Arnhem-Nijmegen Chaplaincy, Vision and Mission
(updated version April 2026)

1. Our Vision

We believe that God calls us to offer English-language worship in the Anglican tradition in the Arnhem and Nijmegen area. We aim to be a welcoming, inclusive and caring community.

2. Who we are

Connected to our church network are around 80 people, of whom circa 40 are regular churchgoers on a Sunday. These are people of different ages, nationalities and ethnic and denominational backgrounds. For some of them this chaplaincy is their exclusive church home. Others are also connected to one of the other local churches. Some of us are longstanding members, others are only staying with us for a short while. Some are there almost every week, others attend a few times a year or somewhere in between. We also get a number of one off visitors. All of them are equally welcome.

Our main target groups are:

- Expats and international students
- Mixed couples
- Dutch persons who are attracted to our style of worship and an international church community
- Visitors

The clergy team consists of a (stipendiary, part time) chaplain and a (non-stipendiary, part time) assistant chaplain. We also have a minister in the area with permission to officiate.

As part of the Diocese in Europe of the Church of England, we are supervised by the area dean for the Netherlands, the archdeacon for North West Europe and our Diocesan Bishop.

There is an active involvement by many of our lay members in roles such as: church warden, chaplaincy council member, reader, intercessor, chalice assistant, catering and PR.

3. What we do

The Arnhem-Nijmegen Chaplaincy offers English-language and Eucharist centred worship, using the liturgy of the Church of England, on every Sunday in both Nijmegen and Arnhem. Once a month there is a midweek service in Arnhem. We use church buildings of a Roman-Catholic parish in Nijmegen and of an Old Catholic parish in Arnhem. Usually we have musical accompaniment by an organist. There are refreshments after the services and a ‘bring and share’ lunch in Nijmegen on every first Sunday of the month.

On several occasions we have joint ecumenical services with the Lutherans and Old Catholics in Arnhem, and we engage in ecumenical relationships with other churches, (e.g. the Airborne Sunday Evensong with the PKN in Oosterbeek). We are members of the local council of churches (Raad van Kerken) in both cities.

We offer Zoom Compline (Night prayer) twice a week and occasional (digital) courses and meetings during the year. There is a monthly meeting of a group of so called 'new arrivals' for a bring and share meal and Lectio Divina, after the Arnhem Sunday service. Another Lectio Divina group meets in Nijmegen after the monthly bring and share lunch on every first Sunday.

Pastoral care is provided by the clergy team. This involves making pastoral home visits, offering home communion, house blessings and anointing for healing, and reaching out in all kind of other ways, in particular to those who are not able to attend church services. The clergy also provide pastoral services (e.g. baptisms, funerals and weddings).

The council and the chaplaincy as a whole have an annual away day.

We are easy to find through our website which is regularly refreshed and we provide a two weekly newsletter to those who have given us their email address.

4. Looking ahead

Our main challenge is that we are relatively small in numbers, have a high turnover of members and are running a deficit, which in the long run gives us a lack of sustainability as our reserves our decreasing. We therefore have to continue to aim at raising our numbers and our level of income. We have lived with this uncertainty about our future already for many years. A complete change of our present churchmanship would not be authentic and would estrange the present congregation and clergy. A substantial extension of the things we have on offer is simply not viable, given the limited working hours of the clergy and the small amount of volunteers available.

But we will of course never give up the effort and continue to look for any kind of options and new ways that are available to us in order to welcome new members. In particular by trying to reach out to the different target groups mentioned above and to increase our visibility in general. We have therefore started to renew our house style, PR materials and website. We are also planning a special event in a central church in Arnhem (Koepelkerk).

We will also continue our efforts to raise our level of (regular and incidental) income, e.g. by raising the issue of stewardship regularly within our present congregations, aspiring to have an average donation of 5% of the net income of our regulars (which is the guideline used in Dutch churches, taking part in the yearly fundraising called Kerkbalans). In the most recent past, our level of income has already improved substantially, for which we are very grateful.

Our mission is to continue with what we are offering at the moment, while at the same time looking for new ways to increase our sustainability.