

Becket News



The Anglican Church of St Thomas Becket

Zeughausmarkt 22, 20459 Hamburg

www.anglican-church-hamburg.de

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**Church Bank Account : Englisch-bischöfl. Gemeinde - HH Hamburger Sparkasse,
BLZ 200 505 50, Konto-Nr. 1280146422
SEPA - BIC : HASPDEHHXXX, IBAN : DE46200505501280146422**

From the Chaplain



As we read this edition of Becket News, we are in the middle of the season of Lent. This is a time set aside each year in the church's calendar to reflectively journey with

Jesus in his forty days and forty nights in the wilderness. I wonder how many of us have had wilderness experiences; times of loneliness, isolation and temptation in our lives. I suspect many of us have.

Isolation can happen even in a crowd. We do not need to be 'alone' to feel lonely or isolated. Some people have told me that they have sometimes felt lonelier in a busy city than in a quiet country town or village. So is Lent supposed to make us feel lonely? No, quite the opposite in fact!

Jesus' time in the wilderness follows immediately on from his baptism. He is driven by the Spirit into the wilderness and is tempted by Satan three times. Each temptation appealed to his human side – food, safety and power. Each of these temptations are ones that we too can face in our day to day lives. After the time of temptation, God sent his angels to minister to him (Matthew 17:9). So we are not alone, especially when things get tough, and this is why Lent is such a positive time for us.

In the difficult moments of our humanity, we are reminded that God gave Jesus all the strength he needed to remain faithful. How often do we feel weak and say things like, 'this is all too hard' or 'I think I will quit' or 'I just can't take this anymore'? At these moments, when we are tempted to 'give up', God rescues us and looks after us. St Paul wrote about this in his first letter to the church in Corinth:

'No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he

will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it'. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

May we use this season of Lent to reinforce our faithful trust in God who will always be there to guide us and care for us. Just as Jesus was cared for by God's angels after his time of temptation, so too will we be ministered to. Sometimes the angels are people we know and sometimes complete strangers. Whoever they are, I believe we can see the face of God in those who genuinely care for others. Please encourage anyone you know who is struggling at this time not to give up, but to keep believing that God will help them through their time of testing. The following Collect prayer for the first Sunday in Lent may be helpful:



Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus

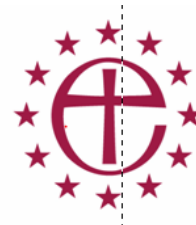
Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Every blessing as we continue our journey, working together to build up the Body of Christ and helping each other in our times of struggle.

Have a peaceful Lent and a happy and joyful Easter celebration of the resurrection,

God bless,

Matthew



Bishop David's Easter Message 2014

On 17 March there was an unprecedented announcement from the Vatican and the Anglican Centre in Rome. For the first time ever, the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion and the Sunni Muslim Community (represented by the Grand Imam of Al Azhar in Cairo) have joined efforts in a project of "practical and spiritual action" to combat the modern slavery of human trafficking. Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby, when they first met last June, shared a vision to build a world-wide movement to eradicate this injustice which enslaves and affects over 27 million people who are forced into labour, sexual exploitation and even into being sources of human organs. The initiative is called the Global Freedom Network.

The Passion of our Lord which we read in Holy Week presents a world filled with so many forms of slavery. There is the slavery of money – thirty pieces of silver were able to corrupt and "buy" Judas' treachery. The slavery of injustice is seen in the weakness of Pontius Pilate, who knew Jesus was innocent but chose not to defend him. The slavery of brutal and gratuitous violence is seen in the scourging and torture of Christ at the hands of the soldiers. And then there is the slavery of hopelessness seen in the utter despair of the disciples at the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus.

Easter celebrates God's action to deliver us out of slavery to freedom, freedom from sin and all that holds us back from being the people that God created us to be. On the night of the Great Vigil of Easter worshippers

gather in darkness, the hopeless darkness that descended upon the world on the first Good Friday. The Paschal candle is lit from a new fire and the light of Christ is spread from person to person, eventually filling the church with joyful brightness, and we proclaim "Christ is Risen!" The ancient song of Easter Eve, the Exultet resounds, "This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness and share the victory of Christ".

Our Resurrection faith declares that all the darkness around us, and even the darkness of sin within us, has been overcome by the Risen Christ. Thus our Resurrection witness is about working for all that sets people free from every kind of slavery. The Global Freedom Network is but one such effort. As Easter people it is our calling to proclaim forgiveness from sin. As Easter people we offer love, compassion and justice where hatred, pain and injustice persist. As Easter people we stand for the dignity and worth of every human being. This is a powerful message of Good News which the world needs and to which we can witness boldly, as we know that we ourselves are born again to new life in the Risen Christ.

May the deep joy which comes from the liberation of Easter fill our lives and enliven our communities, for

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

+David

CAECG (Council of Anglican and Episcopal churches in Germany)

Last **September 2013** the **CAECG** meeting was held in Bonn/Cologne, where we had the privilege to listen to a great speaker, Martyn Goss from the Diocese of Exeter and the theme was Transition – honestly as a native German, I had no idea what that meant, but once Martin started it became clearer. In the first part he talked about the state of our planet (we have reached the oil peak – what will happen when it runs out?) and the water peak (over one billion people do not have access to fresh water). The land is no longer able to support the people, resulting in migration. Have we humans caused the damage? Scientists say yes with 90% probability that made us feel quite small and a little helpless.

On the second day we were shown a DVD about transition – all over the world stories of resilience and hope. I felt very warm hearted after watching this compared to the day before. What can we as a parish or single person do to change the world ? We came back with much enthusiasm and hope, that we are also on our way (e.g. recycling) – and certainly we could do far more – So let us encourage you to start as soon as possible by changing even small things. “We are not consumers, but connectors and co-creators of our world” (statement from Christopher Jage-Bowler, Minister in Berlin).

This **March 2014** the CAECG met in Stuttgart (where the next Kirchentag will take place next year). Here we had the opportunity to listen to Bishop David Hamid (Anglican) and Bishop Pierre Whalon (Episcopal) about the way our churches look/plan their missions. The talk was very inspiring and after their speeches we participated and talked about our own experience with mission – either personally (what happened to me, how I found faith) or in the view of our churches (outreach) – it made us realize that we are already developing in the right way. For example we share our faith with other religious groups at the Hafencity Forum, joined other choirs on the Caroling walk before

Christmas and sang together on the Großneumarkt. We open our church for events, concerts and lectures and let it be a place where people love to come and feel welcome.

As always it is great to gather with all other parish representatives, share news and exchange ideas. We can help each other in so many ways and the CAECG gatherings enlightens our lives. Father Matthew attends along with the CAECG representatives, Karen Bergquist-Lüth, Harriet Sasse and Birte Fischer.

Our thanks for letting us represent St Thomas Becket at these meetings.

Photos from the Stuttgart Meeting March 2014



Deacon Frances Hiller, Bishop David and Archdeacon Jonathan



Birte and Harriet at the conference.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS AND GREETINGS CARDS

Postscript – 2013 and Looking Forward

In the January issue of the Becket News we reported that the 2013 card project in aid of the church had made an interim net profit of € 5,627.25. The word interim was used because the British Honorary Consul, Claus Budelmann, had promised a donation for the card project which he wanted to link to our own net profit, and I had only just been able to let him know what the profit was. Since then Mr Budelmann and his wife have very kindly, and generously, once again given 25% of the profit made on card sales last year specifically for the card project. Their donation of € 1,406.81 has meant that the total net profit for card sales in 2013 actually amounted to a record result - € 7,034.06. We are extremely grateful to Mr and Mrs Budelmann for their gift and for their continued support for the card project.

Looking ahead now towards this year's sales, we would like to sell more cards during the year for birthdays, Easter, and other occasions. The cards are blank inside for your own message but are still printed with "Sold on behalf of The Historic English Church of St Thomas Becket". They will be on sale from time to time in church and at some of the English-speaking clubs. We would also very much appreciate it if anyone feels they could sell a few to their friends, families and colleagues as happens pre-Christmas. The dribble effect of a few sold here and there definitely helps our finances and at the same time helps to publicise the church.

Thank you to all those who have already brought (and are intending to bring!) their used Christmas and other cards to church for recycling and to all who have sent cards through the post. Now in March I have brought back by car from England truly vast quantities of cards collected on behalf of St Thomas Becket by a church in Amersham,

Buckinghamshire, and 2 other village churches - one in the New Forest and one in Warwickshire, as well as from friends, and friends of friends. We're busy sorting out the cards now and chopping has already started. Once again an appeal - we are a very small team involved in making the cards and would appreciate more help - any offers?

With many thanks for help given - both in the past, and hopefully now in the future too. Recycling cards for the church still seems to make good financial sense.

Judith Holst
040 / 880 07 27

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 ring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings
to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree 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 beginning
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.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Hafengeburtstag Hamburg

Do you know why every year, we celebrate the Birthday of our port on the 7th May? When I was asked this a long time ago, I answered, “all I can think of, is the birthday of Hamburg’s greatest son, the composer Johannes Brahms, who was born on the 7th May 1833, not far from the port”. This was definitely the wrong answer.

The answer we again find way back in Hamburg’s history: At the end of the 12th century, Hamburg’s “bischöfliche Altstadt” became too small and the new ships called cogs became too big for Hamburg’s small port around Nikolai Fleet. Hamburg was never ruled by a king or a duke, but there was a Graf Adolf III von Schauenburg and this earl had the intention of building a new port beyond the city walls. He followed Emperor Barbarossa on a crusade in 1189 and achieved a privilege from Barbarossa that allowed him to build a bigger port at the Elbe. Barbarossa never returned from this crusade, as he drowned in 1190 but Schauenburg came back to Hamburg with his valuable privilege and started the new port in the Neustadt he had founded before he left for Palestine.

This new port enabled Hamburg to become a very important city in the famous Hanseatic League. This Barbarossa privilege of 7th May 1189 is therefore, one of the greatest

treasures our city owns and is kept in the State Archives. That is what the history books taught us up to 1907, when the historian H. Reincke discovered that the royal seal on this ancient privilege is not the seal of Friedrich I (Barbarossa’s official title) but belonged to his grandson Friedrich II. Whatever privilege Barbarossa might have given to Schauenburg was either not in writing or got lost. The fact is, however, that the honourable Senate of Hamburg had made up this document 65 years later and signed it with a stolen seal. Nevertheless, this ancient Barbarossa privilege remained to be a great Hanseatic treasure and very seldom leaves the safest safe of our Staatsarchiv.

The yearly Hafengeburtstag celebration, however, is an invention of our time. While the 750th Hafengeburtstag in 1939 was still a serious celebration with Brahms and Beethoven played in the Laeiszhalle, the 800th Birthday of our port was celebrated along the Elbe with 2.5 million visitors and hundreds of ships. Since that time our yearly Hafengeburtstag are weekend celebrations around the 7th May with all sorts of maritime entertainment and hardly anyone knows why this festival is celebrated on this particular date.

Anke Siegfried

Celebrate Hafengeburtstag 9. - 11 May 2014



Church Wanderers



2014 began very well for the Wanderers with a record turn-out for our walk and New Year's lunch. Seventeen of us met at the Blankenese station bus stop to head for the " Zum Falkenstein " Gaststätte. Avoiding the Landstrasse, we climbed up through the Goßlar Park and then, passing the 18th century house, continued further over the grass to the " Am Krähenberg " at the end of which we walked down to the main road again, entering the woods near the Shell petrol station.

Although it was cloudy, the rain held off and it was a pleasant walk via the Römischer Garten and woodland paths of varying gradients to our destination, where three tables had been reserved for us in this very " gemütlich ", simple, family-run restaurant.



A wide choice of dishes was on offer and soon everyone was tucking in and exchanging their Christmas and New Year news.

It had been suggested that after the meal we might continue our walk as far as Sülldorf, but as we left the restaurant, it began to rain and as the 286 bus stop was just across the road.....Well, we needn't always stick strictly to our motto, particularly on a special day!

In February a route was chosen that would be easily accessible for all and that would not

involve any steep gradients should the terrain be icy. In the event, the weather remained mild, but, nevertheless, the suggestion of a walk round the Aussenalster proved to be popular and twelve Wanderers met at Dammtor for the start.

The first stretch along the Alsterufer and beyond presented many photo opportunities, and Tina, in particular, was busy with her camera, taking pictures of the tulip trees, the bulrushes in the specially created bird "reserves" at the water's edge and the many charming statues.



Rounding the northernmost end of the lake, we left this green section, our route taking us closer to houses and blocks of flats, but, after passing the mosque, we were soon back alongside the water and looking out for a good place for our picnic. Unusually, we ended up in two separate groups for our lunch break, as the vanguard had been so swift of foot that we in the rearguard had not managed to catch them up; although we did try! The advance party 'phoned to say they were hurrying on to the Eiscafé in the Europa Passage and that we could meet them there if we so wished. The rest of us continued on our way at a more leisurely pace, three bidding us "goodbye", as we approached the Kennedybrücke, and the remaining five heading for the Eiscafé, where we hoped to find our four speedy friends, still enjoying their banana splits. They had, of course, already left and the Passage was so noisy

and crowded with all the Saturday afternoon shoppers that we didn't linger. After saying "Tschüss" to Irene and John who wanted to get off home, Tina, Peter and I spent an enjoyable and relaxed hour in a quiet café in the Alsterarkaden.

Cicely Hollingsworth

The 8th March was perfect weather for walking, sunny, dry and windless, so the seven of us who met up at Bergedorf station were in the very best of spirits. At 10:45 we boarded the 8800 bus and drove for half an hour through Schleswig-Holstein's pleasant countryside. Shortly after passing the Krümmel atomic power station, we alighted at Tesperhude, on the north bank of the Elbe.

We struck off immediately into the woods, heading east towards the village of Schnakenbek. The way was pleasant, sometimes sandy, but only gently hilly, giving us plenty of opportunity to talk as we went.



When we arrived at Schnakenbek we made our way down to the river again and enjoyed our picnic lunch. After which, we decided to treat ourselves to coffee at the justly popular Sandkrug cafe and restaurant. It is renowned for its home-made cakes, but we didn't sample them on this occasion. This was not due to our lenten self-control, but to the fact that it was too soon after lunch!

After a brief pause to admire the Ertheneburg,

a mediaeval fortification at the point where the Old Salt Road once crossed the Elbe, we set off on the most spectacular part of our walk. Here the path runs through the woods high above the river and offers wonderful views of the water.



The last stretch of the way to Lauenburg descends to run directly beside the river. The woods here have been left in their natural state. Towering old oaks are interspersed with other trees which, although blown down, have remained rooted and are still growing. Little natural sand beaches and a few crocuses, celandine and violets were an additional attraction.

In Lauenburg, impressed by the picture-book perfection of the historic old town, we trudged a little wearily up the hill to catch the bus back to Bergedorf. We had walked a good 10 kilometres through a lovely stretch of country in good company and with fine weather. Another enjoyable Wanderers' outing.

Nicki Schiller

Dates for our next walks are:

12 April,
10 May &
14 June 2014

Please check the notice board in church nearer the date of each walk for details.

Come and join us—It's fun!

Giving up things for Lent



Turn Worry into Prayer

If I ever felt challenged to give a cherished or unhealthy habit up for Lent, it would have to be worrying. Worries about my family or money or some conflict wake me most nights. I even worry about worrying. I'm forever vowing, in vain, to stop. In the spirit of Lenten renewal though, I weave my worrying into prayers. I call it "pray-worrying," the closest I've ever come to that mysterious faith achievement of "just giving it to Jesus."

"Here's the problem," I rant, as though God were a student who had skipped several classes. Then I bring forth all my thoughts of how bad things are and how much worse they're likely to get.

I may sound pushy, disrespectful even, in my prayer-worries, and I am. I am as self-absorbed and demanding as my teenage daughters can be. But here's the thing. During Lent and always, God is present. nearby. Listening.

If the one thing I give up during the Lenten season is worry, it's only because I take on prayer. Prayer always draws us closer to God, and that is what Lent is all about — finding greater opportunities to bring the Divine into our daily lives.

Anon

Heavenly Father,

Please grant me peace of mind
and calm my troubled heart.

My soul is like a turbulent sea.
I can't seem to find my balance
so I stumble and worry constantly.

Give me the strength and clarity of
mind to find my purpose and walk
the path you've laid out for me.

I trust your Love God,
and know that you will
heal this stress.

Just as the sun rises each day
against the dark of night.
Please bring me clarity with the light of
God.

In your name I pray,
Amen

I want - I want - I want

Every day you hear people saying what
they want

Well, here is what I want,

I want people who are sick to be healed
I want children with no families to be
adopted

I want people never to have to worry about
food or shelter or heat.

But most of all I would like to see people
to start to care for one another.

**This year's Lenten appeal is in
partnership with Christian Aid for
money to support the education and
empowerment of over 1,000 women in
Afghanistan.**

Craft Ideas for the Bazaar

Every year we try to find new ideas for articles to make for sale on our handicraft stall at the bazaar. This is not easy, as they have to be cheap and easy to make, so there is not too much outlay and we make as much profit as possible.

To this end I went off in March to attend the Stitch, Knitting and Craft Show in London. This year I was alone as Ellen was away on her "kur", but I went with a long list of things to buy and bags of enthusiasm.

The show is held over 4 days and attended by over 180 businesses and organisations. After my marathon spree around the stalls, I attended two show/presentations on felt work and patchwork, (the sit down was very welcome) and then went to view the exhibition of quilts by different quilters from all over the United Kingdom. I was amazed at the craftsmanship and artistry of these fine pieces of work. Many were of familiar scenes for the sewers and I was astonished at the matching of fabrics, colours and different types of stitching, some done on machines and some by hand. I have never been able to master all the different types of stitches on my sewing machine, but was advised by one of the presenters, to "go to bed with your manual and a glass of wine".



I am not sure if we will ever produce the same sort of works of art for our stall at the bazaar, but whatever we do produce will, I know, be done with much love, care and enthusiasm. I wish I could have taken all the ladies from the Church who are busy crafting, but know they were with me in spirit. My day was completed by a jolly Afternoon Tea at my hotel. I do hope I can do this again next year.

Irene Finn



Ladies Christian Fellowship

The Ladies Christian Fellowship has continued to meet regularly on the first Tuesday of the month, even though our numbers have diminished, through illness, travel and work commitments.

In January the ladies met at the Hotel Steigenberger for refreshments and a chat with members of the Anglo-German International Women's Association. This club has been in existence since 1966, formed by a group of British and German ladies, who wished to promote closer ties between the two nations. This connection has continued over the years and now includes ladies from over 30 different nations.

In February, in honour of our member Rosie Curran, the ladies met at the Alterhaus store for breakfast! This proved to be a very enjoyable occasion, our table being by the window, overlooking the Alster, with the sun shining brightly. The food and conversation was good too.

March found only three of us at the home of Irene Finn. Being Shrove Tuesday, we could not let our meeting pass without sharing "pancakes" with fruit and traditional lemon and sugar.

Our April meeting will find us at the home of Judith Holst and hopefully we will not have to re-cycle greetings cards to earn our cup of tea!

Even though we may be small in number, we still manage to discuss many topics of interest and our Church is always at the centre of our thoughts and activities. We may not be as active as we would like but we continue to push forward ideas for "out reach" and "fundraising". Our Charity Bag also passes around at every meeting and we are doing our best to fill it!!

Irene Finn

Events at St Thomas Becket

Mark Lyndon Event 'How to be a Hamburger'



Mark organized a special evening of his popular comedy routine 'How to be a Hamburger' at the Englische Kirche of St Thomas Becket as a Charity Performance for the Englische Kirche and the Hamburger Leuchtfeuer Hospiz on **Thursday 20.03.2014 at 19.30**. Entry was free and a collection was taken to support both the church and the Hospice. It was a great night with a very appreciative audience and just over 500 euros was raised. Our thanks go to Mark for his continuing support of the English Church.

Rachel Harris returned to give a solo violin performance in the church on the 1st March, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

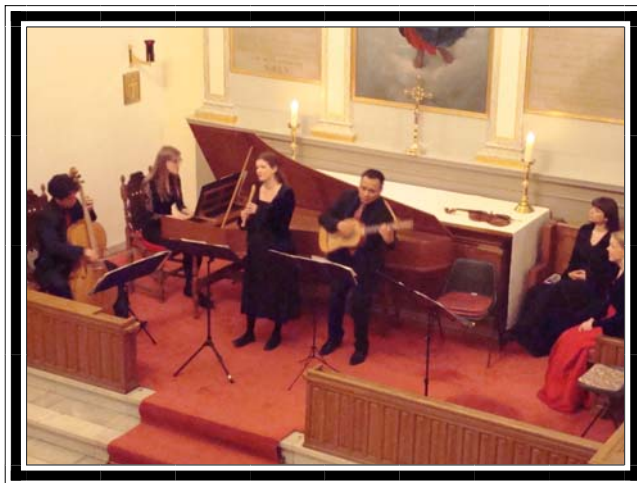


Some happy memories of the excellent **Fish Supper** held on 28 February at Peter Alexander's home.

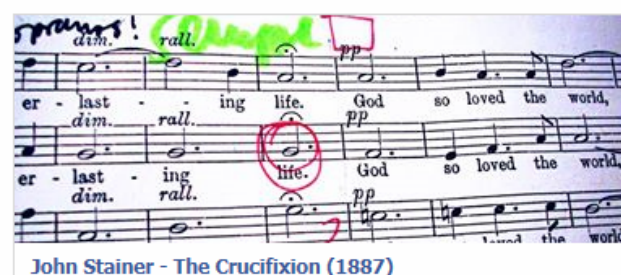


It was a great night of good food and wine and lots of jovial fellowship! Thank you Peter for the hospitality and fun evening together.

Los Temperamentos - On Saturday evening 22nd March we hosted a concert by Los Temperamentos. Baroque music from the Latin Americas!



The group of young talented musicians gave a brilliant performance to a packed audience in the church.



Don't miss this year's performance of **John Stainer's "The Crucifixion"** which will be held on April 10, the Thursday before Palm Sunday, starting at 7pm. It is part of our Lenten journey: Music to reflect on the story of Christ saying YES to the way that was laid out before him.



Annual General Meeting of Parishioners. Our AGM will be held following the morning service on Sunday April 6th.

On Saturday April 12th at 5pm a **Youth Orchestra** from Finkenwerder will present a programme they have performed already in Sicily in the Anglican Church.

SERVICES AT ST THOMAS BECKET

Our main service is *the Parish Eucharist* (Holy Communion) on Sundays at 10:30 am. Other regular services in our calendar are *Evensong* a service of evening prayer, either said or sung and the *Contemporary Worship Service* a traditional Anglican evening service with modern worship music, prayer and the Word.

(More details of services can be found on our website
www.anglican-church-hamburg.de)

St Thomas Becket Anglican Church

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

Holy Week and Easter Services

13	April Palm Sunday	Holy Communion	10:30
15	April Tuesday	Healing Service	19:30
17	April Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion followed by Vigil Watch all night	19:30
19	April Good Friday	Good Friday Liturgy (not Holy Communion)	10:30
20	April Easter Day	Holy Communion	10:30
27	April Sunday after Easter	Morning Prayer	10:30

Ecumenical Forum Hafencity



On Saturday March 22 Corinna Schmidt was elected as new director of the Ecumenical Forum Hafencity. Currently she serves as minister of the Mennonite Church. We are looking forward to welcoming her in Summer to join the challenge of this unique ecumenical project we are part of.
Every Blessing.

Whose Job ?

This is a story about four people named

Everybody, Somebody,
Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and
Everybody was sure that
Somebody would do it.
Anybody could have done it,
but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that,
because it was Everybody's job.
Everybody thought Anybody could do it.
But Nobody realized that
Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed
Somebody when Nobody did
what Anybody could have done !

Anon

Dear Lord,

Every single evening as I'm lying
here in bed,
This tiny little Prayer keeps
running through my head:
God bless all my family
wherever they may be,
Keep them warm and safe from harm,
For they're so close to me.
And God, there is one more thing
I wish that you could do;
I hope you don't mind me asking,
Please bless my computer too.
Now I know that it's unusual to
bless a motherboard,
But listen just a second
while I explain it to you, Lord.
You see, that little metal box holds
more than odds and ends;
Inside those small compartments rest
so many of my friends.
I know so much about them
by the kindness that they give,
And this little scrap of metal takes me
into where they live.
By faith is how I know them
much the same as you.
We share in what life brings us
and from that our friendships grew.
Please take an extra minute
from your duties up above,
To bless those in my address book
that's filled with so much love.
Wherever else this prayer may reach
to each and every friend,
Bless each e-mail inbox and
each person who hits 'send'.
When you update your Heavenly list
on your own Great CD-ROM,
Bless everyone who says this prayer.

Amen

Who's Who at our Church

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