

Annual Report 2016



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1. Introduction

Chaplain's report

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

To many of us, 2016 was the year in which the world began to look more troubled than we can remember. Most of us were born after the second world war and have lived our lives in an era of peace, prosperity and general optimism about the future. However, this perception is being increasingly tested: the rise of Islamic terrorism, the economic crash and subsequent 'age of austerity', growing evidence of climate change, and so on. And in the last 12 months we have witnessed the UK referendum decision to leave the European Union and the election of Donald Trump to the office of US president – significant events that will shape the future for many years to come, whatever one's personal stance.

Admittedly, our concern at these events reflects our privileged perspective in the West – in many other parts of the world, and throughout most of history, the world has always looked troubled and unstable. Nonetheless, they affect us in various ways. Sometimes these are practical – increased security checks at airports, for example. At other times they are psychological. For those of us from the UK, it might be concern about the possible impact of Brexit on our residing and working here in the Netherlands. For others, it could be the fear of living in an increasingly angry and hostile society.

Jesus tells us that we should not be surprised when the world gives us trouble. After all, what else can we expect when we live as fallen and broken people in a fallen and broken society? But our hope is not based on ourselves and our own ability to make things work. Rather, our hope is based on Christ alone, who has overcome the world through his death and resurrection. The words we sing in church are relevant and true: "I will call upon Your name, and keep my eyes above the waves when oceans rise. My soul will rest in Your embrace, for I am Yours and You are mine."

Within St James we have witnessed God's blessings at many times and in many ways, and no less so in 2016. I think back for example on that February weekend when church-planter Stephen Beck ministered to us, or the spring Gospel in Life course, several Messy Church events, the ongoing Alpha Course, three adult baptisms, the November Open Doors day in Utrecht, and our ever-popular Christmas services. Signs of the Spirit at work among us, bringing dynamism and growth that give me great encouragement. You will no doubt have other highlights, and there is much to give thanks to God for.

At the same time there have been challenges and moments of sadness. I took my first funeral for a church family member since arriving, when Reina Mapp lost her long and brave battle with cancer in March. (A funeral, incidentally, that was so full of light and life as we gave thanks for someone who had walked so closely with her Lord.) None of us is getting younger, and for some long-standing congregation members the last year has brought new challenges to their living circumstances. We said goodbye to a number of our church family who moved on, and prayed patiently for newcomers who are yet to appear. We experienced a drop in giving and consequently a deficit in our annual budget, although the tide appeared to have turned by the end of the year.

As we look ahead to 2017, what can we expect? There are plenty of encouraging signs of growth – which as we all know is about so much more than just numbers. The Rule of Life initiative has captured imaginations and given us all a framework to use as we reflect on and develop our daily growth and discipleship. We have a number of people preparing for confirmation in March, both youth and adult. Leading up to Pentecost we are planning several prayer events in conjunction with the national Church's Thy Kingdom Come initiative. And amidst all the

activity, we continue to work faithfully and pray patiently for the Lord to build His church.

On the personnel front there have been changes, as there always are in an international church like ours. Adam joined the staff in January and is giving great leadership to our ministry amongst children and young people. His own deep faith, and his desire to see our young people grow in theirs, are valuable foundations for his service. Gill completed three active and productive years as churchwarden, and handed the baton over to Gerrit. He and Steve have been a formidable duo, with complementary gifts and skills, and have been a source of strength and stability to me in my role, without which the wheels would have soon come off. We are sorry to lose Gerrit as he stands down at the upcoming annual meeting. Last summer Bron stepped down as church administrator, a hole that we still struggle to fill – her creativity and energy were unparalleled. Anthony continues to serve faithfully as Reader, and is my most reliable backup when services need organising in my absence. Karen is also progressing in leaps and

bounds as she trains for Reader ministry, and her vocation to this role is evident to us all. And what a delight to see Wilma van Rijn ordained as dominee in the PKN in Den Helder, and to witness Linda Gottschalk's PhD defence in Leiden.

Finally, as always, I must give my thanks to all of you who carry on doing all that is needed to keep the church running so well. The risk is that we take it for granted, but amazingly enough there is always someone to put out the chairs, give out the Bibles, welcome the worshippers, count the cash, serve the coffee ... We are all created and called to serve, and opportunities for service abound in our church. I hope, whatever your contribution is, that it gives you purpose, fulfilment, and the knowledge that you are making a difference and are contributing to something special that gives great glory to God.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

Ruan Crew

Youth Pastor's report

Introduction

2016 was an eventful year where I moved country, started a new job, adapted to a new culture, and became a father. In the midst of all this change I am so grateful for God's faithfulness and His promise that He will never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Here is a breakdown of the activities that I have been involved in during 2016.

Weekly Activities

Steadfast 11-15

Wednesday After School Bible Study – has been going strong, where we often have five or six young people join for social time and a Bible study. The beginning of the year saw us working through the Freedom in Christ course, followed by smaller courses offered by the organisation Youth For Christ.

Friday Social's variety of activities where I encourage the youth to invite friends. We do a big variety of activities together, including ice skating, bowling, cycle rides, pizza and ice-cream, board-games and much more.

Crossing 15-18

At the beginning of the year, I started a Thursday dinner time get together alternating social and Bible study. The Autumn term saw smaller numbers and very busy schedules, so in response I am seeking to arrange events on an ad hoc basis, based around availability. In addition, finding other means of connecting, whether through activities like youth band, or visiting families at home or attending community events.

Sunday mornings: Engaging both age groups

An area that I have been experimenting with is trying to find a way to engage both age groups on a Sunday morning. It's been difficult to get volunteers for two separate groups, so they have often been together in separate groups with age appropriate material.

Another way that I have been trying to engage the older youth group is through encouraging

them to help me and the other volunteers to organise and assist in the youth session. I am also adopting this with the older end of Steadfast group

Youth Band – has been a great way to engage with some of the older youth. Through practicing and playing together it is evident that there is real talent and passion emerging, introducing new songs, and a real growth in confidence.

Building Relationships

Relationship building has been going well and of course takes time, rapport is increasing with both youth, parents and the wider church family. Seeking to grow relationships expands the potential of the things we're able to do together.

Volunteers

We have a great group of volunteers who really bring so much to this work, and I'm grateful for that. I am also very grateful for those who faithfully meet with me to pray each Friday morning for the youth. Prayer is vital to this work.

Night Away

We had a really successful first youth night away earlier this term, collaborating with St John & St Philip and their youth group with games, food and fellowship building. We invited a speaker from international mission's organisation YWAM to come and speak with the youth. The youth ran some bake sales to help cover the costs of the event. From what I saw and heard it was well received. There was about 15 of our youth and 5/6 from St John & St Philip. In consultation with youth and parents I will be planning to do more in the future.

Collaboration

Alongside with collaborating with the youth worker from STJ&SP, I have made contact with 6 youth workers who serve with international churches and also parachurch organisations like IFES, who have agreed to meet together on a semi regular basis to build relationship with the view of developing greater unity and collaboration with youth groups. All of whom have very similar joys and challenges when it comes to this work.

A result of this networking and relationship building are more resources in store for potential use such as homeless ministry in the Hague, networking with students and welcoming them into St James through the fusion network, and also occasional larger scale youth events involving other churches

Other areas of engagement

Youth Services

We've been having some successful youth services, with the youth taking increasing ownership and vision for each aspect of a church service.

Strategy of 0 – young adults

This year I have been able to meet with the St J's leaders in a supportive and encouraging role. Building a good sense of team, and synchronising

the material that we use. The sense of team is growing really well as we take a look at a Children's ministry book study organised by Diana

Activities for young adults

I have sought to facilitate activities for returning students and young adults when they return 'home', this is to build a sense of Christian community for them and to know they are

always welcome. In 2016 we had activities such as a games night and a Christmas breakfast together.

Confirmation

We have six candidates who have decided to take confirmation classes and we have the confirmation service coming up in March 2017

Events:

EO Jongeren Dag A group of youth and parents travelled over to the EO Jongeren Dag, which was a great day full of great music and worship, with engaging speakers and activities. As it was a full day, we travelled and had lunch together, which was a wonderful opportunity to have fellowship.

Thy Kingdom Come: I helped facilitate a week of prayer joining in with the CoE's prayer initiative,

Thy Kingdom Come, which encourages Christians across the world to pray for family and friends who do not yet know Jesus. We had a variety of opportunities throughout the week to pray, including turning the church office into an interactive prayer room with help from our youth.

Israeli Palestinian Reconciliation Camp

The youth at St James did a fantastic job of helping raise money for the Tabitha Camp, I and Victoria served as leaders on the camp, where a member of our St James youth who is currently at boarding school joined us. It was a very formative, fun time for all. Over the weekend following the end of the camp we hosted a group of students and they shared with St James on the Sunday morning.

Looking ahead

I recently gave the youth some questionnaires about how things have been going and some activities they'd be interested in for 2017. I'm excited about further developing relationships and through that there's potential to grow the existing things we are doing, and also possibility of things like nights away, mission exposure, and Christian festivals. I am very grateful to God and the St James' community for the opportunity to serve.

Adam Oxborrow

2. Church Council

Churchwarden's report

This year has seen the warden team of Gerrit van Bovenkamp and Steve Hanford work together with a mix of style and personality that has served very well in keeping the family of St James moving forward in witnessing to the light of Christ in the International community in the Leiden area. The mix of Dutch and English has both represented the diversity that is the very essence of St James as well as the unity that binds us together as one family in the love of Christ. A mutual understanding has developed where no negotiation is required but duties become divided through a respect of each other's strengths and the areas where we have been most gifted to serve. Unfortunately, Gerrit feels the need to step down at this year's AGM. Of course we respect his decision and are just very grateful for the faithful service Gerrit has given to us out of his love for this community and his desire to serve the Lord. We are truly very thankful for his selfless service, his pragmatic attitude and his words of quiet wisdom.

This year we have not had the upheaval and work that comes through change. No change of minister, no change of youth minister. Stability gives us the chance to celebrate the deepening of relationships in our leadership team and the chance to develop avenues for growth in our faith and our relationships.

This year the council has two opportunities to meet together for a Saturday morning of discussion and prayer, once with Stephen Beck facilitating the day and once just as a council to meet together, share croissants and coffee and to pray. Stephen Beck is of course an inspiring

character who is able to challenge and to take you out of your comfort zone. Stephen was never going to deliver us a roadmap of change but he was always going to make us think about how the refugee crisis and what it would mean for us as a family in Voorschoten. Our second away day was certainly a calmer affair. The ambiance of the convent on a beautiful day is hard to match and the Lord blessed us with a beautiful day. One of the most moving parts of the day was the opportunity to just walk around the grounds and pray as we walked, either alone or in small groups and then to relay back to the group what we felt the Lord had been saying to us as we walked.

An area for prayer this year has certainly been a difficult financial year. This was one area where we have had to trust in the Lord and thankfully by the end of the year our financial situation had improved. Many of us will have asked the Lord to be generous, so please let us remember to be grateful that the Lord has provided and that again next year we are able to project a balance budget.

And so we turn again to a new year in the life of St James. Once again it will be with a new team of wardens but as with all previous years, although there will be a change in our leadership team here at St James we will live in the certainty that our God is a generous God who will provide for us just as he did last year when our finances looked uncertain. Gerrit and Steve would like to thank you for your continued support and love. God bless you all.

Steve Hanford

Church Office and administration

During the summer period last year our Church Administrator Bronwen Hennop stepped down from her role as administrator. This involved a shift and share of duties between a few other people. This means that the church office remains unmanned since most of the work can

be done from home, except of course for the physical printing. Louise and Harry Hunter made themselves available to oversee the printing job. Our contract with Xerox (the work station in the office) ended in December 2016. Most of the administration and church related items are now

shared among a few people. The office continues to be used monthly for council meetings and the men's breakfast, and is where the church archive is stored.

Gerrit van den Bovenkamp

Proceedings of the Church Council

"The church council is an elected group that works with the chaplain to seek God's direction as we build a loving and healthy church together and reach out to others in mission. We do this by generating and implementing actions and policies that are grounded in prayerful reflection."

(from the meeting of 21st April 2016)

The Church Council is the Church's governing body. It consists of a combination of ex-officio members and elected representatives, with a mixture of spiritual and legal responsibilities. The Church Council shares with the Chaplain in the decision-making process.

The Council meets every month, usually on the second Thursday. The meetings are minuted. The Council also meets for an annual away-day, which in 2016 involved a morning of prayer and reflection in Voorschoten, at the convent.

A smaller Standing Committee consisting of the Chaplain, the Church-wardens and two other Council members meets between Council

meetings to carry out weekly church business, to carry out actions as agreed by Council, and to formulate proposals or questions to bring before the Council for discussion.

The members of the Council officially consist of:

- Two wardens (re-)elected annually
- Three Archdeaconry Synod representatives (based on electoral roll of 100+) (re-)elected in 2017 for a term of three years
- One licensed reader
- Ten elected members
- Up to two co-opted members

Lynn Klocke

Church council membership 2016-17

Position	Name	Term of office		Standing committee
		From	To	
Chaplain; chair (<i>ex officio</i>)	Ruan Crew	2013		✓
Churchwarden (<i>ex officio</i>); lay vice-chair	Steve Hanford	2016	2017	✓
Churchwarden (<i>ex officio</i>)	Gerrit van Bovenkamp	2016	2017	✓
Licensed Reader (<i>ex officio</i>)	Anthony Cummings	2012		
Archdeaconry Synod rep (<i>ex officio</i>)		2014	2017	
Archdeaconry Synod rep (<i>ex officio</i>)	Gill Wilson	2014	2017	
Archdeaconry Synod rep (<i>ex officio</i>)	VACANCY (CASUAL)	2014	2017	
Elected member	Karen Gallagher	2014	2017	✓
Elected member	Katie Hanford	2014	2017	
Elected member	Alex Schippers	2014	2017	
Elected member; treasurer	Mike Waters	2014	2017	✓
Elected member	Joyce van Boldrik	2015	2018	
Elected member	Graham Mapp	2015	2018	
Elected member	Fulco Jongsma	2016	2019	
Elected member	Jan Pelger	2016	2019	
Elected member	Brian Routledge	2016	2019	
Elected member	Janneke van Schagen	2016	2019	
Co-opted member (worship)	Jenny Read	2016	2017	
Co-opted member (Youth Pastor)	Adam Oxborrow	2016	2017	
Secretary	Lynn Klocke	2016	2017	

3. Chaplaincy Activities

Sunday set up

Altar team

We welcome Rina back from Nigeria, completing our team with Rachel, Vera, Grace and Gill. There have been no major changes within the altar team so not much to report.

The introduction of the gluten free option has received positive comments and we plan to continue with this. We have managed to locate very high quality disposable altar linen which reduces the need for extra laundry and ironing, a task none of us really enjoy.

We are looking to recruit new members to our team and would be grateful for any volunteers, we are happy to welcome men and younger members to our team too.

Rina van Rijn

Cash Counters

You see the cash counter sitting at the front of the church each week after the service. Counters ensure that the cash and planned giving envelopes are correctly tallied after the service, and passed to the warden for banking after entering the totals in the service book.

Planned giving by bank transfer is continually increasing in popularity, since this is readily accounted to the taxman for a generous tax refund of around 30% back to the giver, (which you may wish to pass on again to the church in the following year, resulting in further saving in that year, and so on). If you want to know more about this, please contact the undersigned.

As a result, the cash count is less arduous nowadays, and is less than 10% of the amount given directly via the bank. Especially for the younger members of the congregation, the cash collection remains a visible and important commitment and contribution back to God and His work. A big thank you to Alex, Heinie, Munro and Brian for their work on the team.

Mike Waters

Coffee team

Coffee or tea after the service is a welcome moment to enjoy fellowship with our church family. There is coffee and black tea available as well as hot water for other teas. There are (gluten free) biscuits available too. The coffee team always welcomes more volunteers, and it is a great way to get to know more people. Each person usually helps out once a month, with preparation, serving and clearing up. Contact: Lynn Klocke

Lynn Klocke

Verger and chair team

Some of us get up early

St James' Sunday services start quite late compared to Dutch churches, so we can all sleep late and we have plenty of time for a nice family breakfast. However, not for some of us. Every Sunday a lot of volunteers come in very early to turn an empty hall into a proper place to worship. Among them are the chair team and verger team.

The chair team comes in at 9.30 and puts out some 170 seats, the verger also comes in at 9.30 and puts out the piano, altar, lectern, cross, banner and lots of other things and removes them after the service.

We have large teams. Normally a team member is on duty once a month and there is a lot of flexibility to help each other if someone cannot fulfil his duties.

A large number of younger members of St James help in the chair team, for which I am very grateful.

It is my pleasure to coordinate the team and on behalf of St James to say:

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM:

If you also want to enjoy a nice Sunday morning work out before the spiritual work out starts,

please contact me. We can still use a few volunteers.

Heinie Hakker

Welcome team

The welcome team is for most newcomers the first contact with St James and for most regulars a hearty welcome handshake each Sunday morning. While every member of St James should have an open friendly and 'inviting' attitude to show their love of God, it should be a prominent 'trademark' of the welcome team of St James.

People should feel welcome and feel at ease in our diverse international community of St James. Lately we were fortunate to welcome a few new reinforcements to our team, for which we are most thankful. We set up the St James banner and information table around 10:00am each Sunday morning. If you want to be part of the team and you are not shy for a handshake, smile or greeting and would like to present St James, please feel free to contact any member of the team or myself. Even, if you just want to give it a try!

Gerrit van den Bovenkamp

Worship

Communion Assistants

This team comprises seventeen people, though a couple are currently taking a break from the rota. This means that we each get to assist at Communion about once every six weeks. At each Communion service, one of us will be helping distribute bread and praying for non-communicants who come for a blessing while four more take charge of the chalices. After the distribution we help with consuming any left-overs. The team members are usually very willing to step in to fill gaps if someone is absent, which makes the team easy to lead; a big thank you to them all.

Anthony Cummings

Intercessors and readers

Intercessions and readings are an essential part of our worship. Anyone who feels they would like to help as either reader or intercessor (or both) can contact me.

Please don't be put off from offering to do intercessions, the only requirement is for simple and sincere prayers to be offered on behalf of us all. The commitment is to be able available about 4 times per year, to read from the Bible or to write and read prayers of intercession. There is a guide provided to help people in this ministry. A big thank you goes to everyone who is already doing this.

Angela Gray

Messy Church

Messy Church – In 2016 we had 3 really good Messy Church events. One at Easter, at the beginning of the summer holidays in July, and another in November. For themes we gave the Easter message of Jesus, Abraham's family, and Jesus the Good Shepherd. It has been a real joy to work with a wonderful team of leaders and each time we have reflected and learned something new. Each time we have seen a number of children and parents connected to the St James community who don't come along to church on Sunday mornings coming along and having fun. We will be looking to develop on what we have learned and achieved this coming year.

Adam Oxborrow

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry Team is a small group of 8 members of St James who feel called to serve their fellow Christians through confidential intercessory prayer each Sunday after the service in the prayer corner. All are welcome to come forward for a few minutes of prayer, whether for themselves or for others, and ask the Lord for His guidance, love, peace, healing or to bring whatever matter is of concern before our Saviour. We are quick to call on Him in our hour of need but would also like to ask people to consider coming forward and giving thanks not only when He has answered our prayers but also

just knowing He has been there for us. If anyone would like to join this supportive ministry team either as a 'regular' or 'extra' please speak to me.

Vera Atlas

Special services

Throughout the year we held a number of 'special' services to mark significant events in the calendar. These included the traditional Sunday service moments such as Mothering Sunday, Pentecost and Harvest, as well as evening services at Huize Bijdorp to mark Feasts and Holy Days: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Ascension Day. Easter was marked with a sunrise service in the Wassenaar dunes and a well-attended all-age service of communion; Christmas included a delightful all-age Christingle service (with visiting children's choir from the BSN) and a beautiful and traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols. Other special moments included the Covenant Renewal service in early January, the world mission Sunday in February, services with prayers for healing in spring and autumn, and services led by St J's Club or the youth. During the quiet summer weeks, we held a series of simple all-age services that kept us all together.

Ruan Crew

Worship group

The worship group continues to provide the music for most of the Sunday morning services. Our group varies in size from week to week but among our members are singers, pianists, a guitarist, a bass player, violinists, a saxophonist and a clarinettist. The group is led by Jenny Read and Anthony Cummings with occasional Sundays by individual members. We meet together to practise and pray each Tuesday evening. We choose a variety of styles of music, from traditional hymns to more recently written worship songs. Our aim is to support the congregation in praising God and having space to become more aware of his presence and grace.

We would like to thank Damian Beasley Suffolk for playing the organ on occasions and Carol Waters and Debbie Beasley Suffolk for organising the music for the Nine Lessons and Carols service. We are very grateful for all our members and for the sound team who serve each Sunday.

Jenny Read

Children

Safeguarding

In St James, we are committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The Safeguarding Policy is regularly updated to ensure it conforms to all the latest Diocesan standards which are based on best practice in the Church of England. I would encourage everyone to read it, not just those who work with children. Our policy is available to anyone in written form upon request and can also be seen on our Church website. Ruan, Adam and I have also recently attended a formal Safeguarding training session in Amsterdam to ensure we are kept up to date with latest Diocesan procedures.

Safer recruiting of all those who wish to work with children in our church is always a top priority. There is a process to go through with

safeguarding checks, but please don't let that put you off. We are always happy for new volunteers to help in Children's Ministry and I can assist you with the paperwork.

The Diocese offers basic online training to those who work with children. This is mandatory once someone has been cleared for this role. Those who have been cleared for children's ministry should be sent this directly from the diocese with instructions. (Please let me know if you have not received this.)

The online training is also available for any member of the congregation to do if they wish. There are 2 courses: Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults.

If you would like to do this, the link for this online training is:

<http://europe.cofelearning.org/login/index.php>

Basically, the Diocese would be delighted if more people took the time to inform themselves of safeguarding as they consider that every member of the congregation has a safeguarding responsibility through informed vigilance.

If you have any questions or concerns please talk to myself or Ruan. We are very happy to help. If you are interested in helping with children's ministry you can also talk to one of the group leaders to find out more.

Debra Lambert

debra.lambert01@gmail.com /: 071 8891552

St J's First steps

Following the guidelines of the safeguarding policy, we continue to make an effort to ensure that children enjoy safe, stimulating play within the boundaries of routine and consistency. We meet every Sunday. Upon arrival in our "crèche room", the children are warmly welcomed and encouraged to settle down to play with background music of Children's Christian CD's. The children can be read to from a variety of books plus there are puzzles and a variety of colourful and educational toys to play with. At 11:00 we bring out a special rug upon which we encourage the children to sit on to receive a biscuit and a drink of water. During this time the Bible story is read in both Dutch and English (as about 80% of the toddlers are Dutch). This is then followed by a fun craft activity related to the Bible story. During the last year the children have made crowns, baskets, handprints, mobiles, paintings and have coloured in many pictures. On Holy Communion Sundays we take the children into church for a blessing, and

afterwards we sing songs with a parachute; tidy up and read other story books. We decided this year to join the main church family during the all-age services (e.g.: Christmas; Easter and Pentecost).

We've had to say "good-bye" to 4 children who moved up to St J's Club (taking our duplo with them) and leaving us with the twins (or even 1 child on several occasions).

I am extremely grateful to my helpers: Therese Jongsma; Becky Brooke; Yvette Jenkins; Kimberley Schippers and Elsa Tolsma. A big thank you too to Els van den Bovenkamp who stepped down from helping after the summer last year.

Patricia Schippers

St J's Club

Children aged 4 - 11 may attend the St J's club on a Sunday morning during the service. We join the church family at the beginning of the service and leave after the first hymn. Children join in with a family friendly Communion service once a month usually on the first Sunday of the month. From September we started to use Scripture Union resources again. These have been well suited to our age range of children and are easy to use or adapt. A typical session starts with singing and prayer for Project Share which we continue to support by collecting small coins each week. We then split into two groups 4-6 and 7-11 for more age specific teaching, craft or games. Once a term we get all the children together for a social activity. Messy church has also been an additional opportunity for the children to get together and also to bring friends along to a morning or afternoon of crafts, table top games, singing and teaching.

Diana Hanford

Discipleship, fellowship and mission

Leiden monthly homegroup

The Monthly homegroup meets once a month in Leiden, usually on the second Monday of the month. We are currently a group of 10 people, studying the Bible together, supporting each other in prayer and enjoying fellowship. We completed a study on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5) last year and we are currently studying Daniel. We try to alternate between the Old and New Testament.

If you feel you cannot make a commitment of going to a home group every week, but would like to be part of one, you're warmly invited to join us. Please contact Gea or Heinie Hakker (071 5147725) for further details.

Gea Hakker

Leidschenveen homegroup

The group is small (4 persons) but we have been meeting for several years and enjoy a little Bible study and prayer once in a fortnight on a Monday evening from 8pm. This year we have been studying the Gospel of Mark. For Lent we interrupted that to follow the Lent Bible study on the Creeds. We are an informal group with no specific leader but we all participate through the "question method" By this I mean that we read a piece of scripture and then formulate our own questions which we then find an answer to. This keeps everyone actively involved. We end with prayer time.

So if you are looking for a relaxed and open atmosphere to have a little Bible study and fellowship you are warmly invited to join us.

Joyce van Boldrik

Voorschoten homegroup

We are a small group who try to meet weekly on Wednesday evenings.

Over the past year we have spent time looking at the minor Old Testament prophets, an audio course on the Psalms and a number of DVDs from the series Crazy Love. Other evenings have been devoted to prayer, sharing, coffee and cake.

We seek to share fellowship and love of Christ with each other when we meet.

Come and share with us.

Brian Routledge

Wassenaar homegroup

We continue to meet weekly during term time at 8 pm at our home in Wassenaar. Last year we did 3 studies: what the bible says about heaven; what the bible says about contentment and Paul's letter to the Philippians. We welcome anyone who would like to try out home group bible study. It is relaxing and an opportunity to get to know others whilst digging a bit deeper into bible text and learning together what God is teaching us through it. Our current study is the Apostles Creed.

Diana Hanford

Alpha and Post Alpha

This is the fourth year of running Alpha in St James, starting in the autumn of 2016 and running every fortnight through to March this year. As always, we start the evening at 7.30pm with a delicious meal cooked by Alex, followed by a short DVD and discussion, either in small groups or in a larger group, at Jan and Sara's house in Noordwijk. Our weekend away (one night) was this year at a fantastic location locally at Herberg Welgelegen in Valkenburg ZH, where we were able to get to know each other better and look at the 3 sessions on the Holy Spirit.

Alpha is suitable for non-Christians, people with some faith or those further on their faith journey, and we all make new discoveries and friendships during the course, which gives new insights each time. Ruan leads us on our spiritual journey and is quicker than google search in finding relevant bible passages!!! It is truly inspiring and a privilege to attend these sessions, and we really recommend that you encourage your friends and other church members to join the next course! Evenings end promptly at 9.30pm.

Post Alpha: we realise that Alpha is just a start at looking about what Christianity is all about.

Ideally a small group will help encourage the faith journey after Alpha, as well as offering fellowship and prayer support. Some of the men from previous alpha's, now meet at Alex and Patricia's house once a month, starting with a meal at 7pm and sessions are led by Ruan. We have recently looked at the Pilgrim course It is so encouraging to see progress being made, and this is ongoing.

Jan and Sara Pelger, Alex and Patricia Schippers

The Living Room

The Living Room was started as a low threshold door to the Gospel/Church by offering free Dutch conversation to anyone who would like to learn and/ or practice Dutch.

The name was chosen because we meet in someone's living room. It is aimed at people 'living' in the Dutch 'room' / the Netherlands.

It is run by 3 native Dutch speaking St. James ladies: Els van den Bovenkamp, Lisette Crew and Joyce van Boldrik.

We meet every two weeks on a Wednesday in a different living room depending on which of the group members would like to host. We have a group-app so lifts can be arranged if needed.

We meet at 10 am and start with coffee and some socialising in English. From 10.30 – 11.30 am we speak Dutch. Because we are an open group (meaning anyone can join at any time) all participants have different levels of comprehension of Dutch. We try to accommodate everyone's needs. Most importantly the Dutch word GEZELLIG is learned through experiencing it every meeting!

We also pay a little attention to the Dutch culture, such as: Koningsdag, Prinsjesdag and Sinterklaas. Prinsjesdag we discuss the meaning and dress up in orange and we celebrate Sinterklaas together in the traditional way, complete with " surprises" (surprise packaging)

So it is a lot of fun and very gezellig!

Joyce van Boldrik

Book Club



The bookclub meets about 6 times a year, usually on Thursday afternoons in Voorschoten, to discuss a range of books which have been suggested by those who attend the bookclub. Anyone is welcome to join in from time to time to discuss the books that interest them, even if they do not have time to come to each bookclub. Also, we welcome those who may not have quite

finished each book – you can come and take part anyway!"

Since the last Annual Church meeting we have discussed the following books:

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson – John Ames, a Congregationalist minister in Gilead Iowa writes about his memories of his father and grandfather

to share with his 7-year-old son, being aware that he will die before his son becomes a man. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this was a thought provoking book, as John Ames reflect on his faith, and tries to pass this on to his young son.

The Shed that fed a Million children by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow explains how from a small shed in Scotland a charity that now feeds more than a million children each day (Mary's meals) was started. An inspiring book!

CS Lewis's The Screwtape Letters. First published in February 1942, the messages in the book have stood the test of time well. Being written initially for an Anglican periodical "The Guardian" (not the Manchester based newspaper) it takes the format of letters from a senior to a junior devil, trying to divert a young man from following Christ, and helps us to see the traps we ourselves may fall into as we try to follow Jesus, and yet get sidetracked by the world!

Footprints by Margaret Fishback Powers - the controversial story behind the poem "Footprints"

Faith under Fire by Andrew White (the former Vicar of Baghdad). Andrew White writes about ministering in a city where new Christians are often murdered within a week of being baptised, and where members of his congregation, and his ministry team, have been kidnapped and injured for being Christians.

On 15th (evening meeting with Ruan Crew) and 16th (1.30pm) March there will be discussion of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby's new Lent book, Dethroning Mammon: Making Money Serve Grace. All are welcome to attend either or both discussion groups.

In May the bookclub will be discussing Rob Parson's book Getting your Kids through church without them ending up hating God. It is not just aimed at those who have children – but at everyone in a church, to help us to see how we can be welcoming to children of all ages, especially as they grow up.

Katherine Hopwood

Communications

Fredrik Knoeff, former church administrator, used to say that communications is not just one more church activity – it is at the heart of everything we do. That is certainly true for my role, for "We have a gospel to proclaim", as the hymn puts it. So when Bron moved on last summer, and with no one coming forward to take over, I took the opportunity to develop a more hands-on approach, but one that would need to be simple, effective and not eat into valuable time.

Ruan Crew

always seem to be enjoyed by everyone present. We are usually with about 20 people. After the meal Ruan leads a short devotion and we sing a hymn or two. We always leave with tummies filled, spirits lifted and our confidence renewed in the faithfulness of God as experienced over many years by those present. It is a ministry that blesses those of us serving as much as it blesses those who are being served. It's a real joy and privilege to be part of this and we look forward to many more Evergreen get-togethers in the future.

Lisette Crew

Evergreen Lunches

Several times a year we enjoy an Evergreens Lunch in the 'Pluspunt', behind the 'Ontmoeting' Church. These lunches are aimed at those in our church family who are retired and/or over 60. Fellowship & food are the main ingredients and

Mission Partner Support team

We have carried on the tradition that each month, we have a mission partner of the month. This past year has seen Hans, Mary v/d Corput and sons; Rahman, Nelleke Yakubu and daughters; Phil and Linda Gottschalk; Tim, Nicky Sandell (and Joshua), all able to give a personal

update how their mission work is progressing and also the difficulties that are faced. As ever, this gives the newer members of the congregation the chance to get to know who we are supporting.

With the electronic age, many of the team's duties have been superseded by the use of email. When an update is received from a partner, this is now circulated via email or via the weekly church bulletin. The main function of the team now is at the beginning of the new year, decide how the tithe should be distributed amongst our partners and the other organisations. Ruan normally sits in on this meeting to give guidance and extra information about various organisations. Once decided, this is then relayed to the treasurer (plus supporting members) and church wardens, who carry out the recommendations.

I would like to thank Karen, Phil, Rina and Vera for all their help on the team this past year. If any member of the congregation has ideas how we could help our partners, please talk to one of the team members.

Munro Mackay

Newcomers' lunches

This year we have continued the tradition of welcoming our new members of our congregation at our home for the newcomer's lunches, every 3 months or so. It's always an informal time of food and fellowship and it has been good to get to know the many new people, some of whom have gone on to join our congregation. It is a great opportunity for them to get to hear more about the St. James family and to share experiences with other new people 'in the same boat'. We are grateful that several of the 'newcomers' have now made St. James their spiritual home and become valued church family members.

Lisette Crew

Prayer Chain

This is a confidential email service which passes on prayer requests from church family members needing prayer for themselves or someone they know. It is sent out to a limited list of people who

have been asked, or have requested, to be a prayer chain praying partner. All items sent to the prayer chain are dealt with strictly confidentially.

Diana Hanford

Refugee Ministry

There have been great changes over the past year. Due to the agreement with Turkey and Greece and Italy there has been a large decrease in the number of refugees that are arriving in Holland. But even so there have been several volunteers from St. James who have helped in the "clothing shop" at the Katwijk refugee centre, run by the Katwijk local Churches. Melinda Velpar has been very active in collecting clothes and all kinds of household goods and furniture to help status holders to furnish their houses as soon as they were appointed one. A very big "Thank You" to her! Many from St. James have donated money and goods. With the money we have been able to help refugees. For instance we bought phone cards for newly arrived refugees so they could call home and let them know they arrived safely. But also prams for mothers with new-born babies, and baby clothes and bedding, umbrellas, and have even refurbished bicycles. And recently, by request of the Gemeente Voorschoten, an electric hotplate was bought for the temporary housing facility in Voorschoten.

Most recently a programme was initiated to help status holders called Guest at Your Table. This programme pairs up a volunteer with a refugee and once a month they have dinner together. Both parties take turns at being the host. Refugees that are settled into their own homes can fall into isolation. This program is to help them integrate and get to know the Western culture better and hopefully make some friends. To kick-start this program we have had an introduction meal where about 15 refugees met with 18 volunteers from St. James, the Protestant and Catholic Churches.

It was a great success and some guest/host couples have already been formed. For those interested but unable to attend this dinner an extra dinner will be held in March.

Joyce van Boldrik

4. Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of the Church of St James Voorschoten, stands at 127 members at the time of the Annual General Meeting of March 30th 2017.

In 2016 the number on the Electoral Roll was 122. There have been three deletions and eight additions.

Bronwyn Lucas

5. Financial statements

Summary

In 2016 St James made a loss of €7,901, principally due to reduced revenue from the Planned Giving Scheme early in the year. While cash declined by €8,670, total assets increased by €167,081 due to the property review agreed at the last AGM.

Income and expenditure 2016

Income of €169,083 was reduced 6% from 2015. Operating cost was €148,041, 3% higher than 2015. During the year, revenue increased sufficiently to cover costs, although we will need to continue paying careful attention to our costs.

Largest cost variance was an extra €5,532 in property cost to repair Ambachtspad after our new youth pastor arrived, which was compensated by lower ministry costs.

Outward giving was below budget, partly as a result of a mission partner payment deferred for logistical reasons, and because of less use of the local social welfare fund

The main feature of 2016 was that we thankfully regained financial stability after incurring a deficit during the first half of the year.

As noted on the financial statement, the property revaluation has not been reported as an income and expense item, but is reported only on the balance sheet. For recording purposes it was booked as sundry income.

Balance sheet 2016

Current Assets decreased by €13,607, caused by the deficit, and a reduction in advance payments. Current Liabilities increased by €2,000 due to an expense accrual for relocation. The main change in the balance sheet total was caused by a positive property revaluation of €174,982 as agreed at the last AGM. Overall our balance sheet increased to €666,263.

Budget 2017

The proposed budget for 2017 generates a surplus of €25 on a total income of €172,550. The assumptions for this budget are that income will increase by 2%, whilst ministry costs will reduce 3% by terminating the office printer contract.

Overall income is budgeted to increase by €3,467, in line with the underlying increase in giving seen in the second half of the year less the annual gifts made at year end. Property costs will reduce by €4,150 as no significant work is envisaged except for repair of the Ambachtspad skylight. Office costs will reduce by €1,992 as a result of new printing procedures.

Our cash balance and provisions will remain similar.

The cash balance represents approximately 5 months of cost coverage. This provides a sound fiscal foundation to support operations and some certainty in terms of what commitments can be made. There is no change foreseen in this situation.

Mike Waters



Financial Statements - The Church of St James Voorschoten, The Netherlands

Income and Expenditure Jan to Dec 2016

	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	Variance
<u>Members Income</u>			
Planned Giving Scheme	164,000	155,898	-5%
Collections	13,750	12,490	-9%
Special collections and sundry income	2,750	628	-77%
Interest Income	400	67	-83%
Total Income	180,900	169,083	-7%
<u>Expenditure & Outgoings</u>			
Rental BSN hall	8,000	9,484	19%
Rental of Church office	5,500	5,816	6%
Property operating costs	12,500	14,350	15%
Cost of other rentals/hall hire/hall fit out	1,700	3,582	111%
Bond Interest (Ambachtspad)	5,250	5,250	0%
Sub-total Buildings and Property	32,950	38,482	17%
Ministerial Salaries and on-costs	98,600	95,980	-3%
Outreach, Literature, Conferences, Publicity	5,450	4,853	-11%
Office and Administration	5,750	4,992	-13%
Professional Costs, Bank Fees & Insurance	4,400	3,733	-15%
Total Church Operating Outgoings	147,150	148,041	1%
Total Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	33,750	21,042	-38%
<u>External Giving/Contributions</u>			
Diocese and Affiliation Contributions	11,000	11,187	2%
Planned External Giving - Mission Partners	18,000	16,625	-8%
Local Social Welfare	2,500	1,000	-60%
Special Collections paid or accrued	2,250	132	-94%
Total External Giving	33,750	28,943	-14%
Net Surplus/Deficit	0	-7,901	
<u>External Giving/Contributions</u>			
Diocese and Affiliation Contributions	6%	7%	
Planned External Giving - Mission Partners	10%	10%	
Planned External Giving - Local Welfare	1%	1%	
Giving from Special Purposes	1%	0%	
Total external giving	19%	17%	

Main variances	
Giving under budget	-11,817
Property over budget	5,532
Ministry under budget	-4,641
External giving under budget	-4,807
Total	-7,901

Note: The one-off property revaluation of €174,982.24 has been excluded from this report.

**Financial Statements for The Church of St James
Voorschoten, The Netherlands**

Balance Sheet - Jan-Dec 2016

Euro €	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Change
Current Assets			
Bank and Cash	76,833	68,163	-8,670
Accrued Income	100	100	0
Advance Payments	4,937		-4,937
Total Current Assets	81,870	68,263	-13,607
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	5,706	0	-5,706
Accrued Expenses	2,000	6,937	4,937
Provisions	0	-4,937	-4,937
Total Current liabilities	7,706	2,000	-5,706
Current Assets less Liabilities	74,164	66,263	-7,901
Fixed Assets			
Buildings	575,018	750,000	174,982
Total Fixed Assets	575,018	750,000	174,982
Long Term Liabilities			
Ambachtspad 2018 bonds	150,000	150,000	0
Total Long Term Liabilities	150,000	150,000	0
Total Net Assets	499,182	666,263	167,081
Represented by:			
Fabric Fund			
Fabric Fund b/fwd	34,832	0	-34,832
Transfers	-34,832	0	34,832
Balance c/fwd	0	0	0
General Reserves			
General Reserve b/fwd	460,349	499,182	38,833
Transfer from Fabric Fund	34,832		-34,832
Surplus/(Deficit) for Current Year	4,001	-7,901	-11,902
Building revaluation		174,982	
Balance c/fwd	499,182	666,262	666,262
Total Reserves	499,182	666,263	167,081

Checksum 0.00

Financial Statements - The Church of St James Voorschoten, The Netherlands

Income and Expenditure - Budget 2017

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	Change
<u>Members Income</u>			
Planned Giving Scheme	155,898	159,000	2%
Collections	12,490	12,500	0%
Collections for Special Purposes	628	1,000	59%
Interest Income	67	50	-25%
Total Income	169,083	172,550	2%
<u>Expenditure & Outgoings</u>			
Rental BSN hall	9,484	9,600	1%
Rental of Church office	5,816	6,000	3%
Property operating costs	14,350	10,200	-29%
Cost of other rentals/hall hire/hall fit out	3,582	3,000	-16%
Bond Interest (Ambachtspad)	5,250	5,250	0%
Sub-total Buildings and Property	38,482	34,050	-12%
Ministerial Salaries and on-costs	95,980	97,500	2%
Outreach, Literature, Conferences, Publicity	4,853	5,400	11%
Office and Administration	4,992	3,000	-40%
Professional Costs, Bank Fees & Insurance	3,733	3,750	0%
Total Church Operating Outgoings	148,041	143,700	-3%
Total Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	21,042	28,850	37%
<u>External Giving/Contributions</u>			
Diocese and Affiliation Contributions	11,187	9,917	-11%
Planned External Giving - Mission Partners	16,625	16,908	2%
Local Social Welfare	1,000	1,000	0%
Special Collections paid or accrued	132	1,000	660%
Total External Giving	28,943	28,825	0%
Net Surplus/Deficit	-7,901	25	
<u>External Giving/Contributions</u>			
Diocese and Affiliation Contributions	7%	6%	
Planned External Giving - Mission Partners	10%	10%	
Planned External Giving - Local Welfare	1%	1%	
Giving from Special Purposes	0%	1%	
Total external giving	17%	17%	

**Financial Statements for The Church of St James
Voorschoten, The Netherlands**

Balance Sheet - Budget 2017

Euro €	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Change
Current Assets			
Bank and Cash	68,163	68,188	25
Accrued Income	100	100	0
Advance Payments			0
Total Current Assets	68,263	68,288	25
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	0	0	0
Accrued Expenses	6,937	2,000	-4,937
Provisions	-4,937	1,000	5,937
Total Current liabilities	2,000	3,000	1,000
Current Assets less Liabilities	66,263	65,288	-975
Fixed Assets			
Buildings	750,000	750,000	0
Total Fixed Assets	750,000	750,000	0
Long Term Liabilities			
Ambachtspad 2018 bonds	150,000	150,000	0
Total Long Term Liabilities	150,000	150,000	0
Total Net Assets	666,263	665,288	-975
Represented by:			
General Reserves			
General Reserve b/fwd	499,182	666,262	167,080
Building revaluation		0	0
Change in provisions		-1,000	
Surplus/(Deficit) for Current Year	-7,901	25	7,926
Balance c/fwd	666,262	665,287	665,287
Total Reserves	666,263	665,287	-976

Steve Hanford and Gerrit van den Bovenkamp
Church Wardens
St James Voorschoten
Kon. Marinelaan 53
2251 BA VOORSCHOTEN

1 March 2017

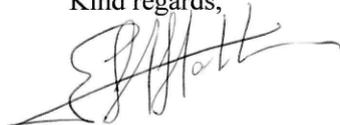
Dear Steve and Gerrit,

At your request I have reviewed the 2016 accounts of St James Voorschoten. Although my review is of a more limited scope than a full professional audit, to my best knowledge the accounts give a true and fair picture of the financial position of St James at year end 2016 and of its results for the year 2016.

Many thanks to Thérèse Jongsma and Simon Brooks for the clear and professional manner in which they have prepared and maintained the accounts.

Many thanks to Mike Waters, our treasurer, for all his hard and excellent work for St James.

Kind regards,



Heinie Hakker
Lorentzkade 42
2313 GD LEIDEN

6. Archdeaconry Synod

North-West Europe Archdeaconry Synod

This synod comprises all licensed clergy in the Benelux chaplaincies, together with a number of lay representatives on the basis of one per fifty chaplaincy members (so with just over 100 members, we are entitled to three reps.) and is convened by the Archdeacon. We meet annually for two days (Thursday afternoon to Saturday afternoon) in October, for the last three years in Drongen, just outside Ghent. While there is a certain amount of business to transact, we also meet together for worship and have 'training' sessions. This year we had a two-part presentation from Professor Grace Davie on 'Mission in Europe' and a session on 'Safeguarding' which is a hardy perennial as there are continual developments in this area. We also enjoyed the Bishop's reflections on 'Brexit' and participated in the AGM of the Anglican Council for The Netherlands (effectively our deanery synod). For me, the greatest benefit of attending is the fellowship with other members, many of whom have become friends over the years, while it is also interesting to meet the new members (on the basis that a stranger is a friend you haven't yet met!). This year, we get to elect three new representatives for the next three years so, if you'd like to know more, feel free to ask me.

Anthony Cummings



(Photograph shows Bishop Robert with Meurig Williams, formerly acting Archdeacon and Paul Vrolijk, newly licensed Archdeacon

Diocesan Synod

This year, I also became a member of the Diocesan Synod. This is a meeting of the representatives of the seven Archdeaconries of the Diocese (two or three clergy and two to four lay representatives, together with the two Bishops and six Archdeacons (one of whom is looking after two Archdeaconries on a full-time basis). We meet in Cologne for four days in June. In many ways, it is similar to the Archdeaconry synod but deals with business issues affecting the whole diocese, e.g. diocesan strategy, ministry training, response to the migration/refugee crisis. I particularly enjoyed meeting Canon Malcolm Bradshaw from Athens, who has been in the front-line of welcoming and helping migrants and received the MBE for his work (see *The European Anglican*, Autumn 2016). My contribution included asking a few 'dumb' questions and volunteering to become editor of the Diocesan Prayer Diary (see the current *European Anglican*).

Anthony Cummings