



ST ALBAN'S CHURCH COPENHAGEN

MAGAZINE FOR THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN DENMARK



www.st-albans.dk

2017
January – February

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Cover photo: *Children holding Christingle candles, St Alban's Church. Photo by Bev Lloyd-Roberts.*

WORSHIP IN JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2017

ST ALBAN'S CHURCH, COPENHAGEN

The Anglican Parish of Saint Alban's covers the whole of Denmark, with Saint Alban's Church in Copenhagen gathering for the Eucharist at 10.30 every Sunday and Wednesday.

Our Chaplain, the Revd Darren McCallig, will be the preacher at each Sunday morning service unless otherwise stated.

The services in the next couple of months are as follows:

Sunday 1 January at 10.30	Naming and Circumcision of Jesus
Wednesday 4 January at 10.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 January at 10.30	Epiphany
Sunday 8 January at 16.00	Second Sunday Service
Wednesday 11 January at 10.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 January at 10.30	Second Sunday of Epiphany, Graeme Lloyd-Roberts
Wednesday 18 January at 10.30	Holy Communion
Thursday 19 January at 18.30	Kirkevandring (Church Walk) 2017. Begins at Sankt Pauls Kirke, Sankt Pauls Plads.
Sunday 22 January at 10.30	Third Sunday of Epiphany, The Revd Palle Thordal
Wednesday 25 January at 10.30	Holy Communion, Conversion of Paul
Sunday 29 January at 10.30	Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Mrs. Ursula Sonnewald
Wednesday 1 February at 10.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 5 February at 10.30	Fourth Sunday before Lent
Wednesday 8 February at 10.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 February at 10.30	Third Sunday before Lent
Sunday 12 February at 16.00	Second Sunday Service
Wednesday 15 February at 10.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 February at 10.30	Second Sunday before Lent, The Revd Palle Thordal
Wednesday 22 February at 10.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 February at 10.30	Sunday next before Lent
Wednesday 1 March at 10.30	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
Wednesday 1 March at 18.00	Ash Wednesday Sung Eucharist
Sunday 5 March at 10.30	First Sunday of Lent, Mrs. Jane Passant
Wednesday 8 March at 10.30	Holy Communion

If you use a hearing aid, please use the T-switch to connect to the loop system.

- Coffee and tea is served after the Sunday service. All are welcome.
- The Sunday school starts at 10:25. Children wishing to join Sunday school will meet at 10:25 at the Font. After opening prayers children will accompany the Sunday school leaders to the Upper Room, returning to their parents in time for communion.
- Baptisms are held on the 1st Sunday of each month except during Lent and Advent.

Remember: Second Sunday Service

“A Second Sunday Service” is held on the afternoon of the second Sunday of each month at 16.00.

Different styles of worship - including Evensong, Taize-style worship, etc - are undertaken each time.

The dates in 2017 will be: 8 January, 12 February, 12 March, 9 April, 14 May, 11 June, 9 July, 13 August, 10 September, 8 October, 12 November and 10 December.”

ST ALBAN'S CHURCH IN JUTLAND

We also have three English-speaking congregations in Jutland, in partnership with the local Danish Church, that gather on these dates:

AARHUS

Monthly: Final Sunday of each month at 18.00 at Møllevangs Church, Møllevangs Allé 49, 8210 Aarhus V. See details on page 15.”

The service will be led by The Revd Darren McCallig.

For more details contact Angela Hansen: angelabream@yahoo.dk

VEJLE: On the second Sunday of the month in Nørremarkskirken.
8th January and 12th February at 2pm.

JELLING: An “Eat and Sing” on Tuesday, 10th January at 5:30pm.
An “Eat and Sing” combined with a service in English and Danish.
on Sunday, 12th February, at 10:30am.

For more details contact: Deacon Christophe: chndi2011@gmail.com

From the Chaplain

On the evening of Thursday 19 January hundreds of people will take to the streets of Copenhagen to proclaim their faith and pray for unity amongst all Christians. The annual ecumenical “Church Walk” is an extraordinary event and not even the wintry weather can prevent these modern-day pilgrims from making their way from one church to another on a cold and dark night.



This remarkable show of inter-denominational co-operation has, perhaps, an added importance this year as 2017 is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s promulgation of his “95 Theses” – the event which is widely considered to mark the beginning of the Reformation. Indeed, the theme for this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (during which the Church Walk is held) has been chosen by the Churches in Germany in recognition of this significant commemoration.

That designated theme comes from II Corinthians 5:14-20 which announces that God in Christ has not only reconciled the world to himself but has also appointed us as ambassadors of this reconciliation. The representatives of the German Churches who chose the text explain something of the consequences of our ambassadorial calling:

“Being such ambassadors requires the churches to offer concrete acts alongside our prayers. The world stands in the midst of a refugee crisis. Tangible acts of help are just as necessary as praying together, in order to offer those who are fleeing their terrible situations some hope and consolation. God gives hope even in the most hopeless of situations. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany experienced how a seemingly insurmountable wall could be brought down. The fall of this wall is a symbol of hope that, with the love of God, nothing is impossible ... It is our prayer that people and churches will be compelled, by the love of Christ, to live reconciled lives and break through the highest walls.”

Amen to that – and Happy New Year!

Darren.

P.S. Full details of the Church Walk can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Prayer for a new year

January 2017

A new year ... 12 months ... 52 weeks ... 525,600 minutes.

At this moment, it is possible to imagine all that time stretching out before us as a vast, clean slate ... the messy scribbles of the past year, mercifully erased ... the 'yet-to-be' lays peacefully empty and pregnant with hopeful possibilities for deepening our relationship with You.

Many years ago, there were two sisters, Mary and Martha, who had a relationship with You. They welcomed You into their home and You accepted their invitation. It seems easy to imagine being like Mary, who chose to sit at Your feet to listen to You teach.

And we can imagine being able to deflect the social conventions and personal fears that led Martha to make the choice to work in the kitchen ... so anxious about being a good hostess and resentful about having to do it without her sister's help.

The outward face of things ... the social norms, the cultural practices and behavioural rules through which we gain acceptance in the world ... that is what Martha knew and believed in. It seems easy to imagine that we know better, we would choose better. We would know to choose You.

A new year ... 42,048,000 heartbeats ... 8,409,600 breaths.

You give us this gift of another year and each of those heartbeats and breaths are also gifts from You. How many of them will be reminders to see the inward face of things ... our dark depths, mysterious stirrings and sleeping beauties, through which You guide us to acceptance of our divine selves.

How many of those rhythmic beats will remind us to invite You into our inner home? And when You come in, how will we be able to choose to sit still at Your feet? There is always so much that needs doing ... so many distractions and diversions that lead us back to the 'kitchen'. Between which of those heartbeats, between which of those breaths, will we lose our Mary hearts and slip back into our Martha minds?

Our faltering does not surprise You, offend You or discourage You. But we find it very hard to believe that You eternally wait and watch in Love for us to return to You. What conversion of mind and heart will it take for us to believe that as soon as we make a move in Your direction, You rush out to embrace us unconditionally and with joy at our return.

Here between breaths, we ask You for the grace to personally experience that You are Love waiting to teach us to be Love.

Here between heartbeats, we ask for the grace to choose You.

Amen

Words by Debbie Falk



"Some pics from the full-house that attended the Children's Nativity Service and Carols at midday on Christmas Eve."

Photographs: John Mills

KIRKEVANDRING 2017

(WANDERING FROM CHURCH TO CHURCH)



The annual “Church Walk” (Kirkevandring) will be held for the 63rd time on Thursday 19 January 2017 starting at 18.30 at Saint Paul's Church in Nyboder. ***Please note the change from a Tuesday evening to a Thursday evening.***

This ecumenical event was started in 1955 by Dean Borregaard, Chairman of the Fellowship of Saint Alban and Saint Sergius in Denmark and has continued every year since then during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18 – 25 January).

The whole of the Church Walk is intended to be one liturgical process, built up of the different parts of the service. However, it is also important that each church's musical and liturgical character is reflected, so that there is a sense of unity in our diversity.

The walk starts at:

- St. Paul's Church in Nyboder (Danish Lutheran),

As a lot of people attend this event, four different groups will be formed. Each group will follow a crucifer (cross-bearer) to these churches:

- Jerusalem Church (Methodist)
- Saint Alexander Nevsky Church (Russian Orthodox)
- Saint Ansgar's Cathedral (Roman Catholic)
- Saint Alban's Church (Anglican)

The walk ends at:

- Gustaf Church (Swedish Lutheran)

Depending on the weather, there are usually about 800 participants, but please don't let that stop you from joining in.



More details can be found at: <http://www.albanogsergijssamfundet.dk/>

50 Years of Anglican Services in Aarhus



On the evening of Sunday 27 November a large crowd gathered at Møllevangs Church in Aarhus to give thanks to God for fifty years of English-language Anglican services in that city. The Chaplain, Organist, members of the Choir and members of the Copenhagen congregation made the trip to Jutland to be with their sisters and brothers in Christ for the special celebration. The priest at Møllevangs, Hanne Jul Jakobsen, and the Bishop of Aarhus, Henrik Wigh-Poulsen also took part in the service. The preacher was the Venerable Colin Williams, Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe and the Eastern Archdeaconry of the Diocese in Europe. His sermon is reproduced



below.

The splendid evening would not have been possible without the hard work of many, many people. Special thanks go to the local organising team, including: Angela, Fay, Sumeta, Solveig, Rogena, Thea, Lina, Hans, Richard, Charlotte, Margaret and Marianne – and a special “thank you” to those we forgot to mention by name!

Photographs: Claire Campbell Clausen

ARCHDEACON COLIN’S SERMON

It’s very good to be with you in Aarhus this evening. So keen was I to come that I even learnt how to pronounce the name of your town before setting foot here. Thank you very much for inviting me to this special service.

And, of course, we come together on a very special day. The First Sunday of Advent. The beginning of a new Church Year. The fiftieth year of this congregation’s experience. And the theme of this season is the theme of hope. Waiting in hopeful expectation that God will do a new thing in our world – that he will come and act – come and live among us. That is very much mirrored in the words from Scripture that we hear in the course of today’s service. Isaiah writes of the people of God in Jerusalem waiting with hope for those in exile to return to their city. Saint Paul reminding us that the time is urgent. Matthew urging us to be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. There is the Advent Theme. Hope. Hope which is not just wistful. Not whistling in the wind hoping for the best. But confident expectant hope that God will act – hope borne out at the end of this season of Advent by our remembrance that God has interfered drastically in the life of our world by coming to be born among us as one of us – and so to change the course of history.

Living as a people of hope is one of the lessons which the Church of England has had to relearn in the last years. Too often in our Church there has been a reluctance to hope, an over-readiness to acquiesce in a narrative which suggests that the Church is a superannuated relic of a past age, well past its sell by date, with no prospects of survival beyond a couple of decades or so. Too often a denial of hope. Under the leadership of the current Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, we have begun to turn that particular ship around. To live as people who do believe in the future. To live as people who expect God to do great things among us. People who actively seek out what it is that God wants to do in and with us to build up His Kingdom and who plan for a future in which,

because of our faithfulness in his service, God will bless us with growth, bless us with purpose.

And at the forefront of that agenda, there are good stories to be told amongst the Anglican family here in Denmark. The Mission Action Plan which Saint Alban's last year drew up and which was formally launched in February of this year is a very clear sign that the people of Saint Alban's are people who do indeed live in hope, who expect God to act among them. And then of course there is the congregation here in Aarhus. You are a congregation who were born of hope. Already in 1966, to start up a new congregation in Aarhus was somewhat counter cultural. But down the years you have remained faithful to your task – encouraged by the faithful and determined ministry of a great cloud of witnesses of those who have been your chaplain. The real moment of hope came last year when in the face of declining numbers, under the courageous leadership of your chaplain, you decided nevertheless that the way forward was not to retreat but to advance. To increase the number of services that you hold here to one per month. You went forward in hope – you were faithful – and God has blessed your faithfulness – so that at least three times more people have attended this congregation in 2016 than was the case two years ago.

And so in the name of the Diocese in Europe, I am here to say thank you. Thank you for hoping even when hope may have seemed foolish. Thank you for faithfulness. Thank you for showing the way to the rest of the Diocese of what can be achieved if only we live as people of hope - if only we live as people who are faithful to our conviction that God has great things in store for us - if only we will open ourselves to his working in us. One of my tasks as Archdeacon is to encourage communities and chaplaincies in Mission. And with smaller congregations especially I say that for them Mission isn't rocket science, Mission is primarily about giving positive answers to some very simple questions. Here is what those questions are. How can people find out that you exist, how can they find out about you? I know that you get top marks on that because I googled the words "Aarhus Anglican" and went straight to some pages on the web with some nice pictures and some clear signs of where you are and what you do. And that is my second question – how do people find out what you do, what you offer? And you work well on that too. And then my next question – when people come and join you for the first time, what do you do to make sure they feel welcome? And an allied question: When people come to you for the first time, how do you make sure that without oppressing them they don't leave without having passed on their names and contact details. And then two general questions. How do you make sure that you are a church worth joining – how do you make sure that the quality of your common life and the opportunities to grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ will draw people in and make them want to stay? And how do you engage with the world

outside so that you can fulfil that old adage of Rowan Williams that our task is to find out what God is already doing in the world and to join in.

In other words I encourage congregations to get the basics right – in the sense that if those things are in place the much can flow from them – to do what you already do – but to do it better. And I'm encouraged to tell you all that because of what I know about how this congregation came to be worshipping in this church building. Way back in the mists of time in the 1950s the man who was to become pastor in this church, Jens Christian Baase, studied in Copenhagen and received a warm welcome at Saint Alban's. That memory stayed with him. And so when in the 1970s he had become pastor of this church, he was glad to say thank you for that by inviting the fledgling Anglican congregation to worship here in this church building and the rest as they say is history. Saint Alban's getting the basics right. Working at that basic task of making a home for all who want to be become part of their family. And from that new possibilities opening up.

And that prompts me to say two things. First of all a warm thank you to our sisters and brothers from the Church of Denmark in this parish church who have made us so welcome down the years. We are immensely indebted to you for you warm, willing and generous hospitality. And secondly to use that story to remind us all that we live often first and foremost as people of hope by getting the small things right. Warm welcome from the people of Saint Alban's in the middle of the twentieth-century led directly to our being here this evening. Work at making people welcome within this community has 50 years on resulted in our being here this evening. Faithful patient work at building people up in faith has produced a community which is built to last. Constant, careful hope and trust in God has enabled Him to sustain you and grow you for the last 50 years and, as is our prayer tonight, for many years to come.

So thank you to you who are the people of this congregation for showing the rest of us the way. Showing us what can be achieved when you live as people of hope and vision. Thank you to all who have serve this community as chaplain over the last decades – for your faithful and inspiring work to enable the people here to live as people of hope. Thank you to our hosts within the Church of Denmark that you have given us space to grow. And above all thank you to God for all that he has worked among us – and for his faithfulness towards us. And above all think you to you for not just being the church – but through living in hope being people also who do the church.

The modern Anglican poet Godfrey Rust reminds us that “church” is also a verb. Being a member of the Church is not just about what we are. It's about what we do. Here is what he writes.

It's something that we do.
It won't work in the singular.
I can't church,
you can't church
he, she and *it* can't church.
It only takes the plural: even God
can't church alone.
We church ...

It works best in the present tense ...
Don't say *Let's church again,*
like we did last summer.
It happens now, not then.

It's not a complicated verb.
It comes in simple sentences
like *How are you?*
and *Can I help?*
and *Let us pray ...*

It can be said
in any language
or in none.

We can't easily go
to look at church.
We only find the evidence
that church has happened somewhere.
Something broken has been mended.
Someone is alive.
Two are at one.
More is here now
than there was before ...

When we ask Christ
to be among us
or make him known to someone
it's then that we are churching.

There will come a time
for church to get dressed up
ready for its marriage,
ready to settle down and become a noun,

but until then
church is the living Word
spoken in verbs.

Anglican (Episcopal) Church Services in English in Aarhus



Did you know there are Anglican services in English in Aarhus?
On the final Sunday of the month the Aarhus Anglican community
gathers for a service of Holy Communion at Mollevangs Church.
All are welcome.

The 2017 dates and times (first six months) are:

- Sunday 29 January at 18.00
- Sunday 30 April at 18.00
- Sunday 26 February at 18.00
- Sunday 28 May at 18.00
- Sunday 26 March at 18.00
- Sunday 25 June at 18.00

The services are organised by Saint Alban's Church,
the Anglican Chaplaincy in Denmark.
We also hold twice-weekly services in Copenhagen.

www.st-albans.dk

www.facebook.com/StAlbansJutland

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

One of the most popular services of the year at St Alban's, Copenhagen is the 'Service of Nine Lessons and Carols'. As everyone who attends St Alban's knows, these services are so popular we have to make them ticket only, no payment of course but John Mills has the task of allocating these sought-after tickets.



I attended the Sunday service and it was lovely to see some children there. We seem to be blessed with more children these days in St Alban's and of course children are the future of the church.

The first Carol was the ever popular 'Once in Royal David's City', a

carol most of us probably remember singing at school. The sound of the choir and musicians' heavenly music and the voices of the congregation helped to fill the church with a most joyous sound.

Of course, the lessons read out are just as important as the carols and give us food for thought as we sit in God's house, far from the commercial Christmas outside. The Chaplain's Christmas reflection brought smiles and laughter as he told us the story of the prisoner playing God in the prison. The laughter was also tinged with a thought that some people are not in a happy home at Christmas, for whatever reason.



I am sure for most people; this service reminds us that Christmas is very near indeed and fills us with the quiet joy of this Advent season. The Choir, musicians, ministry team, sidespeople and everyone that helped to make this service such a wonderful event, all deserve a great big thank-you.

Words and photographs by Bev Lloyd-Roberts

Sidesperson: Joseph Simon

Q: How long have you lived in Denmark and what brought you here?

I've lived in Copenhagen since August 1994, having come here because of the weather and taxes – no, actually because I was sent here by my US employer for 6 months and decided that Copenhagen was more exciting professionally and otherwise than was Kansas City.



Q: What do you most like about living in Denmark?

Copenhagen has become a global city, albeit a small one compared to megacities such as London or New York. There is an exciting international atmosphere in a very liveable seaside city that allows for easy transport, including by cycle, easy access to green spaces, good sports and cultural life, good design and gradually improving food. Denmark is a good balance between a socially just political system and an economy that must be demanding, competitive and dynamic to survive.

Q: How long have you been a sidesperson and what do you like best about it.

I've been a sidesperson for about one year. The best aspects include contributing time and effort to the St. Alban's congregation, learning more about the practical operations of the church, and getting to know more congregants by name, and more about individual congregants.

Q: What do you like most about St Alban's?

I'm very impressed by the commitment shown by many congregants who give a great deal of time to the operation of the church and the wellbeing of the congregation. The diverse congregation, coming from every continent, creates a dynamic environment of customs, cultures and viewpoints. Ours is a wonderfully inclusive community.

The church is a pleasant balance of a global community and an English village that seems like a set from a Miss Marple film or an episode of Inspector Barnaby. The vicar isn't bad either – it's nice to leave church with more questions than when I arrived, and to be spiritually and intellectually challenged from the pulpit in an Irish brogue.

Coordinator of Sidespeople



Nigel Rowley is the coordinator of St Alban's team of sidespeople. If you would like to volunteer your time and become one of these essential people assisting on the door of the services, have a chat with Nigel.

Shoe Box Appeal 2016



The Saint Alban's Mothers' Union undertook its 'Christmas Shoe Box Appeal' again this year to provide Christmas gifts for the children and adults spending this Christmas in the Dannerhuset Krisecenter in Copenhagen. Many of the children are experiencing difficult times and might not receive any other presents. The Shoe Box presents are given in the hope that they help the children have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Children and adults from the congregation of St Alban's, friends of St Alban's and students from Copenhagen International School all took part in this year's collection of gifts and money donations with a fantastic result. Thanks to an amazing joint effort we could prepare gifts for 15 children and 16 mums and adults.

The boxes were blessed by our Chaplain and delivered to the Dannerhuset in time for Christmas. Thank you so much for all your help and generosity!

Words by Anne-Marie Tetsche Sweeney

Christingle



On Sunday 18 December the service ended on a high note with the children singing The Christingle Carol. Four children sang solo, one verse each, as if it

was an everyday occurrence to stand and sing into a microphone, in front of nearly 200 people! This marked the end of Sunday school before we restart in January. So, what is a Christingle?



Each piece of the Christingle holds special symbolism:

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness

Words by Irene, photos by Bev (also see front cover).

Carols and Poetry by Candlelight

The 'Service of Carols and Poetry by Candlelight' was very well attended this year. This service seems to grow in popularity from year to year. Those who attended were treated to a cultural feast of music, singing and poetry.

This service is a little different to most services at St Alban's, for a start it is 4pm on a Saturday afternoon in mid-December; at time when a lot of people are rushing around the shops getting last minute presents. This was not the case for



all the people at this service, they were enjoying the pleasures that are not available in the shops: the wonders of poetry brought to life through the excellent rendition by the skilled readers; the sound of well-

practised musicians and singers bringing glorious harmonies to our ears and of course the enjoyment of singing along to the carols.



Our Chaplain Darren concluded the service with a collect and blessing and then reminded us to stay behind for refreshments and time to socialise with each other. Most people stayed behind and enjoyed the 'hyggelig' atmosphere, I can use 'hygge' now as it now appears in the Oxford English Dictionary.



Thank-you to all the many people who made this service possible, including Mie Othelie Berg, Sigrid Kongshøj-Munch, Helen Davies, Viola Demuth Andersen, Ian Burns, Tony Wegwood, Sue Hansen- Styles, Hands Christian Hansen, Siff Pors, the Saint Alban's



Churchwardens and all other helpers.

Words and photo by Bev Lloyd-Roberts

Taizé Service



A Taizé service was held on the second Sunday in November. Graeme Lloyd-Roberts led the service and the choir sang beautifully as they led the congregation in the meditative Taizé songs. Prayers were said in seven different languages, English, Danish, Farsi, Shona, Malayalam, Nynorsk and Irish. Each prayer had the theme of peace at the heart of it. The multi-

lingual, multi-cultural service was like a small oasis of calm in a troubled world. Seeing so many people, from so many different homelands come together in prayer is one of the reasons that I love being a member of St Alban's, Copenhagen.

Even the youngest member of the congregation kept quiet during the silences and she enjoyed a nice cake afterwards.

Words and photos by Bev L-R



Bible Study



The 'Bible Study Group' enjoyed their 'Christmas bring and share meal' on December 16th. The meal was well attended and the variety of food contained cuisine from all around the world as our Bible study group is very international. We had two children come along to enjoy the meal with us this year. The group welcomes new members, the

normal format for the evening is an informal talk on a biblical subject accompanied by light refreshments. It is on most Fridays at 18:00 in the upper room at Church.

Lay minister Graeme Lloyd-Roberts and assistant Phil Clarke are the usual leaders of the group. For more information contact graemelr@aol.com



Nils Mortensen



The Saint Alban's Church community was greatly saddened to hear of the death – on 16 November – of Nils Mortensen. At his funeral service the Chaplain outlined some details of Nils's life and paid tribute to the enormous contribution he had made to the Church. We extend our heart-felt sympathy to Maria, Theresa, Hjalte and all Nils's family and friends. Here are some extracts from the Chaplain's sermon:

“When you live a full and active life to the age of 85 — as Nils did — there is a lot for which to be thankful. Let's remind ourselves of a little of his life story. Nils Mortensen was born on 7 April 1931 in

Gentofte. He was baptised in Christianshavn and grew up in Frederiksberg. From an early age he showed a great interest in sports and tried out several — winning trophies for table tennis, for instance. But, I'm told that it was 70 years ago this year — on 1 September 1946 — that he registered at the Akademisk Boldklub on Nørre Alle. And that was the start of an enormously enjoyable and successful time for him at “AB.”

Nils played over 100 times for the club's first eleven Cricket Team and he helped to secure the Club two Danish Championships, back to back, in 1953 and 1954. Nils was also deeply involved with the club's football team. The 1950s and 60s were a successful time for the club and Nils was “Team Leader” with AB when they won the Danish Championship for the last time — well, the most recent time at least! — that was in 1967. He also travelled throughout Europe with the club as they played in various European tournaments.

Later Nils turned to tennis — playing three times a week and then he took up golf when he retired. There was also ski-ing, of course — with annual trips to Salbach in Austria and later Innsbruck. And we shouldn't forget to mention Nils' great love of sailing and his boat “Long Life.” For 23 years he enjoyed spending time on that boat — navigating the waters around Denmark and sometimes further afield around Britain and Ireland. In fact,

we have put the Chinese ideogram or character for “Long Life” — which was painted on the stern of Nils’ boat — [pictured].



Nils working life began in 1952 when he undertook two years service in the army. That was followed by various office jobs and sales rep. jobs before he moved to the United States, San Diego to be exact, in 1957. There, Maria tells me, Nils tried his hand at various occupations — which was fine until his employer found out that he wasn’t actually a trained bricklayer or qualified gardener — and he had to move on to other things!

And so he came back to Denmark and in 1961 he began working at DCA — Dansk Central Agentur — a company importing foreign newspapers and magazines, etc. into Denmark. And Nils was to stay with the company for 37 years. In this job, again Maria tells me, Nils was in his element — introducing and setting up various systems to make things more productive and more stream-lined. Travelling overseas and making contacts and friends around the world. Nils was a member of Distri Press — the international association of the press industry — and travelled to their annual congresses in various locations. A particular favourite press-related activity for Nils was the annual Fleet Street Christmas Party — how he would loved to have been at it again this year!

All in all, Nils would have preferred to have stayed working at DCA but company policy meant that he had to retire at 67. But, as it happens, that was very good news for Saint Alban’s as it meant that Nils could apply his very considerable business acumen and skills and experience to the task of being Treasurer of the Church. And very thankful we are too that Nils undertook that role with dedication and absolute integrity and meticulous attention for 16 years. We are very grateful to him for that wonderful service.

So that’s a little something of Nils’ sporting and work life. Then, of course there was his family life. Nils met Maria in 1974. Now, Maria tells me that there was great excitement and intrigue amongst his family and friends when it was rumoured that Nils had met a girl from Hong Kong — how exotic! What would she look like? Well, Maria might not have been what they were expecting to see but she was, of course, exactly what Nils’ was looking for, and the couple married two years later — in 1976. 1976 — 40 years of married life this year.

And more joy was to follow when Nils became a very proud father at the age of 50 when Theresa was born. I'm told that Nils spent as much time as he could with his little girl and they built up a very close relationship — going skiing together, going sailing together, playing chess together and going on annual father / daughter weekend trips overseas. She was the apple of his eye. And finally in July 2014, Nils became a very, very proud grandfather when beautiful little Hjalte came into the world. Yes, there is much to be thankful for in the life of Nils Mortensen.

Shortly after Nils died I got an email from a member of the congregation asking me: “That man that died, was he the gentleman who would always come and chat with the sidesmen after the service on a Sunday morning?” Yes, I replied, Nils was that gentleman. Nils was a gentleman. And all our lives are richer for having known him. When you think about it, Nils's sailing boat was very aptly named — Long Life. There is much to be thankful for in a long life — the long life, well-lived, of Nils Mortensen ... May Nils — gentleman Nils — rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

The Chaplain

Words from Maria and Theresa

I just wanted to thank everyone for the kindness and understanding they have shown to both Nils and myself during the past two years of his illness. I would also like to thank you for attending Nils' beautiful and meaningful send off.

Nils always enjoyed attending St Alban's and he felt very much at home here. He took on the position of treasurer with great pride and he found it very rewarding.



Building Plans Update

Newsletter readers may remember that the Saint Alban's "Mission Action Plan", launched in January 2016, had as one of its priorities the provision of accessible toilet facilities. Philip Davies, chair of the group tasked with progressing this priority, offers this update:

The Church Amenities Improvement Committee are the team behind our church extension project that will provide us with much needed, up-to-date and disability-friendly toilet facilities. The extension will primarily replace and expand the existing porch over the church back steps (see picture).

Gaining permission to extend the church is no easy task. All ground surrounding Saint Alban's is protected and owned by Kastellet. Therefore, before any proposals could be entertained it was imperative to produce a plan that would satisfy endless constraints from diverse governing bodies.

The architects – Ole Drachmann Arkitekter – have therefore worked together with the committee over the past six months on producing an acceptable solution. We are pleased to announce that both the Ministry of Palaces & Culture and Kastellet have recently approved the proposal with a condition that a detailed geological study be made and a detailed foundation design presented. To satisfy these demands, test drilling at the rear of the church, where the extension will stand, was carried out and the results now provide the necessary data for a detailed foundation design to be prepared. It is hoped this will be submitted in early January and that the final formalities and approvals will be received shortly thereafter.

The next step will then be the submission of detailed plans of the complete project to the Copenhagen Council Building Authorities. Their approval process can take up to 10 weeks. However, during this period we will not be standing idle. A detailed tender package will be prepared and prospective building contractors contacted.

Once the Copenhagen Council issues the Building Permits, a 3-4 week tender process will commence. Therefore, the schedule as we presently estimate it, may see work commencing in May or June. Of course there are many hurdles which may trip us up and delay us further, but once started we are hoping for good weather conditions that will aid a swift building project with minimum disruption. Please keep these plans in your thoughts and prayers. All involved in the project will do their best to keep you regularly updated on progress.

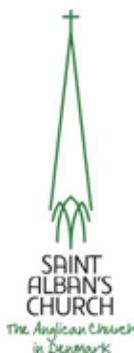


Philip Davies, Chairman of the CAIC.



Join us for
Sunday School
at Saint Alban's
Anglican / Episcopal Church
Churchill Parken 11
Langelinie, DK 1263
Copenhagen

*Come And
Join Us!*



Saint Alban's Church

Churchillparken 11, 1263 Copenhagen K
Under the Patronage of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II

Weekly Eucharists:

Sundays and Wednesdays at 10:30

All are welcome – Sunday School for children almost every Sunday.

Please call the Chaplain on 39 62 77 36 if you are seeking baptism, confirmation, marriage or have any other pastoral or prayer request. You can also contact the churchwardens – see below

Contact details

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St Alban's receives no subsidy from the state or national Church and is funded by the generosity of the congregation and visitors.

To support the mission and ministry of the Church, contributions can be made to 'St Alban's Church' to Bank account no. **3001- 4140514136** or for UK tax payers by Gift Aid, increasing the value of their gift by 25 %



Aarhus, celebrating 50 years.
Photo: thanks to Claire Campbell Clausen