

Becket News

A photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, a large, dark wooden vase holds a bouquet of white flowers, including roses, lilies, and orchids, with some dried branches. To the left, a smaller arrangement of white flowers sits on a dark wooden stand. In the background, a painting of a figure in a blue robe is visible, framed by ornate gold-colored architectural details. The church pews are made of dark wood.

Issue 66/April 2016

**The Anglican Church of
St Thomas Becket**

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

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Cover photograph: Dorothee Möller

For details of services and events please see our website

**Our church receives no income from Kirchensteuer (church tax) and is entirely dependent on donations.
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Where's our new chaplain?

Since Father Matthew left us in June 2015, the chaplaincy council has been working hard to recruit a worthy successor. Although we are still without a full-time chaplain, we have, of course, been blessed with the services of high quality locums in the meantime. The church wardens have updated the congregation regularly on the recruitment process. There are, however, some readers of *Becket News* who are unable to get to St Thomas Becket and those of you who do get to church might have missed one of the verbal updates.

The vacancy pack was completed in September 2015, which allowed the post to be advertised in the Church Times in October 2015. Susanne Hergoss and Peter Alexander were our representatives at the subsequent interviews in London in December 2015 when a very strong candidate was selected as the appointee. He and his wife conducted an informal visit to Hamburg just before Christmas, mainly to look at the accommodation on offer. It was clear that the chaplain's flat was not going to be big enough for the appointee and his young and potentially growing family. After a great deal of deliberation and, given the credentials of the appointee, your council took the view that we would be prepared to

look for a bigger flat, albeit one on the outskirts of Hamburg. We had just forwarded our proposals, via the Archdeacon, to the appointee when we received news that he had had to withdraw his offer to come to Hamburg for health-related reasons.

The Archdeacon met with the chaplaincy council on Wednesday, 30 March 2016 and outlined the recruitment options available to us. We could either follow the procedure used last year and re-advertise the vacancy or we could interview a candidate or candidates selected by Bishop David Hamid. Your council decided that it would accept Bishop David's offer and interview the candidate(s) that he has identified. The interviews will take place in London on Tuesday, 26 April 2016, and Susanne Hergoss and Jo Dawes will represent us, with Norbert Schoen as reserve. If an appointee is selected at interview, he or she could possibly be with us by September 2016. We are, however, under no obligation to select an appointee were the interviewers to have doubts as to the candidate(s)' suitability. If no appointee is selected at the April interview, then we will have to re-advertise, which would, regrettably, delay the recruitment of a chaplain into early 2017.

David Hercus, Church Warden

Thanks to our locum chaplains

Once the church enters a vacancy period, it falls to the churchwardens to organise locum coverage with the help of the Diocesan Office. Since July 2015 we have been blessed with locums willing to come and help us in this special time of transition.

Revd Christopher Jage-Bowler and Revd Dr Irene Ahrens from St George's in Berlin were the first ones. Pastor Walter Jungbauer from the Old Catholics in Hamburg took the service on the following Sunday. After two Sundays with Morning Prayer, excellently supported by the choir, we were able to welcome our former chaplain Revd John Newsome, who stayed with us until the end of August.

On the 14th Sunday after Trinity, Revd Clifford Poole began his time as locum in Hamburg. He was able to offer the longest period and helped



Photo: Daniel Loarte

us until the second Sunday after Christmas. His wife, Jean, joined him from the beginning of November. He ran an Advent Study Group, which was very much appreciated and for Christmas Eve he prepared a very special Christingle Service.

Epiphany was the first service celebrated by Revd Tania Witter. She and her husband Nick stayed with us until the end of February. At the beginning of Lent she started a study group on the topic of "Faith Pictures"

following a course developed by the Church Army, which enabled the members of the group to start to talk about their own faith pictures and how to start conversations on this topic.

This study group was taken over by Rt Revd Dr Rupert Hoare, who began his time in Hamburg on Mothering Sunday and led us up to the



Photo: Daniel Loarte

first Sunday in April. He took us through Holy Week, celebrating the service on Maundy Thursday with the washing of feet, the Good Friday service with veneration of the cross and then the service on Easter Sunday with its special reminder of baptism, fully dressed in his Bishop's robe.

John Adams, who started on 10 April, will celebrate his last service on the day of our AGM, 24 April. He will join the AGM and give the blessing at the end. On 1 May Revd Andrew Wingate will be with us as our next locum. He will stay with us until Pentecost. On Trinity Sunday Revd Erika Anders will be with us. From the last Sunday in May up to the last Sunday in June, Revd Tony Noble will help us before Revd Tania Witter returns to Hamburg for the whole of July.

Now we are looking for locums from the beginning of August onwards, but hoping that we may have a new Chaplain in place in the autumn.

From the bottom of our heart, we thank all the locums for their ministry. We have had the wonderful opportunity to listen to a great variety of preaching the gospel and celebrating Holy Communion. It was a great blessing, too, that with the help of the locums we were able to



Photo: Dorothee Möller

continue the spiritual care for those who are not able to attend services in church and to bring Holy Communion to their homes.

We are also very thankful to Catherine Jackson and Emma Biaggi from the Diocesan Office in London, who helped and supported us with names and contact details of locums who might be interested to come to Hamburg.

Susanne Hergoss and David Hercus, Church Wardens

Impressions of St Thomas Becket

Revd Tania Witter and Rt Revd Rupert Hoare were our locum chaplains throughout Lent and into Eastertide. Here they share their impressions

Nick and I have really enjoyed our time with you in Hamburg. Of course the months we were here (January and February) were the coldest, iciest, snowiest, greyest and wettest of the year, but there were some wonderfully clear blue sunny days as well. The weather didn't spoil anything.

As I said on my last Sunday, Hamburg being such a huge international port gives it a feeling of being open to the world, and the same is true of Thomas Becket. We enjoyed meeting such a variety of interesting people from all over the world and making new friends. What a warm-hearted, welcoming and generous community you are! You invited us into your homes, showed us round and helped us in various ways, not to mention the provision of wonderful cakes.

Our memories of Hamburg are numerous, but here are some of the highlights: We loved living in the shadow of the Michel, with the clock chiming the quarter hours, the bell ringing before the services and the

trumpeter in the tower twice a day, a constant reminder of God's nearness. Then there was the lively discussion in the Lent Group – no need to encourage people to talk, rather a need to get them to stop talking! The nearby Planten un Blomen, the ice rink full of skaters, bulbs pushing up through the earth, a promise of spring to come. The danger of being mown down by bicycles when getting off the bus. The splendid service in St Petri for Anskar's day. The ferry to



With the Wanderers in Lüneburg (Anke Peters)

Finkenwerder. The cobbled streets of Blankenese. The step-gabled houses of Lüneburg. The wintry North Sea coast. The toweringly high church of St Mary in Lübeck. The wonderful smell coming out from the bakery. Walking with the Wanderers. Sit-

ting with Rosie. Above all, coming together on Sundays to worship God together. So many good memories.

We hope very much that you will find the right chaplain to lead the church into the future and that we will not lose contact with the friends we have made here. Do contact us if you come to London. My email is [tania.witter\(at\)btinternet.com](mailto:tania.witter(at)btinternet.com)

Tania Witter, March 2016

It was only on last Friday evening, when Gesine and I had driven onto the massive Rotterdam to Hull ferry, and were watching the trucks being driven with such speed and skill into the bowels of the boat, that it began to dawn on me that our five and half weeks at St Thomas Becket Church in Hamburg had now come to an end. It became ever more obvious as this huge ship began inch by inch to move away from the dock, turning almost 180 degrees on its own length to face the open sea, and impressions of those extremely eventful weeks began to crowd in on my mind.

It's not often the case that a bishop, even a retired one, is able to spend that amount of time, especially in the weeks running up to Holy Week and Easter, with just one community. So that was a privilege – as well as a challenge. I couldn't just "swan" in, take a service and preach, and then "swan"

out again, leaving others to get on with preparing the next event. I'm sure that was good for my soul, and thank you for being such extremely helpful and friendly colleagues. You gave us an excellent welcome and maintained that positive approach to us throughout. (I imagine it can't always be easy as different locums come and go in quick succession...)

But we have come away with many splendid impressions and memories. Of course they weren't all beautiful or positive. To see the church walls splurged with dirty black paint on the eve of Palm Sunday, and the side wall daubed with red anarchic graffiti was somewhat dismaying – even though it was a salutary reminder that there are those "out there" who show their mindless anger in aggressive ways. One couldn't help but think of the way the crowds in Jerusalem who had welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday had turned against him with such fury by Good Friday. Hopefully by now you have managed to get all the walls and the doors returned to their pristine elegance.

But all the other impressions were, and remain, positive: for example, the marvellous reading of St Mark's account of the Passion interspersed with the choir's "West Gallery" singing largely, and very interestingly, portraying settings of words by Isaac

Watts. That was an early highlight in our time. Then there was the “Dickens evening” which was a brilliant and fascinating presentation of the man with all his gifts – and flaws. And the children on Palm Sunday with their instruments with which to make a joyful noise, and then opening up those eggs with the climax when the 12th egg was found to be empty with “nix” inside it. So we approached Easter Morning. And in between was the moving symbolic action of the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday: what a privilege for me to have those folk come and let me wash their feet, before in silence I took off my own shoe and had my own foot washed. And on Good Friday, Edward carrying the cross in proces-

“The Light of Christ”. And then that splendid procession of the whole assembled community, including the glorious moment when the front of the procession got mixed up with its end, and everyone just enjoyed it: The chaos of New Creation on the morning of the Resurrection – just as it should be – to be followed up with wonderfully vibrant singing in an African style.

There has been lots to treasure, lots more beside what I have mentioned, including of course such a lively and engaged Lent Group week by week.

I suppose for me personally there was also the challenge of preaching on the Gospel passage at each service, which meant trying to wrestle with the wonderful, sometime mysterious, sometimes very vivid and detailed, account of the Passion and Resurrection given us in St John’s Gospel. That really is an inexhaustible well of living water.

So, thank you all. We’ll miss you but you will be in our prayers as you seek to appoint a new full-time chaplain, at the very appropriate time of the year of Pentecost or Whitsun. And before he or she arrives I am sure you will be blessed with excellent locum chaplains, and you will find the energy to make them as welcome as you have made us.

Rupert Hoare, April 2016



Photo: Daniel Loarte

sion, followed by the African women’s mourning song. And then Easter Day with Yotin holding high an Easter candle proclaiming the words:

Money matters: donors and fundraisers

In the pre-Christmas edition of *Becket News* I reported that “the finances in 2015 have held steady and we are on track to meet the target income of €124,000”. Well, Christmas is a time for giving, and many of you did just that, very generously, so that for the second year running our income exceeded €140,000. Since we did not have to pay the full stipend for the whole year, this has enabled us to consolidate the capital reserves. The fact we could do this was the basis for the decision of the chaplaincy council to offer the former appointee to the post of chaplain larger accommodation (see article on p. 3 on recruitment). It also means that we can appoint a new chaplain, confident in the knowledge that we can cover the stipend.

We are, thankfully, a long way off the precarious existence we had in 2013. However, closer analysis of the structure of the income reveals our vulnerability to changes of fortune. Of the €81,700 received in individual donations in 2015, 41% comes from 11 individuals, some of whom have moved or passed away. The church has around 125 individual donors. Overall donations from people who donated in 2014 decreased by 6.5% in 2015, but this was compensated for

by 35 new donors. We are immensely grateful to all who contribute financially to the church, and not least to those who organise fund raising activities on our behalf (see article on BRIDFAS Dickens Lecture on p. 12).

Thanks to immense work by Heiner Quast, our treasurer, at the beginning of the year, 129 *Spendenbescheinigungen* (donation certificates) were issued before the end of February. A handful of these we have been unable to send for lack of 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\(at\)stbecket.de](mailto:web(at)stbecket.de).

Once again in 2016 we will not have to pay a full stipend for the full year. Of course we would like to have a chaplain in place, and by October I hope we will, but in the meantime we are able to save money or, rather, to invest in things needed. The prospects for another positive financial year in 2016 are good, provided of course people keep giving!

To all who support the church financially, whatever the amount, thank you. Having solid finances is crucial to our ability to recruit a new full-time chaplain.

Monica Schofield
(*Treasury Liaison Officer*)

Farewell to

Renu Roy organized a shared farewell lunch in church for John and Irene Finn on Palm Sunday, 20 March. John retired last year and they now return to England, a truly blessed couple who made a great contribution to the St Thomas Becket community during their years in Hamburg.

They were here from 1987–1991, when their children Katharine and Richard were members of the Sunday School. Hapag-Lloyd, for whom John spent all his working life, finally

as one of about a dozen senior directors in a group employing several thousand staff worldwide, then sent them off to Japan, Singapore and the USA. Returning to Hamburg in 2002, they re-joined the church. From 2003 onwards, they produced over 60 truly professional numbers of *Becket News*. The change when they took over was remarkable. Previously we had had some rather untidy A4 sheets. Against considerable constraints, they virtually always produced the bound A5 magazine



We are writing this while surrounded by the packers and movers. We still have a sofa and an iPad so here goes.

We would like to say an enormous thank you to our wonderful congregation for the tremendous lunch and “send-off” on Sunday, 20 March. Since we decided to move back to the UK after 29 years, we have been sort-

ing, cancelling and saying goodbye. It has been an emotional time but we can only look back on our time here in Hamburg, since 2002, with smiles and lots of laughter. St Thomas Becket has been a large part of our lives and all the people involved with the church have been wonderful friends. Living anywhere can feel strange, but when you have the support and love

o the Finns

on time, often forced to burn the midnight oil in filling gaps and writing material themselves. John's IT skills enabled him to handle copy all over the world.

From 2003 until 2007, John served as church warden and gave sterling service alongside, first, Ellen Ziesmann and then Rosie Curran. He never refused to deal with any situation, however unpleasant. Despite all his work commitments for a firm wise enough to hire him in 1969 and only to release him into retirement

last year, he remained on the church council. It is impossible to say here just how many unwelcome jobs this devoted couple combined to tackle unobtrusively. John actually made it his business to understand how the church heating worked, often intervening in a crisis. He took over the main raffle at the November bazaar. That involves weeks of work before and after the event, appealing for prizes, collecting them, and – most

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of such a great congregation how can you not enjoy yourselves?

John's work as warden, on the council and editing the *Becket News* has been fun and Irene's connection with the Ladies' Christian Fellowship a joy. The annual bazaar has given us both great pleasure and some frustrations but also a great learning curve.

We hope we can find such a

wonderful church community in Yorkshire.

Many thanks for the wonderful print of Zeughausmarkt, the kind words of farewell and the wonderful donations to the DRK Osdorferborn centre. We promise to keep in touch and hopefully visit soon.

Our joint love and blessings

Irene and John

Two takes on our Dickens fundraiser

Approximately 150 people packed into the Church on the evening of 17 March, when BRIDFAS hosted a lecture on “Charles Dickens – the man and his life through his characters”. The lecturer, Bertie Pearce from the UK, is an expert on Charles Dickens and regularly lectures on the subject, as well as on magic, Punch and Judy and Victorian pastimes. He is a member of the Magic Circle (a member of The Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star, to be precise!) and is very active in his own church in Crowborough, Sussex.

Mark Lyndon, well-known British Hamburg actor, who has performed in the church on a number of occasions previously, supported Bertie by reading extracts from “The Pickwick Papers”, “Bleak House” and “Great Expectations”.

Dickens wrote 15 major novels and many short stories and articles and became one of the greatest writers of his age.

BRIDFAS chose this lecture from amongst its current season’s programme as a fund-raising event in aid of St Thomas Becket, as it was about an author whom many Germans, as well as Brits, would know. Together with the ticket sales, wine bar (donated by BRIDFAS), second-hand book stall and raffle of art and

Dickens books donated by companies and BRIDFAS members, a sum of over €2,000 was raised on the night.

This amount will be further enhanced by the sale of a picture that was donated by a BRIDFAS member and which will be sold or auctioned separately in order to raise the best sum possible.

Thanks go to everyone who helped, donated, bought tickets and attended the event in order to make it a success and especially to our “performers”, Bertie Pearce and Mark Lyndon.

*Pat Pledger
Chair of BRIDFAS
(British Decorative and Fine Arts
Society of Hamburg e.V.)*

In outlining Dickens’s life, Bertie Pearce demonstrated how the author’s traumatic childhood, professional experience as court recorder and journalist, romantic relationships and turbulent family life provided him with an endless source of characters and incidents for his fiction. Dickens’s father, to give only one example, was immortalised as Mr. Micawber in *David Copperfield*.

The lecture was illustrated throughout by pictures of Dickens and his friends and family, his homes, especially at Gad’s Hill, and early illustrations from his works.

Bertie held the audience's attention with a great deal of humour but also pointed out the high literary standard, the drama, comedy and intense emotional effect Dickens's writing achieved, particularly in such works as *Great Expectations*, *Bleak House* or *The Pickwick Papers*.

Mark Lyndon's splendid readings must have inspired many in the audience to renew their acquaintance with the great author. I myself am



now determined to have another go at "Great Expectations"!

Andrea Grantz

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time-consuming of all – seeing that these actually reach the winners. Irene's crafts stall was another attractive feature of the bazaar. For some years, she and Ellen Ziesmann would visit London to secure materials for this, once even descending on Harrods to choose an angel for the top of the church tree. John's handover of jobs well before he left, to make himself available to advise successors if needed, typifies just how considerate and practical he invariably is.

John and Irene were key players and generous hosts for the Friday prayer (house) group for people living in the west of Hamburg. At least two of the council's Christmas socials were held at their home. One could fill a complete issue of *Becket News* with a list of the times when they helped people out. Yet after-

wards the cry would always be: "No Fuss Please". John and Irene's generous and outgoing personalities, their impact as a friendly couple and their Christian approach truly raised many people's spirits on very different occasions, church outings and wanderers' walks included. Irene, especially, also found time to be active in several other English-speaking bodies in Hamburg and brought the church new members that way.

John and Irene asked that, rather than being spent on a present, the church's collection for them should go towards helping other people through a Red Cross project in the Osdorf area of Hamburg, not far from where they lived. Friends contributed around €400, a sum increased by your church council to €750.

Peter Alexander

Church greetings cards raise €7,000

This past season of Advent and Christmas was the 30th in which we have been making and selling recycled cards on behalf of “The Historic English Church of St Thomas Becket, Hamburg”. And all of us who make and produce the cards, and I suspect quite a few of the sellers as well, continue to be surprised that the cards still sell so well despite an increase in the use of digital cards and emails, plus higher postage rates. We again sold over 5,000 cards and, after deducting €886.55 for expenses, made an interim net profit ourselves of €5,561.25. The former British Honorary Consul, Claus Budelmann, and his wife have however once again very kindly made a donation to the card project – this time of €1,438.75 – so that the total net profit for the 2015 Card Project, in their words, “amounts to a round figure of €7,000”. We are sincerely grateful to Herr and Frau Budelmann for their generous gift, and for their continued support and encouragement.

As always at this time, thank you now to the small team who actually make the cards, very professionally and reliably, and with very great attention to detail: to Debbie Faddul, Irene Finn, Jane Harding, Martina Hercus, Linda Rainer, Mary Sanderson,

Cathrin Schierholz, Nicki Schiller, Katrin and Rüdiger Schnetzer, and in England to Caroline Yarnold. A special extra thank-you to Irene as she and John retire now to England. In addition to the many other aspects of church life that they have both been involved in – notably the *Becket News* and the bazaar raffle – Irene has been an extremely active member of the card team since 2002, sorting, chopping and sticking quite literally vast quantities of cards every year. We will miss her keenly, and John as well; over the years he has designed and printed all our colourful sales leaflets, and found and ordered cheaper glue.

Our next thanks go to everyone who sold cards for the church, within the English-speaking community and organisations in Hamburg, and to their friends and work colleagues and even in local shops. We are especially grateful to all those who are not members of our own congregation. In this way we have been able to reach out to a far wider public than would otherwise have been possible, and at the same time this also helps to advertise the church’s presence here in Hamburg. We thank: AGIWA (Julie Cook and Ulrike Lemke), BRIDFAS, the British Flair reception at the Anglo-German Club, the British Club (Jaqueline Caesar), the British

Ladies Luncheon Club (Linda Burs and Irene Finn), Jennifer Bullinger, the German-American Women's Club (Nancy Fischer), Helga Görike (a chemist's and hairdresser's in Reinbek), the Hamburg Players (Sigrid Reuter), Pam Hanus (Helene-Lange Schule), Jane Harding, Christiane Hey (H.D. Petersen – Fischgrosshandel mit Kleinverkauf), Carol Kloeve-korn, Howard and Gabi Kroch (the English-Speaking Union), Margot Lord, Elke Norden, Tracey Rabbitts (International School Hamburg), and the Victorian Christmas Market (British Hon. Consulate and Gwen Cochrane).

And finally thank you to all who collected used cards on our behalf both here and in Britain; some even sent packages of cards through the post. We are dependent on all this help and very much appreciate it.

Looking ahead now to Christmas 2016, we shall again need as many used cards as possible. We would like to sell more plain cards during the year and so also need used flower cards and photos of flowers. There is a basket just inside the church door. Cards can also be handed in through the different organisations or I can collect larger quantities.

A postscript to 1986 – that first Christmas we sold 300 cards and made a profit of DM 145.

Judith Holst (040 880 07 27)

Church Wanderers

Starting with our October walk (along the Elbe from Tesperhude to Lauenburg), the Wanderers were joined by two of our locum chaplains. This was a source of great delight, since Clifford Poole and his wife Jean and Tania Witter and her husband Nick were enthusiastic walkers whose friendliness and approachability was very much appreciated by all of us.



Photo: Johann Schiller

The November walk was cancelled because of illness and the December walk took place in Itzehoe in Schleswig Holstein. After a brief walk outside the town, we had hoped to amuse ourselves at their Christmas market. Although it did not come up to our (too high?) expectations, we were more than compensated by coffee and cake in the charming atmosphere of the Altes Katasteramt (The Old Land Registry Office)..

The cold dark months of the year are a time when the walks necessarily become shorter, but they are a

welcome change from being indoors and sometimes a chance to discover parts of Hamburg and its environs that even long-time residents are not familiar with. The walk in the Harburger Stadtpark on 16. January was just such an insider tip.

Only a few hundred yards from Harburg S-Bahn station one enters the park and is in another world. On our visit, new snow covered the ground and the surface of the small lake around which the park is laid out. The park with its tall trees and cleverly planned winding paths seems more extensive than it really is and the NABU reserve adds to the surprise impression of unspoiled nature in the middle of an industrial urban area. At one stage we stopped to admire a heron which obligingly ceased fishing and took up a series of photogenic poses to the great satisfaction of our camera-wielding members.

The February walk in the Sachsenwald was attended by 15 walkers, a record for the past 12 months. The weather held and the walk is a pleasant one, with views of the Bille River and plenty of bridges to lean on. However the foresters had been hard at work churning up the paths with their vehicles and cutting down the underbrush, so that the going was not very comfortable in places. A highlight was the meeting with two stately St Bernards, Willy and Ferdinand.



Photo: Anke Peters

March saw us off to Glückstadt where it was rather cold and windy at the beginning. However the charm of this delightful little town soon made us forget the weather. Glückstadt was founded by the Danes in the 17th century as a rival to the port of Hamburg. It never quite realised this ambition (total population today circa 11,000) but is well worth a visit, especially for those interested in historic town planning and architecture. We walked to the harbour and along the dike to the ferry. This stretch offers breathtaking views across the Elbe. The windproof strode along on the top of the dike, the others down below. On the return journey through the town we stopped at a charming book shop and café opposite the Detlefsen Museum for the obligatory coffee and cake before returning to the station.

Now we look forward to the better weather and the opportunity to take some longer hikes together.

Nicki Schiller

Church Recording Project

Since our last write-up in *Becket News* in July 2015, work has continued on the different parts of the fabric of the church interior, e.g. silver and metalwork, woodwork, memorials, furnishings and textiles, lighting, the organ and the “library recorders”.

The latter are two people who have been wading through the copious files and records stored in the cellar at the Chaplain’s flat. The Terrier was found, which had been updated by Cicely Hollingsworth in 2004 and contains some useful information and records. Some records are missing due to the war years, some records had been transferred to the consulate and contact will be made with various organisations to see if some of the information can be retrieved or gaps filled in. There is a good record of Chaplains from 1612–1955, and then it ends. Conditions in the cellar are not easy and better lighting and some shelves are needed to tidy everything up.

Following meetings with the Hamburgische Geschichte Museum over the church silver, which is in storage there, the Museum’s German notes have been translated into English. The silver recorders have been studying the hallmarks and background of

the silverware, as well as various candlesticks. The Museum is interested in receiving a copy of the record when it is finished.

Alk Friedrichsen, Architect, was asked if he would do a talk to the Church Recorders – and anyone else in the church who is interested – and this is scheduled to take place after the next Church Recording meeting on 28 April 2016.

We are now without a photographer, so our photographic records are lacking at present and if anyone out there, with good photographic skills, is interested in doing this for us, please get in touch.

The Church Recording representative from BRIDFAS HQ (NADFAS) in London plans to come to HH again later in the year to give some more training to the group. NADFAS is upgrading its computer systems, and records will all be digitalised in the near future. This means that the beautifully bound records that follow a Church Recording project will in future be on CD, although it is probable each church will produce one bound copy for display in the church and we would propose doing this for St Thomas Becket.

Pat Pledger, BRIDFAS
([patpledger.bet\(at\)t-online.de](mailto:patpledger.bet(at)t-online.de))

Ladies' Christian Fellowship

A very big thank you to dear Irene Finn who has helped out by her regular reports about the LCF. This is her last report from our church. No doubt John and Irene will send us their various contributions to Becket News from York.

Renu Roy

The Ladies have continued their regular monthly meetings. January found them at the home of Irene Finn, where we took a lighthearted look at the relationships between “wives and husbands”. Perhaps our interpretation of what a modern marriage should be is a bit different from what young people look for nowadays, but we certainly saw the funny side of some of the stereotypical relationships.

February found us enjoying a wonderful breakfast at the home of Ellen and Wilfried Ziesmann. For some years we used to enjoy a celebratory breakfast at the Elysée Hotel at the beginning of the New Year. Ellen, as usual, surpassed herself and we thoroughly enjoyed the fare on offer and then continued to talk the day away. Ladies can converse on a variety of subjects round a table! It was lovely to share our meeting with our locum chaplain, Tania Witter. As our meeting coincided with World Cancer

Day (4 February), we took a collection. Many of our lives have been touched by this horrible illness, and later that day we were able to donate €50 towards cancer research and care. We hope that our small contribution, together with all the others from all over the world, will one day make a real difference in helping to eradicate cancer.

Our next meeting was at the home of Renu and Raj Roy on 1 March, where we enjoyed one of Renu's legendary curries. Renu and Raj had just returned from a visit to India, and hopefully the appreciation of their hospitality made up for the lack of warmth in the Hamburg weather! We discussed the possibility of changing the day (Tuesday) and time (afternoon) and maybe venue of our meetings to perhaps encourage other ladies from the church community to join us. It would be lovely if we could one day say that our numbers were too many to meet in our homes.

It may sound as if we are always eating, but this group takes great satisfaction in sitting and “breaking bread” together. It is a wonderfully social group that has over the years made a great contribution to the life of our church and continues to do so.

This group has been an important

part of my life at the church over the last 14 years and I sincerely hope it will continue to meet and flourish. As John and I leave Hamburg to start a new life back in the United Kingdom, we look forward to finding another Anglican church which can offer us the love and support that we have found at St Thomas Becket and trust that we can offer them some of what we have learnt here.

Irene Finn

CAECG



Photo: Birte

At the beginning of March this year, Susanne Hergoss, Karen Bergquist-Lüth and I were invited to the CAECG Business Meeting in Munich. There we met again all the other Anglican and Episcopal representatives to exchange experiences, learn from their success or not so successful actions.

This time we had a very interesting speaker in our midst: Doris Peschke (General Secretary CCME – Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, based in Brussels). We talked about the Refugee Crisis and how our parishes are responding.

Birte Fischer

Mothers' Union

The MU has had some busy months, including our continuing monthly Cake Sale on the first Sunday of the month and crocheting little Easter gifts to sell along with the cakes. From now on we will be trying to offer smaller cakes for those of you not wanting to take home a huge cake or watching the intake of calories. The chocolate cupcakes with decoration were a great success in March.

Praying and praising the Lord through singing has been a major part of our MU meetings. We would like to encourage you to use the prayer box in church and let us know if there is something or somebody we could pray for. Prayer requests can be completely anonymous, of course.

Furthermore, the MU has launched a new Facebook Page that keeps you updated about coming meetings, events and our current projects. You can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/mothersunionhamburg>.

If you would like to join our MU meetings, you are very welcome to do so even without having joined the MU. We still meet regularly on the first Friday of the month at 6 pm at our church.

Lucia Förthmann

Who's Who at our Church

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Vacant

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