

June



2009

7th	TRINITY SUNDAY			Holy Communion	9.00
	Isaiah	6	1-8	Sung Eucharist	10.30
	Romans	8	12-17		
	John	3	1-17		

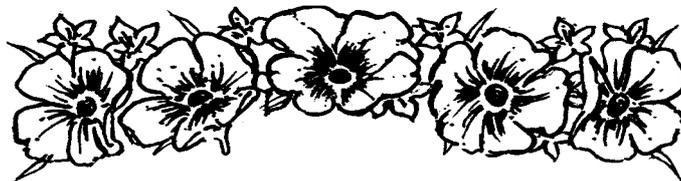
14th	TRINITY 1			Holy Communion	9.00
	Ezekiel	17	22-end	Sung Eucharist	10.30
	2 Corinthians	5	6-10		
	Mark	4	26-34		

Followed by Parish lunch at St Alban's House

21st	ST ALBAN'S DAY			Holy Communion	9.00
	Isaiah	43	1-7	Sung Eucharist	10.30
	2 Timothy	2	3-7		
	John	15	18-21		

Followed by St Alban's Day refreshments

28th	TRINITY 3			Holy Communion	9.00
	Zechariah	4	1-6a, 10b-14	Sung Eucharist	10.30
	Acts	12	1-11		
	Matthew	16	13-19		



NOTES:

WEDNESDAY SERVICE Holy Communion 10.30

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets every Sunday at 10.30

COFFEE and refreshments are served after the 10.30 Sunday Service.

CHOIR PRACTICE takes place every Sunday morning before the Sung Eucharist.

New choir members are always welcome. Contact Peter Rohling: 33 25 00 74

My Dear Friends,

Returning to St. Alban's is for Gillian and me a delight to which we have been looking forward for some time. My visits as Archdeacon in the past were always accompanied by a feeling of a church whose members were dedicated to mission and service, not only to the community in the Copenhagen area but to its own members. At the time of writing we have only just arrived but already the welcome has been warm and generous, both in the home you have provided and at church.

No one who has lived in Germany in the 1990s followed by time in Scandinavia can have been unaware of the impending climate crisis. At a two-yearly German Protestant Kirchentag (a vast gathering of Christians and social leaders) way back in the 1980s, the theme was "The Earth is the Lord's" (Psalm 24 vs. 1). It was a prophetic voice and was echoed by other Church leaders and reflected in political and social movements. Other churches in Europe were also involved in a movement that is having an enormous impact in our societies.

In retirement, this has become one of my areas of interest and activity. Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury who will be visiting you later this year, gave an amazing open lecture at Kent University in 2005 entitled "Economy and ecology"* and it set me thinking. We now have an active group in our village - The Elham Environment Group - of which I am chairman. It came out of a meeting in a local village pub organised by the church which asked "How green is our valley?" - referring to the lovely area in Kent where we now live.

Mission is about helping to change mindsets in individuals and communities. It is far from the rather tiresome "Brother are you saved?" approach to religious conversion, which often seems to be interested only in the numbers game of filling pews, rather than letting God work in his way on both individuals and societies. Together with our ecumenical partners we have, under God, the responsibility to serve our neighbours and the world in a way that sets God's priorities rather than our own. There is much to be done, and an economic crisis cannot be an excuse for thinking that the ecological one will go away but rather an opportunity for learning to live within our renewable resources.

It is wonderful therefore to learn that St Alban's Church is looking at the ministry it might provide during the vast COP15. Amidst the clamour of political self-interest and power games, our place is to be a "still small voice" reminding everyone of our responsibility to our creator both now and for future generations.

Gillian and I have met your new chaplain Jonathan Lloyd and know his parents who live in Canterbury. We look forward to hearing and reading all about you in a new chapter of your church's mission and its ministry under his leadership. May God guide and bless us all.

DAVID RATCLIFF

* may still be read at www.archbishopofCanterbury.org/1165

Parish lunch – “A summer of salads” – Sunday 14 June

Everyone is warmly invited to join us for “a summer of salads” in the garden at St Alban’s House, Tuborgvej 82, on Sunday 14 June.

We are enormously grateful to David and Gillian Ratcliff who have very kindly offered to host the lunch after the service on their last Sunday here in Copenhagen.

We will have the barbecues out and hope that you will be able to complement what is cooked by bringing along a favourite salad – savoury or sweet – and join us as we celebrate the community and fellowship of St Alban’s here in Copenhagen.

This year, with the end of the interregnum in sight, we hope for a special holiday feel and that many old and new faces will join us as we look towards the holidays and our new chaplain’s arrival in August.

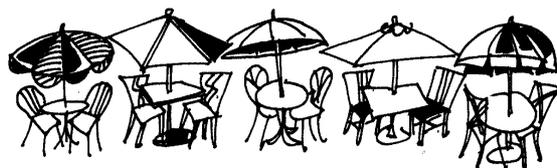
We are also very keen that as many of you as would like come to see the garden at St Alban’s House and appreciate the fruition of all the work done by the Council on your behalf to renovate the garden and make it into a manageable entity for our new chaplain.

For those who need a lift, we will try coordinate it on the day. Children are welcome.

Please sign the sheet in the narthex to let us know if you are coming and what you can bring.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as are able to join us.

Nigel and Katie



St Alban’s Day – Sunday 21 June

This year we shall celebrate St Alban’s Day on Sunday 21 June. Alban was the first martyr of England and a saint who has a special connection with Odense in Denmark. Alban showed us the importance of offering help to those who seek refuge. His story helps us to acknowledge the importance of our fellowship towards others.

The service on Sunday 21 June will be the normal sung Eucharist, with a celebratory drink offered alongside the coffee for all those attending the service.

We do hope that as many of you as possible are able to join us for this our patronal service.

Nigel and Katie

Locum chaplains

We are very grateful to the Very Reverend John Arnold and his wife Anneliese for coming out to be with us during three Sundays in May and to the Reverend Canon David Ratcliff and his wife Gillian for being here for four weeks in May / June.

However much we start to tire of what at times seems like constant change during this period of vacancy, we are continually lifted up, supported and spiritually nurtured by our visiting locum chaplains. We are incredibly privileged to have had such a wealth of knowledge and experience shared with us so freely in these months. We have learned much: John Arnold's talk on the Porvoo agreement taught many of us just what it is all about, set it in context and clearly left us with a greater understanding of the value of such agreements (if you missed his talk, please see the article overleaf). David Ratcliff, who was our Archdeacon before Mark Oakley, brings valuable experience of his time in Stockholm to help us as we prepare to welcome our new chaplain in August. We are also very grateful for his and Gillian's offer to host the parish lunch at St Alban's House on Sunday 14 June.

We look forward to welcoming the Venerable Alan Wolstencroft and his wife here for St Alban's Day and the following two Sundays.

If you are able to offer any of our locums hospitality, it is always much appreciated: dinner, lunch, tea or a cup of coffee out in town or at home, a trip to one of the sights of Copenhagen or a walk in the park. All our locums have enjoyed the time they have spent with members of the congregation, so please continue ...

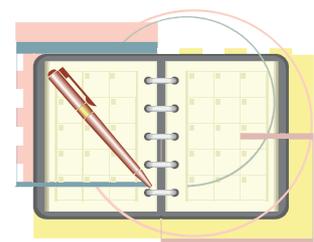
Nigel and Katie

Dates for your Diaries

Tuesday 9 June	19.30	Bible group
Sunday 14 June	12.15	Parish lunch
Sunday 21 June		St Alban's Day

Looking ahead:

Sunday 2 August	Jonathan LLOYD's first Sunday
Saturday 22 August	Summer Fête
Saturday 12 September	Institution of Jonathan LLOYD by Bishop David Hamid
Saturday 3 October	Harvest Lunch
Sunday 4 October	Harvest Festival



Help at the Vicarage

We need help with various tasks in getting the Vicarage ready for our new chaplain.

Inventory – Monday 15 June

We need several people to count and make lists and two typists to help compile the new inventory of St Alban's House. Working on the principle of "many hands make light work", we would be grateful for any offers of help.



Please contact Katie on churchwardens@st-albans.dk or 39 61 39 71

Painting two gable ends – date by arrangement, either one day or evenings



The two south-facing gables, one on the house and one on the garage, need painting. We would like to get a group of people together to help paint, either during consecutive evenings or on one weekend day. We would be grateful for any offers of help.

Please contact Philip Davies on 41 14 40 40

Moving furniture for the painters – Sunday 5 July

We need a team of enthusiastic helpers to move various bits of furniture so that the painters can have a free run of the house when they start redecorating on Monday 6 July. This job should not take too long, as the painters will cover the furniture with their own dust sheets. If you are able to help please initially contact Katie on churchwardens@st-albans.dk or 39 61 39 71

Abigails

Editor's note: John Arnold gave two very informative talks on Porvoo when he was with us last month, both in Copenhagen and in Aarhus. I asked him to contribute a short article for the Newsletter, for those who were unable to attend.

What is Porvoo?

Porvoo (in Swedish Borgå) is the name of the Finnish cathedral city where, on Sunday 11 October 1992, a group of Lutherans and Anglicans (of which I had the honour to be one) celebrated the Eucharist and the completion of their work on "The Porvoo Common Statement" between the British and Irish Anglican churches and the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches.



The Statement begins by setting the scene (think back to the events of 1988-1992) and placing the doctrinal discussion firmly in the context of the Church's mission to contemporary northern Europe. Secondly, it spells out our agreement both on the nature of the church and on the goal of visible unity. Thirdly, we record our substantial agreement in belief and practice – consensus. We go on to identify one unresolved problem, namely Episcopal ministry and its relation to succession – dissensus. To put it crudely, at the time of the Reformation, the Church of Sweden (including Finland, Latvia and Estonia), like the British Anglican churches, retained bishops in the historic succession, whereas in the Church of Denmark (including Norway and Iceland) bishops were for a while replaced by superintendents. This led in the course of time to the Anglicans making distinctions between Lutherans which the Lutherans did not make among themselves. It was partly to deal with this anomaly that the Porvoo Declaration was made. In seeking to unlock our churches from limited and negative perceptions, we spell out a deeper understanding of apostolicity, of the Episcopal office and of historic succession as "sign" (Preface). It was necessary to go into this matter in great detail, which had the negative effect of unbalancing the document and giving the impression that our churches were obsessed with bishops and ministries, whereas our chief concern was with the gospel of Jesus Christ and the unity and mission of his church.

We achieved sufficient agreement to present the Porvoo Declaration to the participating churches for their approval. It begins with a series of mutual acknowledgements – of one another as churches, of one another's preaching, sacraments and apostolic faith, of one another's ordained ministries, and "that the Episcopal office is valued and maintained in all our churches as a visible sign expressing and serving the Church's unity and continuity in apostolic life, mission and ministry". It goes on to offer ten commitments, including the sharing of common life, welcoming one another's members, regarding "baptized members of all our churches as members of our own" and, especially significant for St Alban's, "welcoming diaspora congregations (i.e. chaplaincies) into the life of the indigenous churches, to their mutual enrichment".

Reception went smoothly in the Anglican churches, the churches of the Swedish Reformation and in Ireland and Norway, largely (as can be seen with hindsight)

because of the availability of synodical decision-making. The Church of Denmark, however, only managed an interim solution, as set out by the Bishops in August 1995. The Church of Denmark had no structures of self-government above parish council level. The Porvoo Statement was therefore sent out for an open hearing, which did not provide evidence of widespread consent – indeed, the initiative was seized from the start by opponents. The Bishops were not therefore in a position to endorse the statement, but they did not reject it, either. The invitation is still open, and ways have been found to keep that church within the fellowship. The Porvoo fellowship has flourished; it has been followed by similar agreements in Canada and the United States, and the Methodist Church reopened negotiations for unity with the Church of England explicitly on this basis.

Members of St Alban's can play their part in the ecumenical movement by being good neighbours and, indeed, by being good Christians. After all, unity is not something which we make or achieve. It is a gift from God. Professional ecumenists have a limited role to play in clearing up misunderstandings and clearing away obstacles. But it is for the people of God in every nation, by coming closer to Jesus Christ, to come closer to each other and thus attain that unity in truth and holiness which Christ wills for his church.

John Arnold

Further reading:

Together in mission and ministry. The Porvoo common statement with essays on church and ministry in northern Europe. London, Church House Publishing for the Council for Christian Unity of the General Synod of the Church of England
(<http://www.chbookshop.co.uk/index2.asp>), 1993
(ISBN 0715157507)



Newsletter news

The next Newsletter will be the summer edition covering July and August 2009

You are most welcome to submit material by e-mail to:

newsletter@st-albans.dk

or write to:

Charles Robson,
Bøgevej 3,
2900 Hellerup.
Tel.: 39 61 39 71

The deadline for material to reach me is 15 June.

St Alban's Summer Fête - Saturday 22 August 2009

Plans are now firming up for the annual Summer Fête. June, the month of elderflower cordial and jam making, has arrived again. Books are being looked out, and now is the time to explore the attic or that corner of the cellar for hidden treasures.

This year's fete is going to be special, since it will take place just three weeks after the arrival of our new chaplain. We are excited to announce that, in addition to our usual stalls and entertainments, the King's Morris men will be in Copenhagen and are going to perform twice during the day. In addition, the older children in the Sunday school are planning fun and games throughout the day.

As everyone knows, these sorts of events don't just happen and would not be possible without the support and commitment of so many of our congregation. We are grateful to all those who have come forward to volunteer their time and to head up the individual stalls. They are keen for any offers to help on or before the day. Contact details are on the fête notice board in the sink room or ask Maria, Katie or Philip.

St Alban's home produce	Rachel Harris and Liz Søndergaard
Good as new	Claire and Carole
Used books	Charles Robson
All ages Fun tent and races	Phil Clarke and the children
Attic treasures	Janet, Judy and team
Refreshments	Jean Gram Andersen
	Philip Davies and Chris Moore
	Raymond Shannon
Guardians	Chris and Nini Leigh
Flowers	Jean Gram Andersen
Entertainment	Maria Kvan Mortensen
Publicity / Information	Claire Clausen, Linda Jensen, Chris Moore
Treasurer	Nils Mortensen
Tents and site team	Katie Robson
Legalities, electricity and tower team	Nigel Rowley

Flowers

We are hoping to decorate the church with special flowers for the occasion. Anyone who would like to help arrange flowers the day/evening before, who could donate flowers and greenery or who is happy to let us loose in your garden, please contact Jean Gram Andersen.

Gifts/Nearly new

We are always grateful for your contributions to our gift stall. If you are off on holiday this summer, perhaps you could bring something interesting back for the gift stall! Claire and Carol.

Jams, marmalades and cordials

Jam jars and jam-makers needed.

We still need clean 1lb (500g) jam jars for marmalades and jams and clean c.1/2lb (c250g) jars for savoury jellies. There is a stock of "Mamade" so please see Rachel or Edith. Special St Alban's labels are being made again this year. Please put a small label on the jars if it is not marmalade and we will relabel with a St Alban's label appropriately. Thank you to everyone who has already taken tins of Mamade and started making jams and marmalade for the stall and for all the jam jars that have been brought in.

We are also going to need other produce on the day, - cakes, cookies, fudge and sweets always sell well. We have some small foil cake tins for those of you who are happy to bake, and there is a sign-up list on the Fête notice board - so if you could contribute anything, please do let us know.

If you have any questions and/or ideas, please contact Rachel Harris.



Used books



Now is the time to start sorting through your book shelves and to see if there are any books you could part with. Storage is very tight this year. If you could bring your contributions to church during the couple of weeks before the fête, that would be a great help. For those of you who have problems transporting books to church, we will try to arrange a collection round one day in the week before the fête, probably Tuesday 18 August. Please contact Charles Robson.

Any help that you can give, however small or large, is always greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact one of the organizers/overall coordinators:

Maria Kvan Mortensen	36 16 34 03
Katie Robson	39 61 39 71
Philip Davies	41 14 40 40

Contact details for the individual stall holders are on the fête notice board.

Elderflower cordial

21 flower heads - picked in sunshine if possible
1½ litres boiling water
2 sliced lemons
100g citric acid
2 kg sugar



Shake the flower heads clean. Put the sugar, lemons, citric acid and boiling water into a large mixing bowl and add flowers. Stir well.

Leave in basin covered with a cloth for five days, stirring once each day. Strain and put into bottles that have been washed out well. Seal.

Jean's tip - the cordial can also be frozen and defrosted as needed.

BJØRN'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Bjørn's International School is a small and friendly school in Copenhagen, offering a quality education for children from 6 to 16 years of age. Students from throughout the world attend Bjørn's International School and follow either an English or Danish curriculum.

Bjørn's International School is partially subsidized by the state and adheres to the national standards and qualifications for schools in Denmark. Those students who plan to live in Denmark for at least four years and enroll in the Danish-speaking Department will receive an education that follows the Danish School Curriculum.

Upon graduating from Bjørn's International School, students in the English-speaking Department will have followed the curriculum requirements of the IGSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education). The students will have had the opportunity of taking the IGCSE examinations in up to six subjects (English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, and Art and Design).

The Danish and English departments are frequently combined so there is constant interaction between the students in both departments.

Please feel free to contact the school and arrange a time for a visit. We would be happy to answer your questions and show you the school.

Address:

**Bjørn's International School
Gartnerivej 5
2100 Copenhagen Ø**

Phone: (country code 45) 39 29 29 37

Fax: (country code 45) 39 18 38 42

School Leader: Pia Drabowicz

Bible group

The Bible study group will meet on **Tuesday 9 June** at the Vicarage at **7: 30 p.m.**

The session will be led by our locum Chaplain, the Reverend Canon David Ratcliff, after which refreshments will be served.

All are welcome. Please let Edith Beyer know if you plan to attend, so we can ensure that there are enough refreshments. If you have any questions or need a lift please also ask Edith.

Edith Beyer: 38 71 60 44

Email: edith.beyer@mail.dk

Auction of promises 2010 Fun fundraising for St Alban's



The last auction of promises was a great success and raised about 35.000 DKK for the church, so we have decided to do it again. However, this year is very busy, with the summer fair, the arrival of our new chaplain and COP15, so we have chosen to do it in the depths of winter next year, when not much else is going on.

Please note the date: **Friday 5 February 2010** (in the evening). The venue will be **St Ansgar's Parish Hall on Bredgade** (5 minutes from St Alban's). The event will be open to members of the congregation, their family and friends.

For those of you who were not able to take part last time, or have forgotten, here are some of the promises we auctioned for the benefit of the church:

- dinner (and afternoon tea) for small or larger-sized groups
- paintings, arts and crafts
- a sailing trip
- a week at a summer house in Virginia, United States
- babysitting, gardening, window cleaning
- various bottles of wine, whisky, champagne etc.
- a stay at a bed and breakfast in Harrogate, United Kingdom

If you wish to donate something, then please send an e-mail to auction@st-albans.dk with the following information:

Your promise (including any explanatory details)

Your name and contact details (e-mail and/or telephone number)

The approximate value of the promise (if possible)

If you can attach a photograph, we would appreciate it.

It will also be possible to fill in these details on a form on the notice board in the narthex or you can contact Pauleen Bang or Claire Clausen (on e-mail auction@st-albans.dk or in church).

With thanks in anticipation

Pauleen Bang and Claire Clausen

St Alban's Church, Copenhagen Chaplaincy Council Members 2009/2010

Chaplain	Chairman
Katie Robson	Church Warden, Co-Vice-Chairman
Nigel Rowley	Church Warden, Co-Vice Chairman Deanery Synod representative
Nils Mortensen	Hon. Treasurer
Claire Clausen	Secretary, Elected member
Pauleen Bang	Elected member
Anna-Christine Christensen	Elected member
Philip Davies	Elected member
Rachel Harris	Elected member
Julian Simpson	Elected member
Edith Beyer	Life member
Owen Prewett	Co-opted member Representative, Danish Council of Churches
Victoria Wadsworth	Deanery Synod representative
Maria Kvan Mortensen	Deanery Synod representative

Worried that your life is changing beyond recall?

A wise farmer rotates his crops: no one thing should always be grown in the same place. Change and diversity are the key to long-term health. It is the same for us: for us to be at our most productive, we must not be surprised if God suddenly rests us from "growing corn" and gives us something else to do. Often it is something we would never imagined!

Life is lived in seasons: in each of our lives, there is a time to do this, a time to do that. Too many of us lose our sense of self-worth and direction because we don't understand when we're leaving one season and entering another in life. We struggle and want to hang on to what we had. But sometimes God wants to give us something new, to make us productive at every stage of our life. God will never put you in a place too small to grow. You may be asked to grow in ways that seem uncomfortable at first, but he is out to develop you fully, in every aspect of your being – not just the ones at which you are already good!

from Paul Hardingham's Sermon notebook