

January—March 2012

Issue 49

# The Church of St Thomas Becket, Hamburg

Zeughausmarkt 22, 20459 Hamburg  
[www.anglican-church-hamburg.de](http://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 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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## Christmas Experience



I am certainly having a different experience this year. This is my first Christmas where I have had to wear warm clothes. Usually by this time in Australia, the

Summer heat has set in and there is a definite trend for people to retreat to the shopping centres, not just for Christmas shopping but also to cool down. Picture theatres are also popular havens from the heat. Christmas is the big holiday time with six or seven weeks off school. The beaches are packed and the roads to the north and south coasts are congested with families making their annual exodus from the suburbs to the beach.

I am really enjoying the cultural change to a Northern Hemisphere Christmas. It is amazing to see such short days of sunlight in December and the songs we sing, even in Australia, about holly and ivy and reindeers in snow and chestnuts roasting on open fires have become something of a reality. To see snow in the first week of December sent me running for the telephone to call Australia. I suspect I may have been the only person in Hamburg to be so excited!

The Christmas story is one of pregnancy and expectation and delivery of good news. In a way, we at St Thomas Becket are in this stage. Next year we will celebrate 400 years of Anglican ministry in Hamburg. We are pregnant with anticipation as we wait to see if all our plans work out the way we hope. There is an expectation that we will celebrate all year and connect with many people, both

new and familiar. There is a great hope that there will be good news for all at St Thomas Becket when people turn up for our services and concerts and we are able to also raise much needed money for repairs to our historic building .

All of this is somewhat similar, in essence, to the story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of baby Jesus. Much planning took place for the holy family to make their trek to Bethlehem. Some of their plans did not go as well as they had hoped but God provided for their needs, and the story has a happy ending. The baby was born in a safe, dry environment, surrounded by signs of God's love and others were invited to share the Good News.

My prayer for all of us at St Thomas Becket is that we will have a wonderful year in 2012, trusting that God will provide all our needs. Some of our plans may turn out differently to our expectations but I pray that we may allow God to guide us and that we may find the way to celebrate everything that God has done, and is doing for us. In addition to this, I pray that we may boldly encourage others to share both Good News stories; i.e. the Good News of Jesus Christ among us and the good news that St Thomas Becket Anglican Church has had the opportunity to tell this story for 400 years. Let's ask everyone we can to come and join in our celebrations. Just like the holy family who were led by God to the next stage of their journey, so may we be open to the same voice as we lay the foundations for the next 400 years!!

Every blessing for a happy, safe and peace filled Christmas and New Year,

The Reverend Matthew Jones

## BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE, 2011

In 1918, Eric Milner-White, the Dean of King's College, Cambridge, devised the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which has since become the most widely known of all Anglican services. The 'carols' which were and are so much part of this are now closely linked with Christmas, but were originally what was sung as joyful dancing songs, so perhaps the mediaeval carol 'Tomorrow shall be my dancing day' in which Jesus tells of his life as a dance in which we are invited to share reaches back to the original meaning. An early Christian hymn also echoes this theme, speaking of divine grace dancing; and Greek Christian thinkers spoke of the communion of love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the Trinity as *perichoresis* - one of the meanings of which is a round dance.

At Christmas our carols catch us into this dance of divine grace, and the meaning of that dance is set out in Luke's story of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, in the muck and straw of a cave for animals, and yet whose praises was sung by the angelic hosts of heaven; in St Matthew's account of the three astrologers from the east, who come guided by a star to worship the child in Mary's arms with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh; and in St John's speaking of the Word of God becoming flesh in whom we see and know the Divine glory.

One of my favourite carols, 'See amidst the winter's snow', written originally as 'A Hymn for Christmas Day', by the nineteenth-century priest, Edward Caswall, echoes in

the mind and heart because of the wonderful tune to which it was set by Sir John Goss, the contemporary organist of St Paul's Cathedral. The tune is appropriately called 'Humility'. One of the verses speaks of the wonder and mystery of God coming among us in the child of Bethlehem:

***Sacred Infant all divine,  
What a tender love was thine,  
So to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this.***

Our Christian faith is said to be 'a religion of the incarnation', and it has also been said that Easter is *the* festival for the Orthodox, Good Friday for Lutherans, but it is Christmas and the Incarnation that is *the* festival for Anglicans. Certainly there has been a significant stress on the incarnation in much Anglican theology, and carols and Christmas are a popular expression of this. Yet the reality of incarnation takes us beyond the tinsel and the trimmings, to harsh reality. I often like to remind people that Christmas cribs, which go back to St Francis wanting to have a visual aid for poor, illiterate Christians at Greccio, never smell. There may be straw, but there is no dung! I treasure an Ethiopian illumination which shows the ox and ass leaning over the manger, and the artist has written 'the ox and ass warm the child with their breath.' The child of Bethlehem was born into a world of oppression and occupation. St Matthew records King Herod's slaughter of the children of Bethlehem, which we commemorate on Holy Innocents Day, just three days after Christmas – as the day after Christmas (our Boxing Day) honours St Stephen the first martyr. The world is nasty, brutish and horrible in so many ways, and the God who made us and the whole

vastness of the universe, did not stand aside from the mud, the muck and the mess. Lady Julian of Norwich, that remarkable mediaeval mystic, says in a wonderful phrase that 'the goodness of God is our highest prayer, and it comes down to the lowest part of our need.' St Paul in his Letter to the Philippians writes of the Christ who did not think equality with God a thing to be grasped at or held on to, but he 'emptied' himself, poured himself out in the love that goes to the uttermost. It is for this reason that a great preacher of the seventeenth century said to his Christmas congregation, 'by this day's emptiness we all were filled.'

'Down to such a world as this' – the God who meets us at Christmas, is a God who does not stand aside, but reaches out into the darkness of the world, even in the end to the darkness of our human dying. He redeems a fallen world by remaking that world which he loves from the inside. If we as Christians share that life, if in our Christmas communion we feed on that life, then we are called to live that life. We are to be 'christophers' – literally Christ-bearers in our world. That means, as another great Anglican preacher and teacher, Henry Scott Holland put it, 'you cannot believe in the incarnation and not be concerned about drains!' Nor about the hungry in the Horn of Africa, the victims of land-mines and the casualties of war, those suffering from HIV/AIDS; about justice and the right ordering of the economic life of the world; about the environment – deforestation in the Amazon, the melting of ice-caps, polluting industries, the multifarious consequence of human selfishness. The child of Bethlehem was not born into a never-never land; the Christmas story is not a fairy-tale, but is of a love which comes down to the lowest part of our need – your need and

mine, and the need of every man and woman whom we meet.

Christina Rossetti's words sung as another well-loved carol sum it up:

***Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas:  
Star and angels gave the sign.***

***Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, love divine,  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith the sacred sign?***

***Love shall be our token;  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and to all men,  
Love for plea, and gift and sign.***

The grace given to us is a life and love to be lived – for Jesus gave us two commandments, the love of God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, and the love of our neighbour as ourselves. That in the end is what human life is about, and it is the grace that makes this possible that we celebrate Christmas by Christmas as we come to worship and adore Mary's child, born at Bethlehem, Christ your Lord and mine. May each and every one of you know the peace and the joy of this great Feast of the Incarnation.

+ GEOFFREY GIBRALTAR

Diocesan Bishop:  
**The Right Reverend Dr Geoffrey Rowell**  
*Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe*

## News from your Church Council and Churchwardens

In the last issue of the Becket News, we greeted our new chaplain, Father Matthew Jones, who was instituted at St Thomas Becket on 16 September 2011. During the past few months, the churchwardens and church council have been working together with our new chaplain to set the direction for the future, and we are still very much in the “learning curve”.

One of Father Matthew’s greatest wishes is to move the church office from the rectory into the church vestry. This has entailed ongoing operations to modernize and move the office equipment into the vestry. Father Matthew has spent much time cleaning and sorting out the vestry, and we hope the office will be operational soon. The advantages of the office in the vestry include easier access for members of the congregation to the office and the opening of the church on weekdays, as Father Matthew will be present in the church on several days during the week.

Deborah Ockert will, for the time being, continue to compile the weekly service sheets and send the Bible verses to the readers, to relieve Father Matthew from “paperwork”, and our choir director Yotin Tiewtrakul will assist with music and hymn selection.

The Council was involved in the planning and organization of 2 big events, the church bazaar on 19 November and participation in the Victorian Market on 26 and 27 November. Both events required much help from our congregation, and the work was well rewarded!

Father Matthew himself has been quite busy meeting the congregation and also getting acquainted with local Hamburg administration and organizations as well as meeting the clergy from neighbouring churches. We are grateful for his willingness to reach out to the

Hamburg community and “extend a welcome” to all English-speaking groups in Hamburg, as well as to the city itself.

One of the happiest moments for the Council and Churchwardens was a meeting with the Hermann Reemtsma Stiftung in November. This charitable organization has generously



offered to help with the renovation of our historical church building, including the painting of the outside of the church. The financial assistance will take the form of a “matching fund”, in other words, every Euro our congregation can raise towards the fabric fund will be matched by 1 Euro from the Reemtsma Stiftung. We hope to see 2012 as a major fundraising year, in order to have enough saved to start the painting of the façade in the spring of 2013.

We will miss Matilda, who will be unable to attend council meetings due to a long trip back home.

Events to look forward to in the coming months, please put them in your diary:

18 February: Thanksgiving service for  
the 400 year anniversary  
March: Hamburg räumt auf  
22 April: Annual General Meeting

We will try to keep you informed as to church matters – don’t hesitate to contact any of us with questions or suggestions!

Deborah Ockert  
(Churchwarden)

## CAECG Meeting – September 2011 in Munich

It was the first time I had attended a CAECG Meeting and I really did not know what to expect.

We, (Harriet, Karen, Matthew and myself), arrived in Munich at the retreat centre of the Erzbistum Munich to very good food, friendly nuns and a beautiful surrounding. I met many other representatives from all over Germany. To be honest it was a little overwhelming being surrounded by so many strangers, of course with the exception of our own contingent, however that soon changed.

Besides the council business we had a lecture from Revd Carola von Wrangel about conflict. It was really amazing how much one can learn when you realize what conflict is and how fast a small argument can turn into really bad conflict situation and so difficult to resolve. This lecture gave me a lot to think about.

We also had the opportunity to meet others and during the breaks and in the evenings,

over a pleasant drink together, we exchanged stories and experiences and got to know each other better.

We shared Eucharist before breakfast (Wow ....sooo early) with music and prayers, and then continued our meeting until the afternoon when most of the members left for home.

Harriet and I stayed a day longer. This gave us the chance to join the special service at the Church of the Ascension in the centre of Munich with a really good choir who sang chorus pieces in appreciation of all voluntary groups working in the church. I could not remember all the groups, but will get a list to ensure we have some good new ideas. The service was followed by a barbeque and a book sale. We stayed on for a while but then sadly had to leave for Hamburg and home again.

I felt very welcome in the CAECG Meeting as well as in the Church and am really looking forward to our next meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> March in Frankfurt.

Birte Fischer

### Some extracts from the lecture on conflict:

Rules for Community Life :-  
adapted from abundant living by M. Lloyd-Jones

Cooperate don't dominate  
Learn to put yourself in another place  
Hold no secret criticisms  
Don't look for perfection in others or self  
Look on others not as they are but as they can be  
Settle differences as they arise  
Pray God's blessing on others  
Refuse to look for slights or insults  
Don't allow yourself to become petty  
Look for privileges of service rather than rights  
Often decide with the group against yourself  
Keep the power to say I'm sorry  
Right the injustice  
Work together for Kingdom ends  
Expect the best from one another  
Keep your power of laughter and humour  
Have miraculous expectations

Relevant Scriptures on Conflict:

#### General

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

Genesis 37:39-47 Story of reconciliation and restoration of Joseph's family  
Isaiah 53 Suffering servant who reconciles us  
II Cor 5: 16-20 We have been given the ministry of reconciliation

#### Approaches to Conflict

I Cor 6 How dare you sue one another  
Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other  
James 4:1-3 You do not have because you do not ask God  
Matthew 18:15-20 First go to your brother then .....

#### Forgiveness

Matthew 18: 21-35 Forgive 70 times 7  
Matthew 6: 9-15 Unless you forgive, your father won't forgive

#### General Pattern to live by:

Phil. 2:1-11 Imitating Christ's Humility

## Data Protection at St Thomas Becket

Your Church Council has discussed the need for a policy on data protection at our St Thomas Becket Church. As you know, we have an Electoral Roll with names and addresses of our church members, and this is kept confidential except for periods when the roll must be made public, for example, shortly before the Annual General Meeting. The Electoral Roll officer and the Council are entrusted with this information, which is used only for church purposes.

Nevertheless, we would like to offer a few rules in the forefront of a data protection statement, which is now being considered. These general rules apply to ALL in our congregation at St Thomas Becket.

1. Addresses, telephone numbers, photographs and email addresses of an individual shall not be passed on to anyone in or outside the church without asking the permission of the person in question.
2. Email lists sometimes are used to coordinate the flow of information and to set up meetings for various committees. When sending information or messages to a larger circle of people for other purposes than a defined committee or group (for example, general announcements or newsletters), the addresses are to be sent blind (BCC), so that the address list is not visible to the recipients.
3. Email lists obtained from any church committee are never to be used for private purposes, whether for advertising, the spread of information unrelated to church matters or any other purpose.
4. Pictures of individuals or groups should be submitted for publication to the Becket News, website or Facebook page only after informing the individual or group that the picture is to be submitted. A picture showing

a single Individual may not be used for any purpose should that individual object. Pictures of children are to be used for church media only after obtaining written permission from the parents.

5. Information or pictures that are damaging or embarrassing for any individual or group should never be spread publicly within our church or outside.

We hope you all will respect these rules as a commitment we all take as being members of a church, in particular, members of St Thomas Becket. We come together in worship and to love, help and respect one another. Let us continue to do so!

Deborah Ockert  
(Churchwarden)

## Africans in Hamburg

Have you been to the Museum für Völkerkunde lately? There is a special exhibit entitled "Afrikaner in Hamburg" on display until 15 January 2012. In a joint project by Hamburg's schools, the University of Hamburg, many African associations and Radio Funkstark, the life of the African community in the city of Hamburg is explored.



Sonja Collison, the daughter of Emelia, a member of our congregation, works with Radio Funkstark. You may remember that Radio Funkstark filmed one of our church services in the

late summer of this year, and the video of St Thomas Becket Anglican Church is now featured at the exhibit at the museum. Why not pay a visit to the museum? Open Tues. through Sun. 10 – 18 h (Thurs. until 21h), Rothenbaumchaussee 64.



## Visit from Ipswich on 16 October



The Ipswich School Chapel Choir from Suffolk, UK, visited our church with a group of about 40 young people, accompanied by their choir director, Andrew Leach and eight other staff on Sunday, 16 October. Under the direction of Andrew and accompanied by William Saunders on the organ, the choir sang an Anglican evensong which included the Clucas responses and the anthem "Heart's Music" by Philip Moore.

The delightful evening was the result of hard work by the young choir singers and their teachers. We hope to greet them again in our church in the future!



## Harvest Festival on 2<sup>nd</sup> October



This year the Harvest festival was celebrated on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, to coincide with the German Erntedankfest. Ellen Ziesmann and her many helpers decorated the church with flowers, fruits and other produce. After the service, members of the local branch of the Salvation Army gladly gathered in all the donations for their work in Hamburg.



## Annual Bazaar

Each year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of November St Thomas Becket Annual Church Bazaar is held. Beforehand many are busy in the background preparing for this event. All during the year our group of "Crafty" Ladies are busy stitching, cutting, glueing, and sewing making all sort of gifts to raise money. Appeals go out, not only across Hamburg, but across Europe, to collect used Christmas cards, and Judith organises her troops with the cutting glueing and selling of the now famous St Thomas Becket Christmas cards. Appeals go out for anyone going to U.K. to bring back the little bits of home produce that we cannot seem to live without, to sell on the Produce Stall. Jams, Marmalade and Chutney are prepared by the team of busy ladies. Letters are written and sent out to many people and organisations who so generously donate prizes for our raffle. Nearer the day many other activities start with bottles being collected, accessories arriving, cakes being baked, CD's DVD's and Records start appearing and books appear in the side pews to add to our ever growing collection of second hand books. Then finally food stalls are organised and the Annual event comes to life!

## Bazaar Results, 19 November 2011

Handicrafts	800,00
Books	1.691,80
Café	688,70
Cakes	547,68
Raffle	2.346,00
Bric-à-brac	592,00
Accessories	1.056,10
Christmas cards	3.289,30
Music, DVD's, Videos	954,00
Indian food	567,00
African food	358,50
Glühwein	102,00
Bottle tombola	584,83
British produce	1.487,90
Face painting	51,00

**Total** **15.116,81**

A superb joint effort resulted in yet another great result for our Church. The Bazaar is, of course, a major fund raiser and the money is so important and helps support the increasing cost of keeping our Church alive in Hamburg

So, thank you to all those who helped organise the stalls and activities, and who helped set-up and clear-up. Every job great or small is important to the total result. Help is always needed, so come on and please join the team.

John Finn





## The Huron Carol

- New Hymn Selection Group -

When at Christmas we again tell the story of how God came to our world as a child, we also are surprised when we understand that God's coming to the world has never stopped. In 1643 a Jesuit priest told the story again in a song he wrote in the native language of the Huron/Wendat people. It is commonly called "Huron Carol" and is obviously believed to be the oldest Canadian carol. Jean de Brébeuf, that was the name of the Jesuit missionary, certainly believed that God's coming to the world also means that the "Word made flesh" comes into every culture. An English version of the Huron Carol was proposed by Jesse Edgar Middleton in 1926 and can be found for example in "The Hymnal 1982" (Episcopal). This year the choir sings an arrangement of the Huron Carol in the Christmas Carol Service.

Since the Church in different times and cultures tries to spell out how God is with us and among us; the Music Committee of St Thomas Becket suggests that we explore different musical styles and songs in the future whilst treasuring the hymns we find in "Common Praise". We invite all to participate by joining the Hymn Selection Group. The initial organisational meeting will take place on Sunday, 26th February at 12.30 pm.



1. 'Twas in the moon of wintertime  
when all the birds had fled  
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel  
choirs instead;  
Before their light the stars grew dim  
And wondering hunters heard the  
hymn,  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.

2. Within a lodge of broken bark the  
tender babe was found;  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin  
enwrapped his beauty round  
But as the hunter braves drew nigh  
The angel song rang loud and high  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.

3. The earliest moon of wintertime is  
not so round and fair  
As was the ring of glory on the  
helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.

4. O children of the forest free, O seed  
of Manitou,  
The holy Child of earth and heaven is  
born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant boy  
Who brings you beauty peace and joy.  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.

Yotin Tiewtrakul  
Choir director

## Victorian Christmas Market



The annual Victorian Christmas Market took place in the ballrooms of the Baseler Hof on 26 and 27 November. This event, hosted by the British Consulate and the Hotel Baseler Hof, offered unique and fine gifts in a traditional atmosphere. A few members of our congregation are regular features at this Market, but this year our new chaplain and many others from our congregation also were present and helped, as the money raised at the event was donated for the restoration of our church building. The visitors to the market enjoyed the festive atmosphere, the Christmas carols, the costumes, good food and were in general very interested in our church. We hope to see many of these visitors again at our services!



## Hamburg's Christmas Market

On Friday, 9th December a group of us braved rain and sleet to meet at the Rathaus for a visit to the Christmas market and a Glühwein or two to warm us from the cold. This has been a tradition of the former Young Adults group and this time lots of people from the congregation came too.



Thankfully some were armed with umbrellas so we didn't get too wet. We did some fun Christmas singing and I was taught the lyrics of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" by Father Matthew. We were all very happy when Santa Claus and the fairy made an appearance at 8 pm and Birte expertly guided us to the best viewing point. After almost two hours and having rather soaked feet, we moved on to the Steigenberger Hotel, where we enjoyed a nice view and a good chat in the warm on a very comfortable sofa. All in all it was a lovely evening and I am sure it will be repeated next year.



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Great Year ahead!

Sally Wandrey



## Christmas and Greetings Cards - Sales Update - 11th December, 2011



Since our church bazaar three weeks ago, a further € 1,800 has so far been raised by card sales - about € 650 alone at the Victorian Christmas Market. Cards will be available at the Carol Service and are still being sold by various

members of the congregation and by other kind friends outside the church - for example at the International School, Helena Lange Schule, the German - American Women's Club, at a hairdresser's in Reinbek, a physiotherapy practice in Altona and at the Facharztlinik in Martinistrasse. The final results for this year, less the expenses for printing costs, envelopes and glue, will be known during the first half of January.

This is also a gentle reminder, please, to keep all your Christmas cards and bring them to church in the New Year to be recycled for NEXT year's card project! There will be the usual box or basket just inside the church door.

Judith Holst

## Carol Service and Junior Church Nativity Play, 18th December



I always feel in the Christmas spirit, not after the first visit to a Christmas Market, or after buying the first present, or decorating the tree or hearing Bing Crosby sing White Christmas, but after enjoying our Church's nativity performance! Today's service was a real joy to watch and listen to.

The service had the theme of "light" running through it and the whole Church seemed to light up when the children proceeded down the aisle in their costumes to the ohs and ahs of the older generations. The pure voices of the children singing in sheer enjoyment reminded me of all the happy times with my own children, now adults.

Our choir's rendition of four completely different Carols from around the World seemed to bring us nearer to the wider world and the Congregations rousing singing of all the traditional Carols was lovely. I am now definitely in the Christmas Spirit. All the preparation and hard work was well worth it. Thank you St. Thomas Becket for giving me the Christmas Spirit.

Irene Finn



### A Special Thankyou.

Many thanks to the team who prepared the church for Christmas this year. Renu organised the team of Kevin, Phillip, Chris and Jens pictured left, guarded by a somewhat bemused 'Samatha'.

**Well done lads!**

## The Church Wanderers



The Autumn series of walks began well with blue skies and sunshine for our visit in September to the Altes Land. In the past we have always chosen May, blossom time, for our walks in this area, but this year it was decided to go at harvest-time and we were richly rewarded. The orchards with row upon row of rosy, red apples were a delight for the eyes. Mouth-watering, too, and we were sorely tempted, but.....we are grown-ups now!

The tables and benches at our picnic spot had fortunately not been " bagged " by any rival group and we were able to spend a relaxing half-an-hour or so there before continuing along the path on the other bank of the Este to our favourite Gaststätte at Cranz for Kaffee u. Kuchen in the garden. Then back by 'bus to Finkenwerder, where we caught the ferry to the Hamburg Landungsbrücken, where our enjoyable day out had begun.



The weather in October was initially not so kind and on our way through the woods from Blankenese to Falkenstein we encountered several showers. Any seats along the route looked decidedly damp, so this time we didn't linger over our picnic. However, by the time we had reached the Sven Simon Park the sun was shining and we were able to take a break at the look-out point by the Puppenmuseum and to admire the view over the Elbe.

Not long before reaching Rissen, our destination, we encountered a woman who enquired anxiously whether we had seen her golden retriever, Consul. He had run off while she was talking to a friend. Eileen, our canine expert, quickly whipped out her whistle in the hope that Consul would respond to her signal and return to his mistress. There was no immediate response and we finally had to continue to the 'bus stop. However, before the 'bus arrived, who should appear appear but Consul + mistress. What a happy ending!



It was a chilly start for our November walk in the Harburger Berge - indeed, we had awoken to a heavy frost - and I was glad of Matthew's strong arm to help me down the steep slope leading to the Fischbeker Heide. The leaves made the path very slippery.

( Here I must mention that our new chaplain lost no time in signing up for the Wanderers after his arrival in Hamburg and this was his second time with us. Welcome, Matthew! )

It was a sunny day, though, and once the circulation got going we soon warmed up. When lunch-time came, however, the only table at our picnic spot was in the shade, but by perching on the wooden rail surrounding

the pond we could enjoy the early winter sunshine. Peter did even better and made himself comfy on a thick bed of autumn leaves!

Having reached an archaeological site, we weren't quite sure which path to take to the Moisburger Stein but a local couple walking their two dogs very kindly offered to lead us along a short cut through the woods on unmarked paths - quite an adventure. I was glad of my two "Wanderstöcke". Once at the Moisburger Stein, that familiar landmark, the final section of our walk to Kiekeberg went smoothly apart from one slight detour - just the Wanderers wandering, Matthew - you'll have to get used to that ) and we arrived in good time at the Gasthaus, so that we didn't have to hurry over our K. u. K. and could enjoy the "gemütliche Atmosphäre" before catching a 'bus back to Harburg station, or in the case of our other newcomer, Sylvia, to Neugraben.

Glad you could join us, Sylvia. Hope to see you again on future walks.

Cicely Hollingsworth

### **Future dates**

#### **14 January:**

Volksdorf to Poppenbüttel via the "Alte Mühle" (where we shall have a New Year's lunch, as December's programme postponed)

#### **11 February:**

Altona to Blankenese along the Elbe

#### **10 March:**

Ohlstedt to Ahrensburg West

## **Church Cookery Book**

Dear Members of the  
Church of St Thomas Becket,



In 1989 our Church produced a popular cookery book. We are planning to put together a new edition of The St Thomas Becket

Cookery Book – we plan to have this done especially for the forthcoming 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Church.

Therefore, we are asking you to send us your favourite recipe(s) by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. Maybe you can even include a small anecdote, (how you got this recipe, where it originates, a funny story or verse, etc.) We welcome ideas for snacks, salads, meat dishes, poultry, fish, vegetarian, pasta, soups, desserts, cakes, biscuits, in fact, anything you think someone else would enjoy!

Ladies and Gentlemen, in order to get the Cookery Book completed, we need your help. We very much look forward to receiving your recipes. All proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Church.



Please send your special recipe(s) to Eileen at the following e-mail address:

[Eileen.liebender@t-online.de](mailto:Eileen.liebender@t-online.de) or bring them to Church.

Best regards and thank you.  
Eileen Liebender and Irene Finn



## ***Extending a Welcome – 400 years of 'The English Church' in Hamburg***

As I write, the beginning of our birthday year is just three weeks away. A year which will be different, and hopefully make a difference. Since the first meeting of the initial small planning team (now much enlarged) in April 2010 we have been inspired by the opportunity the anniversary provides to make St Thomas Becket Church more visible and this could help us grow; we saw it as an vehicle for fund raising, but beyond that a chance to show confidently the relevance of the church to contemporary society and the contribution St Thomas Becket church makes to the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. So there you are – this is now what we have to deliver!

The activities planned so far include a fabulous series of concerts presenting music from the period in which the church was founded and more, put together by Karen under the appropriate heading '*Where Foreign Worlds Meet*'. Complementary to this is a series of monthly Choral Evensong, something very special to the Anglican tradition: the STB choir will be kick starting this. And at the end of the year you can all join in that very English of musical occasions – a scratch Messiah (start learning the notes!). Before that we will be holding an African event in the autumn, and Birte is busy organising a rota for the Saturday 'Open Church' operation which we also intend to use to celebrate the different nationalities represented in the congregation. When the Hamburg weather gets a bit warmer, Stuart will be leading some historical walks. There is room for more: anyone who wishes to put on an event can be assured of professional PR

support. You may have noticed the very professional flyers and PR material which have been produced to ensure we are visible. Please do pass these around. Thanks go to Dawes Communication and Design on Location for the top quality PR material which have raised our profile.

The motto for the year is *Extending a Welcome!* Extending the welcome given to the Merchant Adventurers in 1611, when the Senate of Hamburg granted them religious freedom to worship in English according to their practice, to those today who follow that tradition today. To extend the Welcome we need volunteers to provide that smiling welcome as ushers at concerts, manning the bookshop or providing coffee and cake perhaps on Saturday afternoons, helping out with the occasional visitor. All contributions however small are welcome.

If you are reading this from afar, are a former member of STB or a friend, please do get in touch. You are Welcome to pay us a visit – or just to send in your memories – there is space on the website to do this. We can offer some B&B accommodation as well as advice on hotels.

To find out more about events, how to get hold of tickets, visiting and interesting things about the history and current activities of the church, please visit the special 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary website [www.stbecket400.de](http://www.stbecket400.de).

A warm Welcome to the special birthday is extended to all readers of Becket News! Enjoy the 2012 party!

Monica - STB400 Coordinator



## Birthday Gifts – Donations to St Thomas Becket 400th Anniversary



St Thomas Becket Church does not receive any funding from any other source than what members and friends give: there is no grant from the Church of England and the church receives nothing from Kirchensteuer. Despite this, the church is almost able to cover its running costs. This is good except for the 'almost'. For the 400th anniversary we are hoping there may be some extra birthday donations to cover the costs of the events and to build up reserves especially for the repairs to the fabric. We also wish to put some money aside to be able to extend the ministry of the church towards supporting small community projects.

This can only become reality if we work hard to raise funds. The fabric needs some €300k worth of work. We are hoping that by raising the visibility of the church, we will raise significant additional funds towards this. The celebratory events to "Extend a Welcome" do cost to put on but they are being sponsored, for example, so that the ticket revenue contributes to the fund. Hapag-Lloyd are sponsoring the first concert. So far over 20.000 € has been donated which has enabled the production of professional PR material and support services.

Every little bit helps, so please encourage friends to make a small donation. Birthday gifts can be made to the special STB400 account:

Englisch-bischöfliche Gemeinde in Hamburg  
Hamburger Sparkasse  
Kontonummer : 1280383678  
IBAN: DE14200505501280383678

For those living outside Germany, there is the possibility to donate via Paypal by clicking the above icon on the [www.stbecket400.de](http://www.stbecket400.de) website.

A big thank you to everyone who donates. Sponsors are acknowledged on the STB400 website.



## 6200 and counting!

We are not at the end of 2011 yet, but already the number of visitors to the website is 30% up on 2010. Visitors with German IP address account for 64% of these, 17% from the US, 11% from the UK. Then over the past months we have the emergence of a fairly large group (253 at time of going to print) of nousey Australians for some reason. In total we have had visitors from 60 distinct countries.

Developments on the website have had to take a bit of a back burner while the STB400 website has been developed, but thanks to Chris a Facebook group has been set up so at least there have been some new developments. Also a webcast of Fr Matthews Institution has proved something of a hit.

Keep checking both websites [www.anglican-church-hamburg.de](http://www.anglican-church-hamburg.de), and [www.stbecket400.de](http://www.stbecket400.de) – there may be some surprises coming soon...

Your webmaste

Where Foreign Worlds Meet:  
**The Expatriate Experience**

<p>Konzertreihe zur 400-Jahr-Feier der Anglican Church in Hamburg, St Thomas Becket</p>	<p><b>Samstag</b> 28. Januar 2012 20:00 Uhr</p> <p><b>Freitag</b> 17. Februar 2012 20:00 Uhr</p> <p><b>Samstag</b> 17. März 2012 20:00 Uhr</p> <p><b>Samstag</b> 14. April 2012 20:00 Uhr</p> <p><b>Samstag</b> 12. Mai 2012 20:00 Uhr</p>	<p><b>Schirokkos Seereisen</b> Vivaldi   Valls   Marais   Telemann Rachel Harris, Ensemble Schirokko Hamburg</p> <p><b>Gala Benefit Concert</b> By invitation of the British Honorary Consul Claus-G. Bodelmann</p> <p><b>Entwined Inspirations</b> <b>Water, Spirit</b> Liszt   Ravel   Debussy   Takemitsu Clare Hammond, Piano</p> <p><b>Foreign Insult: English Baroque Music by Expatriate Composers</b> Händel   Barsanti   Finger   J.C. Bach   Mattheis Ensemble La Ricordanza</p> <p><b>Crossing the Border: Traditional and Baroque Music of the British Isles</b> Geminiani   Fischer   Munro Brian Berryman Trio</p>
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Eintrittskarten für €10/15/25 erhältlich bei den bekannten Vorverkaufsstellen und im Internet. Die Abendkasse öffnet 45 Minuten vor Konzertbeginn.

Weitere Termine, unter anderem mit Samuel Harist, Pera Ensemble, Monteverdi-Chor und nathan quartett auf [www.stbecket400.de/concerts](http://www.stbecket400.de/concerts)

Zehngausmarkt 22  
20459 Hamburg

**400 years** **Anglican Church in Hamburg | St Thomas Becket**  
[www.stbecket400.de](http://www.stbecket400.de)



## Christmas Quizaid Questions

1 According to the Christmas song what was the only present asked for?

*Two front teeth    Three pairs of socks    Five bath cubes    Four bars of soap*

2 What colour was Rudolph the Reindeer's nose?

*Blue    Green    Orange    Red*

3 Where does Santa Claus live?

*Iceland    Scotland    Turkey    Lapland*

4 How many sides does a snowflake have?

*Twelve    Eight    Six    Ten*

5 In the song 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' what pudding was asked for?

*A plum pudding    A rice pudding    A sticky toffee pudding    A figgy pudding*

6 At Christmas, it is customary to exchange kisses beneath a sprig of which plant?

*Poinsettia    Mistletoe    Ivy    Holly*

7 Which of the following was not a gift from the three wise men?

*Diamonds    Gold    Frankincense    Myrrh*

8 In the movie 'Miracle on 34th Street', Kris Kringle is hired to play Santa Claus in what large department store?

*Schoenfeld's    Marshall Field's    Macy's    Gimble's*

9 Who was the author of 'A Christmas Carol'?

*Mark Twain    Charles Dickens    Hans Christian Anderson    Clement Moore*

10 How many gifts would you receive if you received all the gifts mentioned in the song '12 days of Christmas'?

*364    296    196    398*

Try the full quiz and get the answers from: <http://www.surefish.co.uk/quizaid/index.htm>

MERRY QUIZMAS - The deadline for the next issue of Becket News is -  
Sunday 18 March, 2012.



## Sunday Services : January - March 2012

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](http://www.anglican-church-hamburg.de)

Sundays or Weekdays	Service	Officiant	Lectionary Readings
<b>January</b>			
01 January. 2nd Sunday of Christmas	10:30 Holy Communion	MJones	Isaiah 61.10-62.3; Galatians 4.4-7, Luke 2.15-21
08 January. Epiphany	10:30 Holy Communion	MJones	Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12
15 January. Epiphany 2	10:30 Holy Communion	MJones	1 Samuel 3.1-10, Revelation 5.1-10, John 1.43-51
22 January. Epiphany 3	10:30 Holy Communion	MJones	Genesis 14.17-20, Revelation 19.6-10, John 2.1-11
29 January. Candlemas	10:30 Holy Communion, Trad Lang	MJones	Malachi 3.1-5, Hebrews 2.14-18, Luke 2.22-40
<b>February</b>			
05 February. 3rd before Lent	10:30 Holy Communion	MJones	Isaiah 40.21-31, I Corinthians 9.16-23, Mark 1.29-39
12 February. 2nd before Lent	10:30 Holy Communion	MJones	Proverbs 8.1,22-31, Colossians 1.15-20, John 1.1-14
<b>18 February. 400th Anniversary</b>	<b>15:00 Thanksgiving service</b>		
19 February. Sunday before Lent	10:30 Holy Communion	MJones	1 Kings 2.1-12, 2 Corinthians 4.3-6, Mark 9.2-9
22 February. Ash Wednesday	19:00 Communion and Penitence	MJones	Isaiah 58.1-12, 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10, Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21
26 February. 1st Sunday of Lent	10:30 Holy Communion, Trad Lang	MJones	Genesis 9-8-17, I Peter 3.18-22, Mark 1.9-15
<b>March</b>			
04 March. 2nd Sunday of Lent	10:30 Holy Communion	MJones	Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16, Romans 4.13-25, Mark 8.31-38
11 March. 3rd Sunday of Lent <i>Christian Giving Sunday</i>	10:30 Holy Communion	MJones	Exodus 20.1-17, 1 Corinthians 1.18-25, John 2.13-22
18 March. Mothering Sunday	10:30 Family Service	MJones	Special readings
25 March. 5th Sunday of Lent	10:30 Holy Communion, Trad Lang	MJones	Jeremiah 31.31-34, Hebrews 5.5-10, John 12.20-33
<b>April</b>			
01 April. Palm Sunday	10.30 Holy Communion	MJones	Gospel Mark 11.1-11, Philippians 2-5-11, Passion Drama
05 April. Maundy Thursday	19:00 Holy Communion and Vigil	MJones	Exodus 12.1-4, 11-14, I Corinthians 11.23-26, John 13.1-17, 31b-35
06 April. Good Friday	10:30 Good Friday liturgy	MJones	Isaiah 52.13-53.12, Heb.4.14-16, 5.7-9, John's Passion Drama
08 April. Easter Day	10:30 Easter Service	MJones	Isaiah 25.6-9, Acts 10.34-43, Mark 16.1-8

# Who's Who at our Church

## Chaplain

Revd Matthew Jones

## Telephone

(040) 4392334

## Church Council

Deborah Ockert, Churchwarden	0170 147 5544
Renu Roy, Churchwarden	(04103) 16584
Peter Alexander, Secretary	(040) 475015
Stuart Cooke, Treasurer, Vice Chair	0178 5616463
Matilda Hammond	(040) 5323931
Emmanuel Saarkodie (Giving envelopes)	(040) 6412157
Christopher Sacra	0151 4192 0532
Wendy Sprock	0173 206 1521

## Council of Anglican and Episcopal Churches in Germany - Delegates

Harriet Sasse	(040) 46862994
Birte Fischer	(040) 21057391
Karen Bergquist-Lüth	(040) 50097673

## Other Ministries

Child Protection Officer	Pieter Thomas	(040) 53331324
Choir & Organ	Jochim Trede	(040) 7135448
		(040) 71404826 Fax.
Choir Director	Yotin Tiewtrakul	(04104) 9706-15
Church Wanderers	Cicely Hollingsworth	(040) 860790
Electoral Roll Officer	Birte Fischer	(040) 21057391
Assistant	Emmanuel Saarkodie	(040) 6412157
Flower List	Ellen Ziesmann	(040) 22697878
FWO Giving Envelopes	Emmanuel Saarkodie	(040) 6412157
Greeting Cards	Judith Holst	(040) 8800727
Junior Church	Karen Bergquist-Lüth	(040) 50097673
Ladies Christian Fellowship	Renu Roy	(04103) 16584
Magazine Editor	John Finn	(040) 86626673
		(040) 86626674 Fax.
Mothers' Union	Erika Anders	(040) 582850
Refreshment Rota	Emmanuel Saarkodie	(040) 6412157
Shared Prayer	Cicely Hollingsworth	(040) 860790
Sidesmen's Rota	Deborah Ockert	0170 147 5544
The Sacristan	Paul Fletcher	(040) 784630

Young Adults  
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)

**Church Bank Account : Hamburger Sparkasse, BLZ 200 505 50, Konto-Nr. 1280146422**

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