

St. Alban's Annual Report 2018

From the Chaplain

An Annual Church Meeting gives the opportunity to record thanks and map vision for the future. This report covers the first 6 months of my tenure (second half of 2018).

My family and I are deeply thankful to the wider St Alban's community for your welcome. As your latest Chaplain, I want to express my gratitude to the Ministry Team, Church Council, Wardens past and present, and the congregation for your enormous help and support before and since my arrival and your courage in appointing your first woman Chaplain!

Leading worship on Sunday mornings is a highly visible part of what I do – but that is just a small part of the work in the second half of 2018. For the detail:

Services:	Confirmations, Aarhus monthly, Evening Prayer at Copenhagen Cathedral; preaching at Folkekirke, Vigil and centenary of WW1; Licensing of new Lay Reader and PTO Priest
Pastoral:	Baptisms and Preparation classes, 1 Wedding, 2 Blessings and Preparation, several hospital and home visits; 6 Funerals
Children:	Re-shaping and re-sourcing this vital area of ministry
Schools:	Primary and Secondary School Assemblies
Diocesan:	Appointment as Bishop's BAME Adviser, CME Preaching Course, Deanery Synod
Vocations:	Encouraging vocation to priesthood, anticipating CEMES and placements
Civic:	British and Irish Embassy events, Unveiling of Thomas Dinesen bust
Learning:	Marriage Law, Danish language classes, Fire-fighting, Safeguarding
Training:	Leading Women, Christians Aware
Ecumenical:	Tvaekulturelt Center, Skt Ansgar's, Skt Alban and Sergius preparation for Kirkevandring; Danske Kirkes Rad planning for Himmelskedage
Interfaith:	Encounters in church and mosque
Finance:	Fund meetings, Summer Fete and Amenities Project fundraising
Hospitality:	St Alban's BBQ, Guardians' lunch, ecumenical meeting, pastoral and team meetings
Media:	Articles in CPH Post and Krysteligt Dagblad
Ongoing:	Chairing meetings; and working on both maintenance and mission concerns
Challenges:	Learning Danish; reviewing stewardship, finance and the status quo

As a newcomer, mine is a unique position of seeing into situations differently. What do we do? Why do we do it? In what ways are these activities life-giving or draining?

Operating within the framework of the Church of England we are the face of the global Anglican communion in Denmark. Our membership is made up of 30 nationalities and we receive many more from all over the world. My prayer is that they all bump into God right here!

This is a beautiful church, in an enviable location, with an amazing group of people who glorify God through music, welcome, and witness.

How to grow in faith and number is a challenge in common with churches worldwide but particular to this church is how to do so despite distance; transience and degrees of diffidence and confidence. We have been challenged in the last 6 months without a regular organist; and with money running out for a well-conceived and generously funded Amenities project. We will not always be able to rely on historical resources and legacies as a way of funding the annual round

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Problems and crises are there to defeat or develop us and this year we have a unique opportunity to become better by God's strength and wisdom. God in love, will guide us. We need to be mindful of complacency and build character that we may be Christ-like in all our dealings

In the coming year, we have to grow – not just in number but in faith. We have to raise money – and fast. Above all we have to deepen our relationship with the living God who will invest us with power from on high.

It is significant that we meet on Palm Sunday. It highlights the power of the cross and makes visible sacrificial love. In the new church year, I pray the Christian hallmarks of hospitality and service will define our witness at St Alban's Church.

“The way of the cross is foolishness to those whose lives are falling apart, but the way of the cross is power to those who believe.”

With gratitude and courage; with songs of praise for what has been and what will be – let us step forward into the year to come.

Revd Smitha Prasadam, Chaplain
BA (Hons), MA, LTCL, ADLTM

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 grounds, 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 42nd 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 Smitha Prasadam (since June 2018) *Ex Officio*

Readers:

Victoria Wadsworth-Hansen: *Ex Officio*

Graeme Lloyd Roberts: *Ex Officio*

Ursula Sonnewald: *Ex Officio*

Peter Prasadam: *Ex Officio*

Churchwardens:

Philip Davies: *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 - resigned: *Ex Officio*

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

Nigel Rowley: *Ex Officio*

Elected members:

Anton Kongshøj-Munch	2016-2019
Peter Fitzgerald	2017-2020
Frances Jacobsen	2017-2020
Owen Prewett	2018-2021
Sarah Sørensen	2018-2021
Shelley Noble-Letort	2018-2021
Angela Hansen	Co-opted

Sidespeople:

Anna Christine Christensen, Alex Onea, Christopher Osborn, Emmanuel Onuora, Faith Hatani, Frances Jacobsen, Janet Kamara, Jocelyn Hird, Joseph Simon, Junior Williams, Liz Jensen, Nigel Rowley, 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 2018

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

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holds a non-Eucharistic service at 16:00, where the theme of the service varies (i.e. a Taizé service, Blessing of the Animals etc).

Number of communicants at services on Easter Eve and Easter Day was 164, total number (including communicants on Easter Eve and Easter Day was 282.

Total number of people attending special services held for the congregation and local community during Advent was 942.

Number of communicants at services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was 193. Total number of people attending worship (including communicants) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was 365.

October 2018

1.	Number of services	Adult			Children and young people		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 7th October	1	67	0	0	5	0	0
Weekdays 8th-13th	1	3	0	0	0	0	0

2.	Number of services	Adult			Children and young people		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 14th October	2	148	0	0	14	0	0
Weekdays 15th – 20th	1	4	0	0	0	0	0

3.	Number of services	Adult			Children and young people		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 21st October	1	121	0	0	11	0	0
Weekdays 22nd-27th	1	5	0	0	0	0	0

4.	Number of services	Adult			Children and young people		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 28th October	1	86	0	0	3	0	0

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Weekdays 29th-3rd Nov	1	6	0	0	0	0	0
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Chaplaincy Council meetings in 2018

There were 10 Chaplaincy Council meetings (chaired by Nigel until Smitha arrived and then by Smitha) in 2018 plus the ACM (29-04-2018) and SCM (15-07-2019). Among the subjects discussed at these meetings were:

- the interregnum
- amenities update and fundraising
- finances
- board composition change in Princess Viggo Fund
- summer fête
- safeguarding
- new registrar
- new ecumenical officer
- new website
- new Reader
- organist situation
- Sunday School name change to Childrens' Church
- budget 2019
- outward giving 2019
- GDPR
- new Electoral Roll

Mission and Ministry in Jutland

Aarhus

The Aarhus congregation gathered 11 times in 2018. 10 for the Sunday Eucharist and once for the Carol service. The Eucharist attendance was very varied, 23 on average but actual numbers from 14-42 and almost 100 at the Carol service .

Møllevang refurbished their church from January to March, services were therefore held in the krypt. The locums managed very well under the circumstances.

We did not have any Lent meetings in 2018. In April Palle came over to baptize the then youngest member of our congregation.

We were happy to meet Smitha in July and have had the pleasure of meeting both her husband, mother and sister here in Aarhus.

The Christmas raffle went very well raising money for the amenities project. During the year we have supported the amenities project in different ways.

Angela Hansen

Vejle and Jelling

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My report for Vejle and Jelling is shorter for 2018 contrary to the previous years since 2013. As I had mentioned in the report of 2017, International services stopped in Vejle since January 2018. However, apart from attending normal Danish services in the same Church where I was leading the Services, I am representing St Alban's Anglican in some interfaith activities. In this regard, I will mention a joint liturgical service held at the second day of Pentecost. In this service, I had a double role of reading and distributing Communion.

As far as Jelling is concerned, a coordinator of the so called arrangement "Eat and Sing" was employed on a salary basis. Since the employment, I do not know what is happening as I am no longer associated.

Revd Christophe Ndikuriyo, Deacon with PTO

Church Warden's Report (Fabric of the Buildings)

In the past year, much time, effort and money has been put into repairing and refurbishing the Chaplaincy House after our previous Chaplain left us for his new post, to ensure that the house is comfortable and in good order for Smitha and her family. We are very grateful to everyone who helped with this and indeed, with the turnover in general.

One thing we hadn't planned for at the Chaplaincy House was a burst water pipe! Naturally, this was totally unforeseen and a major headache for Smitha and her family as from one minute to another they basically lost all water. It also meant dropping everything else to get the driveway dug up and new piping put in. The type of burst we had was unfortunately not covered by our insurance which meant we also had an extraordinary, unexpected expense of about DKK 70,000. Some things we just cannot plan for and, whether we like it or not, they must be dealt with no matter the expense.

Continuing the theme of buildings – at long last our amenities project got underway and just before Christmas, although the whole project was not 100% complete, the new toilets and kitchen facilities could be used for the first time. Absolutely amazing! We have only heard positive feedback on the new amenities, and it is clear what we now have will make a huge difference to those coming to church and to what we as a church can do and offer in the future. It is the biggest change to our building since the church was consecrated in 1887.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who help and keep the many cogs turning. There are a myriad of jobs and tasks that need to be done for the church to be kept shipshape and for the weekly services to be able to take place. We would like to thank everyone and would love to mention them and the various groups here personally but, it is impossible. The list is almost endless. What is a certainty is that without all these numerous groups and volunteers – well, Saint Alban's just wouldn't exist!

Nigel Rowley and Philip Davies (churchwardens)

Bible Study

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St. Alban's Bible study group met every Friday evening until the summer and thereafter every Thursday evening at 18:00 in the Upper Room throughout the year for in-depth studies on relevant issues, to ascertain God's views on these subjects. Three presentations were also held in the church after the Sunday morning service during the autumn, covering the whole story of the Bible.

Phil Clarke

Registrar's Report

On 1 April 2018 Lis Rasmussen took over as registrar (assisted by Maria Kvan Mortensen) from Kate Thomsen. We would like to thank Kate for all her work on this.

Baptisms: 6
Confirmations: 3
Weddings: 1
Blessings: 4
Funerals: 6

Altar Guild

At our last meeting in November, which took place in Carole's home, followed by lunch, we welcomed Smitha, our new Chaplain, to the group. We put her into the picture of what the group cares for ie. brass, silver, wrought iron, sewing, hangings, washing of purificators and large Altar cloth, and the organising by Jean and Carole, of the weekly flower rota, as well as "special occasions" flowers.

Carole tries to keep order in cupboard space, but with all the upheaval caused by the building project, it has been difficult to keep order in the vestry cupboards and shelves. Carol J. and Frances have repaired some of the vestments, and some long stoles have been shortened. Frances has sewn new purificators, and from now will sew a red cross in the corner. Mary finally solved lipstick problems on the purificators, and Rosemary had difficulties with wine stains on the large Altar cloth. Bodil has taken over wrought iron from Grace, and has dealt with some of the gold decorations, which had fallen off the ironwork. (The children love to fiddle with them at the Altar rail.!). It was suggested by Nigel that we maybe shouldn't spoil the brass rail with too much brasso. However, after two weeks it looked awful, so Liz now continues to polish it every week. It is much easier for Jean and Carol J. to clean the candlesticks now that we have "oil". No drips.!

Only three people turned up for the "special" cleaning day, and it was discussed whether or not to ask a cleaning firm to do the work (expensive). In the past it has only taken about six people about two hours to treat all the oak with our special mixture of wine and linsed oil, which needs no strength, but only has to be wiped over the surface. After one morning service, all the lights were lowered and cleaned in record time. On the cleaning day, no-one is expected to scrub floors on their hands and knees. !!!

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We also discussed safety measures. The steps at the Altar could cause a fall. Also, should there be a rail at the lecturn and the steps up to the pulpit?

Thank you to all the behind-the-scenes workers, who help to keep our church looking beautiful and in order. It is certainly appreciated by visitors. Quite often, we enjoy music by our organists, who often come in to practice while we work. An added bonus.

Carole.F.Rasmussen

Electoral Roll

The final count at last year's ACM was 231 Electoral Roll members and 30 nationalities. Today, after starting from scratch (as we are required to do every 6th year) there are 191 Electoral Roll members and 27 nationalities, as follows:

56	Danish
84	British
2	Malaysian
2	Australian
2	New Zealander
8	USA
4	Canadian
1	Zambian
1	Kenyan
5	Indian
2	Ugandan
2	Iranian
1	Indonesian
1	Sierra Leonean
1	Russian
2	Ghanaian
1	Hungarian
2	German
4	Nigerian
1	Philippines
3	Irish
1	Norwegian
1	Syrian
1	Egyptian
1	Japanese
1	Tanzanian
1	Romanian
191	27

Pauleen Bang
Electoral Roll Officer

Mothers' Union

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Sadly, there have been no activities in 2018. There are members who are willing to help, but we need a new Leader. Any volunteers?

Dorothy Ocanda

Safeguarding

Level-2 training this year took the form of one training session on 29th September. The 12 delegates included the three Prasadams, who joined us this year, plus various new Child-minders, Churchwardens etc.

Due to the building works, this course took place in the upper-room. Despite a slight shortage of space the course was well received by all participants, including Angela from Århus and Elisabeth from Gdansk.

The end of the year marked the occurrence of the first of the Renewals. This will be an area of focus for 2019. Any questions on this point and others can be addressed to Katja or myself.

Christopher J. D. Osborn, Safeguarding Officer

Music and Choir

For the first half of 2018, St Alban's continued to benefit from the hard work and creative input of Michael König as Organist, devoting many hours and much preparation to the choir, the services and other musical activities at church. Particularly memorable musical moments included a "Festival of the Resurrection" (a specially-devised service of Easter Lessons and Carols), and Smitha's installation as Chaplain (in which the choir included Smitha's daughter and some other musical friends from the UK). Michael also arranged a summer concert series which included organ recitals by himself and others, and performances from an American trumpet and organ duo, the chapel choir of Peterhouse College, Cambridge (on tour in Scandinavia), and Sydhavns Kantori.

Socially, in the summer we enjoyed a happy swimming-and-barbecue afternoon in Søvang, courtesy of the hospitality of tenor choir-member Hans Christian Hansen and his wife.

Michael left us in August, departing for London to pursue studies at SOAS - the School of Oriental and African studies. We wish him every success in his future musical and academic endeavours. In September, we also said farewell to Anne Marie Tetsche-Sweeney - a loyal member and supporter of the choir, and indeed the whole St Alban's community, for many years. She moved to Bristol, in the UK, to undertake advanced research into arthritic disorders. Her contribution to our choir cannot be underestimated.

Notable services during the autumn included those on Remembrance Sunday to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice (attended by the British Ambassador and representatives from other embassies in Copenhagen), and the annual round at Advent and Christmas - our usual (packed) Nine Lessons and Carols and other seasonal services. The musical gap left by Michael König's departure was filled by a number of deputy organists - including Michael Emery, and Karsten Hesse (travelling all the way from Ribe to do so). However there were several Sundays when no-one was available at all and on those occasions the choir fearlessly led the congregational singing unaccompanied: we

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owe them a big debt of gratitude for keeping the music going during that time. But, moving into the New Year, we were thrilled to welcome to the St Alban's family James Sherlock (currently working as a conductor at the Royal Opera here in Copenhagen) who in future will take on the majority of the responsibilities as Organist (assisted by Michael Emery). We have been delighted to welcome some new singers too, and the choir is in good heart and good voice. New members are always welcome, however - if you're interested to find out more, just ask one of the organists after a service.

Michael Emery

Coffee Team

The coffee team appreciates the support they have been given by the many members of the congregation who have volunteered their time to make coffee and bring in scrumptious treats every Sunday, come rain or shine. Coffee hour after Sunday service is a special and enjoyable time when the congregation can mingle and rekindle old friendships. In the past year, we have been blessed with a lot of volunteers to help serve coffee and we look forward to keeping this tradition going. Newcomers are always welcome to sign up on the rota. We will match you with an experienced partner, if you haven't already found one, who will guide you on your first time.

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

Janet Kamara & Simon Groth

Children's Church

Children's church is going well. There have been a few changes since last year. We have changed the name from "Sunday school" to "Children's Church". A rota for lay-readers to assist has been made and we now follow the lectionary of the church. The number of participants vary, but on average we are 5-6 children from 4-10 years each time. In Children's Church we try to combine fun and learning. We get inspiration from www.rootsontheweb.com. 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. Thank you to all the volunteers and to Peter for leading the whole thing. We have also started our new concept called Messy Church, which is once a month on a Saturday. Here children and families can meet for worship through stories, songs and crafts. If you have any questions about Children's Church, please e-mail joakim@st-albans.dk.

Joakim Steiner-Johnsen

Youth Group and TNT

The Youth Group is a group for teenagers, which usually meets after the Sunday morning service on the first Sunday of the month. We have had as few trips, which includes a trip to the cinema and a visit to Hillsong Church to experience a different kind of worship, but just as last year the group has had its challenges. 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.

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The TNT group is a group for adults in their twenties and thirties. We usually try to do different kinds of cultural activities. We have been to a cinema where we saw an old silent movie from the 1920s, visited the church on Christiania and also seen The David Collection. There has been a small increase in numbers, but unfortunately we have also had to cancel a couple of activities because of a low number of participants. 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

Ecumenical Activities

I took over from Anne-Marie Sweeney as the ecumenical contact person at St. Alban's in September. St. Alban's continues to engage with other church communities in Copenhagen and across Denmark via its membership of the Danish Council of Churches. St Alban's participated in the Kirkevandring, an important ecumenical event, which this year saw record attendances. Work on the Ecumenical Council since September has focused mainly on the debate about the connection between faith, the church, and society. This debate provided the thematic inspiration for the 'Himmelske Dage' event in Herring, an interdenominational Christian festival that will take place from the 29th May to the 2nd of June 2019. The objective is to create the broadest possible base for interdenominational dialogue and worship, focusing on faith and the role of the church in the world through discussion and debate. The festival will offer a broad range of faith-related events and activities, including pilgrimage, prayer, discussion, debate, performance art and music. The festival will culminate in a gospel, concert and worship event on Sunday the 2nd of June 2019. Tickets for the festival and for Sunday's worship event can be bought online at <https://www.himmelskedage.dk/om-himmelske-dage/>. St. Alban's choir has been invited to participate in the worship event.

Owen Prewett

The Guardians Team

The guardians had a slightly less successful season financially in 2018, bringing in Dkr 287,630.53 as against a bit under Dkr 400,000 in 2017. The building work probably had some effect, although a large number of visitors still came through the doors. More to the point, we were asked to close not only for the fairly frequent number of Saturday afternoon weddings but also on Saturday mornings and even Friday afternoons before weddings to keep the church clean. This is being looked into for the 2019 season when we hope to bring the donations up closer to the 2017 level.

It is good news that the number of guardians remains around the 50 mark, notwithstanding retirements and resignations. We are glad that the church recognizes our contribution, bearing in mind that everyone pays their travel costs – some of which are considerable, especially for those coming in regularly from the Køge area or the north coast – on top of the time they give to the church. A three-hour shift often becomes most of a day by the time travelling is taken into account.

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On the other hand, all of us, members of the church or not, enjoy welcoming visitors to our beautiful building and, above all, being able to provide a quiet space for visitors in need of solace or to pray.

Rosemary Bohr

Summer Fete

The 2018 fete was the usual busy and happy occasion, and once again the sun shone most of the day enabling everyone to enjoy it to the full. It did, however, face a major challenge in the temporary conversion of the garden into a building site for the new toilets. Instead, as we had no access to the basement to prepare the food for the tea-tent, the builders kindly let us use their trailer right next to the tent, which proved an ideal solution.

The bottles tombola sold out in record time; the books did their usual roaring trade; the home produce, gifts and plants yielded good returns; the children's corner kept the children happy despite the non-appearance of the bouncy castle; the queues for food and drink never seemed to diminish; and the entertainers – musicians of all stripes and our faithful friends the Jane Austen dancers – kept everyone in a cheerful mood all day long.

As always, many people gave a lot of time and energy to make the fete a success overall and the church is grateful to them all.

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

Philip Davies & Rosemary Bohr

Communications

Introduction

The communications team is usually chaired by the chaplain, who is normally also the managing editor for the newsletter. During the first half of 2018, these roles were continued by Churchwarden Nigel Rowley until the end of the interregnum, when our new chaplain took over.

Pauleen Bang

Social media

There are two social media administrators for Facebook and Twitter, Pauleen Bang (for Copenhagen) and Sumeta Sørensen (for Jutland), There is one occasional backup, 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. Bev Lloyd-Roberts administers our Instagram account.

Our impact via social media continues to grow. Our two Facebook pages, one for Copenhagen and one for Jutland, have increased their "like" from 435 and 116 (in February 2018) to 523 and 128 (in February 2019) respectively. Our Twitter account (@AnglicanDK) had 437 followers in February 2018 and 500 in February 2019. Our Instagram account (anglicandenmark), has 93 followers (as of

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February 2018) and 204 (as of February 2019) 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 in all corners of the world - but also from Denmark.

Pauleen Bang

Magazine

St Alban's Newsletter or as we now prefer to call it, 'St Alban's' magazine as the style of it has evolved over the years and is definitely more of a magazine than a letter these days, was as always very popular in 2018.

Although I am the editor, I like to think of the magazine as teamwork. There are so many wonderful articles in there from a myriad of people now, that the content (I hope) reflects everyone's interests.

Thanks must go to everyone who contributed to the magazine in anyway, photos, words, Church information and so much more.

Beverly Lloyd-Roberts

Website

The website continues to be updated with relevant information, sermons and newsletters. The current website was created by Jim Pannell (a website developer) when he was married by Mark Oakley (over 10 years ago). This was before people started using mobile phones to access websites, so the communications team have started to plan on a new website.

We started taking note of GDPR during 2018. A first GDPR page has been placed on the website. Members of the communications team have joined a GDPR meeting.

The webteam maintains e-mail group lists for groups within St. Albans. The largest e-mail list is church@st-albans.dk, which is used by the chaplain and selected church officers to send messages to people who are on the electoral roll.

The webteam have again managed ticketing for the 9 lessons and carols service this year, with change requested by the chaplain where Sunday was reserved for people on the electoral roll and Monday was open to all comers. All tickets were allocated for both services and the church was full for both services.

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John Mills

Deanery Synod

This year's Deanery Synod was held in Reykjavik, hosted by Revd Bjarni Thor Bjarnasson in the Parish Hall of Reykjavik Cathedral. There were representatives from 6 of our 7 countries (sadly nobody was available from Estonia) along with Archdeacon Colin, Bishop David and his Chaplain, Frances Hiller, Liz Hudson, Communications Consultant for the Diocese and Canon Ulla Monberg, Director of Ministerial Development for the Diocese.

Our Area Dean, Revd Nick Howe, welcomed everyone on Friday 14 September at 16:00, but there was a special welcome to Smitha, our Chaplain, since she was the only "new" member of the Deanery. Archdeacon Colin said a prayer.

The Synod started with a presentation, A Christian pragmatic response to climate change, by Dr. Solveig Anna Boasdottir, Professor at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Iceland. This was most interesting and we hope to receive a bibliography from her, since there were many relevant books and papers which she mentioned.

Next was tea, coffee and cake, followed by a group photo.

Then we walked to the Cathedral to share in Evening Prayer led by our own Victoria.

After this, we met up at Hallgrimskyrka and walked from there to the residence of the Rt Revd Bishop of Iceland, Agnes M. Sigurdardottir, for a dinner reception. It was extremely generous of her to invite around 40 virtual strangers to her home and she made us very welcome. Another group photo was taken while we were there.

On Saturday we started with Morning Prayer at the Cathedral, led by Susan Boyd (our Diocesan rep and Safeguarding Trainer). This was followed by Bible Study on Justice, using Micah chapter 6 and Matthew's parable of the workers, led by Revd Jana Jeruma-Grinberga (Chaplain in Riga).

Then it was time for the Lay Chapter meeting. We started with a quick round of introductions from which it transpired that there is a lot of fundraising going on around the Deanery.

Then it was time to elect a new Deanery Secretary (there was no secretary last year, so we were hoping to find one this time). Our own John Mills volunteered for the rest of the triennium (this year and next) and we were all very grateful.

And a new Lay Chair will be required from next year, since Nigel Rowley has stood down from the Diocesan Synod and will therefore not be part of the Deanery Synod next year. Linda White from Trondheim in Norway volunteered and again we were all very grateful.

The next item on the agenda was GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and Nigel tried to use a presentation from Diocesan Synod. However, the technical side of things didn't work, so we are looking forward to receiving this presentation after the event. The general feeling is that we have all started work on this but are by no means finished. The Diocese tells us that what we really need is a plan, even if we haven't completed it.

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A short update on Safeguarding was next, shared by our trainer, Susan Boyd. She made it clear that there is lots of safeguarding information, including a newsletter, on the Diocesan website. We also need to know that our own policy (each chaplaincy) and officers need to

Then we talked about Finances and the increase in payment to the Common Fund. There was much discontent about this. Most of us felt we have been served with a "fait accompli". This was discussed further in the Business Meeting where both clergy and lay took part.

After lunch we went on an amazing bus trip to the Thingvellir National Park, with a wonderful guide (Dr. Pall Einarsson, Professor of Geophysics at the Faculty of Geology at the University of Iceland), to hear about volcanoes, earthquakes, geothermal springs etc. and we actually got to see a fissure between two tectonic plates, which was quite amazing. We also saw the power plant where steam from under the ground (borings are often more than 2 kilometers deep) is piped to the whole of Iceland to give hot water and heating.

During our tea/coffee break, Bishop David gave us some news from the Diocese, all of which can be found on the Diocesan website.

The Business Meeting followed. We started by welcoming our new Deanery Secretary and Lay Chair. We also welcomed our new Diocesan Lay reps (Susan Boyd and Emmanuel Eneh) and our new clergy rep (Revd Darren McCallig). Also, we thanked Nigel for his contribution during many years, both as Diocesan Synod rep and as Lay Chair at our Deanery Synod.

After that we got down to business and again, there was much discontent about the proposal from the Diocese to solve the financial problems and a proposal (to the Bishops' Council) was made to change the plan by only budgeting for Safeguarding until such time as we have all had the chance to be a part of a discussion about this.

Another proposal (to the Diocesan Synod) about electronic voting was made. This is something we have been trying to get through for some time, without any real success, but we keep trying and hope one day that this will be possible.

Next item on the agenda was Eucharist in the Cathedral, led by Archdeacon Colin. And after that we walked back to the Parish Hall for dinner.

On Sunday (our last day at Synod) we were part of a wonderful bilingual (Icelandic and English) Eucharist with Bishop David and his Chaplain Frances, as well as the Rt Revd Agnes M. Sigurdardottir, Bishop of Iceland, the Very Revd Helga Soffia Konradsdottir, the Dean of Reykjavik Deanery West, the Very Revd Sveinn Valgeirsson, rector of the Cathedral Parish and our own Revd Bjarni Thor Bjarnasson, vicar of Seltjarnarnes Parish and Anglican priest-in-charge in Iceland. After Bishop David's sermon, Bjarni was relicensed in the presence of Deanery Synod members, local Anglican members and lots of his family.

We then all went back to the Parish Hall for lunch. It was an amazing Synod and we went off to Keflavik airport at about 13:30 for various long flights home.

Pauleen Bang

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