

St. Andrew's

September — November 2008



Magazine of the English speaking church in Gothenburg

St Andrew's needs a new roof.

Can you



The roof will cost about 1 million kronor.

That's about 500 kronor for each slate.

Could you donate a slate – or, if you can afford to be more generous, what about one for each member of your family? Or one for each year of your age?

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Letter from the Chaplain

Autumn – a welcoming time

We have had many visitors over the summer. One Friday, 48 people dropped in to Open Church, and Sunday attendances stayed healthy well into July. But autumn brings the particular pleasure of welcoming people who are going to be around long enough for us to get to know them, as they arrive to study, take up a new job, or join a fiancé in Sweden.

September also brings the Gothenburg Book Fair, and once again, we shall have a guest speaker in St Andrew's. This year, it will be the Nicaraguan liberation theologian Ernesto Cardenal, poet, priest and politician. I have a particular interest here, as I wrote my MA dissertation on adaptations of some of the psalms by Cardenal and others with a concern for peace and justice. He is speaking at 7 pm on Thursday 25 September, and the event is co-sponsored by the university chaplains and the Anglo-Swedish Society.

The church also welcomes two new groups of users. The Old Catholics (Gammalkatolska Kyrkan) return, after a gap of several years, and will be worshipping in St Andrew's one Wednesday evening a month. Their church is in communion with the Church of England, and their priest, Rickard Stenberg, helps out at the Copenhagen chaplaincy.

The other new group is the Rosenlund Group, run by Stadsmissionen and Svenska kyrkan: a drop-in centre for prostitutes one night a week, where they can come and relax in a safe, friendly environment, over a cup of coffee. Our church committee is delighted that we are able to help by providing a venue.

We also welcome the builders. Within the next month, work will begin on replacing our copper roof, which has come to the end of its



life, with a slate roof – more friendly to the environment, and in keeping with the architect's original intentions, as well as being slightly cheaper than copper. We have been told that this will not interfere with the normal running of the church, though it would be prudent to cover the organ while work is in progress, and use the piano instead. We hope that the work will be finished by Christmas, though the completion date on the contract is in January, to be on the safe side.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to the cost of repairs. This magazine marks the launch of our Donate-a-Slate scheme, and we shall be recording progress on the web site and on the notice board inside the church to show how much of the roof can be paid for by the contributions received so far.

With all best wishes

Barbara Moss

Who's Who at St. Andrew's

Chaplain

Barbara Moss

Norra Liden 15, 411 18 Göteborg

Tel: 031-711 19 15

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

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

CHURCH COMMITTEE

Wardens

Ann Gustafsson 031 - 16 17 43
Sheila Andersson 031 - 711 55 71

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Tore Fjällbrant 031 - 28 49 33

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Cecilia Klevedal 031 - 12 75 08

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Ladies' Guild

Marie Lygonis 031 - 92 22 96

SST, Contact for Nordiska kristna rådet, Sveriges kristna råd

Tore Fjällbrant 031 - 28 49 33

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Webmistress

Nancy Fjällbrant 031 - 28 49 33

Child Protection Officer

Emma Jones 0702-756217

Sacristan and Magazine Editor

Alan Taylor 031 - 42 38 64

Environmental Officer

Ron Jones 031 - 26 94 25

Gardening Group

Cecilia Klevedal 031 - 12 75 08

Ladies' Evening Group

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

Choirmistress

Gillian Thylander 031 - 27 92 70



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 one of the Churchwardens.

Services: September – November

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 *Lay Assistants and Intercessors who are not able to attend, please arrange an exchange or replacement and notify Barbara or Alan Taylor.*

SEPTEMBER 21, *St Matthew*
Celebrant and Preacher; Lars van der Heeg
LA: *Göran Molin, Alan Taylor*
I: *Diana Walters*

SEPTEMBER 28, *19th after Trinity*
LA: *Sheila Andersson, Gisela Barnard*
I: *Alan Taylor*

OCTOBER 5, *20th after Trinity*
10.00 Holy Communion
11.00 International Family Service and Lunch

OCTOBER 12, *19th after Trinity*
LA: *Gisela Barnard, Ann Gustafsson*
I: *Sheila Andersson*

OCTOBER 19,
11.00 Ecumenical Service at the German Church. No service at St Andrew's

OCTOBER 26, *Bible Sunday*
LA: *Ann Gustafsson, Gisela Barnard*
I: *Gillian Thylander*

NOVEMBER 2, *All Saints' Day*
11.00 Family Communion
LA: *Alan Taylor, Göran Molin*
I: *Cecilia Klevedal*

NOVEMBER 9, *Remembrance Sunday*
LA: *Ann Gustafsson, Alan Taylor*
I: *Barbara Moss*

NOVEMBER 16, *Christ the King*
LA: *Alan Taylor, Sheila Andersson*
I: *Gisela Barnard*

NOVEMBER 23, *St Andrew's Sunday*
LA: *Sheila Andersson, Gisela Barnard*
I: *Diana Walters*

NOVEMBER 30, *Advent Sunday*
LA: *Göran Molin, Ann Gustafsson*
I: *Alan Taylor*

DECEMBER 7, *Peace and Justice Sunday*
10.00 Holy Communion
11.00 Family Service
I: *children*

Carol Services: *Wed 17 and Sun 21 December 18.00*

Gap Year Student seeks gainful occupation!!

Hello! My name is Laura Nesbitt and I am Diana and Göran's niece. I am coming to Gothenburg as part of my gap year and hope to learn some Swedish and also to find some work. If anyone knows of any jobs suitable for a bright, intelligent and responsible 18

year old, please can they contact me. I would be happy to work with children or in any job that does not require fluent Swedish. You can contact me through my aunt on 0301 30504 or dibsy.sweden@yahoo.co.uk I can supply references and a CV. Tusen tack!

Chaplaincy Notes

Open-Air Service

On Sunday 13th July St. Andrew's Church participated for the second time in an Open-Air Service together with the Haga Church. It was held in the lovely nature park of Gothenburg, Slottskogen. There is an outdoor Church, which is called *Friluftskyrkan* with an altar and wooden benches. The Service started at 17.00 with singing hymn number 680 *Sjung lovsång alla länder, och priså Herrens namn!* in Swedish. Many people attended and among them some persons from the English congregation. We were lucky with the weather – no rain at all!

Barbara Moss, St. Andrew's Church and Cecilia Nyholm, Haga Church held a beautiful Service together. Cecilia Nyholm read a Bible reading from Romans 8:14-17 in Swedish.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, then heirs of God and join theirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Barbara Moss gave a sermon in English based on the text above that if we are all children of God, then we are all brothers and sisters and the content of it.

So often we concentrate on what makes us different from one another, instead of celebrating what we have in common. Of course we are all different, and that, too, is something to celebrate, just as members of a family can enjoy and celebrate one another's special gifts, and respond to one another's special needs. Let's have the courage to recognize all who cross our paths, whoever they are, whatever their gifts and needs, as God's children and our brothers and sisters- the ones God has given to be with us.

Cecilia Nyholm preached on the Gospel reading, Matthew 7:13-14 *Enter through the narrow gate.*

They talked with profound, rewarding words and nice symbols. The sermons were warm and deep.

Niklas Robertsson played the clarinet beautifully and the other hymns that we sang were number 86- *Father, hear the prayer we offer* in English and number 298 – *Gud, ditt folk är vandringsfolket* and hymn 191 in Swedish.

The Service ended with prayers and the blessing in both English and Swedish by the two priests. Afterwards there was coffee and various homemade cakes in the wooden cottage *Smålandsstugan*. There are several typical cottages that have been transported from different parts of Sweden and *Smålandsstugan* is one of them. Last year we had refreshments in *Dalslandsstugan*. This year we sat outside since the weather was lovely so there was no opportunity to look inside.

The Open-Air Service was enjoyable and it was nice to get together with Haga Church. It is definitely worth repeating again next summer for the third time.

Cecilia Klevedal



The priests at the Open-Air Service



Gunnar and Cecilia Klevedal on their tenth Wedding anniversary on 3 August together with Alan Taylor in the church garden



Our Environmental Officer Ron Jones practises what he preaches with an environmentally friendly mode of transport

St Andrew's Church Garden

As part of the Family Service on Sunday 6th April, the children and adults were invited to come up to the font to plant nasturtium seeds as a symbol of the seeds of the kingdom and hope. I was asked to help the children and it was a pleasure. The nasturtium seeds have grown into plants in larger pots in the church garden and have now burst out in colourful flowers and have been beautiful all summer. They needed to be tended to with care, support and love as they were small. In the same way as with the roses, rhododendrons and other plants in the garden.

The gardening season has been going on and we have met a few times. We have moved the lawns, weeded and watered and cut the hedges and trimmed in the valley. The garden work is like a mission to keep the garden nice and lovely, so we all can enjoy it on Sundays while having church coffee. I think that the garden and the church building are a whole together. We worship just as well outside the church as indoors.

The garden has supplied us with flowers for the altar during the summer.

The garden group is not a closed group so anyone in the congregation is welcome to help in the garden. If you like to help in the garden you are very welcome to participate and to contact



Barbara celebrates her tenth anniversary as priest in church on 22 June

me. You do not need to have a lot of experience because we all help each other. The gardening group is not only work, it is also an opportunity to meet and socialise and to have fun.

Cecilia Klevedal



Funerals

25 June 2008

INGRID TAYLOR, 28/4/1924 – 12/6/2008, cremated after a service in S:t Markus kapell, Västra Kyrgården

Pilgrimage to Trondheim

Olaf, Birgitta and General Armfeldt:

A Pilgrimage from Jämtland to Nidaros/Trondheim

The night train was running late, and a fellow-passenger, a South African, was getting worried. Would he catch his connection at Storlien? "Don't worry," said a young man sitting opposite. "You'll be in Trondheim in a couple of hours." I was also going to Trondheim from Åre; but my journey would take nearly two weeks – on foot.

The first pilgrimage in modern times to retrace the steps of St Olaf, from Selånger where he landed on return from exile in Russia, to Stiklestad where he died in battle in an attempt to regain the Norwegian crown, and on to Trondheim, where his body was taken after he became a saint, was just 50 years ago. One of the walkers, then a boy of 15, is still around. This was a jubilee walk. But, unlike 1958, no one walked all the way from Selånger. Instead, we carried with us a book, handed on from one group of walkers to another like the Olympic torch.

The first day, in Åre, there were two of us, together with former mountain priest Roland Torestad, now a hospital chaplain in Göteborg. We stayed in his flat in Åre, and prayed with him in Åre Old and New churches, and in the mountain chapel where he has asked for his ashes to be buried.

The guide book, which I had downloaded, told us that both Olaf and Birgitta had drunk from a spring by the roadside. Today it was more like a puddle of rainwater; we didn't drink very much.

Their route was also followed, in the early 18th century, by General Armfeldt and his troops, bent on recapturing Norway. They beat

an ignominious retreat, and thousands of the soldiers died in snow drifts.

After three days of gentle walking, mainly along the road, we arrived at Skalstugan, the last settlement before the border. Here, the next morning, we were joined by our leader, Elisabeth, a pastor from Denmark; a German member of the Anglican congregation in Trondheim; and a Spanish Catholic. Four Norwegian women walked with us that day, telling us what wonderful views we would have enjoyed if it hadn't been raining. The best sight we saw all day was a man sitting on the threshold of a hut, cooking sausages over a fire – especially when we realized that they were for us, and that there was coffee, too. He was one of the many local men and women who went out of their way to help the pilgrims – some with food, others by guiding us over the mountain paths.

Stiklestad was preoccupied with rehearsals for the annual Olaf play. It was a bit like walking into a busy theme park, after the quietness of the moors. In the hotel-cum-museum-cum-visitor centre, we learned that the sainted King Olaf, who had united Norway and converted it to Christianity in the early twelfth century, was a brutal ruler; and accounts of the Battle of Stiklestad show that he was a fierce fighter too.



So, why is he celebrated as a saint, in a country that does not go in for saints? And why was the Battle of Stiklestad the turning-point of Norwegian history? I never did get a complete answer, but the museum had one interesting bit of iconography: a statue of Olaf, with his foot on what looks like a snake with a human head – and the faces on the two heads, Olaf's and the snake's, are identical. Olaf is shown as conquering himself – or rather, the evil in himself.

By the time we left Stiklestad, there were 15 of us. Each day, we reflected on one of the pilgrims' key words: silence, freedom, community, slowness, simplicity, serenity, and spirituality – partly in silent meditation, partly in conversation with one other person, if possible someone we had not talked to before, so that we quickly got to know each other.

For the last two days, we were joined by a larger group who had taken a more southerly route. Some of them had been walking in stages, a week at a time, over a number of years, and were planning to celebrate their arrival by walking into Trondheim in medieval costume.

We arrived at the Cathedral Pilgrim Centre just before 3 pm, and were met by the Trondheim pilgrim priest Rolf Synnes. He took us first to another of Olaf's springs, now a modern fountain, then to the grass around a stone cross, where we stood for a short liturgy of psalm texts, and finally to the courtyard of an old orphanage for a brief communion service. Then we walked three times round the cathedral, singing *Laudate omnes gentes, Deilig er jorden (Härlig är jorden)*, and *May the road rise up to greet you*, in various languages.

Returning to the Pilgrim Centre, we received our pilgrim certificates (Olavbrev – much posher than the Santiago certificate!) and our luggage. We then dispersed, to meet again at various stages in the Church Walk and Vigil service for the feast of St Olaf. Some even stayed through the night or attended the Catho-

lic Mass in the morning, and I think all of "our" group were there for the High Mass of St Olaf – very fine liturgy, sermon in English from the former Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and lots of hymns with familiar tunes – where we received communion from Elisabeth.

After that, we were tourists, visiting the "medieval market" and enjoying refreshments. My final act of worship for the feast of St Olaf was the traditional monastic service of Nones, simply and well sung in plainsong. That night, Mary Strømmen, the Anglican priest in Trondheim, took me back to her house, to wash clothes, eat supper and, at about 10 pm, to swim in Trondheim fjord (best done at high tide). The following morning, I began my journey back to Göteborg – three trains and a bus – arriving at 22.45.

So often, the end of a long walk is a disappointment; but Trondheim more than lived up to expectations, and I was very pleased that our journey had been timed to arrive on the eve of St Olaf.

Approaching Trondheim

The Saxon cross
stood on a headland.

Here the pilgrims came from many lands,
from east and north, and looked down
for the first time on their destination.

And then they knelt
in the long grass
and praised the Lord
for their safe journey.

That cross survives
only in the place-name,
"The Saxon Cross".

But the local pastor
has tied together
two birch branches.

These are our Saxon cross,
so simple, we could make one anywhere,
and kneel and praise the Lord for our safe journey so far.

Barbara Moss

Ernesto Cardenal at the Book Fair

**Welcome to the 2008 Göteborg Book Fair
September 24-28**

Scandinavia and the world meet at the Swedish Exhibition Centre (Svenska Mässan) in Göteborg. The Göteborg Book Fair is the best place to get an overview of the literature from the Scandinavian countries. You will also meet many of the world's most prominent intellectuals who come here to discuss, debate and voice their opinions. Information in English about the Book Fair can be obtained from the website <http://www.bok-bibliotek.se/> The exhibition catalogue will be distributed with Göteborgs Posten on September 16th. Some exhibitors including the Swedish Church have a full programme of seminars which are included in the basic entry cost of 144 kr per day. Cheaper tickets (120 kr) are available to the general public from Friday afternoon onwards – see website <http://www.bok-bibliotek.se/>

Latvia in focus

This year, Latvia will be the theme country. 24 authors, politicians, historians, translators and many more will take part in the seminar programme. Take the opportunity to learn more about our Baltic neighbour! The spectacular Latvian stand offers an extensive programme. Latvian music, photography and art will be at the forefront of events in the city of Göteborg.

Seminar programme of international class

This year you will have the opportunity to meet many international authors in the extensive seminar programme - 435 seminars of which 60 will be held in other languages than the Scandinavian. Welcome to meet Nobel Prize candidates, well known writers, new names and many other interesting participants. Seminars speakers include Ernesto Cardenal the world famous poet (Nicaragua); Mahasweeta Devi,



Vaikom Muhammed Basheer and Anita Nair (India); story-teller Joseph O'Connor (Ireland); poet Les Murray (Australia); British detective writers Caroline Graham (Midsummer murders), and Denise Mina; and Mikael Ondaatje, author of the *English Patient*, from Canada.

Book Fair Event at St Andrew's

We are delighted to be able to welcome Ernesto Cardenal the world famous poet from Nicaragua to St Andrew's on Friday September 26th – see separate article.

Nancy Fjällbrant

Meet Ernesto Cardenal

For the last three years, St Andrew's has entertained a special guest during the Gothenburg Book Fair. In 2005, it was travel writer Jenny Diski; in 2006, novelist Nadeem Aslam; and in 2007, environmental campaigner Mark Lynas.

This year, our visitor comes not from the United Kingdom but from Nicaragua. Ernesto Cardenal has followed his triple vocation as poet, priest and politician for 60 years. One of the most promising young poets of his generation, he left Nicaragua because of political pressure from the Somoza government, and moved to the USA, where he became a trappist novice in Gethsemani, Kentucky, where his novice-master was Thomas Merton. He completed his studies for the priesthood in Latin America, and returned to Nicaragua in 1965. In the following year, he founded a lay community on the island of Solentiname, where the ideas of liberation theology could be explored in the context of his own country.

His *Psalms* brought alive biblical themes for twentieth century readers, and in *The Gospel in Solentiname* he recorded conversations on the Christian gospel between old and young, peasants and revolutionaries, in a Latin American base community in the early days of liberation

theology.

After the Sandinista revolution, and the fall of the Somoza regime in 1979, he served as Minister of Culture in the Nicaraguan government, in spite of pressure from the Pope. After resigning in 1988, he completed his *Cosmic Canticle*, a 500-page poem which "tackles the big questions: who are we, why are we here, where are we going". He founded a cultural centre, Casa de los Tres Mundos, to encourage young artists, and, at the age of 83, is still widely in demand as a speaker, and to read his poems, which are inspiring a new generation of young Nicaraguans.

In the last decade he has published three volumes of memoirs, *Vida perdida (Lost Life)*, *Las islas extrañas (Strange islands)* and *La revolucion perdida (The Lost Revolution)* as well as volumes of poems and a new edition of his correspondence with Thomas Merton.

"In 1998 Nicaragua was rocked by Hurricane Mitch, which killed over 6,000 people and left over 300,000 homeless. By the dawn of the new millennium, Nicaragua was the second poorest nation in Latin America, behind Haiti. It continued to be plagued by economic, political, and social instability. Yet Cardenal, still strong in his faith, continued to express hope for the future. He told the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo*, 'Still we have to maintain our hope for a utopia.'"

Many people have told me that they are looking forward to Ernesto Cardenal's visit, but wonder whether St Andrew's is big enough for all those who will want to come! So it would be a good idea to arrive early. He is speaking at 19.00 on Thursday 25 September, and light refreshments will be available afterwards.

The quotations in the above article are taken from <http://biography.jrank.org/pages/3557/Cardenal-Ernesto-1925-Poet-Maintained-Dream-Utopia.html>.

Barbara Moss

Threat to the World's Lungs

On August 9, the UN Day for Indigenous Peoples, an estimated 14,000 Indians, members of 65 tribes, from all over the Peruvian Amazon began a series of protests against new laws that they claim undermine their rights and make it easier for companies to take control of their territories. They blockaded a road and a river, intercepted boats belonging to a gas company, closed an oil pipeline and took over a hydroelectric plant. The government declared a state of emergency in three northern provinces. There are reports of police firing bullets and spraying tear gas to disperse the crowds, leaving some Indians wounded.

The congressional commission on Andean, Amazonian and Afro-Peruvian peoples, the Environment and Ecology has since proposed a bill to repeal the two most controversial laws. President Alan Garcia opposes this step, saying that it creates 'a bad precedent' because it was made in response to the protests. He has asked Congress not to repeal the two laws, saying it would be "a historically serious mistake" and would condemn Indian communities to 'another century of backwardness and misery.'

It appears that the national organisation representing the indigenous Amazonian communities, AIDESEP, has since called for a suspension of the protests, but **an indigenous activist declares:** "We conserve the environment. We are not ignorant. We are prepared. We know that foreigners want to buy our Amazon lands, because they know they are the world's lungs*. We will not allow this. We will die fighting for our rights."

These events highlight the dilemma facing the Peruvian government - striking a balance between exploitation and conservation in a country where 54 % the population live in poverty and the median life span is only 25 years.

Just a few background facts might be of interest: In Lonely Planet Peru, one reads that in September 2005 Peru signed the Amazon River Declaration, which calls for environmental safeguards to ensure biodiversity and also sustainable tourism strategies to fight rural poverty and spur regional development. Peru's vast wealth of wildlife is protected to a certain extent by a system of national parks and reserves with 60 areas covering 15% of the country, run by a division of the Ministry of Agriculture. Unfortunately, the protected areas lack the infrastructure needed to conserve them and are subject to illegal hunting, logging, fishing and mining. The government simply does not have the money to hire enough rangers and buy the necessary equipment to patrol the parks.

The Environment News Service (see WWW.ens-newswire.com) reports that the Peruvian government is making relentless efforts to promote oil and gas exploration. Back in December 2004 less than 15 % of the Peruvian Amazon was open to oil companies. By April 2007 Perupetro, the state-owned oil company, had launched a new bidding round in Houston, Texas, that meant that not less than 70% of the Peruvian Amazon would be carved into oil concessions. A delegation from AIDESEP was there to protest but to no avail.

This is because, before all the exploitation for tropical hardwoods, burning the forest to grow cash crops and drilling for oil, the vast expanses of tropical forests worldwide absorbed enormous amounts of carbon dioxide (the main greenhouse gas) and produced oxygen.

Gillian Thylander

Have you seen Planet Ark – your daily guide to helping the planet (Reuters News Service)?

CHALMERS INITIATIVE SEMINAR

Technology And Building: Initiatives To Help An Aging Population

Date: 15th October 2008, 13.00-18.00
Event: Seminar – open to the general public, free of charge
Place: Students' Union (Kårhus), Chalmers

13.00 Opening by Karin Markides – Rektor, Chalmers University
Inaugural speech by Ragnwi Marcelind - undersecretary of state

A series of short presentations on:

Demography and trends
Planning for the care needs of senior citizens
Official policies concerning senior citizens
Senior Göteborg
Housing for senior citizens

14.50 Coffee break

15.20 Short examples of tangible meetings between researchers and industry within for example IT and communication, medicine and transportation

Research about elderly people

Chalmers Seniors give an overview of their experience.

17.00 End of meeting: Mingle with snacks.

NB: The Seminar will be held in Swedish

Information supplied by Tore and Nancy Fjällbrant

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.



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)

www.britishclub.se

Our great thanks are due to the following for donations to this years Lottery:

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Stena Line;
St George Pub;
The Anglo-Swedish Society;
The Book Corner;
The English Shop;
Västra Hälsokost

*We would like to express our appreciation of the contributions made by **all the individual donors** as well, whose names do not appear on the lottery ticket. Last but not least, we thank the ticket-sellers, the experienced ones and the learners. Be pleasant, be brisk and get people to buy as many tickets as possible. GOOD LUCK!*



Sven Melin
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