

**The Church of
St Thomas Becket, Hamburg**

Zeughausmarkt 22, 20459 Hamburg
www.anglican-church-hamburg.de



We are an English-speaking church in Hamburg consisting of people of many nations and Christian traditions. We worship in the Anglican Episcopal style and our church is part of the Diocese in Europe, which belongs to the Church of England. Our parish has existed since 1612 and the present church building since 1838. People of all nationalities and denominations are welcome to our services and other activities.

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The Institution of Father Matthew Jones

The nine-month vacancy period at the Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket has now drawn to a close! On Friday, 16 September 2011, Father Matthew Jones was officially instituted as chaplain in an evening Eucharist ceremony at 19:00 h in the church.

Much work was necessary on the part of the church council and our Archdeacon Jonathan LLoyd throughout the vacancy period and leading up to the selection of a chaplain. Archdeacon Jonathan has aided and advised us since our former chaplain, Roger White, retired at the end of 2010. Jonathan asked us difficult questions to help us in our future decision – did St Thomas Becket church need a full-time priest? Where is our church community going and what did we expect or desire in a new chaplain? Could we meet the financial needs of the future? These thoughts culminated in our Parish Profile, put together by Karen Lüth and Birte Fischer. Then followed innumerable documents and forms, which were filled out by the church secretary, Peter Alexander and our treasurer, Stuart Cooke, and the drafting of an advertisement for the position was the next task. Throughout this period we received kind parochial care from a series of experienced locum chaplains. In May 2011, Stuart Cooke and Renu Roy travelled to London for the interviews with candidates for the position.

Then on Sunday, 17 July, Renu Roy made the happy announcement after the service in church: St Thomas Becket had a new chaplain! Busy preparations were made for a special ceremony under Archdeacon Jonathan's careful direction, invitations sent, programs printed, the chaplain's flat scrubbed and cleaned, flowers ordered, helpers recruited and the choir and organist practiced music especially composed by our

choir director, Yotin Tiewtrakul. At the same time our future chaplain had the difficult task of saying goodbye and farewell to many friends and associates in Australia.

The institution service on 16 September followed the provisions of Common Worship of the Church of England, and was a stately but joyous ceremony well-attended by members of the congregation and neighbouring clergy. Archdeacon Jonathan LLoyd presided over the commitments made by our congregation and Father Matthew Jones, and the churchwardens presented Matthew a German Bible, in preparation for his work in Hamburg. Following the ceremony, all stayed for a joyful reception with snacks and drinks and the opportunity to meet the new chaplain and greet old friends.

We are thankful that the long vacancy period has now ended and we are eager to work together with Father Matthew to build up the Kingdom of God in Hamburg!

Deborah Ockert



Far Left Father Matthew Jones, Renu Roy, Churchwarden, 2nd from Right: Archdeacon Jonathan LLoyd, and representation from Hamburg Clergy.

Greetings from your new Chaplain



I arrived from Australia on Thursday after a long flight. It was such a joy to be met at the airport by Renu and Raj with their beaming smiles and a large bunch of beautiful flowers. It is a very long

and tiring flight but I arrived feeling very excited about this new adventure I am embarking on.

On Friday we had the Institution service and it was such a great evening. Many people had obviously worked very hard to make it such a wonderful service and I thank you all for your dedication and care. It was great to welcome so many ecumenical visitors and friends to the service. I felt very 'welcomed' indeed.

The 'Night of the Churches' was the next night and I think I lasted until about 11.30pm when I felt myself drowsing in the pews. Two cups of coffee and a few walks around inside the church helped and I really enjoyed this most magnificent event. Again, many thanks to all who worked so hard in co-ordinating such a wonderful gathering of people for worship and musical entertainment.

It was a great privilege to celebrate the Eucharist for the first time at St Thomas Becket on Sunday 18th September. If this service is any measure, I am really going to enjoy Sunday mornings.

A number of people have asked about my background. I was born in Sydney, Australia on 7th November 1958. I am number four of six children and there are five still living. Sadly one of my brothers died when he was only fifteen. My father was a metallurgist and was in charge of a large steel company. It was this position which necessitated our move from Sydney to Brisbane in 1969. Sadly dad died in 1979. My mother was a very strong person and she became a widow at an early age. She died very peacefully in 2007 and I had the privilege of conducting her funeral in St Paul's, Ipswich.

I attended school in Sydney and Brisbane and then entered a Management Training Programme with one of the larger Department Stores. I then alternated between the retail and

wholesale sectors in various levels of management. After fifteen years, eight of which had been trying to discern (or perhaps ignore) God's call, I entered theological college. I completed a Bachelor of Theology degree and was ordained Deacon in 1993 and Priest in 1995.

I have served in three parishes, two of them in rural areas. I have served as Priest in Charge and Rector as well as Area Dean (Rural Dean) and Archdeacon. My great love is people and I am really looking forward to meeting as many people within the parish as I can. I also hope to build connections with the wider community, both the church and business communities.

Thank you for making me feel so welcome and I look forward to all that God has in store for us in the future.

Every blessing, Matthew

A Sincere Thank You

As Deborah Ockert has said St Thomas Becket Church has been through a period of vacancy and during this time many of us have had to pull together and organise, manage and arrange life in our church. A greater part of the responsibility during this time, fell to our two Church Wardens. Many of us know that both Renu and Deborah had split the workload between them. Renu, who took responsibility for the locums and their accommodation and arrangements, whilst Deborah quietly and efficiently administered the running of our church. Every week, without fail, the service sheets were written, printed and waiting for us all, a church manual was developed, and so much was learned and documented.

We all owe so much to both of them, who have put their personal lives on hold for over 9 months, to ensure St Thomas Becket Church continued for us all in Hamburg.

From all of us to both of you a sincere **thank you** for being there for us all.

John Finn

For the congregation of St Thomas Becket.

Messages from our former locums on the occasion of the institution:

Although neither our former pastor nor many of our former locums (with the exception of Rev Anders) could attend the institution, many sent their words of greetings and encouragement to our congregation:

-o-o-o-o-o-

Yes we had read of the appointment in the Church Times this week. This must be exciting – and a relief to you all and we pray that all will go really well – there is so much to build on at St. Thomas Becket Hamburg. I have been in touch with Monica about a possible Cathedral Choir visit next year and hope that works out.

I regret that Gillian and I cannot be with you on 16th September. We were in Balastrand (Norway) for 2 weeks earlier this summer, and will be in Bonn & Köln in October and possibly Helsinki in November so life is a little full. Please pass on love and good wishes from Gillian and me to Renu and all our friends in the Chaplaincy.

David and Gillian Ratcliff, 30-JUL-2011

-o-o-o-o-o-

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for sending us the news and for inviting us to the Institution. I'm sorry that we won't be able to be with you then but we have the date and you may be sure that prayer will be ascending from Canterbury.

With warmest good wishes,

John and Anneliese Arnold, 21-JUL-2011

-o-o-o-o-o-

We are happy with you and all at St Thomas Becket in Hamburg, that you will very soon have a new chaplain. We will be with you all in our prayers on 16 September. May God bless you and the new chaplain in the years ahead.

Gottfried and Karin Grünewald, 06-SEP-2011

-o-o-o-o-o-

Can't come I'm afraid - but all the best, and my prayers –

Paul Rose, 16-AUG-2011

-o-o-o-o-o-

Thank you so much for sending us this invitation. We had already heard the news, from Monica. We are delighted that you have succeeded at the first attempt! Well done indeed! Lots of parishes here remain in interregnum for up to two years or

more... I'm afraid Gesine and I won't be able to come, as the date clashes with the start of our Anglican Lutheran society Conference in Salisbury. (The same will be true of John Arnold, but he will probably have already replied).

We hope you have a really good celebration, -and we hope we will be able to come to something in your 400th year! Please give our greetings to everyone, and our love to you and Renu.

Rupert and Gesine Hoare 4-AUG-2011

-o-o-o-o-o-

Naturally I have been thinking of you over the last few days as you come to the end of all the preparations for welcoming Matthew. Both Jean and I hope all went well over the week end. You must be relieved that you now have a permanent chaplain in place.

We got back safely to our house in South London and all is well with it. One never knows after such a long time away. Nothing has changed and I don't think our neighbours have noticed we've been away! It is very quiet here despite it being London. We miss the vibrancy and vitality of Hamburg! We had three marvellous sunny days in Berlin (so much to see and so many museums) and took the train on Thursday for Köln, Brussels, and then St Pancras arriving home by local train at ten pm. Lots of post, mainly junk mail to sort, and of course an adjustment to life once again in England with our two cats. It was strange going to a local church yesterday not having to take the service or preach the sermon!

It was good to be your locum, and we wish you and everyone connected with St Thomas's every blessing for the future of the Chaplaincy.

With all good wishes,

Jean and Clifford Poole, 19-SEP-2011

-o-o-o-o-o-

I take this opportunity of thanking you for the invitation to Matthew Jones' Induction on 16th September. Unfortunately we have a prior arrangement to visit a convent in Speyer, where sisters whom Heidi knows return after many years service in a Ghana hospital, where Kerstin, Heidi's daughter recently served. But I wish you and the congregation every blessing for the new ministry and send my greetings to the congregation.

Kind regards, Roger White, 4-AUG-2011



The 8th Night of the Churches in Hamburg

On Saturday, 17 September, our St Thomas Becket took part in the Hamburg "Nacht der Kirchen", a Night of the Churches, along with 130 other churches in the Hamburg area. On this special night, churches opened their doors and invited the public to come in and visit. The motto this year was "wunderbar", to describe what our churches offer: light, music, meditation and joy.

The organizers reported that in Hamburg 85,000 people took the opportunity that night to visit one or more of the many participating churches. In our own church we had a record number of people = 440 during the time from 18:00 h to midnight! Thanks to all of our church friends for helping in all aspects of our program: thanks to Jochim Trede, Yotin and the choir for the lovely evensong, choir music and sing-along, to Hanna Szperalski and Judith Thielsen for their duets, to Karen Lüth and Karsten Köppen for the flute and lute, to Peter and Lotti for their Canterbury Tales and to Chris Sacra and the Hamburger Orchestergemeinschaft for the grand finale. And of course thanks to Father Matthew for taking on the evensong and short speech only days after his arrival in Hamburg. Not to forget Edward, Herta, Martin, John, Irene, Renu, Cicely, Chioma, Paul, Matilda, Benita, Liz, Margot, Blessing, Sammy and others who helped in this cooperative effort!

You and our church were truly wunderbar!

Deborah Ockert

The Last of the Locums

Now that the vacancy period has ended, we look back gratefully at the time Father Clifford Poole spent with us, from 03 July to his last Sunday, 11



September. Father Clifford was a former schoolteacher, and he enjoyed "teaching" us from the pulpit on Sundays. He could speak German, French and Russian (as well as English of course) and had opportunities to use all of his languages while here, for example, when a Russian choir dropped in for a surprise visit. Father Clifford's locum period was the longest of all our locums, and he officiated at a memorial service, a baptism, a wedding blessing, accompanied us for the church outing and helped distribute church flyers at the British Flair event in August. He and his wife Jean enjoyed their stay in Hamburg and we appreciated his calm, experienced care and his help with the preparations for our new pastor. He and Jean send their best wishes to our congregation from their home in London, and we hope to see them again in 2012!

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

" I was only the Locum "

This is how I often described who I was in the two and a half months I was the last temporary priest at St Thomas's. It sums up what a locum is- someone to conduct Sunday services, and the occasional rites of passage, such as baptisms, wedding blessings and funerals, and to offer pastoral care when required. A locum is not empowered to initiate or make any changes, and is only an observer at council meetings, although he can give any advice when asked. So in some ways a locum can concentrate on the prime role of an ordained minister- to be a spiritual leader and pastor. Retirement for someone who has been a parish priest can be difficult to cope with, but being asked to serve as a locum is a wonderful way of being able to continue one's priestly ministry.

So you will all understand why I readily agreed to the Archdeacon's invitation to come to Hamburg. For my wife Jean and myself it promised to be a real adventure, following as it were in the steps of the Merchant Adventurers, the founders of the Chaplaincy. And so it turned out to be. How good it was to celebrate the Eucharist in such a beautiful church, how good it was to find everything so well-organised for the services, how reassuring to know that dignity and efficiency were the expectations of worship at St Thomas's. And how good to get to know so many members of the congregation, over coffee etc after the services and on chaplaincy events such as the walks and the Ladies Fellowship, not forgetting the very enjoyable trip to Stade. And how sad to have to say good-bye on our last Sunday in Hamburg!

It was also so good that the chaplaincy flat is so central and so close to the Michael Church. No need for a car, as supermarkets, restaurants, the Elbe, and trains and buses, and St Thomas's were only minutes away. Living in the flat was like living in an English cathedral close, with the sound of bells rung and trumpets blown at regular intervals,

signalling as it were the rhythm of prayer during the day. It was good to attend daily midday prayer, and the Sunday evening service, all accompanied by the glorious organ music the Michael church is renowned for. It was good to be surrounded by so much activity around the flat- including the hordes of tourists flocking to visit the Michael. Who said that religion is irrelevant and not sought after in this modern age?

And what a delight to be able to live in the great North German city of Hamburg! I had lived in other Hanseatic cities, such as Lübeck (as a student), Bremen (as a teacher), but never in Hamburg, although I had first visited it when on a school-exchange in 1953! So it was good to go for walks along the Elbe, to go on boat trips on the river and the canals, to visit the many museums, such as the Ernst Barlach one in Jenisch park, and the outstanding Maritime museum, perhaps the best of its kind, dare I say better than Greenwich? I also made full use of the excellent central lending library, and we just had time to see two operas at the beginning of the season, Faust and Rigoletto. I could go on extolling the attractions of what is rightly called "Die Gruene Stadt" , many of which we had no time to explore further. We also managed to visit other Hanseatic cities such as Lübeck and Wismar and the capital of Mecklenburg-Pomerania, Schwerin, a real jewel.

So we both feel very blessed to have been with you in Hamburg, albeit "only as the locum". It was a great privilege and joy to be able to live in Hamburg and to experience "all things German" once more.

Thank you for all your kindness and hospitality to us during our time with you. We wish you and your new Chaplain, Matthew Jones, every blessing and success as you mark a new stage in your long history, and look forward to the celebration of your 400th anniversary.

Clifford Poole



Study Day at Kloster Nuetschau. 5th September 2011

I was very privileged as locum chaplain to be invited to attend the study day organised by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen in Hamburg and Schleswig_Holstein on 5th September 2011 in the Benedictine Monastery at Nuetschau, a venue known to many of you in the chaplaincy.

The theme of the day was "The Cross" and an exploration of the many meanings it has for Christians especially those of us living in the 21st century. How can such a barbaric and violent event as the crucifixion have meaning for us today? How can it be a source of healing and salvation?

After a short introduction, the main speaker, Prof. Dr. Fernando Enns, from the University of Hamburg, gave an excellent lecture on the various theological interpretations of this central theme of the Christian Faith from an ecumenical standpoint- Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Evangelical-Lutheran, Free Church and secular. Professor Enns is himself a Mennonite so he brought his own insights as a member of this pacifist denomination to the paradox of how the violence of the cross can bring healing and reconciliation.

Then came Midday prayer with the monks in the chapel, and an excellent lunch in the refectory.

In the afternoon we divided into groups to discuss the theme, ready to report back to the plenary session. Each group was given a Biblical text, taken either from the Old or New Testaments, on different aspects of the Cross for study and discussion. They were Mark 14 vv 22-37, Luke 22 vv 14-44, 23 vv 33-34, Romans 3 vv 21-26, 4 vv 25, 5 vv 1-2, 1 Peter 2 vv 21-25, 3 vv 8-18, Hebrews 9 vv 11-16, Revelation 5 vv 6-12, and Isaiah 52 vv 13, 53 vv 2-12.

I chose to be in the group studying Revelation, which depicts Jesus as the Lamb of God. (see Francisco de Zurbarin's "The Bound Lamb"- the original is in the Prado, Madrid). I seemed to be the only non-German there but introduced myself as far as possible and spoke up during the group session, if only "to fly the flag for St Thomas's".

The Cross is a difficult subject for any Christian but all eighty of us came away with fresh insights, the main one being that it has so many aspects and meanings that it is hard for us mere human beings to take in the total love of God shown to us by the crucifixion of His only Son. It is a great mystery which we can only wonder at, which is the way of the mystic.

We arrived back in Hamburg at about 5.30pm after a very enjoyable and stimulating "day away". Thanks to the Churchwardens for encouraging me to go. It was well worthwhile!

Clifford Poole

Tell me that old, old story

The old formula for a successful essay at school was - *say what you are going to say, say it and say what you have said.*

The Old Story is about what Jesus said and did, according to the four gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And what is the basic message he left behind, that we should take notice of it, and follow him, in the sense of trying to live in the same way as he did? It's all about living in the presence of God and being changed into a person whom God wants us to be. Only then shall we be happy and content. One more point; it's not just about me on my own-but me in company with others trying to achieve the same goal.

The Church Year has three sets of readings for each Sunday. In each year the gospel writer John's work is spread throughout the three years, with the other three gospels featured in turn. We are in Year A, so the gospel readings come mostly from Matthew.

Matthew tells us that Jesus taught, preached to and healed the crowds who followed him around. He taught them that they need faith in the God who made them and who desires their loving response as their heavenly Father. This striving towards him is called **faith**.

Jesus' preaching is about encouraging us to hope in God's promises; that he will never abandon us, however difficult life may become; that his Kingdom, or new way of doing things, will come into being. Not a power base in the worldly sense, but wherever joy, peace and reconciliation between people is present: we should be looking earnestly around for signs of his working in this way through events, however small scale, we may see and

rejoice in on our way. This awareness is called **hope**.

The healing miracles in the gospel may raise problems for us. But they are signs of God's love for you and me and his desire that we may all be made whole, either physically, or in mind and spirit. So we should look on our neighbour, near and far in the world, as he looks at them, wanting their well-being and fulfillment. This is the work of **love** in our hearts.

You may think, reading Matthew's gospel, that there is as much violence and punishment threats as any mention of the above. That there is as much stuff about rewards and punishments as about the values of the Kingdom, the values of faith, hope and love. But that's the subject of another piece of writing.

Just stick with the three things that Jesus said and did-and then told his followers to go out and do the same. And hold the three ideas of faith, hope and love in mind, remembering that the greatest of the three, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13, is love.

Jesus asks us to follow him and trust in what he says and take strength from his life and work. He is not, I am convinced, so bothered about the doctrine (Son of God, Person of the Trinity etc) as you might think. He concentrates on assuring us that when we try to be aware of God's presence, he is our Father who wants us to respond to him.

Tell yourself, and if you have opportunity, tell others, the Old, Old Story! They may tell you something new, through God's surprising grace.

From the website of St Thomas Becket Anglican Church, Hamburg

Council of Anglican Episcopal Churches in Germany

The Diocese in Europe Deanery Synod of Germany met on 23rd - 24th September in Munich, our church is represented by Matthew Jones, Harriett Sasse, Birte Fischer and Karin Lueth.



Uniquely in the Anglican Communion, the C of E deanery clergy and parish representatives meet with the representatives of The Episcopal Church parishes in Germany in a body called the Council of Anglican Episcopal Churches in Germany (CAECG). This year's meetings were at Schloss Furstenried Exerzitenhaus, a Roman Catholic retreat house on the outskirts of the city. The Pope, who arrived on Friday in Berlin, is a former student at this retreat house.

Apart from the usual business of synod, the Reverend Carola von Wrangel, Rector of Christ The King Episcopal Church in Frankfurt, led reflections on conflict and conflict resolution in the Church, under the theme: *"Conflict? We don't have no stinkin' conflict!"*. Bishop Dr Matthias Ring of the Old Catholic Church of Germany sent warm greetings to the Anglican / Episcopal gathering, in which he said *"I wish you God's blessing for your meeting and the work in your congregations. Let us continue to keep alive the friendship and fellowship between our churches."*

Ceremony for the Ökumenisches Forum HafenCity



The site of the ecumenical forum HafenCity is still under construction, but on 21st / 22nd September, Pastor Karsten Mohr chairman of the Brücke invited various members from supporting churches and organizations to view the progress of the project. Our St Thomas Becket church is a member of the Brücke, as are 18 other Hamburg churches, and Deborah Ockert took part in the ceremony to celebrate the roofing of the building. When finished, the ecumenical forum on the Shanghaiallee will house a chapel, café and information center on the ground floor, church offices in the first floor and accommodation for the Laurentius Convent on the upper floors.



(Bauleiter Schultze with Pastor Karsten Mohr)

We hope to be a part of this unique opportunity to reach out and offer quiet reflection and spirituality in the bustling business world of the HafenCity!



Deborah Ockert

Our new choir director



You may have noticed – our new choir director as of 1st September 2011 is Yotin Tiewtrakul, who also has a position as cantor at the Ansverus-Haus in Aumühle. Yotin has been

working with Jochim Trede, our organist, and with the choir for some time, and now he has taken on greater responsibilities for the music life in our church. He helped organize a workshop on English choral music at the Aumühle church on 3rd September, which provided the expertise for the evensong on our night of the churches – so we are looking forward to his plans for the Christmas season! If you would like to join the choir, just have a word with Yotin.

Visit from Ipswich on 16th October



The Ipswich School Chapel Choir from Suffolk, UK, will be touring various attractions in Hamburg and Lübeck in October. On Sunday, 16th October, the School Chapel Choir will visit our church with a group of about 40 young people, accompanied by their choir director, Andrew Leach and eight other staff. The choir will practice in the afternoon in our church and will hold an evensong at our St Thomas Becket on Sunday evening, 16th October, at 18:30 h. Andrew has promised his group will make a joyful noise, so don't miss this special musical evening!

“Strike the harp and join the chorus!”

Join our choir for this year's Christmas carol service!

If you enjoy singing together with others and like Christmas carols there is an open invitation to join in the celebrations with us this year. Yes, for this year's Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 18th December 2011 at 10:30 am, the Choir of St Thomas Becket Hamburg invites everybody to join them.

Rehearsals for the carol service are every Tuesday from 22nd November. We won't really don't mind if you join us just for the Christmas carol service. It's fine to just love Christmas carols.

We are going to sing among other classics such as “O little town of Bethlehem”, “Hark, the herald angels sing” or John Rutter's “Candlelight carol” and also a Christmas song by the jazz pianist Dave Brubeck. The arrangements are easy and we usually focus on having fun with the singing.

Please also tell your friends who aren't perhaps so close to our community at St Thomas Becket. There are many people who I am sure would love the opportunity to sing Christmas carol.

Anyone interested in joining please send Yotin Tiewtrakul, our choir director, a message and tell him whether you sing Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Don't-know.

We meet on the following dates:

Tuesday, 22nd November, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
 Tuesday, 29th November, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
 Tuesday, 6th December, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
 Saturday, 10th December, 4:00 to 6:00 pm
 Tuesday, 13th December, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
 Sunday, 18th December, we meet at 9:30 am, service starts at 10:30 am.

Yotin Tiewtrakul
cantor@ansverus-haus.de

04104/9706-15

Saturday 10th September – Stade and the Altes Land —

We have just arrived home, after the Annual Church Outing, tired but full of good humour after a full day spent with 27 other members of our congregation. This year the day started out, weather wise, not great! The forecast was for a warm day but with rain showers and so it was, as we trudged up from the S bahn station, we needed our raincoat. Then poor Birte, while running to the Church to collect forgotten song sheets, slipped and hurt her ankle and knee but like a true “trooper” insisted on carrying on with the day regardless.

Our first stop was in the pretty village of



Neukloster and a visit to their beautiful church of St Marien where we were given a tour of the Church and grounds by the pastor. There has been a Church on the site since 1286 and the pastor explained to us how originally the site was home to a nunnery until 1703 when the last nun, Sister Marien, died. The present Church was built in 1904 using as much stone from the old building as possible. The wall and ceiling paintings were much admired as were the stain glass window high up above the altar. The beautiful wooden figure of a woman, depicting peace after conflict, carved by a refugee from Pommerania in 1954 was much admired, as were the two books inside the cupboard below the figure, giving a page to every local person, who had fallen in war. A touching remembrance.



We then proceeded to their lovely Church hall and ‘gemeinder’ house, where we enjoyed our morning coffee and their facilities before continuing our journey through the lovely countryside of the Altes Land.

By this time the sun had decided to shine upon us before our next stop at the village of **Bützfleth** and St.Nikolai Kirche. Once again, we were met by their very friendly pastorin, who explained all about the history of the Church and the hard work which has been done over the past 30 years to “cure” the crumbling cement and mortar. During this time many structural changes were able to be made, including incorporating two storage rooms into a wonderfully comfortable eating and kitchen area and display room for works of religious art by local artists. This we were then able to fully appreciate as we used it to enjoy our picnic lunches. We were also very grateful for the wonderful donation by a couple of their parishioners, who while celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary donated the cost of adding a modern toilet into their adjoining wooden bell tower!





After lunch it was back on the bus and off to Stade. Now this is where it gets really interesting.....THE QUIZ. Sally had very kindly prepared a quiz for us to complete during our day out, most of the questions had to do with the history of Stade, so we were eager to discover the town, even more so, when the sun decided to be decidedly summery and all coats were disregarded. Everyone seemed to split into small groups and go hunting clues, while some decided to try out the local hostleries before it was time to join the bus once again for our next leg of the journey through the fruit fields towards Jork over the River Elbe and onto St. Nicolai, Borstel, where we relaxed outside with our coffee and cake or ventured inside the Church to enjoy the Children's choir.

It is quite true, no matter how much you have eaten, you can always be tempted by a German grilled sausage! So it was, when the young people of the village decided to fire up their grills and offered us "sizzling wurst", we couldn't resist.

As always our days out do sound like we do an amazing amount of eating, true but we also do an amazing job of singing on the return trip to Hamburg. I think the bus driver purposely got lost, so we could go through the whole repertoire of song sheets we distributed. It certainly gave Sally time to check the completed quiz sheets and give us the answers and distribute prizes. The real winners of the day were all those who took part in our annual Church Outing, with its laughter, camaraderie, and fellowship.

To Birte and Emmanuel, many thanks for all the hard work organising the whole day and



alerting all our hosts in the Altes Land. Thank you also to all the people who prepared food and drinks and who packed the boxes for our coffee breaks and lunch.

Once again the "family" of St. Thomas's enjoyed a day out together, see you next year.

Irene Finn (and John of course)





Annual Bazaar, Saturday November 19th 2011

You will be pleased to read that again this year we will be holding our big bazaar on the above date, in Church. Already at this point, a big thank you to all stallholders, for being prepared to get involved again, in this big money raising event.

As in previous years, suitable contributions and donations for the various stalls are always welcome. For example good prizes for the raffle, anything in bottles for the bottle stall, CD and DVD's in good condition.

English books for the book stall are always needed please contact Martin Hackett if you have books to donate. (martin@hackett-kaiser.de)

Don't forget the cake stall !! All donations are welcome and needed. Please do let Melanie or Debbie know if you can give a donation. Birte Fischer will also need cakes for the Café so please let her know what you can make.

Please note there will be no "White Elephant" stall or second hand clothing! However accessories - bags, scarves and jewellery are needed and we are happy to arrange pick ups - contact Ellen 22697878.

The British Produce stall is as always a big crowd puller. The Christmas Puddings and Crackers are ordered. Jams, jellies and ginger nuts - not forgetting Mars, Marmite and marmalade are getting organised but, we still need a lot more produce. If you are going to

U.K. before the Bazaar please see Ellen or Cicely who will tell you what is needed. We don't want to end up with 3 dozen tins of custard powder and not a single jar of mint sauce!

Raffle prizes are accumulating and the tickets will be available to sell from later in October. I will be looking for sellers as well as buyers. So please don't hide away after the service when I am after you. Posters and Flyers will be available too. Pick some up and spread the word around Hamburg. We really need to push the event this year, It's our biggest fund raiser and we need the money!!

Don't worry if you are not yet involved. We need all the help we can get for the set up and clear up teams. Renu will be asking for help and we need you!

A bazaar meeting will be held on October 16th after Church, in the West Room.

Please contact Renu or myself if you have any donations or questions. Items should only be brought to Church after the end of October.

John Finn



The Victorian Market will be held on the following weekend to our Bazaar (November 26/27th) at the Basler Hof Saal. The entire proceeds from this year's event will be donated to St Thomas Becket church. Many many thanks to the organisers.

This year in addition to Ellen, Judith and the ladies, who faithfully represent our church, we will need volunteers to help on the information stall. Please see Renu for further details.

Do go and support this important event in our local community. See you there!

Church Christmas Cards and Greetings Cards 2011



Recycled Christmas Cards will again be on sale this autumn - from the end of October onwards - in aid of church funds. The cards have a printed Christmas and New Year's greeting in both English and German, and the words "Sold on behalf of the English Church of St. Thomas à Becket". They are the correct size and weight for normal postage rates - AND they are also a very good way of advertising our church. There is a large choice of different motives - robins, angels, Christmas trees, nativity scenes, nostalgic and humorous cards, wise men, peace doves etc etc. For the past 3 years we have kept the price constant, but this year because of increased expenses for printing the blank cards and for the envelopes, the cards will cost slightly more - € 11 for 10 cards, and €1.30 for single cards.

Last year the net profit for the church from selling the cards came to € 5,238.01. This result was only possible because some members of the congregation and many friends outside the church, sold cards before and after the Bazaar to their friends, families and work colleagues, and in the various English-speaking and international clubs and organisations in and around Hamburg. We would very much like to increase the number of cards sold by church members, so please let us know if you are able to help. However many or however few cards you manage to sell - 20, 50 or 250 - it is always that many more than would otherwise have been sold,

as we do not necessarily know your friends, families or work colleagues. The cards will of course be on sale at the Church Bazaar on 19th November, and on most Sundays after the service in November and December.

They can also be obtained by contacting one of us by phone. Plain greetings cards with flowers, country scenes and art motives, suitable for all occasions will be on sale too, as are cards with a photo of the historic print of the church.

With many thanks for your help and support for the project.

- Judith Holst (880 07 27)
- Irene Finn (866 266 73)
- Ellen Ziesmann (22 69 78 78)

. Ladies Christian Fellowship

We were so lucky with the weather not only for the lunch in July, hosted by Jane, but also for the tea-party in Ellen's garden.

In a more reflective mood, we met in my flat in September. Clifford Poole and his wife, Jean gave us an interesting talk about their life after Clifford took up the ministry and left teaching. After ordination he worked in London for four years before moving to the Anglican church in Luxembourg, where his congregation was very different from his former one. However, he soon found himself teaching again, working in the International school. They spent 12 years in Luxembourg before returning to England. Clifford then worked as a parish priest responsible for four country churches in the dioceses of Gloucester and Worcester until his retirement a few years ago. We at St Thomas Becket were certainly delighted to have had them with us.

We are looking forward to our next meeting at Renu's where Matthew will talk to us.

Further dates to be announced please check the church website.

Cicely Holligsworth

July Walk and Annual Picnic



July found the Wanderers in the Stadt Park. On a wonderful day for walking, we all met at the S bahn station and were lead by Eileen through the local streets, she knows so well, to the entrance to the Stadt Park. Our first stop for breathe and photo opportunity, was in front of the Planetarium where we admired the view and the beautiful flower beds, and the jogger who continually ran up and down the Planetarium steps! After that we continued through the park taking an interest in all the various visitors, many partaking of the sports facilities and lots of families enjoying the lovely weather. We found our picnic spot in the more formally laid out gardens with the fountains and trailing plants and after taking the edge off our appetites we either joined or listened to Tina sing. In fact we were joined by one or two cyclists!

We continued our walk, leisurely, after lunch around the "lagoon" and on to the swimming lido and canoeing section of the park. Our next stop was by the ice cream van! Sound familiar, just like any other family outing. We continued on back to where we entered the park and while the group parted ways, some of us had a welcome cold drink/cup of coffee at a park "watering hole". Eileen then lead us back to the station through some wonderful streets with great architecture and interesting shops and restaurants. Definitely an area to return to.

Thank you Eileen for suggesting this walk. It was simple but so right for the annual walk and get together picnic.

Irene Finn

August Walk in the Sachsenwald

As is usual in summer, the number of wanderers who turned up for a walk in the Sachsenwald area was small, many of our members being away at the time. Our little group was further reduced by the seventh member getting stuck in the S-Bahn which had broken down and unfortunately prevented him from joining us.

Encouraged by the good weather - not a drop of rain and pleasant walking temperatures - we set off for what proved to be something of an obstacle course. The recent heavy rains had made many of the paths very muddy and we were further hindered by numerous fallen branches which we either had to step over or circumnavigate. Not for the first time, we were inclined to think unkindly of those responsible for the upkeep of the Sachsenwald as an attraction for walkers.

However, the good company was a compensation for slightly less than ideal conditions, and we ended the day with a pleasant tea in the open air - accompanied by a lot of over-friendly but non-aggressive wasps.

Nicki Schiller



My thanks to Eileen and Nicki for organizing the walks in July and August during my lengthy stay in England this summer; and to Irene and Nicki for writing the reports.

More about the wonderful September walk in the Altes Land in the next issue - What a glorious day we had in beautiful sunshine.

Future dates

8 October Tesperhude to Lauenburg

12 November Harburger Berge

10 December Volksdorf to Poppenbüttel with Advent lunch at the " Alte Mühle "

All details, as usual, nearer each date.

Cicely Hollingsworth

'Extending a Welcome'

The 400th anniversary has now a motto 'Extending a Welcome': an expression of thanks for the welcome given in 1612, and reflecting the welcome church provides to people of many nationalities today. Further information about the anniversary will be sent out later this autumn, but please note the date 18th February as the date of the Service of Thanksgiving.

Please visit the website www.stbecket400.de to see the plans unfolding.

The anniversary is a good opportunity for you to invite friends and family to visit Hamburg, or if living local to get involved by perhaps manning the bookstall on Saturday afternoon. So to extend a welcome, please if you feel able to offer B&B to visitors please let Birte know.

STB400 team.



WebNews

www.anglican-church-hamburg.de

Dear Friends

Each month your webmaster reminds the Church Council of the existence of the website by sending out statistics on the number of users. Here is a brief resume. The website is sustaining a growth! The number of visitors for August was double the number for August 2010 – no doubt helped by the special mention on Bishop David's Blog which produced a surge of 71 on the day he referred to us as one of the best websites in his Diocese! (Well to be honest the competition is not that great). August was a very cosmopolitan month too, visitors from 34 countries as opposed to the usual monthly tally of 23. So either people have been looking us up from exotic holiday locations, or

we are attracting a few newcomers. Anyway, a warm welcome to the readers from 'new countries' of Burundi, Estonia, Serbia, and Monaco. The current statistics show that so far this year we have had almost 4000 visitors to the website from 53 countries: 52% from German IP addresses, 20% US, 13% UK. There has been a surge in visitors from Canada and Australia (wonder why!). About twice as many people use the key words 'Anglican church Hamburg' to search for the site compared with 'English church Hamburg' showing that the 'Anglican brand name is gaining ground.

Your webmaster is working with her IT support to give the website a facelift and transfer it to a more versatile version of Content Management System. After that any of you responsible for an activity will be asked to update your profiles!

A second website has been launched for STB400 and your webmaster come project leader for STB400 is grateful to Chris for taking over responsibility for this. This website is the key reference point for all things to do with the 400th anniversary – there is still a lot to do here and the anniversary year is looming fast. All suggestions for interesting things to put on it are very welcome. Please send to Stb400@stbecket.de.

STB Webmaster



Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals at St Thomas Becket July-September 2011

Baptisms 'The Water of Life'	Akshaya Lauren Pandurangan	August 21
Weddings 'To have and to hold...'	Sally and Timo Wandrey	July 10
Funerals 'I know that my redeemer lives'	None	None



What a wonderful day and memory of a super couple. Congratulations Sally and Timo.
God be with you as you start your future together.

Please note :- The **deadline** for the next issue of Becket News is -
Sunday December 11th - to ensure the next issue is published before Christmas.



Sunday Services : October—December 2011

For possible changes and additions at short notice please visit the online church notice board on our website, which is updated weekly, at www.anglican-church-hamburg.de

October				
Sundays or Weekdays	Service	Officiant	Lectionary Readings	Psalm
02 October. Trinity 15 (Proper 22) Harvest Festival.	10.30 h Holy Communion	MJones	Exodus 20.1-4,7-9,12-20; Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 21.33-end	Psalm 19.7-end
09 October. Trinity 16 (Proper 23)	10.30 h Holy Communion	MJones	Exodus 32.1-14; Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14	Psalm 106.1-6,19-23
16 October. Trinity 17 (Proper 24)	10.30 h Holy Communion	MJones	Exodus 33.12 - end; 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22	Psalm 99
23 October. Last Trinity (Proper 25)	10.30 h Holy Communion	MJones	Deuteronomy 34.1-12; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8; Matthew 22.34-end	Psalm 90.1-6,13-17
30 October. All Saints' Day	10.30 h Holy Communion, Trad Lang	MJones	Revelation 7.9-end; 1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12	Psalm 34. 1 - 10
November				
06 November. 3rd before Advent	10.30 h Holy Communion	MJones	Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-end; Matthew 25.1-13	Psalm 70
13 November. Remembrance Sunday	10.30 Remembrance Day Service	MJones	Zephaniah 1.7,12-end; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30	Psalm 90.1-8,12
20 November. Christ the King	10.30 h Holy Communion	MJones	Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24; Ephesians 1.15-end; Matthew 25.31-end	Psalm 95. 1 - 7
27 November. 1st Advent	10.30 h Holy Communion, Trad Lang	MJones	Isaiah 64.1-9, 1 Corinthians 1.3-9, Mark 13.24-37 (Mark 1.9-15 Lent 2)	Psalm 80
December				
04 December. 2nd Advent	10.30 h Holy Communion	MJones	Isaiah 40.1-11, 2 Peter 3.8-15a, Mark 1.1-8,	Ps 85.1-2,8-13
11 December. 3rd Advent	10.30 h Holy Communion	MJones	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24, John 1.6-8,19-28	Ps 126
18 December. 4th Advent	10.30 h Carol Service + Nativity play	MJones	10.30 Special Carol Service Lessons	
24 December. Christmas Eve	19:00 h First Mass of Christmas	MJones	Xmas 1st Set. Isaiah 9.2-7, Titus 2.11-14, Luke 2.1-20	Carol for Psalm
25 December. Christmas Day	10.30 h Holy Communion	MJones	Xmas 3rd Set. Isaiah 52.7-10, Hebrews 1.1-4, John 1.1-14	Carol for Psalm
January				
01 January. 2nd Sunday after Christmas	10.30 h Holy Communion	MJones	Isaiah 61.10-62.3, Galatians 4.4-7, Luke 2.15-21	Psalm 148

Who's Who at our Church

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Fellowship

For notices and contribution to the website, please e-mail to [webmaster\(at\)anglican-church-hamburg.de](mailto:webmaster(at)anglican-church-hamburg.de)

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Our church receives no income from church tax and is entirely dependent on freewill donations.