

# Becket News



## The Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket

Zeughausmarkt 22, 20459 Hamburg

[www.anglican-church-hamburg.de](http://www.anglican-church-hamburg.de)

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## In this Issue

FROM THE CHAPLAIN	3
FR. MATTHEW - LETTER OF RESIGNATION	4
TRANSITION	5
DANKESCHÖN	6
ADDRESS BY BISHOP ROBERT	7
CAECG REPORT	9
FAIRTRADE	10
RECYCLED CARDS	11
EVERYTHING HAS AN END	11
WANDERERS	12
DURBAN SOUP KITCHEN MOTHERS' UNION	13
LADIES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	14
SIMNEL CAKE RECIPE	15
CELEBRATIONS	16
JUNIOR CHURCH	17
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	18
FROM THE REGISTERS EASTER SERVICES	19
WHO'S WHO AT OUR CHURCH	20

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## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

This will be my last article for Becket News as I am now preparing for my return to Australia. As I reflect on my almost four years in Hamburg, I am leaving with many very happy memories. I can still remember the smiles on the faces of Renu and Raj on my arrival as they met me at the airport and welcomed me with such genuine warmth. This was to be repeated often by many people as I settled into Hamburg. I can say from personal experience, the community at St Thomas Becket Church certainly lives out its mission statement in being a welcoming church.

Over the past four years, we, as a church community, have journeyed together through many changes and challenges. As a growing church, we have experienced growing pains, and these have not always been easy to deal with. We have tried many things, some which did not achieve the desired goals, but many which exceeded our expectations. We have welcomed thousands of people into our beautiful building, many for the first time.

I have really enjoyed my time in Hamburg and it was a very difficult decision to leave. However, God's call on our lives must take precedence over our own feelings and desires. Jesus knew this only too well when he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane: 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' (Matthew 26:39) I responded to God's call to come to Hamburg, and I believe I am also responding to God's call to now move to Ballina, in Australia.

The process to appoint a new chaplain will be handled by the Churchwardens and Church Council. Please pray for them, and support them as they undertake this very important ministry. This chaplaincy is vibrant and energetic and will be very attractive to many clergy. The new priest may not yet know that

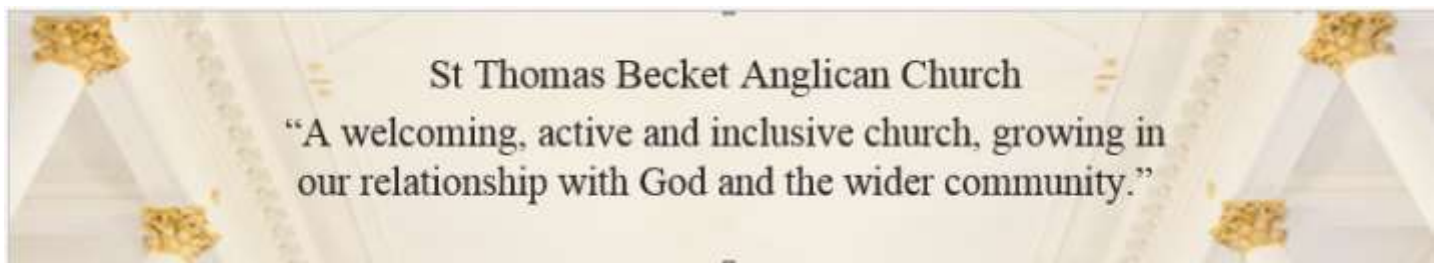
they are the person God wants for Hamburg. Please pray that the person God has chosen will hear God's call on their life, and respond in a positive and affirming way. The following prayer may be helpful:

**Bountiful God,  
give to this chaplaincy a faithful pastor  
who will faithfully speak your word  
and minister your sacraments;  
an encourager who will equip your people  
for ministry  
and enable us to fulfil our calling.  
Give to those who will choose, wisdom,  
discernment and patience,  
and to us give warm and generous hearts,  
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.**

Thank you for inviting me to share your lives in such a special way. It has been a privilege for me to be the chaplain at the Englische Kirche in Hamburg and I will continue to pray for you as a church community. Please also pray for me, and the parish of Ballina, at this time of new beginnings. May we all be faithful and obedient to God's call on our lives, wherever God calls us to serve!

Every blessing, Matthew





## Resignation Letter

22nd February 2015

Dear Members and Friends of the Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket, Hamburg,

Today I announced to the congregation that Bishop David has accepted my resignation as Chaplain in Hamburg, and that I will be leaving Hamburg and returning to Australia to take up the position as Rector of the parish of Ballina, within the Diocese of Grafton. My last Sunday in Hamburg will be 28 June, 2015.

This decision has come after much prayer and consultation as I have struggled to discern God's will for me. Over time, it has become clearer to me that I am being called back to Australia, but this has still been a very difficult decision. I have loved my time in Hamburg and have met some wonderful people. In my letter to Bishop David, I wrote that it was with 'a heaviness of heart' that I asked him to accept my resignation.

From the first day I arrived in Hamburg, I have been made to feel welcome, and it has been a great privilege, and might I also say an honour, to be the Chaplain in this historic church community. To be able to be a part of the restoration of the beautiful building was also a great joy and I have enjoyed getting to know the many people associated with this vibrant community of faith.

When I was asked if I would consider returning to Australia, I found myself really struggling with the idea that I might be leaving Hamburg. I have come to love the people and the lifestyle and it has been a very challenging time of discernment. Together we have achieved many great things in the past three or more years and it would be so easy to stay and enjoy more of this. However, a vocational calling from God often means sacrifices and sometimes we have to do things that take us out of our comfort zone. I am both anxious and excited about returning home, but I will miss the people of St Thomas Becket, Hamburg, very much indeed.

Thank you for your support of me and the wonderful work so many have done in building up the church. I will take away very happy memories and will follow with great interest the continuing growth of this amazing church community. Please pray for me as I prepare to relocate back to Australia, and please pray for the Church Council as they work closely with the Archdeacon and Bishops to find the right person to be the new Chaplain at the Englische Kirche.

Every blessing to you all,

*Matthew*

The Reverend Matthew Jones  
Chaplain

## Transition

***“All good things must come to an end... but then begins a new chapter of promise”***

As Fr Matthew's ministry of our church here in Hamburg comes to an end, we as a church community now need to prepare for a period of discernment on appointing his successor. Now it is going to be up to us to build on what we have recently achieved together to continue “to be a welcoming, active and inclusive church, growing in our relationship with God and the wider community”.

It is natural that we feel some anxiety and many may be wondering how we will appoint Fr Matthew's successor. So here is some information about the procedure.

Firstly, we should note that the procedure is set out in the Diocesan Handbook, which can be found on the Diocese in Europe website :

<http://europe.anglican.org/diocesan-handbook/appointments>. Anyone who does not have access to the internet and would like a copy is welcome to contact any member of the Chaplaincy Council (listed on the back of BN) to obtain a paper copy.

The Chaplaincy Council will now start the process of reflection and discernment needed to draw up a profile of the parish and the priorities for ministry. This is a key document which provides the basis for attracting applicants to the post. Some thoughts about the future of the church have already been discussed in the consultation meetings held in November and January, but members of the church will be given every opportunity to be consulted further in the process of drawing up the profile. Once the profile has been completed, a draft advertisement will be produced and the post advertised in Church Times. The Bishop will then short list applicants for interview. At the interview the church will be represented by two lay persons that have been appointed by the Chaplaincy Council and thereby empowered to cast a vote

with the Bishop which candidate (if any) will be invited to become Chaplain. The selected candidate will then be invited to visit the Chaplaincy before accepting the job, but at this stage the Chaplaincy cannot withdraw the offer.

Before any appointment can be made, however, the church needs to show that it has the financial means to pay the stipend. One of the key decisions, therefore, that has to be taken by the Chaplaincy Council is what level of stipend can reasonably be offered based on a view of the prospects of the income of the church. We need to take into account that the priest is a professional person who needs to be sure that the church can provide a regular income for the foreseeable future.

The annual cost of running the church is around 120 000 euros. The stipend plus housing costs account for 60% of this sum. Although we had a very good financial year in 2014, in 2013 the church was struggling to cover costs until emergency action was taken to raise funds. Currently, the finances are in good order, but the Treasurer and Treasury Liaison Officer are currently analysing the figures to give a view as to the stability of the future income. The church community needs to consider carefully and prayerfully the level of income it can sustain given that currently a handful of donors provide a substantial proportion of the donation income.

Last time round the process of producing the profile and preparing the advertisement took about 6 months. The church was served by locum chaplains for a period of about nine months. The Chaplaincy Council is currently gathering a list of potential locums.

Under Fr Matthew's ministry over the past 3.5 years we have grown as a church: grown in numbers, and grown in confidence and our engagement with the wider community. A worthy legacy of his ministry is that we should face the future with confidence, trusting in Him who knows our needs better than we do



ourselves. Much is going very well in the life of the church. A church community is more than a group of people led by a priest. It is a community of people offering each other support and sharing each other's gifts and that is what is required of us now.

Your Chaplaincy Council welcomes contributions to the process of discernment, and especially your prayers. Pray too for your own calling to serve this church as we do need more people to share the work of the many activities needed to support our communal life.

Finally, we give thanks to Fr Matthew for his hard work and exceptional ministry over these past years that has also developed the Chaplaincy Council into a more effective body which with the support of your prayers will hopefully prove itself capable of providing the leadership required of it through this process.

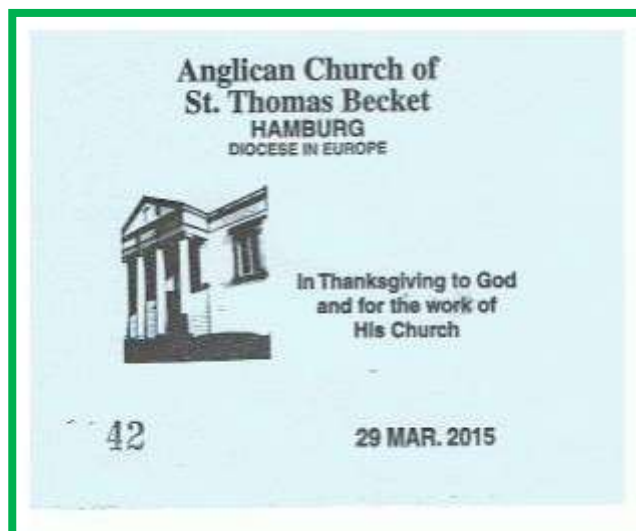
Your Chaplaincy Council

### ***Spring***

Nothing is so beautiful as spring -  
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and  
lovely and lush;  
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so  
rinse and wring  
The ear, it strikes like lightning to hear him sing;  
The glassy pear tree leaves and blooms,  
they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their  
fling.  
What is all this juice and all this joy?  
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the begin-  
ning  
In Eden garden. - Have, get, before it cloy,  
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning  
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,  
Most, O maid's child,  
thy choice and worthy the winning.

*Gerald Manley Hopkins*

## **Dankeschön!**



Thank you again to all who contributed to the €116,000 raised through donations in 2014 and thereby helped not only to cover the costs, but also restore the financial reserves to a more comfortable level.

We have issued some 100 'Spende' certificates which were nearly all delivered before the end of February thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer Heiner Quast. A handful of certificates could not be delivered, however, because we could not find addresses. So if you are reading this, have donated through the envelope scheme, or by bank transfer, but have not received a certificate, please email your name and address to [treasurerSTB@web.de](mailto:treasurerSTB@web.de). We will then be very happy to send your certificate.

In order to receive a certificate for 2015 (to be issued at the beginning of 2016), please be sure we have your correct address by including the information on your bank transfer payment. If you are on the electoral roll, and have changed address, please tell the Electoral Roll Officer!

Thank you!

## **The role of Inter-Religious Dialogue for the Promotion of Tolerance and Respect for Human Dignity**

The Rt. Revd. Dr. Robert Innes - Bishop of the Anglican Diocese in Europe

When I was growing up in England in the 1970s, the troubles in Northern Ireland were at their height. In 1974 two of the pubs in Guildford where I went to school were bombed by the IRA. I walked past one of these pubs everyday. 5 people were killed and 65 people were injured. If you asked me or any of my school friends about terrorism we would automatically have thought about Ireland not the Middle East. For us sectarian violence was not concerned with different sects of Islam but different sects of Christianity: Protestant versus Catholic.

Most violence in the world today is not caused by one country invading another. Russia's presence in eastern Ukraine is an exception. Conflicts are typically now sectarian – one indigenous population battling another over how the state ought to be governed or even what the state should be: Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel-Palestine. That means resolving disputes involving competing communities and groups is essential to world peace. And true leaders will be those who have a vision for reconciliation.

Sectarian conflicts arise from different groups holding different narratives. Usually, there is disagreement not just about the solution but also about the problem and about the basic facts themselves. Each party brings its own history, its own maps, its own grievances and its own language - even when they share a common tongue. These narratives are typically embellished, oversimplified and shockingly devoid of respect for other points of view. They are reinforced and handed down from generation to generation via segregated schools and religious institutions. Religion itself is seldom the only or main cause of dispute -

tribal or ethnic factors are more usually the root issue. But it nearly always figures somewhere in the narrative, and it heightens the emotions involved.

Since the Good Friday agreement in 1998, violence in Northern Ireland has largely ended. The two communities are not reconciled. Belfast still has dozens of 'peace walls' separating catholics and protestants. But there is, basically, peace. And that peace came about as a result of diplomacy and dialogue at all levels of society. The dialogue included intense efforts at religious peacebuilding, symbolised most famously by the Corrymeela Community. Corrymeela was founded in 1965 by Christians of different backgrounds to help victims of violence. Corrymeela was awarded a Peace Prize in 1997, in recognition of its contribution to interreligious cooperation, thereby furthering the cause of world peace.

Interreligious dialogue brings individuals and communities together to talk about matters of doctrine and issues of mutual concern in culture, politics and society. The World Council of Churches has produced guidelines on inter-religious dialogue which urge that dialogue should be a process of mutual empowerment rather than a negotiation between people who have competing interests and claims. Partners in dialogue, they say, should be empowered to join a common pursuit of justice, peace and constructive action for the good of all people.

Dialogue carried out in this spirit necessarily encourages tolerance. It treats the dialogue partner as a person worthy of respect whose story and contribution are worth hearing. A Boston College theologian, Catherine Cornille, identifies five preconditions for any meaningful interfaith dialogue: humility, commitment, interconnection, empathy and hospitability. Breaking down the walls that divides faiths while respecting the uniqueness of each tradition requires the courageous embrace of all these preconditions. Tolerance receives a negative press in some religious circles. It can

be seen as a synonym for indifference or even cynicism. As the historian Edward Gibbons once said: "To the philosopher all religions are equally false, to the uneducated equally true and to the politician equally useful." And, of course, real dialogue, if it is concerned with mutual empowerment, cannot take place if one side regards the other either primarily as an object of intellectual pity or of political utility. Tolerance as cynical indifference is rightly rejected by believers.

But tolerance has a much more positive sense. It refers to a person who is able to 'bear with' with the practices or beliefs of someone else. The tolerant person has a largeness of spirit, a properly educated awareness which frees them from bigotry. This kind of tolerance is to be encouraged and it is a direct product of the attentive engagement that takes place in situations of dialogue.

The Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor has written an interesting article called "The Collapse of Tolerance". He takes this to be a feature particularly associated the West's attitude to Islam. Thus the question of girls wearing headscarves is regarded as threatening because it is associated with a religion some other of whose expressions are characteristic of extreme Wahabism or Islamic State. A culture of what he calls 'block thinking' arises in which different manifestations of Islamic piety or culture are all seen as alternative ways of expressing the same, and potentially threatening, core meaning. As an alternative, he suggests that a real attentiveness to the girls who want to wear headscarves might indicate that, one girl wants to wear a headscarf because she is rebelling against her parents and their kind of Islam, another because she is deeply pious yet utterly revolted by gender discrimination or violence. Block thought persists, Taylor argues, partly because its critics on each side are unknown to those on the other side. Thus dialogue is essential to the creation of understanding, the

resistance of block thinking and the growth of genuine tolerance and respect.

In their guidelines on religious dialogue, the World Council of Churches note that through their encounters with neighbours of other religious traditions many Christians have come to experience the meaning of a common humanity before God. This experience is rooted in the biblical affirmation that God is the creator and sustainer of all creation: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it" (Psalm 24). Human beings have particular dignity, in the Christian understanding, because we are made in the image of God. There is a particular concern, in the three main monotheistic religions at least, for those whose dignity and rights are most at risk.

This shared concern has found expression recently in concerted action against the evil of modern slavery. In December last year, leaders of the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu faiths met in Rome to declare their joint commitment to eradicate slavery by 2020 and for all time. Their joint statement said: "In the eyes of God, each human being is a free person, whether girl, boy, woman or man, and is destined to exist for the good of all in equality and fraternity. Modern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labour and prostitution, organ trafficking, and any relationship that fails to respect the fundamental conviction that all people are equal and have the same freedom and dignity, is a crime against humanity."

I offer this as a concrete example of religious people working together to promote human dignity. And so I have hoped to show in this paper, how in diverse situations – from peace-making in Northern Ireland, to social questions such as headscarves or the problem of modern slavery interreligious dialogue can indeed be a force for the promotion of tolerance and respect for human dignity





## CAECG

### The Council of Anglican and Episcopal Churches in Germany

Anglican churches have existed for a long time in many parts of Germany. They comprise people of various nations, languages, and Christian traditions, and they offer worship and church life in the English language.

The Council of Anglican and Episcopal Churches in Germany (CAECG) is a joint working group between churches belonging to the Anglican Communion.

Some of the Anglican churches in Germany are part of the Diocese in Europe which belongs to the Church of England. Others belong to the Convocation of American Episcopal Churches in Europe. But all are part of the Anglican Communion and together form the Council of Anglican Episcopal Churches in Germany.

St Thomas Becket Church is part of the CAECG. The latest meeting of the council was held in Hamburg and St Thomas Becket hosted the event. Our representatives report on this event follows:

The Council of Anglican and Episcopal Churches in Germany (CAECG) met in Hamburg from 5-7th March - here in St Thomas Becket.



As hosts - Fr. Matthew, Birte Fischer, Karen Bergquist Lüth and Harriet Sasse were present.

As usual the clergy met on the Thursday afternoon and again on Friday until lunch when the lay delegates joined in for the Deanery Synod. Bishop Robert (Church of England) and Bishop Pierre (Episcopal) were present. Many issues were discussed and debated.

Elections were held for the standing committee; Treasurer, Convocation Representatives and a Secretary. Some new members were voted in. As always, as is normal practice, reports were presented from each of the parishes. Fr. Matthew advised the CAECG of the death of Cicely Hollingsworth and the minutes recorded a tribute to her as she was a representative of CAECG for St. Thomas Becket for many years. Karen also gave a report on our Junior Church and its developments. Kirchentag, which this year is going to take place in Stuttgart from the 3rd June, was discussed; Ken Dimmick, who is organizing the CAECG Stand asked for helpers, ideas and also items such as Souvenirs to give away. A little was also mentioned about environmental issues - as one of the topics treated in one of the CAECG meetings last year was Shrinking the Footprint. We in St. Thomas Becket have started in a form of cutting down the use of plastic cups to replace that with the use of ceramic mugs for our Sunday after church Cake and Coffee.

The highlight of this Hamburg CAECG meeting was the topic of Mission and Charity; which was addressed by the Rev. Steve Smith from Munich. He discussed what happens to charity at the receiving end. He mentioned that it is most important how mission work is seen - it needs follow-up, not just the presentation. Mission should be encouraged alongside charity which goes with it in the sense of education- and not just charity given

without trying to build relationships between the giver and the receiver. Mission and Charity should be the start of a continual process.

For this 3 day deliberation, wonderful catering was organized by Susanne Hergoss. Organization by Birte and the wonderful help from Renu, Benita, Helen and Lucia who did so well with the serving - Coffee and Cake / lunch and dinner/ cleaning and putting things in order. Delegates and all who attended this meeting were thankful for the warm welcome in Hamburg and showed their great appreciation.

Almut Schulz - the new official elected CAECG Secretary thanked Fr Matthew and the team for the warm welcome and efficient organization. Then the 3 days finished off with Bishop Pierre's Eucharist celebration on the Saturday in the church.

Apart from renewing friendship and fellowship, we were able to meet also with new delegates.

Harriet Sasse,  
on behalf of the CAECG representatives.



## Fairtrade

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers.

It's about supporting the development of thriving farming and worker communities that have more control over their futures and protecting the environment in which they live and work.

In St Thomas Becket we support the Fair Trade Organisation and the Mothers' Union

has many Fairtrade items for sale each Sunday at their stall.

## What does the FAIRTRADE Mark mean?

When you buy products with the FAIRTRADE Mark, you support farmers and workers as they work to improve their lives and their communities. The Mark means that the Fairtrade ingredients in the product have been produced by small-scale farmer organisations or plantations that meet Fairtrade social, economic and environmental [standards](#). The standards include protection of workers' rights and the environment, payment of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium to invest in business or community projects.

Fairtrade works to benefit small-scale farmers and workers, who are amongst the most marginalised groups globally, through trade rather than aid to enable them to maintain their livelihoods and reach their potential.

For certain products, such as coffee, cocoa, cotton and rice, Fairtrade only certifies small-scale farmer organisations. Working through democratic organisations of small-scale farmers, Fairtrade offers rural families the stability of income which enables them to plan for the future.

For some products such as bananas, tea and flowers, Fairtrade also certifies plantations - companies that employ large numbers of workers on estates. Their standards for such large-scale production units differ and protect workers' basic rights; from keeping them safe and healthy, allowing them freedom of association and collective bargaining, to preventing discrimination and ensuring no bonded or illegal child labour. They also require employers to pay wages that progress towards living wage benchmarks. Ensuring decent working conditions and strong worker rights is central to Fairtrade's work.

JF

## 2015 RECYCLED CHRISTMAS AND GREETINGS CARDS

-- An Update -

As many of you know, the raw material for the St Thomas Becket Christmas and Greetings Cards Project is a vast quantity of "used cards". To be more precise, in order to make over 5000 new cards, which was the number sold last year, we actually need about 30,000 used cards! So now at this time of the year we're busy collecting and sorting cards before chopping them. Thank you very much indeed to everyone who has already given us their used cards or brought them to church and put them in the basket near the door. Quite a number of people have sent cards through the post from elsewhere in Germany, and also from Britain, and one former member of the congregation even sent a package from Canada. Over several years now people from four churches in Britain have collected cards on our behalf - Amersham in Buckinghamshire; Boldre in the New Forest; Puttenham near Guildford; and Welford on Avon in Warwickshire. They are all always very interested in hearing about STB, Hamburg and what we are doing, and even report sometimes on the card project in their own church magazines. So recently now I've brought back from Britain large numbers of plastic bags, bin bags and various sized cardboard boxes full of cards and these are gradually being sorted. In addition Caroline Yarnold gave me 2 shoe boxes of cards from Puttenham which she had not only sorted but also already chopped - they felt like gold dust. (She and her husband Patrick were members of the STB congregation in the 1990's and she was already then a staunch member of the card team.)

Now here in Hamburg (and Buxtehude!) after the sorting comes the rest of the chopping, and then later in the summer, the blank cards will be ordered from the printers and sticking will start. We are a relatively small team working on the cards and so this is also an appeal.

We would genuinely be very grateful indeed for any offers of more help and we're all willing to show you how to do it.

With many thanks in advance on behalf of all the team.

Judith Holst - (040 880 07 27)

## Everything has an end



2015 will certainly be a year of change for Irene and I. It will be my last year at work as I retire in October after a lifetime of work with the Hapag-Lloyd Group.

I have lived and worked in many lands over the last 45 years. From 1987 to 1991 and for the last twelve years Hamburg has been my home. You are never short of interesting places to see and things to do in the beautiful green and cosmopolitan city. The English Church of St Thomas Becket is a focal point for the English speaking community and has been a major part of my life over the years. As a member of the congregation, serving on the Church Council, Church Warden, Bazaar and Raffle coordinator and of course Magazine Editor, St Thomas Becket Church has kept me busy and filled my life for many years.

Onward and upwards, as the saying goes, and as I prepare for a new phase of life it is time now to place the Becket News editorship into new hands and this will be my last edition. Whilst Irene and I will still be in Hamburg for a while, from the summer edition onwards I will pass on the editorship into capable and professional hands and wish them well and trust that they will have as much fun and enjoyment as I have had putting the magazine together.

I took over producing and editing the magazine in 2003. Each edition has had its own challenges putting all the news and articles into place. Looking back over the 60 plus editions I realise how much the church has grown, and how this growth has formed the community we have today. Yes, St Thomas Becket does live up to its motto of being '*A welcoming, active and inclusive church*' and I pray and trust that all who look may find a home within the church community as I have.

God Bless, John Finn





## WANDERER'S WALKS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER, 2015

January 10th

Sadly, hurricane low-pressure system \*Felix“ meant that our New Year’s short walk and lunch had to be cancelled. Our aim is not to be put off by a bit of bad weather, but this time there were official warnings to discourage us.

February 14th

This lovely walk in the Hahnheide east of Trittau was led by Anke Peters. Weather and the beautiful wooded moraine countryside left us keen to repeat this walk again fairly soon, perhaps with the additional attraction of a visit to the “Lange Otto“ observation tower from the top of which one can see as far as Hamburg.



March 14th

This time we managed to have the walk from Rissen to Wedel which we had intended to do in January. Thirteen of us turned up, undeterred by the cool, grey weather. We started off rather late because of difficulties encountered in getting to the meeting-point on time, and this meant having to change the route in order to reach the restaurant in time for a late lunch. As a result, most of the walk was through rather unexciting urban areas and on hard surfaces, so that we felt we had earned a good meal when we finally reached

La Dolce Vita trattoria. A good meal is exactly what we got, served by a very good humoured staff who had put together a table to seat all of us. It was a fine opportunity for us to continue the lively conversations we’d enjoyed on the way and to get to know those joining us for the first time.



In planning are walks along part of the Alsterwanderweg, Burg and the Nord-Ostsee Kanal and a day trip to Sankt Peter Ording. So keep your walking shoes handy and watch the church website for details!

Nicki Schiller

### Farewell to Aching Teeth

It’s them chewers, It’s ‘em biters,  
It’s ‘em - no more pearly - whites!  
They’ve been going bad for ages;  
Now they really ache, besides!

On my way now – “God please help  
me!” –

To the dentist – “Hold my hand!  
If these pains continue, Jesus,  
I would rather meet my end!”

Ah ye teeth, ye trouble-makers;  
Cared for well and yet so bad,  
Didn’t stay too long in good health  
And your end is way too sad!

Off with you, you silly thingies –  
When (God help!) my Doc is done,  
Praise to heav’n I’ll sing, for you and  
Your aches forever will be gone!



## Durban Soup Kitchen

On my three-months adjourn in South Africa, I was involved in a Soup Kitchen in the Anglican church of St Barnabas in the Bluff, Durban. Revd Barnabas Nqidi, a jovial giant of a man, is a Zimbabwean; the soup-kitcheners are a group of die-hard dogooders. The Rotary Club occasionally sends down top-quality deep-frozen groceries, which have passed the "sell-by" date by only a few days, the local bakeries provide us with bread at a cheap rate. On Fridays, soup-kitcheners roast chickens, cook stews and make sandwiches in our homes, ready for every Saturday, very early in the morning.



Waiting patiently at the gates to the church, approx. 60 black, white, Indian and mixed-race homeless men and women, many of whom are mentally disabled, or suffering from AIDS or "druggies", are hungrily waiting for breakfast. Before starting, we say Grace. We provide them endless cups of sweetened coffee, squash, fruit and sandwiches plus whatever the Rotary Club



offers, which they eat on the grass in the shade. On a social level, we greet them all by their Christian names. It is very light-hearted, a laugh and a smile is very much appreciated. After breakfast, before they go, the Soup Kitchen offers them one tin of baked beans or pilchards for supper.

My thanks go to the Anglican church of St Barnabas and to the soup kitcheners to expose me to what the Soup Kitchen can do on "the smell of an oil rag". It's a humbling experience.

Liz Neitz

## Mothers' Union

On Mothering Sunday Joyceline Anaroura-Schmidt was admitted as a new member of the Mother's Union. Joyceline has attended our meetings for a long time and decided to become a registered member of the MU Branch in Hamburg.

With her, we have not only a very helpful and caring new member but also someone who speaks with joy about the love and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are all very happy to have her with us. Another Admission Service will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> April when Amanda Lucia Foerthmann will join the MU and we all will gladly support her on this special day.

Mothering Sunday was also the last Sunday that Debra Zeni joined us in Church.



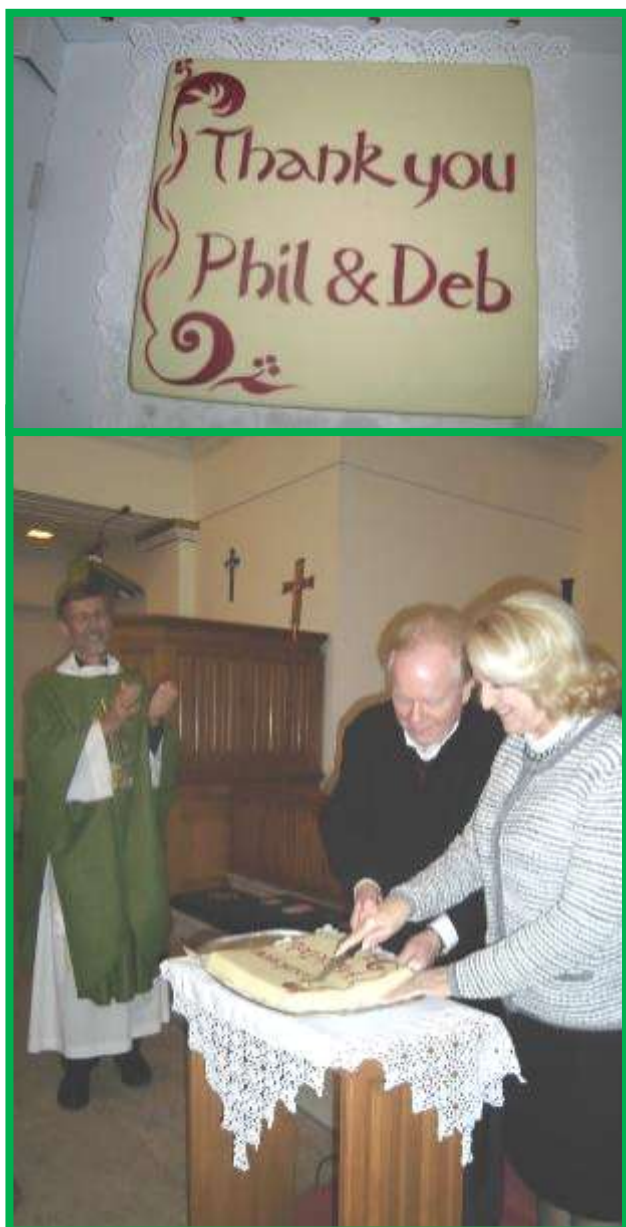
We will all miss Debra very much and of course, will stay in touch. For over 3 years she was a very active, responsible and caring Branch President. Goodbye Debra, all the work you did among us was greatly appreciated.

Our Mothers' Union in Hamburg is also a care and support group. MU is open for male and female members.

If you have a prayer request, write it down, put it in our prayer box in church and we will pray for you.

For more information about the MU have a look at our noticeboard, ask for the MU magazine or consult [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org).

Revd Erika G.Anders  
MU Branch President



## Ladies Christian Fellowship

This past year has not been a good one for the LCF. Some of our members have been ill, many have had to make travelling a priority and not always for pleasure, and then we lost one of our most active and prominent members, Cicely Hollingsworth in December.

We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month, in the afternoon, for a discussion or talk on a pre-decided topic or theme, with refreshments!

In February, after much discussion, it was decided that even with dwindling numbers we would continue to meet regularly. So a breakfast meeting was organised at the Grand Elysee Hotel, where 12 ladies enjoyed the table talk and fellowship which comes from being together. The feeling that Cicely was with us in spirit, was strongly felt.

March found us at the home of Renu Roy, where we all brought along some favourite or interesting poems, writings, hymns, etc., with a Lent connection. A lively discussion followed regarding what we had decided to abstain from (or not) and why.

April's meeting will find us at the home of Ellen Ziesmann, hopefully, full of the hope and joy that follows Easter and the beautiful signs that Spring and Summer are approaching.

Through the years the LCF members have been a big part of the St Thomas Becket Church community and has worked hard raising much needed funds for the Church. With the restrictions of age and time this is not as important to the group now as the fellowship and friendship which is gained from meeting together regularly. However, the LCF continues on and long may it continue.

Irene Finn  
17.3.15

## Simnel Cake



is a light fruit cake with two layers of almond paste or marzipan, one in the middle and one on top. It was originally made for the middle Sunday of Lent, when the forty day fast would be relaxed, (Laetare Sunday, also known as Refreshment Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Sunday of the Five Loaves, and Simnel Sunday – after the cake.)

The meaning of the word "simnel" is unclear: there is a 1226 reference to "bread made into a simnel", which is understood to mean the finest white bread from the Latin *simila* – "fine flour",

Conventionally eleven, or occasionally twelve, marzipan balls are used to decorate the cake, with a story that the balls represent the twelve apostles, minus Judas or Jesus and the twelve apostles, minus Judas. This tradition developed late in the Victorian era, altering the mid Victorian tradition of decorating the cakes with preserved fruits and flowers.

### Ingredients

- 225g sultanas
- 100g currants
- 50g mixed peel
- juice of 1 lemon (optional)
- 50 ml brandy (optional)
- 50 ml orange juice (optional)
- 225g soft butter
- 225g light muscovado sugar
- 4 eggs
- 225g self-raising flour
- 100g glace cherries, rinsed in hot water, dried and quartered

- grated rind of 2 lemons
- 2 tsp mixed spice
- For the topping:
- 450g best quality marzipan
- 2tbsp apricot jam
- 1 egg beaten, to glaze

### Method

- ♦ Two days before you intend to make the cake place the sultanas, currants and mixed peel in a bowl with the lemon juice, brandy and orange juice, mixing it well and leaving to one side for the fruit to soak up the liquid. This will produce a much moister cake when baked, but can be omitted.
- ♦ Pre-heat the oven to 150C/Gas 2. Line the base and sides of a 20cm deep round tin with silicone paper.
- ♦ Measure the rest of the cake ingredients in with the fruit and beat well until thoroughly mixed. Put half of this mixture in the bottom of the cake tin and level it off so that it is as flat as possible. Divide the marzipan into three equal parts and roll out one piece into a circle 20cm diameter, and put it on the top of the cake mixture. Gently spoon on the rest of the mixture, levelling the surface again.
- ♦ Bake for approximately 2 ½ hours until brown, well risen and firm to touch. Allow to cool for 15 mins and then turn out to cool on a wire rack.

When the cake is cool, warm up the apricot jam in a small saucepan and brush the top of the cake with it. Roll out half of the remaining marzipan to the size of the top of the cake. Press it down firmly and push the edges down with your thumb to crimp it round the sides. Roll the rest of the marzipan into eleven balls to represent the Apostles, without Judas. Brush the top of the marzipan with the beaten egg and place the balls evenly around the outside, brushing the tops of the balls as well. Place the whole cake under a hot grill until the marzipan turns a light golden colour.



## Celebration - 24th February



At St Thomas Becket, we are always ready to celebrate with a cake. So when it was learnt that Father Matthew would be celebrating his twentieth anniversary of being ordained into the priesthood, what better excuse could we find to present him with our best wishes and a cake!

## A Special Concert

An excellent concert performed by 'The Royal Masonic School for Girls', from Rickmansworth in the U.K., took place in church on the 27th March.



## Thanksgiving for a Child

On the 8<sup>th</sup> March we celebrated with Brittany and Levi Silvers, a Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child, in which we gave thanks to God for the gift of Silas Gabriel Silvers.



The birth or adoption of a child is a cause for celebration. Many people are overcome by a sense of awe at the creation of new life and want to express their thanks to God. This service provides an opportunity for parents and families to give thanks for the birth or adoption of a child and to pray for family life. It may be a private celebration at home or in hospital, or it may be a public celebration in church, sometimes with a number of children.

This service is not the same as Baptism (sometimes called Christening), which is the sacrament of initiation into membership of the Church, the Body of Christ. For the Congregation of St Thomas Becket and his parents, this was a wonderful occasion to give thanks and celebrate Silas's birth.





## Junior Church News



This year we happily started a new group for the under 6's, which is being led by Karen and in which she is using her musical talents to teach the little one's about the joy of faith.

All children must be accompanied by a parent and it is as much fun for the parents as it is for the children!

Junior Church for the 6 – 13 year olds now takes place inside church in our new room upstairs at the end of the book gallery. Children can come on their own to this. We normally play games, have stories and discussions based on the Gospel reading and we always do something creative and fun.

Both groups meet just inside the church near the entrance. We usually move after the first hymn so no worries if you are a bit late. The main language is English; however we all do speak some German at least.

If anyone would like to join our team of helpers, you would be most welcome. I find it a joy and as one of our new helpers recently put it "the kids are just wonderful".

### Note to all:

Please put the **5<sup>th</sup> July** in your diaries for our famous Junior Church family picnic.

Thanks and see you in church !

Sally Wandrey

## Four Worms and a lesson

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a jar of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a jar of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a jar of chocolate syrup.

The fourth worm was put into a jar of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol - **Dead.**

The second worm in cigarette smoke - **Dead**

The third worm in chocolate syrup - **Dead**

The forth worm in good clean soil - **Alive**

So the minister asked the congregation "what can you learn from this demonstration "

Maxime, who was sitting at the back, quickly raised her hand and said:

"As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

That pretty much ended the service!



# ENGLISCHE KIRCHE

## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST THOMAS BECKET

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

#### April

- 2 Maundy Thursday (19:30)
- 3 Good Friday (10:30)
- 5 Easter Day (10:30)
- 11 Wanderers
- 17 Concert 'Konzertduo' Organ, Saxophone and Soprano (19:00)
- Meditation Group led by Yotin (18:30-20:00)
- 25 Wedding (13:00)

#### May

- 1 MU (18:00)
- 9 Wanderers
- 14 Ascension Day Sung Mattins with STB Consort (10:30)
- 15 Meditation Group led by Yotin (18:30-20:00)
- 24 Pentecost (10:30)
- 26 Healing Service (19:00)
- 30 Taizé Prayer (Celebrating Founder Br Roger's Birthday) 20:00

#### June

- 5 MU (18:00)
- 6 Wedding (16:00)
- 13 Wanderers
- 19 Meditation Group led by Yotin (18:30-20:00)
- 20 Concert 'Weltmusik-Chor' (17:00)
- Guitar Concert with Simon Wahl (20:00)
- 21 Choral Evensong (for St John the Baptist) STB Consort (17:00)
- 26 Recording session Rachel Harris Orchestra (all day)
- 28 Fr Matthew's last service at St Thomas Becket (10:30)

#### July

- 2 Recording session Rachel Harris Orchestra
- 3 MU (18:00)
- 11 Wanderers
- 10-11 Schlagermove
- 17 Meditation Group led by Yotin (18:30-20:00)

#### August

- 7 MU (18:00)
- 8 Wanderers
- 8-9 British Flair
- 21 Meditation Group led by Yotin (18:30-20:00)
- 30 Patronal Festival for St Thomas Becket

#### September

- 4 MU (18:00)
- 12 Wanderers
- Nacht der Kirchen
- 16-19 CAECG meeting in Wiesbaden
- 18 Meditation Group led by Yotin (18:30-20:00)

## FROM THE REGISTERS OF ST THOMAS BECKET CHURCH

<p>‘The Water of Life’</p> <p><b>Baptisms &amp; Confirmations</b></p>	-	- nil -
<p>‘I know that my redeemer lives’</p> <p><b>Funerals &amp; Memorial Service</b></p>	27 February 2015	Willi De La Sauce
<p>‘To have and to hold...’</p> <p><b>Weddings</b></p>	-	- nil -

## EASTER 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](http://www.anglican-church-hamburg.de))

### 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)

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