

COR Newsletter – 12 March 2008

Dear all,

Last Sunday

Was a beautiful morning and the worship felt good. From my own point of view it is great to look out on a sea of faces - some familiar, some new - and the attendances lately have been very encouraging indeed - it instils a real sense of community. We are a very far flung community, and a very busy one to boot, so much so that one weeks congregation can look completely different from the Sundays either side. This also means that in order to get to know everybody in our church you need to come quite a lot of times just to meet them all!

Next Sunday

Is Palm Sunday (or passion Sunday). I am flying to Sofia to celebrate this Sunday with our sister congregation in the Bulgarian capital - something I always look forward to - so Dr. John Barker will lead the worship in Bucharest. As you know John is away at the moment and doesn't get back until Friday so it is going to be hard to co-ordinate things - but rest assured it will be alright on the night!!. **Holy Communion at 10am with Sunday school** as normal.

Holy week and Easter Services

Thursday 20th March : Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at 7pm

Good Friday: The final hour proclamation of the cross 2pm. (Church open from midday)

Holy Saturday: Service of light and renewal at 7pm

Easter Sunday: Holy Communion at 10am

NOTE: There is an A4 poster attached to this email that advertises our Easter services. If you have access to any notice boards at work or school please print off and make sure people know about the worship at our church this Easter.

Monday night Lent course.

We have reached Saturday in the last week of Jesus' life. Mark's gospel says absolutely nothing about this day so how come I wrote three pages about it? In fact the conversation was quite animated as it centred around the Christian tradition of the "Harrowing of Hell". In the Apostles creed (but not the Nicene creed) the creed states that ".....He descended into Hell" between the crucifixion and the resurrection to free the souls of the dead. The best example of this theology in the New Testament comes from 1 Peter 4:6 "For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead, that though judged in the flesh like men, they might live in the spirit like God"

The British Garden Party

Hot on the heels of our Britannia Ball comes our second annual British Garden Party! I know many people are really looking forward to this event already. The date we have chosen for this year's Garden party is **Friday 27th June**. The location is the same as last year, Aleea Alexandru nr. 5. Thanks to Philip and Karine for letting us use their home again. One of the lessons learnt from last year is that we need a small team of people who are prepared to stay and clear up Philip and Karine's home after

the guests have gone! Anyone who is prepared to do this - just let me know. For anyone who is new and wants to get a flavour of what the Garden party is like will find a host of pictures of last year's event on our website, <http://www.churchoftheresurrection.eu> . On entering the site, go to the button marked "picture gallery" and then follow instructions.

Electoral roll revision

This is going very well. Thank you to everyone who has either signed or filled out a new form. The forms will be available in church **until the 6th April** when we will hold our AGM. so if you haven't registered yet, please don't forget.

A death in the family

Mike Yallop, a long time member of this church 'phoned me on Monday from Arad to tell me that his Father, Bernard had died. He was 92 years old. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Mike, who is recovering nicely from his own hip replacement operations will return to the U.K. this Saturday and isn't due back for a couple of months. Bernard and the whole family will be in the prayers of the church.

Hospital appointment

I am again taking Claire for a scan on her knee (apparently they are going to insert one of those mini cameras into her knee) so there will not be "open church" today. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Thought for the day

Mentioning earlier the Apostles creed, took me back to when I used to sing evensong from the Book of Common Prayer at my previous church in Margate. The book of common prayer has many devotees for all sorts of reasons, and I know there are some in our congregation. You will also no doubt know that I am not exactly a devotee, but I have to say, there is one way in which the BCP wins hands down and that is in the fact that it is so *compact* and *comprehensive*. Everything you need from a funeral service, baptism, confirmation, marriage, through compline to communion and a whole host more *all included in one small pocket sized book*.

To gather all that material together from the modern common worship collection would probably give me a hernia carrying all the volumes around. Both John and I know its worth from the week of prayer for Christian unity where you can be called upon at very short notice to come up with a creed or prayer or some such thing. Both of us have been caught out before and now carry BCPs around in our cassock pockets for these occasions and it never lets you down. So for that I am truly grateful. Of course I am also grateful for the variety and modern language of common worship - although sometimes I admit the English is a bit strained and the prayers convoluted and over long. As you know we now use different Holy Communion order of service books for different seasons to try and make use of all this variety and I don't advocate going back to BCP usage but I think the early Church of England was certainly on to something when they put everything you could possibly need in one compact book that was common for the entire church.

The prayer for today is the second collect from the BCP evening prayer service.

***O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels
and all just works do proceed:***

*Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that by thee we being defended
from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour
Amen.*

Love and peace

Martin