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The Record

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The English Reformed Church
Begijnhof 48, 1012 WV Amsterdam
www.ercadam.nl

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

Heleen Koning
Scriba
scriba@ercadam.nl

Thorsten König
Treasurer
treasury@ercadam.nl

Veronica Garcia Robles
Lay Assistant

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

Richard Zook
Organist, Choir Director
organist@ercadam.nl

Kenneth Ewen
Concert Manager

Veronica Garcia Robles
Sunday School Superintendent

Nancy Sekyere Owusu
Crèche Duty Rota
creche@ercadam.nl

Els Nooij, Church Guiding Coordinator

Jens Anders Wejsmark Sørensen, Webmaster
Church

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

layassistant@ercadam.nl

Marnixkade 67-2
1015 XX Amsterdam
020 6224158

Bloemgracht 85
1502 VB Zaandam
075 6311419

concertorganiser@ercadam.nl

sundayschool@ercadam.nl

Roomtuintjes 197
1093 TB Amsterdam
020 6933521

openchurch@ercadam.nl

webmaster@ercadam.nl

Begijnhof 48, 1012 WV Amsterdam
020 6249665

IBAN: NL44 ABNA 0547 6235 50
SWIFT address: ABNANL2A

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

Church Hall

NZ Voorburgwal 282A
1012 RT Amsterdam

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

As I write this the news is dominated by the appalling terrorist attacks in Paris in recent days and the ensuing chaos and disruption brought to Brussels. We have prayed in our worship for our fellow Church of Scotland congregation in Brussels that has had to cancel its Sunday service because of the shutdown in the city.

What we are encountering here is the reality of evil. So-called Islamic State is being rightly described as neither Islamic nor a State but as a death-cult and as such as the manifestation of evil in all its death-dealing power. And it seems to me that an increasingly secular society is baffled by evil and really does not have any framework or discourse for understanding it. After all, the human race should be doing better than this. We should be evolving into something better. We have such an amazing technological capacity to enhance and improve life and we are forever being told that we are leaving behind the bad old days of superstition and religious belief - and yet still we are dogged by persistent, stubborn, unyielding evil. Just when we ought to be creating a paradise on earth we are creating wastelands of death and destruction in places like Syria, and 21st century people find themselves frightened to leave their homes, to travel to work or to go out for an evening, unable even to go to church out of fear of what might happen next.

As Christians we do not understand evil either, but we do recognise its reality. It is part of our framework of belief and the Bible gives us a language with which to speak of it – albeit an often symbolic and metaphorical language. And above all we see the staggering lengths God has gone to in order to deal with evil and to defeat it. The story of God's strategy for dealing with evil is a long one that goes back to the very beginning of the Bible, but in the seasons of Advent and Christmas we reach a decisive chapter in that story. Here God comes in weakness and vulnerability in the flesh of a baby and immediately provokes and rouses evil, such that the nativity story is accompanied by the sound of Rachel weeping for her murdered children (Matthew 2:18). Throughout his ministry that baby-become-a-man continues to provoke evil in all its guises until finally it unleashes its full power against him. But in absorbing it and drawing its sting he triumphs over it and renders it a defeated – albeit still a vicious – foe.

Advent then is a sombre season when we recognise the reality of evil as it is disclosed to us in the Bible and as we discern it at work in the world around us. But it is also a season of hope, knowing that God came to us in the baby in Bethlehem in order that evil will not have the last word or finally prevail.

May you have a blessed Advent season, and Sally joins me in wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Lance

Our Christmas services are described elsewhere in this Record, but here are a few extra seasonal events happening at or around our church:

- *Wednesday, Dec 2nd , 7.30pm: Advent evening at the manse
- *Wednesday, Dec 9th , 7.30pm: Taizé service at the church; carol singing afterwards
- *Saturday, Dec 12th, 10:00am: Church cleaning. ALL WELCOME to come help!
- *Sunday, Dec 13th, 4:00pm: Advent ecumenical service with our Lutheran, Mennonite and Roman Catholic neighbours at the Singelkerk (the Mennonite, or *Doopsgezinde Kerk* on the Singel)

From Consistory

In our meetings of October and November we talked about some issues regarding the organisation of our church and of the International Presbytery of the Church of Scotland, of which we are a part.

As always, we start with our membership issues: At the end of September Eelke, *Peggy Krol's* husband, passed away at the age of 58 after an illness. The funeral service in the OLVG hospital chapel was attended by many showing their support for Peggy and her daughter Nikki. *Christa Oudshoorn – Hobo* informed Consistory that she and her family would move to the USA on November 19th. The family will live in Claremont, California. *Anniko and Waqar Aslam* have welcomed a baby boy. His name is Sharan.

After assessing a number of application letters and interviewing candidates, Consistory was happy to follow the selection committee's proposal and appoint *Veronica Garcia Robles* as our Lay Assistant as of 15 October 2015, initially for the period of one year. In this *Record* you can read an interview with Veronica. *Susan Polstra*, church officer, came to the October meeting. One of the topics we discussed was the coffee in the church so far. Assistance is needed for preparations during the service, and we need to organise this better. Pastor Lance took the opportunity to thank Susan for all the work she does for the congregation in front of and behind the scenes.

And some good news: the ERC and the *Stichting Begijnhof* have come to an agreement, which will be signed on November 30, about access to the Begijnhof and the church. The settlement gives the ERC the continued right of overpath and ensures that concerts and church activities can be held in the evenings as always. We thank our "committee of advice" consisting of members of the congregation with legal or historic expertise, who supported Thijs Glasz and Mattia Falcone during this process. We trust we can continue to work together with our neighbours in good spirits.

Consistory picked up the discussion about the way the ERC identifies new elders and the number of elders for a congregation. We are looking into ways in which members of the congregation can nominate candidates. This will be brought forward in a congregational meeting to be held in January 2016.

Pastor Lance and Baafi Sekyere reported back from the meeting of the International Presbytery, held in October in Brussels. One of the important topics on the agenda was the changing relationship between the International Presbytery and the Church of Scotland. The IP is now under the Mission Council, which gives the churches a special status in the Church of Scotland. But given the development of the IP over the years, it is felt that the IP should now become a presbytery as other presbyteries in Scotland. This is a challenging process, because of the fact that the congregations of the IP all have to work within the legal framework of the country in which they are located. Rules that apply for churches in Scotland have to be assessed thoroughly. The IP Act, the document in which the new relationship is laid out, will be presented to the General Assembly in May 2016. Before that date the International Presbytery will discuss the draft Act once more in the March meeting. The Kirk sessions are asked for their input. More information about this process will be published in the following issues of *The Record*.

The Worship & Christian Education committee started with their meetings. There were some good discussions about music, an exploration about children and communion, and expanding the pool of readers. The committee also looked at the upcoming services.

The Outreach & Social Events committee reported back as well. Pamela Woolley did a great job coordinating the Harvest Thanksgiving potluck lunch. A big thank you to

Pamela, and all others who helped, for another wonderful potluck. Also the All Saints Pizza party for teenagers was a big success with an attendance of about 14 teenagers. After the Christmas period the committee will look into possibilities for a Burns' Night.

Publicity (Laura): Jens Sørensen, our webmaster and member of the committee, talked with Consistory about the ERC website and its possibilities. One of the other topics in the committee was *The Record*. Susan is looking forward to stepping down – after many years - as editor, and we will be looking for a new one. The committee is also looking into ways to cut down on costs for the *Records* sent by post, by suggest receiving it electronically.

We were very happy to approve the replacement of the Bechstein piano for a good Yamaha grand piano. The ERC was in the position to do that thanks to a bequest specifically for church instruments and thanks to all the hard work of our music director Richard Zook (who also sold the Bechstein for us!).

Christa's last meeting as a serving elder was the November one. We thank Christa for all the work she did for the church in the last 20 years, not only as an elder, but also in the capacity of concert organiser, Sunday School teacher and coordinator, for her musical involvement and so many other contributions. Although we are very sorry to see Christa, Stevin, Eden, Neale and Lieve leave, we are happy for them that they could make this decision and wish them well.

The next Consistory meetings will be held on December 7 and January 4. If you have any questions or would like to bring a topic to the meeting, please feel free to contact me.

Heleen Koning (scriba@ercadam.nl)

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 a warm 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*. This is a great way to help folks who are in need!

And for volunteers or potential volunteers: due to its unbridled success, we are holding another **Christmas Meet 'n Greet** on Sunday, 13 December, during the coffee time after the service. For those who have not been before, it's a very low-key occasion. Gillian bakes a cake (and brings it along!) and we all huddle around and put faces to the names we've seen in emails; and we exchange experiences of cooking at *De Kloof*. It's good to see faces, and it's useful to get some feedback on how things are going. If we want to change anything about how we work or organise, then the Meet 'n Greet is the time to do it. These things might normally be discussed at a meeting. However... coffee and cake do seem to work just as well! All are welcome to drop by after church on the 13th, whether you have cooked many times at *De Kloof* or have only just got in touch and haven't a clue how things work yet! You are all warmly invited, please come along

Finance Report

January – October 2015, Amounts in €

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015 vs 2014</u>
Income			
Donations	82,407.24	47,186.15	35,221.09
Collections	34,434.91	37,715.45	- 3,280.54
Church hire	20,610.63	18,701.50	1.909.13
Concerts	8,546.00	8,331.00	215.00
Weddings	8,120.00	6,962.00	1,158.00
Church shop	121.00	206.00	- 85.00
Flowers	330.25	164.11	166.14
Extra Income Tax	9,691.26	-	-
	164,261.29	119,266.21	35,303.82

In the last few months some smaller and bigger changes have taken place in our congregation. We employed a new Lay Assistant, Veronica; we bought a new grand piano; and – as I write this – we are organising the next Mulanje Mission Charity Concert. We all, each of you included, make this possible by our donations of money, time, commitment and love for each other. These are the fruits of the Holy Spirit!

As the year is almost at its end, I am preparing the budget for 2016, which formally needs to be approved by Consistory before the end of this year. My forecast for the rest of the year is that our expenses in 2015 will be in line with our planning. Thanks to the increase in donations we will be able to close the year with a surplus. I want to encourage you to continue to be generous, for in this way we are certain that we have the resources not only to ensure the ministry within our congregation but, with God's guidance and support, to let it grow even further.

As always, if you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me anytime at treasurer@ercadam.nl or (0294) 77 29 34. *Thorsten König, Treasurer*

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!

Here are the locations for the coming months:

1 December	Pat Rood-van Beem	Sassenheim
5 January	Rev. Lance Stone	Amsterdam
2 February	George van Meerveld	Amsterdam North

Christmas Services in our Church

Sunday, 29 November, 10:30am

First Advent Sunday

-special music by our choir and a string orchestra-

Sunday, 6 December, 10:30am

Second Advent Sunday

Sunday, 13 December, 10:30am

Third Advent Sunday

-special music by our choir-

Tuesday, 15 December, **8:00pm**

Carols by Candlelight

-traditional service of 9 lessons and carols, special music by our choir and soloists-

Sunday, 20 December, 10:30am

Fourth Advent Sunday

-children's Nativity Play-

Thursday, 24 December, 10:30pm (doors open at 10:00pm)

Christmas Eve Service

-special music by our choir, carol singing from 10:00pm-

Friday, 25 December, 10:30am

Christmas Day Service

A Christmas Party!

The annual Christmas Party will be held at our church hall, Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 282A, on Saturday, 19 December. We will begin at 3:00pm and finish at about 5:00pm. There will be activities and games for children of ALL AGES! This year there will also be special *Christingle* elements included in the party. If you don't know the *Christingle* tradition, be sure to come along to the party and find out!

If you are able, you can bring along a sweet or savory treat to share with everyone, to make the party even more festive. We hope to see you there!

Who is Who in the ERC

Meet Verónica Garcia-Robles, Lay Assistant

Since mid October Verónica Garcia-Robles is serving the ERC in the position of Lay Assistant. Veronica is not a newcomer: she has been worshipping in our church since September 2001.

“After I came to the Netherlands I began looking for a church. I heard about the ERC via a work colleague after 9/11. I came to my first service and found the international congregation, with people of different backgrounds and viewpoints (not only Presbyterians but also Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, etc.) inspiring! I’m still inspired that we can come together just because we love God. Things that might separate us in other places, will not separate us here because we are united in God.”

You became quite active in the ERC.

“Through the years, I’ve volunteered in many capacities within the ERC. I have served as the Sunday School Coordinator by helping train our teachers and organizing their schedules, classes, learning materials and supplies. I’ve also served as a Sunday School teacher, greatly enjoying the opportunity to get to know our youth and helping them to grow in their faith. In addition, I’ve loved helping coordinate the BREAD services and leading it whenever the need has arisen. Finally, I’ve been honored every time I have been asked to take part in our Sunday services, either as a lector or by leading the service as its guest preacher. In the past, I’ve also been a Crèche volunteer, a Junior Church teacher and helped cook at *De Kloof* Homeless Shelter.”

What were your inspirations in your Christian life?

“One of the biggest ones was Pastor Carlson, my minister in my home church back in California, who was almost like a father to me. He took the time to get to know me and invited me to participate in the life of the church. That shaped me into the person I am now. He always encouraged me, as a lector, singing in the choir and later on even preaching and leading services. He taught me to really make God a priority.

My Sunday School teachers were also very important in my Christian education. Teaching me the Bible stories, the basis for my Christianity, they helped establish my Christian roots. You need that basis to grow in your faith.

My youth leaders, especially Judy Taylor who is now a close friend, also took an interest in me, getting to know me as well as the other youth in the church. She especially took her Christian faith above and beyond outside of the church walls, helping children learn how to read. I feel strongly that as Christians we really have to care about people. It can be hard, because our lives are very busy, but when you have the opportunity, just stop



and pay attention. It does not take a lot; just listen! When you make a connection with others as a Christian, people will feel heard because God's love is there. I always felt heard and felt God's presence. I hope in my position that I can help people feel God's presence in their lives.

Last summer you applied for the new Lay Assistant position. Why?

"It gave me the opportunity to officially put to good use my Master of Divinity degree from Harvard by working for the ERC."

So tell us, what does a Lay Assistant do?

"I'm here to help the minister as he tries to grow the faith of the church and its congregational members. Aside from Sunday services, I'm here to help the church youth grow in their faith as well. The youth are the future of the church. Without them, how are we going to grow stronger as a community? They need to get to know God better to help them to deal with any situation as they grow. Knowing God better can only help them.

I'm also helping in the life of the church by organizing various activities (e.g. Christmas party, the All Saints Youth Party and 20-30's gatherings). We are not alone as Christians, we have each other! So we should spend time together as a community.

"I'll also take part in the Worship and Christian Education Committee, the Publicity Committee and the Outreach & Social Events committee."

What do you need from us, the members of our congregation, while you work as our Lay Assistant?

"I'd love it – though many are already doing this – for the whole church community to become more involved. Responsibility for the church's spiritual life is not only up to the pastor or the assistant. This is

everyone's church and we have to make it as wonderful and active as we can! Everyone can help volunteer in some way. The members of the congregation are the life blood of the church. They are the ones that are going to keep this church going. Don't be afraid of using your spiritual gifts; they come from God. We all have one life; share your gifts and shine your light for all to see. Everyone can make a difference in the church and make a positive impact. You never know how you might inspire others by sharing your talents and shining your light!" *Veronica can be reached via email (layassistant@ercadam.nl)*

Veronica's background

Born and raised in California, Veronica did her Bachelor studies in Religion and English (both *cum laude*) at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, Calif., USA. She graduated with her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., USA in 2000.

After coming to the Netherlands she had various jobs in editing and writing. In the last years Veronica wrote and published various (religious and secular) articles and poetry in magazines and online.

Veronica lives in Amstelveen, is married to Eric and is mother to Angelina (7). Apart from creative writing, Veronica enjoys spending time with family, travelling, seeing films and singing.

New Committees within the ERC

A number of core committees were recently formed within our church, including the Education and Worship committee, the Social Outreach committee and the Property committee. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to another of those committees: the *Communications and Publicity* committee.

Our committee consists of 7 members: **Lance Stone, Heleen Koning, Thijs Polstra, Jens Anders Wejsmark Sørensen, Laura Elliott, Ferry Haris and Johan de Villiers.** All of our members either work in a communications capacity professionally or simply have a personal interest in supporting communications and publicity within our church.

The aim of the committee is to ensure that we strengthen the way in which we communicate externally and present our church to the outside world. We are looking to encourage new people to come and worship with us and to ensure that our existing members are kept well informed on what is happening within our church.

Our committee meets every 2 months and some of the principal channels upon which we will be focusing during the months ahead are:

- Our church website – *www.ercadam.nl*
- Our church Facebook page – *The English Reformed Church Amsterdam (Official Page)*
- Our church magazine – *The Record*
- Our church notice boards – both internal and external

We will be using the *Record* to provide you with regular committee progress updates and details of our activities. Should you have any ideas that you would like to share with the committee, please feel free to speak to any of our members who will be sure to raise these within our team.

We all look forward to making a positive contribution to the life of the ERC.

Laura Elliott

Carol Singing!



There will be a chance to go carol singing on the Spui on the evening of Thursday, 9 December. It will follow the Taizé service in the church, so you are welcome to come for that first. The service will end at about 8:15pm, so if you would like to join in some good old-fashioned Christmas carol singing on the Spui outside the Begijnhof (with hot chocolate in the church afterwards!) please come along and join us!

Concerts in our Church

29 November, 3:15pm: Vocal Ensemble Cappella Nova, conducted by Jurjen Vis with Piet Hulsbos on organ: *But joy comes in the morning*. Anthems and songs by Byrd, Morley and Gibbons.

6 December, 3:15pm: Franz Liszt Chamber Choir, conducted by Eric Jan Joosse: 'Advent!', works by J.C.F. Bach, J.M. Bach, Giffen, Berlioz, Joosse, Holst, etc.

11 December, 8:15pm: Coro Encanto, conducted by Felix van den Hombergh: 'Viagem Brasileira', Brazilian journey, from swing to spicy rhythms, with percussion. Works by Villa-Lobos, Mignone, Gil, etc.

12 December, 8:15pm: The Grand Stand Classic Choir, conducted by Adriaen van der Veen: Christmas songs from around the world, works by del Encina, Mozart, Brahms, etc

13 December, 3:15pm: Balkan Choir Slavuj, conducted by Ivo Boswijk with special guests Levan Samkurashvili & Ketik Tsiklauri from Georgia: songs from countries around the Black Sea, choir singing with solo's, duets and quartets.

18 December, 8:15pm: Final concert of project 'Ukrainian Polyphony', conducted by Tatiana Lina: a choral selection of worldly and spiritual songs from various regions of the Ukraine. Special guests Quartet Rusalki singing songs from Slavic countries.

19 December, 8:15pm: Balkan Choir Slavuj, conducted by Ivo Boswijk with special guests Levan Samkurashvili & Ketik Tsiklauri from Georgia: songs from countries around the Black Sea, choir singing with solo's, duets and quartets.

20 December, 3:15pm: Plantagekoor and Vocal Ensemble Amadeus, with instrumental ensemble, conducted by Bert 't Hart: works by Saint-Saëns, Charpentier, Howells, Brahms, Schütz.

17 January, 3:15pm: Vocal ensemble Larynx & Ensemble Corona: 'Venga Aventurero', Spanish cantiga's, villancicos and ensaladas from the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and contemporary choir music. Works by Fletxa, Cabézon, Pärt, etc.

23 January, 8:15pm: Vocal Ensemble Coqu, conducted by Mitchell Sandler: 'Let us Garlands Bring', madrigals through the ages with works by Monteverdi, Weelkes, Kleppe, Sandler, Lauridsen, etc.

24 January, 3:15pm: Amsterdam Bach Consort with Collegium Delft, conducted by Niek Idelenburg: 'Bach in Italy', an adaptation of Bach with the famous Stabat Mater of Pergolesi and Stabat Mater of D'Astorga.

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

Report Presbytery Meeting October 2015

This year's second biannual Presbytery meeting of the Church of Scotland International Presbytery (Presbytery of Europe) took place on the weekend of 9th till 11th of October, 2015 in Brussels. Our congregation, the English Reformed Church, was represented by our Minister Revd. Dr. Lance Stone, our Presbytery Elder Mr. Baafi Owusu Sekyere and Mr. Thijs Polstra, outgoing Convenor of the Finance Committee as corresponding member.

The meeting made time to remember former Presbytery members who have passed away since the last meeting in March and our own Mrs. Beryl Winter-Jenkison was also remembered with a short speech by the ERC delegation.

Since our church had our (quinquennial) Local Church Review last April, in-between the two Presbytery meetings, we were in the spotlight as the report was presented. Some highlights in the report are:

- The cordial relationship that has been forged between our Minister and the Consistory in his relatively short period of stay in Amsterdam
- The Consistory keeping the church, manse and church hall in good order and the diligence of our Property Convenor, Mr. Seppo Stout
- The congregation's support for '*de Kloof*' and the 'Bread Run'
- The diligent services of Ms Olja Bučo as our organist for almost 19 years
- The dedicated work done by our Church Officer, Mrs. Susan Polstra

Presbytery adopted "Beyond Crisis" as Mission Project for 2016. This is a project from our sister congregation in Budapest to support the Syrian and other refugees who have settled in that city to find their way through the bureaucratic system in that country. All congregations in the Presbytery are expected to contribute financially for its execution.

Also, congregations within the Presbytery are encouraged to support this year's Church of Scotland mission project by building a house for Christmas for the Nepalese earthquake victims at a cost of £500.

What could be seen as the main event had to do with the reorganisation at the Church of Scotland concerning the status of the Presbytery of Europe renamed International Presbytery, which affects all member congregations, including ours, the English Reformed Church.

Our congregation, which was founded in 1607, has been part of the Church of Scotland since the 1750's and since then, our ministers have predominantly come from Scotland.

The Church of Scotland (mother church) is governed by the General Assembly, which has six Councils and several Committees and Departments working under it.

Up till now, the Presbytery of Europe has been relating to the mother church through one of the councils, the World Mission Council, whilst all other Presbyteries in Scotland relate directly with the governing body, the General Assembly and all other institutions thereunder.

Now our Presbytery is becoming a fully fledged Presbytery, enabling us to deal directly with the governing body of the mother church, the General Assembly and all institutions

under it. This now gives our Presbytery the same (more) rights as Presbyteries on mainland Scotland. With more rights come more responsibilities, especially financial, and that is why the International Presbytery Working Group was formed and has been in discussion with the mother church for a smooth transition to a soft landing in the new state, as the International Presbytery.

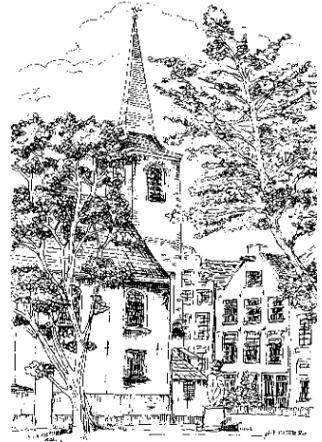
The meeting approved a number of documents in this regard, including the draft International Presbytery Act 2016, Guidance for Ministers taking up or demitting a Charge, Supplementary Stipend Review Procedure for Ministers and Supplement to Manse Conditions and Guidelines. The International Presbytery Working Group was instructed to engage with congregations within the Presbytery, in the continuing development of the draft Financial Regulations, ensuring that particular circumstances of congregations are taken into account.

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at church or per email.

Baafi Owusu Sekyere (Presbytery Elder)

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, or just ask the minister about it. We would love to have you join us!

Taizé Service

For now our monthly evening services will continue to be Taizé services, but rather a case of ‘Taizé-lite’, as we try to incorporate into them a bit of the worship style of what we formerly called *the Bread Service*. The service will be at 7:30pm, *normally* on the second Wednesday or Thursday of the month, and is always announced the Sunday before. Refreshments will follow. Come along and give it a try! We’ll be happy to see you at these rather special services.

The next Taizé service will be on Wednesday, 9 December at 7:30pm.

Men’s Fellowship

We had an encouraging first meeting of the new Men’s Fellowship in November when a group of dedicated men met at the Wildschut Café to solve the world’s problems. Next meeting in January... place and time to be confirmed in announcements in church and on the website.

Lance

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*.

Midweek Fellowship

We have completed our series on the Old Testament prophets, benefitting enormously from the teaching of Walter Brueggemann and his video presentations. It was good to have a heartening turn-out most weeks.

During December we will be suspending midweek Bible Study except for an Advent evening on **Wednesday December 2nd** which will include a bit of Bible Study, some singing, poems, readings, refreshments and other contributions.

The monthly **Taizé service** will take place on **Wednesday 9th December** at 7.30 pm at the church.

In the New Year I am hoping that we might try to follow a programme of **ONE Midweek Fellowship activity per week**. The pattern will be:

1st Wed of the month: Bible Study at the manse

2nd Wed of the month: Taizé service at the church

3rd Wed of the month: Bible Study at the manse

4th Wed of the month: Ladies Fellowship and Men’s Meeting

5th Wed of the month (when there is one): to be announced.

Hopefully people might feel able to commit themselves to one activity per week.

Lance

Baptisms

Brises Maria Nausica Nieuwenhuis

18 October

Elisabeth Catharina Louise Nederstigt

15 November

Birth

Glenn Sharan Waqar Bhatti

18 October, 2015

Death

Ruud Nagelmaker

1924 - 2015

Food Bank Donations

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!

Editor:

Susan Polstra

Marnixkade 67-2

1015 XX Amsterdam

churchofficer@ercadam.nl

The deadline for the next *Record* is January 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
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