

Becket News



The Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket

Zeughausmarkt 22, 20459 Hamburg

www.anglican-church-hamburg.de

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FROM THE CHAPLAIN



As I sit down to pen this message I am also photocopying the service sheets for the funeral service for Cicely Hollingsworth.

Cicely was a very faithful servant of God who represented St

Thomas Becket Church in many ways within the wider community. She was our representative on the ACKH and Die Brücke as well as being a member of Mothers' Union, Coordinator of the Wanderers Group, a Eucharistic Assistant, a former Churchwarden and former member of the Church Council and much more.

It has been a privilege for me to know Cicely over the past three years and I thank God for her faithful ministry. It was also a great privilege to be able to minister to Cicely in her final days and I felt that in many ways, I got more from her than I was able to give. She had such a deep faith and a very clear way of expressing it. She was a very patient listener and a deep thinker. I found her contributions at Bible Studies and other gatherings to be of great value and I am sure she has touched the hearts and lives of many people in her lifetime. She surrendered very peacefully and willingly to the God she has so faithfully served and I have every confidence that our Lord welcomed her with the words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master.' Rest in Peace Cicely and thank you for all that you have been for so many. We will miss you but we are grateful for having shared part of our lives with you.

I have also been reflecting on the recent celebrations of Advent and Christmas. In 2013 we had large attendances at our services and I was expecting things to start levelling out. However, our Christmas attendances in 2014 exceeded those of the

previous year by nearly ten percent, which was surprising, but very pleasing to see. It shows that our congregational numbers are continuing to grow and for this we can give joyful thanks to God.

We have also now had both of our planned Consultations to consider more sustainable models of ministry in Hamburg. The Church Council will use the information which has been collated to formulate some proposals for us all to consider at our Annual General Meeting on 19 April. I am very grateful for the open and honest way people have shared their thoughts and feelings. There seems to me to be a very clear message that people want to retain a full-time chaplain in Hamburg. If this is the case, then there is an exciting challenge ahead to try and sustain the finances to cover these costs. 2014 was a very good year in terms of church finances and we ended the year achieving more income than we had budgeted with lower than budgeted expenses. The challenge now is to maintain this financial growth.

I would also like to express my thanks in this edition of Becket News to Phil and Deb Zeni, who will be leaving in the coming months to return to the USA. We will have a more formal opportunity to farewell them but I would like to record my thanks here for the outstanding work they have done for this church community in the past three years. I am personally very grateful for their friendship and support and will miss them greatly. May God bless you both as you continue in your service to God back in America.

I wish for all of us at St Thomas Becket Church a happy new year filled with many blessings. Thank you all for the wonderful ways in which our Mission Statement is lived out. May this church community continue to be a 'Welcoming, active and inclusive church, growing in our relationship with God and the wider community.'

Every blessing,
Matthew



CICELY HELEN MURRAY
HOLLINGSWORTH
15.2.1929 – 20.12.2014

Sermon by John K Newsome -14.01.2015

Last Sunday I was walking through some woods very close to where I live. The sun was shining (at last!) but very low in the sky. Suddenly I had to stop and just stand in wonder. Through the shafts of the bare tree trunks on the bank of a stream the sun was reflected in the ripples of the water, all bathed in a silvery wintery light. For me it was what I would call a mystic moment, one of those moments where suddenly in our everyday world we become aware of a transcendent reality greater than ourselves. We call it grace. We cannot create such moments. We can just be awake and attentive when they happen.

Cicely would have understood that. My impression of Cicely is of a person who had a finely tuned sensitivity for the deep things of life, for the mystic. That comes out clearly in the choice of the poem “God’s Grandeur” by Gerald Manley Hopkins which we heard earlier in our service. Please allow me to read it again...

*The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness,
like the ooze of oil Crushed.
Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared
with toil;
And wears man’s smudge and shares man’s
smell:
the soil is bare now, nor can foot feel, being
shod.
And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down
things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward,
springs - Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah!
bright wings.*

I’m particularly struck by the phrase “deep down things”. Cicely was a person of depth, someone who in my opinion could sense the deep down things beneath the mundaneness of so much of life where many of us are rushing from one thing to the next, living superficially. Cicely was a person in whom there resided a still, contemplative wisdom, clearly nourished by her profound Christian faith, someone who pondered things in her heart, sensing the presence of God, the “deep down things”, beneath the ordinary. From this depth she lived, and it was the source of her engagement with others.

The world needs such people. They are the mystics who remind us that there is more to existence than what we perceive with the senses. They are evangelists, not so much by their words, but by their very presence which constantly points us back to the “deep down things”. And in the end, however we may describe those “deep down things”, we are talking about nothing other than the experience of the absolute and unconditional love of God.

For that we must be profoundly thankful. And thankful too for the way that Cicely, in her earthly life, has in some way been a channel of grace for us.

It is the most natural thing in the world to mourn the passing of loved ones. God understands our grief. He wants us to bring it to him. It is unhealthy to repress it. But in the end all those people with whom we have to do in our lives are not our possession. We cannot cling on to them. They must be allowed to progress onwards on their own journey ever further and deeper into the absolute and unconditional love of God, a journey that Cicely was ready and willing to undertake, for she lived with the conviction that she could fall nowhere other but into the arms of God.

However, if we cannot hold on to our loved ones, we can keep hold of the love which has bound us together. Nothing need ever diminish that. All of us here today will have experienced the love of Cicely and for Cicely in a host of different ways – as mother and

grandmother, as friend and companion, as someone for whom this church of St Thomas à Becket was so dear and who served it, and therefore us, so faithfully in numerous ways, large and small, seen and unseen, including for many years as Churchwarden, as organiser of the Church Wanderers, as an active member of the Mothers' Union, and as a keen participant in the ecumenical life of this city of Hamburg. For much of her life she was a dear wife to Geoffrey whom she tended with great devotion in the final year of his life, and whose funeral took place in this church one month short of twenty years ago.

As well as our collective memories of Cicely and our debt to her, you will all have your own very personal memories of Cicely. I have a vivid memory of her when she joined a trip which I organised in the spring of 2012 to places of significance for early Christianity in what is now western Turkey. Cicely had specially asked if she could join us and made her own way from Hamburg to Izmir, patiently awaiting the arrival of our party from Zurich whose flight had been delayed several hours. But undaunted she set out with our group, mastering with help from others the ruins of Ephesus, Miletus and Pergamon, together with the bustle of Istanbul. She traced the steps of St Paul, and I have a clear picture of her striding out in front of the group in Iznik, the ancient Nicaea, at a place near the site of the first ecumenical council in A.D. 325 and from which we get the Nicene Creed. I particularly recall how thrilled she was at being able to stand on the walls of Troy and later in the coach listen attentively to some moving passages from Homer's Iliad.

But I am being personal. And I want to leave space for your memories.

Every human being with whom we have to do is in a sense a sacrament, a way we encounter the love of God. As Christians we believe that Christ is the perfect and complete image of God. But all of us bear the image of God in derivative ways for we are made in his image. In us that image is still

working its way to perfection, but we are still able to reflect something of God to each other in the way that we care for each other and treat each other.

So we can on this day, despite our natural grief, be immensely grateful for the way Cicely has graced our lives, for the way God's grace has shone through her and for the ways we have been able to respond to that in return.

If we believe in the ultimate triumph of God's love, then it doesn't seem beyond belief that not even death can put an end to that relationship. For, as Jesus says in our gospel reading, (John 6.35-40) "This is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

The funeral of every Christian person is in essence a celebration of the resurrection. It is the celebration of a life that has graced us. However as Christians we can only fully understand our lives when we see them in the light of the one who died and rose again for us, the one who brings life in all its fullness, a quality of life which not even death can destroy. Our lives are transfigured by his life.

So encouraged and fortified by that hope, we can lay our grief before God, but we can do it with thanksgiving for all the ways in which Cicely has enriched our lives, for the love we have been able to receive and give. We can in confidence allow her to move forward on the journey which she accepted and chose, with the firm hope that all things, including our relationships, will find their reconciliation and fulfilment in the absolute and unconditional love of God which upholds us all in life and in death.

In that sense we commend Cicely to God, her and our Maker and Redeemer.

A TRIBUTE TO CICELY HOLLINGSWORTH



Robert Hollingsworth (Cicely's son)

Our Mother was different things to different people:

“the Mum” to Lesley and myself,
“Grandma” or G:ma” to her grandchildren,
“Swissy” to her sister, Shirley, and her oldest school-friends,
the “Poohwoomps” to her bear, who sat in the midst of his royal court in Karstenstraße,
“darling Cicely” to her husband, Geoffrey, and just “Cicely” to most of you who are gathered here in this church today.

As a mother, she was always ready to help and to look after us even when times were difficult for herself or when we perhaps thought we could get by on our own.

As a grandmother, she always took great delight in the activities of her grandchildren: Matthew, with whom she had a special bond as he was the first grandchild and who regularly travelled to Hamburg by himself from an early age as some of you here might remember;

Anna, with whom she entered into many a philosophical debate, which neither of them liked losing, such was their shared competitive spirit;

Henry, whose calm and patient nature made him a much valued source of help and advice on all computer matters.

As a church warden for countless years; a driving force behind the ‘Church Wanderers’; a representative at Kirchentag; a fetcher of products from Fairtrade; a member of the Mothers’ Union, the HafenCity ecumenical

forum, BRIDFAS, AGIWA, the Ladies’ Christian Fellowship, the Luncheon Club, the book group, the French conversation group (the list seems endless...) – she was indefatigable. Just listening to her reports of her weekly activities made me feel exhausted!

Als Einwohner in der Karstenstraße, waren ihre Nachbarn nicht nur Leute mit denen sie in demselben Haus wohnte, aber auch Freunde.

However we remember her, in our different ways, I’m sure that there are certain memories that we all share:

Her sense of humour;

Her sense of duty (although after the thousandth or so Christmas card to be cut, even this was sometimes pushed to its limits, but never beyond);

Her child-like delight in life, reminding me of a sign I have at home on the wall, which reads, “Young at heart, slightly older in other places”. Unfortunately, at the end of her life, the slightly older places caught up with her;

Her curiosity; after having made up her mind to go ahead with chemotherapy, she said, “It’ll be a new experience!”;

Her stiff upper lip; she never wanted to be a bother to others. Even at the end, when things were increasingly difficult, she didn’t complain; And of course her love and caring nature.

Yet nobody is perfect and our Mother wasn’t either.

She was to some extent vain. “Vanity, vanity, sayeth the preacher,” she would say when I would catch her checking her appearance in the mirror. The camera liked her and she liked the camera, which was already apparent in photographs from her earliest childhood, and which I’m sure you can see in any photographs you may have of her.

She was a terrible hoarder. As Lesley and I have discovered, she kept every single letter she had ever received as well as many she herself had sent – although how she obtained those we don’t know! However, the very fact of keeping these shows how important friendship

and keeping in touch with her friends, relations and acquaintances was for her.

She was also a procrastinator, at least in her more personal life. If she had been able to make certain decisions and not postpone matters, this service might have been held in Worthing, where she had a house she loved so much, or then perhaps in Dorset or in Northumbria, where she had also considered moving to at various points.

However, she was a procrastinator, and in Hamburg she stayed. And maybe it's just fitting that this service should be held here, in this church for which she did so much and which did so much for her, with so many people whom she loved and who loved her.

The family of Cicely Hollingsworth would like to thank the Chaplain, Matthew, and everyone else at the Anglican Church in Hamburg for their care and support during the last few weeks, and the beautiful service, singing, tea, savouries and cakes on January 14, 2015.



MEMORIES OF CICELY



I remember Cicely as a traveller, taking part in trips and visits, some arranged by the LCF, to Dresden, Weimar, Poland, St Petersburg and other places too. Cicely was a well-organised traveller, rucksack, lozenges, Swiss knife and travel guide at the ready. (The Swiss knife was once confiscated at the airport but I think she got it back later.) And she was really well-prepared and had read her guidebook beforehand and didn't give up until she had seen everything she wanted to see. This was corroborated by her daughter incidentally who had memories of museum visits. On one occasion Cicely went on retreat in Holland with Günter and me. We drove down and had planned one night in Münster on the way back to visit our son but once there she decided there was too much history in Münster for such a short visit and stayed on an extra night and came home on the train.

Then I was one of her team for Shared Prayers and Intercessions and know what infinite care and kindly reminding went into preparing the rota. And if one of us had to change our date - or forgot it - more likely than not it was Cicely who filled the gap. She had a sense of responsibility and duty that allowed no slackness on her part both in the church and in other organisations. When she went away she would ask somebody to deputise for her and keep things going until she got back. Now we're having to manage without her and her efficiency and her consideration and kindness and friendliness. It won't be easy.

Jane Ziesemer

Cicely and her husband Geoffrey, a retired naval officer and keen cyclist, first came to Hamburg in 1978. After Geoffrey's early death in 1995, Cicely was elected People's Warden, and as such played a central part in the life of the church on into the 21st century.

Cicely was an immensely thoughtful and considerate friend to people of a wide variety of ages and backgrounds. She was invariably generous with her time, a good listener, especially for people with problems.

Cicely personified the ideal of Christian service, and will be seriously missed.

Peter Alexander



We all have many memories of Cicely - heart warming ones of kindnesses given, inspiring ones from her intercessions and shared prayers, entertaining ones and practical ones like her delicious baking.

My first memory is actually from before she even moved to Hamburg. Around 1978, Geoffrey, her late husband, had just come to work in Hamburg and I clearly remember talking to him. Importantly he wanted to tell me, and others, not about his work but about Cicely, who would be following him. So even before meeting her, there were strong and positive impressions of her. Her fame literally came before her.

They had moved so much as a family, that she was used to investigating new places and right from the start she became involved in all aspects of church life, including the Ladies Christian Fellowship - which had a membership at that time of over 40, bible study groups and of course working towards the annual bazaar. I have a special memory from 1986 of the two of us sitting at a table in my home with glue, a guillotine, a box of used Christmas cards and a packet of card blanks. Laboriously we studied each old card before making the first 300 recycled cards which sold at the bazaar. Since then Cicely has been one of the main members of the card team, not only sticking over a 1000 cards but also selling thousands over the years to all the societies and groups she was involved with. Even this year, bless her, when she became

ill, she insisted on sticking 200 cards.

Fairly soon after her arrival in Hamburg we discovered we both spent time in St Andrews in Scotland. She was at university there, I at school. Apart from golf, St Andrews is famed for its "bracing" North East winds. Good toughening up weather for locals, students and school children and Cicely and I shared many "St Andrews" moments, when remembering wonderful walks or hearing migrating wild geese.

A very special memory is of a church group visit to Oberammergau passion play in 2000. Cicely and I shared a room together at a bed and breakfast. As she had lived there before she knew the area so well and some people there, including our hosts. The whole visit was an immensely moving experience and it was a great privilege to be able to share it with Cicely.

Judith Holst



I often met Cicely on Saturday mornings at the Blankenese weekly market. It started by coincidence, later we had a "regular coffee" at Riva. It was great fun, talking about every day things, sometimes she told me about her husband, but not very much. She was completely different away from church. Mostly she started with: Hello, Edward, I tell you what....". After the chat she took her basket and went on her way, sometimes I saw her later around the market stalls. This will be my special memory as it always gives me a little sunshine. God Bless Cicely, let Him take her in his arms, because life wasn't always so easy for her.

Edward Remeyn

HOW DO I KNOW I AM A CHRISTIAN?

As a discussion theme at the last Friday Fellowship meeting in 2014 the following question was discussed. The text for this discussion was taken and adapted from a Christian Fellowship Internet site, and I felt it was a great topic and basis for discussion. The text is shared with permission and I thought it would be good to share as I feel it gives a lot of 'food for thought'. Take a read, what do you think?

John Finn

Question : How do I know that I am a Christian?

Psalm 119:20, "My soul is crushed with longing after Thine ordinances at all times."

Lots of people say they are "Christians," but what kind of person really is a Christian? Or, maybe more specifically for these two considerations, what sort of characteristics are found in a Christian, that help define and identify someone as a Christian?

We might start by simply saying that a Christian is someone who trusts in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. It is not about what church one attends. It is not about what nation or family someone is associated with. It is all about having a personal relationship with, and trust in, Jesus Christ, who offers forgiveness of sins to those who come to Him by faith. [Ephesians 2:8, 9](#) puts it well, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."*

In summary then, being a Christian means that someone participates in the grace of God, His mercy, by faith. A Christian is not trusting in their works or looking to their works to save them. Rather, a Christian looks outside of himself/herself to Jesus Christ, and His Atonement for sin, that they might have peace with God.

The above is the theoretical or faith aspect of the Christian faith. But what does a Christian look like? Maybe better put, what does a

Christian think like? Where does a Christian set his/her affections? How do they act? Think for a moment on the 23rd Psalm. David, in this Psalm, gives us a window into what a Christian looks like/thinks like/behaves like. David had faith. ["The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want."](#) We know that David was a sinner (2 Samuel 11), and he knew his sin well also, but he was not looking to himself for release from His sins. He looked to the Lord. He had faith. David also had a heart that meditated on the things of God. ["He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters."](#) The Psalms that David wrote are full of contemplation and meditation on the things of God. Read even a small portion of Psalm 119 and you will get a strong dose of His reflective thoughts on God. These thoughts run throughout the Psalms. As we go on in Psalm 23, we see that David was humble and sought the honour of God more than His own. He looked for God to lead him into holiness, ["He guides me in the paths of righteousness."](#) These are all marks of a Christian.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND HAS
CONSECRATED ITS FIRST FEMALE BISHOP
DURING A CEREMONY AT YORK MINSTER.



The Right Reverend Libby Lane, 48, was made Bishop of Stockport in front of more than 1,000 people. The Church formally adopted legislation last November to allow women bishops, following decades of argument over women's ordination.

Archbishop of York John Sentamu, who led the service, said he had been "praying and working for this day".

FABRIC COMMITTEE/WARDENS' REPORT FOR JAN. 19, 2015 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

And yet still another month has passed with continued, blessed, calmness notwithstanding the typically madness of the Christmas and New Year's holiday periods.

2015 may very well see an increase in activity by the Fabric Committee, but it will be under new leadership with the repatriation of Phil Zeni to the US at the end of February. Also, Erika Hori will leave by the end of January, but will stay on as signatory til this year's AGM.

The project to record all church property is well underway with the support and leadership of BRIDFAS.

Phil Zeni
Fabric Committee Chairman
and Churchwarden
Erika Hori
Churchwarden

FAREWELL PHIL AND DEB ZENI



It is with sadness that we say farewell to two very dynamic members of our chaplaincy. Phil and Deb Zeni are returning to the USA after some three years in Hamburg. Among their many contributions to the life of St Thomas Becket Church, Phil has been actively involved as Churchwarden and Chairman of the Fabric Committee and Deb has been President of the Mothers' Union, a member of the Church Council and

coordinator of the Craft Group and 'Bake a Cake' for Junior Church project.

When we were renovating the exterior of our beautiful building, Phil worked tirelessly with the architect and other key people to ensure the work was completed on-time and on-budget. Both goals were met and we even had a few 'extras' included, still within budget. Anyone who attended worship around the renovation time will now know about 'Downspouts'. These were Phil's pets and he was so excited when they arrived. His passion for having just the right type to suit the age and design of the building has led to his being affectionately known as 'Dr Downspout', by those who love him. At the 'Lighting up the Face of St Thomas Becket' ceremony to celebrate the completion of the restoration, Phil had another new toy to play with. He worked with the architect and electricians to create a special plunger that, when pushed, would turn on all the exterior lights. It was very dramatic and was a source of great pleasure for Phil.

Deb's passion for having fun also showed in the MU hosted 'Sing-along Christmas Carols' which had something of a karaoke flavor to them. The numbers doubled from one year to the next so we will be on the lookout for another fun-loving person who can enthuse the crowds next Christmas. Deb's love of people has also shown through in her passion for helping people in need. The beautiful craft work which the MU ladies so lovingly create becomes gifts for people with special needs. It was such a joy for the MU ladies to be able to present Emelia Collison and Cicely Hollingsworth with beautiful handcrafted shawls. Both of these wonderful ladies have now died but they loved the gifts and treasured the spirit with which they were made and given.

Phil and Deb, we will miss you both greatly, but we give thanks to God for bringing you to the Englische Kirche. Thank you for the many ways you have shared your lives with us and we wish you every blessing as you return back to your homeland.

MONEY MATTERS: THANK YOU FOR GENEROUS GIVING!

After the struggles of 2013 when we nearly ran out of money, I am delighted to report that in 2014 we surpassed expectations and have ended the year with the means to restock the church's reserves. We budgeted for a balanced budget of €122 000 but ended the year with an income of €144 000 against expenditure of €110 000. This is thanks to the generosity of many who have heeded the appeal for increased giving. On average 2013 donors have increased their giving in 2014 by 25%! Overall donation income increased by 30% in 2014. We also had a very good result for the Bazaar and generated €9000 from sales and events. So a very big thank you to all who contributed financially to STB last year: it has done wonders for my sleep!

Unfortunately, this does not quite mean we are out of the woods. A particular challenge of our situation is that the church's income comes from a relatively small cohort of people, some of whom are only here for a limited period. In 2015 we are facing the loss of some key donors (not least Cicely who gave generously of her money as well as time to the church) and a number of key people who have taken on the leadership of activities to raise money. To be viable and able to support a full time minister we have to raise around €110-120 000 each year. This is a big commitment for all of us. Please consider your giving prayerfully. As an orientation the Church of England suggests a level of 5% of disposable income, with another 5% for charitable causes, but there are many in the congregation, including the Chaplain, who follow the biblical practice of paying tithes (one tenth) of income.

However, the turnaround in fortunes achieved in 2014 should give us reason to be optimistic that we can support the church.

As I write this the Treasurer Heiner Quast

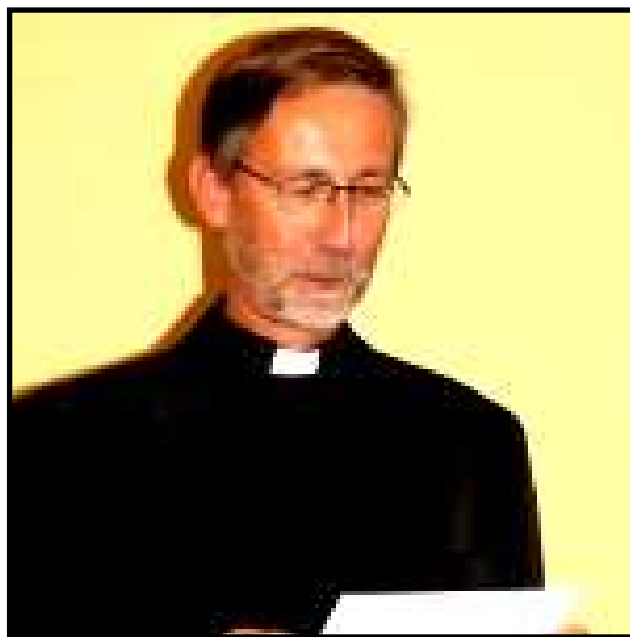
and I are working hard to get the Spendebescheinigung (tax certificates) out as quickly as possible. **If you are reading this, have donated money, but are not on the electoral role please do make sure we have your address** as we have no way to send you the certificate otherwise.

Please mark all donations clearly as Spende in order to qualify for a tax certificate.

Finally, I would like to record a big thank you to our Treasurer Heiner Quast who has done a fantastic job over the past year in doing a meticulous job on the financial management and ensuring that our reporting system is accurate and up to date. This means we are in much better control of the finances than when the problems occurred in 2013.

Wishing us all a happy, healthy, fun and prosperous 2015!

Monica
(Treasury Liaison Officer)



Above:

Father Matthew is given a generous donation for the church from Friends of Britain e.V. in November 2014. St Thomas Becket church was one of 6 charitable organisations who received in total €21,000 this year.



CHURCH RECORDING PROJECT

On 24/25 November 2014 the Church Recording expert from NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) in

London, Liz Chalmers, came to Hamburg to give 2 days training to the team on how to get started with a church record.



The team was taken around the church at different times during her visit and introduced to church terms and the method for recording the information and what exactly to look for. The subjects being covered will include wall plaques and memorials, metalware/silver, textiles, woodwork, stonework, prints/paintings, lighting, books/documents, plus compiling and photography of the items being researched. Everyone was issued with various documents, books and papers to study and those involved can now start their research, working either on their own or in pairs.

Jane Choy from Den Haag, who is the NADFAS coordinator for the mainland



Europe Societies, came to observe the training, as did Anne Marie Rössler from the Osnabrück Society. Both stayed on for the evening launch event on 24 November, when Liz Chalmers gave a short introduction to Church Recording and we toasted the project.

The first meeting of 2015 is being held in the church on Thursday 12 February at 6 pm and anyone interested is welcome to join us. Sadly we will miss the inclusion of Cicely Hollingsworth, who was going to be one of our team and had had some experience of compiling in the past.

Pat Pledger
BRIDFAS of Hamburg e.V
patpledger.bet@t-online.de
January 2015



CHURCH WANDERERS' WALKS

Our October walk, from Stelle to Winsen was led by Burkhard who met us from the Metronom accompanied by his two delightful small daughters, Lucy and Hannah. The children, on their bicycles, set the pace for the rest of us as we made our way through the peaceful, open marshland. The weather was mild enough to allow us to picnic in a wayside field where we were greeted by friendly cyclists coming home from their Saturday shopping. After approximately 9 kilometres we reached Winsen to find it in the last throes of preparation for its own 'Oktober Fest'. Ignoring the beer and brezeln, we settled into a quiet cafe for coffee and cake before reluctantly parting from the family to return home.

There were eleven of us on the November walk, from Ahrensburg to Ohlstedt, and we were all delighted by the mild and sunny weather. The route led us through woodland along fields and even up a steep hill at the top of which we took a break. Here we discovered that no less than three people had brought flapjacks to share – one more

proof of the harmonious spirit induced by joining the Wanderers' walks! Much of our path lay along the banks of the Bredenbeker Teich which provided the inspiration and setting for Waldemar Bonsels famous childrens' book "Biene Maja". This little lake, man-made in the Middle Ages, has a swimming area which is very popular in summer – could be a good halfway stopover on a future summer walk?



On the 13th December , right in the middle of the busy pre-Christmas season, we took time out and had a brief two hour stroll, mainly along the Bille River, from Aumühle to Reinbek. Here we jumped on the bus to Bergedorf and visited the medieval Christmas market in front of the Bergedorfer castle. This is always very atmospheric with flaming torches and stands offering handicrafts, and the craftsmen dressed in historical costume. We ended our walk with the obligatory mulled wine and sausages.

The next walks are planned for February 14, March 14 and April 11 please watch the church website nearer the date for further details.



MY GOD

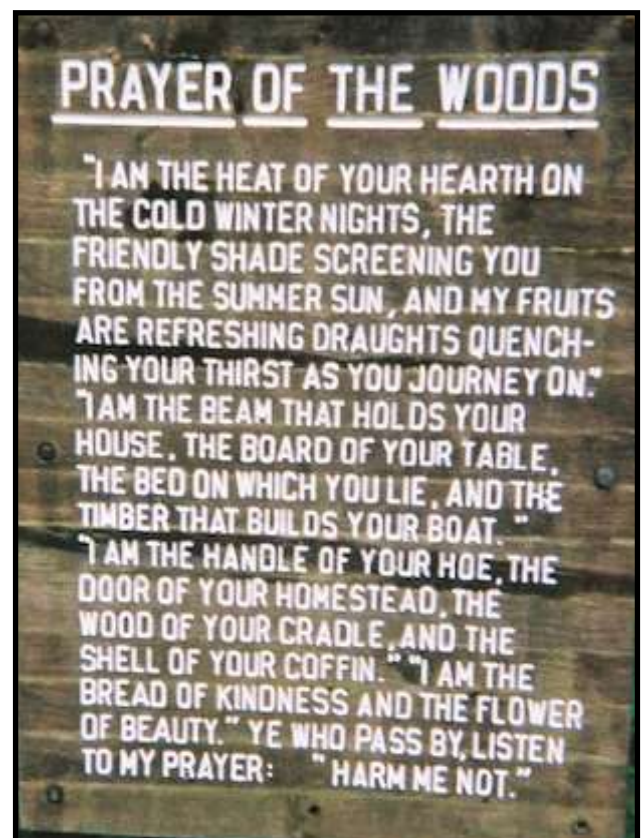
by Geoff Anderson

My God protects and cares for me
As a shepherd tends his sheep.
The lake is clear and still for me
And by its banks I sleep.

My God renews my soul for me
And guides my wayward feet.
His name's a shining light for me,
His love for me's complete.

My God is with me in the vale
As death's dark shadows grow.
And as the evening light turns pale,
The more His strength I know.
My God prepares a meal for me,
Invites my foes to sup.

His blessings pour like oil on me,
His love spills from my cup.
My God will watch me evermore,
His care will never cease.
He'll call to me at heaven's door:
'Come in and share my Peace!'



2014 – CHURCH CHRISTMAS GREETINGS CARDS – 2015

Once again well over 5,500 cards were sold last year in aid of the historic Church of St Thomas Becket – most of them during the autumn and before Christmas. After deducting 814.85 euros for expenses, we made an interim profit of 5,621.55 euros slightly less than in 2013. However the British Honorary Consul, Claus Budelmann and his wife, have very kindly made a donation to the card project of 1,450 euros and this means that the total net profit for the 2014 Card Project amounts to 7,071.55 euros which is slightly more than last year. This is solely due to Herr and Frau Budelmanns extra generosity and we are extremely grateful for their gift and continued support and encouragement.

Once again, and firstly our thanks go to the small team who make the cards, with enormous attention to detail: Debbie Faddul, Irene Finn, Jane Harding, Linda Rainer, Mary Sanderson, Cathrin Schierholz, Nicki Schiller, Katrin Schnetzer and Caroline Yarnold. We should also express special appreciation and gratitude, in memory, to Cicely Hollingsworth, who was involved in both making and selling the cards since 1986. Secondly, thanks to all those who sell the cards within the English speaking community and organisations in Hamburg and to friends, families and colleagues, even in local shops. We are particularly grateful for the support by non members of our congregation: AGIWA (Julie Cook and Ulrike Lemke), BRIDFAS, The British Flair, BILLC (Linda Burs), Phillipa Berger, Jennifer Bullinger, Buxtehude British Days, the German-American Women's Club (Nancy Fischer), Helga Goerike (a chemist's shop and hairdresser in Reinbek), The Hamburg Players (Petra Nowack and Sigrid Reuter), Pam Hanus (Helene-Lange Schule), Christiane Hey (H.D. Petersen – Fischgrosshandel mit Kleinverkauf), Carol Kloevekorn, Howard and Gabi Kroch (the English Speaking Union), Elke Norden, Margot Lord, Tracey Rabbitts (ISH), Linda Struck and the Victorian Christmas Market (Hon. British Consulate).

Lastly, thanks must go to everyone who collected used cards here in Hamburg and also in Britain, sometimes sending by post. We appreciate them all!

Looking ahead to 2015, we will again need as many used Christmas cards as possible. We would also appreciate used Birthday and flower cards, even photos of flowers, to make blank greetings cards. There is a basket just inside the church for any used cards or they can be given through societies or clubs. To arrange collection of larger quantities, please contact Judith Holst (040 880 0727).

Judith Holst
Hamburg 19th January 2015

THE ANNUAL BAZAAR 2014



Our church Bazaar is an annual event in Hamburg that many people look forward to each year. It is a major event where the church opens its 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 coloured 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 we raised over €14,100 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 everyone helped 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.

We tried a new idea this year and held a lunch time auction. Great fun and a good success.



A big thank you to all who helped organise the stalls and activities, and who help set-up and clear-up. Don't forget that we always need help so come on and please join the team.



Once again the British Community in Hamburg held a Victorian Christmas Market over the first advent weekend, at the Baseler Hof Hotel. Our Church once again was represented and we sold Christmas Cards on both days.

John Finn

JUNIOR CHURCH BEGINS NEW 'FAMILY SING AND PRAY' GROUP

Our new 'Family Sing and Pray' time started in January! In addition to our regular Junior Church group for school-age children we are very excited to now be able to offer a group for families with children from birth to 6 years. The 'Family Sing and Pray' time is for children with a parent or caregiver and is led by Junior Church staff. The group takes place during the Sunday service and is located at the school next to the church. What do we do there? Through developmentally appropriate activities, music and movement we introduce beginning scriptural concepts and prayer in a way that is fun for the children and encourages family bonding and fellowship. At the end of the lesson we return to the Church to join in communion with the congregation. Please come join us with your little ones!

BIG KIDS MOVE IN TO NEWLY RENOVATED JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM IN THE CHURCH BUILDING

For the first time our Junior Church has a home in our Church building! Together with experts from the congregation our Junior Church group transformed the former living room of the Church flat. The now beautifully bright room at the end of the library gallery welcomes our school-age children for their lessons, and in its off-hours provides the choir a much-needed rehearsal and robing space.

JUNIOR CHURCH NATIVITY



RUNNING TO WIN!

(As published on our church web page -
Pause for Thought)

“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 everything 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





ELVIS WAS BACK!

To celebrate what would have been, the 80th Birthday of the “King of Rock and Roll”, Elvis Presley, the Church held a very special concert on Thursday evening, 8th January.

Our good neighbour, Oliver Martinez appeared dressed all in white, to sing all the old “favourites” that are known and loved by all Elvis fans. Oliver, obviously has his own many fans, and they made up a good part of the audience, who filled the Church. Some of the congregation arranged the snacks and drinks on sale during the evening. Many of the songs were the hits we all remembered but Oliver also included some of the songs Elvis was less known for, including “Danny Boy” and some well-loved Gospel songs.



The second half of the evening saw lots of dancing in the aisles, including our own Father Matthew.

Towards the end of the evening a collection was made, as the entrance had been free, and approximately 600 euros, plus the money made on the refreshments, was collected for Church funds. It was a wonderful winters’ evening, spent “bopping” to music which obviously brought back so many memories to so many people. A great night. Thank you Oliver for your talent and generosity!

Irene Finn

BENEFIT CONCERT AND GET TOGETHER

Songs by George Gershwin, Cole Porter , Andrew Lloyd Weber and many othes were sung by Stefenie Maria Neisen and Galathea B. von Meer at a Benefits concert given in aid of the church on November 8, 2014.

Accompanied by a great pianist, Tetyana Szcessny, the evening brought good support and raised needed money for the upkeep of the church.

Our grateful thanks go to all who came and supported the evening.

John Finn



SERVICES AT ST THOMAS BECKET

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

February


- 1 10.30 Holy Communion
- 8 10.30 Holy Communion
17.00 Choral Evensong
- 15 10.30 Holy Communion
- 18 10.30 Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes (Ash Wednesday)
19.00 Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes (Ash Wednesday)
- 22 10.30 Holy Communion (Lent1)

March


- 1 10.30 Holy Communion (Lent 2)
- 8 10.30 Holy Communion (Lent 3)
- 15 10.30 Holy Communion (Lent 4, Mothering Sunday)
- 22 10.30 Holy Communion (Lent 5)
- 29 10.30 Holy Communion (Palm Sunday)
- 31 19.00 Healing Service

April

- 2 19.30 Holy Communion and Washing of Feet (Maundy Thursday)
followed by Vigil Watch through the night
- 3 10.30 Good Friday Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross
(not Holy Communion)
- 5 10.30 Holy Communion (Easter Day)



www.anglican-church-hamburg.de
www.facebook.com/ritbhamburg

Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket, Hamburg 

Choral Evensong and Sung Mattins

O Lord, open thou our lips

Sunday 8 February 2015, 5pm
Candlemas • Choral Evensong
O nata lux (Thomas Tallis), Magnificat and Nunc dimittis from the Short Service (Orlando Gibbons), Lord now lettest thou (Mendelssohn)

Thursday 14 May 2015, 10.30am
Ascension Day • Sung Mattins
We praise thee, O God (Orlando Gibbons), Blessed be the Lord (Orlando Gibbons), Sing joyfully (William Byrd) i.a.

Sunday 21 June 2015, 5pm
St John the Baptist • Choral Evensong
This is the record of John (Orlando Gibbons), Canticles (Gabriel Jackson) i.a.

Sunday 1 November 2015, 5pm
All Saints • Choral Evensong
In manus tuas (John Sheppard), Justorum animae (William Byrd), Audivi (Thomas Tallis)

Anglican Consort
directed by Yonni Tiewtrakul
Jochan Trede, Organ
Zeughausmarkt 22
20459 Hamburg

FROM THE REGISTERS OF ST THOMAS BECKET CHURCH

<p style="text-align: center;">‘The Water of Life’</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Baptisms & Confirmations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16 November 2014</p> <p style="text-align: center;">23 November 2014</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Elisabeth Prange Johanna Janice Elisabeth Prange</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Levi Jesse Van der Jagt</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">‘I know that my redeemer lives’</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Funerals & Memorial Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14 January 2015</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cicely Helen Murray Hollingsworth</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">‘To have and to hold...’</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weddings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">- nil -</p>

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12-29-2014

MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION THIS YEAR IS
TO DO THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN
DOING LAST YEAR

The Deadline for the next edition of the Becket News is **March 20, 2015**

Please submit all news and articles to BecketNews@aol.com

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