January 2013 Issue 53

The Church of St Thomas Becket, Hamburg

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



We are an English-speaking church in Hamburg consisting of people of many nations and Christian traditions. We worship in the Anglican style and our church is part of the Diocese in Europe, which belongs to the Church of England. Our parish has existed since 1612 and the present church building since 1838. People of all nationalities and denominations are welcome to our services and other activities.



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

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From the Chaplain

Happy New Year to all our Becket News readers. I hope the Christmas season has not been too exhausting and that there has been some time to slow down and relax after



what was an enormously busy year in the parish. As I reflect on our 400th anniversary year, I am so grateful to God for the many ways he has blessed us during 2012. We were able to 'Extend a Welcome' to thousands of people from many places around the world. We hosted many services and concerts welcomed several Guided Tour Groups who were delighted to find that our doors were open. It has been a year of telling our story and people have loved the experience of being inside our beautiful church building. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our birthday year.

The Nativity Chapel proved very popular and I was particularly delighted in the way the children seemed to enjoy being in the stable on Sunday mornings. I have also heard from many adults that they valued the 'quiet place' to sit and reflect on the real meaning of Christmas. My thanks to the many people who contributed to the building of this project. Philipp Rogall will be asking for help to dismantle it all after 6th January, the Feast of the Epiphany. If you can help, please let Philipp know phil_rogall@me.com

I am taking two weeks holiday in January and traveling to Ireland. I have never been there before and am looking forward to some quiet time, sitting and reading in front of a log fire. Reverend Erika Anders has kindly accepted my invitation to take the services on 13th and 20th January. On my return we will be getting ready for Lent which starts with Ash Wednesday on 13th February. We will again be having Lenten Studies and the details for these will be advertised when we have finalized the materials and the dates.

Can I also remind everyone of our forthcoming Annual General Meeting on 14th April. We will need to receive all parish reports by Friday 15th March so these can be produced into a Reports Booklet. These reports can be emailed, posted or hand-delivered but please ensure they are in by the due date. These booklets provide a very informative summary of our many ministry groups and we are able to send them to the Diocese and other places around the world. Please contribute as much as you are able.

I am looking forward to an exciting year in 2013. We have Kirchentag in Hamburg 1-5th May so once again we will be welcoming lots of new people to our beautiful place of worship. It is so good to be able to build constantly on the solid foundation of our forebears, The Merchant Adventurers of York, and the many faithful men and women who have served in this parish since 1612. May God bless all that we offer in the coming year.

The Reverend Matthew Jones Chaplain

Archbishop's New Year Message: appreciate the 'silent conspiracy of generous dedication'

Dr Rowan Williams, in his final New Year Message as Archbishop of Canterbury, pays tribute to people whose unsung efforts and sacrificial generosity help to transform lives and build communities.

In the BBC message, the eleventh he has done since taking office in 2002, Archbishop Rowan draws on the experience of the London Olympics to illustrate what it took to make the games so successful:

"everyone who visited the Olympic site or watched the broadcasts will have been made aware of the army of volunteers who cheerfully gave up their free time and worked away, without complaint, all hours of the day and night to make these great events happen. They were the key people who translated the Olympic vision into reality for the rest of us."

Similar things are happening in many communities, he says, and points to the work of London churches in caring for the disadvantaged:

"over twenty local churches are combining to offer food and shelter to homeless people in London. Religion here isn't a social problem or an old-fashioned embarrassment, it's a wellspring of energy and a source of lifegiving vision for how people should be regarded and treated."

This kind of contribution, he says, explains why so many of the things which work well in communities come from the

hard work and selfless generosity of ordinary people who want to make things happen:

"If you have the good fortune to live in a community where things seem to be working well the chances are that if you slip backstage you'll find an army of cheerful people making the wheels go round - and don¹t forget just what a huge percentage of them come from the churches and other faith groups"

"So let's recognise this steady current of generosity that underlies so much of our life together in this country and indeed worldwide. It's all based on one vision - to make our society, our whole world, work for everyone, not just the comfortable and well off."

And he challenges people to ask what they can do:

"We should be prompted to ask the tougher question: what can I do to join this silent conspiracy of generous dedication? There'll be those who have time and skill and strength to offer; there¹ll be those who have less of these, but can support in prayer and goodwill."

All of this, he says, gives us joyful glimpses of the quiet, unfailing generosity of God.

Source: PA - Jan 1 2013 (please log onto our website www.anglican-church-hamburg.de and follow the link on the homepage and review the full version of Ab Rowan's message).

A stable reminds us of the meaning of Christmas

I have enjoyed watching the teams of workers building the Christmas Market stalls around the city. As the frameworks took shape, it said to me that something exciting was coming. People have been asking 'When do the Christmas Markets open?' There has been a sense of anticipation of something to come. In St Thomas Becket Church, we have also been busy building a Nativity Stable. This is a life-size stable with seats where people can sit and quietly reflect. At this time of the year which we call Advent, there is a great sense of excitement as people await their Christmas holidays and time with families and friends and when children eagerly await the arrival of Santa

and presents. All of this is deeply rooted in the birth of a little baby some 2000 years ago. This took place in a lowly stable, surrounded by animals and with straw as a mattress. The birth of Jesus was a present from God to the world. It was God's way of saying 'I love you' and 'I forgive you'; an especially important message for all of us I think. I hope that many people will take some time to visit the church during Advent (the time of waiting leading up to Christmas) and spend a little time in the Stable, reflecting on the real meaning of Christmas and what it is we celebrate at this special and exciting time of the year.

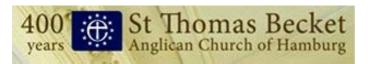
Fr. Matthew







That was the year that was!



Our celebratory year began with a small informal meeting at my flat 24 April 2010 to set the wheels in motion and ended with welcoming new members of the church at the Feast of Christ the King, 25 November 2012. What has taken place in between has been an adventure in the of spirit the original Merchant Adventurers. We began this year with Schirokkos 'Seereise' inaugurating a series of monthly concerts and completed our journey learning 'How to be a Hamburger' from Mark Lyndon.

February we had a wonderful celebratory weekend with a Gala concert sponsored by the Honorary British Consul, Claus G. Budelmann on the evening before a Service of Thanksgiving at which Bishop Geoffrey presided, attended by many civic representatives as well as from fellow churches in Hamburg and many previous Chaplains; in March our own choir gave a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion; in April the BRIDFAS lecture given by Bishop Christopher Herbert on the image of the cross in art was held in the church; in May we joined in the celebrations of HM Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a short lecture followed by a fork supper hosted jointly with the English Speaking Union. This event inspired a flurry of activity as people got into the swing of organising events. So in July we celebrated Bastille Day just for the fun of it; we were visibly present at British Flair in August; by September and October we were in full gear with an Indian 'Bollywood' evening, a tremendously successful Nacht Kirchen thanks to the efforts of Debbie Ockert which attracted nearly visitors; a symposium organised by the University of Hamburg, and a visiting choir from Stockholm, Oscars Stämmor, performing a Swedish Folk Mass supported by many with Swedish roots in Hamburg, followed by an African Day, a lecture on the British in Hamburg by Michael Ahrens, and in November some of us enjoyed a themed candlelit dinner before the final event that taught us How to be a Hamburger!

The significance of all these events together with eight concerts embracing a variety of musical styles under the Leitmotiv 'Where Foreign Worlds Meet' is that they reached out to people who have never been into the church in order to 'Extend a Welcome' We have succeeded in opening up the church more, instigating a monthly 'Open Church' and we have also introduced many people to the joys of Anglican Choral Evensong with our own choir and some wonderful visiting choirs.

Our core objectives for stb400 were defined to be visibility and growth. The church has grown and certainly we are much more visible. There has been much laughter and joy. There have also been a few tears as clearly putting on something of this level of ambition was not without its challenges. But all in all we can allow ourselves to take pride in what we as a church community have achieved together. A big thank you to those who

contributed to the STB400 planning during the preparations in 2010-2011 and to those of you who came forward to serve drinks, sell tickets, chase sponsors, provide food, and not least provide encouragement for the coordinator, to ensure that we lived up to the motto 'Extending a welcome'- a motto that expressed gratitude for Hamburg's breaking down religious courage in demarcation lines in 1611/1612, and for the fact that today STB can offer a welcome to people from many nations.

It has been hard work, certainly with the intensity of events in the past few months, but I hope you will agree that it has all been worthwhile in paving the way to continue our mission to be an 'An active and inclusive church, growing in our relationship with God and the wider community'. Happy New Year! Happy 400th + 1.

Monica STB400 Coordinator

Yes, 400 years of Hamburg was certainly marked with style. Sincere thanks go to the STB Team and all who have given their time and worked so hard in many ways to ensure success.

Anglican worship in



Editor.

New Year's Prayer

Thank you Lord for giving me The brand new year ahead Help me live the way I should As each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And the happiness it brings.

A courage born of peace
That they might lead us gently
And all the fighting cease.

Please give to all upon this earth A heart that's filled with love A gentle happy way to live With Your blessings from above.

Charlotte Anselmo

Looking for a Project for 2013?

A New Year is a good time to start new activities. St Thomas Becket's Choir Director Yotin welcomes anyone who can listen, to join the choir for what is becoming something of an annual event, a Performance of John Stainer's oratorio - "The Crucifixion" (1887) on Sat. March 23.

If you want to join the choir please see Yotin.

Das Deutschlandlied

During the Samuel Harfst concert that evening I was moved to offer to make a music video for the band. I've been producing TV commercials for the past 20 years and was confident that I'd be able to call in enough favours to produce a music video for them for free. I felt that a music video would help get the band better known outside the Christian music circuit so that the healing message in their songs can be transported through music into people's lives outside the church.



dirk_alex_samuel_katherine_david_alex

After a couple of weeks listening to the tracks from their forthcoming album "Schritt Zurück" (released September) we chose "Deutschland". The band has given the German national anthem a new melody which itself is a brave thing to do. I approached one of my favourite production companies with the idea and from then on the project just got bigger and better. We decided that a music video for "Deutschland" can only be produced by all living in Germany so we produced a "Call to Action" Music Video inviting all 82 million people living in this country to send us their vision of Germany.

Both the "Call to Action" Music Video and a Behind the Scenes Documentary with Interviews are on our homepage:-

www.das-deutschlandlied.de

We launched the project on 3rd October (Tag der deutschen Einheit - Day of German Reunification) and have had 5.500 clicks for the "Call to Action" so far. But we need a lot more uploads before we have sufficient material to edit a film. So if we can ask everybody from St Thomas Becket to participate that would be wonderful.

Katherine Smithson-Rexhausen katherine@unitbox.net

Forgiveness

The Junior Church members have been learning about forgiveness. The teachers gave all the children a card on which they could write something they wanted to say sorry for. This was a secret between them and God and no-one else would be able to read the card. The cards were then tied to helium balloons and at the end of the service, the children let them go and, as the balloons flew up into the sky, they could see that they were set free from their sins. The response from the adults was wonderful and many have asked if we could do this again, next time including children and adults. We can learn a lot from our children!



Junior Church Nativity Play

This year the children from Junior Church performed their Nativity Play 'Just a little Christmas', a play written by Sharon Kay Chatwell. The children practiced very hard and were a delight to watch.

The narrators told the story from the



pulpit and the many actors entertained the congregation with their acting skills and their wonderful costumes. A very busy angel hovered around, firstly telling Mary that she had been chosen by God to have a very special baby and then telling Joseph that everything was in accordance with God's plan. Both Mary and Joseph responded with a simple 'Ok', which brought lots of laughter from the gathered crowd.



Mary and Joseph then moved around inside the church as they made their trek to Bethlehem where the baby Jesus was born. The angel then had to tell the shepherds on the hillside that Jesus had been born and they then moved around as they went to see the baby in the stable. Lots of little sheep were roaming around the building to the great delight of everyone.

The nasty King Herod made an appearance with his advisors when the three Kings wanted to know where they might find the new King of the Jews. They followed the star and found baby Jesus and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The angel hurried in to warn them all that Herod was looking to harm the baby and yelled 'GET OUT OF THERE NOW!!!!!' This brought gales of laughter as Mary and Joseph fled with baby Jesus to safety in Egypt. The whole cast then concluded the play in unison saying 'Peace on earth and goodwill to all people'.

It was a wonderful morning and everyone, both young and old, had a great time.

Junior Church



Our Annual Bazaar 2012



Our church Bazaar is an annual event that many people look forward to each year. It is a major event where the church opens it's doors and reaches out to welcome all young, old, residents, visitors, - all who come to enjoy the day. As well as a fundraising event it is a wonderful chance to meet and talk to many people. The event is well advertised with our orange posters and handbills distributed all over Hamburg, also local web sites and newspapers announce the event.



The Bazaar provides a major part of the annual income that helps keep the running of the church and once again we raised over €13,100 on the day. The result of course could not be achieved without the help of

many people. This year it was a true team event where we all just got on and did the necessary to make the day a success. Perhaps not all realise how much work and preparation goes on behind the scenes to ensure a successful day. A big thank you to all who helped organise the stalls and activities, and who helped set-up and clear-up. Don't forget that we always need help so come on and please join the team.

John Finn

The Victorian Christmas Market

Once again the British Community in Hamburg held a Victorian Christmas Market on December 1-2, at the Baseler Hof Hotel. The Church runs a stall at this event selling Cards, Jams, Chutneys and Handicrafts. The proceeds of which are added to our Bazaar result. Thank you to the LCF and especially Ellen, Judith and Mary for your loyal support.



2012 - Church Christmas and Greetings Cards - 2013

Once again Christmas and Greetings cards were sold during 2012 in aid of the historic church of St Thomas Becket. In spite of the increasing use of e-mail and high postage rates, the net profit during 2012, after deducting 841.38 Euros for expenses, still amounted to 4,937.82 Euros. This is about 600 Euros less than last year's total. However the good news is that during November, the honorary British Consul, Claus Budelmann, very generously offered to donate 25% of whatever profit was made this year on the cards, specifically towards the card project. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Budelmann. Because of his kind support the total net profit for the cards this year will in fact amount to about 6000 Euros. The exact amount will be reported later.

The most thanks as in every year are due to all those who actually make the cards - sorting, chopping, and sticking – always very precisely, very professionally and with great attention to detail, and quite literally over decades: to Debbie Faddul, Irene Finn, Jane Harding, Cicely Hollingsworth, Mary Sanderson, Cathy Schierholz, Katrin and Ruediger Schnetzer and back in England to Caroline Yarnold.

About 1500 cards are sold at the bazaar and after church on Sundays. The remaining 3000 - 4000 cards however are sold outside the church, at other events within the English speaking community and organizations in Hamburg, in shops and to other peoples' friends, families and work colleagues.. This means that we are able to reach out to a far wider public than would otherwise be possible simply through our congregation - thereby also advertising the church's presence here in Hamburg. We are very grateful indeed for all this vital support, again for the most part over decades.

particular we thank BRIDFAS, the British Flair event at the Anglo-German Club, Jacqueline Caesar (The British Bullinger, Club), Irene Finn and Cicely Hollingsworth (AGIWA and the British Ladies Luncheon Club) Nancy Fischer (German-American Womens Club), Helga Goerike (two shops in Reinbek), Pam Hanus (Helena-Lange Schule), Jane Harding, Sigrid Jebsen (Olsen Outlet), Carol Kloeverkorn, Howard and Gabi Kroch (The English Speaking Union), Margot Lord, Jenny Mather (International School Hamburg), Dieter Nachtigaelle (Facharztklinik, Martinistr.), Elke Norden, Sigrid Reuter (The Hamburg Players) and the Victorian Christmas Market (Hon. British Consulate).

A final thank-you is also due to all those who collect used cards on behalf of the church, both in Hamburg and also in Britain. Some save cards for us through their offices and churches and some even send cards through the post. All the help is really very much appreciated.

Looking ahead now to Christmas 2013 we shall again need as many used Christmas cards as possible. In order to be able to select good mixed motives to make over 5000 cards, we actually need more than 25,000 used cards! We are also selling more blank cards during the year now and so need used birthday and flower cards, and any spare photos of flowers you may have. There is a box just inside the church door for used cards, or they can be handed in to the office of the Hon. British Consulate, Jungfernstieg, or to the different societies. If this is difficult, let me know and I can collect larger quantities of cards.

Hamburg, 3rd January, 2013 *Judith Holst*(040 880 07 27)

Church Wanderers



All the Saturdays in October being taken up with other church events which we were encouraging our

members to attend, there could be no walk that month.

November, however, saw us striding out, or rather strolling in true Wanderers' fashion, along the Krückau Hiking Trail from Elmshorn to Barmstedt, a new route kindly brought to our notice by Anke Peters. The weather forecast for 10 November had not been very inviting but, not only did the rain hold off, but the grey skies soon gave way to a really pleasant day.

Following the description found on the internet, we duly set off from the station along the Mühlendamm and then through the Krückau Park. However, the path was not as well sign-posted as we had been led to believe and we were fortunate to meet an elderly local man walking his dog who was able to give us exact instructions. Without his help we might not have realized that, on reaching the bridge over the A23, we needed to double-back to find the Krückau again.

The route followed the stream with occasional crossings of wooden bridges along well-kept paths bordered by trees, their leaves still green although it was well into Autumn, until it widened out as we approached the village of Bokholt. Soon afterwards we found the perfect picnic spot, a wooden shelter with ample benches with a lovely view over the countryside.

We were now halfway with another 6kms to go, but ahead lay the Rantzauer Forst,

unbelievably beautiful with the leaves of its beech trees in golden splendour. A short rest for those of us with weary limbs gave us strength for the final stretch to the Rantzauer See - and Kaffee u. Kuchen!! It would have been quite a treck from the Gastståtte back to Barmstedt station, had it not been for the fact that Johann's car found itself, as though by magic, in the neighbouring car-park! and provided a very welcome taxi-service. A really lovely day.

In December the group took the train to Lüneburg for a planned walk round the town followed by a visit to the Weihnachtsmarkt. However, such were the many enticing distractions that day, that things became somewhat disorganised and we reached the Rathausmarkt for the start of our walk a full hour after getting off the train.

Thanks mainly to Ulrike, we found our way along the former town fortifications - treading carefully on the frozen snow - to reach the park, where children had been tobogganing and Tina descended swiftly down the slide while the rest of us took the steps. Not far now to the Kreideberg See which we circled along a well-prepared path, at one point climbing up to the viewpoint overlooking the town. An encounter



with an inquisitive group of swans ended in Matthew's coat lining being torn and the contents of Eileen's rucksack being thoroughly explored!

As it was 2.30pm by the time we got back to the Weihnachtsmarkt, we abandoned the idea of completing the walk - everyone was cold and very hungry - and went in search of lunch. Naturally, the cafés were crowded and we had to split up. Some managed to sit down to a proper meal, but others, including myself, stopped for sausageor steak-rolls by the Johanneskircke and afterwards warmed ourselves up with mugs of Glühwein in the large wooden chalet - sehr gemütlich. The church with its magnificent organ and altar triptych was well worth a quick visit before we headed back to the station. Amazingly, everyone met up on the platform in time to catch the train back to Hamburg!



Future walks will take place on the 2nd Saturday of each month. For details please see the church website.

Cicely Hollingsworth

More visitors to the website than ever!



During 2012 we have been running two websites, the one for

the church <u>www.anglican-church-hamburg.de</u> and a special website for the 400th anniversary <u>www.stbecket400.de</u> with a combined number of visitors in excess of 13000!

Visitors to the church website were up 17% compared with 2011, some 7800 visitors from over 50 countries, 72% with German IP addresses. Average visitors per month numbered 500, with a peak being November (church bazaar month) with double that number.

The website for the 400th anniversary had slightly fewer visitors with 5660 (good to know it has not usurped the church site) also from 50 countries, 66% with German IP addresses. Average visitors per month were 400 with a peak of 750 in February (the month of celebratory weekend). This site will remain online as a reference source and to allow continued access to the videos, but is no longer being maintained.



We have a facebook site and our choir director Yotin maintains a blog all of which adds to our

internet presence. Earlier in the year your webmaster was asked to speak to the CAECG on the importance of this medium, it is after all the first point of contact most people have with a church these days! Further improvements are planned now that stb400 is less of a distraction.

ST THOMAS BECKET ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Our Anglican Services

Sunday, 6 January
10:30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 13 January
10:30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 20 January 10:30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 27January
10:30 Holy Communion *
17:00 Worship Service

Sunday, 3 February 10:30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 10 February 10:30 Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday 13 February
10:30 Holy Communion +
Imposition of Ashes
19:00 Holy Communion +
Imposition of Ashes

Sunday, 17 February
10:30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 24 February *
10:30 Holy Communion
17:00 Worship Service

Sunday, 3 March 10:30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 10 March 10:30 Holy Communion

Sunday, 17 March 10:30 Holy Communion

*(traditional service)

Holy Week and Easter

Sunday, 24 March - Palm Sunday

10:30 Holy Communion

Tuesday, 26 March 19:30 Taizé Service

Thurday, 28 March
19:30 Holy Communion and Vigil Watch

Friday, 29 March - Good Friday
10:30 Liturgy of the Word
& Recognition of the cross
Not Holy Communion

Sunday, 31 March - Easter Day 10:30 Holy Communion

The arrival of the three kings on the Feast of the Epiphany brings the Christmas celebrations to a close.

This year Lent starts on 13th February so we are quickly shifting our focus from the baby Jesus to the adult Jesus, who found himself enduring forty days and forty nights of temptation in the wilderness. Knowing that Jesus experienced this time of 'testing' is helpful for us when we find ourselves in similar times of testing and distress.

Jesus' example of how to deal with adversity can be an inspiration for all of us when we encounter those long times of difficulty and uncertainty.

May this Lent and Easter bring us the strength we need to see things through to the end, no matter how challenging they may be.

The Reverend Matthew Jones

From the Registers October - December 2012			
Baptism	28 October	Mary Alice Thompson Lucy Rose Thompson Jetta Marie Jansen	
	25 November	Ricardo Schneider	
	12 December	Mia Stine Matzkow	
Confirmation	25 November	Thomas Banyu Amy Kathrin Buhmann Ricardo Schneider Harry Wise	
Reception into the Communion of the Church of England	25 November	Marion Dawes	
Funerals & Memorial Service	24 October 10 December	David Findlay Brian Thomas	



Confirmation Service 25 November 2012

Bishop David Hamid together with Archdeacon Jonathan LLoyd and our newly confirmed church members after their Confirmation and the special service celebrating the Feast of Christ the King.

Who's Who at our Church

<u>Chaplain</u> <u>Telephone</u>

Revd Matthew Jones (040) 4392334 (040) 2849 3722 Fax

Church Council

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For notices and contribution to the website, please e-mail to webmaster(at)anglican-church-hamburg.de