

# St. Andrew's

June 2009 — August 2009



Magazine of the English speaking church in Gothenburg

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*AT 13 MAY 2009, ONLY ANOTHER 1028 TO GO!*

## Letter from the Chaplain

I still haven't got my head round the Swedish calendar. The autumn is relatively straightforward; although it begins in August, not much happens in church or university until the beginning of September, when the school term starts in England. So autumn feels about right.

Spring, according to the English meteorologists, begins at the Spring Equinox, when day and night are the same length (all over the world, in fact). This is too simple for SMHI. Spring, in Sweden, begins when the average of the highest and lowest temperature of the day has been above zero for seven consecutive days, and thus comes earlier to Göteborg than to Stockholm. On the eighth day there was a snowstorm.

Taking all things into account – SMHI, the cuckoo, blåsippor, and just what it feels like – the Swedish spring seems to be compressed into the month of May. Easter is safely out of the way. Ascension Day is always in May. So, of course, is Valborg, the May Day holiday. More often than not, Pentecost is in May too.

This year, May had five Sundays, into which we are fitting nine services and two concerts.

I am writing this at the halfway point, between Parish Communion and Evensong on May 17, one week after the Elastics concert – “an unforgettable evening of jazz, swing and spirituals” – and one week before the American pianist Gary Stegall visits us to give a recital.

Add the international family service on May 3, and an evening celebration of Pentecost in words, music and silence on May 31, and of course our bazaar on May 30, and it feels like cramming a whole year of treats into one month. The month should even see the completion of our new roof.

As if this wasn't enough, as a University Chaplain I have taken part in both Veten-



skapsfestival and the HBT festival, the usual monthly Taizé service, and planning our autumn programme, and also organized a prayer walk on Styrösö. The final icing on the cake was the news that the international Anglican-Lutheran Commission wishes to visit St Andrew's on Monday May 25.

Perhaps next year we can spread the enthusiasm and excitement of May over the other eleven months. Not everything has to happen in May!

Looking forward to the autumn, our Book Fair speaker is the Chilean novelist Isabel Allende, on Friday 25 September. She has asked for a question-and-answer session rather than giving a prepared talk, so get reading over the summer. Also in September, we have an Auction of Talents on Saturday 12, and our Harvest the weekend before. Is September turning into another, cooler and darker, May, without the red letter days?

Barbara Moss

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# Who's Who at St. Andrew's

## **Chaplain**

Barbara Moss

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**e-mail address:** st.andrews.got@telia.com

**Internet website:** www.svenskakyrkan.se/goteborg/st.andrews

## **CHURCH COMMITTEE**

### **Churchwardens**

Ann Gustafsson 031 - 16 17 43  
Kristina Ayoade 031 - 49 28 44

### **SST, Contact for Nordiska kristna rådet, Sveriges kristna råd**

Tore Fjällbrant 031 - 28 49 33

### **Secretary**

Cecilia Klevedal 031 - 12 75 08

### **Ladies' Guild**

Marie Lygonis 031 - 92 22 96

### **Treasurer**

David Perrin 031 - 51 01 32

### **British Factory Representative**

Ann McKinnon 031-7956289

### **Synod representatives**

Nancy Fjällbrant 031 - 28 49 33  
Tore Fjällbrant 031 - 28 49 33

### **Other Elected Members**

Therese Svanberg 031 - 65 03 01  
Alan Taylor 031 - 42 38 64  
Gisela Bamard 031 - 14 71 01  
Gillian Thylander 031 - 27 92 70

## **OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Webmistress**

Nancy Fjällbrant 031 - 28 49 33

### **Caretaker**

### **and Environmental Officer**

Ron Jones 031 - 26 94 25

### **Sacristan and Magazine Editor**

Alan Taylor 031 - 42 38 64

### **Gardening Group**

Cecilia Klevedal 031 - 12 75 08

### **Electoral Roll**

### **and Magazine Subscriptions**

Gisela Bamard 031 - 14 71 01

### **Child Protection Officer**

Moragh Randall 0738-913 203

### **Chormistress**

Gillian Thylander 031 - 27 92 70

### **Ladies' Evening Group**

Ann Gustafsson 031 - 16 17 43  
Gisela Bamard 031 - 14 71 01

### **Organist**

Peter Hansen 031 - 97 28 67

## **NB/OBS! Have you renewed your subscription**

Annual donation of 50:- for the church magazine would be appreciated to pay for printing and postage. If you collect your copy in church you will save us money. Payments can be made into our postgiro account 42 15 63 - 8 or directly to Gisela Barnard or one of the Churchwardens.

# Services: June – August

Sung Eucharist at 11.00 am each Sunday except where stated below.

For latest information about our church services, see GP every Saturday, or consult the web site [www.svenskakyrkan.se/goteborg/st.andrews](http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/goteborg/st.andrews) *Lay Assistants and Intercessors who are not able to attend, please arrange an exchange or replacement and notify Barbara or Alan Taylor.*

**JUNE 14,** *Trinity 1*  
*LA: Gisela Barnard, Alan Taylor*  
*I: Gillian Thylander*

**JUNE 21,** *Trinity 2*  
*LA: Ann Gustafsson, Gisela Barnard*  
*I: Dianna Walters*

**JUNE 28,** *Trinity 3*  
*11.00 Service of the word*

**JULY 5,** *Trinity 4*  
*11.00 Family Communion*  
*LA: Alan Taylor, Ann Gustafsson*  
*I: Ann Gustafsson*

**JULY 12,** *Trinity 5*  
*LA: Gisela Barnard, Göran Melin*  
*I: Moragh Randall*

**JULY 19,** *Trinity 6*  
*LA: Ann Gustafsson, Alan Taylor*  
*I: Gisela Barnard*

**JULY 26,** *Trinity 7*  
*LA: Gisela Barnard, Göran Molin*  
*I: Alan Taylor*

*17.00 Open air service at Slottskogen (with Haga church)*

**AUGUST 2,** *Trinity 8*  
*11.00 Family Communion with John Askey*

*LA: Alan Taylor, Gisela Barnard*  
*I: Jennifer Andersson*

**AUGUST 9,** *Trinity 9*  
*LA: Gisela Barnard, Alan Taylor*  
*I: Cecilia Klevedal*

**AUGUST 16,** *Trinity 10*  
*LA: Ann Gustafsson, Gisela Barnard*  
*I: Gillian Thylander*

**AUGUST 23,** *Trinity 11*  
*LA: Gisela Barnard, Göran Molin*  
*I: Dianna Walters*

**AUGUST 30,** *Trinity 12*  
*LA: Alan Taylor, Ann Gustafsson*  
*I: Ann Gustafsson*

**SEPTEMBER 6,** *Trinity 13*  
*11.00 Harvest Festival Communion*  
*LA: Gisela Barnard, Jeanette Munro*  
*I: Moragh Randall*

**SEPTEMBER 13,** *Trinity 14*  
*LA: Ann Gustafsson, Gisela Barnard*  
*I: Jennifer Andersson*

# Chaplaincy notes

## In Christ we are many members, yet one body

St. Andrew's Church has increased its connections more of other churches and it is very rewarding. It is good to meet people and learn new facts and obtain experience. This is also a way to get various fresh ideas and see things from another angle and grow spiritually in the fellowship of others, with one thing in common, the life of church.

Barbara Moss and Cecilia Klevedal co-operated together with the city centre churches in a service at 12.00 in St. Jacob's Church by Heden on the *World Day of Prayer* which was on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The *World Day of Prayer* is always on the first Friday in March and held in 170 countries. The theme this year was *In Christ we are many members, yet one body*. The poster showed a cross with a bilum (woven bag which is used for everything from carrying heavy loads to cradling babies) hanging from it. The women in Papua New Guinea were responsible for the programme this year. From early morning to late evening services are held all over the world arranged by women.

First of all we said Good morning! in English, Gutpela moning tru! in Pidgin and Dabana mona! in Motu and held each others hands. We read voices of the people from Papua New Guinea, prayers, Bible readings Romans 12:4-13 and 12:14-21, Exodus 2:1-10 and Acts 4:32-35. Revd Ann Grudeborn from St. Jacob's Church and the new Dean of Domkyrkan Karin Burstrand and some other women of the Ecumenical Women's Group took part in the Service.

Other churches in Gothenburg that took part in the *World Day of Prayer* were: Annedalskyrkan, Ansgarkyrkan in Säv-

dalen, Domkyrkan, Hjällbo Kyrka, Matteuskyrkan in Majorna, Missionskyrkan in Mölnlycke, Stadsmissionen, St. Matteuskyrkan in Hisingen, Torslanda församling, Redbergskyrkan, Flatåskyrkan, Björkhöjdskyrkan, Donsö Kyrka and Krokslättkyrkan in Mölndal. The services started at different times such as 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 18.00, 18.30 and 19.00. The collection from all churches went to Papua New Guinea. It was a nice Service, worth repeating next year. After the Service refreshments were served.

*Cecilia Klevedal*

## Lent Groups

During the season of Lent we had two study groups. At these courses we followed with books and a CD "These three... Faith, Hope and Love" — from *York Courses*. The same themes were also covered in the book "Why go to Church" by Timothy Radcliffe which Barbara used in her sermons, and has written about in this News Letter (see p 15). We found the material of great help in our thoughts and discussions through five Wednesdays.

We all enjoyed meeting and discussing in this way, and celebrated the last one by going out to a meal after the last session.



## THE WAY OF THE CROSS

I recommend those people who were unable to attend, or were unaware of, this special service in the evening of Passion Sunday to download the material from the Royal School of Church Music on which it was based (use Google).

Step by step we followed Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane, where He was betrayed by Judas, to the denial of Peter, the appearance before Pilate, the humiliation, crucifixion and death. Each part of the way was introduced by a reading from the Gospel of Mark, which was followed by one of our beautiful Passiontide hymns, a poem and a prayer and ended with a Trisagion – a chant we have learned from the Greek Orthodox Church – Holy God, Holy and strong, Holy and immortal, Have mercy on us.

Besides the hymns, our choir (there in full force) sang “Drop, drop slow tears and bathe those beautiful feet, which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace” to the first part of Song 46 by Orlando Gibbons. The poems, by George Herbert, Kathy Gal- loway of the Iona Community and our priest- in-charge Barbara, were read with great sensitivity by Gisela, Keith, Ope, Molly, Alan and Ron.

Below is Barbara’s poem *Thursday Night*.  
*Listen to the brook through the olive grove  
where the city lamps cast no light,  
the rain on the leaves, and the rustling breeze,  
in the quiet of that Thursday night.*

*Listen to the breathing of sleeping men,  
unprepared to watch or to fight.  
Their hope died away, and they could not pray.  
They were helpless, that Thursday night.*

*Listen to the prayer of last resort:  
‘Father, let this cup pass from me,  
but if it may not – but if I must drink –  
then let your will, not my will, be.’*

*Listen to the clangour of clashing swords,  
uproar, terror, violence, fright.  
All those who had loved him then ran away  
in the tumult of Thursday night.*

*Then the high priest’s soldiers led Christ away,  
onward from Gethsemane.  
The way of the cross, with no turning back,  
led from there straight to Calvary.*

*Come to this dark place when all hope is gone.  
In the darkness, plead for the light,  
and when morning comes, may you journey on  
in the strength of that Thursday night.*

*Gillian Thylander*



## Palm Sunday procession

It was a reasonably bright day for our Palm Sunday procession around the church. This year we had to walk all the way along the street since the garden was filled with material for the roof replacement and the scaffolding. However the joyful singing having started inside continued all the way as Alan led us carrying the cross.



## Church cleaning

An unusually large group of cheerful ladies got together to tackle the pre-Easter cleaning job this year. We were assisted by Ron, Boye and Tilak. All the brass and the woodwork had to be polished. Barbara did a good job on the numbers, Kristina made the eagle nice and shiny and Boye carefully dusting and polishing our beautiful oak reredos. All the work was rewarded with a relaxing cup of coffee and cake thanks to Ann.

## The Easter Services

After the Good Friday Service we all enjoyed Hotcross buns at home with Barbara



During the beautiful Easter Service Barbara gathered all the children around the Easter garden to bless it and to explain to the children the meaning of Easter.



## Easter Garden

The Easter garden was prepared on the Saturday morning with wild flowers and moss from Gillian's garden. Every year one feels so moved setting up the tomb and arranging the garden. The stillness of the church makes it a bit easier to imagine what that first Easter morning could have been like, peaceful.



On Easter morning the church was graced with beautiful Lilies in memory of our dearly departed family members and friends. Our special thanks to Marie's friend (Britt of Svalebo Blommor). Her generosity made it possible to fill many vases, showing off the flowers in all their splendour.



## ANZAC Day

On a brilliant spring day people gathered at the War Memorial in Kviberg Cemetery to remember those Australian and New Zealand servicemen who died in the two World Wars. Revd Barbara Moss led the prayers.



## International Family

### Service

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of May it was time for the international family service, which gave those of us with an exotic background to bring out our finery and offer some national dishes for people to taste. It was a truly splendid occasion. Many children came with their parents and helped Revd Barbara Moss by enacting the story of the risen Christ. They were also very active when it came to deciding why we, like sheep, need a Good Shepherd.

Floid Strandvik – or Mama Gumbo as she

likes to be called by the children she meets in the schools – lit up the church with her songs, and led the choir down the aisle in Siya Hamba, We are marching in the light of God!

This Sunday had also been selected for the installation of our newly elected Churchwardens Ann Gustafsson and Kristina Ayoade, who promised to serve the church to the best of their ability. The Committee Members who were able to attend were blessed. We are very happy that Kristina will now be at Ann's side to work together with her in a very important task. Welcome Kristina! Welcome also to two new Committee Members: Alan Taylor re-joining the committee after a few year's absence and Therese Svanberg, who is also a member of our choir.

## A day on the island

### Styrsö

Someone once said: - "Do not make prayer a monologue - make it a conversation".

This idea of conversation was one of the features of our prayer listening walk around the island of Styrsö on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May. There was something very special about our walk as we went around the island together but in silence, each of us having their own conversation with God or simply listening to the sounds around us and seeing what came to mind. In silence, everything becomes sharper and you begin to notice things you might not usually notice. The walking and the sunshine felt invigorating and peaceful. Looking up into the blue sky as we shared communion and sang brought a sense of the greatness of God and the other sights, smells, and sounds around us carried a strong sense of God as creator. When seated and still, it is sometimes quite a challenge to quieten the mind and focus on this practice called prayer, but when on the move, outside in the open

air, it somehow seemed easier to pray than when my eyes are closed.

The day was led by Barbara, our vicar, and we used prayer beads as a means to guide our prayer journey. Each bead represents something different and we held our bracelets in our hands as we walked in contemplation. Themes such as serenity, secrets, going through desert experiences and love were woven into the walk. At times we sat down on a quiet rock and looked out to sea and listened, at other times we dipped our hands into the refreshing water and remembered our own baptisms. We found stones on the beach to hold and imagined them representing our own life challenges. Then later we threw them away as a symbol of letting go of the burdens we carry with us on the journey of life. We said together the prayer of St Birgitta at every stage of our pilgrimage: - "Lord show me your way and make me willing to walk in it".

In my opinion, such a pilgrimage is something everyone should experience. I would highly recommend this as a way of simplifying the struggle of staying focused in prayer, and refreshing both the body and soul with a leisurely walk in conversation with God.

*Moragh Randall*



## Evening Concerts

The Jazz, - swing- and spiritual group Elastics gave us an unforgettable and marvellous evening on 10 May. This year is the group's 30th Anniversary.



Gary Stegall, professor of piano from South Carolina, USA, giving a recital at St. Andrew's two weeks ago. We heard gentle sonatas by Albéniz and Soler, a surprising Czerny, expressive Debussy and Chopin and some sensitive pieces by a young friend Kent Kennan. The Scarlatti encore was brilliant. Hopefully Gary will return next year if his plan to perform during the Grieg festival in Bergen materialises.

*Gillian Thylander*



## Our New Churchwarden



In August it would be 3 years since I came to St. Andrews for the first time with my family. We came for the service and waited for coffee afterwards in the garden. It seemed like a nice little church and I just kept coming back.

After I had been attending church regularly for a few months, my husband and I were invited by Ann Gustafsson to her birthday party! I really felt honoured by that invitation. I know how difficult it is to fit everyone you know in to a party never mind people you hardly know. We have bonded very well from the beginning and I am looking forward to a good working relationship with Ann.

I was also invited to LEG (Ladies Evening Group) meetings. A small group of lovely ladies who have by my standards, known each other 'forever'. Yet still very open to new members and better still, make you feel like part of them.

This May, it was 2 years since my children were baptised by Barbara in St. Andrews in

preparation for communion classes, which they took in order to understand and partake in the Holy Communion.

It all started with me researching on the internet in faraway Nigeria, the website of my children's then, would-be school- The English School and discovering that the school had had its end of year service in St. Andrew's Church. I came to check it out and stayed.

I hope, now as a member, I can make newcomers feel as welcome as I was made to feel.

*Kristina Ayoade*

## An appeal by our churchwarden Ann Gustafsson

*at a joint meeting of the Church Committee and the British Factory, Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>*

During my 40 odd years as a member of St. Andrew's, we have always worked very hard at fund-raising events. It was hard enough then to make ends meet. It is even harder now. With the changing times, we need everyone's efforts to *survive*.

I hope and pray that one day more of the Factory members, the British community and friends will give us their support at bazaars and other church activities. It's not just the money, but moral support. In past years Alan White used to go around raffling a bottle of wine. The gesture was always highly appreciated.

We are not all church-going people, but we do try to respect each other. The church serves us all in one way or another through baptisms, marriages and funerals, so please help us to keep the church alive.

P.S. An important event in November. Bishop Geoffrey is able to attend our St. Andrew's Day service and lunch, November 29<sup>th</sup>. He will be confirming several members of the congregation. Plans are afoot for other events.

## Bazaar Stalls 2009

Auction	2000.00
Books	1510.00
Children	579.00
Clothes and Bric-a-brac	1783.00
Food	5436.00
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Ladies Guild	2183.50
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Plants	1675.00
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Tombola	1600.00
Waffles	746.50
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Ann thanking Floid and the musicians



Eva Greer and Nancy Nennonen at the handicraft stall

## An E-mail to us all

*Sunday, 10th May at St. Andrew's*

Inkeri, who travels behind me on our motor-cycles, has two sisters in Göteborg, and we get to see them annually, and whenever possible, attend a service with you at St. Andrew's. We brought you best wishes from the St. Nicholas' congregation in Helsinki, where we usually worship in Anglican mode, otherwise we attend Finnish Lutheran worship in our village church, where we know as many people as we do on Sundays in Helsinki: the Porvoo Agreement is a wonderful thing, and has allowed our Chaplain, Rupert Moreton, the chance to get Anglican worship established in many centres in Finland, the local Lutheran Bishop providing a Lutheran pastor to take the Anglican services in a Lutheran church. Many years ago, I enjoyed the pleasure of being Elector for Helsinki and so attended the arch-deaconry sessions, meeting wonderful people, one of two of whom were re-met at your church service.

We parked our loaded steed in the motorcycle parking bay in the car-park down the road from St. Andrew's, and arrived in plenty of time to get most of our kit off in the church-yard be-

*continues on next page*



## Baptisms

Sunday 10th May 2009

ALBERT JAMIE MAWDSLEY-CARLSSON

Sunday 31 st May

CLAUDIA JOSEFINE KELLY

fore the Revd Barbara Moss came walking along to let us into the church. We feel for you having to finance the re-roofing, which must be a considerable financial burden on you all - Anglicans in Finland have never had their own church, but always had the advantage of being offered a Finnish Lutheran church to use, so we are provided with heating, cleaning, maintenance . . . all free of cost. But before you get het up, there are down-sides, too - we cannot call it our own church so can never be sure that we may do in it what we like when we want - Mikael Agricola Church in Helsinki, our present 'home', was recently renovated by the Lutherans for a figure between fifteen million and twenty million Euros, depending who you ask!

Seeing those pallettes of Penryhn slate in your church-yard brought a lump to the Welsh part of my throat . . .

After our most enjoyable time with you - and thank you for that massive avocado - Inkeri and I re-mounted and headed north on the smaller roads through the western achipelago north of Göteborg, aiming eventually for Strömstad, where we were to meet up with three friends from Finland on their three bikes for a raid on Norway - the ferry to Sandefjord has a massive 'tax-free' meat department, as well as the usual goodies - suggests that the Norwegians have expensive meat at home!

On Sunday 3rd, we arrived in Stockholm from the ferry from Helsinki, and attended Anglican worship at the church of St. Peter & St. Sigrid, then spent a couple of days with Inkeri's sister in Stockholm. We then headed south-west to see the two sisters who live in Angered, seemingly on top of the world! We had bade farewell to them that Sunday morning before we came to see you at St. Andrew's.

We had a glorious time in superb weather in Norway and Norway needs good weather if it is to be enjoyed. If you've never been to southern

Norway (or any part of that country), you should go! We spent two nights in Bergen, and spent one day on a high-speed voyage to Flåm along the Sognefjord - said to be the longest and deepest fjord ever invented - and from Flåm rode the Flåm Railway to Myrdal on the Oslo-Bergen line, returning to Bergen on Norsk Rail - a superb round trip. The train from Flåm rises 856 metres in some 20 kilometres of standard gauge track, snaking up the valley and spiraling in places - a must for any railway buff! We could fill Alan's magazine with what we did and where we went . . .

The welcome made at your church by your Chaplain and congregation was a delight - thank you so much. No doubt we will see one or two of you in Helsinki before too long, so the compliment can be returned.

*David Bullivant*



Janes shop has now opened at Nordenskiöldsgatan 30 (nearest tramstop Olivedalsgatan).

For more information, please call her on 0708 558650 or e-mail: [info@janesplace.se](mailto:info@janesplace.se) to join the mailing list. There is a 10% discount to all members of the English church, just quote "St. Andrews offer" when ordering. The 10% discount will then be donated to the church.

## Book Review

*Why go to Church? The Drama of the Eucharist* by Timothy Radcliffe

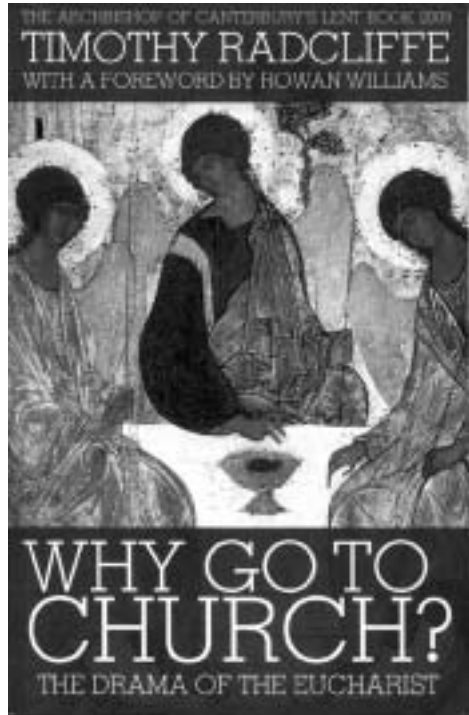
(London: Continuum Books, 2008, ISBN 978-08264-9956-1)

The first time I met Dominicans was in the 1960s, when, at Oxford and later at Manchester, I was a member of SCM (Student Christian Movement), and heard Lawrence Bright and Herbert McCabe present a splendid example of a medieval disputation, demolishing each other's arguments with perfect courtesy, and then exploring the relationship between Christianity and Marxism.

Then, while trying to persuade the Church of England that I was a suitable candidate for ordination, I enrolled in the Peace Preaching Course (sponsored by Christian Aid), whose Director of Studies was a Dominican. Roger Ruston had exchanged living in community for a wife and children, and was found more often in Anglican churches than in Catholic, but once a Dominican, always a Dominican.

Timothy Radcliffe was one of the preachers of University Sermons when I was in Cambridge, bringing his experience as Master of the Order of Preachers (the official name of the Dominicans) worldwide and his gentle sense of humour to fascinate his audience. So, when in England in February, I was delighted to pick up his latest book: *Why go to Church? The Drama of the Eucharist*, which the Archbishop of Canterbury had commissioned as his Lent Book for 2009. I later discovered that Timothy Radcliffe will be one of the keynote speakers at the Diocese in Europe Pastoral Conference to which all clergy have been summoned.

*Why go to Church?*, as the subtitle suggests, is a detailed study of the Eucharist, Lord's Supper, Mass, Holy Communion – four dif-



ferent names for the same enactment of the Last Supper, in which Christians share in the body and blood of Christ. Like a theatrical play, the book is divided into three Acts, entitled Faith, Hope and Love – three words that were also the subject of the Lent Course a dozen members of the congregation followed. I used Radcliffe's book as the source of three sermons during Lent, on forgiveness, the bible (listening to God), and prayer, and one after Easter on sharing the peace. His short chapters, which make the book very readable, still needed further selection and shortening to fit into the sermon slot, and I would recommend the whole book to everyone who wants to come to a deeper understanding of what we do on Sunday mornings.

Radcliffe's life has been too busy for scholarship, and he quotes freely from other Dominicans, including my mentors Herbert McCabe and Roger Ruston. To this, he adds a lifetime's experience of living as a Catholic and a Dominican, and meeting fellow-Christians all over the world.

The first scene, "Homecoming", reminds us of one of Jesus' best-loved parables, the story of the Prodigal Son. Confession, with which our service begins, is coming home to God. "It is because we believe in God's unconditional love and forgiveness that we may dare to open our eyes to the hurt and harm of our actions... Sorrow is not a sign that we are far from God, but that God's healing grace is already at work within us." This is a far cry from the general confession in the *Book of Common Prayer*: "Have mercy upon us, miserable offenders" – and perhaps we some-

times need one, sometimes the other: the prodigal son needed his father's extravagant love, while the Pharisees could not see where they were going wrong without tough talking.

In the second chapter I used, "Here I am", Radcliffe begins his study of the bible in worship by reflecting on listening to God. He reports having been shamed by a monk and a nun he met in Australia who "were enthusing about how wonderful it is to have a personal relationship with Jesus. But I have never been addressed by a mysterious voice calling 'Timothy' ... What does it mean for people like me to be addressed by God and to say 'Here I am'?"

This was, in fact, one of the questions posed by the first session of our Lent course; and Radcliffe tells us that the whole book is an answer to this question. So go ahead and read it for yourself!

Barbara Moss



## Religious encounters in daily life

*A midwife who delivers people of their spirits was how the priest Milvi Olander was described in the warm thanks after her lecture. If we have a strong, Christian identity it is easier for us to open up and meet other women.*

The conference and national Annual General Meeting of the Ecumenical Women's Group was held on 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> March in Sjömanskyrkan, Göteborg and I went as a representative of the English Church. On Friday evening Milvi Olander, priest in Bergsjöns Church, and some members-women from her congregation gave a rewarding lecture about their different life stories and how they have been affected from their experiences both as human beings and as Christians. The women came from Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Turkey and from Estonia and they

all have a Christian background in common. There are 137 different languages spoken in Bergsjöns Church. They told us about language, meeting and the dialogue they have with people in their church and that they can develop and grow as persons. They are a close church family and treat each other with kindness, warmth and respect. They live after the *Golden Rule*: *You treat people as yourself would like to be treated*. That got me to reflect on us in our church as we do the very same and is *the St. Andrew's Church Family*. Milvi Olander said that number one is to be a human being, second is as a woman and third is the religious orientation such as the belief which leads to building a bridge between people instead of dividing. It is very important to get closer to people and think of doing well to each other.



As a symbol of their talk the priest Milvi Olander showed us Russian dolls which have several small dolls in one large. It was a reminder about the womb, uterus of women back in generations. She said that we are mothers, sisters who all believe in God. There is a history both backwards and forwards, but life forward is what matters most.

- If you lose your mother, you are an orphan and it does not matter if your father is still alive. He cannot replace the role of the mother. The mother plays a very important role as a good, kind, fair, religious person and serves as an example, according to Milvi Olander. Personally I can relate to that since I lost my mother at the age of seventeen.

Their talk ended with a woman from Eritrea singing *O store Gud - How great thou art* in her language called *Amariga* and she had a lovely voice. On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March were the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the National Ecumenical Women's Group and after that a guide brought the exhibition *Gud har 99 namn* to Sjömanskyrkan and it was very interesting and nice. The Ecumenical Women's Group of Göteborg were our hostesses and had arranged a nice and enjoyable party in the evening with a buffet from the Middle East. After dinner all participants gathered around

tables and we celebrated *Earth Hour* by being quiet during a minute and then lit a candle at each table and finally passed on to the person leading the honouring of the earth. The *Earth Hour* was held at 20.30(local time) all over the world. After this wonderful moment the artist Gunn Jennervall was telling us about her experiences in life and her artistic work through stories, poems, pictures and songs called *En sorts kärlekshistoria - A kind of a love story*. She showed us her own paintings related to the theme. Gun has also made church paintings for the Swedish Mission Church of Härnösand in Northern Sweden. Sunday morning started with a two hour bible reflection based on the theme of the conference and national Annual General Meeting: *Religious encounters in daily life*. We were discussing if women have courage easier than men to stand up for their beliefs and show civil disobedience. We also brought up a text from the letter of Romans, when Pharaoh's daughter found Moses among the reeds. There was a team work between Pharaoh's daughter and the sister of Moses to save his life and it did not matter at all that they came from two different cultures and religions. The conference ended with a beautiful service in Domkyrkan.

*Cecilia Klevedal*



# Remembering your Spirit

Blessed are those who have been given that special gift of words, and the ability to put them down on paper for us to share. This hymn is special to many of us:

## Just as I am

Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O lamb of God, I come,

Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
because thy promise I believe,  
O lamb of God, I come.

*Charlotte Elliot (1789-1871)*

## Open our hearts

Lord, open our eyes,  
that we may see you in our brothers  
and sisters;

Lord, open our ears,  
that we may hear the cries from the  
hungry, the cold, the frightened, the  
oppressed.

Lord, open our hands,  
that we may reach out to all who are in  
need;

Lord, open our hearts,  
that we may love each other as you  
love us.

*Women of Canada*



## There's Sunshine In A Smile

Life is a mixture of sunshine and rain,  
Laughter and pleasure,  
Teardrops and pain,  
All days can't be bright, but it's certainly true,  
There was never a cloud  
The sun didn't shine through -  
So just keep on smiling whatever betide you,  
Secure in the knowledge  
God is always beside you,  
And you'll find when you smile  
Your day will be brighter  
And all of your burdens  
Will seem so much lighter -  
For each time you smile  
You will find it is true  
*Somebody, Somewhere will Smile Back At You,*  
And nothing on earth  
Can make life more worthwhile  
Than the sunshine and warmth  
Of a *Beautiful Smile.*

*Helen Steiner Rice*

I hope these words have given someone the  
comfort they need. Please share your favourites  
with us.

*Ann Gustafsson*

## LOTTERY 2009 – IN AID OF THE ROOF

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has kindly donated prizes for this year's lottery and to the people who are busy selling the tickets. Some say that it is easier to sell the tickets this year as the prizes are so good. Well there's quite a lot of work behind that, on the part of church committee members and friends, and we hope that everyone will buy at least one ticket so as to take part in the fun on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, the day of the draw.

The following organisations or shops have given us their support:

BoConcept  
Bok-och-Biblioteks mässan  
Color Line  
Ekholmens Pensionat, Vessigebro  
Folkteatern\*  
Govindas Vegetarian Restaurant, Karl Johansg.  
Gunnebo slott o trädgårdar  
Göteborgs Operan  
Göteborgs symfonikerna  
Hagabadet  
Jane's Place  
Beth Johansson, Ceramics  
Josefssons  
Tierra, Kaserntorget  
Majornas Te och Kaffe

Ma Cuisine  
Marrakechdesign, Kaserntorget  
Musik utan Gränser  
Pusterviksteatern  
Restaurang Marsala, Chapmans Torg  
Salong Moulin Rouge  
Stadsteatern  
Stena Line  
St. George Pub  
Thai Wok Sweden  
Tjolöholms Slott  
The Book Corner  
The English Shop  
The Gothenburg Drama Group  
Västra Hälsokost

In addition, some members of the congregation have donated new books.

*\*This prize has been raffled already as the performance was during April. The lucky winner was Barbara and she and Alan went to see a dance drama at Röda Sten.*

The Anglo-Swedish Society Program  
is now on-line: [www.angloswedish.se](http://www.angloswedish.se)

Members of St. Andrew's community are invited to apply for membership of the British Club.

Membership is open to all British and Commonwealth citizens and spouses of citizens and others with strong British connections.



[www.britishclub.se](http://www.britishclub.se)

Membership benefits include an active social programme, generous travel concessions as well as a lively quarterly magazine.

The annual fee per family is 100.00 SEK. Anyone interested should contact Gisela Barnard (031 147101) or Monica Edholm (031 293040)

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