

## PROFILE OF THE EAST NETHERLANDS GROUP OF CHAPLAINCIES

worshipping at the Old Catholic Church of St Willibrord in Arnhem  
at the DoRe Church in Nijmegen  
and at the Chapel of St Mary the Virgin, Weldam (near Goor)

### 1 Geographic Situation

Arnhem and Nijmegen are medium-size cities, in the province of Gelderland, with several smaller towns and villages in the close vicinity which are situated mainly on either the Rhine or one of its branches such as the IJssel or the Waal. The area is termed in Dutch "the area of the great rivers". Both cities are surrounded by beautiful countryside.

There is some industry in the area, the most important companies being Akzo and Philips. Nijmegen is a university city. The area between Arnhem and Nijmegen - the Betuwe - is renowned for its fruit growing.

St Mary's chapel is situated in the grounds of Weldam Castle near Goor, in the province of Overijssel. The nearest large towns are Hengelo, Almelo and Enschede. Enschede has a technical university and Hengelo and Almelo are industrial towns. To the west are the charming old towns of Deventer and Zutphen.

In Arnhem and Nijmegen public transport is well developed and both churches are near a train station or a bus stop. St. Mary's is in a rural area 20 minutes walk from the train station in Goor.

The East Netherlands Group of Chaplaincies covers much of the provinces of Overijssel and Gelderland as well as part of Noord Brabant.

### 2 Community

There is a large number of English-speaking people spread throughout the provinces of the East Netherlands, many of whom are employees on fixed-term contracts, giving rise to a regular turnover of people which is reflected in the church congregations.

There are international schools in Arnhem and Ommen, and universities in Enschede and Nijmegen which have a regular intake of international students.

There is no diplomatic community in this part of the Netherlands. In Nijmegen there is a Foreign Exchange Society and in Arnhem, Deventer and Hengelo a Dutch-English Society.

### 3 The Chaplaincies

The East Netherlands Group of Chaplaincies consists of two Chaplaincies: Arnhem-Nijmegen and the Anglican Church Twente. Each Chaplaincy has its own Council of ten



members and two churchwardens who are delighted to help the chaplain in any way. The Arnhem-Nijmegen chaplaincy has 50 on the Electoral Roll and an average attendance at services of 20-25. The Twente chaplaincy has 62 on the electoral roll and an average attendance of about 50. Amongst the nationalities represented are Dutch, American, British, Irish, Sri Lankan, Australian, Tanzanian, South African, Kenyan and Zimbabwean. Not all members are Anglican but come from a variety of Christian denominations.

Throughout the chaplaincies there are a few young families, but the age profile of members on the electoral roll of Arnhem-Nijmegen is: 44% under 65 and 56% over 65. The age profile of members on the electoral roll of Twente is 60% under 65 and 40% over 65.

There are two services every Sunday: in the morning in Twente and in the evening alternately in Arnhem or Nijmegen. Currently neither chaplaincy has a choir but both encourage singing practices before services.

We have recently set up a local contact scheme in both chaplaincies whereby designated members of the congregation keep in contact with the church members and the newcomers in their area.

Twente has a dedicated website: [www.anglicanchurchtwente.com](http://www.anglicanchurchtwente.com). Arnhem-Nijmegen can be found on the Arnhem Council of Churches website [www.rvkarnhem.nl](http://www.rvkarnhem.nl). There is a direct link to the relevant part of the Arnhem Council of Churches website on the Twente website.

### 3.1 Arnhem-Nijmegen

Anglican services have been held in Arnhem for more than 100 years, more or less continuously though the frequency and the place of worship has varied. Nijmegen's history is more recent, but certainly regular services have been held for about 40 years. These services were often recognised as services for international English speaking students from many countries.

In Arnhem we rent the church belonging to the Old Catholics. This is a traditional style church capable of seating 80 people. We have a good relationship with the Old Catholics with whom we have 2 joint services annually, one on Ash Wednesday and one in September. We also use the adjacent church hall for various functions. The Nijmegen services are held in the DoRe church - a building capable of seating around 100. Our principle sung Eucharist service, at which Eucharistic vestments are worn, is currently held on alternate Sundays in Nijmegen and Arnhem at 17:00.



St Willibrord's Arnhem





DoRe Church Nijmegen



Most people attending our churches live in the surrounding towns and villages, at quite a distance from one another, and comparatively few live in the two cities. Many travel quite a long way to church. There is a core of about 30 permanent members in the Arnhem area. This is smaller in Nijmegen but students attend the services regularly. Having coffee after every service is an important activity for us, as is our 'bring and share' meal once a month.

During services in both churches the children are able to attend Junior Church: membership varies according to the number of young families currently in the area. We have three organists, a flautist, a violinist and a music group at some services in Nijmegen.

We are represented on the Council of Churches in Arnhem, Nijmegen and Zutphen. We are also members of the Ecumenical Platform of churches in the Arnhem North area with whom we join occasionally in services.

A regular bible study is held in Nijmegen, which reaches out to international students. A bible study is held in Arnhem in Lent and Advent. There is a regular prayer group. There is a Christian Men's Club. Social events are held regularly and the main fund-raising event takes place in the form of a cake stall at the Middachten Castle Christmas Fair in December.

Some members of our congregation are also involved in a Council of Churches scheme for feeding the homeless and also on personal initiative in helping refugees. The church provides some financial support where necessary.

Our profile would not be complete without mentioning the many people on "the fringe" - expatriots who, though not church members, are very generous in helping us with fund-raising and other projects and who also attend our social functions. We are a welcoming, caring congregation and extend help to those outside as well as those within our midst.

### **3.2 Twente**

St. Mary's Chapel, Weldam, is situated in Twente, which is a geographical region comprising the eastern part of the province of Overijssel and a small part of Gelderland. The Anglican Church Twente started just over 30 years ago, initially in Hengelo and later at Weldam when Count Alfred Solms offered the use of his family chapel. He is also our Honorary Warden. St. Mary's Chapel is over a hundred years old, designed by an English architect in Victorian style and can seat 140 people.



St. Mary's, Weldam



Our principal service on Sundays and Holy Days is a sung Eucharist at 10.30 at which Eucharistic vestments are worn. We have two very dependable organists and every now and then we have an 'ad hoc' choir led by a member of the congregation who is a professional musician. We strive to enhance our services by inviting the occasional choir.

We have an enthusiastic and growing group of Dutch people who have joined the Anglican community. Most of them live locally, which is a great constant factor. Although we have few children in the congregation at the moment, we have Sunday School twice a month. We do experience a definite growth in this area which is expressed in an increase of weekly churchgoers.

There are several flourishing Bible-study groups spread over the area. There is an enthusiastic flower guild. The social contact, especially after the Sunday service, is very important to everyone. Every year we organise a Castle Fair in aid of St. Mary's and of the charities we support. The Fair is held every September in the Weldam castle grounds. We have a capable and resourceful Fair Committee. It is a great social occasion for the whole area. Another annual event is our Ascension Day service and picnic held at Weldam and enjoyed by members of both Chaplaincies.



Weldam Castle Fair



#### **4 Terms and conditions of the appointment**

The terms and conditions of service for this full-time appointment are:

◆ *Accommodation*

Accommodation for the chaplain will be provided. The intention is to rent accommodation and to furnish it as necessary depending on the candidate. It is expected that the accommodation will be near a train station. Rent and rates are paid by the East Netherlands Group of Chaplaincies.

◆ *Full stipend (taxable, but depending on nationality and background of the candidate tax benefits may be available)*

Paid at a rate equivalent to the Church of England's national benchmark stipend, reviewable annually.

◆ *Pension payments*

Contributions into the Church of England's Clergy Pension Scheme (or another official provincial scheme of the Anglican Communion), or a private scheme with benefits comparable to the C of E scheme are paid.

◆ *Health insurance*

Premiums for a local private health insurance scheme are paid

◆ *Expenses of Office*

Allowance for use of own car, telephone rental and official use, official postage

#### **5 Person Specification**

The position requires a priest who:

*Essential:*

- ◆ will encourage the spiritual growth of each of the chaplaincies, as well as our unity and collaboration as a group of Anglican congregations
- ◆ is an easy and clear communicator with people of all ages, nationalities and backgrounds
- ◆ will enjoy the challenge of providing inclusive pastoral care in our varied region of the East Netherlands
- ◆ will work actively in developing our Church life, witness and outreach
- ◆ due to the diverse nature of the congregations and the international English-speaking catchment, will provide varied liturgical celebrations and services (at which Eucharistic vestments are worn) that will appeal to all members of our congregations
- ◆ due to the dispersed nature of the group, has good and proven organisational and management skills
- ◆ with his/her family is enthusiastic about living and working in the Netherlands
- ◆ is able and willing to drive and has a valid driving licence
- ◆ has computer-based communications skills

*Desirable:*

- ◆ is willing to learn to speak Dutch