

Becket News



The Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket

Zeughausmarkt 22, 20459 Hamburg

www.anglican-church-hamburg.de

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

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From the Chaplain



As I sat down to write this article for Becket News, I reflected on some of the events which have recently taken place in our church community, such as Nacht der Kirchen, and I was reminded that it is three

years since I arrived in Hamburg. In fact it was the day after my induction that I experienced my first 'Night of the Churches' and just a few weeks ago we celebrated this event again with a wonderful evening of worship and music together, including a superb Organ Recital by Jochim Trede to celebrate his 50th anniversary as our parish organist. This has given me cause to look back at the past three years and to reflect on the joys and the challenges that we have shared together. I have also been trying to imagine how the future will look.

In the past three years we have celebrated our 400th anniversary, we have restored the exterior of our beautiful building, we have installed a new sign and external lighting on the front of the building and we have taken our part in hosting the Kirchentag with our ecumenical friends. This is in addition to our regular services and a host of other events which we have taken part in around Hamburg. We also worked together in the latter part of last year and into this year to address the serious financial position in which we found ourselves. This continues to be a cause of great anxiety and I know that many people are feeling tired and challenged by these issues.

This financial crisis has made me question much of what we do and why we do it. We work very hard all year to try and raise enough money to pay our expenses and this means events like the Bazaar and the Greeting Card Ministry and other fundraising events become crucial to the financial health of our chaplaincy. Why do we need this money? The answer is quite simple! We need this money to meet the running expenses of the chaplaincy: What are the running expenses? The bulk of the expenses are the costs of having a full-time Chaplain which include stipend, housing and contributions to the pension scheme in addition to other smaller costs. Other expenses are things like heating, electricity, insurances,

telephone expenses and other personnel costs for cleaning and music. However, it is the cost of a full-time chaplain which represents the greater part of the budgeted expenses for our chaplaincy.

This leads me to my next question: Do we want and/or need a full-time chaplain? I know that historically we have had a full-time chaplain in Hamburg for a very long time. However, as I understand it, thirty or forty years ago was a time when there were big companies, predominantly British, which were engaged in business in Hamburg and brought executives from places such as England to work here. Many of these were relatively young men with wives and young families and they established themselves in Hamburg and the English Church became a central part of their social and spiritual lives. This is not the case today and we are seeing less and less of these types of businesses operating in this way. The increased use of the internet for business means that many companies no longer establish large offices overseas and the models of business which were particularly strong in Hamburg thirty or forty years ago have changed dramatically.

In addition to this, the costs for maintaining ministry continue to rise and we need to be mindful of this as we look to the future. I have been reflecting on our services which we offer in St Thomas Becket and have made some observations. Our Sunday morning service is strong and vibrant and is continuing to grow numerically. Since 2010 we have experienced almost thirty per cent growth in attendance at these services. This is very encouraging and I pray it will continue to grow even more. Christmas and Easter services are also growing numerically and the introduction of a special service for children and families on Christmas Eve and the re-introduction of Midnight Mass for Christmas have proved popular. Ascension Day and Ash Wednesday have also been growing steadily in numbers over the past three years. However, the bulk of our other regular services and some other activities are not growing. Choral Evensong (held on Thursday or Saturday evenings) has very small attendances. Worship@17:00 has now been cancelled due to the lack of support. The 'Shared Mass' with the Old Catholics had eight Anglicans attending and five Anglicans attended the 'Shared Mass' at the Swedish church. In addition to these services we have one regular Bible Study group with

fluctuating numbers. I am making some calculated guesses but I can think of four reasons why support may not be strong for services and events apart from Sunday morning:

- People live some distance from the church which makes it difficult to attend other services and events regularly.
- Family commitments make it difficult to attend additional church services and events.
- Work commitments make it difficult to attend additional church services and events.
- Some people may not want or need any additional church services or events.

In the past three years I have officiated at four weddings, six funerals, and twenty five baptisms. I have had numerous attempts to visit the International School but have been advised that they do not want 'Religion' in the school. I have one regular Home Communion (and others on occasion as the need arises) and I have one regular person whom I visit in a nursing home.

As I reflect on these figures, I cannot help but ask the question: 'Why do we want and/or need a full-time chaplain?' It seems to me that we are spending a lot of energy and time trying to raise sufficient funds to pay a chaplain to primarily take one service on Sunday.

At our recent Church Council meeting, I asked the Council to endorse my request to begin a series of consultations and discussions to try and imagine the future shape of our chaplaincy. I am concerned about the future financial viability of this chaplaincy and have expressed this concern openly with the Church Council. I feel that we need to talk about the shape of our ministry into the future. The model of ministry we are trying to sustain is the same model that was in place when we had those thriving international businesses I referred to earlier. Much has changed and I believe we need to look at whether we need to also change. It would, in my opinion, be unwise to continue as we are in the long term without at least talking about other possible ministry models. I would hope that in the coming six months, we can have numerous discussions in both small and large groups and then present our findings, and perhaps recommendations, to the Annual General Meeting in April.

I will be back from holidays on 5th October and then I hope we will be able to start setting some dates for these consultations to begin. I believe it is by openly talking about our ministry that we can hear many views and perhaps come up with new models which we may not have thought of ourselves. It is also important that we pray about this and that we take time to listen to what God is saying to us, both individually, and as a church community. I offer the following prayer as a starting point for our future discussions together.

**Almighty God,
You have called us to be your church in
Hamburg and we gather from many parts
of your created world. Give us wisdom as
we try to discern your will for us as a
church community. Help us to be a
welcoming, active and inclusive church,
growing in our relationship with you and
the wider community. Give us wisdom as
we exercise stewardship of all the
resources we have at our disposal and
give us the courage to dare to dream of a
future that may be different from the past.
Lead us with love as we faithfully follow
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Reverend Matthew Jones (Chaplain)

Money matters! Calmer waters!

Regular readers of BN may recall the rather desperate headlines a year ago when the Chaplaincy Council was obliged to put out an emergency appeal for donations to rescue the church's dire financial situation. A year ago monthly outgoings were running well in excess of income. So it is wonderful to be able to report that a year on we are in calmer waters thanks to an increase in regular giving by about 10% and on track to balance our 2014 budget.

So a big thank you to all who contribute financially, especially those who have increased their donations for 2014, however small the amount!

We now have in place a much improved reporting system maintained by our Treasurer

Heiner Quast who is doing a fantastic job in keeping things in order and making sure the Chaplaincy Council is able to track the finances to avoid a repetition of last year's 'surprise'. Having not been able to find someone from within the STB community to take on the role of Treasurer, we are extremely grateful to Heiner, who is a (youthfully) retired banker, for taking on this role for a very small fee.

The fact we have stabilised the financial situation is something of a relief, but we are operating on a very, very tight budget. We are in the happy position of being a growing church, but to support this growth we do need more resources. So every extra bit of cash helps. Aside from donations, the additional source of income we have is from events. The most important of these is the **Annual Bazaar** which brings in about 10% of the church's annual income. Helping to publicise this and other events in church and getting friends to come along is also a very helpful form of giving. We should not overlook that the Bazaar is a major social event that involves many from the direct STB community and beyond.

Money matters, but all events are a great way to fulfil our mission statement '*to engage with the wider community*'. And working together is fun!

Monica Schofield
Treasury Liaison

Donations can be made by Bank Transfer to :

Englisch-bischöfliche Gemeinde
BIC : HASPDEHHXXX
IBAN : DE46200505501280146422

Please mark as 'Spende' in order to receive a tax certificate.

We are sorry to have to inform members of STB who pay *Kirchensteuer* that the Nordkirche has turned down our request for reinstatement of the grant that used to be paid in lieu of *Kirchensteuer*.

This means STB will continue to receive nothing from members who pay Kirchensteuer unless donations are made directly to the church.

Fabric Committee Report

During the past months, efforts have been focused on a few minor projects, as well as meetings and coordination with the church architect concerning the both potential interior projects and a few remaining items from last year's exterior renovation:

1. Church flat – Significant time and effort was expended in connection with the flat over the past months associated with the exodus of its tenant and in preparation for the next tenant, including:

- Observing the removal of all furnishings and fixtures from the building;
- Inspection of the flat with the tenant and a witness several days after the removal by the churchwardens and members of the Fabric Committee;
- Preparation and execution of the Übergabe;
- Meeting and discussion with our Choir Director concerning possible tenancy;
- Inspection of plumbing in the flat and receipt of recommendations with cost estimates;
- Obtaining and reviewing estimates for flat cleaning and refurbishing; and
- Preliminary discussions and guidance from our attorney concerning terms of a new lease(s).

2. After much prompting the grant of €10,000 from the Hamburg Denkmal Stiftung, promised sometime ago, was finally received.

3. Meeting with architect Alk Friedrichsen concerning increasing energy efficiency of the building.

4. Brass plaque from the Royal Highnesses.

5. Bubbling of paint in small areas of the exterior will be resolved with the painting contracting when the weather is dry.

6. Wireless microphone prices being sought by Birte Fischer.

7. Minor repairs made to microphone cable connections and to the wood trim on a lectern.

Phil Zeni
Fabric Committee Chairman
and Churchwarden

YOUR CHURCH



Now that STB's finances are not such an acute problem as they were, the Chaplaincy Council is now turning its attention to another major challenge in the life of the church – resource planning.

To be an active and growing church requires not just stable finances, but more importantly the willingness of people to commit to running and supporting activities. STB has been well supported by a core of stalwarts who over decades have dedicated much time and creative energy to maintain the life of this blessed community. But these stalwarts are not getting younger, and some are retiring and moving elsewhere: a new generation of loyal workers is needed. As the Chaplain's report notes, currently the church activities are maintained by a rather small team of people. We need more hands on deck!

So please think, pray and act on ways you can contribute. There are many jobs up for grabs including an editor for Becket News when John and Irene Finn leave Hamburg next year, someone to run the Bazaar, teachers for Junior church and more.

MS/Sept.14

BRIDFAS Church Recording Project with St Thomas Becket

A second meeting took place in the Church on 9 September, attended by 16 volunteers and Fr Matthew. Pat Pladger presented further progress, having met the NADFAS Church Recording representative in the U.K. in August for a meeting. She had brought back copies of NADFAS Church Recording Handbooks and copies of a dummy Church Record, so everyone could see how the information and research is compiled and laid out.

The next step is for this Church Recording expert to come to Hamburg and give the volunteers some training and insight into how to actually get started and what to look for. This has now been arranged for 24 and 25 November 2014, when Liz Chalmers from the U.K. will be with the volunteers in the church.

On the Monday evening 24 November, while she is here. It is planned to hold a launch meeting in the Church at 6pm to which anyone is invited. If you would like to see what Church Recorders actually do, have a look at the following link, and then click on podcasts and watch the video.

<http://www.nadfas.co.uk/what.we.do/church-recording/introduction>.

We still need more volunteers to join us in this exciting project, so whether or not you have any specific skills in metals, textiles, woodwork, memorials, and plaques, to name a few of the things inside a church, there is something for everyone to do and help with and plenty to learn.

Please contact the coordinator, Pat Pladger, (Chair of BRIDFAS details below) and join us. We are delighted and motivated by the response so far.

Pat Pladger
Chairperson, British Decorative and Fine Arts
Society of Hamburg e.V.

Patpladger.bet@t-online.de
Tel: 040/821858

CAECG Meeting 18-20 September: Church Finances

A lively and informative meeting of the Council of Anglican Episcopal Churches in Germany took place one week ago at Church House in Lübeck. The special guest speaker, Heidi Grau-Easthill, gave a much appreciated set of presentations on Church Finances and German Tax Law. All of the churches represented at the meeting benefited greatly from the thorough and wonderfully clear presentation of a sometimes very dense area of regulations that directly affect our Churches. Along with Rev. Matthew, our church's representatives, Harriet Sasse, Birte Fischer and Karen Bergquist Lüth, learned as much from hearing about the experiences of the other congregations in managing their financial challenges as we did from the formal presentation. We were also happy to learn that as a Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts, as opposed to a Verein, we have a unique tax status amongst the CAECG churches that gives us certain advantages tax-wise.



The Saturday morning session on the Duties of Churchwardens, led by our own Rev. Matthew, gave us a new appreciation of all that these unsung heroes do to keep things humming in the parish: everything from managing the non-spiritual operations of the church, to keeping us legal, to being a support to the chaplain. These are duties that require going above and beyond. So please, when you see Erica Hori or Phil Zeni next, give them a big kiss or at least a big 'thanks'!

Karen Bergquist-Luth

Small Church Reflection Meetings "Visiting Bethany"

Is bigger always better? Is being small being a failure? What does it mean to be a small church community? We are going to "visit Bethany" for five evenings, the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, the siblings Jesus liked to visit to find some rest and relaxation.

The five evenings in January and February 2015 will be an opportunity to celebrate evening prayer together, to eat and drink and talk - about what being a church is, not entertaining our big visions we have about how church should be, but what the small things are, what has been there already all the time in our community. There will also be guests each evening to share from their experience of being a small community.

Wednesday, 21 January 2015, 7pm
Wednesday, 28 January 2015, 7pm
Wednesday, 4 February 2015, 7pm
Wednesday, 11 February 2015, 7pm
Wednesday, 18 February 2015, 7pm (starting with the Ash Wednesday Mass)

Mary, Martha and Lazarus are our hosts, together with Yotin, Matthew and a team providing the drinks. Details about special guests will be announced in due time. For any questions about what we are planning here just speak to Yotin.

yotin@gmx.de
Tel: 0176 72364865.



50 years service to our Church

Nacht der Kirchen was held this year on September 6th. Which, as coincidence, was the 50th anniversary of Jochim Trede as Organist at St Thomas Becket. How better but to ask Jochim to perform a special concert in honour and memory of the occasion. It what a wonderful occasion it was and one that we all will remember. However this was not the only celebration to mark his service to the Church. On Sunday 14th September we celebrated his 50th Anniversary as Organist of STB at a special service in Jochim's honour.

It was a marvellous service and a true tribute to our long devoted church member. Jochim was in good humour and one could really feel his love and enjoyment throughout the celebrations. After the service we made a formal presentation of a gift from the church and Jochim, of course in his normal dry humour, responded with a few words. I think it suitable that we print his speech so we all can share the occasion.



"Dear Friends in Christ,

At the end of the following words I would like to announce a real surprise. So please listen carefully so you don't miss it.

Last Saturday, Matthew was shocked, surprised, when after my recital he asked me to say a few words and I only said "I'm relieved", but I promised to say something more today, hopefully not too much. My speeches, at my former anniversaries, started with a similar short sentence, namely "It's a pity" (...pause,unbelieving faces) and then "that these years are already over" and this is indeed part of my feelings today. My main feeling today is thankfulness to God and to you from the Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket for giving me the organ bench and the beautiful instrument behind it to practice my faith in Jesus Christ and sometimes indeed, to preserve us through times of doubt and error. "Perverse and foolish oft I strayed" says verse 3 of the hymn "The King of Love my Shepherd is". He was and is my shepherd indeed through all these many years.

The day before yesterday I received a very kind letter from Matthews' predecessor Roger and his family in which they began to calculate - 50 Sundays a year, that means about 2.500 services and I was seduced to continue calculating: 5 hymns per service, each containing in a four part setting about 100 notes, that is very roughly 1,250,000 times pushing a key. Now, if you assume a very friendly rate of let's say 5 per million wrong notes that means 6,250 wrong notes the congregation had to bear, but fortunately there remains the rest of properly played notes. However if you think these fifty years are unique I have to disappoint you. Among us is my brother Reimer who has served as organist in the prison for 60 years! By the way he is the predecessor of Yotin, who is now in the prison - as the organist!

These 50 Years started in 1964 when I was at school and studying church music as it was love at first sight or shall I say love on first listening: When my colleague, who had asked me to stand in, instructed me for my first service he played the tune Easter hymn and

said: "Isn't it charming?" Yes It's the Anglican hymns that made me, a person of Lutheran origin, stay with this church for my whole life as an organist although, of course, there were inquiries from other churches. I love Anglican Hymns!! I have experienced many changes from Book of Common Prayer to Alternative Service Book to Common Worship. Hymnbooks: the old black Ancient & Modern, the red revised Ancient & Modern, today's Common Praise.

I received much appreciation and love. The best compliment I received during a longer interregnum. One of the visiting locums asked the priest's warden, at that time Stanley Curran, husband of Rosie Curran, the oldest member of our congregation. Who, I am very sad cannot be here today although she sent me greetings by her son Thomas some days ago. Back to the locum priest's question: "What about the organist?" Stanley answered: "We have Jochim, he is prepared for everything at any time."

I could of course speak for hours about all the priests I worked together with, about 10 I think but just the highlights: Visit of Prince and Princess of Wales, the special services for 150th anniversary of our building, the 400 years Anglicans in Hamburg, the visit of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, the renovation of our organ and so on. Also I could tell many anecdotes, some only suitable to be told to a small circle. I mention just one which demonstrates my love of our church.

As you know my main job was a school teacher, in the last 15 years as a head teacher. I liked my main job very much and I had the opportunity to make music there as well – with children! Sometimes there were doubts which of the two jobs I liked best. Let me tell you a little incident. Some years ago I met an old friend whom I knew from the teachers union. Meanwhile he had become schulinspector within the "Schulbehörde", the school administration in Hamburg. He asked me: "Sag' mal spielst du eigentlich immer noch in deiner Englischen Kirche?" "Do you still play the organ in your English Church?"

He was probably not very amused by my slightly naughty answer: "Yes and sometimes it's the only thing I am really interested in."

I would like to stress that I still love to make music here, the more since I have worked together with Yotin Tiewtrakul, our extremely talented choir director, who by the way composed the Eucharist setting which we sang today.

Now to the surprise. As the day of this anniversary came nearer I was concerned about two questions: 1. Will there be any monument of me? 2. What can I do to show my thankfulness to the Church. I found one answer to both questions:

Please listen to a short piece of music! (then Jochim played a recording of some bars of a Bach toccata)

Guess who is the organist? which is the organ? what is the piece? and by whom?



Two years ago I had a meeting with colleagues who studied organ with the same teacher and I learned that there were recordings made 50 years ago of me playing the organ which still exist and I remembered that there were also recordings of a concert in our church from 1997. I produced a CD out of these old recordings, so I have my "monument" and gave 50 copies to Matthew to be sold at the next bazaar or just today in

to benefit the church finances. My proposal: 5€ minimum, whoever is willing and able may pay more for the good cause.

Let me end by quoting two hymn lines we sang today:

*“We love to sing below
For mercies freely given ...”*

Thank you all”

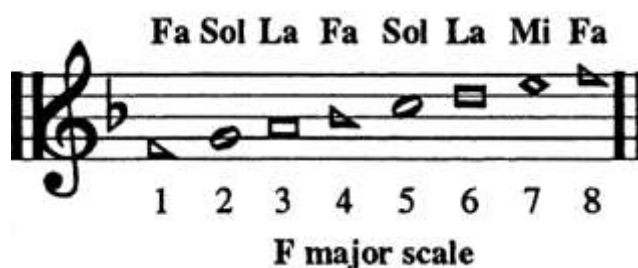


It suffices to say that the total congregation past and present are eternally grateful for the never ending commitment and service that Jochim has given to our Church.



It is his love and our pleasure !

John Finn



Night of the Churches

We had a wonderful evening of worship and music as we joined in the Night of the Churches. We began with Choral Evensong and our choir sang a beautiful psalm and anthem as well as the Versicles and Responses composed by our choir director, Yotin. This was followed by a superb Organ Recital by Jochim Trede to celebrate his 50th Anniversary as organist in the English Church.

Afterwards we had Shape Note Music from 'Sacred Harp' which was very well received. It was such a joy to watch the faces of the participants who were obviously enjoying themselves. We even had a visitor from America who, as it happened, told us he sings in a Sacred Harp group every week in his home town. He was delighted to be asked to join in. We



concluded the evening with the Lord's Prayer in many languages, which helped us to celebrate the fact that we gather from many nations and yet are bound together by Christ.



Remembering WW1



We held a Prayer Service for PEACE on the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1. It was good to gather and pray for peace, especially as there is still so much conflict in the world today.

Shared Mass with the Old Catholics

We have been strengthening our links with the Old Catholics, with whom we are in full communion. We celebrated a Shared Mass together in the Englische Kirche and it was great to have four priests celebrating together. Next time we are going to join them at St Trinitatis at 4.00pm on Sunday 7 December. Please come along and get to know our ecumenical friends.





Church Wanderers

Our July walk took us once again, to the vast Stadtpark in the suburb of Winterhude. This year, Stadtpark, the largest park in Hamburg, is celebrating 100 years of being a park with all the ups and downs. In the past, Stadtpark was a hunting ground belonging to a Hamburg business tycoon, Adolph Sierich. We made our way through woods (Sierichsche Gehölz) to the Planetarium, where we gathered in a shady spot and waited for wanderers to arrive. The participants were seven STB wanderers and one guest, a friend of Mathida, Olive. It was a very warm day, hot in fact. We continued down to the Stadtpark Lake where we found a secluded picnic spot tucked away in an island, jutting out into the lake. There we had a convivial picnic and the treats to share made it a festive occasion. While the more active of the wanderers took a constitutional walk around the lake,

Peter Alexander treated the more passive wanderers to an ice cream! We gathered up the picnic utensils, cleared up, rearranged the outdoors benches and gave our picnic spot to a grateful family who were waiting for our cosy, shady spot. Rather early in the day, the eight wanderers dispersed at various exits to the Stadtpark. Perhaps it was because of the heat of the day that made us so lethargic, but the picnic and company were pleasingly jolly. An excellent way to spend a hot summer's day in the city.



The summer heat continued into August and a midday temperature of 29°C was forecast for the day of the walk. "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun" - maybe, but not this one! A request for suggestions for a walk in the shade resulted in our deciding to visit Ohlsdorf cemetery. Of course, as so often, the forecast was completely wrong and ten of us, including Ulrike Knebler's guest from Ireland, met at the main gate armed with umbrellas. Fortunately, the rain held off and with a cooler temperature walking was very pleasant. Which direction to take? Ohlsdorf is vast, so we just decided to leave the main roads and wander "nach Lust und Laune" along the inviting grassy paths at times bordered with beautiful trees. None of us had a compass and after a while we found we had gone round in a circle and, indeed, had visited the Feuerwehr graveyard twice!.

The Nordteich sounded inviting and from the map appeared quite near. In the end it was quite a trek along a road but a lovely tranquil spot once we got there with places to sit down and enjoy the little lake. On leaving, we spotted a bus just drawing up at a nearby stop and finding it was heading for the main entrance hopped on.

Time for lunch and, as it had been thought not appropriate to have a picnic in a cemetery, we set off down the road to the "Zur Ratsmühle", a pleasant Gaststätte, well-known to Richard Perrin and which had also been recommended to me earlier by Volker Bertram. The weather was now proving very unsettled and we were glad to get inside away from the wind and the intermittent showers and enjoy a good meal, while admiring a flotilla of very disciplined cygnets on the lake.

The route for September was suggested by Martin Sahni who reported having had a lovely walk with friends in the Fischbeker Heide where the heather was still in bloom. The 13th was not the best date to travel with relief buses running between Harburg Rathaus and Neugraben but all who had

signed up, eleven, I think, did eventually arrive at the start.

I had worked out the route from my map, but Anke had another more detailed one and suggested a different way which would allow us to enjoy more of the heather. It was, indeed, very pleasant, at first along woodland paths, then over the heath, but rather longer than my original route. We didn't quite reach the Kuhteich by lunchtime but found another good spot and there, over our picnic, I announced that I thought it was now time for me to hand over the leadership of the group to someone younger. I am, after all, now 85. (In fact it seems likely that several long-standing Wanderers who have already organized walks in my absence will be prepared to take over. More info in due course).

The original plan had been to reach the Moisburger Stein, where there would be a choice of walking the short distance to Waldfrieden or, for the more active, of continuing to Kiekeberg. In the event, as on a former occasion, we followed the wrong path at the Archaeological site and all of us found ourselves at the Waldfrieden bus-stop. It was now getting rather too late to return to the Moisburger Stein, so we repaired to the nearby Gasthof Waldschänke for K.und K.

My thanks to the Wanderers for putting up with me for so many years. You are a wonderful group and I am sure we shall keep in contact.

Cicely Hollingsworth
(July report by Liz Neitz)

Future dates:

11 October Burkhard Conrad will lead a walk
from Stelle to Winsen

8 November to be decided

13 December "

Patronal Festival for St Thomas Becket

This year we celebrated our Patronal Festival in August as December, which is the official date, is a time when many people are away. We had a very moving service as we reflected together on the life and faith of this very impressive churchman. His death in Canterbury Cathedral had a major impact on the lives of many people and pilgrims flowed into the Cathedral to pay homage. He is remembered today with affection and love for his faith and courage in the face of great adversity. We are planning a parish pilgrimage to Canterbury 3-8 August 2015 to visit the site where Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered.

Greeting Cards

What began as a Christian Book Stall, over the years has evolved as a Card Stall.

The cards are made up of photos taken by me and mounted on a very stylish open card which is then put into a cellophane pocket. At this point I would very much like to thank Monica Schofield for her assistance in helping me to get new blank cards printed.

Most Sundays you will see me at the back of the church near the book case, failing that there is a selection of cards on the table just near the church entrance with a little pink piggy for your assistance.



A very big thank you to all my faithful card buyers which has proved to be successful in helping to maintain our beautiful and historic Church.

Brenda Hinz

Pause for Thought

Running to win

“Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it.”

These words are not, as one might think, from a manual of instruction given to athletes participating in this year's Commonwealth Games, but the words of the Apostle Paul writing to the Christian Community in Corinth almost two thousand years ago. Paul was writing as a citizen of the Roman Empire, which carried on many traditions from the Greeks, including competitive sport, especially the Olympic Games. (They were abolished in AD 393, for being too pagan!) Many cities then were very wealthy, and competed with each other to achieve distinction by erecting temples, public baths, theatres and sport centres. So as Paul went around the empire on his missionary journeys he must have been witness to many sporting events, with crowds of spectators and in which the competitors enjoyed recognition and an enthusiastic following. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!

No wonder then that Paul seizes the opportunity to use athletic images to proclaim the Christian faith. Competitors in sport must have a clear goal; self-discipline and regular training; above all courage to overcome obstacles and self-doubt. They cannot succeed without good mentors and coaches; encouragement from supporters is vital on the path to success. Paul's words quoted above continue thus:- “Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.” In other words, we who follow Christ cannot be side-tracked by the diversions of the world, we cannot lose sight of the glory of God. Our aim is to be whole in body, mind and spirit, to achieve peace and in harmony with God, both in this life and the next. Whereas the athlete's prize is “perishable” and momentary the Christian's is eternal and everlasting (an imperishable garland).

But neither prize is won without some effort on our part. We cannot expect God to do every-

thing for us, if we want to come closer to him and be joyful in his presence. We need to know our need of God in our lives, that we cannot do everything in our own power. It is by the discipline of prayer and regular worship that we are able to keep on the right track; in the words of Hebrews (12 vv 1-2) “let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Sport and faith also need the inspiration of someone who has come before. And for Christians that inspiration and role model for the great goal of eternal life with God is Jesus Christ. So let us take courage from another image given to us by Paul in his letter to the Philippians:- “I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” And in the words of a great hymn “Fight the good fight with all thy might. Run the straight race through God's good grace, lift up thine eyes and seek his face; life with its way before us lies; Christ is our path, and Christ our prize.” May we all be given the strength and inspiration to strive for the greatest prize any human can win, to be at peace with God in this life and the next, through Jesus Christ our Lord and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

A Prayer from Life's Daily Prayer Book:

Illness

“Dear Heavenly Father,

My body is aching. I've done everything I know to do – sought the help of a doctor, faithfully followed his instructions, availed myself of the proper medications – and still, my body is in distress. I need Your help, Lord. I need the hand that created me to reach down and restore me.

I believe it is Your will for me to be whole and healthy in every way – physically, emotionally and spiritually. I ask You for that now. I move my focus from my present distress to Your unfailing love. Thank you for hearing me and doing for me what I cannot do for myself.

Amen”

Our Indian Experience



We had an interesting afternoon of culture Indian Style on Saturday July 19th. Great food and good company was enjoyed by those who attended. Authentic classical/traditional Indian music was played whilst videos showing Indian life could be seen. Another fund raiser for our church! Thanks to all involved.



An evening not to be missed!



William Shakespeare would like to invite you to his 450th birthday party on Friday 10 October at 7pm. He has laid on food, wine, the Hamburg Players and musician Fadi Gaziri to ensure a lusty and merry evening at the Anglican Church, and all for a mere five ducats. Euros also welcome.

Flea market premiere a success



St Thomas Becket's first ever flea market was a great success, coming in over budget at more than €1200. Well done to Deb Zeni for organising it and to everyone else who helped make it happen.



British Flair

We were invited to perform a musical comedy segment at British Flair so we decided the 'Sister Act' style would be fun. A number of us dressed as priests and nuns and entertained the crowd with several well-known songs. It was well received and we felt proud to be able to represent the English Church in such a significant environment like British Flair. The whole event raises much needed money for charities and we were pleased to be able to take part in helping to support these worthwhile causes.



Confirmation

It was a great joy to welcome Bishop David Smith and his wife Mary who came from York for the Confirmation Service in August. Bishop David is also a member of the Merchant Adventurers of York so it was also good to strengthen our ties with this very special organisation. Mary Smith is a member of Mothers' Union so our MU branch had a special gathering and meeting to welcome Mary and Bishop David. We welcomed the newly Confirmed with acclamation and then Bishop David led them out of the church carrying lighted candles. This represented the candidates being lights in the world and by leaving the building, taking the light of Christ into the wider community.



When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word
What a glory he sheds on our way!

While we do his good will, he abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Recycled Christmas and Greetings cards



Recycled Christmas Cards will once again be on sale from the end of October in aid of Church Funds. The cost will be the same as in the past two years - that is € 11 for 10 cards, including envelopes, and €1.30 for single cards.

For information to newer members of the congregation, we have been selling recycled cards since 1986, having started that first year with just 300. We now sell between 5000 and 6000 cards per year, and because of a very generous donation towards the card project by the Honorary British Consul, Claus Budelmann, made a net profit last year of € 7034.06 for the church.

The Christmas cards have a Christmas and New Year message in both English and German, are within the 20 gr. limit for normal postage and the envelopes are the standard size. There is a great variety of different designs to choose from - both religious and non - religious – nativity scenes, shepherds, wise men, angels, doves, stars, robins, flowers, holly, Christmas trees, snow scenes, ex UNICEF designs, penguins, Victorian scenes, Father Christmases, children's cards, etc.

We sell about 1000 cards at the Bazaar and others of course after church during November and December. Most of the cards however are sold within the different English speaking and international clubs and societies, and also among friends privately and to work colleagues. In this way we are able to reach out to a far wider community. If you think that you could help by doing this, perhaps you could contact one of us. Every single card sold outside the church congregation is one more than we would otherwise have sold – i.e. it is good whether you sell 5 cards or 50 to your friends, family or work colleagues. Quite literally every card sold helps the total profit, and it is also an excellent way to publicise the church.

We are dependent on used cards from previous years, so please do not throw your old cards away but bring them to church to give to us. We also need flower and used birthday

cards for making "all the year round" cards.

Finally we are still a small team making the cards and so would be very grateful for any extra help offered.

Judith Holst (Tel. 8800727),
Irene Finn (Tel. 86626673),
Linda Rainer (Tel. 7385624).

Nine Lessons and Carols

We celebrate a service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Saturday 13 December at 6pm.

Everyone is invited to join the choir for this project. Here are the dates:

Thursday 9 October
7pm – Evensong
8pm – Rehearsal 1

Thursday 16 October, 7.30pm
Rehearsal 2

Thursday 23 October, 7.30pm
Rehearsal 3

Thursday 30 October, 7.30pm
Rehearsal 4

Sunday 2 November, 1.30pm
Choir afternoon

Thursday 20 November, 7.30pm
Rehearsal 5

Thursday 27 November, 7.30pm
Rehearsal 6

Thursday 4 December, 7.30pm
Rehearsal 7

Friday 5 December, 6pm
Sing-Along Carols

Friday 12 December, 7.30pm
Rehearsal 8

Saturday 13 December
5pm – Warming up
6pm – Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 24 December
10.30pm – Warming up
11.30pm – Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 December
9.30am – Warming up

SERVICES AT ST THOMAS BECKET

Our main service is the *Parish Eucharist* (Holy Communion) on Sundays at 10:30 am.
(Upto date details of services can be found on our website
www.anglican-church-hamburg.de)

October

- 5 10:30 Blessing of Pets and Harvest Festival
- 9 19:00 Choral Evensong
- 12 10:30 Holy Communion
- 19 10:30 Holy Communion
- 21 19:30 Healing Service
- 26 10:30 Holy Communion (Traditional Service)

November

- 2 10:30 Holy Communion (All Souls Day)
- 9 10:30 Remembrance Sunday (not Holy Communion)
- 13 19:00 Choral Evensong
- 16 10:30 Holy Communion
- 23 10:30 Holy Communion (Traditional service) Christ the King
- 30 10:30 Holy Communion (Advent Sunday)

December

- 7 10:30 Holy Communion
- 13 18:00 Nine Lessons and Carols
- 14 10:30 Holy Communion
- 21 10:30 Holy Communion
- 24 23:30 Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve)
- 25 10:30 Holy Communion (Christmas Day)
- 28 10:30 Holy Communion

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08-25-2014

CAN YOU HELP SET ME UP SO I CAN
FRIEND AND LIKE JESUS, TEXT HIM MY
PRAYERS, AND SHARE ALL HIS TWEETS?

FROM THE REGISTERS OF ST THOMAS BECKET CHURCH

<p>‘The Water of Life’</p> <p>Baptism</p>	5 July	Max Aaron Schloelermann
	27 July	Oreva Martha Ekelemu
	21 September	Ovi Maxwell Ekelemu Obaro Matthew Ekelemu Conrad Alexander Skalicky
<p>Confirmation</p>	3 August	Mary De La sauce Reuben Ekelemu Birte Fischer Christopher Mitzkus Susan Mitzkus
<p>‘To have and to hold...’</p> <p>Weddings</p>	12 July	Constantin Loeffler and Bronwyn Barrack
	8 August	Paul Rubun and Kristina Wehrmann

**A Christmas Newsletter
will be circulated in December**



**The Deadline for the next edition
of the Becket News is
January 16, 2015**

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