



Dear Friends,

After spending such a fruitful and moving Holy Week and Easter at St. Alban's, with lots of people celebrating alongside Bishop David, I went to spend a relaxing week with friends who live about half an hour away from Assisi in Italy. If you have ever been to Assisi you will know how beautiful it is, nestling on a high hill in the Umbrian countryside. You will also remember the fantastic frescoes by Giotto and Cimabue in the basilica of St Francis. In an earthquake in 1997 several of them were destroyed but remarkable restoration has taken place and the medieval church is as hauntingly beautiful as ever.

St. Francis was born in 1182 to rich parents but he increasingly became disillusioned with the mad pursuit of money and power that his father and friends spent their energies on. After nursing lepers and begging on behalf of the poor, he one day had a mystical experience in the church of St. Damiano outside of Assisi in which an icon of Christ Crucified came alive and said to him three times "Francis, Francis, go and repair my house which, as you can see, is falling in ruins". Thinking these words referred to the little church he was in, he sold his horse and some cloth to help the priest restore the fabric. His father was outraged and attempted to bring Francis to his senses but in a final interview in the presence of the bishop, Francis renounced his father and his patrimony, even laying aside the garments he had received from him. He began to live as a beggar, restoring local churches.

A little later, he heard a sermon that changed his life. It was a sermon on Jesus's command that his followers should take no money or shoes for the road but travel light. Francis decided to dedicate his life to "lady poverty". Clad in a rough garment, barefoot and without a staff, he toured around preaching the gospel. He was joined by eleven companions and they lived together as "fratres minores", lesser brothers, in a deserted leper house. Eventually they were recognised by the Pope as being a religious order. The order grew quickly with new vocations (eventually starting communities in France, Germany, Hungary, Spain and in the East) and in 1209 Clare was received by Francis and a women's order was also begun (known as the Poor Clares). Francis at this time also spent some months in dialogue with Muslims in Egypt.

Francis is also known today for having received the stigmata towards the end of his life and also for creating the first nativity scene, with real animals, to help folk understand the simplicity of the Christmas story directly. His poetry is acclaimed by literary critics and, believing people should be able to pray to God in their own language, he always wrote in his Umbrian dialect rather than Latin. He died in 1226 and only two years later he was pronounced a Saint by Gregory IX.

Perhaps the most famous thing known about Francis today is his love of animals and creation. His sermon to the birds and his calming of the local wolf are well known stories, as is the story of him on his deathbed thanking his donkey for carrying and helping him throughout his life as his donkey wept. His appreciation of the environment is expressed in his Canticle of the Sun, a poem written in Umbrian expressing a love and appreciation of Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Mother Earth, Brother Fire and so on – all of God's creations personified into relationship with him and forming together part of the God-spun web of life. You will remember the hymn *All Creatures of our God and King* which is based on this Canticle.

Today there are hundreds of Franciscan communities across the world – many of them Anglican. You might like to look at [www.franciscans.org.uk](http://www.franciscans.org.uk) to learn more.

“Let people look at their beginning and their end and try to be like that also during the time in between” said Philoxenus of Mabbug. Francis similarly tried to strip his life of those things that, through vanities and pride, end up contorting our lives into unhappy forms. He was known for his joy, his kindness, his zeal and his ability to place humankind into the larger picture of God’s creating purposes. As I sat in the small chapel he loved to pray in and next to which he died (singing Psalm 141), I thought how Francis is very much a saint for today – warning us of the futility of looking for happiness in wants rather than needs, of seeing the vitality of being both firm in our Christian conviction and charitable in our conversations with those of other faiths, of understanding that we are only part of the creation and have urgent stewardship responsibilities within it, and of the importance of making brothers and sisters through faith, building up the Church when so much threatens to pull it down, and of celebrating faith in poetic form and song, joy and community. Francis showed a way of being not a consumer of the world but a citizen of God’s kingdom. Perhaps we can think of becoming a little Franciscan in our faith?

*God of mercy,  
your word gave blessed Francis liberty to become  
your servant and to reflect the image of Christ  
through a life of poverty and humility, peace and prayer,  
so may the power of your Spirit move the hearts of all  
to respond to your call.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord who,  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
give freedom through forgiveness and new life in your love.  
Amen.*

(From the Society of St. Francis)

Your priest and friend,

MARK.

**CHAPLAIN’S DIARY**

May 2007

Mark is away as Archdeacon on the following date:

13th May (Riga)

## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

### BAPTISM:

7th April 2007                    JAKOB DYEKJÆR BOSERUP  
son of  
Signe Boserup and Johan Malling Boserup

### CONFIRMATIONS:

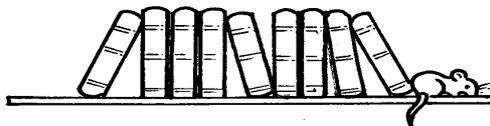
7th April 2007                    OSKAR NICHOLAS FÆRGEMANN LIEBE MOORE  
  
MICHAEL GRAHAM CLARK VAN KAMPEN

The above Baptism and Confirmations by Bishop David Hamid on Easter Eve.

### FUNERALS:

12th April 2007                    ULRICH OTTO TEUFEL  
  
14th April 2007                    BRYAN PHILLIP HARRY CORNER-WALKER  
  
14th April 2007                    PETER MARGETTS-HEMCKER

Lis Rasmussen.



### ACCOMMODATION WANTED MID-MAY to MID-NOVEMBER

I am a trainee in the NHS in the UK who has been awarded a 6 month studyship at the World Health Organisation in Copenhagen from mid-May to mid-November.

Unfortunately it is a self-funded placement, and I must find accommodation and pay for this myself whilst still paying my rental bills in the UK – so I cannot afford anything too expensive.

I am seeking a one bed apartment for the 6 months, with own kitchen, bathroom and sitting room, and preferably a parking space nearby as I am driving over. Can anybody help me out?

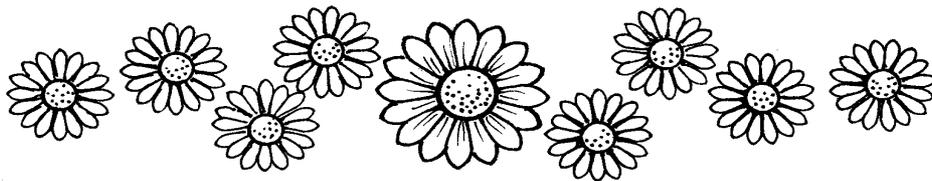
I would be grateful if people could contact me at my home e-mail or home phone in the evening.

Caryn L. Hall.

E-mail: [caryn.hall@btinternet.com](mailto:caryn.hall@btinternet.com) Tel.: + 44 (0)1684 574041

**St Alban's Church, Copenhagen  
Chaplaincy Council Members 2007/2008**

The Venerable Mark Oakley	Chaplain and Chairman
Nigel Rowley	Vice-Chairman, Church Warden, Deanery Synod Representative
Katie Robson	Church Warden
Nils Mortensen	Hon. Treasurer
Claire Clausen	Secretary, Elected Member
Anna Christine Christensen	Elected Member
Jane Hansen	Elected member
Owen Prewitt	Elected member
Lis Rasmussen	Elected member
Victoria Wadsworth-Hansen	Elected member
Maria Kvan Mortensen	Deanery Synod Representative
Chris Moore	Deanery Synod Representative
Edith Beyer	Life Member



**NEWSLETTER NEWS**

The next Newsletter will be the issue for June 2007, for which the deadline for material to reach me is May 15th ([newsletter@st-albans.dk](mailto:newsletter@st-albans.dk)):

Tony Higgins, Rødovre Parkvej 233, 1., 2610 Rødovre. Tel.: 36 70 53 46

To receive the Newsletter by post, contact:

Birgit Hansen, Dronningens Tværgade 46, 7. 1302 København K.



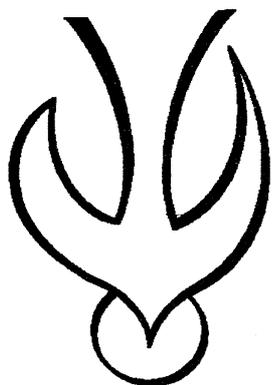
CONCERT IN ST. ALBAN'S: Mahler for Solo Trumpet.

Trumpet: Stephen Brawls  
Poetry reading of song texts: The Venerable Mark Oakley

Saturday, 5th. May 2007, 3p.m. (15:00)

Saint Albans Church, Churchillparken, Langelinie

Admission Free – Donations to Wendy Vigild Memorial Fund



## THE EVE OF PENTECOST

*Saturday 26th May at 20.00*

The Council has agreed that it would be good on the **Eve of Pentecost, Saturday 26th May at 20.00**, to try out a less formal service in St Alban's – perhaps using some contemporary prayerful hymns, some musical instruments such as violin and flute, and not making it necessarily a Eucharist. It will recall that time when the apostles were gathered in one place and were empowered to take the Gospel across the world in its many languages (you'll remember the story in Acts 2.1-21 when people thought the apostles were drunk because they spoke in different languages, making sure the Gospel of Christ could be heard). It is thought that it would be good, in this spirit, to ask some of our congregation members from all over the world, to lead prayers at some point in this liturgy in their own language – from Korea to Kenya! The emphasis will be on prayer and the service will be meditative as we invoke the comfort and challenge of God the Holy Spirit.

**Are you a musician or singer** who might be interested in taking part in this service? Would you like to take part in another way? Please let Mark know as soon as possible. Musicians will need to rehearse a few times together and so we need to know who is willing to participate.

***Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of your faithful people  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.***

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### MAY 27th PENTECOST

Pentecost was the old Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which took place at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

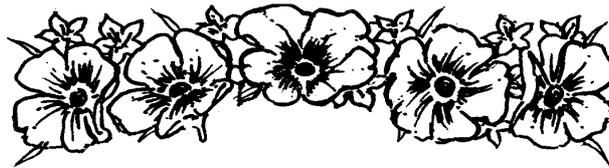
A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

ST. ALBAN'S SUMMER FÊTE – Saturday 18th August

Plans are starting to get under way for the Summer Fete on Saturday August 18th. A stock of Mamade and jars are now here and the nice bright Notice Board is back in the sink room waiting for you to pass by and take a look. We are in the process of finalising the stalls and as always are looking for new keen volunteers to come and join us beforehand, and on the day, and of course, we are relying on those of you who in the past have given so willingly and freely of your time. By the time that you read this I hope that we will have a full list of stalls with the principal contact names and telephone numbers up and with the various sign up sheets there for you to look at (and sign!).

We are hoping to have a short meeting after church on Sunday 13th May for stallholders and all those interested in being involved and/or with new ideas. Any help that you can give, however small or large, is always greatly appreciated and if you have any questions or ideas come along on the 13th, or please feel free to contact one of organisers/overall coordinators:

Jean Gram Andersen	39 56 51 87
Maria Mortensen	36 16 34 03
Katie Robson	39 61 39 71



## AUCTION OF PROMISES

As I mentioned in the April newsletter, we are going to have an auction of promises at the Harvest Lunch (6th October) this year. I have already received the first “promises” – see below:

<b>Promise</b>	<b>Donor</b>
Dinner for 4 with the chaplain	Mark Oakley
Bell-ringing lesson (45 min.)	Siff Pors
Five hours driving (not necessarily all in one go)	Rosemary Bohr
Bottle of Jacquesson & Fils champagne	Pauleen Bang
An evening's babysitting	Dorothy Ocanda
Website package + help to install	Ed Cerullo

As I wrote in the April newsletter, there are still lots of possibilities:

- a Christmas cake
- window cleaning
- gardening
- a gourmet meal for 6
- case of wine
- 3 hours of PC fixing
- selection of home-made chutneys
- organic eggs

Anything goes, so use your fantasy and make a “promise”.

We still need an auctioneer and someone to keep track of the money and announce the proceeds at the end of the auction. Any volunteers?

As before, you can contact me with offers from yourselves or your companies, preferably by e-mail ([dpae@post7.tele.dk](mailto:dpae@post7.tele.dk)) or otherwise by telephone (33 25 45 15 – leave a message if I am not there) or at church.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Pauleen Bang.

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## RAMBLINGS OF A TRAVELLING AND IMPATIENT CHRISTIAN

Inspired as I am by travelling, I am actually writing this piece for the church Newsletter sat on a plane bound for take-off! Human nature becomes very apparent in an aeroplane, as people of different cultures, ages, languages and backgrounds are wedged into a metal tube together, forced to exist, for at least a few hours, with no escape from each other. Travelling, for many, is all about “getting there” as fast and as safe as possible. For me, I am trying in my own way, to enjoy the getting there but this has its challenges as, although I have over 100 flights a year, I confess I am scared stiff of flying! I try to busy myself, like now, but ultimately I wince at the slightest turbulence and usually arrive at my destination a little frazzled and extremely grateful to have survived the journey.

Anyway, today two women, whom I am sat next to, have inspired me to write this piece. Maybe I can use my travels to observe and learn from human behaviour as well as to write articles for the Newsletter! This is certainly a welcome distraction to my nervousness as well as being extremely thought provoking. I have been sat here for 20 minutes and have heard the two women in question, who work together, basically moan and complain about everyone they have the misfortune to work with. This prompts the question, albeit mentally, why they both continue to work there if everyone except them are total idiots? How easy it is for us all (myself included) to find fault with everyone and everything we come into contact with on life's journey. Why do we do this? To look smarter, better, funnier, more important or just to let off some steam? Whatever the reason, I am reminded by this experience what this behaviour actually looks like to an observer and just how much it costs us: At the side of me, two pretty women are reduced to a kind of ugliness and are clearly winding each other up. The negativity displayed by my two co-travellers escalates and affects them both, they talk faster and faster and their criticism seems to only fuel their dissatisfaction. They end up stressed and unpleasant and noticed by others, as their voices get louder and louder.

The parallels with travel and life are obvious. In our increasingly stressed society life's journey is coupled with a very human impatience: For example, who is not looking forward to "arriving" at Easter, the summer, the weekend? Humans are, however, in travels and in life, so busy with "getting there", they forget to enjoy the journey and see every delay as a problem and, also in the case of my two plane buddies, people not operating at their same hectic pace are viewed as in their way, competition, a pain.

I will take this episode as a reminder to try to be better at enjoying the journey, the getting there and not neglect the process of living. I will also use this as inspiration to try to be better at seeing people in my life as adding to and contributing to it, albeit sometimes at a slower pace! This may also inspire me to be more patient and accommodating of people and in turn be more inspiring: "May we whom the spirit lights, give light to the world". Struggle as I do to find something positive to say about these two women, I am reminded how stress and negativity can destroy the positive humanness in us: It poses, however, an important question especially for Christians: Is it worth rushing the journey? Why are we so desperate to get "there" as quickly as possible? Do those who come first get the best seats!? Where are we aiming to get to? Most importantly: Is it worth getting stressed and vitriolic with people and circumstances that stop us from getting there?

Ultimately we are all bound for the same place. Please God let's not only just get there but enjoy the getting there and maybe also remember to spread a little joy and love and compassion on the way.... Or in popular speech, "a smile costs nothing" and "if you don't have anything nice to say, shut up!" Meanwhile, back in the plane, the bitching and moaning continues. Hopefully, even though I am devoutly resolute to try to enjoy the journey, we don't end up circling over Heathrow too much longer!

Victoria.

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## **BJØRN'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

**Bjørn's International School** is a small and friendly school in Copenhagen, offering a quality education for children from Kindergarten through 9th grade. 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**

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## EMANUEL CATHEDRAL, ARUA, UGANDA

St. Albans church council have very kindly donated 5000 Danish kroner to the Emanuel Cathedral in Uganda. This church is being rebuilt, since the old cathedral had a leaking roof and was deteriorating fast. This money will help them to finish the work on the new cathedral. The Bishop (Joel Obetia) sent the following e-mail to me last week:

*Dear Dorothy,*

*I cannot thank God enough for you and for the church community. May the Lord richly bless you and all our friends there. We are now removing the scaffolding in the Cathedral and the place is so spacious! With the poles inside one cannot see the extent of the house. It is a fitting place for worship. Your contribution is going to push us a long way into being able to use the place. Thank you and thank you, very very much.*

*Joel*

The new cathedral  
from the outside.



I would like to thank Mark and the church council for their very generous donation, which will be an enormous help. The pictures show the progress being made.

Dorothy Ocanda.



The inside of the new  
cathedral before the scaffolding  
was removed.

## WORLD CHURCH FOCUS – SOLOMON ISLANDS

Hit by a tsunami on the 2nd of April, to many the Solomon Islands are no more than a few specks on a map east of Papua New Guinea and north-east of Australia. However, the 922 islands (of which 347 are inhabited) occupy a land area of 27,540 sq km. The majority of the 563,617 population live on the six largest islands. The only city, the capital Honiara, is on Guadalcanal, the biggest island. A British protectorate since 1893, the Solomon Islands only became self-governing in 1976. Independence within the British Commonwealth was achieved in 1978.

Recent history has not helped the Solomon Islands live up to a reputation as 'the happy isles', as the nation is striving to recover from a civil conflict that brought it to the brink of collapse. About 94% of Solomon Islanders are ethnic Melanesians, but there has been intense and bitter rivalry between the Isatabus on Guadalcanal and migrants from Malaita, another large island. Fighting broke out in 1998 when an Isatabu group began to force Malaitans out, accusing them of taking land and jobs. Around 20,000 people abandoned their homes, with many subsequently leaving Guadalcanal. A rival Malaitian militia group staged a coup in June 2000, which had left up to 100 dead. An Australian-brokered peace deal was signed in October 2000, but lawlessness continued and an Australian-led peace-keeping force arrived in July 2003 and oversaw a slow return to order. The aim is to make the country self-sustaining but prosperity is elusive. Civil war left the country almost bankrupt, and post-election riots in May 2006 literally sent some of the advances made since 2003 up in smoke.

The people are 96% Christian. Anglicans are the largest single grouping (35%), followed by Roman Catholics (17%), and the United Church (formed in 1968 from the Methodist and Presbyterian churches – 12%). The Baptists and Seventh Day Adventists are also significant. The churches in the Solomon Islands have had a history of revivals, but growth has slowed with recent troubles. The Anglican Church in the Solomon Islands is part of the Church of Melanesia, whose roots go back to 1848 when the first Bishop of New Zealand visited the islands. In 1855, John Coleridge Patteson responded to the bishop's call for volunteers to go and preach the Gospel, and in 1861 he was consecrated Bishop of the newly formed diocese of Melanesia. His system of evangelisation was to train indigenous clergy and so equip local people to share the gospel in a way that was within their own culture. This bore fruit and Christianity spread rapidly. The Church of Melanesia became a Province in its own right in 1975. There are now eight dioceses, of which six cover the Solomon Islands. An important part of the Church's witness is the work of the Melanesian Brotherhood, one of four Anglican religious communities in the Solomon Islands (and the largest religious community in the Anglican Communion with more than 450 Brothers). They are the forefront of work for peace and reconciliation. In 2003, seven brothers were killed whilst engaging in conflict resolution and, in 2004, the Brotherhood was awarded a major human rights award for their work.

Information compiled in April 2007 by the Revd. Mary J. Vickers