

COR Newsletter – 05 March 2008

Dear all,

Last Sunday

Was mothering Sunday and we also had the produce sale. Thanks to Lillah who procured all the Hyacinth pot plants. As it happens we had more than enough so everyone got one, instead of just the women. Jo Kinberger announced the recent statistics for the web site which are very encouraging indeed with over 270 computers logging on in February - the most yet. Actually as one of our new faces was leaving - John from the U.S. State department - he confirmed that he had found us through the site - so it works!! You will find it at <http://www.churchoftheresurrection.eu> . Dr John Barker was in Italy over the weekend and spent Mothering Sunday in a beautiful church in Parma. You can see pictures of his trip to this beautiful part of the world - the COR "on tour" - on John's Blog site. Go to our website (address above) and click on the "COR Blog" button and enjoy!

Next Sunday

The 9th March is the 5th Sunday in Lent. Holy communion at 10am as usual with Sunday school.

Lent course

Monday nights at 7pm. This Monday we held the Bible study by candlelight(!) as we had a power cut, causing other electrical problems just after 6pm. Actually it was quite atmospheric! We looked at how Mark reports "Good Friday". Seeing things you have always overlooked, and getting other people's opinions is always enlightening and refreshing.

Today - Wednesday.

I will be taking Claire to see a specialist for her knee injury picked up during her recent skiing trip this lunchtime so unfortunately I will not be available in church today.

Andrew Littauer

I contacted Andrew on Monday and the good news is that Andrew feels well enough to return to Romania later this month (as long as the Doctor's agree) - though probably not until after Easter. Andrew continues to be in our prayers.

Electoral roll revision.

Without going through everything again - please remember to either sign next to your entry on the electoral roll list to maintain your membership for the forthcoming year, or fill out a form if you are new or need to register a change in your details - and place in the bowl provided. The list and the forms will be there in church all the way through March and our **AGM** will take place on the **6th April**.

Thought for the day

Speaking of mothers, my mum is now recovering from a double heart bypass operation. My mum is the "Audrey" you may have heard on the intercessions list. I have sometimes mentioned in sermons how my parents are not religious - in fact I did so on Sunday - but are "good people".

This reminds me of an old Roseanne show when her son DJ was asking what religion they were. Roseanne thought for a second and said "We're just *good* people DJ"....pause....."Non practicing!"

Anyway, my mum, when speaking to her on the 'phone told me that in hospital after the operation she was in pain and had a few tears. And then she thought about how I had said she was being prayed for in church and how this was a great comfort and consolation to her. This came as pretty unexpected to me I have to say.

This is perhaps not the forum to go into the whys and wherefores of prayer, its efficacy or not as the case may be, etc. etc. (another day perhaps) I have on the whole a pretty non-interventionist understanding of God - prayer being *primarily* about communion and that change is primarily sought and wrought in the person or community doing the praying, but on the most basic and profound level, if a person can feel like they are not alone even though they are separated by thousands of miles and gain real strength from their being presented to God in prayer - *this alone* would be reason enough for prayer. When faced with such monumental questions one is inevitably left feeling pretty small and answers way out of our reach. Instead of pretending to know all the answers, it befits us sometimes to simply "sit under the mystery", to continue praying, and admit that we don't actually know, even though we may have some definite pointers. At some point we simply have to let go (let go and let God as they say) and trust that as Julian of Norwich wrote centuries ago that at the *very* end, no matter what, "All will be well and all manner of things will be well".

The prayer for today was found tucked in to one of the bibles donated to us by CMS (Ireland)

and is I think this is what I would want us all to pray for our church.

Father,

To all who are weary and seek rest;

To all who mourn and long for comfort;

To all who struggle and desire victory;

To all who sin and need a saviour;

To all who feel useless and look for service;

To all who are strangers and want fellowship;

To all who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

and to all who need her,

We pray that this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome,

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Love and peace

Martin