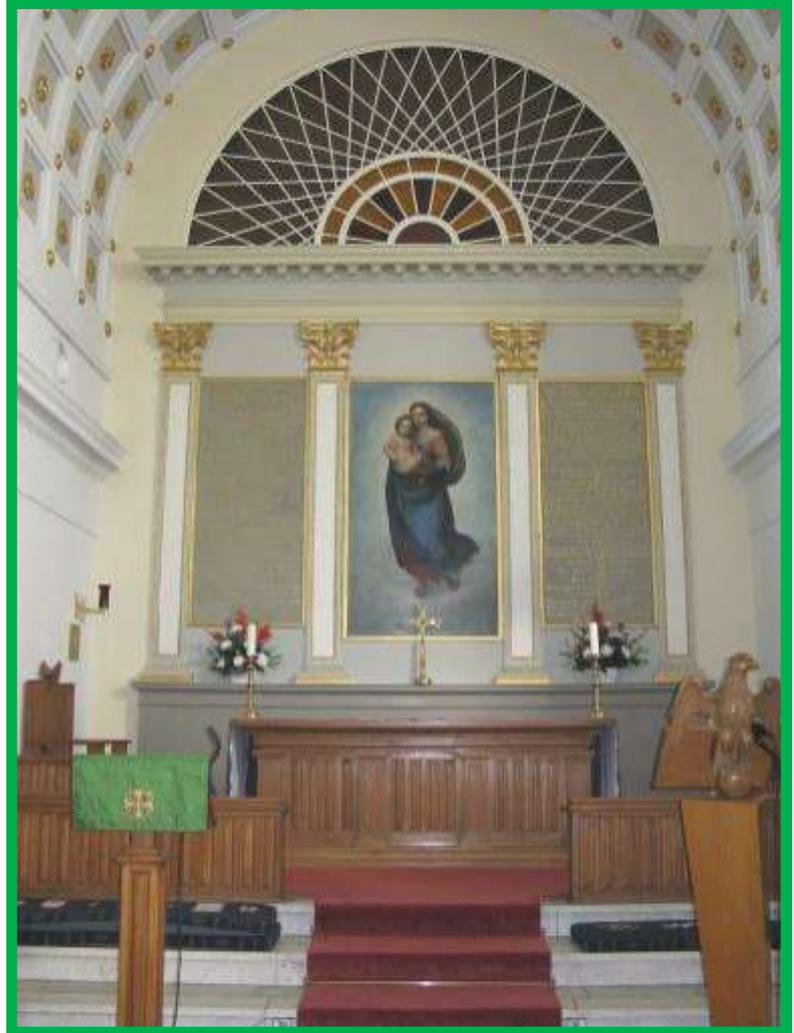


Becket News



The Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket

Zeughausmarkt 22, 20459 Hamburg

www.anglican-church-hamburg.de

Our church receives no income from church tax (Kirchensteuer) and is entirely dependent on donations which are tax deductible. For church bank account details please see inside the cover page or contact the treasurer for more details

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PHOTOS IN THIS ISSUE, WHERE KNOWN AND UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED: MONICA SCHOFIELD (6), JOYCELINE ANACOURA-SCHMIDT (6)

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From the Church Wardens

What a lot of emotions we've shared since the last edition of Becket News! On 28 June we said goodbye to Father Matthew after nearly four years of exciting, stimulating and sometimes challenging ministry. As I said then, Matthew let us know, by giving life to the biblical stories in his sermons, that the way God wants us to live is to trust in him – whatever we have to face for ourselves and for our congregation. It was hard to let him go, but we rejoice with him as he follows God's call to serve in Ballina, Australia, just as we trust God that He is now planting the seeds of a new calling in the heart of Matthew's successor.

The formal process to appoint that successor is now under way. On 16 July the Chaplaincy Council met with Acting Archdeacon, The Ven. Peter Potter, to discuss our Parish Profile and financial questionnaire, among other things. We only have until 22 September to complete all the paperwork, so it's a tight schedule.

Karen Bergquist-Lüth has kindly agreed to coordinate the Parish Profile once more, and those of you on the electoral roll or in church recently will have heard about our parish survey. We'd like to get a better picture of who we are: where we come from; what brought us here; what moves us as a community and where we want to go. Thanks to everyone who has already completed the survey. If you haven't yet, the questions are on page 4.

The Archdeacon confirmed that, if we want to continue to grow – as our mission statement says we do – we need a full-time Chaplain. This was also the message from the consultation meetings Fr Matthew led last winter. To be allowed to recruit another full-time priest, the Chaplaincy Council must give assurances that it is in position to pay a stipend and cover the costs of housing. Our finances are currently solid and stable, but

with this requirement in mind we are launching an appeal to the wider English-speaking community in Hamburg to make a pledge of financial support by regular donation over a three-year period. We will be in touch separately about this, but please consider whether there are any people you know who might value having a full-time Chaplain in Hamburg enough to be prepared to support this ministry financially.

We may not have a full-time Chaplain right now, but we do have locums lined up to look after us for the rest of the year. Revd John Newsome, who was Chaplain in Hamburg from 1993 to 2000, will be making a welcome return in August, and then Revd Clifford Poole, who was one of our locums during the last vacancy and took our services when Matthew was on leave in Australia, will be back again from September until Christmas. On your behalf, we would like to thank Revd Christopher Jage-Bowler and Revd Dr Irene Ahrens, both from St George's Berlin, and Pastor Jungbauer of the Old Catholics for taking our services in July.

Finally, please pray for the Church Council during this period of discernment and for the Holy Spirit to whisper into the ear of our next Chaplain. You may like to use the prayer Fr Matthew gave us:

**Bountiful God,
give to this chaplaincy a faithful pastor
who will faithfully speak your word
and minister your sacraments;
an encourager who will equip your people
for ministry
and enable us to fulfil our calling.
Give to those who will choose, wisdom,
discernment and patience,
and to us give warm and generous hearts,
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.**

God bless

Susanne Hergoss
on behalf of the Church Wardens and
Chaplaincy Council

Parish Survey 2015

For our parish profile, we would like to get a better picture of who we are as a congregation: where we come from; what brought us here; what moves us as a community. We need this information in order to present an up to date profile of our congregation in our search for a new Chaplain.

Please take a few minutes to help us by completing the following survey:

1. Home country:
2. Native language(s)
3. Age:
under 21 21-30 31-40 41-60 over 60
4. Married / Single
5. Children: yes / no
If yes, how many:
6. Profession:
Retired: yes / no
7. What brought you to Hamburg (study, work, love, adventure) and how long have you been here?
8. How long have you attended St Thomas Becket?
9. Where did you attend church previously?
10. How long does it take you to get to church on Sundays?
11.min. by public transport or by car
12. Which church activities/events have you attended in the last year?
13. What groups or ministries have you participated in or supported at STB?
14. How has the Church of St Thomas Becket made a difference in your life?
15. What do you love about our Church?
16. What is your greatest dream for our Church community?

You can fill out the form either electronically or by hand and return it to Karen Bergquist-Lüth (karen.bergquist.lueth(at)t-online.de), our Wardens Susanne and David or any other member of the church council



CAECG

The Council of Anglican and Episcopal Churches in Germany

“Do you know what an ‘Evangelischer Kirchentag’ is?” asks Birte Fischer. It’s “a mixture of an Open University summer school, a Bible convention, Taizé, a synod meeting, the Edinburgh Festival, a brass band festival for 500 bands, an Ideal Homes exhibition and a cup final – all rolled into one and all going on at the same time ...”

That’s how one participant from Great Britain described the “Kirchentag”, a phenomenon that, like the word itself, is hard to define or compare to anything else. It is a unique event and a tremendous experience.

Every two years in a different German city, about 100,000 people gather together for five days in May or June, from Wednesday to Sunday. The programme offers about 3,000 separate events.

Birte with Almut and Solveyg on the stand



I decided to volunteer to help at the stall of CAECG. It was an experience. Our stall was intended to provide people with information about Anglicans in Germany. There were a lot of conversations. People were very open and had a lot of questions. Members from other churches in Germany served at the stall as well. Bishop Robert took one shift at the stall and so did our former Archdeacon, Jonathan. Our booth became a meeting point for

Anglican Clergy. But the number of visitors declined from day to day. It was too hot! It must have been more than 40° in the exhibition hall. It felt like a sauna at 80° with water thrown on every 15 minutes for extra steam.

I had a wonderful time meeting lots of new people and at the last evening attended a beautiful Taizé service in a hall with around 9,000 people. It was so amazing. We’ll meet again in Berlin, in two years’ time.

Changes to Safeguarding and Checks

Changes to the Diocese in Europe’s Safeguarding procedures are taking place to bring Europe into line with other Church of England dioceses. Bishop Robert has written to church leaders commending a new Safeguarding Guide which helps to answer when a formal clearance certificate is required.

He writes: “In my first year of ministry as bishop, I have become aware that this is an area where there is a good deal of confusion, with some people being checked who don’t need to be, and others not being checked who should be. The [new guide] gives clarification. It has taken a surprisingly large amount of work to get a document that has the right level of precision whilst still being intelligible.” Canon law was recently enacted at the York general synod making it a matter of discipline for clergy to be aware of and act in accordance with the practice guidance.

The Diocese in Europe website states: “All clergy and Readers have Safeguarding training and need criminal record check clearance certificates as a normal part of their ministry. Hundreds of lay volunteers in local churches across Europe are being encouraged to go through the process to ensure that our congregations are safe places for young and vulnerable people to visit.”

Our Safeguarding Officer at St Thomas Becket is Norbert Schoen. You can find his contact details on the back page of Becket News. You can read more about the Diocese’s Safeguarding policy on the website at <http://europe.anglican.org/what-we-do/safeguarding>

A FOND FAREWELL TO FATHER MATTHEW

Photos, speeches plus greetings from Ballina

Monica Schofield sums up STB's farewell to Father Matthew (first published 9 July on europe.anglican.org)

On 28 June 2015, the Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket, Hamburg more than doubled its usual Sunday congregation as 250+ people filled the church to give Father Matthew Jones a good send off for his return to Australia. Though there is much sadness in his leaving, the service and shared lunch afterwards was also a joyful celebration of Fr Matthew's ministry over nearly four years. A very broad cross-section of people from Hamburg and beyond was present – regulars and irregulars! The fact that this was a Sunday meant that

reflect on the contribution Fr Matthew had made to the life of STB. Jochim Trede, who last year celebrated 50 years as STB's regular organist (and who has therefore seen a few chaplains come and go) spoke of Matthew's sensitivity to music and liturgy, his ability to communicate and with warmth about his enduring positive nature which he experienced every Sunday morning as both were first in church. Peter Alexander speaking as STB's 'elder statesman' summarised the achievements of Matthew's ministry as a whole and not least his management skill in developing the Chaplaincy Council to the great team it now is.

Fr Matthew came to STB thanks to Fr Fred, a fellow Aussie and regular locum in Heidelberg, who drew Fr Matthew's attention to the STB flyer announcing the planned 400th anniversary. All part of God's plan, it seems. So when the new priest arrived in Hamburg in September 2011 he was whisked straight off the plane into a press conference to kick-off what became a very full programme of anniversary events in 2012 (everything from concerts, parties and seminars) followed by a year of church renovation in 2013 made possible by the funds raised. A beautiful sign 'Englische Kirche – Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket' now lights the building for all to see and Fr Matthew's bright idea of moving the office from the Chaplain's Flat into the vestry means that the church is now more accessible to visitors. At the end of the celebratory year a new mission statement was presented to Bishop David to commission STB's future life to be '*A welcoming, active and inclusive church, growing in our relationship with God and the wider community*'. Through his enthusiasm and open attitude to all people, this is what the STB's community strives to live up to and thanks to his leadership, to good measure succeeds in being.

Churchwarden Susanne Hergoss made the connection to the wider world and the link between Australia and Hamburg. It was noted how blessed we are to be part of a worldwide church that made it possible to receive a priest from 'down under'. The Chaplaincy/Parish



many ecumenical colleagues were busy in their own churches (ACKH – Churches Together in Hamburg had said their goodbyes earlier). Nevertheless ecumenical friends from Lutheran, Old Catholic and Roman Catholic churches were present including Alexander Röder, Hauptpastor of the St Michaelis Church (Hamburg's central Lutheran church) and Nisse Renman, Pastor of the Swedish Church (who together with Fr Matthew has ensured an ecclesiastical presence in the Irish Rover).

Following a lively service involving music reflecting the diversity of STB congregation and a good line up of Junior Church's 30+ members, plus the admittance of yet two new members of Mothers' Union, it was time to

Councils of STB and Ballina New South Wales, where Fr. Matthew will be taking up his next appointment, have exchanged messages of goodwill (they are just about forgiven for headhunting). The maritime theme so prevalent in Hamburg provided inspiration for the gift presented as a reminder of Hamburg: a model ship made by the fair hands of a seaman over 100 years ago – shipping included.

Afterwards several hundred people took their leave of Fr Matthew, patiently standing in a long queue to do so, while others enjoyed a shared lunch. The sun shone and, despite the sadness in letting go of a much loved pastor, the church community is strong, flourishing and looking forward to whoever God calls next to this special place in the Diocese in Europe.

Peter Alexander's speech on Father Matthew's last Sunday

A welcoming, active and inclusive church, growing in our relationship with God and the wider community

That mission statement at the head of the church website was only presented to David Hamid, our bishop, when he visited the church on the Feast of Christ the King in November, 2012, just over a year after you arrived, Matthew, in September 2011.

Welcoming, active, inclusive – without you, Matthew, the church could in recent years never have come so far towards at least partly achieving those adjectives. One of your first decisions was to move the parish office from



the Chaplain's flat into the Vestry, paving the way for the church to be open far more often during weekdays, for all sorts of passers-by to discover its existence. In the early days, Philipp Rogall as a BUFDI was here to help man the building. Having been pitchforked into a press conference about our 400th anniversary almost the moment you arrived from Australia, you then threw yourself into welcoming people at the series of concerts arranged to celebrate that. Those brought around 1000 people through the doors of the church, many for the first time. In June 2012 you commented: "We can learn a lot by trying, but we learn very little by never having a go." Your ideas on events for the church went much further. Reporting soon afterwards about Bastille Day, i.e. 14 July, you stated that "I am a firm believer that opportunities for fun and fellowship are important in extending a welcome." A wide variety of other events have followed: the Heretics Dinner, Elvis in both 2013 and 2014,





liturgy. In particular, your sermons have struck a chord. On most Sundays, you have started these by making sense of the day's readings for your listeners. Then towards the climax, even when you have gone 'off script', to quote one of your greatest admirers, and the pace of your delivery has accelerated, your stories have captivated and

“a great success and people were literally dancing in the aisles”, you reported, the Diamond Jubilee party, Africa Days, India Days, the interesting lectures by Martin Leafe, the Victorian Minstrels. Often, Matthew, nobody – except maybe Tina - dressed up better or more colourfully for the event than you did. Over in your flat, you hosted many discussion groups and put up many visitors, and it also became the venue for the meetings of the Mothers' Union.

While all this life was being injected into the church, plans were laid for the renovation of the exterior. Here too, your open and friendly manner was invaluable in attracting support from traditional and less traditional Hamburg circles alike. One epoch-making encounter occurred in autumn 2012 at Hamburg's then fairly new Welcome Centre for newcomers, with Phil and Debra Zeni. We are all aware of what they did for the church in recent years. Other crucial links you fostered were with Claus Budelmann, the British Honorary Consul, Alk Friedrichsen, the church architect, and Willi Fischer, a retired craftsman who has improved the church in several vital corners. Driving out to Othmarschen or Blankenese come evening, as many of you here today will do, just look to the left after passing the Michel and the KPMG block, and remember Matthew and these invaluable contacts.

So much for the “welcoming”. Under the “active”, the church gives pride of place to Worship. Jochim has spoken of your role in music here. The basic pattern of services has remained relatively unchanged for some decades. Yet you have truly brought the right spirit and a firm purpose into putting over the

entertained us and held our attention to the end. I have seldom gone home without feeling enlivened, with a sense that the Bible has something to teach us.

At special seasons you have been instrumental in creating quiet corners for prayer, contemplation and reflection, the most memorable of which was the Nativity scene in the Sanctuary at Christmas last year. On occasion, too, you have made way for worship in a different, more modern style. Many will also remember the Feast of St Francis with the blessing of animals that was almost a “first” in this church.

As secretary of the Council, at this point I must thank you for all your unfailing support in keeping it on the rails and making the records reliable. You also gave very effective backing to reorganizing the way the church's finances are run. Not for nothing had you spent ten successful years in business before opting to become ordained.

Yet I personally feel that of the three virtues that we claim for our church, most of all you have been a shining example of what it means to be inclusive. That starts with your passionate commitment to baptism as one of the two great sacraments, the wonderful way in which you have adjusted to the age and background of the child and his or her supporters, continues with those quick tête-à-têtes with small children coming to the altar rail, and your staunch backing for Junior Church. Yet it is most widely reflected in the rapport that your openness and friendliness have so rapidly established with people of all ages, so many sorts and conditions. You have

child and his or her supporters, continues with those quick têtes-à-têtes with small children coming to the altar rail, and your staunch backing for Junior Church. Yet it is most widely reflected in the rapport that your openness and friendliness have so rapidly established with people of all ages, so many sorts and conditions. You have shown boundless understanding, even for those with other beliefs or amazing illusions. You have entertained rogues from outside and inside the church, and there I would include myself, and won their support, and you became a valued guest in such varied establishments as the Irish Rover and the El Paisa at the East end of the church.

Yet you have not traded on your achievements. The great majority of us here are still unaware of the challenges you faced. Your role as the Bishop's Adviser on Deliverance, for example, took you down to Switzerland and over to Britain. Above all, however, you virtually never either expressed or tolerated criticism of

others, always seeing the best in people and keeping your own thoughts to yourself. Your example has encouraged us to be more tolerant of others and has created a more helpful spirit in the counsels of the church.

For all this and for many other lively memories, dear Matthew, we shall always be grateful to the Almighty for having sent you here. To the thanks of all here today or of those unavoidably prevented, we would all add a prayer that all may go well for you out in the Far East of Australia. In German terms, *Mag das Schicksal Dir Hold sein!*

Like Father Fred, who drew your attention to an STB flyer for the 400th anniversary, and set you on the way here, may you long survive as a force for good; as an active, outgoing, much loved and somewhat taller pillar of the church.

Jochim Trede's speech

Dear friends in Christ, dear Matthew,

I assume the reason for being asked by our warden Susanne to say some words on the occasion of Matthew's farewell is the fact that meanwhile I am one of the fixtures of this church. Nevertheless it is an honour, although I still don't find the occasion a very happy one and I am definitely not in the mood to sing this beautiful gospel 'O happy day' which we sometime ago sang at a wedding.

Matthew often uses the phrase 'incredibly powerful' relating to words out of the scripture. I would like to quote him by saying: Today ends an incredibly powerful ministry at St Thomas Becket in Hamburg. And I would like to add I don't know anyone who is happy about that.

Let me tell you of a special moment sometime ago which impressed me deeply. It was at the beginning of Matthew's ministry. I watched the television report of the service commemorating the 400th anniversary. There was a take showing the clergy round the altar and then closer Matthew's face singing the response of psalm 84: How lovely are thy dwellings, music written by Yotin. I don't have any copy of the recording but have still in my mind Matthew's blissful, transfigured facial expression. In that

moment I was finally sure that St Thomas had got a musical, music loving, music appreciating Chaplain and this turned out to be true.

Continued on page 17







ANGLICAN PARISH OF BALLINA- AUSTRALIA

10th June 2015

The Anglican Community
St Thomas Becket Anglican Church
Zeughausmarkt 22
20459 Hamburg
Germany

Dear Fellow Anglicans

Greetings from the Parish of Ballina, Australia, especially members of the Parish Council.

Be assured of our prayers as you celebrate Reverend Matthew's time as Chaplain and prepare for his leave taking. As a ministry concludes it is a time of mixed feeling and emotions. It is a time of giving thanks to God for Reverend Matthew's gifts and the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the people. It is also a time of uncertainty as you discern God's will for your community and the next Chaplain/leader.

We are looking forward with excitement to Reverend Matthew's arrival and his time with us as Rector of our Parish.

We extend an invitation of hospitality to come and visit us and enjoy this part of God's world.

We will especially remember you in our prayers on Sunday 28th June and in the coming months during this time of transition.

Yours in Christ

John Bryen
Parish Council Secretary



From the Chaplaincy Council...

Dear Friends in Ballina

Many thanks for your greetings and good wishes.

The community of St Thomas Becket is sad that Fr Matthew is leaving us, but we knew the day would come for him to return 'home'. It has been an enormous privilege to have experienced his ministry here in Hamburg. Our church community has grown in numbers, financially, but above all as a community. You are gaining a priest with remarkable gifts for engaging with people of all backgrounds.

We are sad to let go of him, but glad that he is following his calling to you. We hope that this may link our two corners of the Anglican community and likewise we extend a warm welcome to any of your number who may have the opportunity to visit Hamburg.

Thank you for your prayers as we seek a worthy successor. Be assured of our prayers for your church too as you prepare to receive Fr Matthew.

Greetings from your sisters and brothers in Christ at St Thomas Becket Church.

More greetings from Australia:

To my very special friends at St Thomas Becket church, Hamburg

I am struggling to find the words to express my deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks for the beautiful cards, letters, gifts and expressions of love you have given me. The amazing 'ship' gift left me speechless on the day it was presented. Words are too limiting to fully express how overwhelmed I am by your sentiments and generosity ... I am praying for your all in this time of transition and look forward to hearing news of your new ventures from time to time. Please pray for me as I adjust to life back in Australia and as I begin a new chapter in my ministry journey. I continue to enjoy wonderful memories of my time in Hamburg.

God bless you all, Matthew

I was hungry and you fed me

The words of Jesus ring true in Athens on Saturday 1 August 2015. While in Northern Europe media focus is on the 'migrant crisis' in Calais and its effects on Britain and France the continuing ministry of Greek churches, including the Anglican chaplaincy of Greater Athens is a daily challenge.



Fr Malcolm and Captain Polis Pandelidis of the Salvation Army (behind) leave sandwiches outside the tents.

Canon Malcolm Bradshaw has sent an illustrated story to the diocesan website to help our understanding and prayers, and also in the hope that Christians around Europe may be able to respond with financial help to this work which is part of our Gospel calling.

Donations can be sent to:

**The Diocese in Europe
Attention Nick Wraight - Finance Officer
14 Tufton Street
London, SW1P 3QZ
Please mark the donation: Migrant
Emergency Needs - Athens**

Money may be transferred directly in to the diocesan bank account.

For details and the full story, see <http://europe.anglican.org/news/news/post/933-i-was-hungry-and-you-fed-me>

(Text and photo: europe.anglican.org)

Poking around in dark corners – news from the Church Recording Project

If you visit St Thomas Becket during a weekday, you might find some of the Church Recording team on their knees or snooping into cupboards. This is part of the work involved in examining the woodwork, the memorials (including the remains of George Canning, concealed under concrete!), the altar frontals and other textiles, the lighting (which found one member up in the attic looking at the winding gear), as well as other areas of the interior. The team is generally divided into pairs, each pair responsible for researching, examining and recording their subject. We are pleased that Jochim Trede has offered to conduct research into the church organ.



Picture: Staatsarchiv Hamburg

We have two dedicated library recorders (they are responsible for paperwork) who have been methodically wading through volumes of files and papers, including old minutes, photographs, account books and the like, stored in the cellar of the Chaplain's flat.

As yet we do not have any interesting photographs to print, but this will follow as we come up with more interesting photogenic material and our project photographer jumps into action.

Finally, the Church and the recording team would be very pleased to receive details from any member of the church – such as information on past interior works, articles, documents or church property in their safekeeping that might form part of the record of the church interior.

Pat Pledger
BRIDFAS of Hamburg e.V
[patpledger.bet\(at\)t-online.de](mailto:patpledger.bet(at)t-online.de)

Several meetings have been attended at the Museum für Hamburgische Geschichte in respect of the church silver, which is stored there and some pieces exhibited. The most notable piece is a Christening bowl presented by two Merchant Adventurers ("Marchants" as they were then known), William Christmas and John Bird, in 1611 (or 1613 depending on the date, still being checked). Other pieces include two Communion cups (17th century, Augsburg), two flagons (18th century, Hamburg) and a paten (a small shallow dish) by Putinati (19th century).



Picture: Staatsarchiv Hamburg



WANDERERS WALKS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2015

April 11th

The April walk in the Oberalster area from Ohlstedt to Poppenbüttel was a real spring outing. As we left the station and passed through a school yard, we were delighted by the sight of a cherry tree in glorious blossom, for some of us the first of the season. We continued along the edge of the Wohldorfer Wald, and at the Wohldorfer Schleuse turned south, keeping to the left side of the Alster River. The route was varied and beautiful, gently hilly and with the river almost always in sight. The Rodenbeker Quellental nature reserve lived up to its reputation with carpets of wood anemones, and when we stopped for lunch, we glimpsed a deer between the trees. The pleasant route and mild weather meant



that the eight of us kept up a good pace, and we reached Poppenbüttel in very satisfactory time. Here we went our separate ways, with some of us returning by bus to Ohlstedt where we joined the long queue waiting for ice cream at the station kiosk. This is obviously an ice cream lovers' insider tip!

May 9th

Our May walk at Burg in Dithmarschen is a firm favourite with the Wanderers and six of us boarded the train at Altona in high spirits. We were rather dismayed to observe how the dark clouds and showers became more numerous the nearer we came to our destination, and when we reached Burg, Eileen was waiting on the platform to greet us under a big umbrella. The rain bucketed down but stopped after only ten minutes, and we were joined by three other walkers and William, our first canine Wanderer. (His impeccable behaviour during



the entire walk was, by the way, exemplary!) Eileen led us through beautiful woodland stretches, including the justly named Paradise Valley, and we enjoyed the sight of small lakes and peaceful meadows. A very strong wind blew for a while, but we were sheltered by a hedgerow and – most importantly – not a drop of rain spoilt our enjoyment.

When we emerged from the trees at the Kiel Canal, we stopped for a picnic lunch at convenient rustic table. Being by the canal and watching the ships of all sizes passing by always gives me a very pleasant sense of being part of the big wide world. After lunch we continued along the canal to the Burg Ferry, where we made our obligatory cross-canal ferry trip. This mini cruise, return, costs nothing because ferries across man-made waterways are free of charge in Germany. Back in Burg at the end of our 11 kilometre round trip, we had a leisurely coffee break before returning to the station for the journey home. Our train had been cancelled due to some technical problem, but Eileen reassured us that the next one would arrive in an hour and most kindly kept us company and kept our spirits up until it did. This unforeseen delay could not mar the pleasure of a really great day.

June 13th

Eight of us got off the train an hour late at Sankt Peter Ording to be met by Jo and Marion, who were leading the walk, two Wanderers who had driven up and William. The day before it had been 30 degrees and humid, but on the 13th it was a lot cooler, with a lot of threatening rain clouds and, it being the North Sea, a brisk breeze. Most of us were sensibly dressed in the best North German tradition. We were soon distracted from weather worries by the attractiveness of the route we took through beautiful woods in the direction of the beach. The mix of evergreen

and deciduous trees and the unusual wild flowers, some of which Jo identified for us, gradually gave way to a dune landscape and, when we climbed the observation tower, the view of forest, dunes and the sea itself was most impressive.

As soon as we reached the beach, so extensive in its width and length, we settled down in the sand to enjoy our picnic lunch. This took us quite some time as the boxes of salad stuff, fruit, sausages and other goodies were passed along the line to be shared. A few rain drops began to fall as we started off again, and rain gear was hurriedly pulled on, but despite the really inky black clouds, we continued along the firm sand admiring the huddles of kite surfers being initiated into the mysteries of their sport and the general brisk good humour of the numbers of day trippers marching along with us. The famous restaurants and rest rooms on stilts were enthusiastically photographed.

It had been decided not to do the 13 kilometres originally planned because of our late arrival, and so we made for the wooden bridge leading back to the town and its many cafes and restaurants. As we gathered in one of these for a welcome break, the rain which had threatened for so long came down heavily. Much later, as we began to make our way back to the station, it obligingly stopped. All in all a grand experience. Many thanks to Jo and Marion who might consider leading another walk in spring when we could enjoy the very special flora and fauna of the Eiderstedt salt marshes.



Ladies Christian Fellowship

Ladies Christian Fellowship has continued to meet regularly on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month for a discussion or talk.

In April the group met at Ellen Ziesmann's for an English tea and initial discussions on where to donate some money raised by members.

May saw a meeting hosted by Renate Babel-Friedrich and Jens Friedrich. Jens talked about the birds and animals he takes with him on visits to old people's homes, and there was a lively discussion on the benefits for health and wellbeing that older people get from contacts with animals. Irene Finn was the host for the June meeting, where she presented the story of the history of the 100 years of the Women's Institute. July found the group at Renu Roy's home, where Renu initiated a discussion on what LCF can do to help refugees in Hamburg – details to follow.

August will find members back at Ellen Ziesmann's, and the September meeting will be held on the 1st at the home of Jane Zeisemer.

Anyone is welcome to join the meetings whenever they can. You don't have to be a regular. If you'd like to know more, Renu would be happy to hear from you. You can find her contact details on the back page.



Mothers' Union

Revd Erika Anders writes:

The MU meeting in June was the last meeting hosted by Fr Matthew in his flat. During this meeting we thanked Fr Matthew for his hospitality and generosity. He invited the MU to have their monthly meetings in the Chaplain's flat, joined our meetings and celebrated Holy Communion with us.

Fr Matthew showed to all of us what it means in practice to be welcoming and caring, as the Mission Statement of St. Thomas Becket says. We wish Fr Matthew joy and happiness in this beautiful part of the world and all of God's blessings for him and his future congregation. We hope to establish a link with the MU in Ballina.

MU news

On 31 May Katja Clajus was admitted to MU and welcomed by our members. During Fr Matthew's last service on 28 June, two new members were admitted: Gladys Okiemute Ekelemu and Chioma Onyeakazi Okeke. We are very happy to welcome you all to the MU.

It is wonderful to see the MU in Hamburg growing. I would like to thank all members for their support to make our MU in St Thomas Becket a very special group. Our next meeting is on 7 August 2015.

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Matthew often expressed this appreciation to us musicians in front of the congregation. His knowledge and choice of hymns with the right mixture of old and new was excellent. I regret that we sang 'Mine eyes have seen the coming of the glory of the Lord' only once. Matthew told me that this hymn is sung enthusiastically in Australia and is a big hit there.

I admire Matthew's high sensitivity to everything concerning liturgy and mood. He knows also how to make the church year clear and tangible, for example by arranging the garden of Gethsemane during lent.

I am not sure if I'm permitted to say something about sermons. Is it impudent to say that sometimes sermons happen to be boring? In

any case I can't remember one single boring sermon from Matthew. They always were inspiring, near to the Bible and people's daily and spiritual life, radiating his passionate faith, and – is it permitted to say that? – entertaining too. I was completely dumbfounded when I once asked Matthew after a service for his manuscript and he answered: There isn't any. This was amazing as the sermons seemed always well prepared and structured. The explanation is easy: Matthew is simply a highly gifted preacher.

This is the point for me to imitate Matthew by telling a little anecdote, in this case about sermons. (My best joke not translatable ...) You will like it, Matthew. The professor of theology Klaus Harms from Kiel was once asked by his students: 'Why should we always prepare our sermon? Can't we instead just climb up to the pulpit and wait for the Holy Spirit to inspire us?' 'Yes,' answered Klaus Harms, 'I tried that once and indeed the Holy Spirit spoke to me. He said: "Klaus Harms, you have been lazy again".' I am a little bit afraid that we haven't yet heard all the jokes and stories Matthew has in stock.

One last point: On Sunday Mornings I am one of the first persons who Matthew meets. I can't remember any moment of bad temper. He used to greet me according to our motto always welcoming, heartily, affectionately.

Dear Matthew, It is time to say 'goodbye' and I can't deny that there is still sadness in me that you are going to 'down under' and leaving us here in – is it 'above over'? Now we have to thank Matthew and God from the bottom of our hearts for Matthew's wonderful 'incredibly powerful' ministry and wish you dear Father Matthew every blessing or as the choir sang: 'The Lord bless you and keep you...' But it is also our Christian duty to pray for the finding commission and then to look forward to his follower as our chaplain.

**Articles and ideas for Becket News
should be sent to
becketnews(at)dawescom.de
or call Jo Dawes on
0172 405 8736 / 04862 2016870**

ENGLISCHE KIRCHE

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST THOMAS BECKET

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

August

- 7 MU (18:00)
- 8 Wanderers
- 8-9 British Flair
- 17 Church Council Meeting
- 21 Meditation Group led by Yotin (18:30-20:00)
- 27 19:00 – Choir rehearsal

September

- 3 19:00 – Choir rehearsal
- 4 MU (18:00)
- 10 19:00 – Choir rehearsal
- 12 Wanderers
17:00 – Choir meets for warming up
Nacht der Kirchen
- 16-19 CAECG meeting in Wiesbaden
- 18 Meditation Group led by Yotin (18:30-20:00)
- 21 Church Council Meeting

October

- 2 MU (18:00)
- 8 19:00 – Choir rehearsal for NL+C
- 10 Wanderers
- 15 19:00 – Choir rehearsal for NL+C
- 16 Meditation Group led by Yotin (18:30-20:00)
- 19 Church Council Meeting
- 20 18:00 – Consort Rehearsal
- 21 19:00 – Consort Rehearsal
- 26 19:00 – Consort Rehearsal
- 28 19:00 – Consort Rehearsal
- 30 19:00 – Consort Rehearsal

November

- 1 Choral Evensong: All Saints and All Souls – Anglican Consort 17:00
- 2 Benefit Concert with Thomas Hengelbrock and Choir 19:00
- 5 19:00 – Choir rehearsal for NL+C
- 6 MU (18:00)
- 8 Remembrance Sunday – Holy

Communion 10:30

- 12 19:00 – Choir rehearsal for NL+C
- 14 Wanderers
- 16 Church Council Meeting
- 19 19:00 – Choir rehearsal for NL+C
- 20 Meditation Group led by Yotin (18:30-20:00)
- 21 Bazaar
- 22 Christ the King – Holy Communion 10:30
music: band
- 26 19:00 – Choir rehearsal for NL+C
- 28 Elvis Singing Christmas Songs 20:00 -
To be confirmed
- 28-29 Victorian Christmas Markets at Baseler Hof Hotel

December

- 3 19:00 – Choir rehearsal for NL+C
- 4 MU 'Sing-along' Christmas Carols (18:00)
- 10 19:00 – Choir rehearsal for NL+C
- 12 Wanderers
Nine Lessons and Carols 18:00
followed by refreshments
- 16 Rotary Club of Hamburg Christmas Service (18:00)
- 18 Meditation Group led by Yotin (18:30-20:00)
Family Service, music: band
- 24 Christmas Eve 16:00
Midnight Mass 23:30
- 25 Christmas Day – Holy Communion 10:30
- 27 First Sunday of Christmas – Holy Communion 10:30

**To add dates and events please contact
Yotin Tiewtrakul: [yotin\(at\)gmx.de](mailto:yotin(at)gmx.de)**

SERVICES AT ST THOMAS BECKET IN AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

August

Sunday, 2 August

9th after Trinity

10.30 Morning Prayer

Sunday, 9 August

10th after Trinity

10.30 Holy Communion

Revd John Newsome

Sunday, 16 August

11th after Trinity

10.30 Holy Communion

Revd John Newsome

Sunday, 23 August

12th after Trinity

10.30 Holy Communion

Revd John Newsome

Sunday, 30 August

Patronal Festival for St Thomas Becket

10.30 Holy Communion

Revd John Newsome

September

Sunday, 6 September

14th after Trinity

10.30 Holy Communion

Revd Clifford Poole

Saturday, 12 September

Nacht der Kirchen

Sunday, 13 September

15th after Trinity

10.30 Holy Communion

Revd Clifford Poole

Sunday, 20 September

16th after Trinity

10.30 Holy Communion

Revd Clifford Poole

Sunday, 27 September

17th after Trinity

10.30 Holy Communion

Revd Clifford Poole

October

Sunday, 4 October

St Francis of Assisi

10.30 Holy Communion, Harvest

Festival and Blessing of Pets

Revd Clifford Poole

Sunday, 11 October

19th after Trinity

10.30 Holy Communion

Revd Clifford Poole

Sunday, 18 October

St Luke the Physician

10.30 Holy Communion & Healing

Service

Revd Clifford Poole

Sunday, 25 October

Last Sunday after Trinity

10.30 Holy Communion

Revd Clifford Poole



Dan Piraro – www.bizarro.com

Who's Who at our Church

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Vacant

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