English Reformed Church  
IBAN: NL90 ABNA 0624 1800 69

Church Hall

J.W.Brouwersstraat 9  
1071 LH Amsterdam  
020 6722288

Wittgensteinlaan 161  
1062 KD Amsterdam  
06 13097756

C.P. Van der Leestraat 36  
1396 JP Baambrugge  
0294 772934

Marnixkade 67-2  
1015 XX Amsterdam  
020 6224158

Hemonystraat 26c  
1074 BR Amsterdam  
020 4701980

*concertorganiser@ercadam.nl*

*sundayschool@ercadam.nl*

Roomtuintjes 197  
1093 TB Amsterdam  
020 6933521

C.P. Van der Leestraat 36  
1396 JP Baambrugge  
0294 772934

*openchurch@ercadam.nl*  
*webmaster@ercadam.nl*

Begijnhof 48  
1012 WV Amsterdam  
020 6249665

NZ Voorburgwal 282A  
1012 RT Amsterdam

## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

If you happen to have looked at the website recently you may have seen the advertisement for a part-time 'Lay Assistant' who we hope we may be able to appoint to begin work in October. This is a very exciting development. In recent times the English Reformed Church has had a distinguished sequence of assistant ministers and youth workers and they have done a marvellous job of stimulating and co-ordinating the work of different groups within the church. In the past, financial assistance for such posts has been possible. Unfortunately that is no longer likely to be the case. For that reason this is a big step for us to take but we believe, with the generosity of the congregation, that we can afford it and that this is an important use of our resources.

The main thrust of this person's work will be directed, broadly, at youth work: children and young people, the 20's/30's, parents and families. But I hope that the Lay Assistant will also be active in planning and leading worship and events like the Bread Service and outreach initiatives. I am looking forward very much to the appointment of this person and having a colleague to work with. Do please pray for this venture, especially that the right person will be appointed.

I am writing this letter just a few days before going away on holiday at the end of July. I will not be back until the last week in August so I am having to think and to plan ahead for the autumn. It looks as if it is shaping up to be a full and busy period. I would draw your attention to a couple of things:

- Midweek Fellowship Bible Study on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month. This picked up well after Easter as we watched *The God Question* DVDs, dealing with science and faith. You will find our programme for the autumn on page 9 of this *Record*. This study series will be based on a series of DVDs about the prophets entitled *Encountering the Prophets in Today's Culture* by Walter Brueggemann. Walter Brueggemann is probably the world's leading Old Testament theologian and he is committed to helping the church understand the Bible better. He is a brilliant and inspiring teacher and these sessions, I am sure, will be very informative and will provoke lively discussion.
- I also plan to run an 'Exploring the Faith' series for anyone considering membership or baptism, or who just wants a clearer understanding of the faith. Do please indicate to me if you would be interested in joining this.

That is probably enough for now. I am looking forward to my holiday, knowing that I can rest assured that the church is in safe hands in the care of the Rev John Bell from the Iona Community – an old friend of the ERC.

With best wishes for every blessing,

*Lance*

## Consistory Meetings of June & July

*Pamela Woolley* was admitted into membership by transfer from her previous congregation in Brussels.

Consistory is looking into ways to assist members of the congregation for whom it is difficult to come to church by themselves due to age or illness. The hope is that we can find volunteers who are willing to pick up people before church and take them home again afterwards.

*Richard Zook* was formally appointed music director of the English Reformed Church as of September 1, 2015. We wish him a blessed start in his new position!

The choir said goodbye to *Olja Bučo* in a the service of June 14th, in the presence of lots of old choir members from home and abroad, as well as special musicians. It was a wonderful celebration, which will be followed by the farewell from the congregation. That will be on August 16th, *Olja's* last service as organist of the English Reformed Church.

The committees Worship & Christian Education; Publicity; and Outreach & Social Events are slowly taking shape. The Property Committee will be starting up after the summer.

Consistory decided to start looking for candidates for the position of Lay Assistant. In the recent past the congregation was support by Youth Workers. After an evaluation of the position and taking into account changes in the make-up of the congregation, it was felt that "Youth Worker" did not cover the support needed in the areas of family work, worship and Christian education. The vacancy is now on the website and open to applicants until September 15th.

Consistory welcomed the proposal by the Sunday School co-ordinators for Sarah Wangyin as a new Sunday School teacher. She will start after the summer.

The Income & Expenditure sheet of April (the second quarter of this year will be discussed after the summer) showed a surplus. This positive result can be attributed largely to donations. Collections are still less than budgeted.

It was decided that we should continue with the policy that only Elders (serving and non-serving) assist in the counting of the collection money after the service.

Some maintenance work will be carried out in and outside the church during the summer. The church will be ready again on August 17th.

Pastor Lance will take his vacation in August. The Rev. John Bell will be with us from 2 August until 23 August.

Please mark your agendas for the next Church Meeting: September 13th, right after the service. If the technical means are functioning, Dr. Ruth Shakespeare will join the meeting via Skype from Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi.

On 18 September a newcomers evening will be held in the Manse. Newcomers will receive an invitation.

The next Consistory meeting will be held on September 7th. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

*Heleen Koning (scriba@ercadam.nl)*

## A Fond Farewell

Dear friends,

In just a few more weeks I will be leaving the ERC and Amsterdam.

Thinking about my last 18 years of life in Amsterdam brings great feelings of blessings and gratitude.

After finishing my study at the Conservatory I applied for the job at the ERC as organist and choir leader. I was so thrilled that the job was given to me and I felt immediately at home in the church. To be part of the congregation we have at the ERC is like belonging to a family. Coming to play at Sunday services never felt like work, but it felt like coming home and feeling inspired. The wonderful atmosphere created by people makes everyone feel welcome. The many musicians we have in the church, as well as the choir, made my work even more special. We often made music together, having great fun, and shared it with you on Sundays or in concerts, and it was very much appreciated by all of you. I played every day in the church, had rehearsals with my friends, I taught and practiced, and some of my young students even thought that the church was my house -- with everything in it! :) I saw new people come, and made great friends; but then I saw them leaving because of their life, job, etc. And then new people came again!.... It is like a river that flows and there we are, joining in and stepping out...and the energy is always refreshing.

In the past years we had highlights such as welcoming the two Queens at our 400th anniversary celebration; placing the brand new organ; and some other special moments. But also we had several restorations when it wasn't that easy to function. Through all of it we went on together with respect and a great sense of humor and joy. I am glad to have experienced the fact that after more than one year of searching for a new minister, Pastor Lance came and brought us new blessings and stability. It is nice to see him enjoying being part of our community and inspiring the congregation.

And now, the new step in my life begins, and is the reason for leaving the church, and Amsterdam, and moving to the farm in Brabant to live together with Norbert. Together, and with a music studio, several organs, two grand pianos, some other instruments, two dogs and freedom in the nature, I am sure that many great things will happen.

I feel very grateful and thankful for being part of the ERC and having the possibility to develop as a musician as well as a person in such a nice community. I also feel very happy to move on and to develop further in my life. I am looking forward to keeping discovering, enjoying, and getting inspired in the new adventures of life. And what makes it even more special is to get to share it with someone I love and getting to grow and develop together.

I always felt very much supported by you and therefore I would like to say a big **thank you!** for 18 years of wonderful times in the ERC. I know that I am leaving you in good hands, and hope that Richard will enjoy, as much I did, taking care of the music in the ERC.

We will see each other sometime, I am sure. Until then, I'll keep you in my heart.

with love,

*Olja*

# Beryl



On July 8, late in the evening, the news of Beryl Winter- Jenkison's passing reached Consistory. Inconceivable. We all knew that Beryl was ill, but this was too soon, too sudden.

Beryl was a long time member of the congregation and served the church and the congregation as an Elder for the full 24 years. She did that in a joyful, dedicated way, with room for a joke, and an eye for the needs of others. She also did a lot of work for the church behind the scenes.

We committed her into the arms of our Heavenly Father in a service on July 16<sup>th</sup>, witnessed by many of her family, friends, colleagues and church family.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Beryl's husband Maurice, their sons David and Philip, and to all who loved Beryl.

***“Play, smile, think of me, pray for me”***

*Henry Scott Holland (from the poem All is Well)*

## Coffee Mornings

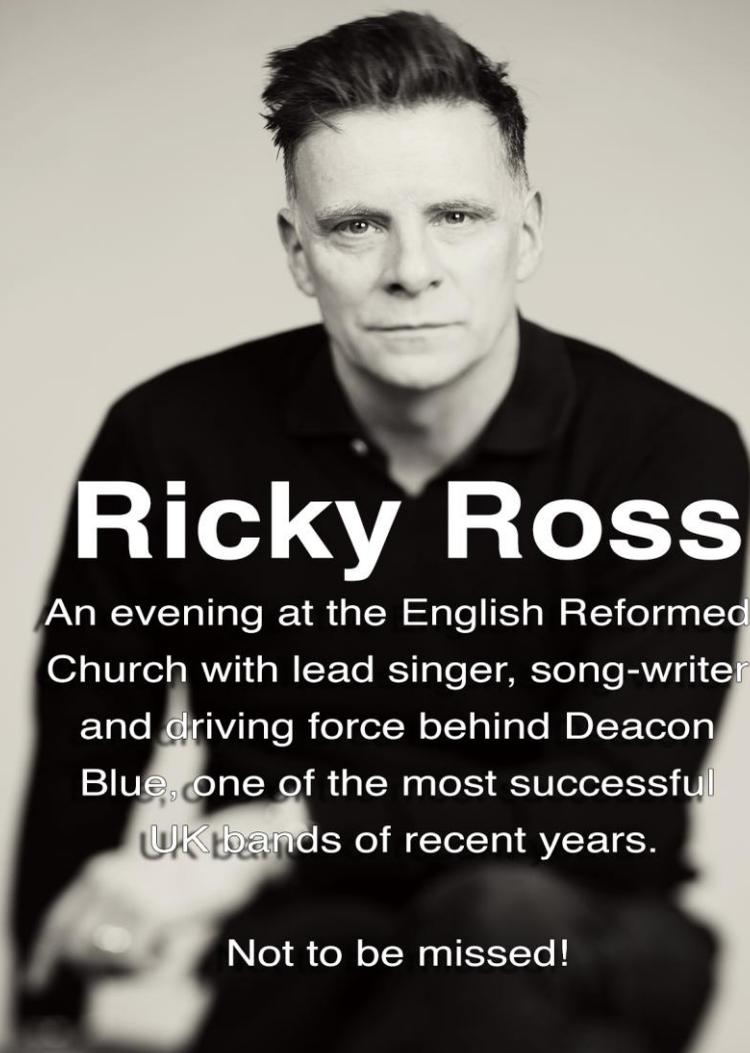
The monthly Tuesday coffee mornings are open to anyone who would like to join in some informal fellowship. The gatherings are hosted by various people at their homes, or occasionally at other locations such as a cafe or restaurant. We begin at about 10:30am. If you would like more information about the coffee mornings, or if you would like to host a coffee morning at your home once in awhile, please contact either Elly Kalf (020 6479174) or Sies Plokker (020 4707944). We would love for you to come along!

The first Coffee Morning after the summer break will be held at Cafe-Restaurant “De Plantage”, Plantage Kerklaan 36 in Amsterdam, on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Here are the locations for the coming months:

1 September	<i>Cafe De Plantage</i>	Amsterdam
6 October	Ans & Charles van Saagsvelt	Hoofddorp
3 November	Sies Plokker	Amsterdam

***Mulanje Mission Benefit Concert***  
***Friday 27 November at 19.30***

A black and white portrait of Ricky Ross, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark polo shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# **Ricky Ross**

An evening at the English Reformed Church with lead singer, song-writer and driving force behind Deacon Blue, one of the most successful UK bands of recent years.

**Not to be missed!**

Ticket donation € 40  
Contact Ingrid Sorensen  
[friendsofmmh@ercadam.nl](mailto:friendsofmmh@ercadam.nl) / Tel: 0207 701341

# A Very Special Concert

A special date for your diary:

## **Farewell concert and party for Olja – Sunday, 30 August 2015 at 14:15**

In June, our choir marked Olja Bučo's last choir Sunday in splendid style with singers coming from far and wide to join voices and make it a truly memorable occasion. And since then, you will have noticed that various musicians have been taking the opportunity to make music with her in the service one last time. But soon, in just a few weeks, Olja will be playing her last service too. For the last 18 years, she has carried us through the hymns, set the tone of worship with her preludes, uplifted us with her music in worship and sent us on our way with glorious postludes. Now it's high time to treat her for a change, and what better way to do that than to put on a concert in her honour.

So after the service on Sunday, 30 August, we will be holding a farewell concert for Olja in the church, followed by a party with refreshments. It promises to be a varied programme which will bring together many of the musicians who have made music with her over the years as well as some of her students and a past teacher or two.

*Everyone* is warmly invited to attend, and we hope that as many of you as possible will join us in celebrating the 18 years of wonderful music Olja has blessed us with. Let's send her off with a grand musical finale!

Judi Haynes-Smart

*PS Please do get in touch with me if you would like to be involved in the party preparations. Contact details on the back of this Record.*

## *De Kloof*

Cooking at **De Kloof!** *De Kloof* is a shelter for homeless people in the centre of Amsterdam. Our church is committed to cooking lunch at the shelter every second Monday of the month.

If you are interested in helping, or would like to know more about this project, please contact Gillian Walker at [dekloof@eradam.nl](mailto:dekloof@eradam.nl). We will be needing volunteers in September, October and November. This is a great way to help folks who are in need!

## **Bread Service / Taizé Service**

For the next few months the Bread Service will continue to be a Taizé service, but rather a case of 'Taizé-lite', as we will try to incorporate into it a bit of the worship style of the Bread Service. The service will be at 7.30, *normally* on the second Thursday of the month, but not in September, when it will be the third Thursday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will follow. Come along and give it a try!

## Midweek Bible Studies

For our Autumn programme we will be using a series of DVDs by Walter Brueggemann, probably the world's leading Old Testament theologian, who will be helping us to understand the prophets of Israel and how they address today's world.

This will be an opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of the whole Bible (not just the Old Testament) and the Christian life of discipleship. The DVDs include about 15 minutes of input from Brueggemann, which will reference a number of Bible passages, and which will lead into discussion.

The programme is as follows:

Wed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. - Session 1: Moses, Pharaoh, the Prophets and Us

Wed, 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. - Session 2: The Prophets as Uncredentialed Purveyors of Covenant

Wed, 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. - Session 3: Moral Coherence in a World of Power, Money and Violence

Wed, 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Session 4: The Shrill Rhetoric that Breaks Denial

Wed, 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Session 5: The Grief of Loss as Divine Judgment

Wed, 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. - Session 6: The Promissory Language that Breaks Despair

## Concerts in our Church

**17 August, 4:00pm:** Daahoud Salim, piano. Winner of the Jury Prize at the Grachtenfestival Conservatorium Concours 2015, this special concert is part of Amsterdam's *Grachtenfestival*. Daahoud Salim will be performing works by Ravel, Bartók, etc., including some of his own compositions.

**23 August, 3:15pm:** Barock Sommer Orchestra, conducted by Simon Murphy. Works by Haydn, Zelter and Neubauer.

**12 September, 4:00pm:** The Rivals, choir conducted by Rob van Dijk. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert of the former youth choir from the '60's, The Rivals. The concert includes gospel and traditional songs, as well as works by The Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel, Bob Dylan, Elton John and Frida Boccará's *Cent Mille Chansons*. *Free concert!*

**11 October, 3:15pm:** Ladies' Choir Noordlys, conducted by Ulrikke Reed Findenegg. "Aurora": works by Marianne Reidarsdatter Eriksen (Norway), Jaakko Mäntijärvi (Finland), Einojuhani Rautavaara (Finland) and Bo Holten (Denmark).

**22 October, 1:00pm:** The Choir of the Mill School, London, England. A concert of mixed choir music. *Free concert!*

*Tickets can be purchased ½ hour before the concert. For more information on concerts at the ERC, see the folders in the church vestibule or check the website: [www.ercadam.nl](http://www.ercadam.nl)*

## Keeping the Church Open!

Our church stays open for visitors for several hours each week. For most of the year this brings thousands of people into the ERC each week. There are tour groups, folks who enter in droves, take a quick look and leave; there are school groups from various neighbouring countries that come in and listen to their teachers explain the Beguines, or the Reformation, or Protestantism to them; and there are visitors who come in by themselves or in two's or three's, who take one of our guides (in 34 languages!) and walk around or sit down and read about the church. There are occasionally people who come and ask one of the volunteers questions about the history of the church or about our services. There are many people who leave donations in the big chest in the vestibule. And there are always folks who ask what time the Sunday service begins, and who come back to worship with us.

It's an important part of our church: keeping it open for people to come inside. Luckily we have a small group of volunteers who are able to do this for a few hours, for four or five days a week. But the group is too small, and we would love to have new volunteers to help us out! If you have two or three hours free one day a week, or even every now and again, please consider joining our group of enthusiastic volunteers. There are always at least two people keeping the church open at any given time, and often there are one or two more, so you are never alone. If you are interested, please see Els Nooij or email her at [openchurch@ercadam.nl](mailto:openchurch@ercadam.nl), or just ask the minister about it. We would love to have you join us!

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## ATTENTION SINGERS!

You will have read elsewhere in this *Record* a farewell message from Olja. (We wish her all the best!) This does not mean, however, that the musical life of the church will be coming to an end! A new choir season will be starting up in just a couple of weeks and it would be great to welcome new, enthusiastic members to our fold. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings, and September 1st just happens to be a Tuesday, so we will waste no time in getting the season rolling. If you are interested, curious, or even doubtful, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to making music together!

Richard Zook  
[rzook@tiscali.nl](mailto:rzook@tiscali.nl)  
 tel. 075-6311419

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## Food Bank

These are hard times for a lot of people in our city. If you would like to help out those who are going through difficulties financially, a good way is to help stock the Food Bank (*Voedselbank*) in Amsterdam. You are welcome to bring non-perishable food items and other household items such as toothpaste, soap, etc. to our church on Sundays. A box will be provided in the vestibule of the church for these items. It's a good way to help our neighbours!

## ***Baptisms***

*Eline Dijk*  
*Bradley Kabila*

28 June

*David Luzzani*

26 July

*Greta Estelle Harcourt Brown*

2 August

## ***Death***

*Beryl Winter-Jenkison*

1949 - 2015

## ***A Paperless Record***

*The Record* is also available by e-mail. If you would like to receive your copy of *The Record* by e-mail instead of through the post, please let Susan Polstra know. Her contact details are on the inside back page of this *Record*.

### ***Editor:***

Susan Polstra  
Marnixkade 67-2  
1015 XX Amsterdam  
[churchofficer@ercadam.nl](mailto:churchofficer@ercadam.nl)

The deadline for the next *Record* is September 20th...

# Members of Consistory

Laura Elliott	Marnixstraat 281 1015 WK Amsterdam 06 26423799
Mattia Falcone	Amstelkade 166-III 1078 AX Amsterdam 06 27853671
Giles Francis	Nieuwe Uilenburgerstraat 3-H 1011 LM Amsterdam 020 3200197
Thijs Glasz	J. Israelslaan 12 1401 CP Bussum 035 6910408
Judi Haynes-Smart	Vechtstraat 32-1 1078 RG Amsterdam 06 10242250
Thorsten König <i>Treasurer</i>	C.P. van der Leestraat 36 1396 JP Baambrugge 0294 772934
Heleen Koning <i>Scriba</i>	Wittgensteinlaan 161 1062 KD Amsterdam 06 13097756
Peggy Krol	Biesboschstraat 22-3 1078 MS Amsterdam 020 6767804
Christa Oudshoorn-Hobo	De Wijde Blik 22 1189 WK Nes a/d Amstel 0297 775877
Baafi Sekyere	Roomtuintjes 197 1093 TB Amsterdam 020 6933521
Rev. Dr. Lance Stone <i>Minister</i>	J.W. Brouwersstraat 9 1071 LH Amsterdam 020 6722288
Seppo Stout <i>Property Convener</i>	Roeselarestraat 17 1066 SW Amsterdam 020 6798698
Nick Thomas	Buiten Bantammerstraat 1 1011 AX Amsterdam 06 11885017