

Issue 65/December 2015

Becket News

**The Anglican Church of
St Thomas Becket**

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

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Cover photograph: Andrea Grantz	

**Our church receives no income from Kirchensteuer (church tax) and is entirely dependent on donations.
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From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,
The days before Christmas are full of joyful expectation, fervent preparation, and at times unsaid anxiety, exactly the emotions of a mother-to-be expecting her first child, until the actual time of birth when, with relief and happiness, all is celebration. In this time of waiting (the four weeks of Advent) Christians await the most significant birth of all time, the Birth of Jesus. No wonder Christmas Day is a “Holy-Day” – a day when families and friends come together for this once-in-a-year special commemoration of the great gift to us from God of His Son Jesus Christ. No wonder children are the centre of our attention and are given presents, as if to symbolise and mirror our wish to give something to the newly-born Christ-child, and to show thanksgiving that by his Incarnation (his taking on our humanity) he will as an adult teach us how to come closer to God. Moreover, our joy on Christmas Day reflects the intense happiness of Mary and Joseph, despite having been forced through adverse circumstances to be in the poor surroundings of the outhouse of an inn, for the birth of this special baby, with a manger as a cradle, and animals looking on.

However that delight was soon

tempered by the awful decree of Herod, jealous of the news that a future King had been born, to order the killing of all children under the age of two, forcing Mary and Joseph to flee as refugees into exile in Egypt, until Herod died and it was safe to return home.

In the slaughter of these “Holy Innocents” there is held before us a mirror-image of the plight of so many children in today’s world. Then, as now, they are vulnerable, often forced to become refugees with their parents, or even worse, to live in danger of being killed in wars or acts of terrorism, innocent victims of the power politics of unscrupulous adults. And so many have no caring adults to protect them, keep them safe and allow them to grow up as God intended.

So as we give our own children presents at Christmas we should be thinking of those who will not be given such gifts or who may not be told anything of the real reason why we do this at Christmas.

This is why Christingle services, inspired by the Children’s Society in the UK, are held at Christmas-tide. They highlight the dangers so many youngsters are prey to in modern society. This charity, like so many others helping young people,

is strongly influenced by the teaching of Christ, who, when his disciples asked him who was the greatest, placed a child before them and said, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." And later, "Let the little children come to me".

So let us remember to help all children, not only those dear to us, and not only in a material way. The most precious gift we can ever give, at Christmastide and at all times, is the knowledge that Jesus the infant grew

up to be the Christ and that faith in him and his teaching is a sure foundation for our lives. No wonder his birth should be celebrated with the greatest joy, for without his coming into the world we would be bereft of the light which shines in the darkness, the light which is meant to shine on all God's children.

May Jean and I wish you all a very peaceful and blessed Christmas!

Your locum chaplain,

Clifford

Revd Clifford Poole will be our locum until the New Year.

Advent and Christmas at St Thomas Becket

Saturday 12 December 2015
6pm

Nine Lessons and Carols



Sunday 13 December 2015
10.30am

Third Sunday in Advent
Holy Communion

Sunday 20 December 2015
10.30am

Fourth Sunday in Advent
with Nativity and Holy Communion

Thursday 24 December 2015
4pm

Christmas Eve | *with Christingle*

Thursday 24 December 2015
11.30pm

Christmas | *Midnight Mass*



Friday 25 December 2015
10.30am

Christmas Day | *Holy Communion*

What is a Christingle?

This is the question which many of you may be asking when you read that the locum chaplain has planned a “Christingle Service” for Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. Christingle services are common in the UK at Christmastide, as they are very suitable for children, their parents, relatives and friends. Usually the children receive a Christingle to take home and in return give a sum to be later donated to children in need.

The word Christingle means Christ-light and its purpose is to remind us of the “Light of Christ” coming to us all in the birth of the infant Jesus on Christmas Day.

The origin of the Christingle goes back to 20 December 1747, when a Moravian pastor in Marienborn, John de Watteville, first lit candles for the children in his congregation, praying that the flame of the candle would remind them that Jesus is the light of the world. When many Moravians emigrated from Germany they took the idea of the Christingle with them, so that

Christingle services are held now all over the world where the birth of Christ is celebrated.

Nowadays a Christingle consists of an orange with red tape around its circumference, four cocktail sticks decorated with sweets and fruit, inserted at the four corners of the orange, and a candle at one end.

The orange symbolises the world, the sweets and fruit the food and riches of the world. The red tape symbolises the blood of Christ which he shed for us, and the candle the light of Christ to show us the way to God.

The actual service consists of Christmas songs, readings, prayers, and the telling of the Christmas story, and the lighting of the Christingles (a dramatic moment) and their distribution to all present, especially the children.

So please come to this service on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. in the Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket. All are welcome!

Clifford Poole



Photo: The Children's Society

Advent Appeal for relief work in Greece

The Diocese and the Anglican mission agency Us (formerly USPG) are working together to give funding to an emergency centre for refugees at the remote Pharos Lighthouse on the Greek island of Lesbos.

The refugees arrive cold and wet having crossed 15 kilometres from Turkey, typically making the journey in small rubber boats crowded with up to 50 people in each. Many make this dangerous crossing at night to avoid the Turkish coastguards that patrol during the day. They come mostly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, having fled conflict, chaos and persecution in those countries.

Attracted by the lighthouse beam, the refugees that land on the rocky shore are soaked through, tired and hungry. Yet they are still six kilometres from the nearest village, Klio, which is a minimum six-hour walk across often-difficult terrain. It is therefore essential for the health of the refugees that they have dry clothes, food and, in many cases,

medical care and shelter before they continue their journey to safety, preferably with a volunteer to act as a guide.

Refugee expert Max McClellan, who is working with Us and the Diocese in Europe, says: 'The work of the lighthouse team is critical and well-targeted. They are looking to expand their operation as quickly as possible. It is clear that the situation on Lesbos is much more chaotic than we have been led to believe.'

Two abandoned buildings next to the lighthouse will be renovated and converted into a clothes-changing area and a field kitchen. There will also be tents to provide shelter for refugees and volunteers. Volunteers will begin working at the centre round the clock, seven days a week.

As well as providing refugees with food, clothing and medicines, volunteers will be supplied with ropes to help refugees climb up the rocky shores, and safety helmets and head-gear for children and babies. There is also a need for wetsuits, night vision binoculars, heaters, lighting and walky-talkies.

You can **donate to the Advent Appeal in church**. To find out more or donate online, go to <http://www.weareus.org.uk/news/europe/>

Source: Diocesan website



Photo: Jo Dawes

Money matters: Finances holding steady

I am pleased to be able to report that the finances in 2015 have held steady and we are on track to meet the target income of €124,000. Due to the fact that we have not had to pay the full stipend since Fr Matthew's departure, expenditure is below this so 2015 should end with a small surplus. The Bazaar, which is one of the key money earners for the church, raised a respectable €10,841. This is lower than recent years, but given the changing of the guard in running this, it was a pleasing result. A big "thank you" to everyone who contributed and supported the event.

I am encouraged by the number of people who have expressed a desire to start planning early next year to make more of the Bazaar as a fund-raising and outreach opportunity.

The church has recently been able to bank a number of additional donations from external donors including €1,000 from Friends of Britain. We have just received €5,000 from the Balthasar-Neumann-Chor und Ensemble who gave a fund-raising concert in the church at the beginning of November organised by Claus-G. Budelmann, former British Honorary Consul and one of our

most generous supporters.

We now start to enter uncharted waters. The clear view of the chaplaincy, expressed in the consultation meetings held in November 2014 and January this year, is to continue with a full-time chaplain. After much prayer and discussion, the



Photo: Monica Schofield

Chaplaincy Council has agreed to put forward a budget of €133,000 in 2017–18 to make this possible. This means raising an additional €10,000 in 2017 compared to 2015 (in 2014 the church income was €144,000, so there is a precedent). Our reserves at present are healthy, but we do need to look for additional sources of income and a commitment by the church members to support the church financially. Individual donations account for the largest part of the income. In 2015, we have lost

Continued overleaf

some of the higher-end donors, who need to be replaced, and much of the income relies on the efforts of the few.

Our appeal for pledges did not produce much of a response, apart from one person based in the UK who on reading the letter gave very generously. Thank you to the handful of individuals who did respond and returned the forms. We pray that those who give regularly may continue to do so, and that others will come forward.

A “Spendenbescheinigung” (tax certificate) is provided for all donors. As the requirements of the German tax authorities are quite exacting, this is a major undertaking: the date and exact amount of each individual donation has to be included. With some 100 certificates to issue and cross-check, our Treasurer and I have little other free time in January. We can, however, only issue and dispatch these if we have correct addresses. **If you are reading this, have donated money, and have reason to believe we do not have your address, please send your name and address to web@stbecket.de.**

To all who have supported the church financially, whatever the amount, THANK YOU!

Monica Schofield
(Treasury Liaison Officer)



Photos: Joyceline Anacoura-Schmidt, Daniel Loarte, Monica Schofield, Yotín Tiewtrakul



Just a few words about the Annual Bazaar: Thank you very much to all the people who made it possible. It is our effort and I am pretty sure we really enjoyed this activity, because it is a way to welcome people and share our church and our stories with them. We are an image of the world and we can show this city that we can live and make good things together, instead of our differences. I hope we can organise more welcoming events like our Bazaar every year as a testimony of our Christian life.

Daniel Loarte
(Bazaar Coordinator)



Lucy, Gelada monkeys and the Queen of Sheba

Well if you haven't guessed it, the link is Ethiopia. This was my choice of "exotic" holiday destination for this year and where I spent two weeks in October delving into a country from which the earliest homo sapiens emerged, and the second country in history to adopt Christianity as the state religion. Ethiopia is the only African country not to have been colonised, though it was occupied by the Italians 1936–41 (one legacy of which is spaghetti on every menu). Ethiopians trace their history back to the Old Testament: the Queen of Sheba is in Ethiopian tradition deemed to have come from Aksum (though spoilsport scholars now say she was from Yemen).

St Samuel riding an Abyssinian lion



Ethiopia is one of those meeting grounds of the Abrahamic religions and has far more links to our own cultural tradition than I had appreciated before travelling there. Today just over half the 100 million population are Christian, mostly Ethiopian Orthodox, a third Muslim and it was home to a sizeable Jewish population, one of the groups of "Black Jews" though most now have moved to Israel. There are over 80 ethnolinguistic groups but, helpfully for the tourist, English is taught in schools. At present all appear to be living in peace with one another as an oasis in an otherwise troubled part of the world.

The country does not have the same tourism PR enjoyed by, for example, its neighbour Kenya. It has an image problem; mention Ethiopia and people still think of famine or the war with Eritrea. Today, it is politically stable and emerging as a destination for the discerning traveller. We saw

fantastic scenery and endearing wildlife – the gelada monkeys in the Simien Mountains were delightfully well-mannered, and it is a bird watcher's Eldorado. The people were friendly, the food edible and the hotel services and



Church of St George hewn into the rock in Lalibela

room excellent (thanks to e.g. Austrian development aid programmes in tourist management).

Most impressive were the monasteries and churches, full of distinctive artworks that vividly present the stories of the Bible and the lives of saints. The churches were full, both inside and out, on Sunday morning!

Ethiopia is listed at around place 170 in GDP rankings. Eighty per cent of the population depend on what is essentially subsistence farming. It is one of the most populous countries in the world, every piece of land is cultivated and deforestation, which causes soil erosion, is a major issue. Travelling as we did with a driver and using local guides, and even a scout in the Simien Mountains, is a way of contributing directly to the economy – I hope responsibly. If you have the chance, go. It is not that far

from Europe and more or less in the same time zone.

A bonus on my return was hearing a short lecture about Ethiopia in the Museum für Völkerkunde by Dr Marja Priess, who is a member of our STB community. She is an expert on several Ethiopian languages and can tell much more about this fascinating country.

*Text and Photos:
Monica Schofield*



“Down Under” with Father Matthew



Harriet Sasse and I had the opportunity to visit our former Chaplain Matthew Jones last August for a week in his new Anglican Parish of Ballina & Lennox Head in New South Wales, Australia.

He is now rector of two churches, St Mary, Ballina and St John the Baptist, Lennox Head, where he has several services on a Sunday morning and one service on Wednesdays. The parish also has a partnership with the Emmanuel Anglican College

and “The Glebe Retirement Village”. There is a really nice Anglican Op Shop in Ballina, where donated clothes, books, crockery and a lot more is sold for the benefit of the parish.

Father Matthew welcomed us to his new home for the next few years (see below). Though he was still waiting for some of his “Hamburg stuff”, it was very welcoming and already showed his own taste for antique furniture. He has displayed



the farewell present from Hamburg in his office.

Unfortunately we missed the chance to be there for his first service (they changed the plans and so we arrived just one week too late), but Harriet and I got the chance to meet his new congregation on several other occasions like services in both churches, messy church (I do like it and I was very impressed by the attention of the children – if you want to know more about it, let me know and I will tell you), craft group (these ladies are so great, meeting once a week and doing such amazing things), and Harriet was invited to the Mothers' Union at St Mary's.

The congregations are very welcoming and we had a great time in both churches. Father Matthew is now really busy with not only the church services, but also with the Anglican school, the retirement home and all the other things he has to do now. He enjoys it very much, even if he still is missing Hamburg some times.

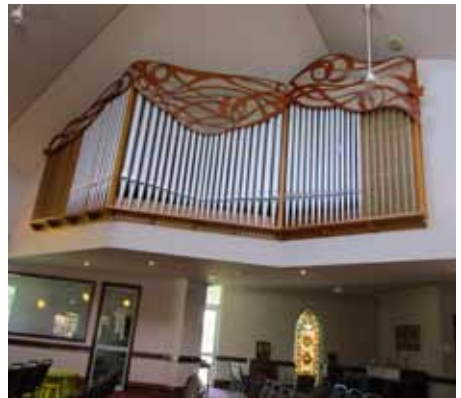
When we were there the weather was not that hot, as we came in spring (August) and we had around 10–14° and at night it was much cooler (we had to wear layers over layers, as we did not expect it to be that cool) and I did not realise that since it was winter/spring the sun set around 5 p.m. I did not expect



that, as we came from the German summer. But luckily there were not so many snakes and spiders around, as they do like it warmer.

It was great seeing Father Matthew again, being able to listen to his services and wishing him all the best for his future in his new home “Down Under”.

Text and Photos: Birte Fischer



Ladies' Christian Fellowship

The ladies have continued to meet “religiously” on the first Tuesday of each month but, on 3 November, we met at the home of Renate and Jens Babel to see a special presentation on the AHM Trust in Tamil Nadu, India given by Helga Salzmann, who is on the board and also the Treasurer.

The Trust was started in 1994 by Doctors Shashi and Renate Desai in a small medical clinic in this very rural area near the border with Kerala. Today, the clinic is in a compound, treating many thousands of patients, from cases for simple vaccinations and children's immunisations to the diagnosis and treatment of AIDS. The clinic does not have facilities for any serious operations and surgery but has its own laboratory and pharmacy.

The compound also houses a children's home, where at present 25 youngsters are cared for by a “mother”, and two homes for elderly men and women who have no family to care for them. The women and men live separately but eat

and socialise together as is normal within their villages.

The children are encouraged to get a good education (every day a school bus collects them) and are also supported financially in higher education. The Trust continues to support the children upon finishing school by sponsoring “apprenticeships” in electrical engineering, computing, tailoring and medical support.



It also supports children's clubs and sports activities and there is a “Child Line” for children in danger or need.

Of course, the Trust has had to overcome the reality of corruption, electricity outages and shortage of staff and funds but the work goes on with help, including from many people here in Hamburg.

Our own Renate has recently taken on the task of raising funds (€3,000 per year) to feed the five cows, which produce the milk for the children and “old folks” within the clinic compound. Over the past couple of years the monsoon rains have not been enough for the lo-

cal farmers to grow sufficient crops and food and most domestic animals such as cows and goats have had to be destroyed, so saving these five cows is very important, and they are treated very well by their carers. However, they must be fed and their food has to be brought in from Kerala with all the resulting costs. Renate has been doing her best to raise this money, giving talks and demonstrations. Perhaps we at St Thomas Becket could help.

If you want to learn more about the work of the AHM Trust and Drs Desai and their staff, then check out

their website: www.ahmtrust.org.

Our afternoon finished with delicious samosas and chocolate cake and coffee. We realise how lucky we are in Hamburg. Thank you Renate and Helga.

Footnote: Jens and Renate Babel are also in contact with a church housing refugee boys, travelling alone, who need clothing urgently. These boys are aged 8-17 years and of course need small and medium sizes. If you can help please contact Renate.

Irene Finn

Church Recording Project

The Church Recording group would welcome hearing from any member of the church community who might be looking after any church items. A lovely vase, which had been left with somebody for safekeeping, turned up some months ago, and there might be other things. As we are recording the interior of the church, all such things are relevant and of interest to the recording group. Likewise if anyone has any interesting historical information that might be of use in this project, do please let us know.

Pat Pledger

***Church Recording coordinator
[patpledger.bet\(at\)t-online.de](mailto:patpledger.bet(at)t-online.de)***

Mothers' Union rings the changes

Mothers' Union at St Thomas Becket has gone through some changes during the past weeks. On Sunday 11 October a lunch was sold after the service to make up for some lost money from the Fairtrade Stall. Renu's delicious Indian food was gone in no time

and we would like to thank everyone who donated so generously to our lunch sale.

A week after, we held our Fairtrade closing sale. At the September meeting we decided to stop the Fairtrade sales due to the disproportionate amount of time and work we need to put in and the very small income that it generated for the church.

In preparation for the Christmas Bazaar the MU ladies took up their crocheting hooks and yarn at the October meeting to produce some Christmas gifts, like hats and mittens. We will continue to improve our skills to crochet some clothes for premature babies that we will hopefully be able to donate next year to a local children's hospital.

Lucia Förthmann



Photo: Monica Schofield

Brownie Cupcakes

You might have tried one of these yummy chocolate cupcakes after Sunday services. Want to bake them yourself? Here's the recipe:

Serves 14

1½ cups flour

½ cup Dutch-processed cocoa powder

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon baking soda (Natron)

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

½ teaspoon salt

1½ cups milk

½ cup sunflower or canola oil

1¼ cups sugar

Preheat oven to 200°C. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and mix until everything is incorporated. Fill the muffin tins and bake at 200°C for 10-15 minutes or until a toothpick or knife comes out clean.

New-look website

Seven years since the Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket first went online, we've redesigned our website. It was relaunched in October and can be found at the usual address: www.anglican-church-hamburg.de. Its modern design means that it's easier to use on smart phones and tablets but still displays well on wide screens. You can now comment on posts and you should find it easier to switch to our Facebook page (button at top right). There's also an archive of Becket News back editions as well as the current one.

Please let us know what you think. If you're missing things you liked



on our old page, tell us. We haven't thrown anything away! Monica, Yotin and Jo worked on the concept and content, and we're particularly grateful to John Heaven of Heaven & Weps for the design and development of the site.

Jo Dawes



Photo: Dorothee Moeller

Calendar of events for 2016

January

- 3 Epiphany: Fr Clifford's last Sunday with us
9 Church Wanderers
10 Revd Tania Witter's first Sunday as our locum priest
31 Concert Weltmusik-Chor 17:00 (Nathaniel Damon)

February

- 5 Mothers' Union
10 Ash Wednesday
13 Church Wanderers
17 Holden Evening Service 19:00
19 Guitar Recital Simon Wahl 19:00
27 World Day of Prayer 16:00 (at HafenCity Chapel)
28 Last Sunday with Revd Tania Witter (to be confirmed)

March

- 4 Mothers' Union
12 Church Wanderers
12 West Gallery Psalms and Hymns 17:00
17 BRIDFAS Lecture on Dickens (tbc)
20 Palm Sunday
24 Maundy Thursday
25 Good Friday

- 27 Easter Day
30 Holden Evening Service 19:00 (tbc)

April

- 1 Mothers' Union
3 Workshop and Concert Northern Harmony 13:00–20:00 (Nathaniel Damon)

May

- 5 Ascension Day
15 Whitsun

July

- 2 Summer Concert (Consort, Melodeon, Morris Dance) 17:00 (tbc)

September

- 17 Nacht der Kirchen

November

- 19 Church Bazaar (tbc)

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

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Services at St Thomas Becket from January to March 2016

January

Sunday, 3 January

Epiphany

10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 10 January

Baptism of Christ

10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 17 January

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 24 January

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 31 January

*Presentation of Christ in the Temple
(Candlemas)*

10.30 Holy Communion

February

Sunday, 7 February

Sunday next before Lent

10.30 Holy Communion

Wednesday, 10 February

Ash Wednesday

19.00 Holy Communion and Im-
position of Ashes

Sunday, 14 February

First Sunday of Lent

10.30 Holy Communion

Wednesday, 17 February

19.00 Holden Evening Service

Sunday, 21 February

Second Sunday of Lent

10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 28 February

Third Sunday of Lent

10.30 Holy Communion

March

Sunday, 6 March

Fourth Sunday of Lent

10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 13 March

Fifth Sunday of Lent

10.30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 20 March

Palm Sunday

10.30 Holy Communion

Thursday, 24 March

Maundy Thursday

19.00 Holy Communion

Friday, 25 March

Good Friday

10.30 Veneration of the Cross

Sunday, 27 March

Easter Day

10.30 Holy Communion

Who's Who at our Church

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FWO Giving Envelopes	Emmanuel Saarkodie	(040) 641 2157	-
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