

September



2007

SEPTEMBER:

2nd	TRINITY 13			Holy Communion	9.00 a.m.
	Ecclesiast.	10.	12-18	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Hebrews	13.	1-8, 15-16		
	Luke	14.	1, 7-14		
9th	TRINITY 14			Holy Communion	9.00 a.m.
	Deuteron.	30.	15-end	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Philemon		1-21		
	Luke	14.	25-33		
16th	DEDICATION SUNDAY			Holy Communion	9.00 a.m.
	Exodus	32.	7-14	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	1 Timothy	1.	12-17		
	Luke	15.	1-10		
23rd	ST. MATHEW			Holy Communion	9.00 a.m.
	Proverbs	3.	13-18	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	2 Corinth.	4.	1-6		
	Matthew	9.	9-13		
30th	ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS			Holy Communion	9.00 a.m.
	Genesis	28.	10-17	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Revelation	12.	7-12		
	John	1.	47-end		



NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES for September are as listed above.

WEDNESDAY SERVICE Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets every Sunday in the crypt 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.

SERMON PREACHED BY MARK OAKLEY AT ST. ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL AT THE ST. ALBAN'S FESTIVAL 2007

I pray that I speak in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

There was a Victorian Bishop here in England who left a rather unusual request in his will. He had penned a short verse and he asked for it to be read to his clergy on his death. It ran:

*Tell my priests when I am gone
O'er me to shed no tears.
For I shall be no deader then
Than they have been for years.*

Well, it is true that we clergy are not always the new creation we are invited to be. I remember one priest in the London Diocese who said his motto in life was *start each day with a smile - get it over with*. No wonder Nietzsche said that Christianity would be a lot more convincing if Christians actually looked redeemed!

But there must have been something about the priest who knocked one night on that door all those years ago pleading for safety. The owner of the house, Alban, was a soldier, so not one used to disobeying orders or stepping out of line. But something made him open that door and let this man in - hospitality? Curiosity? Humanity? We don't know but their consequent whispering hours together led Alban to re-think his life. We don't know how long they had together but when eventually the soldiers came to arrest the priest, Alban put the priest's robe on himself, ready to take his place. In that short time together he had understood that a human self to be most itself is not selfish. It moved me this morning to think how easily I placed my alb and stole on, how was it for him that day?

At his trial Alban aligned himself to the Christian God and not to the gods of the day. He was consequently whipped and tortured and he still aligned himself to the God whose self-portrait, whose body-language, was Jesus Christ. Alban knew that God had stepped into his home and heart that night, in the form of a fearful man on the run. He was not going to deny what he had experienced. God is shared before he is understood. Alban was no theologian, but he knew that life and love were enlarged by this faith that the priest was risking his own life for. And Alban understood that our deepest vocation is to be a witness to the glimpses of God we have been allowed to catch.

"What family and race are you?" asked the judge. "What concern is that?" asked Alban, "I am a Christian". "I am asking who you are", shouted the judge, "tell me now". "I am called Alban and I worship and adore the one true living God who created all things". And so the sword was sharpened and within a week of meeting, Alban and his unexpected friend, the priest, were both dead.

Why do we come then, all these hundreds of years later, to celebrate this man, to stand near his remains, to tell his story? Quite simply, we come here to fall in love again with our calling to be Christians, to recover, resuscitate and remember our first love of God - to scrub away the cynicism and resentments that paralyse - and to be refreshed by deeper resonances. To make sure, to use those

resonant images from today's readings, that our hope is full of immortality, that our life is not remaining just a single grain.

Now, let's be honest, sometimes it is tempting to think that saints are really just dead sinners who have been dug up and edited. Don't call me a saint, said Dorothy Day, I don't want to be dismissed that easily. But Alban's story is as sharp as it ever was for it asks who or what is demanding our allegiance today, eclipsing the one true living God. It is easy to lay aside the pagan gods of Alban's time, but not always easy to recognise the power of the gods in our time. Let's not fool ourselves. The gods are still with us. There are many of them and they have many shrines but here are just four particularly active at the moment.

The first is called **Gloss**, the goddess of beauty and surfaces – a fickle being, incarnated in paper and adverts, a god so big she makes us all feel small and ugly. We are drawn by her siren voice but her perfection is impossible even for those who anoint themselves with her many sensuous creams and labels. She is cunning too – she makes humans confuse their wants for their needs and this leads to many tears. She teaches that life is survival of the fittest. Fit for what she never reveals. She makes objects into people and people into objects so in her adverts you can never work out if the man is having an affair with the woman or with the car. **Obese** is the god of gathering, of acquiring, who is never satisfied: happiness for him is having what you want not wanting what you have. And he always wants more even when bloated. Although people say he is seen on earth at the moment in the form of British children, in fact he is found in the hearts of parents and grandparents just as much over much of the world. He is related to that great god who makes us buy things we don't need called *Ikea* (mainly worshipped on a Saturday). Together they magic us into spending money we don't have on things we don't want in order to impress people we don't like.

Instantaneous is the goddess of now. She cannot wait. She must have fast cars, fast food, fast money, fast death. She is blind, never having the time to stop and see anything. She often gets into a mess too because she never has the patience to listen to anyone either. She beckons people to live full lives but strangely leaves them feeling empty. She is afraid of people meeting face to face in case they discover the joys of wasting time together, and so she invents screens and devices that trick us into thinking we are communicating but which actually add to our loneliness. She seduces with quick clarity and easy answers, and hates ambiguity, poetry, faith. And finally there is **Punch**, the god of violence and division. If hate can be escalated he'll have a go – if they don't agree with you, lash out. If they're different, slap them down. If they're not in the majority, don't invite them. When in doubt, just punch them. Now obviously Punch is the creator of some computer games, street gangs, film directors and state leaders. Religious leaders are often drawn to his clarifying power too. But also, Punch can be a subtle god and can hide in the consensus of the middle classes, and his punch can be made, not of a fist but of plausible, respectable, articulate words. Punch can be very charming as he drives around in his bandwagon. He can make you feel better. And he loves to play a little trick – he likes to make people yawn whenever the conversation turns to human rights and responsibilities, refugees, the poor, the environment, equality – in fact, anything that Christians believe are close to God's heart. We need to resist Punch with every bit of energy we have.

These gods are alive and well and fracturing and splintering humanity. We need an Alban to call us back to the one living God, source of life and love. An Alban who offered himself, not to an institutionalised Jesus who pleases everyone, or no-one, but to the Jesus who questions all our answers, gently but relentlessly questioning who we have become: he is Aslan the de-froster. We need an Alban to tell us not to listen to all the stories that are being told to us by opinion columnists, the fashionable and the chique – and not to listen to the often damaging and unobjective stories we can begin to tell ourselves as a consequence, often beating ourselves up, shrinking into our low expectations. We need an Alban to tell us instead to listen to the story that God is telling us about ourselves, of our uniqueness and wonder, of our loveableness and forgiveableness. God loves us exactly the way we are and God loves us so much he doesn't want us to stay like this. We are not made to be consumers but citizens, citizens of the Kingdom of God.

A day such as this reminds us that God turns existence into life, and life into a pilgrimage. And what he says to us he says to everyone, making us non-negotiable in our calling to love our God and our neighbour and so to maintain the dignity of difference and erase the scandal of indifference, practicing what we pray for. Alban declared he worshipped the one God who created all things. Such a God deserves a people who celebrate him by capacious souls, by a relentless capacity for friendships, and by a love that is frankly a bit reckless. Like Alban, it means opening doors, in ourselves and others, to see how God might strangely walk in.

I end with words by the Austrian poet Erich Fried:

*It is nonsense, says reason
It is what it is says love
It is unhappiness says reflection
It is nothing but pain says fear
It is hopeless says insight
It is what it is says love
It is ridiculous says pride
It is frivolous says caution
It is impossible says experience
It is what it is says love.*

My name is Alban and I worship and adore the one true living God who created all things.

Mark.

**CHAPLAIN'S DIARY
September 2007**

Mark is on holiday from 27th August to 10th September

LIFT WANTED

A lady living in Dragør would appreciate an occasional lift to the 10.30 service on Sunday mornings. If you are able to help please contact Mark Oakley: E-mail: chaplain@st-albans.dk, Tel.: 39 62 77 36.

FÊTE REPORT 2007

The weather-forecasters teased up to the very last moment, but Saturday 18th dawned bright and clear and other than the odd spot of rain here and there, we had a very good summer's day for the fête.

The tents were up in record time, largely due to the growing experience and confidence of the team and their willingness to be on site by 07.00. Sandwich makers were busy by 8.00, tables and shelves were out by 9.00 and by the time the bunting was up and the bells and trumpet sounded the start at 10.00, all the jellies, jams, cakes, gifts, glassware, attic treasures and metre upon metre of books were out of the church and onto the stalls.

The comprehensive efforts of the advertising teams ensured that we had constant crowds of visitors all day, and supplemented by the tour coaches and some very hungry Italians, we had a record day raising close to D.kr. 50,000. Stallholders beautifully displayed and sold their many wares and streams of people entered and enjoyed our unique and lovely Church, adorned with striking flower arrangements. Musicians and dancers entertained the crowds, games were played, old friends were met, new friends made and many a cup of coffee and delicious cakes were enjoyed in the Tea Tent. Refreshingly cool drinks from the Bar complimented the ever popular Burgers and Hotdogs from the grill.

With the raffle won and the weight of the cake confirmed, the day was rounded off with a highly entertaining all comers three legged race for all comers and all ages. Stall holders, Copenhageners, children and visitors all took part.

A very big thank you has to go to all those who made, baked and donated so many things and all those who helped before, on and after the day, and of course those who came and supported us.

Jean, Maria and Katie.

COME TO THE HARVEST LUNCH!

On Saturday 6th October at 12.30 we will celebrate our Harvest Lunch in Søborg church hall. Our new electoral roll reveals that our congregation is made up of 17 nationalities and this year we hope that the food at the lunch will be



suitably international. Katie Robson has kindly agreed to co-ordinate the lunch and is looking for some willing cooks, so if you would like to contribute a dish from your country of origin please call her on 39 61 39 71. If you would like to come to the lunch, please sign the list in the narthex in church. The cost will be 30 Kr including drinks.



At the lunch, of course, the Auction of Promises will also take place. If you can't be there, make sure you make a sealed bid so that you don't lose the item you want! On the following day, 7th October, our Harvest Festival service will be at 10.30am.

ST. ALBAN'S FESTIVAL PILGRIMAGE 2007 -
an exploration of the martyrdom of Alban through carnival.

There were about 5,000 people at St. Albans Cathedral to celebrate Britain's first martyr on Saturday 23rd June this year. The day started with a Procession of members of the Abbey congregations and hundreds of clergy from various parts of the world. We were led to the site of the Imperial Basilica of Roman times in Verulamium Park, where Alban's trial would have taken place. Alban had taken the place of a Christian priest fleeing persecution, learnt more of this religion and been arrested. At the trial he had refused to renounce the Christian faith proclaiming to his fellow Romans: "I am Alban; I worship and adore the true and living God, who created all things".

Alban was taken from this place to a hill outside the city walls where he was to be executed and it is said that, on the way, the waters of the river were parted by him so all could cross safely. When he asked for water, a spring immediately rose up at his feet. The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban is built on the site of Alban's grave.

These events were enacted by members of the Abbey congregations dressed as Roman soldiers, charioteers, lions, stained glass windows, flowers etc.. St. Alban and his two guards, Roman soldiers, were puppets 12 feet tall. Children carrying flags marked the position of the Procession. This Pilgrimage is now one of the largest in England.



From this colourful and moving pageant we moved into the Cathedral for the morning Eucharist where many hundreds had to sit outside to hear an audio broadcast. Archbishop Desmond Tutu welcomed all the "beautiful people" who had come from every continent, and stated that, "It is an incredible, exhilarating occasion. When you hear people speak about the Church dying, you say where are they when the Church has occasions like this one?" The Archbishop presided at the

service with our own Chaplain, Mark, preaching. Mark began by paying tribute to Archbishop Tutu and the Dean of St. Albans, the Very Revd Dr. Jeffrey John. To great applause he said, "At a time when many of us are feeling increasingly homeless in an Anglican Church that I had always believed was built like an ark, where every weird and wonderful animal had to budge over a bit to let another one find some straw, at such a time my energy is renewed and I believe I can hope again when I see these two brave Christians, who at great cost have spoken up for human dignity in all its God-given diversity and colour."

Pilgrims spent the afternoon being entertained by chariot racing before crowding back into the building for evensong and a sermon from Archbishop Tutu. He drew together examples of where there had apparently been no great plan from God, that had in fact resulted in good, arguing that, for example, without the persecution of Christians by the Romans there would have been no Alban, and without the system of Apartheid, no Nelson Mandela,

The Pilgrimage ended with the whole congregation, singing hymns and placing the roses, bought earlier in the afternoon, on the shrine of St. Alban as they filed past. It was a very moving as well as an entertaining day, and I can recommend anyone who is in that area around 22nd June to attend this wonderful occasion; it takes only 20 minutes from Kings Cross to St. Albans. However, this year of course was special with the great duo of Mark and Archbishop Tutu.

Jean Gram-Andersen.

FROM THE HONORARY ARCHIVIST

As the new keeper of St. Alban's Church archives I will be periodically drawing your attention in the pages of the Newsletter to ways in which our informal archives could be improved. The formal archives of the Church (baptisms, marriages, burials, minutes of council meetings, financial affairs, etc.) are already well looked after by the appropriate officials.

We have some excellent photographs of some of the St. Alban's early Chaplains (they used to hang in the Vestry), but none of our most recent Chaplains since 1962: e.g., Harold Hertzler, Hugh Picton, Kenneth Povey, Dennis Capes, David Prosser, Thomas Mendel and Mark Oakley. If you are able to fill in some of the gaps with good photographs of any of the above (as prints we can scan, or digital images) please let me know. It occurs to me that many of you might have suitable photographs taken at baptisms or marriages celebrated at St. Albans.

Photographs or newspaper cuttings of events at St. Alban's over the years would also be of interest (our present motley collection is very incomplete). The idea is to piece together information on the various people who have undertaken some of the various functions of the Church in the past. Our Hon. treasurers, Hon. secretaries etc. can no doubt be determined from the official archives, but who was the Head of the Sunday School before Catherine Højgaard, and who was the bell-ringer before Leif Kronby?

Siff Pors.

SERVICES IN AARHUS

There will be an Anglican Service in Møllevangskirken, Møllevangs Allé 49, 8210 Århus V, on the dates stated below during 2007/2008. The Chaplain of St. Alban's Church in Copenhagen, The Venerable Mark Oakley, will take all the Services except for our Carol Service, which will be taken by The Rev. Gottfried Grünewald. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served in the "Sognegård" following each Service.

September 16th, November 4th, December 16th (our Carol Service), January 6th.

Rogena Holst (tel: 86 22 06 45).

GOOD NEWS FOR MEMBERS OF THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We are very happy to tell you that Mark, our chaplain, will again be leading our Bible Study Group on Tuesday evenings at 19:30 on the following dates in Autumn 2007:

September 18th, October 2nd, 16th, 30th, November 13th, 29th.

Please put these dates in your calendar, and join us for an inspiring and informative study of the Bible.

Venue: Edith Beyer, Saxhøjvej 35, Valby, at 19:30.

R.S.V.P.: Edith, Tel.: 38 71 60 44, E-mail: edith.beyer@mail.dk

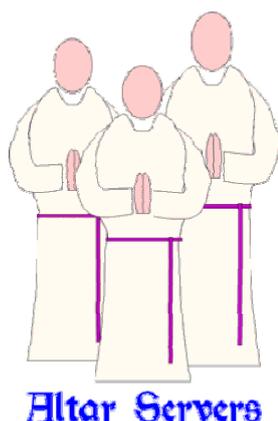
ST ALBAN'S WIVES

St. Alban's Wives met during the summer for the annual grill party. We were sorry that Joan Kittelsen was unable to be with us – She was sadly missed.

The new season of the Wives will begin with the traditional Communion Service on Wednesday, October 17th in Church at 10:30. This will be followed by a friendly get-together of its members. Joan Alsing-Andersen will be coordinator of the group.

St. Alban's Wives meet four times a year for good fellowship (no need to be married to join the group). New members are very welcome.

Joan Alsing-Andersen, Tel.: 35 81 16 62.



SERVERS NEEDED!

To help the dignity and reverence of our main act of worship on a Sunday it is good to have servers who assist the deacon and priest in the proclaiming of the Gospel and the preparation of the altar. At the moment we have a small dedicated team but we need a few more people to offer to help in this way. Servers can be men, women, boys and girls – and you will be trained as to what to do if you do put yourself forward – so don't worry! Will you, then, consider serving occasionally? Contact Mark (39 62 77 36).

NEW RULES FOR TAX DEDUCTIONS

From next year (2008) new rules for tax deductions governing donations to registered charities (such as St. Albans Church) come into effect. For Danish tax-payers the new rules will apply to charitable donations for the income year 2008, which are declared to the tax authorities early in 2009. At a later date we will inform you in detail how the new rules will affect those of you who make regular donations to St. Alban's Church using the Envelope Scheme or Giro Forms.

This year (2007) the amount deductible in respect of charitable donations has been doubled. All Danish tax payers can now deduct up to 13,600 kroner from their taxable 2007 income, which represents a significant saving in tax.

Nils Mortensen (Hon. Treasurer).

EVERLASTING LIFE?

I AM, therefore, have I ALWAYS BEEN and ALWAYS WILL BE
a part of this continuum of space and time.

From before its beginning and after its end,
we're all part of this existence and whatever lies beyond.

We're a part of it, wonder at it, love it
and always will do, until whatever end is the end!

Steve.

FACING THE INCONVENIENT TRUTH

As the Chaplain mentioned in an edition of the Newsletter earlier in the year, on World Environment Day in 2005 the Church of England launched a campaign called 'Shrinking the Footprint' to raise awareness about environmental change and its impact on our planet, and where possible, to begin taking concrete steps to help reverse the potentially disastrous effects of global warming.

While there are still a few isolated voices of dissent in the environmental debate, an overwhelming consensus within the scientific community now acknowledges the reality of global warming, and the fact that human activity is definitely contributing to climate change. Almost every day we hear reports from one region of the globe or another about the effects of changing weather conditions. Evidence now suggests that climate change is being brought about by the emission of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels. In short, patterns of production and consumption over the past two centuries in the West have contributed to a destabilisation of the global climate. With developing nations now seeking to industrialise at a rapid rate, further damage will be done, unless we act.

The Synod chose to call its environmental initiative 'Shrinking the Footprint' as its overall aim is to reduce the level of carbon emissions the church produces. In seeking to bring its own house in order, the church is also seeking to provide moral leadership on an issue that will come to dominate the political debate for years to come.

While we thank and praise God for the mystery of creation and the precious gift of life, we must also realise that God has charged us with the stewardship of the earth. It is up to us to ensure that future generations also have the opportunity to live and come to know God. We also have a moral obligation to help the vulnerable and the weak. There is little doubt that those who will bear the brunt of the first effects of global warming will be those who are already exposed to hunger, famine and drought, the disenfranchised and the poor in the third world. In the global village, everyone's your neighbour. Therefore we need to act.

At a meeting in June, the Church Council decided to respond to the challenge of shrinking the church's carbon footprint by implementing an environmental audit of the church in line with recommendations set out by the General Synod.

The audit is a general review of the patterns of energy consumption within the church and the environmental impact our activities have. Once the results have been collated, a decision will have to be made on how and where to act. The results of the audit should be known by October.

As part of the campaign to raise consciousness of the issues, the Council will then be inviting members of the congregation who are interested to a private viewing of Al Gore's film ***An Inconvenient Truth*** on the subject of climate change (keep an eye open on the notice-board in the Narthex). After the film, and a glass or two of organically produced wine, there will be the opportunity to put questions to a post-graduate in Geography who has studied the effects of global warming and climate change.

In the meantime, all of us can act by making small changes in our daily lives and routines. For more information on how to do this, you can visit the Shrinking the Footprint website at www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org

You might also consider following the advice below, or reciting the environmental prayer in this edition of the Newsletter.

Top ten tips to reduce your carbon footprint:

1. Switch off lights and electrical appliances when not being used (don't leave them on 'stand by').
2. Insulate loft, walls and water tanks, and draught proof windows and doors.
3. Switch from oil heating to other forms of central heating, 'fjernevarme' where possible.
4. Replace old appliances with new energy efficient ones.
5. Only boil as much water as you need.
6. Use your printer as little as possible.
7. Turn your thermostat down.
8. Recycle waste.
9. Buy locally.
10. Walk, cycle or use public transport where possible.



An environmental prayer

Lord God,
We thank you for the gift of life.
We thank and praise you for the mystery of creation.
We know that you are in us,
And we in you.
Guide us, therefore,
In our efforts
To hand on the earth to future generations,
So that others can seek to understand
Your will and purpose in the world,
Bring your love to perfection
And magnify your holy name.
Help us overcome godlessness with love.
Help us support and protect
victims of climate change everywhere;
Those who've had to endure the loss
of their homes or livelihoods
due to the ravages of famine, fire and flood.
Teach us to live in peace
And harmony with all creation.
Lord, in your name,
Amen.

Owen Prewett.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

The next Newsletter is the October issue for which the deadline for material to reach me is September 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.

LIST OF PROMISES TO BE AUCTIONED AT HARVEST LUNCH ON OCTOBER 6th

Lot no.	Promise	Donor	Comments
1	Dinner for 4 with the chaplain	Mark Oakley	
2	Bell-ringing lesson (45 min.)	Siff Pors	Minimum age 10 years
3	5 hours driving (not necessarily all in one go)	Rosemary Bohr	e.g. a carless person has a visitor and wants to go to Helsingør, lift to a hospital etc.
4	Bottle of Jacquesson & Fils champagne	Pauleen Bang	
5	An evenings babysitting	Dorothy Ocanda	4-5 hours
6	4 hours for setup of a Wiki website	Ed Cerullo	
7	Bottle of Irish whisky	Anne-Marie Tetsche Sweeney	
8	Watercolour by Maudaunt Parker	Anonymous	
9	Watercolour by Maudaunt Parker	Anonymous	
10	Christmas cake	Jean Gram Andersen	
11	6 bottles of red wine (Spain or Chile)	Lis Rasmussen	
12	Hand painted glasses	Jean Gram Andersen	
13	Window cleaning (3 hours)	Lucky Yaru	
14	Baileys Irish Cream	June Woolrych	
15	Matisse poster Louisiana 2005	Ulla Monberg	
16	Dinner for up to 6 at your home	Brendan Edwards	You buy the food, Brendan does the work
17	Sailing trip on Robson's boat	Robson family	Max. 4 persons
18	Food allergy test	Chris Moore	More information to follow
19	Bottle of Gammel Dansk	Joan Alsing Andersen	
20	Decorative platter with peacock	Joan Alsing Andersen	40 cm. diameter
21	Flowers (for 500 kr) in church	Victoria Wadsworth-Hansen	
22	Copy of restored gargoyle	Siff Pors	Plaster (only for indoor use)
23	6 packets of Kenyan coffee (500g)	Kamara family	
24	2-3 hours of piano entertainment	Simon Groth	Greater Copenhagen
25	5 hours of cleaning	Kamara family	Greater Copenhagen
26	Framed map of old Copenhagen (53 x 46)	Eileen Toxværd-Larsen	
27	Lecture 1 (90 mins.)	Carol Anne Oxborrow	When stars die (evening/weekend, near Copenhagen, large sitting room/small classroom/scout hut, 6-25 persons)
28	Lecture 2 (90 mins.)	Carol Anne Oxborrow	Building blocks for a growing universe (as above)
29	Dinner for 4 - 5 at Birgit's	Birgit Hansen	Including wine

30	Bed & Breakfast for 2 people (1 night) in Yorkshire	Kenneth & Marion Clarke	Date by arrangement (extra nights or people by arrangement at normal rates).
31	Vegetarian 'Cordon Vert' 3-course dinner for 6 including wine	Jakob Lund	At buyer's home (Greater Copenhagen) or at Jakob and Wendy's. Choice of menu taking account of allergies, customer preferences and season.
32	Bottle of single malt whisky	Wendy Wyver	
33	Theme birthday cake (chocolate)	Katie Robson	Up to 40 portions.
34	Unicorn mural painting	Konservatorskolen	Size 75 x 60 (heavy).
35	English tea for 4 - 6	Eileen Kofoed	At Eileen's home (near Sjøelør station)
36	Harvest basket	Linda Jensen	With a selection of jams and jellies
37	1 week Virginia summer house	Susan Thomas	Between 1st April and 1st Nov. 2008
38	3 bottles of red wine	Mary Mathiessen	
39	2 bottles of Tarapaca (Chilean wine) in box	Edith Beyer	
40	1 days gardening	Phil Clarke	Time to be agreed with Phil. N Sjøælland
41	1 days gardening	Chris Osborne	Can travel
42	Giant corkscrew	Summer fête	

We now have all the "promises" we need and hope to raise lots of funds to support our church. Tony Wedgwood has agreed to be auctioneer and Nils Mortensen will keep track of the proceeds. We hope you will all come and bid generously.

On the day of the auction (at the Harvest Lunch on 6th October at Søborg church hall), we will draw lot numbers out of a hat and Tony will start the bidding. After each lot has been auctioned, the winner can pay Nils and collect their "promise". For those promises that cannot be "collected" (dinner, bed & breakfast, gardening etc.) the winner can pay Nils and will be given contact details for the donor.

Some lots would be suitable for "joint" bidding. If you want to get together to bid for something jointly (like the house in Virginia or the various meals) then make sure you have an agreement beforehand and someone to be your official bidder.

If you have not yet delivered your "promise" to the church, please do so by the end of September, so we can transport all the promises to Søborg together. If you need help with transport, please let me know.

If you cannot be there on the day, but are interested in bidding for one of the "promises", or if you have friends or family who would like to bid for one of the promises, you can leave a "sealed bid" with me beforehand. So tell your friends about the auction and encourage them to bid. A "sealed bid" is an envelope with a cheque made out to the church for the maximum amount you wish to bid (or a promise to pay), together with your name and contact details and the lot number you wish to bid for (see lot numbers for each item on the list of promises). The auctioneer will be aware of the sealed bids for each item and will "bid" for you. If you are lucky, you may get the item for less than your maximum. The list of promises, along with some photos, will be on the notice board in the narthex until the Sunday before the auction and there will also be information on our website.

You can contact me with your sealed bids, or any questions, 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. A big thank-you to everyone who has donated a "promise".

Pauleen Bang.

REGISTRARS REPORT

FUNERAL:

8 June 2007 EMANUEL NDUBUISI OKEKE

WEDDINGS:

19 May 2007 PIA NIELSEN and PAUL ROBERT REDBOURN

23 June 2007 SANNE LYNG JOHANNESSEN and PETER JOHN MARSLAND

7 July 2007 NATASCHA WORM LANGHOFF and SIMON ANDREW JAMES
ELIZABETH FORSYTHE and WILLIAM GUY JOSEPH MATTERSON

21 July 2007 RINE THRONSGAARD POULSEN and JAMES DAVID PANNELL



BLESSINGS:

16 June 2007 FIONA JULIE ALEXANDRA SALICATH
and ETIENNE DOMINIQUE STEWART PRONGUÉ

7 July 2007 CATRINA SUSANA OSMENT and STEVEN MARTIN OSMENT

BAPTISMS:

17 June 2007 ROMEO ANDREAS MEROLLI
Son of Ann-Sophie Peebles and Giuliano Merolli

1 July 2007 VICTORIA ELISABETH SZABÓ
Daughter of Janice Elizabeth Szabó and Henning Árpád Szabó.

15 July 2007 AMANDA CHISOM NNAJI
Daughter of Christina Ijeoma Nnaji and Godson Chiukwuemeka Nnaji

4 August 2007 HUGO LOENBERG BUNKUM
Son of Signe Lønberg Bunkum and Nicholas John Bunkum

5 August 2007 CHRISTIAN WILLIAM RAPSON
Son of Charlotte Rapson and Stuart Edwin Rapson

THOMAS THEODOR HVIDBERG
Son of Sarah Elizabeth Corner-Walker Hvidberg
and Karsten Lemann Hvidberg

JAMES HENRY du PLESSIS
Son of Mariette Catarina Salicath du Plessis
and Stephen James du Plessis.

19 Aug. 2007 VICTORIA LOUISE TAYLOR
Daughter of Rikke Taylor and Stuart Gerard Taylor

WORLD CHURCH FOCUS – BANGLADESH

Bangladesh borders the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and India. Although a relatively new state, it is an old nation, with a written history of several thousand years, dating back to the ancient epic poem, the Mahabharat. The British East India Company called it Bengal in the 17th century. Initially named East Bengal after the partition from India in 1947, it was renamed East Pakistan in 1955. Bangladesh emerged as an independent state in 1971, when the two parts of Pakistan split after a civil war which drew in neighbouring India.

With an area of 144,000 sq km and a population of over 150 million, Bangladesh is the 7th most populous nation in the world. The high population density contributes to it being one of the world's poorest nations, with more than half the population living below the poverty line. Many are landless and live on, and cultivate, flood-prone land within a delta of rivers that empty into the Bay of Bengal. Much of the country is low-lying, and so is vulnerable to flooding and cyclones. It will be badly affected by predicted rises in sea levels, and by rises in temperature caused by climate change which will melt snow in the Himalayas. The majority of population cannot read, get enough food or decent medical care. Less than 70% of the population have access to safe drinking water, so water-borne diseases are prevalent. Efforts to improve the standard of living are hampered by political instability. Bangladesh spent 15 years under military rule and, although democracy was restored in 1991, the political scene remains volatile. Tensions have spilled over into violence, and hundreds of people have been killed in recent years.

Bangladesh was a secular state from 1971-88, and Islam was declared the state religion in 1988. Traditionally a moderate and tolerant country, there is religious freedom officially. However, there is increasing Islamist pressure to restrict this freedom, and the legal system gives few real safeguards to ethnic or religious minorities, and persecution has been reported against Christians, Hindus and Buddhists. With almost 86% of the population being Muslim (mainly Sunni Muslims), and around 13% Hindu, Christians are very much in a minority at 0.72%. Buddhists form a similar-sized minority (0.62%), and traditional ethnic religions claim the remaining 0.5% of the population.

The Church of Bangladesh is a United Church, and came into being with independence in 1971 with the coming together of the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian traditions. Before that it was a diocese of the Church of Pakistan. Its Anglican roots go back to the 17th century when Church of England chaplains came to minister to traders with the East India Company. Baptist missionary work began in 1793 with the arrival of William Carey. Presbyterians arrived in 1817 when Church of Scotland missionaries, based in Calcutta, began to work in Rajshahi. The church's estimated 16,000 members are grouped into 2 dioceses - Dhaka and Khustia. The Moderator is Michael Baroi, who is also the Bishop of Dhaka. Although in a minority, the Church is active, and exercises 'a servant ministry' providing a huge social outreach to people of all faiths, in the fields of education, healthcare and training.



Information compiled in August 2007 from various sources, by the Revd. Mary J. Vickers,

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
