

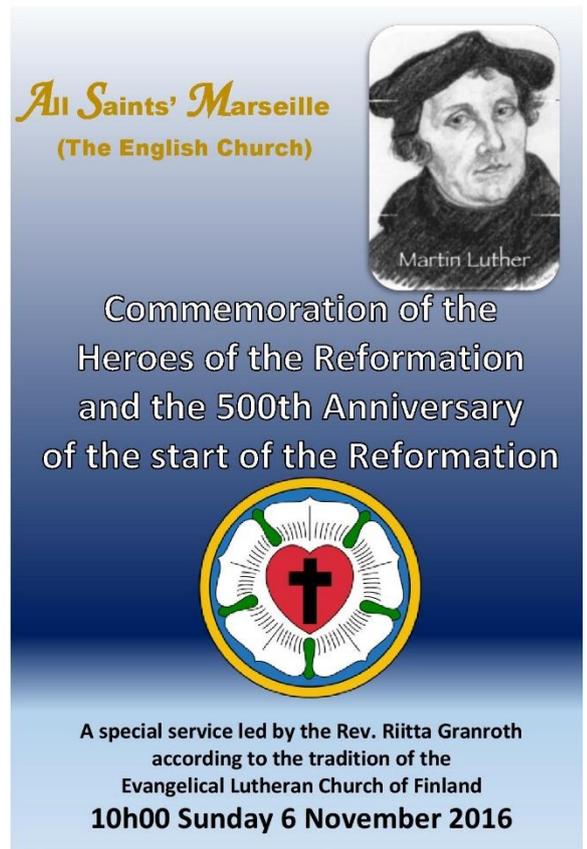
500th Anniversary of the Continental Reformation 07 November 2016

On Sunday 6 November the Rev Riitta Granroth led us in a commemorative worship service to mark the 500th anniversary of the start of the continental reformation. Fr David led us in the singing of several hymns important to this phase of our history – “God is our strength from days of old” sung to “Ein Fests Burg” the Reformation hymn of Martin Luther, “Fill your hearts with joy and gladness” sung to Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy”, and “Be still, my soul” the unofficial hymn of Scandinavia sung to “Finlandia”.

Our service started with a procession of our priest, then our two Wardens carrying their warden’s wands, and finally our celebrant and preacher of the day, the Revd Riitta Granroth.

Pastor Riitta preached on Martin Luther and the origins of the Reformation and how those issues are still before us today. The Church is always in the midst of reformation and in need of reformation. Pastor Riitta drew upon images she gathered during her weeklong pilgrimage through Germany last month walking in the footsteps of Luther.

Pastor Riitta led us in the prayer of thanksgiving and the Holy Eucharist which concluded with her blessing all those gathered.



All Saints' Marseille
(The English Church)

Martin Luther

Commemoration of the
Heroes of the Reformation
and the 500th Anniversary
of the start of the Reformation

A special service led by the Rev. Riitta Granroth
according to the tradition of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
10h00 Sunday 6 November 2016



Pastor Riitta leading the Eucharistic Prayer.

For the prayers of intercession, Fr Patrick Cassidy led us using the prayers that had been said by Pope Francis and the President and Secretary General of the World Lutheran Federation and by Cardinal Johannes Koch at the 500th anniversary commemorative service earlier in the week in Lund, Sweden. Added to these were prayers for our own bishops, our new archdeacon, our All Saints' clergy, readers, theology students, wardens, and Parochial Chaplaincy Committee members.

Near the end of the service, Fr David acknowledged this would be one of the last times that Pastor Riitta would be with us prior to her return to take a parish in Rauma, Finland.

On behalf of All Saints' he presented Riitta

with a small gold pyx, a bread box for carrying bread wafers to home or hospital communions. Our Wardens Helen Brooking and Amanda Haste also presented Pastor Riitta with a card signed by the congregation and a farewell purse of 175 Euros.

Following worship the congregation remained for a glass of Cava and a taste of a Finnish caramel torte and two carrot cakes made by Cynthia and an almond Spanish torte made by Christine.



Canons David Pickering and David Greenwood, Father Patrick Cassidy and Reader Christine Portman lay hands on Pastor Riitta and pray for her as she begins her transition back to her home church in Finland.