

DECEMBER:

2nd	ADVENT 1 Isaiah 2. 1-5 Romans 13. 11-end Matthew 24. 36-44	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
9th	ADVENT 2 Isaiah 11. 1-10 Romans 15. 4-13 Matthew 3. 1-12	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
16th	ADVENT 3 Isaiah 35. James 6. 7-10 Matthew 11. 2-11 CAROL SERVICE CAROL SERVICE at Møllevangskirken, Aarhus	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m. 4.00 p.m. 7.00 p.m.
17th	CAROL SERVICE		7.00 p.m.
23rd	ADVENT 4 Isaiah 7. 10-16 Romans 1. 1-7 Matthew 1. 18-end	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
24th	CHILDRENS CAROL SERVICE WITH CHRISTINGLE MIDNIGHT MASS Isaiah 9. 2-7 Titus 2. 11-14 Luke 2. 1-20	Sung Eucharist	12.00 a.m. 11.30 p.m.
25th	CHRISTMAS DAY Isaiah 52. 7-10 Hebrews 1. 1-4 John 1. 1-14	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.

DECEMBER:

30th	CHRISTMAS 1	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Isaiah 63. 7-9		
	Hebrews 2. 10-end		
	Matthew 2. 13-end		



JANUARY:

6th	EPIPHANY	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Isaiah 60. 1-6		
	Ephesian 3. 1-12		
	Matthew 2. 1-12		

13th	BAPTISM OF CHRIST	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Isaiah 42. 1-9		
	Acts 10. 34-43		
	Matthew 3. 13-end		

20th	EPIPHANY 3	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Isaiah 49. 1-7		
	1 Corinth. 1. 1-9		
	John 1. 29-42		

27th	CONVERSION OF PAUL	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Acts 9. 1-22		
	Galatians 1. 11-16a		
	Matthew 19. 27-end		

FEBRUARY:

3rd	PRESENTATION OF CHRIST	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	2 Samuel 12. 1-7, 10-17		
	Mark 4. 35-end		
	Matthew 17. 1-9		

NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES for December and January are as listed above.

WEDNESDAY SERVICE Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets every Sunday 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,

A few years ago I was doing a pre-Christmas shop in a London supermarket. In the distance I saw a woman with her trolley absolutely piled high with food. In fact it was so high that the trolley began to topple over and she couldn't stop it. It fell over with an enormous crash and the food went everywhere. The woman sat on top of the trolley and all the tins and packets - and cried her eyes out!

Something became very visible to me in this incident. Stress levels rise, anxiety sets in (will I have enough? How will I get on with the family? Will I get everything done in time?). And some sadness can too (I will miss someone, I can't afford a proper present, I shall be alone). Our accumulation of things can simply be a distraction from some very real, maybe painful, topics that bubble to the surface at this time of the year. I can't help feeling Christmas needs distilling and that Christians are the people to do it! How good it would be, for instance, if every home of a parishioner had by their door a crib, an Advent wreath, a tree of Jesse or some devotional reminder. How great it would be if our Christmas meals started with a short grace - and if words aren't your thing you can keep a moment's silence together to say "thank you" in your own way. It would be wonderful if we considered how we spent our money this Christmas, too. As the Archbishop of Canterbury has asked: if Christians are people of good news, for whom is your money good news?

Advent is my favourite season as it confronts me with inconvenient truths. The readings, hymns and prayers of Advent are full of poetry and promise, expectation and wonder. Also, they all cry out to God to come and make us whole for, in ourselves, we are incomplete. Advent is a season of the vocative, '*Come! Come to us! We are restless until our hearts rest in you*'. Advent unveils some of the prisons I have fallen into and asks me if I want to escape. I hope that our celebrations this Christmas will enable us to see and understand how lives can be re-created and made fresh by the one whose birth we enjoy.

The priest and poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, in one of his poems, talks of Mary and also of how we are to give birth to Christ too:

*Of her flesh he took flesh:
He does take fresh and fresh,
Though much the mystery how,
Not flesh but spirit now.
And makes, O marvellous!
New Nazareths in us,
Where she shall yet conceive
Him, morning, noon, and eve;
New Bethlems, and he born.
There, evening, noon, and morn.*

I hope and pray that new Nazareths will be made in us this Christmastide. Peace be with you, and your loved ones, wherever you celebrate this great Christian feast of the nativity.

Your priest and friend, MARK

ADVENT 2007

Love's Longing: Spending time with some poets

On three Tuesday evenings in Advent, our Chaplain Mark will introduce some poets of faith who have explored the longing for God. These will include early Christian poets as well as George Herbert, John Donne, William Blake, Elizabeth Jennings and R.S.Thomas. Members of the group will be invited to share their responses to some poems that will be read. There will also be a time of prayer during the evening. All are welcome.



The evenings will begin at **19.00** and end at **20.15**.

The dates for meeting are **4th, 11th and 18th December**.

We will meet at **St Alban's House**, Tuborgvej 82, Hellerup.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2007

Sunday 23rd December

10.30 Sung Eucharist for 4th Sunday of Advent

Monday 24th December

12.00 Children's Carol Service with Christingle

23.30 Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25th December

10.30 Sung Eucharist for Christmas Morning

Wednesday 26th December

10.30 Holy Communion (1662) for St Stephen's Day

Sunday 6th January

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

10.30 Sung Eucharist of the Magi

19.00 Eucharist at Møllevangskirken, Århus





All are welcome to the
CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICE

at 12 noon
on Christmas Eve

at
St Alban's Church
(by Gefion's Fountain)
Churchill Park
(Kraks kort 148 H1)

On Monday 24th December at 12.00 (noon) we hold a Children's Carol Service which includes Christingle. A lot of people have no idea what Christingle is and so this is a short introduction so that you, whether young or old, will come and find out for yourself!

Christingle was established by the Moravian Church in 1747 as a symbol of Christ's light and love. The Children's Society introduced it to the Church of England in 1968 and it has since become a popular family and community event. Most Christingle celebrations take the form of a church service, but they can also take place at schools or other community venues.

The Christingle itself is made up of a lighted candle (symbolising Jesus, the Light of the World), mounted on an orange (representing the world), and a red ribbon or tape around the middle of the orange (indicating the blood/love of Christ). Four cocktail sticks bearing dried fruit or sweets are also stuck into the orange to signify the four seasons and the fruits of the earth. The candles are lit in the service as we all sing to the newly born Christ. The Christingles are taken home and remind each family of the Christmas message. It is good to place the Christingle on the Christmas table, for instance.

So, come along and enjoy Christingle!



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

The deadline for ticket applications has now passed, and the Carol Service Tickets have been allocated.

The stamped addressed envelopes are in the post. Otherwise tickets can be collected from Church each Sunday up to and including the weekend of the Carol Services.

Please return any unwanted tickets as soon as possible!!.

FAIR TRADE THIS CHRISTMAS?



A number of years ago, development agencies recognized the important role that consumers could play to improve the situation for producers. By buying direct from farmers at better prices, helping to strengthen their organizations and marketing their produce directly through their own one world shops and catalogues, the charities offered consumers the opportunity to buy products which were bought on the basis of a fair trade. Fairtrade labeling was created in the Netherlands in the late 1980s. The Max Havelaar Foundation launched the first Fairtrade consumer guarantee label in 1988 on coffee sourced from Mexico. Today Fairtrade labeling is found in 20 countries including Denmark.

Buying a product is a bit like eating a sausage – easy to enjoy, until you know what’s gone into making it. We need to see what goes before and after our purchases: the producers, and the impact of our consumption. We spend a lot of money at Christmas: could we be spending it better? The Fairtrade Foundation was established in 1992 by CAFOD, Christian Aid, New Consumer, Oxfam, Traidcraft and the World Development Movement. These founding organizations were later joined by Britain's largest women's organisation, the Women's Institute. The first Fairtrade certified product, Green & Black's Fairtrade Maya Gold chocolate was launched in 1994 and was shortly followed by Cafedirect Fairtrade Coffee and Clipper Fairtrade Tea.

Christians have a strong belief in justice and wish to see the end of poverty and exploitation. For this reason the Archbishop of Canterbury recently said that "If William Wilberforce was alive today, campaigning for Fair Trade and Trade Justice would be at the top of his agenda".

Why not think about buying more Fairtrade products this Christmas? What about Fairtrade presents for your friends or Fairtrade cards? Or a New Year's resolution to be more supportive of Fairtrade in the new year? There are Fairtrade shops in Copenhagen and some stores sell Fairtrade projects. If you want to know more or are unsure as to what it's all about, what about dedicating an hour to read up on the issues? There are many stories that reveal the difference that fair trade has made to people's lives. The following may help you to explore them:

www.fairtrade.org.uk

www.fairtrade.dk

www.tradecraft.co.uk

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmintdev/356/356i.pdf> (a recent British Parliamentary report on fair trade)



THE CHAPLAIN'S BOOK REVIEW

Sunday at the Cross Bones: A novel

John Walsh, Fourth Estate, 2007



The teasingly few known facts of the life and soul of Harold Davidson (1875-1937), Rector of Stiffkey, invite imaginative and frolicsome conjecture. Two musicals in the 1960s, a play, a film and various biographical inquiries, have paved the way to this fun, sympathetic but frustrating novel by John Walsh.

The title of the book comes from a 19th century rhyme about a week in *A Working Girl's Life*: 'where will she rest from her tears and moans? / Sunday at the Cross Bones', the old Southwark graveyard for London prostitutes. Davidson set out to save these women from such an end by leaving his Norfolk parish for much of the week in order to find and befriend them, at the same time looking for alternative employment for them. Suspicions, and later allegations, of immorality arose followed by a notorious trial, a public defrocking and the humiliating spectacle of a ministry-less Davidson appearing in a barrel or cage at Blackpool, on view to the public for twopence a time. He was eventually mauled to death, playing Daniel, by one of the caged lions.

It would be easy for a novelist to revel in a comic condescension, as both the farce and the questionable innocence of a sinner's saint linger in the air. It is true that there is a touch of the Frankie Howerd in much of the book's humour – sparks in an otherwise dark and pungently described London life of the 1930s. Walsh, though, is clearly of the mind that Davidson is a damaged hero, probably more of a threat to himself than anyone else – though barely recognised desires, as we know, can lead a person into dark and uncharted waters that can quickly drown.

When I was a bishop's chaplain I came to the conclusion that all the very best clergy are like moths, flying from time to time frighteningly close to a particular flame that, one day, might unravel or burn them badly. Walsh gives Davidson the line: '*There is a passion in the pursuit of virtue that must find an outlet sometimes, even in salvatory exchanges*'. Whilst Walsh is skilful in keeping the lively momentum of the novel by composed excerpts from an imagined journal by Davidson, a journalist's notebook, and letters between a retired major, the Bishop of Norwich and solicitors, detectives and others, I was left feeling slightly cheated. What was at the heart of this priest's obsessive nature? Why did the bishop probably employ someone to take Davidson's papers? Why was the Church so intent on Davidson's public humiliation (shocking George Orwell in its vitriolic resilience)? What took place in his mind and heart during the tragic Blackpool fairground years? Was Davidson a frustrated showman who felt he had outgrown small congregations and needed an audience? Or was he simply a naïve conscientious priest more willing to follow the Jesus of the gospel than the Jesus of the diocese?

We are left inevitably with another variation of this clerical enigma. This well-researched book might have been better with a more developed and disclosing bathos, and with a slightly less strained period language, but this should not stop the reader enjoying what is a stylish and affecting first novel.

Shakespeare told us to sit and see, '*minding true things by what their mockeries be*'. The parishioners of Stiffkey, remembering no doubt the 3000 people that lined his funeral, still devotedly tend Davidson's grave and his family continues to work to clear his name.

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.

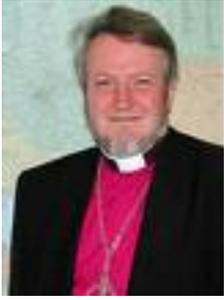
Address:

**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 BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL

Each year, as in Advent we prepare for Christmas, and the celebration of God's amazing love and grace in his coming among us in the Child of Bethlehem, I ask the Christian people of the Diocese in their many congregations to respond with generous love to the needs of others. This year my Appeal is for 'Friends of Children in Romania', a small charity that supports children previously incarcerated in grim orphanages and now brought to live as a family in houses in a village at the foot of the Carpathian mountains bought by the Friends of Children in Romania. From being abandoned and neglected and unloved they have flourished in a loving and caring environment. You can read more about it on their web-site: www.friendsofromanianchildren.org.uk

The 'Friends of Romania' does good work, as I know from at least one English parish that are keen supporters. But like all small charities, in order to do the work to which it is committed, it needs funds. A recent large rise in the cost of living, and in particular of the salaries of those who care for the children, has meant that there is an urgent need for support. Please give generously to enable this good work to continue.

With every blessing,

+GEOFFREY

A collection plate will be at the back of church each Sunday in Advent for this Appeal.

KIRKEVANDRING 2007

For the 53rd time, this evening of unified Christian worship and hospitality will happen in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, this year on Tuesday 22nd January.

Kirkevandringen starts at 19.00. We will begin at St. Pauls Kirke in Nyboder and then move on to Jerusalemkirken, St. Ansgar Kirke, St. Aleksander Nevski Kirke, St. Alban's and, finally, Gustafskyrkan. Please try and support this important ecumenical act of witness and friendship. Other churches have often shown more enthusiasm than us! So, time for change: come and unite - and wrap up warm!

HOW OTHERS SEE US - A VISITOR FROM POTTEN END AND NETTLEDEN

I was lucky enough to visit Copenhagen this summer, and as I wandered around the City I found a place that just had an amazing 'feel'. You know when you walk into a building and somehow a kind of presence surrounds you. Well this happened in St. Alban's Church. I was so impressed that I went back three times!

I am writing to express my appreciation of your beautiful Church. I was so impressed when I visited in September. At the time a friend was seriously ill in hospital and I took the opportunity to light a candle and have a few moments of prayer and reflection. The organist was practicing giving such a tranquil air, and the two English ladies made me feel very welcome. My best wishes to you and the congregation of your Church.

Anna Barnard

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

BAPTISMS:

21st October: WILLIAM JACOB FRIEND
Son of
Malene Rank Friend and Patrick Lynn Friend

4th November: ALEXANDRA COLLIN BJERRE
Daughter of
Catherine Sarah Collin and Christian Bjerre

OLIVIA JANE HVITSTED ROSE
Daughter of
Tina and Nicholas Martin Rose

WEDDING:

27th October: PERNILLE HYLL LARSEN
and
GERARD BENTLEY

Lis Rasmussen

JUTTA DONACHIE (DONNA)

Donna died peacefully on Sunday 11th November. As she requested, her funeral was held on Thursday 15th November at Sanct Thomas Kirke in Frederiksberg, where her husband's funeral was held a few years ago. Mark and members of the congregation were present representing St. Alban's.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE.

DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH FROM 2008 - IMPORTANT CHANGES

Those of you who claim against your Danish income tax for donations to St. Alban's Church using the Envelope Scheme, Giros or other payment methods, should note the following. As you may have read in your "forskudsopgørelse", tax deductible donations will from 2008 *automatically* be deducted on your annual income and tax statement.

In order for this to happen, the church must declare to the tax authorities at the end of each financial year, the sum of donations for each donor together with their CPR number (Person-number).

May we suggest that you insert a slip of paper with your CPR number in one of your donation envelopes early in January 2008.

Nils Mortensen, Hon. Treasurer

WORLD CHURCH FOCUS – CHAD

The Republic of Chad hit the news recently when 16 Europeans connected with a French charity were arrested and charged with child abduction and trafficking while trying to fly 103 children they believed were orphans from Sudan's Darfur region to France. Often simply known as Chad, the country is located in north central Africa, sharing borders with the Central African Republic, Sudan, Libya, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria. It is a land-locked country, with the nearest sea being 1000 km from its border. The country relies heavily on Lake Chad to fulfil its irrigation needs – the country was named after the lake, which is the fourth largest in Africa and the seventh largest in the world.

With a population of nearly 10 million, Chad is ranked as the world's 81st most populous country. Its area of 1,284,000 km², also makes it the 21st largest country in the world by geographic area. This means that the population is widely scattered throughout a vast amount of land, although most of the population lives in the southern part of the country. N'djamena, the capital and largest city, is located in this area, and is a significant contributor to the national economy. However, Africa's fifth-largest nation suffers from inadequate infrastructure and internal conflict. Poverty is rife, and health and social conditions compare unfavourably with those elsewhere in the region. Both literacy and life-expectancy levels are also low. Over 80% of Chad's population relies on subsistence farming and livestock raising for its livelihood, but the economy should stand to benefit from its recently-acquired status as an oil-exporting state.

Chad is a 'young' country having been formed from territories captured by a Sudanese adventurer from 1883–93. France defeated al-Zubayr's army in 1900, and Chad was under French rule from 1913–60. Sadly, independence was followed by three decades of civil warfare as well as invasions by Libya before a semblance of peace was finally restored in 1990. The first multi-party elections were held in 1996. Current president, Idriss Deby, a former coup leader, won these elections, and in 2006 won a third term, gaining 77.5% of the vote. One major problem besetting his government is the rivalries between the ethnic groups in the country. These problems are exacerbated by the thousands of Sudanese refugees in Chad who have been escaping fighting in the Darfur region of western Sudan since 2004. A state of emergency was imposed in November 2006 in eastern areas bordering Sudan's Darfur region after a spate of ethnic violence. In May 2007, Chad and Sudan agreed to stop conflict spilling across their borders but critics fear the agreement is unlikely to reduce the violence.

Officially a secular state with freedom of religion, there are three main faith groupings – Islam, Christianity and African Religions. Accurate figures are hard to ascertain but approximately 55% of the population are Muslims, 30% Christian, and 15% follow ethnic religions. The Christians are predominantly Roman Catholic but there are several Protestant groups including Baptist, Lutheran, Brethren, Assemblies of God amongst others. Some report that the government favours Islam, and that Muslims have become dominant in government, trade and the army, though barely a majority in the country.



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

THANK YOU COFFEE HELPERS

Just a few lines to all the kind and effective coffee helpers, who are doing such a grand job arranging and serving the Coffee and Tea every Sunday after the Sung Eucharist. I wish you a blessed Christmas Season and Happy New Year, and thank you so very much for everything. I do hope we can count on you also during the coming year. Any new offers of help are also very welcome.

You can contact me on telephone 43 21 61 13, for more information.

Edith Elwert

NEWSLETTER NEWS

The next Newsletter will be the February 2008, for which the deadline for material to reach me is January 15th (newsletter@st-albans.dk):

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

To receive the Newsletter by post, or to report changes of address for the Newsletter, write to:

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

