

St. Alban's Annual Report 2017

From the Chaplain

This year like most years started off with a walking start!

On the evening of Thursday 19th January hundreds of people took to the streets of Copenhagen to proclaim their faith and pray for unity amongst all Christians. The annual ecumenical "Church Walk" is an extraordinary event, and not even the wintry weather could prevent modern-day pilgrims from making their way from one church to another on a cold and dark night. A usual St Alban's was well represented. This notable show of inter-denominational cooperation has an added extra importance in 2017 as it is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's promulgation of his "95 Theses" an event which is widely considered to mark the beginning of the Reformation.

It was with a great deal of sadness that Rev Darren announced his resignation to the Church council and congregation in July. His sense of thankfulness, and sadness to be leaving Denmark after meeting so many wonderful people in our congregations in Copenhagen and Aarhus was heart-felt. Rev Darren was with us a little less than three years which is not nearly long enough to get the full Saint Alban's "experience"! He was deeply grateful for the support given him, and for the privilege it was to be our Minister.

In his announcement, he recalled his first sermon as Chaplain and expressed the hope that Saint Alban's would be a "safe place to do risky things in Christ's service". His hope, he said, was "that our church community would be a place where we are inspired, supported and empowered to do such "risky" things! And, so Rev Darren followed his heart and did a risky thing! He took up ministry at St Edmund's Olso, Norway.

Since leaving for Olso, Rev Darren left St Alban's in the steadfast hands of the Churchwardens, Ministry team, Church council and Locums. It is understood that Interregnums are not the easiest transition periods, but church life has continued at St Alban's; most noticeably on 16th October when we were graced by a brief visit by The Most Reverend and Right Honourable, the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Justine Welby. He was in Copenhagen to attend the annual Primates Convention of the Communion of Porvoo. His fellow Primates from Scandinavia, the Baltic States, and Anglicans from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Portugal, attended a service of Evensong, led by Revd Palle Thordal. The Lay Readers took their part in the service with Victoria welcoming and singing the chants, Graeme assisting with the prayers, Ursula reading the first lesson, Churchwarden Christopher the second and Deacon Christophe leading the intercessions. The choir led by Michael was in its truest form for the Porvoo Primates.

As the Interregnum progressed, during the Autumn, interviews were held in London for our new Chaplain and candidate was selected. An announcement was expected in January 2018. Back in St Alban's several Locums joined us to celebrate "2nd annual Pet service", Remembrance Sunday, Christmas in our traditions - Poetry and carols by Candlelight, Carol services and the Children's nativity service. A big thank you to Cannons Barry Thomas and David Ratcliffe, and Rev Paul Skirrow who guided us through the Autumn and Christmas period. An enormous, and special thank you to Rev. Palle Thordal whose affection for the St Alban's congregation is a blessing, as his is our "permanent locum".

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The Churchwardens in their "Christmas message" looking back on 2017, mentioned the superb season the Guardians had, all the hard work that was put into the fête, thanked those who kept the church tidy, the brass shiny and beautify the church with flowers, and the hours of work on our gardens, those who have helped get the chaplaincy house ready for the locums and to get them settled in, all those who ensured there is a warm cup of coffee or tea after the Sunday service.

A huge thank you to all those who made Saint Alban's a spiritual home for so many in 2017.

Christopher Parker BPA, MA, Churchwarden
(on behalf of the Chaplain)

The Chaplaincy Council

Purpose and Structure

The Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Chaplain in promoting, in the chaplaincy area (in our case the country of Denmark), the whole mission of the Anglican Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. We have an historic church building at St. Alban's Church Copenhagen and a congregation at Aarhus. The Church Council has maintenance responsibilities for the St. Alban's Church building and its groups, and for the vicarage. We are part of the Deanery of the Nordic and Baltics, and of the Archdeaconry of Germany and Northern Europe (in the Diocese in Europe). The Diocese in Europe is the 44th diocese of The Church of England, which is part of the Anglican Communion. Our bishop is the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe. As a church, we are episcopally led and synodically governed. We elect representatives to Deanery, Diocesan and General Synod.

Membership of the Chaplaincy Council

Chaplain: The Revd Darren McCallig (until September 2017) *Ex Officio*

Readers:

Victoria Wadsworth-Hansen: *Ex Officio*

Graeme Lloyd Roberts: *Ex Officio*

Ursula Sonnewald: *Ex Officio*

Churchwardens:

Christopher Parker: *Ex Officio*

Nigel Rowley: *Ex Officio*

5 elected representatives to Nordic and Baltic Deanery Synod (2017 - 2020)

Maria Kvan Mortensen: *Ex Officio*

Pauleen Bang: *Ex Officio /Council Secretary*

John Mills: *Ex Officio*

Victoria Wadsworth-Hansen: *Ex Officio*

Anne-Marie Tetsche Sweeney: *Ex Officio*

Diocesan Synod Representative (2016 - 2019) *Ex Officio*

Elected members:

Angela Hansen 2015-2018

Philip Davies 2015-2018

Anton Kongshøj-Munch 2016-2019

Peter Fitzgerald 2017-2020

Frances Jacobsen 2017-2020

Tony Wedgwood 2015-2018 (resigned)

Judy Fitzgerald 2016-2019 (resigned)

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Sidespeople:

Anna Christine Christensen, Brad Henderson, Christopher Osborn, Eddie Wales, Frances Jacobsen, George Zaghioul, Janet Kamara, Jocelyn Hird, Joseph Simon, John Shennan, Junior Williams, Liz Jensen, Nigel Rowley, Phil Clarke, Rosemary Bohr

Address of St. Alban's Anglican Church:

Churchillparken 11, 1263 Copenhagen K, Telephone: 33 11 85 18

Address of the Aarhus Anglican Congregation:

Møllevangskirken, Møllevangs Allé 47-49, 8210 Aarhus V

Bank: Danske Bank, Copenhagen

Auditor: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Copenhagen

The Council Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the Church Council between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The membership is: the Chaplain, the Churchwardens, the Council Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer. The Standing Committee meets between each Council Meeting and agrees the Council Agenda.

The Trust Funds:

The Princess Viggo Fund for St. Alban's Church is to assure the continuance of St. Alban's Church by providing a source of finance, which in case of need may be applied to supplement the normal resources of the church

The Lindholm Fund is to support the maintenance of St. Alban's Church and the church choir, and is chaired by Richard Petersen.

The Wendy Vigild Fund is to support the training of Readers and laity in theological study, in memory of the late Wendy Vigild.

The Cray Jensen Fund exists to renew and maintain the furniture and equipment of St. Alban's Church.

St. Alban's Church does not receive any financial support from The Church of England, nor from the Danish or British states. We are self-funded by the generous giving of the congregation, and voluntary fund-raising events. We thank all our givers - large and small.

Attendance in 2017

Our main weekly services at St. Alban's Church are Holy Communion at 10:30 on Wednesdays, and the Sung Eucharist at 10:30 on Sundays. On the second Sunday of the month, St. Alban's now also holds a non-Eucharistic service at 16:00, where the theme of the service varies (i.e. a Taizé service, pet service etc).

The attendance figures for 2017 were a little down on the previous years numbers but, non-the-less, still rather impressive. Easter attendance (Maundy Thursday to Easter Day) in 2017 was 289 (307 in 2016, 341 in 2015 *a record year* and 231 in 2014). The figures for Christmas (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), even though we were then in interregnum, were still quite similar to 2016's numbers and saw 326 attending (348 in 2016 *a record year*, 331 in 2015 and 285 in 2014). We also had impressive numbers coming to our regular Sunday Eucharist's – the average attendance was 125 in 2017 compared to 133 in 2016, 115 in 2015 and 96 in 2014.

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At Aarhus the congregation gathered 10 times in 2017 – 9 times for the Sunday service and once for the Christmas Carol service. The average attendance at the Sunday Eucharist was 23 while over 101 attended the Carol service.

Deacon Christophe Ndikuriyo held services in conjunction with the Danish Lutheran Church in Vejle and in Jelling. Nine services were held in Vejle with an average attendance of 17. Only two services were held in Jelling with an average attendance of 10 but, for the social gatherings that were held (Eat and Sing), the average attendance was 35.

Chaplaincy Council meetings in 2017

The Church Council met eleven times in 2017. The Standing Committee, comprising the Chaplain, the two Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary, met as and when needed, usually one week before the council meeting.

The main issues and decisions of the 2017 Council are outlined below:

Chaplaincy Council Meeting 8th January 2017

- ◆ The budget for 2017 was agreed
- ◆ Safeguarding training (both online and in church) was planned
- ◆ The Amenities Improvements Committee gave an update on progress
- ◆ Outward Giving for 2017 was discussed and agreed
- ◆ Holy Communion by Extension for Graeme in Aarhus on 29th January was approved by council
- ◆ Graeme and Pauleen invited to Brexit meeting with the Bishop in Brussels on 18th January

Chaplaincy Council Meeting 22nd February 2017

- ◆ Safeguarding Update before training in church on 18th March
- ◆ St. Alban's has been invited to join Samvirkende Menighedspleje (United Parish Aid) - approved
- ◆ Graeme and Pauleen's report from the Bishop's Brexit meeting published

Chaplaincy Council Meeting 9th April 2017

- ◆ Safeguarding Update after first training in church on 18th March
- ◆ ACM planning discussed and agreed
- ◆ Job description for Children, Youth and Student Worker agreed and approved by the council
- ◆ Invitation received to a Brexit meeting with the British Ambassador on 26th April
- ◆ Parish retreat planned for late September in Maribo

Chaplaincy Council Meeting 23rd April 2017

- ◆ Financial Statement for 2016 discussed and approved

Chaplaincy Council Meeting 7th May 2017

- ◆ Christopher Parker was elected as vice chair of the Council
- ◆ Pauleen Bang was elected as Council Secretary
- ◆ Roger Moore was appointed as Treasurer
- ◆ Adoption of the Diocesan Safeguarding Protocol was approved

Chaplaincy Council Meeting 7th June 2017

- ◆ Reports on the Trust Funds
- ◆ Status report from the Amenities Improvements Committee
- ◆ Information on planned Roof Insulation
- ◆ Job advertisement planned for Children, Youth and Student Worker
- ◆ Updated from Security Committee including a successful evacuation exercise

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Chaplaincy Council Meeting 9th August 2017 Part 1 (with Darren)

- ◆ Roof insulation approved by the council
- ◆ Children, Youth and Student Worker appointed (Joakim Steiner-Johnsen), to start 14th August
- ◆ Fete budget increase approved by the council

Chaplaincy Council Meeting 9th August 2017 Part 2 (without Darren)

- ◆ Vacancy Option A (we, rather than the Bishop, appoint a new chaplain) was carried unanimously
- ◆ Two lay representatives to be part of the selection committee for a new chaplain were chosen after a vote. They were Nigel Rowley and Claire Clausen.

Chaplaincy Council (Vacancy) Meeting 12th August 2017

- ◆ Discussion of the appointments process
- ◆ Arrangement for preparation of vacancy documents
- ◆ Discussion of the role of the two lay representatives
- ◆ Timetable
- ◆ Arrangements for locums during the vacancy period

Chaplaincy Council Meeting 30th August 2017

- ◆ Vacancy documents adopted
- ◆ Choral Evensong at St. Alban's planned for a Porvoo meeting which the Archbishop of Canterbury will attend
- ◆ Firefighting course and other activities planned

Chaplaincy Council Meeting 18th October 2017

- ◆ Joakim gave the council a status on his Children, Youth and Student work
- ◆ Safeguarding update
- ◆ Finances and year-to-date figures discussed
- ◆ Changes to the Princess Viggo Fund presented
- ◆ Interregnum timetable discussed
- ◆ Holy Communion by Extension (2 dates in October and November) approved by council

Chaplaincy Council Meeting 6th December 2017

- ◆ Presentation on behalf of the Guardians by Rosemary Bohr
- ◆ Budget for 2018 approved
- ◆ Plans for the interregnum discussed
- ◆ Update from the Ministry Team
- ◆ Update from the NCCD (National Council of Churches in Denmark)

Pauleen Bang
Council Secretary

Mission and Ministry in Jutland

Aarhus

In 2017 there were 10 services held in Aarhus with an attendance of between 25 and 30. The decision to fix services for the last Sunday of the month (apart from July) has meant that numbers have improved and are relatively stable.

Darren led a Lent group despite the few attendees.

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In August, we sadly had to say goodbye to Darren who was instrumental in encouraging us to hold a monthly service. We thank St Albans for the support needed to carry on with services in the interregnum, with a special thanks to Graeme and the locum chaplains. It has been a delight to get to know them and to show them around Aarhus, albeit briefly. Thanks too, to Christophe who has been of valued help to the visiting chaplains.

Our carol service on December 17th was well attended as usual and 100 or so stayed for mince pies, sausage rolls and more carol singing in the sogngaard. We are extremely grateful to the people of Møllevangs Church for the use of this beautiful building.

We are optimistic for 2018 and look forward to welcoming The Rev. Smitha Prasadam as our new Chaplain.

Margaret Clark

Vejle and Jelling

In addition to the report about Ministry in Aarhus, I find important to remind why Vejle and Jelling have a separate report. The Ministry in both places, Vejle and Jelling, is an extension of the Anglican Ministry in Aarhus. As a reminder, in Vejle, international services in English put focus on refugees, migrants and ex-pats concerning the law of living in Denmark. In Jelling the target group is rather asylum seekers living in the Red Cross Centers of Jelling and Sandvad, 20 km from Jelling.

Vejle

During the year 2017, the International Services in English took place on a regular basis – apart from July and August - each second Sunday of the month at 2pm. I give thanks to different Lutheran pastors from Vejle parishes who helped me to plan and conduct these services in Nørremarken Lutheran Church. A particular word of thanks to Pastor Tove Bjørn Jensen and the Church Council of Nørremarken Church who allowed the use of the nice building for the all services above mentioned. The average of attendance is between 10 and 15. Unfortunately, these services have been stopped since January 2018, arguing that the attendance is not enough. I am looking forward to our new Chaplain, The Rev. Smitha Prasadam, to find out together the alternative step.

Jelling

As I mentioned in the introductory paragraph, the visions for Vejle and Jelling are different. Given the fact that people seeking asylum are from different parts of the world, it is not obvious that all people know English for getting much help from the Church with services in English. For this reason, we have put more focus on the social arrangement called “Eat and Sing”, an arrangement in which people bring food from their own culture and put on the same table. By eating together, there is occasion of chatting though not always easy given the limits of nonverbal communication. After that people have eaten, there is a short presentation and debate on a given topic from Danish culture and history or sometimes from another culture if we get an asylum seeker willing to share with others something from his/her

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culture. This arrangement has been taking place on each Thursday of the month from 5.30pm with an average attendance varying between 15 and 30, apart from the summer time, mainly in July and August. Once in a while, we have an “integrated” Danish service on Sunday at 10.30, a service in which we have some hymns in English, and readings in different languages with my involvement in giving communion, of course by and with the permission of a Lutheran pastor.

In addition to the regular English services in Vejle and the social arrangements in Jelling, I will mention three important events that happened during 2017. The first one concerns a conference towards migrant pastors organized by the known cross culture center in Denmark, Tvær-Kulturelt Center. This conference took place in Middelfart in May and I was very involved as an Anglican. The second event is about the celebration of the 500 years of Reformation within the Lutheran Church of Denmark. To mark this event, Vejle Provsti had organized various evening activities among which intercultural music. I was invited to contribute in this evening with two songs in solo. The third event concerns the Christmas Party that I, my wife and some volunteers organized within a local new organization called the Light of Hope. The attendance was so amazing and encouraging: 68 people of 16 different nationalities. We plan to continue organizing in the future such Christmas Parties in planning ahead than how we did this year.

In conclusion, I would first address my thanks to Saint Alban's moral and financial support during my medical leave in between July and September, on one hand. On the other hand, my thanks for the communicative support in announcing through the Church Magazine the activities in Vejle and Jelling. Second, my thanks go towards our Lutheran colleague pastors since without them no international activity could happen within the Lutheran Church of Denmark neither in Vejle nor Jelling.

The Revd Christophe Ndikuriyo, Deacon with PTO

Church Warden's Report (Fabric of the Buildings)

2017 has been a tranquil year for us in terms of maintenance, and one we have not had to ask the Church Council for extra money.

The security system is working as expected the new cameras cover most of the outside of the church, and have been used by the Police to secure an arrest of a felon in December. The security token system is working perfectly; aside from the occasional “operator error”.

Our introduction of Mobile Pay “32664” for the Guardians and the congregation is showing increasing growth in donations; especially as Mobile Pay is used for paying for coffee and cakes after the Sunday service and donations at Carol Services.

An overhaul of regular lightbulbs to LED lightbulbs in the Autumn was completed with a view to reducing electricity costs.

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The radiators are routinely checked and all are working as they should on thermostats which regulate the heat automatically as the temperature outside changes. Our major effort now is to keep that heat from escaping; to that end we have used the remaining grant from the Mærsk Foundation to insulate the attic. Work was completed in the attic this winter and the benefits will start to show in our comfort level of the congregation and reduced heating bills. After all the work, we had completed outside and inside the church a big 'thanks you' is owed the Mærsk Foundation for their grant of 5 Million kroner in 2012.

And of course, we can not forget our on-going plans for new extension of three toilets, one with disabled access and re-modelled crypt. We have worked for this for several years, and in December we received long awaited news that the Copenhagen Municipal Council had approved plans by presented by Architect, Amalie Drachmann, who is specialising in English church architecture. By late Autumn 2018, we expect to have fully functioning toilets will be found at the back of the church! Now, all that is needed is to raise the money 3 million kroner! But, not to worry too much, we are certain there isn't a single member of our congregation who won't want to help with this after years of queuing!

We are grateful to the Altar Guild, gardeners and others who keep us informed of work that is required whether it is at the vicarage or church, and help us keep our church and vicarage as we see it today.

Christopher Parker BPA, MA and Nigel Rowley, Churchwardens

Registrar's Report

In the year from 1 January to 31 December 2017 there were 14 baptisms, 5 confirmations, 2 funeral services and 15 weddings/ blessings.

Kate Thomsen, Registrar

Altar Guild

What did we NOT do last year ? We didn't carry through our big Autumn "congregational" furniture polishing , cobweb removal, clean-up. It seemed that every time that we tried to fix a date, it clashed with other church activities. We must do better this year. Some time in the Spring, and with proper notice, we hope that as many as possible can come on a Saturday morning for a couple of hours. All the furniture is treated with our special recipe of red wine and linseed oil. (No hard polishing !) Also, all the lights are lowered in order to wash the bulbs.

Otherwise, those who are involved in keeping the silver and brass shining, wrought iron and cupboards clean, linen washed, vestments and hangings in order, just keep on going, year in, year out. However, one of the ladies, who is our sewing specialist has found it necessary to stop , due to poor health. So, please speak to me if you feel it possible to help out, and what the job entails.

Happily, we have quite a number of new flower arrangers, but we can easily use more. Apart from Advent and Lent, there are many Sundays in the year, also special occasions, where we decorate more than just the Altar. Again, please speak to me, or Jean, if you'd like to join us in this very satisfying activity.

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Many thanks to a dilligent, dedicated tream of Altar Guild Members.

Carole F. Rasmussen
(Chairwoman)

Electoral Roll

The final count at last year's ACM was 224 Electoral Roll members. Today we have 231 Electoral Roll members and 30 nationalities, as follows:

Danish	73
British	87
Peruvian	1
Australian	2
New Zealander	2
USA	10
Canadian	5
Zambian	1
Kenyan	4
Indian	6
Ugandan	3
Iranian	1
Dutch	2
South Sudanese	2
Sierra Leonean	1
Russian	2
Ghanaian	3
Hungarian	2
German	2
Nigerian	9
Irish	2
Faroese	1
Norwegian	2
Japanese	1
Bolivian	1
Syrian	1
Egyptian	1
Austrian	1
Columbian	2
Romanian	1
30	231

Pauleen Bang
Electoral Roll Officer

Mothers' Union

Every year the Mothers' Union organises the Shoe Box Appeal to provide Christmas gifts for children, spending Christmas at the Danner Shelter in Copenhagen. At Christmas 2017 this happened again with great success.

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Many of the children at the Danner Shelter have experienced difficult times and might not receive other presents. The Shoe Box presents are given in the hope that they help the children have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Children and grown-ups from our congregation and students from Copenhagen International School all took part in a collection of gifts and money donations last year. Thanks to the overwhelming success we had enough gifts and donations to prepare gifts for all the children this year, too.

Students from Copenhagen International school collected gifts for the women, so 12 children and 16 women each received a nice gift on Christmas Eve.

A mother wrote: "It meant for us, that Christmas became a lot less difficult financially. But most of all it meant the feeling that some people are thinking of 'us'. It gave the Christmas spirit, which it was so difficult to find because of our situation".

Dear friends, thank you so much for your kind help and generosity!

Dorothy Ocanda and Anne-Marie Sweeney

Safeguarding

Safeguarding really took off at St. Albans during this year. In 2017 Jane Passant and I organized the first 2 sessions of Level-2 training. The first session was on Saturday 18th March, the second session was held on Saturday 4th November. Both sessions were taught by Susan Boyd, our Deanery Trainer. We thank Susan for being so generous with her time. As at end-of-year we have 45 persons trained at Level 2 and around 80 persons trained at Level 1 (online training).

Jane resigned as Safeguarding Officer in August, due to the time that was needed to be spent on her Reader Studies. I wish to thank Jane very much for her help during the first half of the year. I am pleased to report, that as at end of 2017 we have found a new second Safeguarding officer. Katja Krupezki will be using the first quarter of 2018 to get up to speed on various aspects of Safeguarding work.

There is no doubt that Safeguarding has become a far more important issue at the Diocesan Office in London, and has therefore been given a much higher priority during the past 12 months. All are most welcome to approach Katja or myself on this important topic.

Christopher J. D. Osborn
Safeguarding Officer

Music and Choir

2017 was the "Year of the Three Organists:" after finishing her organ studies at the Royal Danish Conservatory, Mie Othelie Berg got admitted into a graduate programme in musicology at the University of Birmingham. She took all the congratulations and well-wishes of the Saint Alban's community with her. To everybody's delight, Michael Emery, who is not only a senior executive at the Danish Radio but also a highly trained and experienced English church musician, graciously accepted to cover several months after Mie's departure until Michael Koenig, an anglophile Austrian

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who had recently moved to Copenhagen, took over in mid-October. The three were skilfully assisted by Isaac Lee (Assistant Organist, Roskilde Cathedral) and by Peter Rohling, to whom Saint Alban's owes a particular debt of gratitude for all his years of constant service as the Saint Alban's Organist.

Throughout the year of 2017, the choir has continued to lead the congregational singing, as well as to provide a weekly choir anthem. Towards the end of the year, a particular focus lay on solidifying a core repertoire which the choir can perform with little or no preparation time. This strategy also allowed to work on a more blended and expressive vocal sound.

As part of the gathering of Scandinavian bishops, the choir participated in a Choral Evensong on 13 October, which was also attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury: Michael Emery selected the music and extensively rehearsed the choir, Isaac Lee played the service. December was once again the month of the traditional Carol Services: Nine Lessons and Carols, and Carols and Poetry. In the latter, harpist Helen Davis together with one of her students, the Three Kings (Stephen Brawls, Peter Fitzgerald, and Hans Christian Hansen), and Michael Emery at the organ provided the music.

Also throughout the year, concerts with choral and chamber music took again place at the church.

In practical terms, the choir has improved its seating arrangement in the practice room, which allows for a more efficient, inspiring, and communicative way of rehearsing. The choir practice website, which Stephen Brawls curates with the utmost dedication and accuracy, continues to constitute a crucial resource for each choir member, as it allows to download all the sheet music, as well as to listen to and practice each vocal part individually. Finally, more thorough information regarding the service music can be found on the weekly pew slips since autumn.

All the music at Saint Alban's is only possible because of the people who are willing and able to make it. Besides donating their time and talents, they also find the time for social events every once in a while. Twelve singers and three organists enjoyed a garden party in Carole Rasmussen's home during the summer. High spirits, delicious food, and spontaneous music-making allowed for a relaxed and happy way to get together and to make new members feel welcome.

Our most recent new member Jorge Ivan Contreras Cardeño was the first to experience the new process of choir admission: after undergoing a period of probation and taking a brief musical test, he was solemnly inducted into the choir during a Sunday Eucharist in Advent. The ceremony follows the guidelines of the Royal School of Church Music and concludes with the beautiful choristers' prayer, which in so many ways reflects the mission of the choir: 'May the Lord grant that what you sing with your lips, you may believe in your heart, and what you believe in your heart, you may show forth in your life.'

Michael Koenig, M.A., ARCO
Organist and Director of Music

Coffee Team

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to every member of our congregation who has volunteered their time to make Sunday after church even more enjoyable. Thank you for making the time to bring in delicious treats and serve coffee Sunday after Sunday, be it a warm summer's

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afternoon in the garden or a warm cup of coffee in the winter. Having coffee after the service has enabled our congregation to mingle and get to rekindle old friendships.

In the past year, we have been blessed with many volunteers to help serve coffee and we hope to keep this tradition going. You can help to do this by signing up on the coffee rota for this coming season. It would be our pleasure to welcome you back on the team and we highly encourage new members from the congregation join our team. Being new is not an issue, we will match you with an experienced partner, if you haven't already found one, who will guide you if it's your first time.

Thank you in advance, and we hope to continue serving in God's ministry.

Many blessings,

Janet Kamara and Simon Groth

Sunday School

The Sunday school is generally going well. On average 5-6 children from 4-10 years participate each time. In Sunday school, we try to combine fun and learning, and the children always get to express their creative side. We get inspiration from www.wholepeopleofgod, which has suggestions for lessons for each Sunday. The highlight this year was definitely the nativity play when the church was full of children dressed up as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels and kings. In the future we hope to make the Sunday school and children a more visible part of the congregation, maybe by performing a song in front of the congregation, or maybe as we saw it on Mothering Sunday this year when the children were giving flowers to the women in the church. The main challenge for Sunday school is to find people who would like to assist. Most of the times it is the same people who do the Sunday school. It would be a great help if maybe some of the parents or someone else could give a hand. If you have any questions about Sunday school or wish to help, please e-mail joakim@st-albans.dk.

Joakim Steiner-Johnsen

Ecumenical Activities

St. Alban's is a member of The National Council of Churches in Denmark (NCCD) which is representing more than 100 denominations and religious organisations and deals with ecumenical issues and issues relating to the church and the state.

St. Alban's is a member of Green Church (NCCD). St. Alban's is listed as a Green Church in Denmark as the church has succeeded in fulfilling environment friendly requirements.

Events.

17.01.17 the General Meeting of NCCD was hosted by the Catholic Cathedral in Bredgade, Copenhagen. This was the first meeting with new chairman of the council: Bishop **Henrik Stubkjær, Bishop of Viborg, Danish Lutheran Church.** Anne-Marie attended the meeting. On the agenda was the publication (in Danish) of a booklet on Christian faith which was presented and discussed.

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19.01.2017 The St. Alban's community took part in the annual **Church Walk**, the big ecumenical walk involving 6 neighboring churches of different denominations. St Alban's was completely full at both services. More than 850 people divided into four groups took part in the event.

30.08.2017. Council Meeting, NCCD. The meeting was attended by Anne-Marie. AM forwarded questions on behalf of the church council. as the new 'Imam-law', adopted on the 27th Dec 2016 and with effect from 1st of April 2017, would affect the church. There were new requirements to fulfill to obtain the right to marry people in the congregation: Danish language to be used at weddings and the obligation for the chaplain to complete a course in Danish Law and to sign a statement to obey Danish Law. NCCD gave the St Alban's its full support. It was agreed, that English should be used at weddings as usual. If any problems occurred, the church was invited to contact NCCD, which would lead the ongoing discussions and negotiations with the Church Ministry on behalf of its members. The bill on a new legislation on all church communities outside the Danish Lutheran Church was discussed. There would be new requirements to financial transparency. The number of members in congregations would also have to meet set standards to be proven at supervision visits from the state.

04.11. Council meeting at NCCD. Rev. Palle Thordal attended. Focus for the meeting was the discussion of plans for ecumenical religious education in member churches. On the agenda was also update on the national church festival, Heavenly Days in the Moor (Jutland) 30.05 – 02.06. 2019.

Points translated from the minutes:

Green Church. Mia Toldam Korsgård is the new coordinator for Green Church and Ecumenical dialogue and training. She took up the position on the 1st of November 2017 after Hanna Smidt.

Law for religious communities outside the Danish Lutheran Church: There had been meetings between the special church committee and the Church Ministry.

Imam-law: NCCD had received a letter from the Church Ministry regarding the compulsory course for priests or others who wished to be able to marry people: The right to marry people is personal. Priests who already hold the right to marry people before and on the 1st of April 2017 don't have to reapply. All who apply after 1st of April 2017 have to follow (and pay) the course in Danish Law. These regulations were the implementation of a law adopted on the 27th Dec 2016 (The Imam-law)

New network. NCCD has joined a new network focusing on religion and society. It had been initiated in connection with the so called Imam Law. The Jewish Community (Det Jødiske Trossamfund, The Muslim Joint Council (Muslimsk Fællesråd) and various churches and church organisations are represented.

10th and 11th of December 2017. The two Christmas Carol Services were very well attended by our own congregation and many ecumenical friends, clergy and lay. As always the church

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was brimming full at both services. Peter Skov-Jakobsen, the Bishop of Copenhagen, participated. The services went very well. There was great singing by the St Alban's Church Choir, great music by Organist and Director of Music, Michael König, and amazing support and participation by the congregation.

31.12.2017. The law on religious communities outside the Danish Lutheran Church was adopted by 1st of January 2018. St Alban's has started the work to meet and implement the new regulations, which will include an official Danish translation of the wedding liturgy to be sent to the Church Ministry. This solution is the outcome of the NCCD's dialogue with the Church Ministry on behalf of St Alban's.

As a representative for the St Alban's community I have been in close contact with the National Council of Churches (NCCD) throughout 2017. On our behalf NCCD has been in close contact with the Church Ministry to discuss and deal with the new church legislation and its impact on our church life and administration.

It is important, that St Alban's is represented at the meetings to speak up for the church and for our English speaking community. It is also important to take active part in this unique network of Christian communities in DK. St. Alban's is a standing member of the most important body, the Council, Rådet, and we therefore participate in all meetings. We are entitled to send two representatives.

The National Council of Churches in Denmark (NCCD) or Danske Kirkers Råd, has to my knowledge and in my opinion represented their many different members in a loyal and very professional way. The council has dealt with issues that are important to St. Alban's and has made it possible for our congregation and community to have a voice nationally and internationally among representatives from other denominations and national churches in Denmark.

I was asked by the general secretary of the NCCD to write a small article on why St Alban's is a member of NCCD. It will appear in the annual report 2018 from the NCCD.

Anne-Marie Sweeney

Ecumenical Officer and Representative at the National Council of Churches in Denmark

The Guardians Team

Again in 2017 the guardians had a successful season from April to September. Keeping the church open on Saturdays, as we have been doing for the last two years, has enabled us to welcome even more visitors, which has been reflected in the donations – around Dkr 400 000 last year. It is very rewarding for us to see the effect the beautiful interior of the church has on even the most rushed of tourists: for a minute or two they can enjoy calm in the middle of their busy itineraries.

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It is heartening that a few more newcomers join our ranks each year, as others leave. As always, we are very grateful for the time they give, and have given, to the guardians. Hopefully we will be able to welcome more volunteers in 2018.

Rosemary Bohr

Summer Fete

The 2017 fete was another success, thanks to the beautiful weather and above all to the bouncy castle for the children, the jazzmen for the grown-ups and the Jane Austen dancers who have been delighting tourists and regulars alike for several years at the fete.

The stalls and refreshments did a roaring trade, and the plants stall (an innovation in 2016) is now becoming a great success story.

In 2017 we invested in new tables and chairs. Although these made a dent in our profits, they proved their worth. For the first time we had enough small tables and chairs for people to sit down adjacent to the BBQ, while the new tables for the stalls, being much lighter, were far easier to manhandle and stack than the old ones.

The fete takes a lot of hard work and grateful thanks are due to all those many people who give up so much time and energy to it. In addition to everyone who works on the day, there is an army of backroom staff (often the same people) who among other things produce all the food, drive round collecting stuff from donors, organize the publicity, deal with the money and the authorities, sit up all the previous night guarding the tents, and maybe heaviest job of all, dispose of the leftovers and the rubbish afterwards.

Particular thanks are due to the business donors, both local and further afield, who again made most generous contributions. We are very grateful to them.

Rosemary Bohr and Philip Davies

Youth Group and Student Group

The Youth Group is a group for teenagers, which usually meets after the Sunday morning service on the first Sunday of the month. The group has had its challenges this year. We started out planning future activities, but as the months went by it seemed like the young people were not motivated to be a part of the group, which means that we had to cancel several activities. Either because only one showed up, or because no one showed up at all. We hope that this will change in the future and that some of the young people getting confirmed would like to be a part of the group.

The Student and Young Adult Group is a group for students and young adults between 18-45 years. The group has had a varied programme of events this year including: a visit to Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek for an exhibition on Greek-Roman culture and sculptures; a trip to Centre for Tibetan Buddhism where we got a presentation of the teachings and practices of Buddhism; and a trip to the Russian Orthodox church for a tour on the history of the church and the Russian Orthodox church in general. Unfortunately, we also had to cancel a couple of activities because of a low number of

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participants, but we hope that over time more people will be aware of the group and would like to be a part of it.

If you have any questions, please e-mail joakim@st-albans.dk.

Joakim Steiner-Johnsen

Franciscans at St. Alban's

The Franciscans at St Alban's are a group of people from 5 countries, three continents who are interested in Franciscan spirituality. The group is led by the Third Order Franciscan Ursula Sonnewald with the help of the Franciscan Companion John Nicholson. We started in November 2016 and meet circa every second month, often in the presence of some beautiful dogs of various sizes, in the evening at St Alban's to help each other grow spiritually and Franciscan simplicity has been a focus area. Pax et bonum.

Ursula Sonnewald

Amenities Improvement Project

The Amenities Improvement Project Committee, charged with improving toilet facilities for wheelchair and handicap access along with improvements to the kitchen facilities and crypt area have been hardworking all year, although, as you can see, there have been no physical signs of change. This is due to a very lengthy planning approval process that has required constant feeding of detailed documentation and data from our architect to the authorities.

Nevertheless, our persistence has finally borne fruit and we now have full permission to start building works in 2018.

The process moving forward is the preparation of tender documents for contractors to quote the works (planned March/April) – the award of the project (planned April) – Construction (planned April-Aug).

All being well, hope is that all major works will be completed ahead of the Fete in late August.

I would like to thank the Committee members for their time, patience and input throughout the year and also the devotion of our Architects Amalie & Ole Drachmann and not tiring in the restless quest for obtaining approval.

Let's hope and pray the spring and summer weather is kind to our builders and we can celebrate the completion of these long-awaited improvements to our amenities soon.

Philip Davies
Chairman – Amenities Improvement Committee

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Communications

Introduction

The communications team is usually chaired by the chaplain, who is normally also the managing editor for the newsletter. During the interregnum, this role has been taken on by Churchwarden Nigel Rowley. It will, of course, revert to the chaplain at some point in 2018.

Social media

There are two social media administrators, Pauleen Bang (for Copenhagen) and Sumeta Sørensen (for Jutland). There are two occasional backups (Victoria and Joakim) for Copenhagen but none for Jutland. If you are active on Facebook and Twitter and part of the Aarhus congregation, please consider being backup for Sumeta.

Our impact via social media continues to grow. Our two Facebook pages, one for Copenhagen and one for Jutland, have increased their "like" from 366 and 106 (in March 2017) to 435 and 116 (in February 2018) respectively. Our Twitter account (@AnglicanDK) had 329 followers in March 2017 and 437 in February 2018. Our Instagram account (anglicandenmark), which is managed by Bev Lloyd-Roberts, has 44 followers at the end of 2016 and now has 93 followers (as of February 2018) and these wonderful photos are shared regularly on both Facebook and Twitter.

The most popular posts are those with pictures and we are very grateful to our regular photographers, Bev Lloyd-Roberts, Anita Wales and Julia Thordal. Without them we would not still be growing. If you have any pictures of services or events, please send them to socialmedia@st-albans.dk so that we can share them.

We have followers from around the world on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - within our Diocese, in the UK and Ireland, in the Middle East, South Africa, USA, Australia and New Zealand to name but a few - but also from Denmark.

Pauleen Bang

Magazine

At the end of every second month the deadline for publication of our bi-monthly church magazine comes round. I call it a Magazine because it grew over the 5½ years of my editorship, into a fully-fledged, 30 to 40 page magazine. But old habits die hard, and it is still referred to by some as a newsletter. Nowadays, newsletters are emailed short documents of information and a photo or two, and I am certain the Communications Team will look into providing this in due course.

The magazine hardcopies were reduced over the last two years to 150 (from 250) as many now read it on line from our website. Cost is always an issue and we no longer charge for our magazine, so it was necessary to be aware of how many copies were remaindered each time. Jespersen Tryk A/S has always given us a very good deal, and the company's printers do their best to provide an excellent result.

During the year I carried out a survey, asking our congregation a series of questions about the future of the magazine. Quite a few responded with very good reasons why we should continue to produce

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a hard-copy magazine; why we should continue to produce it once every two months, and why we should not reduce it to a quarterly issue. The Communication Team took this on board, and agreed that the magazine will continue as a bi-monthly publication, albeit with a new Editor.

After a long time as Editor, and with my future absences from Denmark likely to be longer from late 2018, the Communications Team decided that I should step back from editing and hand over to the Deputy Editor, Beverly Lloyd-Roberts. We were all in happy agreement about this, and I am grateful to Bev for standing in for me for the January-February publication in 2107 and for taking over from me at the beginning of the year.

There are a number of people who are regular contributors to the St Alban's magazine; they know who they are, and their pieces are always most gratefully received. Our photographers are also an integral part of the process these days, so grateful thanks also to Anita Wales, Bev Lloyd-Roberts, Pauleen Bang and others – including my own Iphone. Fitting these photos into small pages and making sure people who have worked hard for St Alban's are shown and described takes time, but is very rewarding.

On a rather picky note, I have always admired well laid-out magazines, with plenty of "air" and space around the printed word and pictorial information. The challenge with our magazine is that it remains an A5 (half page) size, the budget is tight, which means that in order to cover as much of an event as possible, the photos and captions are small and truncated, which is difficult to edit. It is also a shame that often excellent photos are cropped in order to fit in.

I have taken pride in the fact that all photos have a frame relating to the colour of the photo, and that articles and photos do not slip onto an extra page. It is much easier to read, to refer to, and to set out.

I have thoroughly enjoyed this important information communication task for St Alban's and I wish the new Editor and her contributors all the very best for 2018. I look forward with pleasure to reading it.

Please send information and articles to newsletter@st-albans.dk

Claire Campbell Clausen

Website

The church website is often the first contact between new people and St. Albans. This is the place where people discover where we are, what services are held and discover the soul of St. Albans. The website holds information about the church, news, events, church magazine and much more. The archive of sermons grew during 2017 for people who wanted to (re)listen to the sermons.

To support the internal work of the church, there is the intranet site.

Here church organizations can exchange information between people. The aim is that some parts of the intranet can be viewed by everyone on the web, while some parts are only accessible to people who are logged on.

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The e-mail addresses for church officers, church organizations and people within the church are maintained as part of the website.

Processing of tickets for the two services of Nine lessons and carols in December continued to be handled by the web team.

Please send information to webmaster@st-albans.dk

John Mills

Deanery Synod

This year's Deanery Synod (the first of the new triennium) was in Stavanger, hosted by Revd Peter Hogarth at the Bethel Church, where there are also meeting rooms, making it an easy venue for the Synod. As usual there were representatives from all 7 countries in our Deanery as well as Archdeacon Colin (who had been in Copenhagen recently to chair our Vacancy Meeting) and Bishop David with his Chaplain, Frances Hiller.

This year's theme was "Children and The Kingdom", a fitting follow-up to last year's "Inclusivity".

The presentations this time were via Skype, which saves us a lot of money, but makes informal discussion with the presenters (after hours) impossible - so pros and cons. The first presentation was by Professor Haddon Willmer of the Child Theology Movement, joining us from Leeds. He talked about how we idealise children and childhood, which does not fit in with how children see themselves, and how what he calls "The Theology of Children" is interpreted differently in each church, depending on that particular church's theological heritage.

After that, it was time for the Lay Chapter.

A round the room introduction started the meeting, so that we could get to know the new Deanery Reps and they could get to know the "old" ones. Then we were asked to propose a new Lay Chair. Nigel said he was willing to stand again and this was welcomed so no proposals needed. Since our previous treasurer has left Europe, volunteers were requested for the post of Deanery Treasurer. Jeanette Munro volunteered and this was welcomed. Then volunteers were requested for a new Deanery Secretary. Nobody volunteered (apparently this has never happened before) so Nigel took notes during the meeting

The question from last year about electronic voting was raised again, but moved to the Business Session since it also affects clergy.

Then we all walked down to Stavanger Cathedral for Evening Worship, which included the licensing of a new Reader - Susan Boyd, whom many of us know, is also our Safeguarding Trainer as well as Diocesan Synod rep along with Emmanuel (Finland) and our own Nigel. It was such a moving service (a few tears of joy were shed) and the Cathedral Girls Choir sange beautifully for us. A fabulous group photo was taken at the end of the service.

Then back to the Bethel church for our evening meal - a magnificent take-away from a local Thai restaurant which gives the church a special discount. Volunteers from the church had set everything up while we were away, on long tables with crockery and cutlery at the ready.

Well fed, we retired to a more informal meeting room for "Catching up with Bishop David". He talked about turnaround at the Diocesan Office - our Diocesan Secretary, Adrian Mumford is retiring and the Appointments Secretary has moved on. He also mentioned the fact that the Safeguarding team are under a great deal of pressure, both from the workload and because of increasingly

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abusive comments from around the Diocese. He stressed that this is totally unacceptable - they are simply doing their job. Last but not least, he emphasised the effect of Brexit on the Diocese, especially with regard to future clergy candidates.

Back at the hotel, which was only minutes away from the church, a few beers were consumed and we had a chance to catch up with old friends, as well as talking to new ones - a new triennium means new Deanery Reps.

Next morning, after breakfast at the hotel, there was Morning Prayer at the church followed by Bible Study with Revd April Almaas, the Chaplain in Trondheim, which is always interesting. This time she got us singing!!

This was followed by a discussion on "Children and the Church" based on Professor Haddon Wilmer's presentation and our own churches' ways of involving children.

After a coffee break, we had another Skype presentation, by Tony Cook, Head of Youth and Children's Work for the Diocese of Bath and Wells. He talked about Children's Ministry, i.e. what activities and events we use to help children understand the wonder of God. He feels that children should be able to feel safe and secure enough to question, as well as have the opportunity to worship in their own way as well as together with the congregation. He also talked about Youth Ministry, which is more about relationships than activities. They need to be listened to and feel involved.

Next was the Eucharist in the Bethel church, led by Archdeacon Colin and then lunch, kindly provided by the congregation.

In the afternoon, a guided walking tour of Stavanger was enjoyed by some, in not terribly good weather. However, Stavanger is a very pretty town, so it was worth braving the elements.

Next was the Business Session.

Nigel was confirmed as Lay Chair and Jeanette as Treasurer. Still no volunteers for Deanery Secretary but Linda White offered to minute this meeting.

The electronic voting question was raised again. This needs to be discussed at General Synod. Tuomas (chaplain in Helsinki) informed us that a letter had been sent to the Diocesan Registrar but no response had been received as yet.

It was agreed to send a 5000 SEK retirement gift from the Deanery to Adrian Mumford

Nick (Area Dean) asked for feedback on the Skype meetings, since this was the first time it had been tried. Reactions were generally positive although interaction could be improved by adding a camera pointing at the audience.

We discussed the venue for next year's Synod and there was general agreement that we would like to visit Iceland, as planned, but that this needed further investigation regarding cost. The standing committee will take this further. A suggestion for the theme for next year's Synod came from a Deanery Rep from Finland "Northern Ecology and Christianity". This, too, will be dealt with by the standing committee.

After Evening Prayer we moved to the hotel for dinner and time to relax and catch up with people in a more informal atmosphere.

Sunday morning with Morning Prayer at 8:30 and the Eucharist at 10:30, (led by Peter, the Chaplain in Stavanger) followed by lunch, again provided by the congregation

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And then we all headed off for the airport, thinking we would be home by early evening. Sadly we were mistaken. Four of us had booked a flight at 16.00 which was cancelled. Victoria managed to get on a flight to Oslo and then on to Copenhagen, but Nigel, Maria and I had to wait for the next flight which wasn't until 21:00 and Stavanger airport is not the most exciting place to spend an extra 5 hours. However, when we did eventually get on our flight, it was on time.

Despite the travel problems, it was a wonderful Deanery Synod. As reported in the Business Session, we are hoping to visit Iceland next year (13 - 16 September 2018) for the Deanery Synod, but plans have not yet been finalised. If you want to know more, just ask one of our Deanery Reps (John, Maria, Victoria and myself - Anne-Marie, our newest Deanery Rep could sadly not attend) or Nigel, our Diocesan Synod Rep.

Pauleen Bang

Diocesan Synod (29th May - 2nd June 2017)

I am sitting in Cologne Bonn airport waiting to catch my flight back home after a weeklong Diocesan Synod meeting. All of a sudden, shock horror, I remember I have forgotten my treasured hat back at the conference centre. The trials and tribulations of being a Diocesan Synod rep!

Apart from losing my favourite head attire, this second Synod in the current triennium, was relatively uneventful. As always, worship was central and we had services morning, noon and evening. As far as "business" was concerned, each day there were many different sessions dealing with a whole range of different topics. There were no real controversies, there was not much drama and the various sessions were, when looking back over the years, very "average".

As always, the diocese's very own wonderful Press Officer and Webmaster, Rev. Paul Needle, was at almost all our meetings and has posted many excellent and informative articles, some with photos and some with recordings. Therefore, so as not to bore you too much and, so as you get all the news from Synod in detail, I kindly refer you to the Diocesan website <https://europe.anglican.org/main/latest-news/catposts/6/0> (on the left-hand menu, click on "Latest News" and then "Synods"). On a slightly sad note, Paul is retiring at the end of 2017 so this is his last Diocesan Synod and, an era will sadly have passed. I wish him a long and happy retirement.

Having just recommend that you read about the Synod meeting online, I would non-the-less like to highlight a few of the sessions I personally felt were most interesting. On the Tuesday, the first full day of business, the most interesting session was an introduction to Interim Ministry by Rev. Canon Ulla Monberg. This is an area that is relatively new to the Church of England and, therefore, an area where the Diocese in Europe is one of the pioneers. In short, when a chaplain leaves their post and, if there are various problems in the Chaplaincy which need specialised help to sort out, it is possible to arrange for an interim, specially trained, problem solving chaplain to come for a short period to, hopefully, get everything on keel again. After the problems have been ironed out, a permanent chaplain can then be put in place.

On the Wednesday we had a Safeguarding update. Here it was, yet again, underlined how important the whole area of safeguarding is and, the vastness of the task we all face. The safeguarding team have a huge amount of work and a number of cases that, in one way or another, needs their attention. Safeguarding is top of the agenda in every Diocese in the Church of England and, it craves

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a lot from our London Office. What is also important to remember is, safeguarding not only protects the vulnerable but also ensures that our chaplaincies are protected. It is a win win situation for everyone.

Thursday saw, among other things, Synod meeting in houses. The two main items that the House of Laity discussed were, the need for and creation of an LGBT advisor post for the Diocese and, a paper that has been written about preventing bullying and harassment in the Diocese. There was a fair amount of discussion on both topics and the house agreed these areas both needed further work; especially the paper on bullying which needed to be thoroughly looked at again. The House of Laity wished both items to be tabled at Bishops Council in October 2017.

Despite the lack of seriously meaty subjects, it was a reasonable Synod and, as always, it was good to catch up with the other representatives, both lay and clergy, from around the diocese.

Nigel Rowley
Diocesan Synod Representative for the Nordic and Baltic Deanery