



St James 40th Jubilee Journal

'The Bishop writes' by Robert Innes

St James serves the communities in and around the prosperous and delightful towns of Wassenaar and Leiden as well as Voorschoten itself. Cycleways, parks and daffodil-clad waterways abound. This is the Netherlands at its most attractive and charming. I suppose I feel a special affinity for this area because I lived in nearby Rijswijk when I was little, whilst my father worked for Royal Dutch Shell.

The main international employers in the area are Shell, the European Patent Office and the European Space Agency. Consequently, a good proportion of the congregation are highly qualified engineers and scientists. On my last visit, I remember having a particularly stimulating discussion with a physicist about reasons for the existence of God, the anthropic principle and the problem of suffering. It is not everywhere one gets this level of intellectual engagement with faith!

St James meets in the main hall of 'The British School in the Netherlands'. In this kind of

environment, 'set-up' is a weekly necessity, so for an hour before the service teams of people work hard putting out chairs, setting and testing P.A. equipment and arranging all the furniture at the front. This is at the same time as the music group is having a final rehearsal. So there's plenty going on. Creating an appropriate atmosphere in this kind of setting can be a challenge, and St James do a particularly good job in getting this right.

People come to St James from many different traditions. Worship is recognisably Anglican, informal and generously inclusive. Getting a good atmosphere for worship in a school hall isn't easy. But St James manages to create something that is beautiful, uplifting and inspiring.

St James is an all-age community, serious about discipleship, committed to children and young people and mission-orientated. It is a happy and nurturing place. I thank God for St James, Voorschoten and gladly celebrate with you your 40th anniversary.



2017 Confirmation
and Baptism
candidates with
Bishop Robert

'The Next 40 Years' **by Revd. Ruan Crew**

I have served in St James as chaplain now for nearly six years and can fully understand why members past and present consider it a unique and wonderful church. It's hard to put one's finger on why, although our recently-generated word cloud makes a good attempt: welcoming, friendly, family ... For many of us, including me and my family, it simply feels like a homecoming.



40 years has always been seen as a significant milestone. It used to be said that life begins at 40, which is not a moment too soon considering it is the halfway point of an average life expectancy. For couples of course it is the ruby anniversary. The gem was believed to possess an eternal inner flame, symbolising a passion unquenched over 40 years of marriage.

But the period of 40 years is also significant in the Bible. In ancient times the age of 40 was seen as the high point of a person's life, which is why 40 years came to represent a generation. Hence the recently-liberated but ever-grumbling Israelites' extended tour of the desert – their sinful behaviour led God to skip a generation before leading them into the promised land. Moses himself lived a life in three 40-year acts: his first disastrous attempt at leadership was around his 40th birthday, and he had to wait until his 80th before a second opportunity

came. He then led Israel for 40 years until his death.

So 40 years is a significant period of time for all kinds of reasons, and it is right that we celebrate this milestone as a church together. In this publication others will have written about the last 40 years. But what about the coming 40 years? That is a challenging thought. After all, I wonder what the founding fathers of our congregation anticipated as they looked forward from those early Sunday services in the music room?

Some things will, if it is God's will, and by his grace, continue as before. Earlier documents in the church archives describe the church as 'a Christian community in the Anglican tradition', and the words 'community' and 'Anglican' are no less felicitous today. We have always been 'the church in the cupboard', a non-itinerant tabernacle that is put up and taken down week after week. Serendipitously the reality that we have no building of our own has caused us to define ourselves in other ways, so that our worship and our fellowship are key identity markers.

And yet other things change. As all 40-year olds experience, the passage of time starts to show itself, and what worked well at a younger stage is perhaps no longer necessary, appropriate or relevant. We are now more international than British, more Anglican than Church of England. The pace of change in this world is breathtaking, causing us to make significant changes to the way we relate to each other and the outside world.

Continuity and change. These themes are intrinsic to our faith story. On the one hand, we know that 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever' (Heb 13:8). And yet this faith, which has been handed down to us by previous generations, is one we are called upon to proclaim afresh in each new generation. Here's to the next 40 years!

'Recollections from the Ison family' **by Canon Andrew Ison**

Andrew was minister at St James from 2007 until 2012 and it was a very happy time for the whole family. Both daughters, then aged 7 and 4, went to the local Dutch school where they thrived. Julie enjoyed becoming part of the local English speaking and Dutch communities. For Andrew; three months after arriving the financial crisis hit, forcing a reduction in the number of ex-pat arrivals. As a result, St James developed into a more stable core congregation. Indeed, it is the warmth of friendships made at St James that stands out as our best memory.

It was difficult to return to the UK after such a vibrant and happy 5 years in the Netherlands. As committed Europhiles we have since made another move away, this time to the west coast of Ireland with three rural churches just south of Sligo. The role has similarities to a chaplaincy as our ministry is to the Church of Ireland community which numbers about 1% of the population of the Republic of Ireland. Where we had wonderful skies in the Netherlands, here, in addition to great skies, we have mountains, beaches and often four seasons in one day! Our older daughter, Emma, has already left home and is studying medicine in the University of Galway. Clare has three years left at school in Sligo town. Julie works in counselling and Andrew has many jobs including editorship of the diocesan magazine. I must be doing something right as they made me a Canon!



*Andrew and Julie Ison,
with daughters Emma and Clare*

**'Chaplain at St James' Church
Voorschoten 1994-2006'
by Revd. Canon Dr Philip Bourne**

I arrived in The Netherlands, along with my wife (Elizabeth) and three young sons (Tom, Sam and Joe), in December 1993, just in time to lead Christmas services ahead of my official appointment from January 1st 1994. It was quite bewildering at first, finding ourselves in a new country with so many practicalities to sort out and yet the work needing to begin right away. However, we soon found ourselves living within a supportive community, with many young families just like us as well as a few pseudo grandparents for our children!



Some of the features of the congregation that struck me at the outset included the fact that the congregation had a high proportion of children and young people; that a good number of different Christian denominations were represented; and that the native English-speaking members were from quite a number of countries, and not just the UK. I also soon discovered that many of the adult church members were very able, articulate and high-powered individuals, who appreciated a high level of organisation and good sense of direction. For Chaplaincy Council meetings full paperwork was expected a week in advance, with detailed descriptions of agenda items so that minimal time was required at the actual meetings for what was considered as time-wasting waffle! There was some real talent among the congregation, including a group of worship leaders and preachers who assisted the chaplain; a team of people who prepared and delivered our own teaching courses; and a large number of individuals who shared

their gifts in musical, administrative and pastoral ways to help create a worshipful, organised and caring church-family which attracted many new members and shone as a beacon to those who were not yet able to join the Christian community.



One significant highlight for me was to preside over the transition from being a 'church-plant' from St John and St Philip in The Hague to becoming a new chaplaincy of the Diocese in Europe. Along with arranging an amicable separation from The Hague church, we had the interesting challenge of writing a legal Constitution, which included giving ourselves a name. We took as our patronage the name of Saint James, after the author of the New Testament letter, whose central theme is "faith and action working together." A second highlight was the process that led to the permanent appointment of a Youth Minister – which was totally appropriate, given the meeting location of our church in the British School.

Although I was called to lead the Church of Saint James for 13 years in the end, I always felt that I was simply encouraging the people of God to actually *be* the Church themselves. Those years were fruitful in the life of the Church as well as in my personal life – and I shall be forever grateful to the Diocese in Europe who welcomed me to partnership with them in ministry, to the Intercontinental Society who founded Saint James, and to the congregation to whom I gave so much of myself, just as they did to me and to the Lord for the good of his Church. Thank you!

(ed. Philip is unable to join us at the end of March, but he will pray for us from his St James, church in Porto, Portugal, where he is a minister now).

**'First wedding at St James'
by Rahman and Nelleke Yakubu
(former mission partners in Ghana)**

The first I (Nelleke) heard of St James, was actually a negative recommendation. Someone told me about this English-speaking church. "But I don't like that they sing from overhead sheets." To me, that was actually a good reason to check it out!

I remember that the first five or six times I cycled from Leiden to Voorschoten, it was pelting down with rain. Because I had had a painful experience in a previous church, I was shy to make personal contact. I actually first got to know Cherry Lawrence who then ran the book table. It took two or three years before I actually came most Sundays and started really becoming part of the church. When I asked the church to pray for me during a mission trip of a year to Ghana, I had no idea I would be meeting my partner for life there. Actually, our wedding was the first wedding held in St James!

What most appealed to us was the mix of traditional liturgy with more 'free' or evangelical elements and this helped us to prepare for long term ministry. It meant a lot for us that St James backed us as we started our missionary work in Ghana. So many people have been part of our lives through St James, as well as helped make the project possible. Thank you all for being part of this!



First wedding at St James of Rahman Yakubu and Nelleke Jackson on 10th February 2002

'Editorial' by Hanneke Cummings

For 3 years I lead a journal team in Philip Bourne's period and for 1,5 years I took over the Latest newsletter from Churchwarden Liz Wassenaar who left after Andrew Ison left. I was exhausted chasing articles in every coffee break at St James and asked for a new editor to take over the job. Sadly no new team emerged, so the newsletter stopped when Ruan Crew arrived.



Hanneke Cummings, Tina Hall and Mary van der Corput (Prayerday Mums)

Last Evergreens Christmas lunch, whilst sat next to Ruan Crew, he said: "I saw the special edition of the Journal for the 25th Jubilee in the office. Wouldn't it be great to have another special edition for our 40th anniversary which we celebrate on 30th March 2019. You have journalistic skill and it would be great if they were used". So, within two minutes I had agreed to do this mega job and yes, I do have a BA in Journalism but had never made a career of it for various reasons.

I started to communicate with my network of ex-St James members, recruited Debra Lambert as my excellent assistant and many emails further we have a 'crop' of articles which will be this 40th Jubilee Special Edition of the Journal. I consulted with our photographer Stefan Klocke who has an enormous archive of St James photos and Matt Thijs, our ordinand, has kindly volunteered to do the layout with some modern software. In the old Journals I used Publisher and two outstanding lay-out ladies, Lorna Hill and Margaret Parker (now in Canada and Nova Scotia)

We have pastoral letters from Bishop Robert Innes, Ruan Crew, Andrew Ison, Philip Bourne, John Philpott and Matt Thijs. A double vacancy article by Reader Anthony and I have tried to get most ministries reported in this Journal. We have historical articles of St James' beginning by former Reader Donald Baldwin, a letter written by Keith Galpin, which includes a Voorschoten Psalm by David Price at the very beginning of our church plant 40 years ago, from our mother church St John & St Philip.

Enjoy the read. We found many old journals in our archives made by many faithful teams. So, if you would like to read more about our history contact us or Ruan. Let's celebrate together a special vibrant expat International Church that has been Anthony and my home for the last 25 years.

'Lay Ministers at St James' by Anthony Cummings

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Cor. 12:4-7, RSV).

During the nearly 25 years that I have been associated with St James, the church has been blessed with very active lay ministry. Donald Baldwin (an EPO colleague) was Reader in The Hague from 1979 to 1995 and then in St James from Independence Day in 1996 until 2000, when he retired to England. My own 'authorised' lay ministry began in The Hague in 1992 as my calling to possible ordained ministry began to be explored again. As such, I was permitted to gain experience of leading services and preaching until I went to a 'selection conference' in 1998. Having been 'not recommended', I was invited to train instead to be a Reader, so my ministry continued uninterrupted while I spent a record time (11 years!) doing the actual training. I was finally

admitted and licenced as Reader by Bishop Geoffrey Rowell in July 2011. We have also had David Orton, who, like me, trained in St James (he only took 8 years) and was licensed by Bishop Geoffrey in July 2004 and served here until his return to Dorset in 2005. At present, we are further blessed by having not one but two Readers-in-training, Karen Gallagher and Debbie Beasley-Suffolk. Additionally, other lay people are occasionally invited to lead a service or preach by the Chaplain and Matt does so as part of his ordination training.



In the last fifteen years, St James has experienced two Chaplain vacancies; for eight months in 2007 after Philip Bourne left and again in 2012-13 between Andrew Ison's departure and Ruan's arrival. Officially, the continuation of worship is the responsibility of the Churchwardens but both times they delegated the details to me. The first time, we were able to invite 'local' priests to lead our Eucharists (especially Roy Ball and Roland Price), with the lay team leading Morning Worship services and David Martineau visiting to share Holy Week with us. The second time this was not possible apart from the first few weeks, so we had locums for much of the period (special thanks to the late Roy Farrar and John Philpott who each did two stints). A couple of times, when we were between locums, I was privileged to lead 'Holy Communion by extension', attending the 8 a.m. service in The Hague and returning with bread and wine consecrated by Roland, who was 'looking after' St John and St Philip during their parallel vacancy.

'Memories looking back on 17 years with St James' by Diana Hanford



When we came to the Netherlands in October 2001 for a look around, with the view to moving here, we looked up a church on the internet. St James came up as one that was conveniently close to Wassenaar where we were planning to rent a house. Our first impression was the smiley faces at the door. There was a crèche which looked well organised and we felt comfortable for our 2-year-old son to stay there during the service.

Having worshipped at a conservative evangelical church in Surbiton, with very little formal liturgy and no robes, St James felt different and a bit formal, but we soon got used to it and our feeling now is that the service is actually fairly informal.

Not long after we arrived the BSN started extensive building work to double the size of the main building. For a while we worshipped in a meeting place a bit like the exhibition area with pillars randomly blocking

the view. St J's club met in portacabins.

After being at St James for 2 years we celebrated the 25th anniversary. There was a sewing group which met regularly to work on a big project together – to make the banner that stands on the stage each week. We believe this was completed ready for the 25th anniversary. We remember lots of fund-raising opportunities as this was also a time when St James planned to buy a home to be the youth space at St James. The 25th anniversary meal at the Goude Leeuw was a lovely evening and enjoyed by many and on another occasion, we enjoyed a Cèilidh.

Finally, it was time for the new hall to be opened and we began meeting there each Sunday. The chairs were in a horse shoe shape and the banner displayed just as it continues to be.

Anna is our only child to be born in the Netherlands and we have happy memories of her baptism led by Philip Bourne. She was born on 7th December 2004 and on 25th December she played the role of baby Jesus held safely by her sister Katie (Mary). The Yakubu's and the Nicholls' helped to make the nativity play a great Christmas day service.

We can't quite realise that we have been at St James so long and especially as many things continue just as they've always done, such as St

J's Club. We remember there were 3 groups split by age and all the teaching was in English, which was difficult for some, but Dutch only speaking children were really in the minority. When we started teaching, we had William (our son), Niels (now our son in law) and Jon in the older group. In addition, we have taught all our own children, Maaïke, Abigail, Linda, to name but a few – all now lovely young adults.



During our time at St James we have known 5 youth ministers, 3 ministers and several bishops have visited for confirmation services. We have a nice memory of Bishop Geoffrey placing his heavy cross chain over Timothy's neck, (he was 6 at the time). We have had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know members who, now, have either passed away or moved on to another country whether returning home or being sent out on Mission such as Nicki Pelger and Rahman and Nelleke Yakubu. During the 17 years at St James we have become a part of the St James family.

'Baptism of Heinie' by Gea Hakker

A very special moment for our family was Heinie's Baptism on 7 March 2004. Maaïke poured - with Philip's help - the water in the Baptism font.

Our homegroup is also very special. We meet once a month and we have in depth Bible studies and pray for each other.



'Voorschoten Psalm' by Keith Galpin

I would have loved to join you for the 40th Anniversary Party I see in the ICS News and Prayer Update, and I am very sorry I can't.

I started work in The Hague in May '79, and my family moved over to Voorschoten in August '79. John Lewis came to welcome us the Saturday after we arrived and just as he was leaving asked if I could play the organ at St. John and St. Philip the next day. (I was very happy to oblige!)



First Guide Church Parade (1980)

In the spring of 1980, at the end of a study weekend with Lionel Dakers, Director of the RSCM, The Hague Choir came over to Voorschoten for our morning service, after which people were asking, "Why can't we have a choir?" So I said, "If you'd like a choir, let's have one." And so the Voorschoten Choir was born.

The Voorschoten congregation was invited to The Hague Harvest Supper that August (1980) and we thought we'd make a contribution to the event. So David Price composed the "Voorschoten Psalm," which I set to the Anglican chants used by The Master Singers in their (45 vinyl) recording of, "The Highway Code, Part One." We performed it 'à cappella' much to the surprise of the Hague Choir members!

I thought that you might like to see how we regarded ourselves in those early days, so I have attached the Psalm, "Deep in the Distant East".



Nativity Play (1981)

Deep in the distant east.....

Deep in the distant east a small light shines ||
 A tiny beacon in the shadow of a greater glow ||
 A small splinter of the episcopalian oak ||
 Transplanted in the fertile soil of Voorschoten ||
 There lives a congregation, of the lower sort ||
 Country bumpkins of inferior degree ||
 Coming to worship with hayseed in their teeth ||
 Mud between their toes, and scattering the ducks ||

Hopscotching through the cowpats to eventually arrive ||
 At their makeshift church, catamined within the British School ||

But Oh what joys await them there when they arrive ||
 The windows open out to the living world ||
 The cows move slowly in the field behind the lectern ||
 Their bovine elegance in glittering contrast to the ministers' words ||
 In Spring, the tulips nod their heads to windy dance ||
 A rhythmic counterpart to choral dissonance ||
 The steady pace of the morning service is measured ||
 By the traffic moving on the railway line ||

The passage of the "Paris Express" marks the end of morning sermon ||
 Sometimes giving proof of the power of prayer to speed the passing train ||

But Lo! the welcoming hand descends from high above ||
 And invites the far flung flock back to the parent fold ||
 There to the shining glories of Any van der Spreyweg ||
 Comes the rustic horde in well burnished homespun ||

They bear gifts of simple nature; quiche lorraine, sausage rolls, jam tarts, and
 instant coffee ||
 And stand in wonder, gaping at the splendid place ||

Are there here no children, crawling around the floor ? ||
 Makes not the organ a wondrous music sound ? ||
 Hath not the coffee a fine ambrosian taste ? ||
 Sing not the recorded choir like angels from high ? ||
 Sombre and envious their thoughts as they homeward plod, ||
 Gropping through the dusk to reach their humble homes, ||

And yet they may well think when at last in sylvan bowers, ||
 Ah well but was not the first church just the same as ours ? ||

'Who you really are' by Canon John Philpott

If I was asked to describe in as few words as possible just what it is that St James, Voorschoten is celebrating, I would like to suggest these nine words that Paul wrote to the church in Corinth: "You are of Christ, and Christ is of God." (1 Cor. 3:23).



It's a verse which says so much in so few words. Whilst it focuses on you and God, supremely it focuses on the one who is the go-between – standing both before you and before the Father. You have a share in him, and he has a share in God.

Firstly, it speaks about your identity. You aren't just a group of English speakers who happen to meet in the British School of the Netherlands. You aren't just an outpost of the Diocese of Europe or a group for whom the Intercontinental Church Society helps to provide a leader. No, you are those who have a place in God's grand scheme of things. You are not lost in space and time. You are not just an accident of patterns of immigration.

You are Christ's – *of Christ* – says Paul. Therefore you have an interest in him and he has an interest in you. You are his, not only by creation as all people are, but also by recreation. You are his sheep, his inheritance, his bride, his jewel. You are his by virtue of the purchase he made of you when he paid for you with his own life. You possess him because he has possessed you.

The second half of the truth is that he is God's. *You are of Christ and Christ is of God.* This is incredible from your point of view for it means that your significance does not come from being related to the

kings and queens of the Netherlands, from being a group of geniuses, from being multi-millionaires, nor from being VIPs (if only!). No, your significance comes from the fact that the one you are part of has a significant other. "The head of Christ is God," says Paul in 1 Corinthians 11. The person with whom you have entered a partnership is himself in partnership with God the Father. You are not in alliance with a mere Galilean peasant or a wandering prophet who came to a bad end, but by grace you are allied to the one whose is intimately involved with the Creator and Judge of all.

Rejoice then not just in your forty years but also in your place in all the years of eternity. We were privileged to have a small part in those forty years when on two occasions we came to Voorschoten and shared in the common life of St James' church during your last interregnum. What did we notice about your common life?

- You were very welcoming and hospitable to me and my wife Margaret. We did enjoy the canal trips that you laid on for us, lovely meals and the fellowship we shared in house groups.
- You were not afraid of the hard physical work of preparing the school hall for worship and then dismantling it.
- You were not afraid of the hard pastoral work that is needed to enable clear lines of communication to be maintained.
- You had an appetite for both worship and Word which made the experience a great joy for us.
- You rejoiced in who God had created you to be – his English-speaking community of believers in Voorschoten.
- You knew who you are – sharers in the life of Christ who himself shares in the life of God.

'Posada' by Brian Routledge

Since 2012, St James has followed the tradition of the Posada. A Posada is a Mexican tradition that re-enacts, during Advent, the journey of the Holy Family to Bethlehem prior to the birth of Jesus.

Our Posada comprises a series of individual, ceramic figures depicting the Holy Family, shepherds, kings and angels that is passed to a different member or family of the Fellowship for each day of Advent. There is a short service held by the 'Host' when the Posada is handed over to the new Host. It is a great opportunity to share fellowship at the exchange with friends and/or meet new members of the St James family through a shared meal or a simple cup of coffee and cakes. There are no fixed rules. Ideally, the Posada stays one day at each household but in recent years we have been more flexible, and it remains at the Host until the next recipient is able to take over. It's a great way to get ready for the Christmas celebrations.



Thomas decorating the tree

'Word Cloud' by Ruan Crew

In November 2018, Ruan asked the congregation to write down 3 characteristics about St James on a small piece of paper, in order to create a word cloud. See the result below. Words which are bigger, were mentioned more often than those that are smaller.



'Voorschoten - Glimpses from the past' by Donald Baldwin (former reader)

In the beginning

In 1979, the Hague church was rather full, and we were putting chairs in the aisle. The fire brigade had already warned the Rotterdam church that chairs in the aisle was a hazard, if the church needed to be evacuated. The British School in the Netherlands, (or was it still the English School in the Hague?) met in large houses in Scheveningen and was having its first purpose-built school being built in Voorschoten, to open at Easter 1979. The Hague church decided to try a daughter congregation there, as an experiment, from Easter to the summer. In the June magazine it said, "We no longer speak of the Voorschoten project, but the Voorschoten Church."

Where we met

We first met in a semicircle in the then music room. We were serving communion when my then toddler daughter said in a stage whisper, "Train, Daddy, train." David Price's Voorschoten Psalm included the words, "The passing of the Paris express marks the end of the sermon." Attendance that first Sunday was 45. The congregation grew until all facing one end, we passed through the room to receive communion and returned to places via the corridor.

Brian Davidson, the Head Master, who was a member of the congregation, moved us to the Sir Richard Sykes' hall. We met facing the stage until a nude statue appeared for the school play. For the next three weeks we faced a different wall each week. By the time we left Voorschoten in 2000, we had adopted a multi-layer horse-shoe seating arrangement.

The "feel" or culture.

Although the same people took the same services in the Hague and Voorschoten, the feel was very different. Some loved one and avoided the other and vice versa.

The Hague Choir were having their training weekend finishing with choral

evensong on the Saturday. Alan Lindsay, the chaplain was invited to join us but declined, inviting us for coffee in the vicarage afterwards. The choir then discovered that it was Alan's birthday on the Sunday, In the choir warm up before Sunday service, someone suggested we dare sing Happy birthday to Alan, it was passed by a narrow majority. It was also Mothering Sunday, and after the Sunday School superintendent had given the children flowers, he turned and gave one to Alan saying, "Happy birthday". The choir, organ and congregation responded in full power. His wife said, "I have never known Alan so embarrassed."

By contrast, in Voorschoten, each first Sunday, all who have birthdays that month (children and adults) will stand up to have 'Happy Birthday' sung to them.



The house in Chopinlaan

Francis Pole, the first Voorschoten chaplain lived in a house in De Poorterstraat in the Hague. The Hague church bought the house in Chopinlaan. When they enquired about a mortgage, the bank told them that it would be cheaper to buy the house outright from their reserves.

Help!

The second Voorschoten chaplain, Geoffrey Allen, lived in the Chopinlaan house. In his first summer, he bade farewell to five families from a congregation of 56. His heart sank! But - in the autumn the congregation was replenished.

Financial worries with independence in 1996

Separation of Voorschoten from the Hague was estimated to mean that the Hague had to increase income by 20%

and Voorschoten by 25%. Rene Schoo was blithely saying, "Teach tithing and you will double the income." The Voorschoten church treasurer, Colin Macrae, an accountant, said Rene was a perpetual optimist. We prayed and taught tithing. The income grew, doubled and then trebled, reaching 3½ times. Ian Brown, the churchwarden said, "I'm gob-smacked!" We paid for our chaplain, a church office and a youth leader. One teenager remarked, "I'm not going to silly old church, but I am going round to Ben's this evening."

Magazine

For a while after independence, the Hague and Voorschoten churches continued a shared church magazine. There were grumbles in Voorschoten about the inclusion of irrelevant Hague material. Ian Brown, a Voorschoten churchwarden, went in fear and trembling to one of the Hague churchwardens to negotiate - to discover that Hague church members were complaining about the irrelevant Voorschoten material.

Grandparents

We moved house to Voorschoten in 1987 with my father who everyone knew as Grandpa. He spent his time doing woodwork. When the Church Council decided to change from a collecting plate to collecting bags, Grandpa made the rings for the Voorschoten bags from an old desk top (Helen May made to bags from an old curtain). He also made the tray to receive the bags, and a stand for the cross we used in the music room (since replaced by a free-standing cross made by Philip Blacker). He also made the rings for the Sunday School collecting bags, and the bags for these were made by Margaret Maclellan, another grandparent, who acted as welcome team for visiting grandparents. The Lectern Bible is given in her memory. In December 1990, Grandpa was 90, and after church, a cake with 90 lighted candles appeared. The children had to help Grandpa blow out the candles. The heat from the lighted candles has melted the candle holders. Grandpa moved back to England to an old people's home in 1991.

'Music group' by Carol Waters



Farewell to Reads and Hopwoods (Summer 2018)

The worship group is continually evolving, and our numbers have increased and decreased over the years, depending on the talent available in our transient congregation. The consistent factor is that we enjoy making music and helping to lead the congregation on a Sunday morning. For many years the Orton family was the base for the music group, Jenny Read lead it for 6 years and the group is now led by Debbie Beasley-Suffolk and Carol Waters.

Currently there is a small group of around ten singers, instrumentalists and pianists who work to provide a variety of suitable music for each of our church services. We are also very blessed to have a talented group of young musicians, under the leadership of Tim Hanford, who play for the youth services and introduce us to a more contemporary repertoire. During the year we also set up 'scratch choirs' to perform at special events like the Nine Lessons and Carols Service we have each year.

The group meets most weeks to practise the music for the following Sunday, and from time to time, we have a working lunch where we choose appropriate songs for the next few weeks – looking at the bible readings and trying to make sure a good selection of music is in place.



Youth Band (2012)

Every week we arrive at church a little earlier than everyone else to set up equipment and put the finishing touches to any of the music we are going to play - and at the end of the service we put things away again.

I think the music group is a dynamic group and, over the years, it has seen pianists, trumpeters, trombonists, drummers, brass bands, 4 part harmony singing, flautists, cellists, guitarists and a gamut of other combinations. I love the way it makes connections between people and their God, and the way we as a group can be a part of that. We welcome involvement and change and look forward to seeing where God will be leading the group in future years.



Youth Band with Adam Oxborrow (2018)

'From Taiwan to Voorschoten' by Mike Waters



After 8 years in Taiwan we arrived in Wassenaar in 1998 from Taiwan. Carol made enquiries about schooling and we decided on the BSN. I commuted every day to Philips HQ at the Amstel and we started looking for churches. Our daughters liked the young church at St James, so here we came.

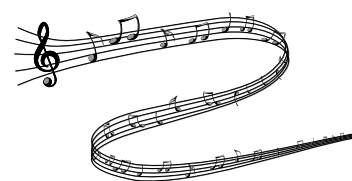
In 2003 I left Philips and we tried – unsuccessfully - to move back to the UK. The ties to the school and church proved strong and we came back after 6 weeks, purchasing a house in Swagermanweg,

where we live happily until now. Our daughters and their own families are now in the UK, and our house is up for sale – it is much too big for two people and we are deciding on next steps.

Over the years at St James we have seen many changes. The school has expanded and rebuilt, yet we are still meeting in the same hall where we first arrived in 1998! It is slightly smaller than it was then, as the back wall was brought forward to create a sound and lighting equipment gallery, and the church cupboard! The school has also seen many other changes, both in its buildings and its culture, but we were content with the education our children received and recommend it.

At the church we have participated in many ministries over the years. Carol on music, me on administration, and together on welcome. St James is blessed with great musicians, although we need more choristers. Join in and learn how to sing, or to improve. Church finances are healthy, with members generous with their time, talents and treasure. We receive about 170,000 Euros in donations from members each year and spend it on ministry (60%) and property (20%). We support diocesan work with 10%, and our mission partners receive 10%.

Highlights for me have been the 25th Anniversary year celebrations and fund raising, the Millennium party, and the weddings and christenings. I'm looking forward to the 40th Anniversary Party this year and wondering what, who and how the St James half century will be celebrated in 2029!



**'A Shared 40th Anniversary'
by Derek and Trich Dodd
(mission partners in Ireland)**

Forty years ago, in the early days of the chaplaincy of St James in Voorschoten, we and our two young daughters took our seats in the old music room of the British School for the Sunday morning service. Since our arrival in the Netherlands some six years earlier, Derek and I attended St John and St Philip's in The Hague. It was there, through the life and witness of some wonderful people, that we both came to a personal relationship with Jesus, and our true Christian life began.



It was out of St John and St Philip's too that St James was born. Things were happening in Voorschoten and it was time for a Sunday service to be launched to cater for the needs of those living nearby.

That Sunday it was a relatively small group of people, from all ages and stages in life, including lots of families, who gathered to worship. Geoffrey Allen took the service and at a certain point invited Derek and me to come up to the front. He asked us to tell everyone about the adventure our family in 1979 we were about to embark upon. For in the same year that St James was born, we were setting off for a life in Missions. We were going to join the international missions organisation Youth With A Mission, (known as YWAM) at their training base

between Apeldoorn and Zwolle. There was a six month discipleship programme, followed by three months of outreach to another country, before we would join as full time staff. Geoffrey asked us all about it and then posed the big question: How would we live? YWAM is a volunteer organisation where no one receives a salary, but partners with churches and individuals for sponsorship and prayer support. We knew we were called to this life of trusting God and His people, and that He would provide. As he has. You in St James have been part of this provision, for you adopted us as Missions Partners and have faithfully given all through the years.

Later in 1979 we moved to YWAM, and while we were never part of the congregation of St James, we remained in touch and visited frequently. A couple of things stand out. Firstly, the friendships we formed there. We were always warmly welcomed and many a delicious Sunday lunch followed the service in the homes of different ones. Some of these folk are still there, others have returned to their homelands, indeed some have gone to their eternal home. But these friendships have lasted down through the years and we remain in touch.

Secondly, the generosity of the clergy and leadership of St James - generous in inviting us to speak on Sunday mornings now and again, to run an occasional seminar, for Trich to speak at several ladies outreach events like Women Alive and Women's Aglow. It has been our privilege to participate in these ways and to see the life and witness of St James grow and develop and make its mark on the local community. These visits became less frequent when we moved back to Ireland in 1999 to establish

Family Life Resources - a ministry focussing on Marriage and Family life - and continue the work we had begun in the Netherlands. But we always looked forward to our annual visit and experiencing the vibrancy of worship. Wonderful too, to see the growth from the old music room to the packed out auditorium every Sunday. We cannot come back so often now, as many of you know Derek has Parkinson's Disease so we have to limit our travel somewhat.



Forty years have flown, for us and for you. You have been served by wonderful chaplains and great people who have given their time to lend their leadership to all aspects of running a busy church. You will all have stories of things that the Lord has done for you, lessons he has taught you, and prayers he has answered for you, through the ministry of St James. We too could fill a book (and I'm working on it!) with the adventures God has led us on since that Sunday in the music room. Our girls have grown up, got married and have their own families, and are both active in church life. They too have warm memories of being blessed and loved by many of you, stories of how the Lord answered the prayers of two little girls and how he guided their growing up years. Thank you for your part in our forty years in Missions, which we still carry on in all the ways that we can.

Happy Anniversary St James

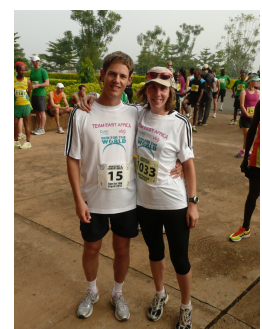
'Memories' by David Soo

*In 1997 22 members of St James went on a Holy Land Trip to Israel. David, Molly and Grace went. David has a Holy land special and would love to tell his story about this trip.

*Student evening services at Leiden University by Fredrik and Liesbeth Kanis named, "Time4God".

*Sunday evening services in Sassenheim.

*The name of our church St James is after the brother of Jesus, St James of Jerusalem and writer of the book of James, from which we have our motto: Faith in Action.



Fredrik and Liesbeth Kanis

'The Internal Growth of St James' **by Lisette Crew**

Just like in previous years we have continued the tradition of welcoming the new members of our congregation at our home for the **Newcomer's Lunches**, every 2 or 3 months or so. It's always an informal time of food and fellowship and it has been good to get to know new people. 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 have become valued church family members.

The prayer chain is a confidential email service which passes on **prayer requests** from church family members needing prayer for themselves, or someone they know. The requests are sent to me and I pass them on to a group of 20 people, who have been asked, or have requested, to be part of this ministry.

All items sent to the prayer group are dealt with strictly confidentially. If you are requesting prayer for someone else, please make sure you get other people's permission before you mention their name and circumstances in your email. We are often encouraged when we get updates on situations and people we have been praying for, and we see how God has answered prayer. The prayer chain is almost as old as our church!

During 2018 we have seen the number of children increase again in **St. J's Club**. We now have just over 30 children on the register but numbers vary each week from 10 to 20 and sometimes even more! Over the years we have seen a big shift: Most of the children are now Dutch speaking (and in Dutch schools) and have little to no English at all. Some Sundays we might have two, or six at the most, children who have English only. All the other children are bilingual or 'Dutch only'. This has had an effect on how we run our program, what songs we sing and how we split the groups in order to make sure that all the children feel

involved, listened to and are able to grow in their faith.

We start the session together with a mixture of songs, video clip, acting out a story, a game or some information and prayer time for the persecuted church around the world. Then we split into Dutch and English groups. I mostly look after the Dutch speaking children each week and the English speaking children enjoy a varied group of leaders. (As of beginning 2019 we have gained several Dutch speaking leaders, which is great!). At the end of our session we come together again for a craft or a simple colouring/puzzle sheet.

Partly because parents were asking for this and partly because we as leaders wanted to feel more connected with the congregation, St. J's Club now starts & finishes in the church service every week. On the first Sunday of the month we also come back in for Communion.

It was felt by some that teaching 4 till 11-year olds in the same group (in one language) was too big of challenge so we now have, this winter/spring term, started splitting into 'younger' (4-7) and 'older' (8-11) groups, which means each group needs someone (or two leaders) who speaks both Dutch and English. It's an experiment and we will review this later this year. All in all, we can look back on a good year in St. J's Club and look forward to many, colourful, noisy, fun-filled *and* Spirit filled Sundays in the coming year.

The Book Club was born, several years ago, out of a desire to read more, and especially more **Christian books**: biographies, novels or books on Christian subjects. We meet 4 times a year and discuss the book we chose during the previous meeting. The Leader comes prepared with questions for discussion and it is always a joy to see how much more one can get out of a book when views, experiences and thoughts are shared. The group is open to anyone, male, female, St. James regular or not. As some of our group moved away during 2018, we are now a group of five people and would love

more people to join us. Books we read in 2018: 'Getting your kids through Church without them ending up hating God,' by Rob Parsons', 'Have a little faith,' by Mitch Albom and 'There is still more,' by Mary Pitches. Planned book discussions before the summer: 'The Case for Easter,' by Lee Strobel (24/4 in the evening) and 'A man in Christ – the life of Hudson Taylor,' by Roger Steer (27/6, afternoon).



Several times a year we enjoy an **Evergreens' Lunch**. These lunches are aimed at those in our church family who are retired and/or over 60. We started these lunches 6 years ago, because we felt there was a need for a midweek get-together for this group of people, some of whom were not able to make it easily to meetings in the evenings. Fellowship & food are the main ingredients and always seem to be enjoyed by everyone present. We are usually with about 20 people. This year we had to move from our usual location of the 'Pluspunt,' (as the Ontmoeting Church was sold) and we found a new home in the grounds of Huize Bijdorp, the Convent in Voorschoten, where we hire the bungalow for the afternoon.

We have a team of about 6 lovely ladies who make it all happen. They produce and serve, with hardly any effort, lots of positiveness and a nice smile: soups, rolls, stews and even a three course Christmas Dinner! 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's a real joy and privilege to be part of this and we look forward to many more Evergreen get-togethers in the future.



'Crèche memories'
by Patricia Schippers

When we first arrived at St James in October 1998 with a 5-month baby girl, Kimberley, we were warmly welcomed by Lynne Woodward and shown where the crèche room was (if needed). For the following couple of months we didn't need the crèche as Kimberley was generally sweet and quiet. There came a time when she needed the safe space to make noise and to make "friends" with the other babies and toddlers (e.g.: Maaïke, Abigail, Bas and Timothy). Then Bas had a sister, Mieke, and Kimberley's sister Yvette arrived. The children typically move up from crèche to St J's club, and then onto youth.

There was a good number of children at the start of the millennium with St J's club meeting in 3 upstairs classrooms (ages 4-6; ages 7-9; ages 10+11).



For a time crèche numbers were down to just one, Anna. By then, Kimberley was 16 years old and already babysitting Anna on a regular basis. It was decided that Kimberley could sit on a big cushion at the back of the church and read quietly to Anna during the service.

After Ruan's arrival, a family of three small children visited our church. The small kids needed a crèche / safe place to play, but there was none. Ruan told the parents to return the following week and we'd have something for their kids. As Kimberley was "responsible" for the small ones, we were called and asked to provide something the following week. So this was the start of "First Steps" as we know it. We are thankful for our committed team of helpers for these little ones.

With story time, a biscuit with drink of water, followed by craft time, we ensure that the children enjoy a safe and stimulating playtime.

'The Fellowship Cross'
by Patricia Schippers

My mother, Anne Russell, brought this lovely tradition of a Fellowship Cross to St James from her parish church, St Martin-in-the-Veld, Rosebank, Johannesburg, South Africa when she visited me in May 2000. At one time in her church, there was no fellowship between members at her church, and someone created the idea of a "Fellowship Cross". It was to be passed around its members on a monthly basis. The cross was to be placed somewhere central in the house so it would be frequently seen and the accompanying prayer regularly prayed.

At St James we also pass the Fellowship Cross around on a monthly basis, particularly to those members who are going through a difficult or challenging time. The cross is a sign of the love that Jesus Christ has for us all, as well as a reminder that he rose from the dead and is with us now through his Spirit. It is also a reminder of our connection to the Church across the world.



*Fellowship Cross Prayer
Heavenly Father of us all,
Bless my/our home
And all who visit me/us.
Help me/us to remember
That I/we are never alone,
That you are here loving me/us, Amen*

'Trumpet and Church Office'
by Ian and Christine Brown

Ian and Christine Brown worshipped at St James in Voorschoten from Sept. 1990 until we left Holland in May 2002. Ian was a Churchwarden and assisted St James becoming independent from St John & St Philip in The Hague.



Ian played his trumpet and sung in the worship group. Christine helped in the Sunday School and the Church Office. We were both involved with social events which were great fun. We found St James' Church very welcoming and inclusive and remember our time with great affection.

We are disappointed we cannot join in the celebrations and would like to pass on our best wishes to anybody that remembers us.

'Coffee/Tea after church'
by Lynn Klocke

Fellowship is one of the great strengths of St James, and every week we are able to get together over a hot cup of coffee or tea after the service and hopefully a chocolate digestive to go with it. A dedicated team has been offering this service for many years, using the kitchen facilities kindly offered by the school, to prepare an urn of coffee which serves 100 cups, and as many pots of tea as are needed. On an average Sunday we serve 50 cups of coffee or tea, as well as providing squash and biscuits for the children. These days we try to cater for those with a gluten intolerance, or those who prefer caffeine-free herbal tea. As a small gesture towards the reduction of plastic waste, we are currently using cardboard coffee cups, but the coffee still tastes the same. Good old Douwe Egbert coffee, that hasn't changed a bit!

'Youth minister' by Marc Prescott

It's the summer of 1999 and I have just embarked on a great adventure. I graduated from Bible College and was ready to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15 and fulfil the Great Commission. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19.

I had just moved from South Africa to England and started interviewing for ministry positions in England and Europe. St James was the first out of three interviews I was invited to. My host family was the Fowles family and it was a great fit. The Bishop of Europe also happened to be there that weekend and what an honour it was to meet him. I had interviews with Philip Bourne and Mandy Back and the whole council, and then I had an informal interview with the youth. They proceeded to invite me to the local pub in Voorschoten and ride me there on the back of Jen Kelland's bike. Talk about an introduction into Dutch life! I had a wonderful time and was excited about the prospect of working with these amazing young people. Mike Fowles, Philip Bourne and Lynn Woodward played an important role in helping me discern that this was the next move God had for me in ministry and I wasn't disappointed.

Over the course of the next 6 years, I worked tirelessly to build trust with the young people and their families. I invited myself to family dinners, restarted our youth program and earned the right to be heard. The youth at St James and the BSN were an amazing group of young people and I thoroughly enjoyed my time serving them. From mission trips to Europe, bible studies at my apartment and at the BSN, field trips to foreign lands, youth club nights at the BSN, movie and bowling nights in The Hague, to just hanging out having a coffee with a student talking about life, there wasn't a dull moment or an opportunity I regret. And then there was all the mum's and dad's I got to know, and teachers at the BSN, who became my friends and

confidants. What a privilege to have known them all.

I would also like to give special thanks to Philip Bourne and Lynn Woodward, the Fowles family, Mrs. Eggleton and many other families and individuals who supported and mentored me as a young minister. I learned so much from you all and continue to draw from my experience at St James in my current position as Associate Pastor at Restoration Life church in Sacramento, California.

I met lifelong friends at this amazing church and over the years have had the honour of officiating at a few weddings of the young people who were in our youth group. It's been very gratifying watching them all grow up over the years, finishing university or getting their first job, getting married and having children of their own, what a joy that has been for me.



I now live and minister in Sacramento, California at Restlife. I moved here from Holland to help a friend plant a new church downtown. It's been a wonderful 13 years and we are a very blessed church. I have a family of my own now too, two boys, Benjamin Jude and Joshua Alexander and my wonderful wife Tina.

St James you have forever left an impression on my heart, and I think of you all often and keep you in my prayers. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as your youth minister, friend and co-labourer in Christ! Please come visit, California is only a flight away!

(Ed. St James has had several youth ministers: Ben Mizen (first), followed by Marc Prescott (longest), Bethan Chewter, Brad and Marissa

Kelderman, Tim Carroll, Adam Oxborrow and now part-time Mercedes Masters.)

'Thankful and Proud'

by Revd Freek Bakker (Chairman, Voorschoten Council of Churches)

The Voorschoten Council of Churches wishes to congratulate St James Church on her fortieth anniversary. This 'parish' is the smallest and youngest member of our ecumenical council, which exists since 30 October 1967. In March 1986, Revd Geoffrey Allen accepted an invitation to the Voorschoten Anglican 'parish' to join the council and was later succeeded by Mr Meijer. In practice, a lay member has represented St James in the Council while the Chaplain participates in the bi-monthly pastors' meeting.

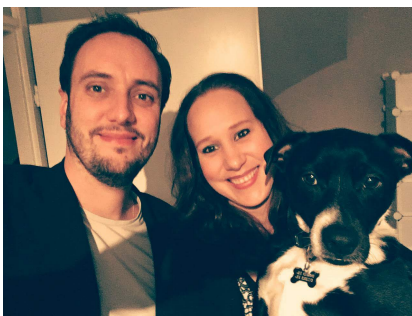
Twice a year, the Anglican community's presence in our village's ecumenical life becomes clearly visible; in the ecumenical celebration during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January and the Advent Carol Service on the First Sunday in Advent. These services are in Dutch and English; Anglican ministers share the leadership and the Bible is read in English.

There is also humour. I remember that I was once to preach, in English, at the January service, which the Anglican congregation was hosting. Philip Bourne was chaplain then. I sent him the Dutch text in advance and he translated it into beautiful English. After the service, he shook my hand and congratulated me on the fine English that I had spoken, thanks to him!

I always find it special to have the Anglican Church sharing with us here, since ecumenism was pioneered by that church in the 1920s. She took the lead and today, all over the world, is the church that invites visitors to share in the hospitality of Holy Communion. So I have received Holy Communion in many countries from the hands of an Anglican priest. This is something of which the Anglican Church may be proud; for this, I and many others are grateful.



'Training for Priest'
by Matt Thijs (our ordinand)



1st July 2018 was a happy day for us (Matt & Lizelle Thijs) because on that day we joined St James! We hope to be with you for two years as part of Matt's training as ordinand in the Church of England. An ordinand is someone who is in training to become a priest, and in my case, this means that I spend half of my week getting work experience at St James. I'm involved in variety of different activities so that I get exposure to the different aspects of ministry in church: leading services and preaching, being on the leadership team and church council, helping with IT and administration, pastoral visiting, running Messy Church (with Lizelle), helping with Youth and so on.

I spend the other half of my week doing a master's degree in Theology, Ministry and Mission at St Mellitus College in London (I'm there most Mondays). This mode of 'context-based' training is really good because it combines theory and practice, which means that I have the opportunity to put into practice what I've been learning.

Lizelle is my lovely South African (I find that these things often go together!) wife, who is a gifted primary school teacher with a passion for children who are overlooked or those with special needs. She is a special needs teacher at the Haagsche Schoolvereeniging (HSV), and she is involved with St J's Club and Messy Church. We were married in South Africa in 2012, where I was working for St Martin's Church. In 2016 we returned to the Netherlands to work at St John & St Philip's Church, The Hague.

Jackson (named after the legendary Michael Jackson) is our South African

dog, who made the trip with us all the way from Africa. These past 8 months have been quite busy and intense, but they've also been really enjoyable.

We've come to appreciate St James as a great church family: warm and welcoming, as well as kind and gracious in allowing yourselves to be led by someone who is learning on the job. Thank you!

'A Life Changing Experience'
by Bill & Irene Manley
(mission partners in Mongolia)

In the first few days of 1991 our family arrived in the Netherlands. Bill and Irene with Richard (9) and Rachael (8). Our first night was spent at the Holiday Inn in Leiden where we picked up a leaflet for an English-speaking Christian Church Service in Voorschoten. A week or so later saw me cycling from Leiden to the school with Richard and Rachael. I was in the embarrassing position of having to get off my bike to press the button at the cycle lights in Voorschoten when Margaret Eggleton glided past on her bike and said – "Going to church? Follow me!" and we did!



The move to the Netherlands saw Bill and I coming to Christ in a new and meaningful way. We were blessed by Geoffrey who was a bit bemused by us. Then the Orton family took us under their wing and we became part of a home group with them. Our first bible study topic was studying "Celebration of Disciplines" with them. There we learned first-hand what it meant to be a Christian family. Following a move to Wassenaar, distance and time got more complicated and Donald and Hilary Baldwin took us in hand to teach and guide us.

We became church library "assistants" and worked with Cherry Lawrence and Munro and Mieke Mackay. Later I got involved with Christian Viewpoint with Audrey Axon, it was a significant step for me to be part of that team and accepted by the group. After a meeting at John and Kathleen Wallis' home in the Hague we started to understand the mission did not always involve hacking through the jungle with a machete, but our secular skills were useful. In 1994, Bill and I felt we needed to do more structured work in developing our bible knowledge, so the first time the new vicar Philip visited our home he was greeted by, "We think we should leave our job and go to Bible College!" Philip was calm and unfazed and helped us walk through the next part of trying to figure out was this right or not.

The middle of 1994 saw us as a family leave the Netherlands and go to England where we spent 2 years in Northumbria Bible College. After that, we served for 6 years in Nepal with Interserve and United Mission to Nepal. Following that time we did 5 years with Joint Christian Services in Mongolia and have now completed 12 years running "Mary & Martha Mongolia," a business as mission based in Ulaanbaatar Mongolia.

Through the last 28 years, St James has supported us in prayer. For 25 years we have been supported financially as mission partners. God is good and by His grace, and your prayers and finance, lives have been changed across the world. Many, many people at St James have supported us in all sorts of ways through the years, the list would fill another article!



Mary & Martha Mongolian Art

'Caught up in the Rota's'
by Nick and Debra Lambert

They say, "The Church of England is like a helicopter. Get too close, and you get caught up in the rotas." That certainly happened to us when we joined St James in 2006. We had been looking for a church where we could feel part of a community and St James certainly fulfilled that. We liked the single service where all ages were in together. It felt like a big family, it was very welcoming and we quickly felt at home there.



Coming with 3 children aged 6,10 and 12, it wasn't long before we were involved in Stj's club along with the Hanfords, Gea Hakker and Gordon Wright, to name a few. We always had lectionary-based material to guide the sessions but often these were lacking in inspiring ideas

which called for creativity. Nick especially remembers one session which used a remotely controlled car with Action Man to represent Philip being 'moved by the spirit' across southern Israel to preach and also explain the Gospel to the Ethiopian official. The kids thoroughly enjoyed this. We also used to help with the occasional games nights in a hall in Wassenaar where we would typically have 20-30 children, as friends were welcome too. There were lots of energetic games with balloons, a parachute and running around, plus hotdogs and squash. The children in Stj's have always supported the Church Mission partners in many ways, but especially Project Share in Ghana. The children also sponsored some letters for Eric and Christine Anonby when they were working on developing an alphabet for a tribe in Yemen.

Over the years, we have happily helped in many roles from Stj's leaders, coffee team, welcome team, communion assistants, home group member, Christmas choir, Safeguarding Officer (Debra).

Being part of a home group was one of the best and most enjoyable experiences. Digging deeper in to the bible with friends and having committed prayer partners within a small group was a great blessing and we saw many answered prayers. One member we remember dearly was Margaret Sleebloom whose wit and sense of humour was lovely. She had many great sayings, but one that stands out was,

"Thank God for washing up. It means you had something to eat today."

Some things have changed over the years, some things have stayed the same. Other happy memories include the Christmas Lunches after the service, with an appearance from "Santa"- aka Donald. There was an Easter egg hunt where usually a member of the Youth would dress up as the Easter Bunny and drop eggs for the children to find in Park de Horsten. We also remember trooping outside the school singing on Palm Sunday, but that could be pretty cold! The sunrise service for Easter has always been a special occasion too.



Of all the churches we have attended, we have certainly felt the most connected with St James. Despite the fact that many people come and go, including the clergy, the ethos of the church remains the same. Styles might change but St James always puts the Gospel first.



St James Youth

St James means being connected to God, learning more about my faith and feeling more connected. I find youth great to talk about my faith and learning more about it. It is a really nice place to be.

- Chloe

The youth, for me, is a great place to discuss topics unrelated to religion and where we can connect it to God's word. I find Fridays a great time to bond together.

- Anna

St James means inclusion to me. The youth is great for learning more about God at our level and the church itself is good as well. It's an excellent worshipping community to be part of.

- Tim



St James' Youth is an inclusive community and a place where I feel I can discuss things in depth and relate to others in our relationship with God.

- Dana



I really enjoy being part of the youth band and helping out with the sound team because it lets me use my hobbies and interests in ways to serve others, helping me become an active member of our church community.

- Matt



St James celebrates 40th Anniversary

Saturday 30th March from 4pm: an evening of entertainment, food and fun for the whole church family

Sunday 31st March at 10.30 am: A service of Holy Communion and Confirmation led by Bishop Robert.

At the British School, Jan van Hooflaan 3, 2252 BG Voorschoten