



# INTOUCH

with St John's  
September 2020



This is not your usual  
parish magazine nor  
is it a replacement.

With our 5th Edition of  
In Touch,  
we want to continue to keep  
in touch with you.

## Chaplain

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for all your pastoral concerns

## St John's Anglican Church

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**Bishop Robert** is delighted to have taken delivery of an electric bike. He plans to cycle to and from the office.

Another small step in reducing carbon footprint.



## Gifts

The crisp autumn air means that the seasons are changing. Seasons are a gift from God, giving a rhythm to the year. The trees change colour and drop their leaves. Trees are a gift from God, shading us, purifying the air, and branches to climb in. The fields produce their harvest. Food is a gift from God, sustaining us, and tasting great!

If we gave someone a gift and they immediately threw it in the trash, we would be horrified. Why, then, do we often treat God's gifts as if they are disposable? What does that say to God the Gift-Giver?

If we receive a gift, we usually say, 'Thank you.' If we did the same for the gifts of God's Creation, we would practically need to thank God every single minute of every single day (what a great idea!).

In the past few years, our diocese has celebrated 'Creationtide'. It is a series of weeks where we reflect on the gifts God has given us in Creation. Recently, many churches around the world do the same. If we, as Christians, really want to make a positive impact on Climate Change and to provide a sustainable planet for future generations, we can begin by returning to the faith of our ancestors, by paying attention to God's Creation, by praying for it, and by taking responsibility for it.

Peace and blessings, Stephen

## Open Doors

On Wednesday afternoons, the church will be open to everyone for a time of personal prayer.

If you happen to be in the area and are seeking some quiet prayer time with God, please feel free to stop by.

Normally, the doors will be open after 2:00pm until the end of the Holy Communion service which starts at 5:30pm.

## Coronavirus COVID-19

Official information and  
Services from  
Belgian Government

[info-coronavirus.be](https://info-coronavirus.be)

NL FR DE EN

## Living the Word

What would a simpler lifestyle look like in practice? We live in a water scarce country and the impact of climate change as well as population growth will lead to increasing water shortages in the years to come. What can we do? Here are a few examples:

**Water:** we can all have shorter showers and put a bucket in the shower to use in the toilet. Wash clothes less frequently and make sure the machine is full. Purchase water tanks for church and home, and make sure our gardens are water wise.

**Food choices:** our food choices all have different water footprints. To produce a hamburger requires the same amount of water as a 60-minute shower and the water needed to produce a mouthful of steak could run your dishwasher 22 times. One teaspoon of milk is equivalent to one flush of a dual-flush toilet and the average bathtub could be filled six times with one litre.

A family of four could save the equivalent of 17 bathtubs of water by swapping one meal of beef per week with lentils. Cattle are fed mostly by grazing veld and rain-fed dry land, which means they have a greater green water footprint.

**Plastic.** Much of the plastic litter that we produce ends up in streams and eventually in the sea. One of the ways to protect the precious gift of water is to become involved in clean ups and to put pressure on companies to stop using single use plastic items.

**Water is a precious gift from God, let us protect it.**





*Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? Matthew 18:21*

Creator, we pray that you would help us touch the earth and consuming its riches without thought. Amen

Hymn: *Touch the Earth Lightly.*



# Praying

This month we focus our prayers on  
God's blessings in Creation

*My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Philippians 1:23b-24*

Liberating, life-giving God, help us to know that we and the world you have created are truly the work of your hands. Give us knowledge and wisdom to care for your handiwork now and for future generations. Amen.

Hymn: *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands.*



*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. Psalm 19:7*

Creator God, help us to accept your boundaries so that all created things can flourish. Amen.

Hymn: *Light Dawns on a Weary World.*

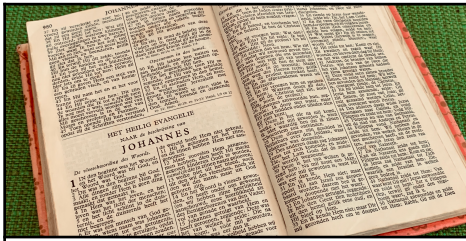


*I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink. Exodus 17:6*

Creator of all, stir in us the passion to share the living water of the gospel as we also protect and share the waters of your creation to nourish all creatures. Amen

Hymn: *Now the Green Blade Rises*





## Communieviering

Elke zondag om 10.00u  
In het Netherlands



## Holy Communion

Every Wednesday at 5.30pm and  
Sunday at 11.30am



## Online Worship


Every Sunday from 8 am  
on our YouTube channel



# Services

Worship continues in many ways, times and places

Follow the links below to stay in touch and be sure to subscribe to receive the latest information.

<b>6 Sep</b>  <b>Back to School Blessing</b>	
	
<b>Reading</b> Rom 13:8-14	Roos Audio/Video
<b>Gospel</b> Matt 18:15-20	Eva Audio/Video
<b>Intercessions</b>	Liesbet Audio/Video

## Keep in touch

**St John's YouTube channel**  
[youtube.com/channel/UCSYhFfKqT\\_iRqYxF\\_VwPQ4Q](https://youtube.com/channel/UCSYhFfKqT_iRqYxF_VwPQ4Q)

**St John's Website**  
[saintjohnsghent.com](http://saintjohnsghent.com)

**St John's Facebook Group**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/192542137460533/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/192542137460533/)

**A Church Near You**  
[achurchnearyou.com/church/8297/](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/8297/)

## Prayer Diaries

**Diocese in Europe**  
[europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary](http://europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary)

**Leprosy Mission**  
[leprosymission.org/get-involved/pray](http://leprosymission.org/get-involved/pray)

**Mission to Seafarers**  
[missiontoseafarers.org/at-church/prayer-diary](http://missiontoseafarers.org/at-church/prayer-diary)

<b>20 Sep</b>  <b>Blessing of the Bicycles</b>	
	
<b>Reading</b> Philippians 1:21-30	Solomon Audio/Video
<b>Gospel</b> Matt 20:1-16	Jan VD Audio/Video
<b>Intercessions</b>	Jacob Audio/Video

<b>13 Sep</b>  <b>Blessing of Work &amp; Ministry</b>	
	
<b>Reading</b> Rom 14:1-12	Nicholas Audio/Video
<b>Gospel</b> Matt 18:21-35	Thomas Audio/Video
<b>Intercessions</b>	Colin Audio/Video

<b>27 Sep</b>  <b>Blessing of the Angels</b>	
	
<b>Reading</b> Rev 12:7-12	Pieter Audio/Video
<b>Gospel</b> John 1:47-51	Angela Audio/Video
<b>Intercessions</b>	Lizzie Audio/Video