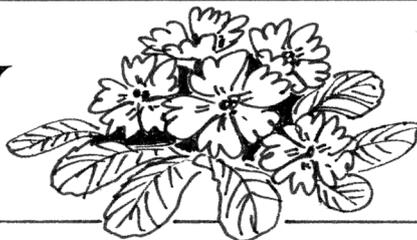


February



2009

February

1st	PRESENTATION (CANDLEMAS)	OF	CHRIST	Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Malachi	3	1-5		
	Hebrews	2	14-18		
	Luke	2	22-40		
8th	3RD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT			Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Isaiah	40	21-31		
	I Corinthians	9	16-23		
	Mark	1	29-39		
15th	2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT			Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Proverbs	8	1, 22-31		
	Colossians	1	15-20		
	John	1	1-14		
22nd	SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT			Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	2 Kings	2	1-12		
	2 Corinthians	4	3-6		
	Mark	9	2-9		
25th	ASH WEDNESDAY			Sung Eucharist	18.30 p.m.
	Joel	2	1-2, 12-17		
	2 Corinthians	5	20b-6.10		
	John	8	1-11		

March

1st	1ST SUNDAY OF LENT			Sung Eucharist	10.30 a.m.
	Genesis	9	8-17		
	1 Peter	3	18-22		
	Mark	1	9-15		

NOTES:

SUNDAY SERVICES for February 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.

Chaplain's letter

The Sundays after Epiphany, during which Mollie and I have been privileged to be with you, have been a time for emphasizing the breadth of God's concerns with the whole of His creation and a time for arming ourselves against all forms of narrowness.

The Persian magi came to worship the child who at his baptism was declared by God to be His beloved Son; the miracle at Cana was designed to show that all meticulous concern with purification is overwhelmed by the joy and feasting in the abundant forgiveness of a welcoming God; and the 3rd Sunday in Epiphany coincided with the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, who taught that in Christ there is no Jew or Gentile, bond or free, male or female.

The Bible Study group was confronted with the magnificent Overture to John's Gospel where we read that the Word was with God and was God and without him no created thing came into being. He came into the cosmos (the word John uses, wider than just the world) and the cosmos was made by him. Yet in nature there is a non-recognition, a separation from its true purpose which involves the whole animate and inanimate world. We human beings are part of this nature, and share this separation from what God intends for us.

Being a Christian is not joining a little closed group of the saved: it is joining a group that have learnt that God is in everyone and everything, and having found Him in ourselves seek to persuade everyone we come in contact with to recognize His presence within them. We seek in ourselves also to make effective the wholeness (= salvation) that comes to us when we allow Him to inspire and direct our lives.

Jesus shows what a God-inspired person lives like, so him we honour and worship as the interpreter of God (= Son of God) for us. We seek to live and work, as he lived, worked and died, for the well-being and wholeness of all human beings and of all nature.

May God bless this congregation as it approaches the season of Lent and as we return to our work and ministry in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham and in the Church of Sweden.

John Toy



Services in Århus - Spring Calendar

There will be services on the following dates:

February 15 th	Eucharist	7p.m.
April 5 th (Palm Sunday)	Eucharist	7p.m.

Møllevangskirken.
Møllevangs Allé 49, 8210 Århus V.

We are grateful to Møllevangskirken for giving us permission to have our services there. After each service coffee and cake are served and there is an opportunity to meet members of the congregation. Every one is welcome, for more information please contact:
Rogena Holst (86 22 06 45).

Christmas at St Alban's

Katie has asked me to reflect on my three weeks in Copenhagen leading up to and including Christmas. My first thought is that was a bit like coming home, since I had spent about three months here three years ago, so both the city and the Church were familiar to me. And so was the house, which in the cold, dark weather was very warm and comfortable. And of course the welcome and friendship of so many whom I already knew, as well of those whom I had not met before. Sadly, however, there were some gaps of those who had died or moved elsewhere.

So I felt at home and yet there were changes, because of course time had passed. The darkness of the winter was very much the same, but last time there had been continuous snow in December and very little sun. This time no snow, which from a visual point of view I missed, though from a practical angle I did not. But this time there were more clear days of wonderful Northern blue skies and winter sunshine which were lovely.

The bus and train system was, as before, magnificent and the wonderful cycle paths of Copenhagen are something I wish London would learn from, but I am afraid the dominance of motor traffic in London will never change, as well as the indiscipline of pedestrians, also it must be said of London cyclists!

And then finally the Church. I was glad to be here again for Christmas, since as a retired priest I miss being a full part of the ministry at the major festivals. At St Alban's we locums are encouraged to take initiatives and so we can make things our own within reason. I think what I got from it this year was the smallness of it all.

God comes into our world so quietly that it is very easy to miss him. He is born as a baby in a small town in an obscure part of the world. Yet there he is, pointing us to the value that he gives to every small thing, especially every small baby. It is so easy to miss – just another baby amongst all the millions of babies, so many of whom are not given value in our world. It was lovely that we had a baby born in our congregation, Jesse, who will grow up very loved and valued.

But it is easy to miss – and to forget. Christmas is over and done with, now we are moving towards Lent, Holy Week and Easter, and in our lives to coping with the economic melt-down, the events in Gaza, and all our other worries and concerns. But as a mother cares for her baby, when everyone else has turned their attention to the next new thing, we can keep Christmas in our hearts, knowing God's presence in the smallest, weakest things – especially the smallest, weakest human beings – and allow his love for them to be expressed by and through us. If we don't remember him there, then I am afraid we will miss him altogether.

Thank you all for a very Happy Christmas.

Edward Holland



Christmas Carol Service – 2008

The annual Carol Service was a delightful harmony of music and words and it was a pleasure to welcome many families and friends to St. Albans Church. Thanks go in particular to two groups of people who made these services so special. Firstly, to all those members of the congregation, church officers and guests who read the lessons so well and so clearly, and secondly to the choir and musicians who every year bring new anthems/carols to the service as well as leading us in old favourites. The choir and Peter put an enormous amount of time and work into all the Christmas services, for which we are all very grateful. Thank you!

This year, as always, we received an enormous number of ticket applications for both the Sunday and the Monday carol services. By the closing date, all tickets available were allocated. During the two weeks running up to the carol service we had an unprecedented number of returns, almost one quarter of the tickets, which did mean a great deal of extra work, time and expense contacting people and reallocating tickets. Most people who wanted to come managed to get tickets for one night or other, but a number of people who have liked to come had by then made other arrangements, so that's why there were some vacant seats.

Linda and Katie
Ticket coordinators

Thank you!

Over Christmas we raised money for three charities, two charities in India (as the Bishop's choice for his Advent appeal) and one charity in Estonia that St Alban's has supported for a number of years. The Bishop's appeal was in support of four hostels for girls and boys in Rajasthan, northern India, many of whom need financial support and for a project to support widows without anyone to care for them in Karimnagar, southern India. St Alban's continues to support the work of the Bethel Centre for Pastoral Care in Tallinn, Estonia.

We're pleased to be able to tell you that we raised Dkr 5487 for the Bishop's Appeal and Dkr 2582 for the Bethel Centre. A big thank you to all who made donations to such valuable projects.

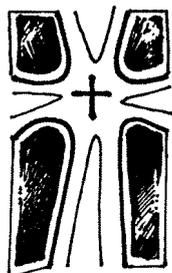
You can learn more about these three charities at:

http://www.europe.anglican.org/news/newsItems/2008/08_nov_01.html

and

<http://www.peeteli.com>

Taizé service



Though we are many, we are one body...
Join us in praying for peace in the world

Taizé service for peace and reconciliation
In Danish and English, with prayers in several other languages

Friday, 6 February 2009, 20.00
St Ansgar's Church, Bredgade 64



followed by refreshments in the Presbytery behind the church

Book Review

Adam's dream by Keith Jones

This is a very readable book by the Dean of York Minster that might appeal to some of the congregation. It deals with the profound truths of the Christian faith in simple, refreshingly new language, making unexpected comparisons (e.g. "the fatal germ of selfish pride" is likened to MRSA, and Jesus' harrowing of hell to the liberation of a prison camp) thus enabling us to see the familiar Bible stories in a fresh light and gain new insights from them. It is designed as a Lent Book, but can be read with profit at any time.

The book's title derives from the poet John Keats' awareness that his scientific way of thinking (he trained initially as a surgeon) was at odds with his poetic imagination; yet each depicted a different type of truth. (This ties in with the Bible Study group's first session on St. John's Gospel' when we discussed myth/poetic description v. history). Keats, referring to Milton's description in "Paradise Lost" of Adam being put into a deep sleep by God while He created Eve – the perfect human companion – said "The Imagination may be compared to Adam's dream – he awoke and found it truth."

But of course things soon go wrong. Keith Jones says "Human life, as it is described in the Bible is about missing the way, by mistaking the destination. We are not wholly blind. We are so made that we have some idea of what will bring us the happiness we dream of, but we choose something less, and then feel cheated. Through studying some of the profound stories and writings in the Bible, we shall explore those dreams and longings of happiness, and how God is always trying to put us into the right way, so that we shall want to have the very thing that he wants to give us. To understand that God is the answer, we need to go in search of what we are and what he is."

Keith Jones does this by considering in turn the Good Creation; the expulsion from Eden ("Living in the world"); the story of Job (Living in insecurity); the Song of Songs (The longing for love); Bethlehem (God truly present); Jesus's life and works (The way of the new Adam); Jesus's death and vindication (The new pattern), and Easter (The dream fulfilled) – "Christ, who has brought human and divine life together at last, calls us to share a new kind of life with him and with everyone and everything he has made. This new life is shown in the Eucharist."

This is a sunny book, with a delightful cover picture of the Creation. Sadly, the inside, black and white illustrations are poor – my only criticism. Part of the attraction is the wide scope of his examples, and their unexpected juxtaposition. He deals with profound matters, and does not dodge awkward questions, but uses simple language and his humility and sincerity are evident. In the words he uses about St. Francis (who first popularised the Christmas crib) his message was urgent but he did it "not by menace, but by delight."

Mollie Toy



The very first Valentine card – a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could – until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.



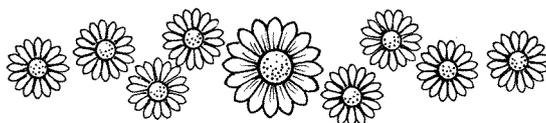
Altar flowers

There is a new, very empty flower rota on the notice board in the narthex. Putting flowers on the altar is a lovely way to remember a loved one, or simply mark a birthday!

At Christmas, Easter or other special occasions, we often make special sprays on the altar, larger sprays at the side, and often decorate the windows. The money for this is covered by your very generous contributions to the flower fund.

However, if you would like to do flowers for any reason, it only entails decorating the altar alone, and you don't have to be super creative. Two simple bouquets are sufficient, and you don't need to spend a fortune. If you haven't arranged flowers before, please speak to me and I'll help you.

Carole F. Rasmussen



Lucky, lucky, lucky!

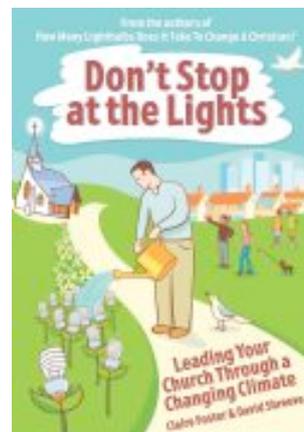
Our lives are devastation with inflation running wild.
(She's grinding food for animals to feed her starving child).
We may not have a Sunday roast, whatever shall we do?
(Her baby's close to death tonight, he may not make it through).
It's possible subscription to the gym may have to go.
(The rains have failed again this year, the crops will never grow).
The children need some trainers and they'll only have the best!
(Her baby dies while cuddled to his mother's empty breast).
We've pared back to essentials, there is no way we can save.
(With tear-soaked eyes a mother lays her baby in his grave).

Pam's Poetry (<http://pamspetry.blogspot.com/>, accessed 15 January 2009)

Don't stop at the lights!

Leading your church through a changing climate

by Claire Foster and David Shreeve



Why should the environment concern Christians? Is it just a popular bandwagon to jump on because the headlines are growing louder every day? Is it just another secular concern that troubles us because it troubles our world? Should the church keep its hands off, and leave the solutions to the scientists and politicians? Or is the degradation of our environment at base a spiritual issue? Is the consumer culture and the modern project of growth without limit, that has at least partly contributed to the growing crisis, a product of a society that has lost its spiritual roots? To put it another way, if our society were to reconnect with its spiritual roots, would that help the environment? Or, more contentiously, has Christian theology to bear some of the blame for human behaviour?

Don't stop at the Lights has been written on the understanding that there is a profound Christian theological basis for environmental concern. Exploring the roots of our Faith with care for the planet in mind stirs up new growth, new inspiration and new practical engagements for Christian churches. It also provides a distinctively Christian spiritual contribution to contemporary environmental discourse that is much appreciated in social, political, regulatory and grassroots circles, and is welcomed by other faiths that are also awake to the call of environmental concern.

The reality of environmental degradation has also challenged us to re-examine Christian scriptures and traditions with open minds and an attitude of humility. For Christian thinking has not been blameless. But in seeking to soften some traditions, others, just as old, just as biblical, have come into sharper focus. Everything is refreshed, and we find we are elucidating very new and very old truths from our Christian storehouse.

The title of this book is inspired by the realisation that changing our light bulbs – the theme of the authors' previous publication, ***How many light bulbs does it take to change a Christian?*** is only the first step in a journey. On its own, changing a light bulb will not save the earth. But the very act of changing one thing opens up the possibility of deepening and broadening an understanding and behaviour in caring for creation. ***Don't stop at the lights*** aims to energise its readers and to inspire them to:

- study Christian scriptures and tradition
- look again at the creation
- undertake silent contemplation
- preach with energy and commitment
- use their churches as beacons in the community, and
- energise their congregations into action in their own homes and their communities.

The practical ideas are often taken from historical Church practices. Many of these have rural associations because until relatively recently much of the Church was rural. Disconnection with the natural world underlies much of our environmental malpractice, and it is recommended that

urban churches take up the practical ideas given here in order to help congregations reconnect both with the land where our food comes from and the roots of our Christian rituals.

The theological ideas that have been related to the Christian festivals and seasons are also rooted in ancient ideas. They are substantially influenced by Old Testament scholar Margaret Barker's work on temple theology and they, too, should reconnect congregations with the roots of their Faith, evoking new ways of thinking about the old stories.

Public spirituality: Concern for the environment obliges religion to be public – there is nothing more public, more shared, than our planet. But just beating a drum about caring for it, although important, will not be enough for clergy, who have to sustain themselves and their congregations over the long term. Jordi Pegem said, "When a passionate concern for the world is not nurtured by spiritual insight, it often leads to despair or burn-out ... External, material resources diminish the more they are used. But our best inner resources grow and are replenished the more we get them out, the more we extend them to reach others." God is the only single clean, limitless source of energy we have.

Don't Stop at the Lights is published by **Church House Publishing** as part of the Church of England's national environmental awareness campaign ***Shrinking the Footprint***

For further information on the St Alban's 'Shrinking the Footprint' campaign, please look at the Environmental notice board in church on the Environmental page on our website:

www.st-albans.dk/green-church/

(1/2 page for Abigail's ad)

Newsletters 1982–2008

Following my retirement as editor of the Newsletter, I presented my collection of Newsletters going back to 1982 to my (temporary!) successor, Charles Robson. The earliest years are most complete, with the biggest gaps around 2001–2002. A list of missing issues is given below – if you have any of these and you can spare them, please present them to Charles for the Church archives.

Pre-1982: Any issues would be of interest.

1992: November (10) and December-January (11).

1995: July-August (6).

1996: December-January (10).

1999: October (8).

2001: October (8), November (9) and December-January (10).

2002: February & March (1, 2), May to November (4 to 9).

2004: March (2) and July-August (6).

Tony Higgins

Tax deductible envelope scheme 2009

Please do consider joining the envelope scheme which allows you to reclaim tax on your contributions to St Alban's and thereby also possibly enables you to give a little more. Under Danish Law you can deduct a total of 14,500 DKK annually from state taxes. Joining this scheme not only benefits you but it allows us to budget more accurately. Under the new system imposed by the SKAT from 2008 all information regarding donations goes direct to the authorities where your account will be credited automatically. Strictest confidentiality is kept at all times. Questions should be directed to the Hon. Treasurer - treasurer@st-albans.dk

Tax deductible donations 2008

According to SKAT, the Danish tax authorities, the first 500 kr. of a donation for the year 2008 will be deducted from the total, i.e. the minimum tax deductible donation must exceed kr. 500. So if your total donation for the year 2008 is kr. 1000, for example, SKAT will deduct kr. 500, making your tax deductible donation kr. 500.

Registrar's report

BAPTISM

4 January 2009

WILLUM MUNK AUSTIN

son of Annemette Munk and Craig Stewart Austin

Newsletter – next edition

The next Newsletter will be the March 2009 issue. The deadline for material to reach me is 15 February.

You are most welcome to submit material by e-mail to newsletter@st-albans.dk.

To receive the Newsletter by post, or to report changes of address for the Newsletter, please either e-mail as above or write to:

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

New Chaplain for St Alban's

On December 6 2008 we were delighted to be able to announce the appointment of the **Reverend Jonathan LLoyd** as the new Chaplain of St Albans with effect from **1 August 2009**. Jonathan is currently Priest-in-Charge of the United Benefice of Charlcombe with Bath St Stephen (Diocese of Bath & Wells) and an elected member of the General Synod of the Church of England.

Jonathan and his wife Sue have two daughters; one aged 20 who is at university in York and the other aged 17 who is studying for her A-levels in Bath. As part of the appointment process, they visited Copenhagen in mid-November, staying with our then locum chaplain and his wife, Alan and Barbara Wood. As well as seeing the church and the vicarage, they were able to spend some time in the centre of town, sample some herrings in Nyhavn and get a feel of Copenhagen. They had an informal dinner with the Council at the vicarage and Jonathan also had a chance to meet Ulla, Robert and Peter while he was here. We are enormously grateful to everyone who contributed to making their visit a success, not only during the visit itself but also beforehand, helping to "autumn clean" the church and the vicarage; most of all, however, we are grateful to Alan and Barbara for hosting Jonathan and his family and perhaps giving them an insight into working in the Diocese of Europe.

Bishop Geoffrey intends to appoint Jonathan as the next Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe. This will not take place until early in 2010, however, to give Jonathan and his family time to settle into Copenhagen and St Alban's beforehand.

The full announcement and the accompanying letter from Bishop David can be found on our website or on the notice board in the church.

Katie and Nigel
Churchwardens

Locum Chaplains

We are very grateful to Bishop Edward Holland for coming out to be with us in December, to Canon Dr John Toy and his wife Mollie for coming out for January. December was a very busy month and we enjoyed having Bishop Edward back with us for another Christmas and were glad that he was there to lead the ever growing christingle service. It has been a great pleasure getting to know Canon John and Mollie here for the first time. John's clear and incisive style has led us forward and his time in Goteborg and in the Swedish church as a locum was coincidentally very appropriate for the Kirkevandring.

Finding locums to cover the vacancy and juggling dates has left the odd Sunday here and there. No thank you to our locums would be complete without our mentioning the Reverend Ulla Monberg and Father Rickard Steenberg. Not only have they been willing to step into the gaps between our locum chaplains over the last five months, but they have become very much part of the home team for which we are very grateful and we were very glad that they each joined us for one of the carol services in December to read a lesson. We are very glad that they will each join us for one Sunday in February and that we will also welcome back the Reverend Gottfried Grünwald from Aarhus on February 22nd, before the Reverend Canon Barry Rose joins us for the first part of Lent.

Katie and Nigel
Churchwardens

Sounding the silence

Saturday 21 February 2009

"Come apart and rest a while" (Mark 6, 31)

An invitation to a time of guided quiet, prayer and reflection.

Why silence?

Knowing our need. Perhaps we have already known the blessing of silence and want to explore more deeply where it could lead us. We may long for peace and quiet to bring calm to a busy life or a troubled mind. Or we may fear that silence will only highlight the loneliness we already know in our lives. We may feel the great words of belief have begun to leave us cold and empty. We may have some sense that silence could be a way of solidarity with those who have no voice in our world. We may have a deep longing for God which time and time again gets crowded out. –

For any of these or other reasons we can stand on the threshold of silence and the prayer of loving attention and have difficulty in letting go of the words or pictures which fill our mind, the inner videos which entertain us, distract us or disturb us.

Attending to God. Silence is a way of coming to know Emmanuel, God with us; it is a way of dying to ourselves and of rising to new life. So silence links Christmas and Easter, birth, death and resurrection.

It may therefore be a good way of spending a few hours just before Lent begins, to see if we can find a way of giving up a lot of words and simply becoming still enough to know that God is God.

Finding the way. Most of us at some time or other on our journey of faith find it valuable to have the support of others to enter a friendly and spacious field of silence where we can "safely graze". That is what this day will seek to offer. It will be an opening for practice – not a discussion group or a study session but a time for waiting on God in the company of others doing the same. On offer will be guided introductions to some of the pathways of silence and time for personal exploration of them.

I shall be drawing on many years' experience of leading retreats and adult Christian learning programmes in England and Denmark, and I know that all of us, myself included, are always beginners when we turn to God in the noise or the silence of our hearts. Welcome to a time for making your own soundings in the depths of God's Silence and to refreshing your humanity in God's hospitable Presence.

John Nicholson

When?	21 February 2009 (Saturday before Ash Wednesday)
Where?	In church
Time?	14.15 – 20.00
How many?	Maximum 18 participants (to give plenty of space for personal quiet)
Cost	100 kr. on enrolment
Enrolment :	See folder with programme and more details in the church entrance lobby
How to get there	For those driving, we will try arrange a car pool from the Vicarage and lifts as necessary

"Be still and know that I am God"

(Psalm 46 v.10)



BJØRN'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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

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

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

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

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

Address:

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

Phone: (country code 45) 39 29 29 37

Fax: (country code 45) 39 18 38 42

School Leader: Pia Drabowicz
