

St Andrew

September – November 2014



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Magazine of the English speaking church in Gothenburg

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

Letter from the Chaplain

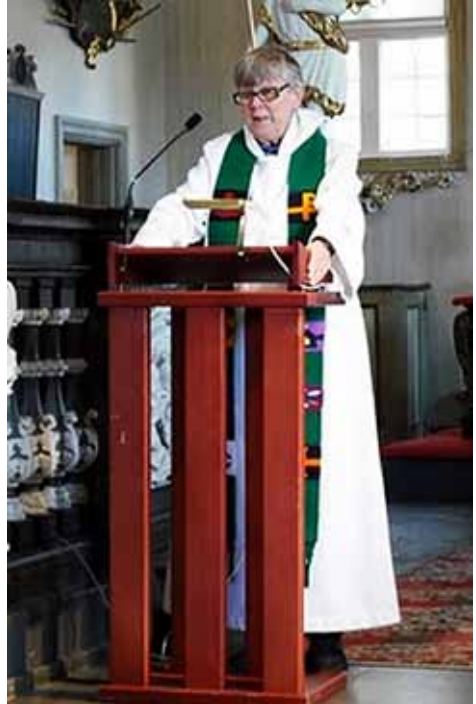
Labyrinths



I spent the first part of my summer holiday at a retreat house run by the Society of St Mary and St Martha, a lay community which specializes in what they call “the 12,000 mile service” for clergy. Although the name reminds me of the garage where I had my first car serviced, the atmosphere was very peaceful and laid-back. The only rule was that shop talk was not allowed.

In a field in the grounds, volunteers had constructed a labyrinth, with stones marking the outside of the path and gravel within. Unlike the Hampton Court Maze, you can’t get lost in a labyrinth, as there is just one path, which winds round the centre, sometimes approaching it, sometimes turning away. (For those of you who know the story of Theseus and the Minotaur, the “labyrinth” in the story was really a maze; he needed to follow the thread to find his way out.)

I made a habit of starting each day by walking the labyrinth. The journey inwards was quite slow, as I reflected on the ins and outs of my own journey. When I reached the centre, which was in the shape of a circle with six small circles around the edge, I moved to



the centre of each little circle and prayed for a different group of people in each one. On the way back, just retracing my steps, I usually walked a little faster, to be in time for morning prayer in the chapel.

Labyrinths go back to pre-Christian times. One traditional pattern, the so-called “classical labyrinth”, has been found on coins from the fifth century BC, and the philosopher Socrates described a process of reasoning in one of his dialogues as “like falling into a labyrinth: we thought we were at the finish, but our way bent round and we found ourselves as it were back at the beginning, and just as far from that which we were seeking at first.” Labyrinths, as a focus for prayer and meditation, were popular among church architects in the Middle Ages, and the one shown above, on which the labyrinth I walked was modelled, was built

around 1200 AD in Chartes Cathedral.

According to the Wikipedia article "Labyrinth", "In walking the Chartres style labyrinth the walker meanders through each of the four quadrants several times before reaching the goal. An expectancy is created as to when the centre will be reached. At the center is a rosette design which has a rich symbolic value including that of enlightenment. The four arms of the cross are readily visible and provide significant Christian symbolism."

Labyrinths in Sweden also go back to pre-Christian times, especially along the Bohuslän coast where they were thought to offer protection against storms at sea. I have recently come across three in the Gothenburg area: one next to the new cemetery on Vrångö, mentioned in the Swedish Church magazine K-Nytt number 3/14; one by Sandviken on Rörö, the most northerly island in the northern archipelago (this is probably the easiest to walk); and one on the hill between the Göta älv and Kviberg which I visited on the walk inaugurating the new pilgrim route from Gothenburg to Lödöse which will eventually join existing routes from Skara to Trondheim. Our pilgrim group will follow that path of the route and walk the labyrinth in October.

Labyrinths have had a varied history of ritual, superstition, dancing, fun and games, and as a gathering point for the community. Today, they can offer a reminder to slow down and reflect or pray. Some people even use a finger labyrinth, a picture of a labyrinth pattern on paper or cloth, to follow round with one finger, meditating as they do so. I made a cloth labyrinth with the "walls" stitched, so that I can feel my way around without looking at it. Just as walking the labyrinth in Chartres was a substitute for those unable to go on pilgrimage

to Rome or Jerusalem, so exploring the small cloth labyrinth is a substitute for walking one made with stones or hedges.

Confirmation in St Andrew's



Confirmation at St Andrew's in 2011

For some young people and adults, we offer a chance to take a step forward in their Christian life by preparing for Confirmation. Bishop David will be visiting us on Sunday April 26, and the preparation classes will meet during the autumn and winter, at a time to suit those wishing to be confirmed. It might be one class a month from October to April, or more frequent meetings over a shorter period.

Some of our young people have been confirmed in the Church of Sweden, and that's fine. Having our own group this year makes it possible to be a bit more flexible, for instance to allow a younger brother or sister to be confirmed with older siblings. As a rough guide, we invite children over 11 and adults. Younger children can be prepared to receive communion with a shorter course suitable from the age of about 7. Please contact me if you are interested in either.

Barbara Moss

If you want to see the photos in colour, look at the magazine section of our web site.

Services: September — November

Unless otherwise stated, Sunday services are Parish Communion at 11.00

SEPTEMBER 7, Harvest Festival

Family Communion

LA: Ann Gustafsson, Alan Taylor

Prayers: Jeanette Munro

SEPTEMBER 14, Trinity 13

Celebrant and preacher: Lars van der Heeg

LA: Gisela Barnard, Ann Gustafsson

Prayers: Gillian Thylander

SEPTEMBER 21, St Matthew/Trinity 14

LA: Alan Taylor, Gisela Barnard

Prayers: Opeoluwa Adebayo-Omolade

SEPTEMBER 28, Trinity 15

LA: Gisela Barnard, Alan Taylor

Prayers: Heather Wray

Sunday School during Parish Communion

OCTOBER 5, Trinity 16

9.30 Holy Communion

11.00 Family Service: Celebrating St Francis

OCTOBER 12, Trinity 17

LA: Gisela Barnard, Ann Gustafsson

Prayers: Cecilia Klevedal

OCTOBER 19,

International Service at the German Church

No service at St Andrew's

OCTOBER 26, Last of Trinity

LA: Alan Taylor, Ann Gustafsson

Prayers: Gisela Barnard

Sunday School during Parish Communion

NOVEMBER 2, All Saints/All Souls

Family Communion

LA: Ann Gustafsson, Gisela Barnard

Prayers: Vongai Muyambo-Laasonen

NOVEMBER 9, Remembrance Sunday

LA: Gisela Barnard, Alan Taylor

Prayers: Barbara Moss

NOVEMBER 16, All Saints/All Souls

LA: Alan Taylor, Gisela Barnard

Prayers: Keith Barnard

NOVEMBER 23, St Andrew's Day

Christ the King

LA: Gisela Barnard, Alan Taylor

Prayers: Ron Jones

Sunday School during Parish Communion

NOVEMBER 30, Advent 1

LA: Ann Gustafsson, Gisela Barnard

Prayers: Barbara Moss

DECEMBER 7, Advent 2,

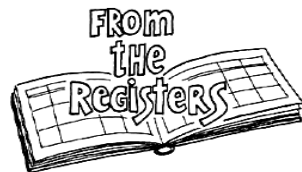
Peace and Justice Sunday

9.30 Holy Communion

11.00 Family Service

Morning Prayer: 8.00 Mondays and Fridays

Midweek Mass/Onsdagsmässan Wednesdays
at 19.30 - **September 10, then every week
to December 3**



Funeral

23 June 2014

AMELIA DELMENDO-BOCK, aged 70

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

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Picnic in Slottsskogen

On the 29th June after the service in church many of us moved on to Slottsskogen for a picnic. We found a nice spot with a view over the lake, and were soon joined by an inquisitive

squirrel. He (or she) found not only our company irresistible, but also our bags and food packets. We also enjoyed following the squirrel's antics, and how its shyness gradually disappeared.



Choir gathering at Gillian's home



As has been the custom for many years Gillian invited the choir home to relax after a busy season.

The Ladies Guild Annual Lunch

On Wednesday 20th August the Ladies Guild went out together for their annual summer lunch.

We were 10 happy ladies who ate lunch at Restaurant S.S. Marieholm and we were so lucky with the weather. Just that day, it was sunny and dry, with a fresh wind blowing. It was so lovely down by the water.

The food of course was really good and we all enjoyed the meal and good company. Now we're looking forward to starting our Autumn meetings of the Guild on Thursday September 11th.

If there are any ladies reading this who would like to join us for a couple of hours of conversation and laughter please contact me, Marie Lygonis, tel.0705 920877 and I'll give you more details. We meet in Haga at 12.00 until about 14.00.

Marie



Harvest & St Andrew's Day

Harvest Festival with Lunch and Auction, **September 7**
See page 14

St Andrew's Sunday and Lunch,
November 23

Your Story - a Workshop

Exploring our Faith Stories
with Anna-Stina Ponsford
Saturday October 25
10.00-15.00
See page 14

Limited numbers: book in advance.

Midweek Mass

A short simple service popular with students, with bible reading and songs in English and Swedish, adjourning afterwards to a local café, on the following
Wednesdays at 19.30.

September 10, then every week to December 3.

Concerts

Our next Friday lunchtime concert is at 12.15 on **September 12**:
"Love and Puccini"

Future concerts will be advertised on our web site.

Pilgrimage Walks

One Saturday a month.

September 20 - Jonsered
October 4 - Nylöse to Kortedala
November 1 - Öckerö war graves
December 6 - Mölndal to Botaniska

Please see our web site or Email
st.andrews.got@telia.com for
details.

Other Events

(see web site for details)

Taizé Mass in English, Hagakyrkan
Sunday October 5, 20.00

Jane Austen Evening with the
Anglo-Swedish Society
Friday October 24

Reading of War Poems
Friday November 7

Poppy Day Tea with the British Club
Saturday November 8

❖ In Loving Memory



Amelia Delmendo-Bock – *Funeral Tribute by Barbara Moss*

Amelia – Amy – was a small woman, but in so many ways larger than life. She lived in three different countries, and had a new career in each of them: a teacher in the Philippines, a nurse in England, and in Sweden, after starting as a home language teacher, she qualified as an interpreter. She was always willing to try something new. If she wanted to sing, she would sing. If she wanted to play the guitar, she'd do that.

One of her main achievements was founding, just over 20 years ago, FBK, the Filipino children's and women's organization, welcoming new arrivals and providing a home from home and a celebration of cultural traditions, which is what has brought many of you here today. From that base, she built up links with other organizations, for big multicultural festivals with lots of dancing. They performed all over Sweden. Last autumn she

took part in a cruising conference to Riga with Internationella Kvinnoförbundet, from which she returned full of enthusiasm.

In the last few years, she had become increasingly active in the life of St Andrew's church. She sang in our choir, and in the combined choir for our international services at the German church. The hymn we heard at the beginning of this service was one that she sang there, which she also brought to her Filipino friends. When we hosted a service for the Women's World Day of Prayer, using a script prepared by Christian women in Egypt, she entered with her usual enthusiasm into the part of an Egyptian farmer. For the next three years, she would have represented us at the Nordic and Baltic deanery meeting and served on our church committee – I cannot begin to imagine all that we have lost through not having her inspiration, original ideas, and commitment.

Church members have written to me:

“What shocking news! She was so bright and lovely, I can't imagine her gone!”

“God bless Amy's soul- spirit. She was a very nice, good, warm, helpful, intelligent and talented person.”

“How sad to hear about Amy, she was always so friendly and welcoming.”

This, and more, is what I have heard from her children, Amerina and Macroj. Of course, it is not always easy being the children of a very busy woman, and sometimes they would have liked more of her time to themselves. But they grew up with it, and enjoyed the camping holidays with FBK, the big parties, with lots of people, lots of food, travelling around. She taught them to be independent and strong, and never to give up, and they felt very special being her children.

As we feel very privileged to have been her friends.

Funeral Address

– Text I Corinthians 13

Many of you will have heard before the bible passage I just read - St Paul's chapter in praise of love – and the chances are that you heard it at a wedding, when two people have committed themselves to live together in love. But it is about far more than that.

Paul was not writing to a happy couple, but to a church community, and the love that he was writing about covers everything that goes on with a community, and everything that makes a community run smoothly: patience, kindness, wanting the best for others. Amy has shown, not just in her family, but in all the communities with which she has been associated, an example of love in action, in all sorts of small ways as well as on a larger scale. That is why this passage came to mind when I was discussing this service with Amerina and Macroj.

The hymn we heard at the beginning of this service praises God not only “for the beauty of the earth”, but also “for the joy of human love / brother, sister, parent, child / friends on earth and friends above / pleasures pure and undefiled”. The same thing ends by praising God for the Church “offering up on every shore / her pure sacrifice of love.” If only we could live up to that!

But when Paul praises love above all other gifts, it is not only because of its effect on the community. Rather, it is because love never comes to an end. Many of the gifts that people are so proud of - knowledge, skills, riches, or good looks - are only valued as long as they are in short supply, and only when they can be used for the good of others.

Love never ends, because we are held by God's love – in life, in death, in life beyond death. Today we commend Amy into the hands of God who loves her more than she ever imagined, God whom she now sees face to face.



A Bishops' Letter about the Climate

After the bishops' conference in Uppsala last March, a very important and interesting document on the position of the Swedish Church with regard to climate change was issued to all priests and lay welfare workers in the Diocese of Gothenburg. I have read it and am glad to report that it has been translated into English by Translator Scandinavia and can be downloaded from the Swedish Church website.

In the first chapter we are told that it is 95 per cent certain that the climate change we are seeing today is caused by human beings, unlike all the violent natural swings from hot to cold periods that have occurred throughout the earth's history. In the most recent report by the UN IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) issued last year we are told that the emission of greenhouse gases is still increasing despite all the international conferences on climate, and further increases will lead to global warming in the order of 3-5 degrees by the end of this century. The target set in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was **two degrees of global warming**. At his Book Fair Talk in our church, you might recall the terrifying picture Mark Lynas painted of what our grandchildren and grandchildren's grandchildren would have to face if that limit is exceeded, degree by degree until all life is extinguished.

The second chapter discusses how this state of affairs occurred. One example is of particular interest. The Charter for the Royal Society, founded in Charles II's time, 1660, and long considered to be the leading academy of science in the world, states: 'Nature is a woman, to be subjugated by men of science. He must methodically and systematically expose Mother Nature, lay bare her secrets, penetrate her womb and thus force her into complete submission.' This and philosophy of Descartes paved the way for amazing technical advances,

the industrial revolution, exploration and astounding medical discoveries.

Nowadays we are beginning to realise at last that everything hangs together. We all live in one house, belong to one household or family - oikos – from which the words ecology and economy come. Unfortunately, it is taking most of us too long to realise that we cannot stick to the principle that economic growth is the solution to mass unemployment or maintain a way of life that undermines the principle of sustainable development. Are there still people who sympathise with what US President George Bush said at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, "The American way of life is not negotiable,"? This statement has often been held up as an example of the USA's unwillingness to reduce its large ecological footprint. The bishops wonder whether the people of Sweden are prepared to change their lifestyle. Emission of greenhouse gases has, in fact been reduced in Sweden but Sweden is responsible for increases elsewhere in the world! It is interesting to note that **as early as 1990 the Swedish Church declared that emissions in Sweden should be reduced by 80-95 per cent by 2050.**

The third chapter is entitled Objectivity, threat and hope. Objective discussions are vital both in order to realise the full extent of the threat to life on earth and to find fair and workable solutions. The threats are the concern for profits in the business world, political inertia and the ordinary person's fear of change and hatred of orders from "above". Yet what is called "existential anxiety" has become a common complaint met by the lay welfare workers in the Swedish Church. To quote: "Climate change touches our innermost feelings and values and therefore has an important existential and spiritual dimension. Climate anxiety has

also begun to appear as a new phenomenon in psychiatry. It may involve thoughts of disaster, anxiety hysteria, depression and a feeling of powerlessness.” And the chief sufferers are the young.

Hope is seen as a tool and one of the strongest forces for change. And hope is something that the churches can assist with through their services, songs and prayers and the traditional changes in the church year,. At Easter and every communion service, we celebrate the triumph of life over death. The communion bread symbolises one bread, one humanity.

Chapter 4 deals with the earth, hope and the future – how can we have faith? We are reminded that the Earth is God’s creation and that mankind is part of that. We have the power to do good as well as evil, and the church leaders believe that we will be given the power to effect the necessary changes to save Life. God loves us. The individual should continue to do his bit, while plucking up courage to influence the political leaders, **particularly during elections!**

We are reminded in Chapter 5 that according to the Christian faith, we should focus our efforts on the most vulnerable, the poor and the hungry. The ones who will be first affected by climate change are those who contributed least to causing it. The document ends with challenges to all the congregations of the Swedish church, all people in Sweden, decision-makers and authorities, business and organisations and church leaders all over the world.



A planting project in Haiti, run by the Lutheran World Federation

Perhaps the role of caretaker is what we should concentrate on – in the sense of really caring for every individual, particularly those less fortunate than we are, and caring for every living creature and plant, which can only survive if their biospheres are unharmed. We are all aware of the numerous organisations and charities that exist to improve life in the third world, and rush to aid disaster victims. Do we give money to salve our consciences? Does the continued addiction to cars (look at latest sales figures here), the “right” clothes and holidays to faraway places mean that we favour the Epicurean philosophy “Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die?” God forbid!

Gillian Thylander



The bishops of the Church of Sweden



Harvest Festival

Saturday 6th September -

Decoration of the church from 10.00 – 13.00.

Sunday 7th September -

Church Celebration, Ploughman's Lunch and Auction

The Harvest Festival has always been one of my absolute favorite celebrations in church. It is a reminder every year of our many blessings.

But sadly today we see more and more homeless and starving people in our own communities. We feel more strongly now than ever before the need to share our abundance. Please, if you wish to join us in our effort, we welcome any donations of fruit, vegetables or other items. These will be blessed in church and auctioned off after the service. The proceeds will be given to an organization that will feed the hungry and needy. Thank you.

Ann Gustafsson



A Bloody Centenary

On the 4th August 1914 Britain went into the First World War. We remembered this in St Andrew's with a sermon by Andrew Wingate while he was visiting us this summer and with a Family Service on the day before the centenary. It was in the light of all the horrors we read about these days in the Middle East and in Africa that we could even recall how it all began when over nine million combatants and an untold number of civilians were killed and enormous numbers maimed.

The service itself was very moving and we all resolved I am sure to do our part in supporting all those people at home and abroad who work hard, sacrificing themselves in order to bring us peace and justice. We were also reminded that it is just this that God intends for everybody. We are His sons and daughters and He loves us all.

Alan Taylor

Your Story – A Workshop with Anna-Stina Ponsford

Saturday 25 October, 10.00-15.00

There are times when we feel drawn to share our belief in a loving God. We would like others to experience how we got to know God and how His presence sustains us in daily life. However, we may feel unsure about our ability to relate our stories or we may be driven by a zest to bombard others with our experience whether they are interested or not.

How do we with respect, sensitivity and passion share our faith with others?

Some of you will remember that in March last year we deepened our understanding of what it is to listen actively. To build on this

skill, this workshop will provide an opportunity to expand our self-knowledge by inward attentive listening.

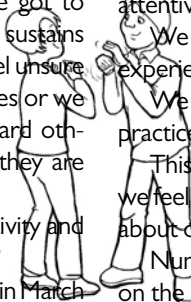
We will learn to trust our own heart's experience of God.

We will explore who God is for us and practice talking about our faith.

This will help us gain confidence when we feel invited to communicate how we feel about our relationship with God.

Numbers are limited, so please sign up, on the 1st in church or by email to Barbara, in advance.

Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee provided.





The Book Corner



LOTTERY 2014

The following organisations or shops have very kindly given us their support in 2014:

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Sushi Lounge, Landvetter airport
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The Anglo-Swedish Society Program
is now on-line: 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

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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