



JUNE:

3rd	TRINITY SUNDAY Proverbs 8. 1-4, 22-31 Romans 5. 1-5 John 16. 12-15	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist	9.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
10th	BARNABUS THE APOSTLE Job 29. 11-16 Acts 11. 19-30 John 15. 12-17	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist	9.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
17th	TRINITY 2 2 Samuel 11. 26-12.10, 13-15 Galatians 2. 15-21 Luke 7. 36-8.3	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist	9.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
24th	SAINT ALBAN Isaiah 43. 1-7 2 Timothy 2. 3-7 John 15. 18-21	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist	9.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.



JULY:

1st	TRINITY 4	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist	9.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.
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NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES for June are as listed above.

WEDNESDAY SERVICE Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets every Sunday in the upper room at 10.30 a.m.

COFFEE is served after the 10.30 a.m. 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.

Dear Friends,

As some of you will know, last month I was obliged to attend both deanery and diocesan synods. "Synod" is a Greek word meaning "people on the way". It refers to the meeting up of local church representatives in order to learn, share and explore together. The Church of England is not a congregationalist church. Each local church is part of the whole and synods remind us of this fact. Christian brothers and sisters from different contexts, but with often similar difficulties, pray, talk and listen together, hoping to encourage and challenge each other as we travel "on the way".

Deanery synod was held this year in Riga, Latvia. Our general theme was "Voices from the margin – does the Church want to hear?" and we were led into thinking this through by an old friend of mine, Hugh Rayment-Pickard, a parish priest, philosopher and author from London.

Hugh began by asking how many letter "f" 's we could find in the following sentence: "**Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of years**". Three? Four? Actually, there are six – most people tend not to see them in the word "of". If we can so easily not see things in a sentence, how much more so can we pass over people and their lives – who they really are and what they have to give and teach us.

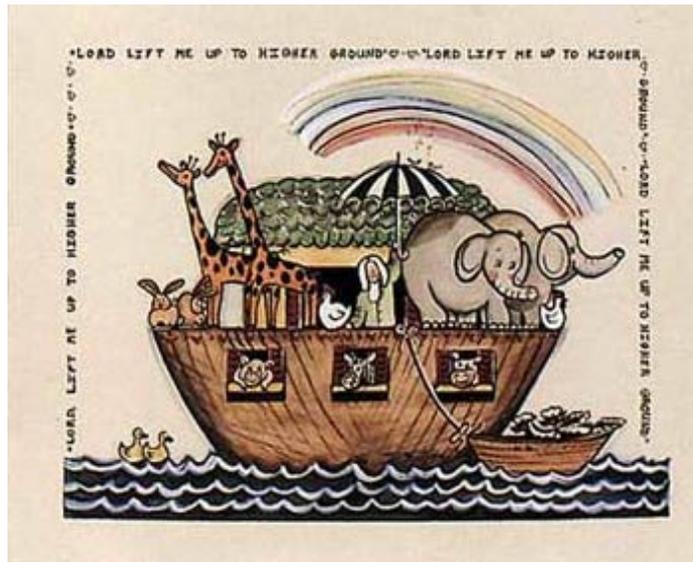
He then went on to explore how margins are important to our daily lives and to our thinking but how they can also become sources of bigotry, terror and self-approval. We make ourselves feel better by being able to point to another outside our particular wall, not least because it distracts attention from ourselves. Hugh looked at the ideas of purity and contagion within religion. He took us through the Christian doctrines of creation (how we are *all* beautiful) and original sin (how we are *all* tragically flawed) and then turned us to the revelation of God in Jesus – a human person who seemed not to see the boundaries, margins and barriers that religion, society and individuals made but who saw that the real treasure was to be found in those placed beyond them, those deemed to be offensive, unclean and faithless. Throughout the gospels we see Jesus standing alongside the despised and rejected, eventually becoming the despised outsider himself. Are we on his side or not?

Unfortunately the Church has not always reflected the radical inclusivity of Jesus but has worked for exclusion, only too keen to identify the unacceptable (whether it be women, homosexuals, slaves, divorcees, or Jews for instance) and to consequently make the powerful and those in charge into a "pure" club for the like-minded. Through making us study passages from the Bible and work in groups considering what the true marks of a church should be, Hugh began to dislocate a lot of our sleepy assumptions and to make us recognise our frightening narrowness and blindness. He argued that the Church must be *inclusive* – not because of political correctness or liberalism but because God is inclusive and has shown this in his creation and in his self-portrait, Jesus.

To speak of an inclusive Church is an act of *dissent* where violence, prejudice and narrow claims to identity and ownership are defacing God's image in humankind and desecrating God's creation. It is an act of *affirmation* of those whose voices and experiences have been ignored and suppressed on spurious grounds. It is a celebration of the gospel of *hospitality*, which stands in judgement upon our resentments, our scape-goating and our fortress mentality.

It was a challenging couple of days but also very exciting – we began to be faced with the truths that emerge from a fresh reading of our core beliefs. If you are interested to read more, Hugh Rayment-Pickard has recently published a short book with Steven Shakespeare entitled *“The Inclusive God”* (Canterbury Press, 2006).

As a thank you present, I gave Hugh a large plate with a picture of Noah’s ark on it. It seemed appropriate: a boat designed by God in which every animal had to budge over a bit to allow another strange and glorious animal to make its home too. I hope and pray that St. Alban’s will refresh itself continually as such an ark of hope.



Your priest and friend,

MARK.

**CHAPLAIN’S DIARY
June 2007**

Mark is away as Archdeacon on:

Sunday 24th June: St Alban’s Cathedral

He will be on a short holiday, visiting his family, from 25th – 30th June



Patronal Festival

**St Alban’s Day will be celebrated on Sunday 24th June at
10.30 a.m.**

Drinks will be served after the service.

ST. ALBAN'S SUMMER FÊTE – SATURDAY 18th AUGUST 2007

Plans are getting under way for the Annual Summer Fete on Saturday 18th August. Jam-making has begun, books are starting to trickle in, and now is the time to explore the attic or that corner in the cellar for unwanted treasure-trove.

As everyone knows, these sorts of things don't just happen on their own, and would not be possible without the support and commitment of so many of the congregation. This year as always an enthusiastic band has stepped forward to head up the individual stalls and they are keen for any offers to help on, or before the day. Contact details can be found on the Fête notice board in the sink room, or from Jean, Maria or Katie.

Home produce and Church gifts	Jane Hansen
Glass and Crystal stall	Carole Rasmussen
Used Books	Charles Robson
Gifts + Nearly New Clothes	Edith Elwert
Games and Amusement tent	Nigel, the Mills family and assorted children
Attic Treasures	Janet and Team
Refreshments	Jean Gram Andersen
	Chris Moore, Raymond Shannon
Flowers, contact	Jean Gram Andersen
Guardians	Chris and Nini Leigh
Publicity / Information	Claire Clausen, Linda Jensen, Jocelyn Hird and John Mills
Treasurer	Nils Mortensen
Tents, storage and site team	Katie Robson
Legalities, electricity and tower team	Nigel Rowley

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

Overall Coordinators,	Jean Gram Andersen	39 56 51 87
entertainments and	Maria Mortensen	36 16 34 03
etceteras.	Katie Robson	39 61 39 71

Flowers

We are hoping to decorate the church as we did last year. Anyone who would like to help arrange flowers, or who could donate flowers and greenery, or let a secateur loose in their garden, please contact Jean Gram Andersen.

Jams, marmalades and cordials

Jam jars and jam makers needed. We still need clean 1lb (425–500g) jam jars for marmalades and jams and clean c. ½ lb (c. 250g) jars for savoury jellies. There is a stock of mamade available (see Jane or Elisabeth). Special St. Alban's labels are being made again this year, which we will put on the jars when they arrive, but please put a small label on the jars stating the contents if it is not marmalade. 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. There is a list on the Fête notice board – so please do sign up if you can contribute anything – if you have any questions and/or ideas please contact Jane Hansen.

Glass and Crystal

This year we are going to have a Glass and Crystal Stall. We are looking for good quality attractive items, old or new in first class condition. If you are able to donate any thing to the stall please leave it on the work surface in the sink room marked '*For the attention of Carole Rasmussen*' or contact Carole with queries.

Used Books

Now is the time to start sorting through those book shelves and to see if there are any books you could part with. While we would rather you came with the books nearer the time, we can always arrange storage if need be. Please contact Charles.

AUCTION OF PROMISES

We now have nine "promises", but more are needed. In order to make the auction exciting (at the Harvest Lunch on 6th October), we need 30 to 40. As yet, nobody has offered a Christmas cake or a selection of home-made jams or chutneys (is there someone in the congregation who could make and donate something like this?). And there must be somebody who could offer a few hours of gardening or window cleaning. More information on the two watercolour paintings in the next Newsletter — they are large and nicely framed

Promise	Donor
Dinner for 4 with the chaplain	Mark Oakley
Bell-ringing lesson (45 min.)	Siff Pors
5 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
Bottle of Irish whisky	Anne-Marie Tetsche Sweeney
Watercolour by Maudaunt Parker (1891-1970)	Anonymous
Watercolour by Mordaunt Parker (1891-1970)	Anonymous

I have had a tentative offer of an auctioneer, and I hope to have confirmation of that soon. I still need 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). I can also be contacted by telephone (33 25 45 15 – leave a message if I am not there) or in church. You can also fill in the form on the notice board in the narthex.

Look forward to hearing from you, Pauleen Bang

SOLOMON ISLANDS

I was very moved by the item on the Solomon Islands (by Mary Vickers) in your last newsletter. The Bishop who first visited in 1848 was Bishop Selwyn who on his return to England (where he became the Bishop of Lichfield) founded the Melanesian Mission whereby help was channelled to the Church of Melanesia. The Melanesian Mission still operates today and anyone who wishes to send a donation in respect of the earthquake and tsunami can write to our Executive Officer Mr. David Friswell at 15 Covell Close, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2HU. I am a Trustee of the MM (the Chairman is the Bishop of Exeter) and a special appeal has been opened so that we can respond soon. I was also the Honorary Treasurer of your Church from about 1988-91 when I was attached to the British Embassy. We all have very happy memories of our time in Denmark and particularly our connection with St. Albans.

Alan Waters.



NEWSLETTER NEWS

The next Newsletter will be a double issue for July-August 2007, for which the deadline for material to reach me is June 15th (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.

LORD IN CREATION

Lord, are You staying in Your Heavens today?
No, You breathe life into the tree,
Give colour to the flowers,
Make the clouds to float through the sky.
You illuminate my soul
And light a candle in my temple.
Wherever I go, there You are also
For You live in me, omnipresent.
All life breathes to Your tune,
Pulsates to Your dance.
Happy are they who have found the rhythm
And live by it nature does without trying.
Its very being is steeped in praise to You,
A symphony of sound and colour to Your glory.
No, You do not stay in your Heaven,
For Your temples abound everywhere.....
..... A vase of flowers

A silent, living reminder of Your Grace.

Shirley.

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT - 2006-2007

This report was given at the A.G.M. held on Sunday 22nd April 2007.

In General:

This year has been a fairly standard year with, we are happy to report, no major problems or large unexpected bills. Basically, our focus has been on the ordinary day-to-day running of the church and all that that entails - which means both your wardens have been fairly busy, as usual.

As you all will have noticed, there is still scaffolding up outside the entrance to the church where the one remaining gargoyle is being cleaned and copied, so that a replica can be made and placed on the opposite side of the main entrance to repair the damage vandals caused several years ago.

The reparation of the gargoyle is just a cosmetic nicety and both the church and Saint Alban's house are in quite good shape. Even the garden at Saint Alban's House is in better (not good) shape after Mark spent many hours of his precious, little, free time gardening and planting during the summer months; and a concerted group effort was made one Saturday at the end of the summer period by a number of extra willing hands. More work will probably be needed to be done on the garden again this year, to keep it looking presentable when Mark receives visitors and guests to his, and our, house. We are in the process of putting up some more fencing to the side of Saint Alban's House which will help increase security.

Church Security:

On the subject of security, one of the things Nigel has been looking at for the Chaplaincy Council is the general security of the church. This is quite a large, and expensive, project where we have had three different companies looking at providing us with fire-detection, and protection against intruders and personal attacks. We hope this will be implemented sometime this year.

Our Chaplain & Team:

Our hard-working cheerful Chaplain is, I think you will agree, looking after us well, providing us with interesting services and thought-provoking sermons, insight at bible study and new techniques on how to pray during Lent as well as more practical leadership at Church Council meetings and sub-committees. He is constantly busy, either with something or someone connected to Saint Alban's or in his other role as Archdeacon to Germany and the Nordic and Baltic Countries. When Mark is away on archidiaconal business, or the occasional holiday, we are blessed at being able to call upon the help of Ulla Monberg or Rickard Stenberg to take our Sunday services, or Robert Vester-Bentzen who takes the occasional Wednesday morning service. Sadly, we no longer have our Reader Wendy Vigild to help us with us with services, and so much more, which she was always very happy to do. It is just a few days less than a year ago since she passed away.

New Council Subcommittees:

At Mark's suggestion the Church Council has set up two sub-committees, one looking at outreach and the other at our finances. One of the first concrete things to come out of the Outreach Committee's meetings is that a new outdoor notice board has been ordered to replace the one we have by the tree, close to the Gefion fountain. This will be entirely different from what we have at present. Naturally it will still give the times of our services, but at the same time also allow us to provide general information about the church and who we are. We will be able to change information from day to day, inform of special services and events and 'personalise' it, making it fun as well as informative.

The Outreach group has also looked at the more social side of our church life and has started a cinema club which will meet about eight times a year. There are many of us that rarely go to the cinema and this gives us the opportunity to see some interesting films and meet each other outside the usual context of church. This has proved very successful, we have already met twice and last time we were 12 who had an enjoyable evening out.

Important Note On Our Finances:

If we are to continue being a presence in Copenhagen then our finances have to be sound which is why the Finance Committee has been formed. It is not because our finances are in a very poor way but, just like so much else, there is always room for improvement. And, whether we like it or not we cannot run this beautiful, historic building and give people a spiritual home without money. This year, 2007, the Church Council has budgeted with a substantial deficit. This is obviously not a healthy situation and one which the Finance Committee, among

others, will naturally be looking at. One of the main reasons for our larger than usual deficit is, as you may recall, our diplomatic status has been taken from us and from one day to the next we have had to pay tax on Mark's stipend. We will have to find this extra amount every year, but from where? Despite the budgeted deficit, we are in the very fortunate position of having the Lindholm Fund which annually provides us with a large sum of money to help with the fabric of the church building and, therefore, in reality we will not be digging quite so deep into our reserves as it looks like on paper. However, it is very unwise and unhealthy to rely from year to year on this fund, in effect, bailing us out. The money we receive from the fund comes from the dividends of shares and, as everyone knows, stocks and shares can be very volatile beasts. This could mean that the amount we receive in future could potentially be very much less than at present and then we would be in trouble. The loss of our diplomatic status is another example of something beyond our control which suddenly presented itself and changed our economic standing. To be in a healthy position our day-to-day running costs need to be in balance with our basic core income - i.e. what we give in the collection and what we raise from our fund-raising activities, such as the fête and guardians. However, this is certainly not the case at the moment. If in future, at the end of our financial year we have balanced our own books without the Lindholm Fund's help, we will then be in the position to use any additional money we then receive from the Lindholm Fund for exciting new possibilities. What about a church hall for instance? A dream? At the moment it is a dream but it could be a reality if this is something we aim for!

Jean's Retirement:

Lastly, after eight years of devoted service and hard graft, Jean Gram-Andersen is stepping down as Churchwarden. During these years Jean has successfully helped lead the church under two different chaplains and one interregnum. Jean has done numerous things in and around the church much of which goes unnoticed; she typically rolls up her sleeves and gets stuck in where needed, helping to keep the 'engine' well oiled. Being the new boy to the job of Churchwarden, I am personally grateful for Jean's advice, knowledge, good humour and support. We will miss her as our Churchwarden, but thankfully she is still a valued member of our community who we can, I am sure, continue to draw upon when and where needed.

Nigel Rowley

FAREWELL BUT NOT GOODBYE!

It was with a little sadness but much relief that I handed over the keys of the office of churchwarden to Katie at the AGM. I hope I have been of help to you all in the congregation for the last eight years, because you have all been a great help to me. I know that Katie will be twice as efficient and that she will receive the same support that I have had. I would like to thank you all for that support and also for the wonderful gift of the three Bjørn Winblad lamps I was given on my "retirement". I'm still around so it's not a goodbye, but maybe I will take the opportunity to use more of my energy on the summer house which has been neglected over the years!

Jean.

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

THE CHAPLAIN'S BOOK REVIEW

How Many Lightbulbs Does It Take To Change A Christian? A Pocket Guide to Shrinking Your Ecological Footprint

Church House Publishing 2007 (£4.99)



One of the decisions that the Deanery Synod made last month was to ask Diocesan Synod to commission an environmental audit as to how the Diocese is run day-to-day and to ask the chaplaincy Councils of the Deanery to do the same for our churches.

This little booklet of 65 pages will be very helpful to us. It is commended by the Archbishop of Canterbury as a guide that gives some practical examples of where each of us can start lightening the load on our planet. For instance, did you know that by changing just one high energy light-bulb to a low energy one in your home saves 75kg of carbon dioxide a year? Environmentally friendly cleaning fluids reduce the chemicals you flush into the water system. Buying loose fruit and vegetables reduces package and waste. Offering lifts to church reduces car emissions – and so on.

Taking important themes (water, energy, transport, waste, biodiversity, well-being, lifestyle and sabbath) and placing them within the Christian understanding that human beings are to be stewards not exploiters of God's creation, this booklet helps every one of us begin to think through where we might begin to change and really wake up to the daily news of how at risk this planet is if this change does not take place. The scale of the crisis can be depressing. This booklet works on the principle that 'I will because I believe you will too'.

'Live simply, so that others may simply live', Bishop John Taylor once said. It is vital advice at the present time but we need help to see how sometimes, so used to habits and excesses have we become. The fifth mark of mission for the Anglican Communion is 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth'. As scientists become increasingly united in their concern for this world bearing the cost of human activity, all of us who profess our belief in this world as a created gift need to honour this now by our lives and lead by example.

WENDY VIGILD FUND

Stephen and Mark's concert at the beginning of May raised D.Kr. 2,500 towards the Wendy Vigild Fund to add to the splendid sum of D.Kr. 15,000 which had already been collected. The Fund will not close, so there is the opportunity for further contributions at any time. We hope that soon the candidates will be approved by the Bishop and able to start on their education to become Readers.

Jean Gram-Andersen

WORLD CHURCH FOCUS – SRI LANKA

The tropical island of Sri Lanka has beguiled travellers for centuries with its palm-fringed beaches, diverse landscapes and historical monuments. Nestling off the southern tip of India, it was often portrayed as a tourist paradise despite it also being an island scarred and torn apart by war. In recent years, it has been struck by natural disaster too – in May 2003 severe floods left more than 200 dead and drove some 4,000 people from their homes; and the December 2004 tsunami killed more than 30,000 people, left 2.5million more homeless, and devastated swathes of the coast.

It is thought that the Sinhalese, the main ethnic group of Sri Lanka, arrived in the 6th century B.C., probably from northern India. Buddhism was introduced beginning in about the mid-3rd century B.C. In the 14th century, a south Indian dynasty seized power in the north and established a Tamil kingdom. Known as “Serendip” to Arab geographers, the island fell under Portuguese rule in the 16th century, Dutch rule in the 17th century, and was ceded to the British in 1796 when it was called Ceylon. Independence finally came in 1948, and the name changed to Sri Lanka in 1972. Tensions between the Government and the Tamil separatist minority [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or LTTE] erupted into war in 1983. Although most of the fighting took place in the north, it damaged the economy and harmed tourism in what is one of South Asia’s more advanced and potentially prosperous societies. More than 60,000 people died in the conflict. A ceasefire and a political agreement signed in late 2002 raised hopes for a lasting settlement; but Norwegian-brokered peace talks have stalled and monitors have reported open violations of the truce by both the government and Tamil rebels. Although neither side has formally withdrawn from the cease-fire, escalating violence in 2006 killed hundreds of people, and March and April 2007 saw the first two air-strikes by the rebels, raising fears of a return to all-out war.

Buddhism is the largest faith group in Sri Lanka, followed by 72% of the 20.4 million population. Hindus make up 12%, Christians 8%, and Muslims 7%. Some call Buddhism the state religion, but officially all major religions are given equal freedom. According to some Christian traditions, the Apostle Thomas was active in Sri Lanka during the first century A.D. Small Christian communities existed on the coasts of Sri Lanka during the succeeding centuries, flourishing on the edges of the Indian Ocean trade routes. Currently, around 80% of Christians are Roman Catholic, with many of the remainder belonging to the Assemblies of God, the Anglican Church of Ceylon, the Methodist Church, and the Church of South India (formed in 1947 from Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Reformed churches). The Church of Ceylon has two dioceses – Colombo and Kurunegala. Sri Lanka’s first female Anglican priests were ordained in Colombo in September 2006, after a three-decade process. The Methodist Church and the Church of South India had already ordained women in the region. Sri Lankan churches work for peace, with 2007 being designated ‘A Year of Peace’. Currently, Ceylon Bible Society staff are struggling through dangerous conditions to distribute Scriptures to soldiers and others caught up in the fighting.

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