

St. Andrew's

September — November 2010



Magazine of the English speaking church in Gothenburg

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Letter from the Chaplain

"Why should the Church be concerned with pilgrimage?" This was one of the questions to the participants in a meeting at the "lipstick building" to inaugurate a Pilgrims' Network in the Diocese of Gothenburg, and I was there partly to make sure that the ecumenical dimension was not overlooked.

My own answer was, "because it's fun", and I am sure that those who have participated in our own Saturday pilgrimage walks, as well as those who have made their own pilgrimages will agree. Others pointed out that pilgrimage events attract many people who would not otherwise go to church, and that a peaceful, prayerful walk is excellent therapy for those suffering from stress or burn-out. Still others pointed to widespread interest in different approaches to spirituality, or to collaboration with local tourist boards and community organizations in attracting visitors.

For me, it's important to strike a balance between pilgrimage at my own pace and being part of a pilgrim group. This summer, it was time to go on my own. I got the idea of a walk to Assisi last summer, when I saw a signpost in southern Sweden pointing to various destinations, and Assisi was the only one I had not visited. While the area is not so well developed for the needs of pilgrims on foot as the routes through France and Spain to Santiago de Compostela. I found at least three possible routes, and, after a false start, decided to walk from the monastery of La Verna, where St Francis retreated to spend time in prayer after resigning as head of the religious order he founded.

La Verna is a remarkable site, on a steep mountain. When Francis went there, it was extremely wild, and his favourite place of prayer was at the bottom of a deep chasm,



shaded and cold even on a hot summer's day. I translated a notice displayed at the top of the steps down:

St Francis followed only the way of the cross, delighted in nothing but the sweetness of the cross, preached nothing but the glory of the cross, so, pilgrims, please refrain from scribbling crosses all over the rocks!

There were, indeed, many small crosses painted or carved on the rocks. This was an aspect of St Francis I knew little about; but La Verna was where he prayed to share in the suffering that Christ endured on the cross, and received wounds in his hands, feet and side, called the "stigmata", the marks. These wounds were with him, bleeding and causing him pain and making him unable to walk, for the remaining two years of his life.

But La Verna reflected the joyful side of Francis as well. Before I left to begin my walk, I went to the morning prayers with the friars, nuns and visitors, and we sang *Te Deum Laudamus* (We praise you, O God) and *Benedicite omnia opera* (O all ye works of the

Lord, bless ye the Lord). One of the readings was from Romans: "All things work together for those who love God." This was an excellent thought to walk with, both when the going was delightful and when it was more of a struggle.

The only other monastic house I stayed in belonged to the Capuchins, an offshoot of the Franciscans, in the town of Sansepolchro. I had to ask the way several times, but, apart from one woman who thought that when I said "Cappuccini" I wanted a cup of coffee, most people knew where it was and gave helpful directions. Dinner was surprisingly informal, and the only person there who spoke English had finished his meal and wandered off before I was half way through the large plate of spaghetti I had been given. Fortunately two German pilgrims turned up, and the three of us spent a pleasant evening on the terrace overlooking the town talking about our experiences of pilgrimage.

After the quiet country lanes, Assisi was a bit of a shock: not just the crowds, and the sometimes tacky souvenirs, but the immense basilicas dedicated to St Francis and St Clare, as well as Santa Maria degli Angeli, a huge church 3 km away on the plain, built around the small chapel that was the first centre for the Franciscans. I felt more comfortable in San Damiano, where Francis heard the message "Rebuild my church" and went out to beg for stone; later, it became the home of the "Poor Clares", the women's order associated with the Franciscans. The Anglican church was a delight, too. Dedicated to St Leonard, it has lovely old frescoes both in the church and in the meeting room next door, and after the service almost everyone – 17 of us – went over the road for lunch in the restaurant opposite, mostly sitting round one large table.

Coming home, I wished I had prayed more, sung more, enjoyed more, and coped better with walking uphill in the heat. But I did read a

couple of books about St Francis on the journey, and was able to join in church services almost every day, as well as listening to the birds praising God in their own way, as they did in Francis' time. There is plenty left to do and see for another visit, and I hope to go back some day.

Barbara Moss

Barbara will be talking (in English) about St Francis and her pilgrimage to Assisi at Gustavigården on Tuesday 5 October at 18.30.



Monastery of La Verna



The steep slopes from La Verna

Who's Who at St Andrew's

Chaplain

Barbara Moss

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

SEPTEMBER 5, *Harvest Festival*
Festival Family Communion and lunch
Andrew Wingate preaches

LA: Alan Taylor, Ann Gustafsson

I: Kristina Ayoade

SEPTEMBER 12, *Trinity 15*

LA: Ann Gustafsson, Alan Taylor

I: Gillian Thylander

SEPTEMBER 19, *Trinity 16*

LA: Gisela Barnard, Göran Molin

I: Cecilia Klevedal

18.00 Evensong followed by a time of prayer

SEPTEMBER 26, *Trinity 17*

11.00 Family Communion

CLA: Alan Taylor, Gisela Barnard

I: Ann Gustafsson

OCTOBER 3, *Trinity 18*

10.00 Holy Communion

11.00 Family Service: Andrew Wingate

OCTOBER 10, *Trinity 19*

LA: Ann Gustafsson, Alan Taylor

I: Alan Taylor

OCTOBER 17, *Trinity 20*

Andrew Wingate preaches

LA: Gisela Barnard,

I: Gisela Barnard, Ann Gustafsson

OCTOBER 24, *United Nations Day*

11.00 International Service in Tyska Kyrkan

18.00 Exploring the Bible followed at

19.15 Compline and prayer

OCTOBER 31, *All Saints Day*

LA: Alan Taylor, Gisela Barnard

I: Kristina Ayoade

NOVEMBER 7, *3rd before Advent*

LA: Ann Gustafsson, Jeanette Munro

I: Gillian Thylander

NOVEMBER 14, *Remembrance Sunday*

Andrew Wingate preaches

LA: Gisela Barnard, Ann Gustafsson

I: Cecilia Klevedal

NOVEMBER 21, *Christ the King*

11.00 LA: Alan Taylor, Göran Molin

I: Ann Gustafsson

18.00 Exploring the Bible followed at

19.15 Compline and prayer

NOVEMBER 28, *Advent Sunday*

St Andrew's Day Lunch

LA: Gisela Barnard, Alan Taylor

I: Alan Taylor

DECEMBER 5, *2nd in Advent*

Peace and Justice Sunday

LA: Ann Gustafsson, Gisela Barnard

I: Gisela Barnard

Chaplaincy notes



Anglo-Swedish - Think Britain - Garden Party

Lars Wiklund had asked if St. Andrew's could work with the Anglo-Swedish Society on this event and I spoke with the chair Birger Ekengren and offered my help.

The Anglo-Swedish Society Göteborg hosted an afternoon garden party for members and for family and friends of Brits in Gothenburg on Wednesday 16th June. Arranged in the beautiful garden grounds of Trädgårdsföreningen, this was a delightful afternoon to celebrate the good relations between the people of the United Kingdom and Sweden. In full support of this event, the British Ambassador Andrew Mitchell, Honorary Consul Lars Wiklund and Vice-consul Lotta Jonsson took part. The guests gathered between 15 and 16 and visited with each other and went on a quiz walk produced by our Chaplain Barbara Moss. My first task was to stand by question number one and instructing people which was the adult question and the children's question. To my help I had Birger Ekengren's lovely granddaughter Elsa, eight years old.

The Honorary Consul Lars Wiklund introduced me to the British Ambassador Andrew Mitchell during the mingling. I

heard one person asking him if he was British and he said:

-Yes I am, otherwise I could not have been a British Ambassador, he said in a friendly way and smiled.

At 16.00 sharp, the British Ambassador Andrew Mitchell gave a talk on the stage and it was good. Afterwards the folk singer Björn Landahl played and sang. My second task of the afternoon was to help Birger Ekengren to serve cookies, soft drinks and sparkling wine at a table next beside the stage. His granddaughter was helpful. The people who attended were from the Anglo-Swedish Society, the International Women's Club and some from St. Andrew's Church. The guests who had booked a place at Rosencafét went there afterwards.

Cecilia Klevedal



Birger Ekengren together with Björn Landahl



At Peter's

It is a wonderful tradition that some time during the summer the choir meets either in Gillian's garden or at our organist Peter Hansen's place on Donsö. This year we took the new fast boat from Saltholmen out to Donsö on Wednesday 28th July and the

weather was fantastic. Food and drink and jolly company made for a delightful afternoon, not forgetting of course the singing in preparation for the Sunday Service and - more sadly - the funeral of David Wright on Friday 6th August.

Gisela

Golden Wedding

Gillian, who is our Choir Mistress, and her husband Stig Thylander celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on the 30th July and spent the weekend with their family. To honour the occasion there were some special flower arrangements to decorate the altar.

Gisela



Thank you

To all of you who kindly pestered friends and strangers to buy lottery tickets this year. And to those who gave away tickets to their family members. And to those who simply bought a whole pack.

The Church Committee is happy to announce that the result of the Lottery before deductions for paper, envelopes and advertising was 23,000 SEK.

This has naturally already gone to keeping our church running. It is a sad fact that this is a necessary measure, together with the Bazaar, the Auction of Time, Talents and Treasures (coming up in October) and continuing sales of books, jam and marmalade. People certainly give of their own free will as well, but the above-mentioned activities are also fun and provide opportunities for social contact and winning new friends.



Gillian



Wedding

Friday 9th July 2010

KLAS RIKARD PATRIK BERGSTRÖM and
MICHELLE RECECCA KIRAN VITHAL

Funeral

Friday 6th August 2010

DAVID WRIGHT, aged 80

Sixtyfifth and Seventyfifth Birthdays



Colin Hayward sitting outside in a sunny church garden celebrating his sixtyfifth birthday together with his friends



Alan Taylor enjoying lunch together with his friends from church, and celebrating his seventyfifth birthday

In memory David Wright

I got to know David in 1967 at the English department of the university. I had been away for a few months because of illness. When I came back to do my first Shakespeare class, there he was, sitting there, another Englishman, about my own age, with a ready smile, a lively manner, and a sense of humour. I liked him straightaway.

I soon learned that David had had a varied career since leaving university in England, and that it was marriage to Irma that had brought him to Sweden and ultimately to Göteborg.

Later we became colleagues, and were colleagues for decades. At times we shared an office. What we always shared was a sense of amusement at the ups and downs of academic life in Engelska institutionen as it went through its phases and transformations. He was the easiest of people to work with. In his teaching David was able to pursue one of the abiding interests of his life – the English language. And how well he did it! – the students loved him for the way he led them through the intricacies of English grammar, with a humour that ranged from fantasy to imitations of Elvis Presley. A permanent contribution of David was to help devise an objective system of language proficiency tests based on statistical vocabulary frequencies and multiple-choice texts. In times of huge student numbers this was to make a great and practical difference.

David was a man of many parts. He had a talent for drama that resulted in the Humane Theatre and lots of comic productions, dominated by his zest for the absurd. This has been

carried on by son John and younger colleagues. One thing about David I would like to have remembered is his knowledge of English radio comedy programmes from the 1940s and 50s, which was peculiar and detailed – the Goon Show, for example – often he really took me back to those days.

We often needed to work together, setting and marking written examinations. These things can involve tricky questions of judgement and end in dispute. With David it was always easy to reach agreement. In fact the only thing I can remember disagreeing with David about over the years was the Monty Python TV show. I didn't think it was quite as funny as he did. I think we ended



up agreeing to differ.

We both retired at the same time, and made our goodbye speeches to the English department on the same occasion. Sadly, David's retirement was marked by illness. We kept in touch mainly by letter and phone calls. There were operations and latterly, distressing diseases for which not too much can be done these days. He must have suffered a great deal of pain, both physical and mental. But many of you who read these lines will remember the occasion of his 80th birthday celebration, how cheerful he was, how pleased to see us all.

There was always an atmosphere of goodwill in David's presence, of sheer niceness, which everyone responded to. He will be long remembered by his many friends. I am glad to have been one of them.

Bryan Errington

A Wright family heirloom rediscovered

On August 8th during church coffee I got into conversation with David Wright's cousin from Leamington. Amongst other things, we talked about Coventry Cathedral, the skeleton of the mediaeval church, the Cross of Nails, and the link with the splendid modern building built with many willing hands, including youths from Germany, and in materials from all over the world.

Another thing of more immediate interest was the delight shown by the older members of the Wright family when they saw the old wooden trolley that we use every Sunday for church coffee. David had donated it to the church after we had been deprived of the use of the Ring Inn opposite our building. Little did we know that it was a piece of furniture that we should treat with much more care and respect! It was a wedding present to David's grandparents in the early 1900s, and Peter and his cousin had fond memories of it being rolled out for afternoon tea and later when it was used as a place for tidying away their toys.

I think that we are very lucky to have a tangible reminder of our dear friend David in church.

Gillian Thylander



One Friday afternoon in St. Andrew's Church

If possible, St. Andrew's Church Committee aims to have the church open every Friday afternoon. Open Church is between 15.00 to 17.00 hours and there should always be two persons working together, one of whom is a key holder. This is partly for company, partly for safety. The volunteers who keep St. Andrew's Church open write down their names on a list, which is hanging on the notice board back in the building. I produce a new list every third month with dates. Anyhow, why I am writing is to share with you, one exceptional afternoon when Gunnar and I kept the church open. It was Friday 6th August, the same day as a very dear member, who has been with the congregation for many years, was laid to rest in peace at a beautiful service in the morning by our Chaplain Barbara Moss. I had him as a teacher in the English Department at the university and he was a very good teacher and pedagogic, a kind, warm person with a good sense of humour and the twinkle in his eye. May he rest in peace and God bless his soul.

50 visitors came that afternoon which we marked down in our visitor's book. I like to guide them if they wish to have a guided tour – some just want to come in and have a quick look or see the church for themselves, go up and light a candle at the votive stand or just sit in peace to pray and meditate. So our visitors sure have different needs and that is how it should be. There are information sheets from the 150th anniversary of the building in 2007, which openers can offer to visitors. It is interesting to talk with people and answer their questions.

I guided two young women from Germany and they were very interested when I

showed them the stained glass windows behind the altar. They figured out the four apostles and their symbols and were giving it a good thought. Others have asked about the poor box, the golden eagle and other things. People from Germany, France, Denmark, England and Sweden came that afternoon. The number of visitors varies each Friday during open church from 10, 15, 20, 25, 30- but 50 was very good. There is also a box that we use during open church with instructions to guide a new volunteer what to do. You can also ask an experienced opener what to do, if you would like to come and help one afternoon. There is a need of new volunteers, so please come and join us. It is fun and rewarding.

Cecilia Klevedal



For more information, please call her on 0708 558850 or e-mail: 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. Janes shop has now opened at Nordenskiölds-gatan 30 (nearest tramstop Olivedalsgatan).

They made it!

There was an article about The Green Riders, Catherine and Oliver Bock, in our last edition, and some of you may have been following their transcontinental bike trip from California to Washington DC. Their aim was to look at what was being done about sustainable development across the States and to present their Declaration of INTERDEPENDENCE preferably to Obama himself. He was busy I suppose, but they did manage to meet up with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, as you can see in the picture and from the Riders' own description below.

Friday, June 25, 2010

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo meets with The Green Riders

We found our way down the marble halls to Congresswoman Eshoo's office where we were greeted warmly by her staff. Within a couple of minutes, we were ushered into Anna Eshoo's office where Anna greeted us warmly and to my surprise was aware of our journey and had looked at our blog and website. She was like a proud parent who was so thrilled with what we had accomplished. She asked interesting questions, listened to the answers, complimented us on our achievements and admired our healthy appearance.

We talked about her work and her frustration with the pace of the legislative process. She was especially frustrated with the Senate's unwillingness to pass the energy bill that the House sent to them a year ago. I complimented her on her willingness to 'fight the good fight' and she said: "Someone has to do it!"

Gillian Thylander

<h2>Pilgrimage Walks</h2> <p><i>(provisional)</i></p> <p>August 28 Linnéplatsen/ Slottkogen September 11 Angereds kyrka to Jonsered October 9 Somewhere near Delsjö November 7 Churchyard walk for All Saints December 4 Fjällbo /Bergsjön</p> <p><i>Details from Barbara</i></p>	<h2>Quiet Day on Styrösö</h2> <p>25 September 2010, 10.00 - 16.00 An invitation from Haga parish and Studentprästerna. Price 150 kr including lunch.</p> <p>Information: Britta Svensson britta.svensson@svenskakyrkan.se 031-731 61 64, 0737-738764</p> <p>(Mainly in silence, with Mass in Swedish.)</p>
<h2>Midweek Mass</h2> <p>A short simple service with bible reading and songs in English and Swedish, adjourning afterwards to a local café, on the following Wednesdays at 19.30</p> <p>8 and 22 September 6 and 27 October 10 and 24 November and possibly 8 December</p>	<h2>Exploring the Bible</h2> <p>2011 is the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible We begin our celebrations with two Sunday evening bible studies on 24 October and 21 November at 18.00, followed by refreshments, Night Prayer, and a time for silent prayer.</p>
<h2>Book Fair</h2> <p>The Book Fair speaker at St Andrew's this year is the Revd Canon Dr Andrew Wingate, author of <i>Celebrating Difference, Staying Faithful: How to live in a multi-faith world.</i></p> <p>Friday 24 September at 19.00 Please contact Barbara Moss by Sept 16 if you would like to have dinner with the speaker at Indiska Hörnet, Hvitfeldtgatan after the talk.</p>	<h2>Auction of Time, Talents and Treasures</h2> <p>Friday 8 October, 19.00 at Haga Församlingshem, Haga Östergata 30. Tickets 60 kr including buffet supper and a glass of wine.</p> <p>Please let Kristina Ayoade know if you can contribute anything to the Auction.</p>
<h2>Concerts</h2> <p>Occasional Friday lunchtime concerts at 12.15. See our web site for details.</p>	<h2>St Andrew's Day Lunch</h2> <p>Sunday 28 November at 13.00 at Haga Församlingshem. Please book in advance. Tickets available in church. Adults 100 kr.</p>

The 2010 Gothenburg Book Fair

The Gothenburg Book Fair is the biggest meeting place for the book trade in the Nordic countries. The first Fair was held in 1985, Nobel Laureate Isaac B Singer was the most prominent guest and the fair attracted just over 5000 visitors. Since then the Fair has developed into one of the most important cultural events in Scandinavia, a four-day forum for current debate, with the opportunity to meet authors, publishers, book vendors, librarians, and book lovers. Last year more than 100,000 participants visited the Book Fair. In 2010 there is a special focus on *Africa and African literature*. Africa will be presented in the exhibition and seminar programme at the Book Fair and at a variety of art, dance and music events throughout the city.

Africa is a continent with 53 countries and the 2010 programme provides a “multifaceted mirror to Africa’s literature, and displays it in all its diversity.” During the four days of the Book Fair over 70 representatives of African literature will participate in seminars, and on stands. The authors will have the chance to speak with their public, to meet the assembled press and to present themselves and their writings in seminars and conversations. *“There are many interesting writers who are eager for a chance to tell their stories, in such different genres as non-fiction, popular, literary, young-adult and children’s books. African writing is exciting and well-written and offers a diverse reflection of the continent’s countries and cultures. African writing is exciting, and well written and offers a diverse reflection of the the continent’s countries and culture”* – Carin Norberg, Director of the Nordic Africa Institute. The Nordic Africa Institute, SIDA and the Swedish Arts Council have played an important part in helping to arrange and

finance the participation of African authors.

SOME PARTICIPANTS THAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO MEET

A good place to hear presentations is at the Swedish Churches’ *Se Människan* stand where, amongst other events, Archbishop Anders Wejryd will talk with a number of authors. – but be there in good time if you want to get a seat! Another good place to meet authors is at their publisher’s stands in the exhibition halls.

MPHO TUTU

Made for Goodness is Mpho Tutu’s first book co-written with her father Desmond Tutu, about the theme that goodness and the desire to create a better world is programmed into all people. This book is soon to be published in a Swedish translation as *Om godhet* by the Libris publishing firm. Mpho Tutu is a priest in the Episcopalian Church. She studied at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and began her ordained ministry at the Historic Christ Church in Alexandria, near Washington DC. Since then Mpho Tutu has worked with vulnerable children in Worcester, Massachusetts, with rehabilitation and healing for rape victims in Grahamstown, South Africa, and with refugees, primarily from South Africa and Namibia, at the Phelps Stokes Fund in New York. *Libris publishing firm*

ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH

Alexander McCall Smith, is both an author and a professor emeritus in medical law at Edinburgh University, has written over sixty books. These include his books about the tea-drinking *Mma Ramotswe* and her *No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency in Botswana*. Alexander McCall Smith has also written

about the Sunday Philosophy Club and Professor Dr Moritz-Maria von Igelfeld, as well as life at 44 Scotland Street. The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency was awarded the Martin Beck Award for the best crime novel in translation by the Swedish Crime Writers' Academy in 2004. McCall Smith's books are published in Sweden by the *Damm publishing company*.

PETINA GAPPAH

Petina Gappah is a new powerful writing voice from Africa. Petina Gappah is an author from Zimbabwe, with law degrees from Cambridge, Graz University and the University of Zimbabwe. She lives with her son in Geneva where she works as counsel in an international organization that provides legal aid to developing countries. The short story collection *An Elegy For Easterly* is Petina Gappah's literary debut, and it has won her widespread international acclaim, including the Guardian First Book Award in 2009. *An Elegy for Easterly* introduces readers to a people who are struggling to survive under the oppression of dictatorship, and who are at the same time wrestling with the same life issues as everybody does: broken promises, unfulfilled dreams and the longing for a worthwhile life. In these thirteen short stories Petina Gappah focuses in on the political absurdities of life under Robert Mugabe's regime, and how these affect the diverse collection of characters in the book. The book has been now been published in Swedish translation by *Albert Bonniers publishing firm*.

NURUDDIN FARAH

Nuruddin Farah from Somalia is one of Africa's best established authors. He has

been tipped as a possible Nobel Prize winner for many years. Nuruddin Farah's debut novel from 1970, *From a Crooked Rib*, achieved cult status due to its outspokenness about such traditions as female circumcision and arranged marriages. The novel was followed by a trilogy describing different African dictatorships and a second trilogy *Maps* ('86), *Gifts* ('92) and *Secrets* ('98). His third trilogy, comprising *Links* ('05) and *Knots* ('07) will be completed in 2010. Ever since he was forced into exile in 1986 he has written about his native country Somalia, his lifelong literary project is - "*to keep my country alive by writing about it.*" *Albert Bonniers Publishing firm*.

KITTY CROWTHER

Kitty Crowther is an illustrator and author who lives and works in Belgium. She was born in Brussels on 4th April 1970 to an English father and a Swedish mother. Kitty Crowther is the author of some 35 titles, most of which were first published in Belgium or France. Her works are now being translated into other languages. She won the 2010 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) - the world's largest prize for children's and young adult literature. The award is designed to promote interest in children's and young adult literature, and in children's rights, globally. An expert jury selects the winners from candidates nominated by institutions and organisations worldwide. The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is administered by the Swedish Arts Council. Swedish publisher - *Rabén and Sjögren*.

The Book Fair is an event to enjoy - hope to see you there!

Nancy Fjällbrant

[Day tickets are available from the information centre in Domkyrkan at the reduced price of 110 kronor. BM]

Kymys and Kyrgys in Kyrgyzstan

KYMYS

I knew it was coming as the moment our shared taxi pulled over by the roadside yurts. When the old man scrambled out of the backseat my fate was sealed. I was about to spend the next 4 hours attempting to politely refuse kymys.

Weeks earlier, when my coworkers had first introduced me to kymys they told me it was 'Kyrgyz tequila'. They went on to explain it's made by fermenting horse milk then pouring it over a lizard and beating it (the longer you beat it the better it tastes!). This is not true. First, kymys has only 2% alcohol, which is nowhere near enough to drown out the taste of fermented horse. Second, no lizards are harmed in the production process. It's poured over leather and beaten- that's what gives it that unique thick texture and also it explains the little black bits floating in it.

The old man returned to the taxi heavy laden with bottles of kymys and immediately broke one open to share. The bottle was passed around for everyone to take a drink at least 5 times. Suddenly, he realized I was foreign and that could mean only one thing: I had never had kymys. He offered continuously and I refused, so eventually he changed tactics:

Do you love Kyrgyzstan? Our people, the yurts, our fine wool crafts-
(see photo nr 1)

The love of the people of Kyrgyzstan is contained within kymys.

Have you noticed the beauty of the Tian Shan Mountains? The snow-capped peaks, the high mountain pastures, our white rivers-
(see photo beneath)



That beauty is bottled in our kymys.

Do you like the horses here? They are the best in the world. You've ridden them, yes?



Kymys is the essence of their spirit.

I could go on – he certainly did – about the wonders of Kyrgyz cattle, lakes, fruit, fish, yogurt, discos, flowers, slippers, hats, music, mosques, and (ironically) epic poetry; however, I think you get the picture. Suffice to say, I drank the rest of the bottle.

KYRGYS EATING

Eating is a tricky business. Now I don't claim to be an expert, but I spent 6 months of the last year in Kyrgyzstan which is enough time to make a lot of mistakes. So I've taken it upon myself to write a few Kyrgyz eating guidelines for all the future Central Asian travelers among you.

1. 'Picnic food' is the Kyrgyz way of saying ganfan. For those who don't know, ganfan is a delicious popular Kyrgyz dish of rice with meat, chunks of fat, and vegetables all drenched in oily sauce. Unfortunately, the oil will leak from the container to stain your shirt, pants, backpack and everything inside of it. Additionally, you will smell like ganfan for a week.

2. It's not actually a meal without meat. If you order ganfan at a restaurant and they're out of rice (which happens surprisingly often; also happens with potatoes & noodles) they will bring you meat with meat on top. They will ex-

pect you to be pleased about this.

3. You are not a vegetarian- trust me. If you are foolish enough to ignore my advice and claim to not eat meat, your hosts will go through the trouble of picking out all the meat from your portion. Then, they will add extra chunks of animal fat.

4. Vegetables are merely decorations. They should be used sparingly and they need to be cooked to the point that the toothless elderly population of the village can eat them without trouble.

5. Kyrgyz are extremely hospitable. People will always offer food. Your tea cup will never be allowed to go empty. I'm sure your plate wouldn't be allowed to go empty either, but since you eat from a communal plate they'll just constantly encourage you to keep eating.

6. If you say you like kymys, (fermented horse milk- a Kyrgyz specialty) you will be loved for it. But, know that friends will buy you kymys because they know you like it. You've been warned.

7. Omin is essentially the Kyrgyz Muslim version of praying for a meal. I'm not sure how widespread it is; I was told it comes from Iran originally. To do the omin cup your hands at chest level and when everyone else is doing the same say omin in unison while bringing your hands up to your face and then back down with the palms towards you.

Miraculously, every meal and teatime will finish in perfect unison without you. You'll be sitting down to a meal that has been going for hours when suddenly, as if by magic, every single person in the room puts down their empty tea bowl and cups their hands. Then, they act as if they just realized your tea was refilled 5 seconds earlier so everyone in the room is required to wait and watch you hastily down scalding tea. Only when you are done with your tea is the omin allowed to finish.

Omin.

Molly MacGregor

Remembering your Spirit



Adieu and Au Revoir

As you love me, let there be
No mourning when I go,—
No tearful eyes,
No hopeless sighs,
No woe,—nor even sadness!
Indeed I would not have you sad,
For I myself shall be full glad,
With the high triumphant gladness
Of a soul made free
Of God's sweet liberty.
—No windows darkened;
For my own
Will be flung wide, as ne'er before,
To catch the radiant inpour
Of Love that shall in full atone
For all the ills that I have done;
And the good things left undone;
—No voices hushed;

My own, full-flushed
With an immortal hope, will rise
In ecstasies of new-born bliss
And joyful melodies.
Rather, of your sweet courtesy,
Rejoice with me
At my soul's loosing from captivity.
Wish me "Bon Voyage!"
As you do a friend
Whose joyous visit finds its happy end.
And bid me both "a Dieu!"
And "au revoir!"
Since, though I come no more,
I shall be waiting there to greet you,
At His Door.
And, as the feet of The Bearers tread
The ways I trod,
Think not of me as dead,
But rather—
"Happy, thrice happy, he whose course is sped!
He has gone home—to God,
His Father!"

—*John Oxenham*

(sent in by *Gunilla Ahnberg*)

Life's small everyday miracles

We meet and speak with friends, or strangers, almost every day, exchanging views about life's many challenges. We are amazed at times, in getting just that very answer, to something we have been pondering about. I personally like the song "No man is an island". It shows that we all need each other. God in his infinite mercy always sends someone; I like to call them angels or guides, to help keep us on track, to stay on the right path of our spiritual journey.

Ann Gustafsson

Lottery 2010

The following organisations or shops have very kindly given us their support:

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In addition, some members of the congregation have generously donated glass, new books and other objects.

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