

Becket News

Issue 72/July 2018

The Anglican Church of
St Thomas Becket

Zeughausmarkt 22, 20459 Hamburg
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Cover: West coast of Ireland near Galway © Lydia Struck

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From the Chaplain

As I write this the Football World Cup is entering the final rounds, even though the German team has failed miserably in its mission. But we can remain fairly confident that some in our multi-cultural congregation will have cause for rejoicing at the success, if only relative, of 'their' team. Our Thomas Becket agenda, however, is an ongoing one.

'You shall be my Witnesses'. This was the theme for the General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches held in Novi Sad, Serbia, from 31 May to 6 June 2018 inspired by the passage from Acts 1.8. It is an appeal to build Christian confidence in the current context of uncertainties and fear which both individuals and nations face by focussing on some of the core Christian imperatives of *Hospitality, Justice and Witness and Hope*.

In the first chapter of Acts we find the disciples recovered from the situation of utter despair which they faced at the crucifixion of Jesus. They are now convinced that he had risen, and this had restored in them the confidence that God would restore the world to God's rule. Wickedness would have no chance to flourish and God's blessing would spread to all his creation. There would be justice and peace.

The Apostles were burning with the desire to ask Jesus one particu-



Photo: Roland Magunia

lar question: when would the kingdom, as envisaged by them, finally be restored to the people of Israel? However, Jesus' reply is not what they expected. He replies: 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

They are assured of something different, namely God's power and his presence in their midst. Their three-year rigorous preparation with Jesus was not to be of no consequence. They, who had witnessed his miracles and imbibed his teachings, they who had seen him suffer and had experienced his risen presence, and

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who were about to see him ascend to heaven, were therefore best placed to bear witness to Jesus in every part of the known world, beyond the boundaries of Israel. That was their mandate, and it was a global one. True, in the eyes of the world they were not powerful people, neither were they in possession of obvious resources with which to carry out their mission. Nor were they about empire-building but engaged in the venture of spreading the good news. And as the story in Acts develops, we begin to sense that their mission was successful. By the end we read that these Apostles had indeed worked wonders, though at great cost. Within a few decades after Jesus' crucifixion, Christianity had spread from an insignificant number of believers in Jerusalem to communities of Christians in the eastern Mediterranean and to the West as far as Rome itself. Since then it has touched many races and people of different religious experiences, cultural and historical contexts, even our community at St Thomas Becket.

We too are called to bear witness to Christ by healing relationships between us and with God and by building a confident church of committed faithful people.

Here are just a few significant pointers in the life and witness of St Thomas Becket: **180th Anniversary.** This year we will be marking 180 years of our present church building on Zeughausmarkt. Preparations for an exhibition and a concert in November are gaining momentum, (see article by Monica Schofield on page 11. We look forward to Bishop Robert Innes being with us on that occasion.

Confirmation: On 20 May, Pentecost Sunday, Bishop David confirmed six young people and two adults (see photo). After the 15 confirmations last year during the Easter Vigil, this Pentecost confirmation was another powerful experience, touching the hearts and minds of those present. In addition to the personal way in which Bishop David addressed the candidates, there were other special symbolic moments, such as the giving of the lighted candle to the newly-confirmed as they stood around the altar. From there they were led by the bishop to the centre of the church

and out into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Children, youth and young adults: Our three-tier concept in terms of developing the ministry to and with children, youth and the young adults is bearing fruit also by the introduction of a children's choir. We are hopeful that the newly launched ministry of young couples with children will be off to a good start.

Since January 2017 **Choral Even-song** on one Friday (usually the last) each month has enriched our worship. This has begun to flourish with about 30-60 people attending. We were privileged to have the Concordia Chamber Choir, Dulwich, South London with us on 25 May.

Ecumenical: If the church is to be relevant in its diverse contexts, it needs to be ecumenically engaged and keep ecumenical relationships warm, said Archbishop Rowan Williams (*paraphrased*). It is worth keeping this insight constantly in mind. In the Hamburg context, St Thomas Becket is ideally suited to make important contributions to church life in this city in different ways. Furthermore, the changing context with its numerous challenges clearly point to the need for greater interdependence between churches. I have therefore worked towards strengthening our presence in a range of main

line church networks. These include the important Meissen Consultation (see separate report on page 7X), conversations with the Nordkirche, involvement in some of their programmes of further education, preaching and actively participating in some key services, some creative writing for publications, giving interviews, links to all the Churches of the Porvoo Communion (a Communion between Anglicans and Nordic and Baltic Lutherans), the Old Catholics, the Mennonites, the Roman Catholics and the Orthodox. The connections to the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen (ACK)* and to the *Ökumenisches Forum Hafen City* continue to be strengthened in a diversity of ways, including through joint services, engagement in committee work and in the restructuring processes.

Conclusion

As we continue to grow and mature in our faith, may we be salt and light in a sometimes dark and threatening world. Light and salt are hugely effective. We are a pilgrim people on the move and live to be renewed and fostered spiritually every day by the Holy Spirit. May we journey together confident in our faith and so *spread in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing Christ* (2 Corinthians 2.14).

Leslie Nathaniel

World Council of Churches celebrates 70

One hundred and twenty Christian leaders, lay and ordained, gathered recently in Geneva to celebrate the 70th birthday of the World Council of Churches (WCC). The WCC was founded in 1948 at a time when Europe had been bitterly divided by war, and the whole world was deeply conscious of the need for reconciliation on all fronts. Initially a mostly pan-Protestant body, though the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate and some Orthodox churches were founding members, it welcomed the wider Orthodox community into its number in the 1960s. It is now a fellowship of 346 churches present in 110 countries committed to unity, justice and peace. The Geneva meeting of its governing body (the Central Committee) was the high point of its 70th anniversary celebrations.

As the new Church of England representative on the Central Committee, taking over from the Bishop of Chester, this was my first full meeting. I was fortunate to be tutored by seasoned expert Canon Leslie Nathaniel. Nonetheless, my over-riding impression was of the immense difficulty of navigating such a diverse and strong-minded group of individuals through a full agenda of complex and sensitive topics. But we got there. With the help of skilled moderation and careful preparation from the staff, we generated official statements on issues ranging from the peace process on the Korean Peninsula, to violence in Colombia, to the situation in Gaza and Jerusalem. And we ended with a sense of joy and deepened fellowship at a service led by our very special guest, Pope Francis.

Bishop Robert Innes



Photo courtesy of Albin Hillert/WCC

'Meissen Unplugged' at St Thomas Becket

The Meissen Declaration between the Church of England and the EKD (Evangelical Church in Germany) was approved by the General Synod of the Church of England in July 1990 without dissent and the agreement signed by the participating churches in 1991. It commits the churches to sharing a common life and mission, and to take all possible steps to greater unity and closer fellowship in as many areas of Christian life and witness as possible. The overarching aim is that the participating churches may advance to full, visible unity. To take this forward one more step the Nordkirche together with the Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket organised the consultation 'Meissen Unplugged' from 13–15 April 2018.

The consultation took note of the current European scene that is undergoing political and social upheaval in an increasingly secular and pluralistic environment. This impels churches and Christian communities to reaffirm our need for each other as we respond to situations that are becoming increasingly complex and challenging for all.

To begin with, the consultation recalled the Meissen story, it revisited its achievements and reflected on where it currently stands.

The following key challenges were addressed:

- The danger of becoming a minority church in both countries
- How to respond to populist movements that are divisive – What is the prophetic role of the church?
- How to build greater inter-generational Christian confidence and a credible witness in responding to situations of conflict and change

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Photos: Matthias Kaiser/Meissen Team

Contemporary witnesses who enabled Meissen to happen: Dame Dr Mary Tanner and Dr Christa Grengel

We were privileged to have the following speakers address the gathering. Two personalities of the first hour were Dame Dr Mary Tanner from the Church of England and OKR i.R. Revd Dr Christa Gregel, one of the two negotiators for the German churches. In a lively presentation they recapitulated the both tough and exciting negotiations which went into reaching the Meissen Agreement. Further thought-provoking contributions were given by the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Germany Gerhard Ulrich, the Suffragan Bishop of the Church of England Diocese in Europe, Rt Revd Dr David Hamid, the Bishop of

Hannover Ralf Meister EKD as Co-Chairman of Meissen Commission, the Bishop of Schleswig and Holstein Gothart Magaard, the Revd Canon Dr Andrew Wingate, the Revd Christa Hunzinger from the Nordkirche, Oberkirchenrat Christoph Ernst from the EKD and Dr Christoph Münchow, former Ecumenical Director, Evang. Lutheran Church, Sachsen.

The discussions that followed reflected the interest of the participants. The papers of the consultation will be made available as a resource for the Meissen Commission and our Churches.

Revd Julie Lipp-Nathaniel

Extract from the sermon by the Bishop of Schleswig and Holstein, Nordkirche, Gothart Magaard delivered at the ecumenical service at St Thomas Becket on Sunday, 15 April

Last century, during World War I, we read on the guns of German soldiers ‘God is with us!’ That was by far the lowest and most fathomless misunderstanding in our history – and the German Protestant Church at that time could not oppose it and did not put up any resistance.

‘God is with us’ means objecting to strife on this earth. It means God objects to denials of peace on this earth; it means God objects to violence and hate and distrust. ‘God is with us’: that is the promise of Christ-

mas for our world. It is the promise for us and for all people when the angels sing: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased’ and ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people’.

Last year we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and next year we will be remembering the centenary of the end of World War I. It is a historical constellation – and we have to deal with it.



The path to the Reformation jubilee of last year offered a way of reflection. How is one to respond to questions of ‘Reformation and tolerance’ or ‘Reformation and politics’ without becoming self-critical or very introspective?

From my perspective it means that we should not deny the destructive potential in our history. This can be seen in the unhelpful way of linking some of the nationalistic ideas with Christianity. Here it is important that we are vigilant. We should not minimise our own failures as Churches but carefully and reflectively reap-

praise what has happened and what this means for the present and for the future. We can learn from the positive role that the Churches have taken as Europe has grown together in the second half of the 20th century. The Churches and European integration go together.

As a young person, I did my alternative community service in the Taizé community in France and then in the slums of Calcutta and Chittagong. There my heart learned what ‘the Spirit says to the Churches’, namely, that it is time to listen to one another, to value one another, to pray with one another and to carry God’s love of humanity into the world.

Today we meet in Hamburg – and this is possible because after the end of World War II Christians from foreign countries were willing to offer reconciliation to the Germans. I am very thankful that this way has been possible.

Last year I had the opportunity to be part of the jubilee of the city partnership between Kiel and Coventry. Seventy years ago the first Cross of Nails was brought from Coventry to Kiel to the St Nikolai Church that had been totally destroyed during the war. And it was 60 years ago when we started the link between the cities of Coventry and Kiel.

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I was very moved when visiting the military cemeteries and the graves of soldiers. Bishop Christopher of the Diocese of Coventry proposed that I pray at the British cemetery and he at the German cemetery. Silently we passed the rows of gravestones with the names and the ages of those who lost their lives – and took note of all the biblical words of comfort.

And I am very thankful for the manifold discussions and services within our partnership with the dioceses of Ely, Durham and Lichfield – and the Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket here in Hamburg, for example, this weekend when we are reflecting on the Meissen process, its history and its results.

This is getting more and more important especially at a point in

which the political ways to a common Europe seem to be going in different directions. God's Holy Spirit encourages me to go further and shows that little steps do count as much as big gestures. To meet each other personally and to talk to each other face-to-face is a big chance to adjust the distorted pictures of those who assumedly try to establish simple solutions by using slogans.

God's blessing and mercy help us to adjust our tasks and ourselves to Jesus Christ, to recognize each other's needs and potential, to so seek for a common understanding of the Gospel – insistently and persistently, and to be able to wrestle with problems – but always being enthusiastic in a common understanding.



Photos: Matthias Kaiser/Meissen Team

New warden, old parishioner!

In April, the Chaplaincy Council was re-elected almost unchanged: David Hercus stepped down as warden, with Madeleine Resühr taking his place. Here she introduces herself

I was born in South Africa, but emigrated to Australia with my family when I was five and I grew up in Brisbane, in the Sunshine State Queensland, and went to school and university there. I met my husband, Jens, at university and in 1972 we moved to Hamburg. We have two sons, one in Hamburg and one in Birmingham, Alabama, and three grandchildren. We also lived in Dublin for seven years, then returned to Hamburg and have been living here since 1983. I taught at the Helmut Schmidt Universität for over 20 years, also for the British Open University for 10 years. I retired five years ago.

We've been coming to St Thomas Becket ever since we came back from

Dublin, a good 35 years, and it has been an important part of our lives since then. We were made to feel welcome the very first time we came and this friendly, warm atmosphere continues to make us feel very much at home here. We've been involved in various aspects of St Thomas Becket life over the years, including sidesmen's duty, refreshments and, of course, the bazaar. I'm that annoying person who encourages you (to put it politely) in the weeks before the bazaar to bake cakes, mince pies, etc. for the cake stall!

It is an honour for me to serve the church now as warden and I will do my best to be worthy of the trust placed in me.

180th celebrations are taking shape

In the last edition of Becket News we reported on plans to celebrate the 180th anniversary of the consecration of the church building, using the occasion to bring the history of the British in Hamburg to wider attention at a time when it would be good to point out that relations go back many centuries and not just since the EU was founded! The

idea of an exhibition is now turning into reality thanks to the support of Hamburg's Behörde für Kultur und Medien who decided this is a great project to support in the Year of European Cultural Heritage and have given us a grant of €10,000. With this money secured we were able to get things moving.

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The second piece of good fortune was finding someone with real passion for the project to curate it. Matthew Wilcox, who lives in London, has spent ten years working in the art world as a journalist and is on a scholarship studying for an MA in documentary film at the UK's National Film and Television School, had such a personal interest in it that he offered to take on the project *pro bono*. Matthew visited Hamburg at the beginning of March and met with various people from STB and others keen to support the project and bring the story of the church to a wider community.

The plan is to have hanging posters that tell the story of the church, plus hopefully a couple of short films

that fill in some detail. Then, using the knowledge accumulated through the church recording project, we will put up information about the artefacts in the church. We hope this will generate interest and bring people to the church where we would like young guides to be on hand to add personal commentary. The plan is to open the exhibition on 24 November when Bishop Robert will be visiting. Expect more information in the coming months, but already the activities are fulfilling STB's mission to engage with the wider community, with many people from outside the church community coming forward with ideas and interest.

Monica Schofield

Bazaar – back and better than ever

Once again this year on Saturday 17 November, from 10.00–16.00, the St Thomas Becket community will host its annual bazaar. Indeed, we transform the church into a festive space featuring numerous stalls where you can find:

Delicious, freshly prepared African and Indian cuisine

Traditional English and German holiday cakes and cookies

Hard-to-find foodstuffs from England and Scotland

Arts and craft items from England, Germany, Africa and India

English language books and films... and much more.

There is even a café for taking a relaxing (and tasty) break! Finally, this year too, we will host a giant tombola featuring gift items and 'experiences' in and around Hamburg.

17 November is Bazaar Saturday! Do spread the word and do bring friends. As always, we welcome help to make the event a success. Please contact James Fischer at jamesc-fischer64 (at) gmail.com.

James Fischer

Christmas card sales raise €7,000

More than 5,700 recycled Christmas and greetings cards were once again sold during 2017 in aid of 'The Historic Church of St Thomas Becket'. And once again we were all, makers and sellers alike, surprised at the number of cards actually sold in the end. During the main sales period in November and December people were often appreciative of the idea of the project, but were constantly telling us that they now send fewer 'proper' cards and more emails – apart from convenience also because of the high postage rates. However 'the proof of the pudding ...' is that at present there does in fact still seem to be a market for real cards out there and that this does raise both money for, and an awareness of, St Thomas Becket church in Hamburg.

The recycled card project was started in 1986 – making and selling just 300 cards that first year, with a net profit of DM145 for church funds. This past year, after deducting €928.02 for expenses (printing the blank cards, envelopes and glue), we made an interim net profit ourselves of €5,980.18 – only slightly less than in 2016. I use the word interim because our former Hon. British Consul, Claus Budelmann and his wife Annegret, had once again said in the autumn that they would make a contribution to the card project when selling was completed and we had our own net results. They have now very kindly donated €1,019.82 to bring the final net profit for the cards in 2017 up to €7,000. We are extremely

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Photo: Monica Schofield

grateful to Herr and Frau Budelmann for their generosity and for their continued support and encouragement over the years.

And now to the other thank-yous, first and foremost as always to the small team making the cards – sorting, chopping and sticking, very reliably and with great attention to detail, some new to the team and some literally for decades: Debbie Faddul, Jane Harding, Heike Lange, Sarah Meister, Linda Rainer, Emma Richter, Mary Sanderson, Cathryn Schierholz, Katrin and Rüdiger Schnetzer, Kathryn Walker and to Caroline Yarnold in England. They are not all members of the congregation but are all decidedly ‘friends of the church’. Thank you all very much indeed.

Secondly, very grateful thanks to all who sell cards to their friends, families and work colleagues, and within the English-speaking community and organisations in Hamburg, and even in their local shops and their bridge groups. We can reach out in this way to a far wider public than would otherwise be possible, and at the same time it’s a good way of advertising the church’s presence here in Hamburg. We thank: AGIWA (Julie Cook and Ulrike Lemke), The Arts Society Hamburg (formerly BRIDFAS), the British Club (Alison Fry), the Brit-

ish Flair event at the Anglo–German Club, the British Ladies Luncheon Club (Lorna Yazdani), Brenda Buhmann–Gore, Jennifer Bullinger, the German–American Women’s Club (Nancy Fischer and Bettina Wex), Maureen Fischer (Int. School Hamburg PTA Christmas Market), Helga Goerike (pharmacy in Aumühle + radiology practice in Hamburg), the Hamburg Players (Sigrid Reuter), Pam Hanus, Jane Harding, Madeleine Herring, Carol Kloevekorn, Howard and Gabi Kroch (the English Speaking Union), Margot Lord, Elke Norden, Tracey Rabbitts (Int. School Hamburg), and the Victorian Christmas Market (Hon. British Consulate and Gwen Cochrane). Again we are particularly grateful for all the help and support of those who are not members of the congregation but continue faithfully to sell cards every year – often in very large quantities.

And finally a third thank you to everyone who collected used cards for us last year from their offices, friends and neighbours, and in Britain often in their own churches and villages, from the New Forest through the Midlands and right up to Scotland. This year I’d especially like to mention the Yarnolds in Puttenham, Surrey, and also Jenny Baker and St Michael’s Church, Amersham,

Bucks – both once again produced truly bumper crops. And some kind ‘friends of the church’ in Germany and Britain even sent packages of used cards through the post. We are absolutely dependent on this help for recycling and really appreciate all the time and trouble it takes.

Looking ahead now to Christmas 2018, we shall need as many used Christmas cards as possible. On average we can only recycle every sixth

card, so to make between 5,000 and 6,000 cards each year, we actually need about 30,000 used cards! We also sell plain cards during the year so we would be grateful for used birthday and flower cards, and especially for good flower photos. There is a basket for cards just inside the church door, or they can be handed in through the various clubs and organisations. Larger quantities can be collected.

Judith Holst

Cake Sunday and a new recipe book

I’m sure most of you remember that the first Sunday in the month used to be cake Sunday – organised by the Mothers’ Union. We thought it would be a good idea to revive that and so, starting on 1 July, it would be great if all those cake bakers out there could bring a cake to be sold after the service – bring one, buy one! A good way to get a freshly home-baked cake for Sunday afternoon and to help the church at the same time.

Cake Sunday – the first Sunday of every month!

St Thomas Becket produced a recipe book as one of the projects for the 400th anniversary celebrations. This year we are celebrating the 180th anniversary of the consecration of this building, so it seems appropriate to put a new one together. So many countries and different types of food



Photo: Joyceline Anaroura-Schmidt

are represented here, that we should be able produce a really interesting cook book. It could be sold at the bazaar and at other events!

All kinds of recipes are needed – meat and fish, soups, vegetables, desserts and cakes, special dishes for special occasions. Traditional recipes from your home countries are welcome!

Please send them to me by email or give them to me at church – even hand-written: [mad.res\(at\)t-online.de](mailto:mad.res(at)t-online.de)

Madeleine Resühr

Be still – by Lydia Struck

I just remembered the song ‘Be still, for the presence of the Lord’ by David J. Evans. A beautiful tune. ‘Stillness’ is usually a condition that most of us would think of at Christmas or in the winter, not in summer, when Hamburg turns into an event-city where there is always a loud festival going on somewhere. One weekend we might get stuck in traffic as roads are blocked for the marathon. Another day we see all these dressed-up people enjoying the Schlager Move, followed by Hafengeburtstag, Cruise Days, Harley Days or Pride Parade. There are many more, and it seems rather difficult to find stillness in Hamburg in the summer.

We often become part of the hustle and bustle. Or we dash off to some place that might be as busy in a different way. When we face the news of what is going on in politics and the world, it is easy to get annoyed or huffish about the flood tide of impressions that we immerse ourselves in every day.

Exhausting. And where is our strength supposed to come from, if we face bad news in our private field?

Isn't just that the moment when we finally pause? Isn't that the moment when we dig inside ourselves for the most important things that lift us up and make us feel sheltered?

Just recently, I was travelling to Ireland with my parents to meet my cousin Carol from New York who was over there for a friend's wedding. We were looking forward to meeting up with her, and none of us had ever been to Ireland. The night before we were supposed to meet up my phone rang, and a friend of the family informed me that Carol would not be meeting us. She had to return to the US at short notice, for her eldest son Jaime had passed away.

Suddenly there was no sense of place or time. My hands were shaking, and tears welled up in my eyes when I asked her what had happened.

Jaime's suicide at the age of 38 shook us and made us pace through all the

Photos: Lydia Struck





different feelings such circumstances bring up. What heavy load must have troubled him! We felt for his mother who had an ocean to cross with a broken heart and her loss to face.

There we were, in Ireland – still. Without words for what had happened. Everything came to a halt and we were not quite sure what to do next. The three of us decided to continue our journey through Ireland without Carol. And the time together was precious to us. We had time to talk, time to turn our perception to the most beautiful landscapes, to the people of Ireland and to ourselves.

We came back to Hamburg a few days later. My thoughts were still with my cousin's family.

I realised then that I don't want to pause for bad news only. I want to 'be still' for the good that is happening around me too and step back from time to time and see the beauty in what is going on around me. I feel blessed when I perceive the beauty of this world. I am still when I see excited football fans peacefully watching the games together on a big screen on

one side of the Heiligengeistfeld, where on the other side unexploded bombs from the Second World War are being retrieved. The limits of time seem so blurred in such situations. My heart opens when my godchildren come running towards me with open arms and I am still – to embrace them and the joy of the moment that is given to me. I am still, looking at a photographer's picture of an arctic tern and its wings looking just like an angel. I take a deep breath when I hear the cello in Jono McCleery's interpretation of 'Wild is the wind', one of my favourite songs. Or I stop in front of the Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket when I pass with my bicycle on my way home from work and stand – still – to hear the most beautiful singing from the church choir filling the air. The list could go on, but I will close here to give you the time to feel what it is like to 'be still, for the presence of the Lord'. We are blessed to be part of this world. Try to reach out to those whose perception is dimmed by clouds.

Peace be with you all.

Tears

Tears are the joy no words can express
Rivers of gold of sheer happiness
Tears falling softly like life-giving rain
Making flowers-of-love grow out of sorrow and pain.

Tears are the sadness no words can describe
the infinite depths of hurt feelings and pride
Drops of black pearls, that are heavy and sad
Taking away Joy or the means to be glad.

Tears come with the cry of a baby at birth
Its first experience of life upon earth
They accompany our passage as Life ebbs away
There from the beginning, to the end of our day.

Tears are God's gift, when our hearts are too full
To express all our feelings, when actions seem dull.
They are Jewels beyond price, their beauty so rare
They tell all the world just how much
YOU DO CARE.

Pamela A Campbell †15.04.2018

Visiting Chandi



Chandi Hinrichs (right) was a member of our church for many years before she left for Honolulu 13 years ago, writes Renu Roy. She supported the church in many ways – Junior Church, the Bazaar and any number of donations of various kinds. I've been in touch over these past years and got to visit her and her little Anglican Church.

Timo heads to Bardowick

On Reformation Day (1 November) last year we went to Bardowick to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. There was a historical market and special concerts in the church. The 'cathedral' of St Peter and St Paul is a gothic triple-naved hall church with compact octagonal towers in the village of Bardowick near Lüneburg in Lower Saxony. It was built between 1389 and 1485. The preceding building was originally a Christian stronghold on the border between the Frankish kingdom and the heathen Vikings and Slavs, though in the end an expansion to a real cathedral did not take place, and no bishop was established there.



Text and photos: Timo Wandrey



Arts Society fundraiser for our church

The Secret Language of Sacred Spaces: religious architecture of the world is the title of an Arts Society Hamburg.V. lecture, by Jon Cannon, Lay Canon (Keeper of the Fabric) at Bristol Cathedral, to be held on 15 November 2018 at 7.30 pm as a fundraising event in aid of the church.

Religion has been the inspiration for many of the greatest buildings of the world. The lecture explores the architecture of the major religions of humanity. Details and tickets available later. Queries to Pat Pledger: Hamburg(at)theartsociety.org, Tel 040 821858, www.bridfas-hamburg.de.

Young Adults group gains momentum

On June 30 the Young Adults of St Thomas Becket concluded our eighth meeting since the group's inception last autumn. Since that time we've had the privilege of meeting at Father Leslie's flat where we're able to discuss, in a safe environment, our joys and struggles of the week, pray for one another, and learn through the lesson of the session. Our group always seems to add at least one new face every session and thus becomes a time where our regular members look forward to meeting new members or guests.

A typical evening usually includes a time of prayer and bible study followed by a light meal and fellowship. Given the various backgrounds of our members, the shared meal time is always a favourite. We've had numerous dishes from India, Sweden, and Nigeria with more diverse meals planned. We've recently been going through a time of conversation and fellowship around themes of spiritual friendship. We as a group have found it comforting to discuss in depth aspects that we practise every day and yet often let go unreflected.

As mentioned earlier, the topic of spiritual friendship has been recurrent at our meetings. But in addition to the camaraderie and love that friendship brings, we've also spoken about

friendship in its fully manifested sense. 'What does it mean to forgive a friend?' or 'What does it mean to comfort a friend?'; these aspects which don't necessarily first come to mind when we hear the term 'friendship' are perhaps the ones which we as a group find most enlightening.

Another highlight of our group has been hearing of the spiritual journeys taken by our various members. Whether they grew up attending service every Sunday, overcame state persecution, or are searching the faith for the first time, all have been woven together by God into the tapestry of our group and have all been truly appreciated. We were even blessed to have one of our members receive the sacrament of baptism which was perhaps the apex of our time together.

Since the inception of our Young Adults group, we've been blessed to be represented from all corners of the earth. And although we rarely speak the same native language, listen to the same music, or eat the same food, we still share the most important thing in life. And what more of a perfect analogy of our triune God, ever different in person, yet one in essence through love and fellowship now and for eternity. Amen.

Luke Sunderland

Mixing it up at St Thomas Becket

Since our start, six months ago, our group has more than doubled in number and we have enjoyed many diverse activities together.

The annual bazaar was the first one we Becket Mixers participated in. Everybody enjoyed the raffle, the things to buy and of course the wonderful food options. In the culinary world you could travel through Africa, England and India. However nobody would pass one stand without buying anything: the waffle and crepe stand from the Becket Mix. You could decide between a crepe and a waffle with a topping of your choice. Visitors could also participate in the Becket Mix Quiz that we have been working on since the Confirmation in 2017. We made different difficulty levels for kids and adults, and prizes for each. In the end we made over €100 towards our church.

On 8 December xis members of the group had a lot of fun ice skating at Planten un Blomen. Everybody



enjoyed it. While we were on the ice, the leaders had a coffee and a chat.

On Sunday 17 December the Junior Church co-operated with our group and together we performed the nativity play. Four Mixers (Becket Mix members) read perfectly as narrators, while the children acted out the Christmas story.



After Christmas it was a joy seeing everybody again on 4 January. We went to the organisation called Das Kids which supports kids who live on the street. We visited the location and a very nice lady informed us about the work that they do. After some emotional hours we went to a café to talk, over some snacks and drinks, about our morning.

In February we had our most recent meeting at Fr Leslie's place. We planned our next meetings and have discussed what we want to do next to raise some money. Our next meeting

will be in March and we are going to go Laser Tagging in Bramfeld. We are also going to make a Parish Lunch to raise some money for some of our activities and to donate to a street project. The Parish Lunch is called 'Soup n Stuff', so if you are in church on April 15, come and have a chat with some warm soup in your hand.

We also want to thank Wendy Sprock and Friends of Britain for donating €500 towards our group. (February 2018)

Bridget Scharwies (a Mixer)

Mothers' Union update

Currently the Mothers' Union at CSTB has a membership of eight paying their regular MU membership fee. During the past year our MU group has been in the process of reorganising its working pattern. A few meetings took place at the Chaplain's flat at which Revd Julie Lipp-Nathaniel, when she was in Hamburg, led a bible study followed by sharing of life stories, singing of spiritual songs from different countries and prayer.

Other activities included meeting after a Sunday service for a fellowship meal and taking on the catering at some significant events of the church. Individual members have always been ready to provide support to a variety of activities of the church, such as Junior Church or assisting the priest,



and have contributed in building good relationships within the church community. One other highlight of the MU has been the yearly Carols to Sing Along during Advent.

The MU is in a phase of consolidation and re-visioning its presence at STB. It will be actively seeking additional members, contributing to the STB website, and will work with the Chaplain and his Assistant Priests in growing this valuable presence in our church community.

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For other ministries please see following page

We meet every Sunday at 10:30 for a service of Holy Communion followed by refreshments – all welcome
For events, please see our website:
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Who's Who at our Church

For clergy and council members please see previous page

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