

1 Real Estate

The glass dome in the library and the glass parts of the porch has been replaced by plexi-glass, which has turned out to be a safe as well as a beautiful solution. Also the fire extinguishers have been replaced by new ones and in August the biennial inspection of the central heating installation took place.

Last January, we noticed a small leak in the roof, right near the entrance to the attic, which will require a thorough inspection and probably some new roofing.

2 Library and Publications

Due to the many preparations for the 18th European Shin Conference in August, there were only two courses scheduled this year:

-09/01: "Letting go" by Lut Van Schoors, an extra course in addition to the 2 courses given in 2015.

-27/02: "The meaning of the Nembutsu" given by Fons. This course also served as preparation for the European Shin Conference.

The unexpected illness of Fons had a repercussion on the publication of our magazine **Eko** and our monthly **Newsletter**.

The publication of **Eko** had to be delayed, but we still managed to publish 2 double editions (spring-summer and autumn-winter) during the month of December 2016. With the help of other sangha members, we will certainly be able to publish Eko again as a quarterly magazine in 2017.

Unfortunately, there were only 2 **newsletters** sent in 2016.

Heidi and Sven, the Secretary and Accountant of our organization, now also have their own account on Mailchimp, this to make sure that from January 2017 on, the newsletter will be sent monthly again to our 208 subscribers.

This year again, some articles were taken up in the Dutch internet magazine *Boeddhistisch Dagblad* (www.boeddhistischdagblad.nl).

They announced our course "The meaning of the Nembutsu" and published the translation by our sangha member Sven Vanderbiest of an article from the website buddhistgeeks.com..

As already announced in the report of 2015, our new website (www.jiko.be) is online since the beginning of 2016. On another website (www.shin.one) one could find all practical information on the 18th ESC, as well as the papers of the speakers who gave their permission for publication.

3 Internal Contacts

Services

-every Tuesday we have a weekly service with a dharma talk.

Due to the preparations for the Shin Conference, we skipped the summer holiday in August.

-For practical reasons, we decided this year to move the 7 *regular holidays*: Nehan-E (14/02), O-Higan (20/03), Temple Day (06/05), Gotan-E (22/05), O-Higan (25/09 with memorial service for Rev. Ocho-in (Shitoku) A. Peel), Jodo-E (04/12) and Joya-E (31/12) from Sunday to the first following Tuesday from Sunday to the next following Tuesday. We moved Joya-E to Friday 29/12, which was more suitable.

The 3 main holidays stay on Sunday : Hanamatsuri (10/04), O-Bon (14/08) and Hoonko (13/11).

We stimulate members who can only join the service now and then, to come to this 3 so called **red holidays**, on which a simple meal is offered as well as the possibility to take part in the kieshiki ceremony.

Additional services :

-18/05 : memorial service for the mother of our sangha member Sven Vanderbiest in the crematory, Wilrijk.

-2/10 : memorial service for the husband of our sangha member Rika Van Tichelen in the crematory, Wilrijk.

Association (Center for Shin-Buddhism)

-31/01: Annual General Meeting (8 people participate, 8 proxies)

-13/02 : special Board meeting of the association Centrum voor Shin-Boeddhisme

-27/05 : meeting with secretary of association: discussing the e-mails concerning the Shin Conference

-19/07 : meeting with accountant of association for making an update

-25/09 : gathering with sangha members to discuss the 40th work year of Jikoji

Jikoji in the future

We gather on 25/09 to discuss the activities for the 40th work year of Jikoji!

Meditation sessions

Every second Thursday of the month Sven leads a mediation session, with variable content and number of participants.

Rogel Dias of Zen in Antwerpen - Ch'an (www.rogeldias.wixsite.com/zeninantwerpen) weekly guides a session on Wednesday from 19.30 to 21h, and Tom Hannes of Bodaishin (www.bodaishin.be) on Mondays from 20 to 22h.

Interviews and traineeships

We welcome many students for an interview: on 8/03, 41 students of the Abdijsschool van Zevenkerken visit us for an introduction on Shin buddhism; on 12/03, 25 11-year old primary school children visit us in the context of World Religion Day; on 12/04 and 22/05, 3 students of Xaveriuscollege interviews us for a school assignment about buddhism and death; on 11/10 we welcome Lien Aernouts and 3 fellow students of the Karel De Grote Hogeschool and on 12 and 20/11, 2 students of St. Ursula Instituut Wilrijk pay us a visit.

From 21/03 to 22/03 Leung Ka Kin (from KA Berchem) is having his 3D-traineeship at our temple.

4 Participation of Jikoji Members in the Activities of other Sangha's

This year we had the honour to organize the 18th European Shin Conference in Antwerp and to welcome the Zenmon-sama and Zenurakata-sama in our temple. The conference took place from 23/08 to 26/08 in the conference room of Syntra with a daily morning service in the Jikoji temple. We spent quite some time preparing the conference (mailing, meetings with the hotel and Syntra, preparing a guided tour through Antwerp and providing enough copies of the papers).

Above all, it was a unique opportunity for us to meet and to share thoughts about what the nembutsu means for us in our daily lives with members of the other European sangha's.

ESC18 has indeed been a very successful event:

- more than 70 participants from so many different countries, cultures and languages;
- more than 20 presentations around the topic "The Meaning of Nembutsu in my Daily Life" complemented with motivating questions and answers;
- a stimulating direct Skype meeting with Jounji temple in Fukuoka, a direct transmission via internet of the kikyoshiki ceremony, a marvelous extra Goe-Nembutsu-Saho performance;
- the dynamic participation of Zenmon-sama, Zenurakata-sama and several representatives of our head temple Nishi-Hongwanji;
- the so-called triangle jikōji - Tulip Inn - Syntra fitted in very well, as did the city trip and the two restaurant offers;
- an adequate amount of time for informal contacts - as important for the mutual support of each other.

The conference was preceded by two extra initiatives :

- JSCC (Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course) August Workshop on 20 and 21/08
- the 34th WJSCC (World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council) on 22/08 in Syntra with 12 participants.

5 Other External Contacts

Courses and other contacts

In 2016 we were only able to organize 2 courses, but we welcomed several groups of students and pupils with or without their teachers (most of them for an assignment about world religions or Eastern/Japanese culture).

Moreover, we reached many young people at the 3 external activities:

On 19/02 , 15/04 and 25/08 we had 11 workshops with 13-year old students in the Kardinaal Van Roey-Institute Vorselaar (in the contest of dialogue between the different life philosophies).

In spite of the health problems of Fons and apart from the above mentioned weekly services, holiday services and the 2 courses, we had a total amount of 117 visitors on 31 contact

moments in our temple and we reached 112 people on 28 different contact moments (including the participants of the Shin conference).

To conclude this paragraph, we like to mention that many of our sangha members continue to engage themselves in their *more private* circles, each according to their own interests and available time schedules, like food distribution, volunteer work in day-care centres, ...

PR on the internet and in journals, magazines

Through the MailChimp mailing list we try to reach as many interested people as possible. In 2016, Jikoji was mentioned again in the internet magazine *Boeddhistisch Dagblad*:

Translation by Sven of the article “Christian Buddhism” published in 2010 on the website buddhistgeeks.com



Announcement of the course “The meaning of the Nembutsu” given by Fons



6 Financial report

I Revenues

An important source of revenues still remains the gifts from Japan (2016: € 5497,71 - line 5). From members in Belgium and the Netherlands we received €798,93 (line 6). Line 7 concerns Lectures (€1584,09): for the main part contributions for the weekly lectures organized by two visiting zen-sanghas, and some grants for own outdoor presentations. We book in line 8 € 2200,00 for the temporary rental of rooms to a sangha-member. Line 9 Courses – enrolments (€ 48,00) is about the courses given in our own class room at the beginning of the year. The sales from our shop supply amount to € 29,00 (line 10). The bank interests account for € 40,39 (line 11). The most substantial source of revenues is visible in line 12 as Various Revenues. The amount of 7814,33 is essentially due to the organization of the 18th European Shin Buddhist Conference in Antwerp (a grant of € 4537,27 plus € 2675,00 subscription fees), combined with a positive energy cost reimbursement(€ 594,55).

II Expenses

The first line in Expenses (line 16) concerns Taxes (2016: € 177,39), imposed by the law: they are due to the property at Pretoriastraat 68. We will probably receive an extra amount of taxes over 2016 within a couple of weeks. The section Maintenance and repair (line 18) equals € 2324,78: this is € 845,00 for the restauration of the front of our house, plus reparation of the glass cupola at the library section and of the veranda roof (€ 1285) and small expenses. The Insurances (line 19) amount to € 771,05, i.e. the fire insurance for our building (including its furniture) and the volunteer insurance of our association. The expenses for electricity, gas and water (lines 20 en 21) vary according to the use of our rooms, and the hours we spend at renovation (for 2016: € 1765,76). They almost doubled due to the higher use of our temple and the use of the second floor for accommodation purposes. The administration costs (€567,27) in line 22 consist of our internet connection, web presence and printed materials. Line 23 (€ 40,00) concerns the membership fees for the Monument Administration. The publication costs for Ekō (line 27) were this year due to the appearance of two instead of four editions (€757,57). The costs for our bank account (line 29) run into € 60,00.

The amount € 7017,79 of Line 24, Various Expenses, goes mainly to the rent of conference space of the 18th ESC, the printed materials which were used, and the organised city-trip of conference-attendees.

III Revenues minus expenses

At the end of 2016 our positive balance had risen to € 4449,18. But this was mainly due to urgent repairs which we postponed to the near future. We are facing multiple repair-works: repair of the main roof (water leakage), cleaning of facade-stones, repainting of facade timberwork, insulation of our temple, replacement of broken windows. Together these will definitively exceed the amount at our positive balance. Probably we will need to address our bank savings (line 43 €16895,52) in order to overcome these challenges.