

## Newsletter 2018



How do we look back at 2018? We both got through in **good health**. That is one point earned already. And as far as we know the rest of our family, on both sides, did as well.

Work in the parish still enjoyable and satisfactory. In the background Nelleke is taking up some tasks, both in administration and in pastoral care. Martin is learning how to stop working all three parts of the day. Thus we are becoming a bit more old-fashioned in the way we work and live in the parish, but we are getting older indeed. So, why worry?

**Martin's parents'** death in October 2017, within a fortnight, had a more enduring and deeper impact than we had probably expected. It is like pulling a warp thread out of the weave of a family and it takes time to come to terms with it, emotionally and rationally. Martin wrote about it on his website (sorry, in Dutch, and Google Translate might mess it up, but one can try...):

- some time after they died... <https://www.marnel.net/2018/05/niets/>
- ...and one year after. <https://www.marnel.net/2018/10/een-jaar/>

Martin can still get hot under the collar when it concerns **church and faith**. For example about the new Dutch Bible translation - *Nieuwe bijbelvertaling* - because of its too smooth and often inaccurate use of Dutch. An item on that made its way from his website into the circuits of Facebook. Well, it all ended with a good conversation at the Bible society's office, resulting in more mutual understanding. Next was a theological essay by 'liberal theologians' in one of our national newspapers about the relationship between Christians and Jews. Because this really strikes on the very foundations of Christian faith there was a lot of upheaval. A national day of study followed, at the Free University in Amsterdam. On the way back Martin travelled with one of these 'liberal theologians', actually one of his predecessors in Wildervank... They did not get much closer to mutual understanding. Well, difficult to explain in English anyway.

Nevertheless, life without fireworks would be boring, is it not? Nelleke & Martin love to go cycling. However, last summer was just too hot for that. Still, looking for shady woodlands in Drenthe, they did make some **wee walkabouts**. Nelleke usually puts some pictures on Facebook.

And yet again **family** came over **from Australia**. Cousin Gery (Peet-branch) stayed with us a second time, cousin Maria (Postmus-branch) and her husband James for the first time. Great how you can have some wonderful days together regardless distance or different backgrounds!

Pushed by Nelleke Martin volunteered as a guest **on regional television** ('RTV Noord'). The main item happened to be the way the oil companies *do not* deal with the damage caused by gas production provoked earthquakes. Afterwards Martin was complimented for his words by many around here, and even from an MP. Consequently Martin also appeared on **national television** in a programme dedicated to our earthquake misery. That too was much appreciated by all. Well, every bit helps to keep Groningen on the national agenda! Watch it here (in Dutch, of course):

<https://www.rtvnoord.nl/nieuws/198541/Noord-Vandaag-Dit-snijdt-de-mensen-in-de-ziel-dat-vind-ik-schandalig>

[https://www.npostart.nl/jacobine-op-zondag/14-10-2018/KN\\_1701138](https://www.npostart.nl/jacobine-op-zondag/14-10-2018/KN_1701138)

And on December 15<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Truly a milestone!



**Martin & Nelleke Grashoff**

:: <https://www.marnel.net> :: <http://www.marnel.org.uk/> ::