

St Andrew

March – May 2016



20 kr

Magazine of the English speaking church in Gothenburg

News from Barbara

Thank You – and Update

Many thanks to all who contributed to my farewell – the party, presents and cards. I was rereading the card from the St Andrew's congregation the other night, and was much moved by what you had written. The gift vouchers have so far enabled me to find shelving for all the books I brought with me and a desk. Among the smaller presents, I especially value the Swiss army knife and the song explaining how I might use it on my journey round the world in the autumn.

Much of what I am doing at the moment is preparation for the journey, including Japanese classes two evenings a week, visiting a travel fair at Olympia, and attending a meditation session with a Buddhist teacher – I hope to visit temples in Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia and India after travelling by train across the USA.

The only religious building on the Greenwich peninsula (also known as the Greenwich Millennium Village or North Greenwich) is the Prayer Space, next to the cable car terminus, open four lunchtimes a week with a multifaith team of welcomers and prayer leaders. The Anglicans, to my

regret, have moved out of The Prayer Space (though some members are still involved), and now worship in a school on Sunday evenings. On the two Sundays when I've been there, the congregation was in single figures, but there's a lot of potential for growth through the vicar's links with community organizations and the goodwill of The Pilot Inn who are hosting and publicizing some meetings. Please pray for Holy Trinity North Greenwich and their vicar Rob Ryan.

I really prefer worshipping on Sunday mornings, so I usually go to another church in the same team, St George's Westcombe Park, half an hour's walk away or slightly quicker by bus. Of course, there's always the possibility of exploring churches in London, with my free travel pass. South Bank Ramblers, which I have joined, had a walk visiting 15 churches in the City of London, including St Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, bombed by the IRA and rebuilt with a lovely little Peace Garden.

Love and prayers,

Barbara Moss



Children in Church



Sunday school at the back of the church with Jeanette and Charity

Our Vision for St Andrew's
Seeking God's will through
prayer and worship, outreach, and nurturing community



Who's Who at St Andrew's

Chaplain

vacant

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Internet website: www.standrews.se

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Monica Edholm 031 - 29 30 40

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Charity Ezeilo 076 - 2386601
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Rosa James 031 - 19 49 75
Vongai Muyambo-Laasonen 031 - 22 53 59

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Services: March — May

At the time of writing the time of arrival of the new chaplain is not yet clear. There will be a service every Sunday until he arrives, but the details may sometimes be different from the usual pattern – for example, Morning Prayer instead of Parish Communion. Lay Assistants and Intercessors please check before the service.

MARCH 6, Lent 4, Mothering Sunday

LA: Gisela Barnard, Ann Gustafsson

Prayers: Jeanette Munro

MARCH 13, Lent 5

LA: Ann Gustafsson, Alan Taylor

Prayers: Gillian Thylander

MARCH 20, Palm Sunday

11.00 Parish Communion with Baptism

LA: Alan Taylor, Ann Gustafsson

Prayers: Heather Wray

MARCH 24, Maundy Thursday

18.00 Eucharist and washing of feet

MARCH 25, Good Friday

11.00 The Way of the Cross

MARCH 27, Easter Day

Family Communion

LA: Gisela Barnard, Alan Taylor

Prayers: Ann Gustafsson

APRIL 3, Easter 2

LA: Alan Taylor, Ann Gustafsson

Prayers: Ron Jones

APRIL 10, Easter 3

LA: Ann Gustafsson, Gisela Barnard

Prayers: Charity Ezeilo

Sunday School meets during the service

APRIL 17, Easter 4

LA: Gisela Barnard, Alan Taylor

Prayers: Vongai Muyambo-Laasonen

APRIL 24, Easter 5

LA: Alan Taylor, Ann Gustafsson

Prayers: Keith Barnard

Annual General Meeting after the service

MAY 1, Easter 6,

International Family Service

Prayers: The Willy Family

MAY 5, Ascension Day

11.00 Ecumenical Service

at Friluftskyrkan, Slottsskogen

MAY 8, Easter 7

LA: Gisela Barnard, Ann Gustafsson

Prayers: Happiness Ezeilo

MAY 15, Pentecost

LA: Ann Gustafsson, Alan Taylor

Prayers: Simone Kotva

MAY 22, Trinity Sunday

LA: Alan Taylor, Gisela Barnard

Prayers: Gisela Barnard

MAY 29, Trinity I

LA: Gisela Barnard, Ann Gustafsson

Prayers: Jennifer Abbås

Sunday School meets during the service

JUNE 5, Trinity 2

LA: Ann Gustafsson, Alan Taylor

Prayers: Cecilia Klevedal

Midweek Mass/Onsdagsmässan

19.30 Wednesdays

Peace and Justice Sunday



On the third Sunday in Advent, Peace and Justice Sunday, the singing group African Roots took part in the service with rhythm and gusto, to everyone's enjoyment

Advent Candles



At the beginning of each Sunday children were invited to light the Advent candles, as the candles themselves were blessed with a prayer

The Carol Services



Our own choir was augmented by choirs from the German Church, Astra Zeneca and Margret Myers. The church was full as usual and the singing was very impressive

The Crib



As we all know the crib is essential if we are to celebrate Christmas. As usual Ann Gustafsson arranged it for display on the side pew. It was first used at Carols around the Crib and then for all the Christmas services. Thank you Ann



Mince pies

Some of the congregation gathered at Barbara's flat for mince pies after the Christmas Day service



Final Blessing

We, the congregation, were given a blessing at the end of Barbara's last service on December 27th

Barbara's farewell gathering



Barbara surprised us all by singing a rather gruesome song, as did also Lars van der Heeg, who also accompanied on the guitar



Margaret Myers and Christel Copp recite a poem about their gift to Barbara - a pen knife

SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2015

After ten years of ministry Barbara said her last farewell to the congregation at St Andrew's Church. She will be remembered among other things for her gift of many a fine sermon, leaving us often with food for thought.

After the service we, the congregation together with other friends, went to Haga Församlingshem to enjoy refreshments and to join in with music fun and laughter, ending it all with Barbara doing her party piece, as she calls it about a hand ending the day on a high note. It was a very enjoyable occasion.

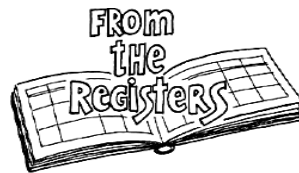
We wish Barbara continued good health, and that one of her many dreams of travelling around the world may materialize. She has already been on many pilgrimages near and far and been able to rough it (sign of a true pilgrim).

May we remember Barbara in our thoughts and prayers as she continues on her spiritual journey.

Ann Gustafsson



Some of the guests in deep conversation



Baptisms

6 December 2015

MAXIMILIAN RUSSELL



27 December 2015

AURORA HAMMARSKJÖLD





Easter Sermon of John Chrysostom



Are there any who are devout lovers of God?
Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!

Are there any who are grateful servants?
Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!

Are there any weary with fasting?
Let them now receive their wages!

If any have toiled from the first hour,
let them receive their due reward;
If any have come after the third hour,
let him with gratitude join in the Feast!
And he that arrived after the sixth hour,
let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss.
And if any delayed until the ninth hour,
let him not hesitate; but let him come too.
And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour,
let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.
For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.
He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour,
as well as to him that toiled from the first.

To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows.
He accepts the works as He greets the endeavor.
The deed He honors and the intention He commends.
Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!

First and last alike receive your reward;
rich and poor, rejoice together!
Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!
You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,
rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!

Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one.
Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith.
Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!

Let no one grieve at his poverty,
for the universal kingdom has been revealed.

Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again;
for forgiveness has risen from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the Death of our Savior has set us free.
He has destroyed it by enduring it.
He destroyed Hell when He descended into it.
He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh.

Isaiah foretold this when he said,
“You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below.”
Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with.
It was in an uproar because it is mocked.
It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed.
It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated.
It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive.

Hell took a body, and discovered God.
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.

O death, where is thy sting?
O Hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated!
Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!

Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead;
for Christ having risen from the dead,
is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!

John Chrysostom (circa 400 AD)

Lent Study Group

The Lent Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 18:00, during lent. The study this year is called:
"THE PSALMS"

We meet at the home of Ann and Alan Taylor at Nordostpassagen 23.
Contact Alan for further details - 031 42 38 64

Special Sundays

Annual General Meeting
Sunday 24 April at 12:30

**International Family Service/
Ladies Evening Group 40 years**
Sunday 1 May at 11:00

Passiontide to Easter Special Services

Sunday 20 March at 11:00
Procession of Palms and Passion Gospel

Thursday 24 March at 18:00
Maundy Thursday Eucharist with
Footwashing

Friday 25 March at 11:00
Good Friday: The Way of the Cross

Sunday 27 March at 11:00
Easter Day Family Communion

Bazaar/Garden Party

Saturday 28 May
11:00-15:00

Concerts

Lunchtime Friday 18th March 12:15

Violin, Trumpet and Choir
Gamla Goodingar
Leader Margaret Myers

Lunchtime Friday 8th April 12:15

DÁVID MAGDA ÁRPÁD SOLTI
Organist Pianist

Further details will be advertised
on our web site.

The Anglo-Swedish Society Program is now on-line:
www.angloswedish.wordpress.com

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

Membership benefits include an active social programme.
www.britishclub.se



The annual fee per family is 100.00 SEK. Anyone interested should contact Gisela Barnard (031 147101) or send an email to membership@britishclub.se to request more information.

The Skirrows

So who are these people who have arrived at St Andrew's?

We are here, and pleased to be here receiving such a warm welcome, because Paul has been asked to be a locum chaplain during part of the period between Barbara Moss's retirement and the next permanent chaplain.

Where do they come from?

We are both from Leeds, born and bred. We are now retired to Pateley Bridge in the Yorkshire Dales. We have two married sons – Paul in New Zealand and Tom in Vanuatu. We have 2 granddaughters in Vanuatu and one in New Zealand, with another one due in June.

What did they do before retirement?

Immediately before retirement for just over four years we were wardens of a Retreat Centre in Little Gidding, famous for Nicholas Ferrar (who appears in the church calendar on 4th December) and the poem of the same name by T S Eliot. **Ferrar House**, the Centre's name, was a quiet place for prayer and reflection.

Before that Wendy was in charge of the administration for the School of Medical Education in Liverpool University with staff to take care of 1700 students and teachers, engaged in a complex curriculum.

Paul's ministry has mainly been in Liverpool Diocese, and was at first in Industrial and Urban Mission. Much of his work was with marginalised people such as unemployed people, those in poverty, those in badly paid work, poor communities, etc. He was part of a network of similar people across Europe.

As a result of his work with another priest in Liverpool a new commentary on the Gospel of Matthew was produced – ***Urban Matthew; A reading of the Gospel using the wisdom of marginal urban communities*** which can be found at www.urbanmatthew.co.uk.

We are here until 15th March and we're enjoying it so far!





Why Pray?

The answer is simple: to put ourselves in the way of God.

“Putting ourselves in the way of God” has at least three meanings.

First, it means being where God is and, in a sense, knowing that you are noticed by God. Some people refer to those who pray as “God botherers”. A reasonable description in that praying does in some cases involve addressing God directly. This might be to seek help, look for recognition, find reassurance, offer praise, ask for a better understanding, or a deeper peace.

Next, it can mean placing ourselves in the space of God, a place not from this world. Prayer is somewhere our perspective is transformed and we are led to see things as they really are through the eyes of the God of truth. It takes time, trust, faithfulness, patience, humility and openness. It is about being, listening and keeping quiet. It can and should be disturbing because “the real world” is not the real world. In other words, the descriptions of the world we receive from the media, the politicians, the advertisers and culture which pretend to be “the real world” are mythological constructions designed to make us see things from a point of view; usually, if not always, the point of view of the dominant, the most powerful people. These myths, these false views, shape our understanding of what it means to be human and our notion of the Gospel. Our individualistic consumerism is not the Gospel, but we can be led to think it is by the effects of the constant bombardment of false myths.

So we pray to stand in the way of God and, in proper humility, have the

misconceptions we have learned from the world overturned and shown to be false. However, it is not an escape from the world but a proper and careful engagement with the world from the place of God. God is truth and being in the truth increases our responsibility towards our world and our neighbours.

Third we stand in the way of God as a movement into the future, caught up in God’s activity in the world. This is not a simple process either. To identify God’s way in the world means being open to the fact that God does a lot more in the world than we expect, and God does it in ways, places and with people which will always be surprising. God is just as active in the world as God is active in the church, and the world and the Kingdom of God is much, much more than the church. So prayer is about listening to the God who redeems the world constantly so we can see where and how that work of redemption is happening, and become part of it.

The practice of deep, attentive prayer is out of fashion. It is not apparently productive. It is not a quick fix. There are consumer versions of prayer, which are about “me”, and about “my experience” and about “my wants and needs”. These do not constitute putting ourselves in the way of God.

Prayer is far from easy and not something which, for most of us, comes naturally. God, however, does not step aside when we put ourselves in God’s way and makes up for our feeble efforts in ways we can barely imagine.

Paul Skirrow

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The cover picture of St Andrew is from a drawing by Lana Svirejeva



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