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The exhibition to celebrate 180 years of our church building on Zeughausmarkt, entitled 'A visible sign of enduring friendship', will be open on Saturday mornings from January to March from 10 am to 1 pm. For further details, please see the church website: www.anglican-church-hamburg.de Group visits can be booked at other times by emailing stb180@anglican-church-hamburg.de

Cover: Wartime verger Mabel Wulff (Staatsarchiv Hamburg)

Our church receives no income from Kirchensteuer (church tax) and is entirely dependent on donations.

Church Bank Account: Englisch-bischöfl. Gemeinde –

Hamburger Sparkasse,

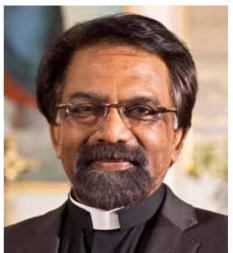
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## From the Chaplain

And (Mary) gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2.7)

How familiar these words are, as is the manger-scene that rises in our mind's eye year by year as we recollect the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Yet I am surely not alone, especially this Christmastide of 2018, in seeing that precious family scene, which we cherish, jarred by the heartbreaking images of refugees from war, homelessness and hopelessness, seeking shelter in inhospitable places after wearisome, long treks with uncertain outcome; or of those mourning the loss of their babies and young children during the desperate attempts to cross the Aegean and Mediterranean seas in unseaworthy vessels. It literally 'brings home to us' and makes us contemplate afresh the ground realities surrounding the birth of Iesus of Nazareth. God's Son was born as a frail, human child into a simple human family, 'not in a royal house or hall', as a well-known hymn by Edward Burns says, 'but in a stable dark and dim'. Joseph and Mary had wanted a better place in which their son could come into this world, but there was no other option offered, as Luke makes clear: 'There was no place for them in the inn.' The need for the family to subsequently flee by night to



Egypt in order to escape the evil designs of King Herod on the child's life can equally not be simply attributed to God's master-plan of salvation. Why did God take into account the death of so many infants below the age of two, we would have to ask?

The harsh and even cruel realities surrounding Christ's entry into our world can, however, help us to better comprehend why God made the ultimate choice of joining his lot with ours. Because we have disfigured and continue to disfigure our God-given humanity by our sin, God became one of us, taking our flesh and blood, our life in this world, even our temptations (Hebr. 4.15 – 'one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin') and our destiny. In his birth, life and death we can discover God's great love for us in showing us the way back to our true humanity of walking in

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fellowship with God. God in Christ offers us the way to respond to God's love with our love for God. And this love will be reflected in our love for others.

When we look again at the story of Christmas without the romanticising overlay we can recognise the bright glow shining forth of a deeper truth, of humanity as God designed it to be. That night there were shepherds guarding their sheep; they saw this light and hastened to the stable. And having seen the child and heard his story, they could not but make it known to all around. There were the wise men who undertook an arduous journey following a star in order to pay their precious tributes to this little child in a stable. Their story is remembered and told to this day as a paradigm for the light of Christ reaching the furthest corners of our world and being humbly received also by those of great learning and high status. And then we can imagine the unmentioned ordinary folk who offered shelter and hospitality to the refugee family in a foreign land.

God relies on us humans to tell God's story: to bring hope where there is despair, to bring succour where there is need, to bring comfort where people are sorrowing, to bring healing where there is brokenness, to bring liberation out of bondage, to give courage where there is weariness. May each of us this Christmas discover anew the joy of being God's agent in sharing this Good News through prayer, through reflection, through our words and our actions.

We have had a full year. November was a particularly busy month. On 11 November we in St Thomas Becket honoured another memory that goes back 80 years before Armistice Day. This was the day when we commemorated 180 years since the consecration of our beautiful neo-classical church building on Zeughausmarkt. Together as a community we marked the day with unmitigated thanksgiving, even though this building was badly damaged during the Second World War. For this reason I chose two of the Bible readings and the Psalm that were used on 11 November

1838 when this church was consecrated by the Bishop of London. On this historic day for our church I used the beautiful communion silver that was presented to the church by Merchant Adventurers between 300 and 400 years ago and used on 11 November 1838. The communion silver is otherwise on permanent loan to the Museum für Hamburgische Geschichte. Our remembrance thus reached back beyond that of Armistice Day; it included it of course; and it pointed to the duty we carry for the future within the remembrance of Christ's death and passion in the Eucharist. We are united across the centuries in this sacred tradition.

November also contained other significant activities and events. Following our Remembrance Day thanksgiving, there was an excellent Arts Society lecture by Jon Cannon from Bristol Cathedral on The Secret Language of Sacred Spaces. Our bazaar and fund-raising concert were once again purposeful and highly successful. The exhibition is another highlight in the context of our 180th Anniversary celebrations. It taught us a lot more about our church than we perhaps previously knew and will strengthen us in being present and engaged in the public square. In all this I am grateful and thankful for the excellent team work, the focus and the community solidarity.

Friends, it is in the spirit of our commemorations and the sense of growing together spiritually in all our activities and achievements this year, that I give thanks to God and pray that the same spirit will guide us through 2019.

I close by quoting the full verse from the hymn by Edward Burns with wishes for a blessed Christmas in the peace and love of God, our Father, of Jesus his incarnate Son and the Spirit which stirs and prompts us.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem
Not in a royal house or hall,
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.

#### Leslie Nathaniel



Photo: Jo Dawes

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## Celebrating 180 years on Zeughausmarkt

By the time this goes to print, we may have endured the parliamentary vote on Brexit, or not. In spite of this, the celebration of the 180 years that our church has stood on Zeughausmarkt, on the evening of 24 November 2018, gently reminds us of something more enduring between Hamburg and Britain than recent history and politics. Like any good historical story all the key elements are present in the memoir of our church: politics, wars, destruction, beauty, heroes and love.

The story was told on the night of 24 November amidst soft lighting, a glass of wine and some tasty hors d'oeuvres. Key storytellers told the tale sequentially from around the 17th century, when the Merchant Adventurers, textile merchants, settled in Hamburg, although the presence of Germans in London, and English merchants in Germany means the narrative begins far earlier. Four wars dominate events - the Anglo-Hanseatic war, Napoleon's takeover of Hamburg in 1807, and both World Wars, with reference to a fifth, the English civil war of 1642.

Destruction and loss were a constant theme, beginning with Napoleon's expulsion of the English from the Englisches Haus, with its chapel

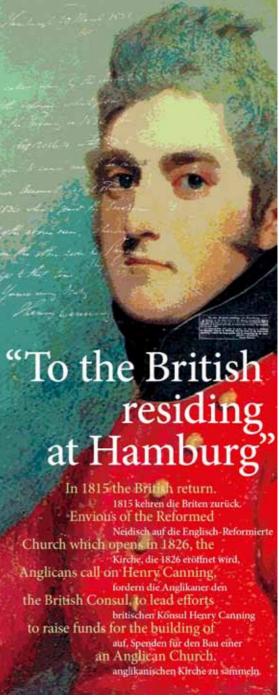
inside, and the associated loss of rights to worship. Once Napoleon left, in 1814, the opportunity for a dedicated, English Church building arose. The first hero was British Consul General Henry Canning, who tirelessly raised funds for the construction of the building we have today. His commitment to the task indicated that the man had a vision that we are witness to, and a love for the bond the church represented between Hamburg and Britain. Who better to tell the story than the current British Honorary Consul in Hamburg, Nicholas Teller.

The next heroine arose from the ashes of the Second World War. Mabel Wulff, originally from Wales, resided in the east end flat in the church. Mabel was known to put out fires in the building that resulted from Allied bombing. Despite her care and obvious love for our church, the roof and internal structures were extensively damaged in WW2. However by June 1945 the restoration work had already begun, undertaken by the Royal Engineers, dutifully assisted by Mabel.

The story was told twice during the evening – first by way of a short but entertaining film, narrated by our heroes Henry and Mabel. The film was a clever combination of

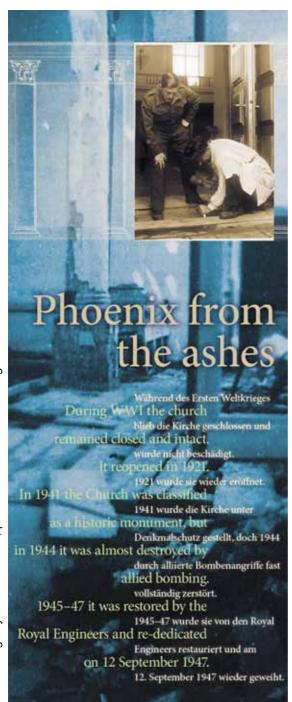
actual photography animation, suitable for all ages. The story was embellished by the unfolding of six glorious long posters that were unfurled from the balcony, one by one, accompanied by brief background information each poster. Each speech was witty, informative and delivered by someone with a connection to the subject, e.g. Bishop Robert Innes, Nicholas Teller, Fr Leslie Nathanial or a member of the Church Recorders.

The posters themselves are beautifully designed, yet informative and together build the story, even without a guide. Complementing the posters are two colourful booklets. one called 'Inside the English Church Hamburg', which is a pictorial account of some of the features of the church and is in German and English. The other is 'A visible sign of enduring friendship' - a detailed history of the church building - and complements continued overleaf



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Poster design by Heiner Schäfer, portrait by kind permission of Eckhard v. Paepcke / Christoph Graf v. Poliei



both the film and the posters perfectly. It is available in both languages, too.

There were so many interesting parts of the evening especially perhaps one caught my attention. Henry Canning's body was known to have been buried under the church floors. However one of the Church Recordchurchwarden our Madeleine Resühr, investigated this further, to find that at some point his body was exhumed and placed in a family mausoleum in Mecklenburg (see opposing page). Naturally Madeleine required outside help to research this, and the man who assisted her and gave her access to the relevant cemetery records was in attendance on the evening a perfect example of the spirit of working in unison to uncover a shared heritage.

My only disappointment was the relatively few parishioners who attended, perhaps due to a misunderstanding about being invited. So to rectify this, my plea would be that the event is conducted again.

Meanwhile, parishioners are welcome, indeed encouraged, to view the exhibition and film on Saturday mornings, beginning in January.

If further evidence were needed of the spirit of togetherness, the Hamburg department of Culture and Media donated a substantial sum towards this exhibition, especially as 2018 is the year of 'Sharing Heritage' (European Year of Cultural Heritage). There is no better example of sharing British culture in Hamburg than St Thomas Becket Anglican Church in Hamburg; and no better place to learn about it than the current exhibition that can be seen in the church on Zeughausmarkt until March 2019.

Madeleine Herring

# The elusive Consul General – looking for Henry Canning

On the south-east wall of our church there is a memorial plaque to HENRY CANNING ESQUIRE who was British Consul General in Hamburg for 18 years, from 1823 until his death in 1841.



He was obviously a man of great energy, integrity and generosity. He led the campaign to raise the money needed to build a new Church of England in Hamburg after French troops had left the city in 1813/14 and British citizens began to return. The English House that Merchant Adventurers had occupied in Gröningerstraße for 200 years had been dissolved when Napoleon arrived on the scene and with it their chapel.

Various schemes to raise funds had been tried, but nothing really worked – not even the many appeals to the British government that Canning wrote over the course of several years – until he introduced a subscription (donation) scheme in 1833, calling Hamburg's British residents to meetings to discuss the

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Photo: Heiner Schäfer

situation, urging them to donate and donating generously himself on a number of occasions. As you know, (almost) enough was finally raised, building began in 1836 and this church building was consecrated on 11 November 1838. Without Henry Canning's efforts, it is unlikely that we would be worshipping here today.

Henry Canning was widely respected by the British community - and especially the Anglicans - so as a token of their esteem, when he died on 2 February 1841, he was given a grand funeral and laid to rest in this very church, the only person ever to receive that honour. On 11 February 1841, the Morning Post reported:

'The mortal remains of our late lamented Consul General, Henry Canning were this morning deposited in the English Episcopal Church' (as this church was known at the time).

Although there was a rumour that he was buried in Quassel, Mecklenburg, where his daughter Mary had lived, we were sure that he had never been moved. However, during the course of the research for the STB180 exhibition and booklet, a much more complicated story unfolded. Mary had married a wealthy Mecklenburg landowner, Heinrich Friedrich Ludwig Edler von Paepcke, on 27 July 1837 and moved with him to his stately home in Quassel. After Henry died, his wife Mary joined their daughter there. A couple of months ago, I came across a stained-glass window in the Nikolaikirche in Dassow/Mecklenburg which shows the combined coats-of-arms of the von Paepcke and Canning families. This was an exciting discovery and I contacted the



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church to find out if they could help us with our search. I was told that all the members of the von Paepcke family were laid to rest in a mausoleum in the village of Pritzier, near Ludwigslust (and Quassel), so that was my next port of call. The local pastor sent me a photograph of a bronze plaque, set over a grave in the churchyard of the Petruskirche in Pritzier. Jens and I went there just a few weeks ago and under the words, HIER RUHEN IN GOTT, we read the names of eight von Paepckes and – Henry Canning. But we wondered if this might only be a memorial and not mark a real grave, as we still believed Henry had never left the English Church.

With the help of the Nikolaikirche, we also contacted a number of von Paepcke descendants and finally, just a day before our booklet was to go to print, I received an email from Eckhard von Paepcke which revealed the story of the bronze plaque. Like all aristocrats, the von Paepckes had lost their property when the GDR came into being after WWII and had left the country. When family member Henning von Storch visited the mausoleum after the 'Wende' in 1989, he found it in ruins, so had the contents of the coffins placed in a common grave and transferred all the names he found on gravestones and plaques to a bronze plaque which was placed over the grave. And that's how we know that Henry Canning found his final resting place with his daughter's family in Mecklenburg. Unfortunately we don't know when this was, but watch this space: we'll try to find that last puzzle piece too!

Madeleine Resühr Issue 73/December 2018

# A Remembrance Sunday to recall

This year's Remembrance Sun-▲ day mixed recollections of conflict and sacrifice with the themes of friendship and reconciliation. Remembrance Sunday coincided with the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day on 11 November: at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 the armistice between the Allies and Germany signed in Compiègne, France came into effect, ending one of the great tragedies of the 20th century. Since then Remembrance Sunday has become a poignant day of commemoration and thanksgiving for those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the past century. Many Britons living in northern Ger-

many have served or have connections to the British Forces. For them, the regular congregation and visitors, the Remembrance Day service at St Thomas Becket and the laying of wreaths at the Commonwealth graves at Ohlsdorf cemetery are a chance to express the bonds of kinship.

I found myself sitting next to one such visitor in church on that day. Frank Dowling had made the trip from the UK to honour the memory of his father. Frank's father served in the RAF during WW2, was demobbed and then rejoined and was posted to Germany at the time of the Berlin Airlift. Sadly Frank's father's plane crashed near Lübeck on 17 November 1948, killing those on board.



Frank Dowling and Wg Cdr Sarah Tunstall RAF, LGAN 17

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Frank's father is buried in Ohlsdorf in a section for the 'Berliners'. It took us a bit of time to find it and, while searching, Frank told me a bit about his life story and the fact that, thanks to the Stiftung Luftbrückendank, formed as an expression of gratitude by the Berliners, he had been given the opportunity to study in Berlin. Frank had visited the grave with his mother on a trip to Germany to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the airlift.

The theme of friendship is the Leitmotiv of the celebration of the 180th anniversary of the consecration of the English Church on Zeughausmarkt which also fell on 11 November. The communion service included details recalling the service of consecration in 1838, and, very movingly, those

taking communion drank from the same chalices used at that time. The church silver is now on permanent loan to the Museum for Hamburgische Geschichte, but was borrowed back for this auspicious occasion. More about these and other church artefacts can be found in the catalogue 'Inside the English Church in Hamburg' available in church, or on request from the church office.

The church building was described by the historian Lionel Tripp as an 'outward visible sign of the reestablishment of friendly relations...' On Remembrance Sunday it fulfilled this role once again by reminding us of friendship which has endured despite the conflicts of war.

Monica Schofield



Photos: Monica Schofield and Dorothee Möller

#### A busy time for Becket Mix

Becket Mix have been very busy since Bridget last told you what we were up to.

On 24 March a group of us went laser tagging in Bramfeld. It was great fun.

On 15 April the Becket Mix arranged a parish lunch which we called 'Soup 'n' Stuff'. We made delicious carrot and ginger soup, Renu kindly made her delicious rice, and we also served yummy toasties (well at least we thought so!). We wanted to raise some money for two street charities and all the profits were split between them. We had a lot of fun with the 'soup 'n' stuff' and I think we might do it again next year.

During the Hafengeburtstag, we had a stall outside the church mak-

ing waffles and crepes to raise some money for the church. That was a fun day, and it was nice to be outside as we could listen to the live music, and chat to people who were passing by. It was also funny to wave at the tourist bus every time it went past!

In June, one Sunday after church, we went to Planten un Blomen with inline skates, skateboards and scooters and had a lovely few hours with a small picnic as well.

After the summer holidays, we all went to the Kletterpark in Volksdorf. A big thank you to Norbert, who came along and climbed with us. After the climbing we were all hungry and went back to our house and had a BBQ together with all our parents. The food was yummy and we enjoyed



eating together. Afterwards we all played football, and badminton and chilled in the sun.

In October, after church one Sunday, we all went to Father Leslie's to learn how to make curry and ate lunch together. We also prepared posters for our stall at the Church Bazaar. The curry we made was delicious and we all went home with full tummies and we were very happy!

At the end of November we all took shifts at our stall at the Church Bazaar making crepes and waffles. This year we also made loom bands with some children. It was fun, although we soon realised that some of us need a bit more practice with the crepe making! With a lot of patience and team work we all managed in the end.

We are now looking forward to helping the Junior Church with their nativity play on Sunday and are look-



ing forward to planning more events for next year.

The Becket Mixers want to wish you all a very happy Christmas time and a wonderful New Year. Thank you to all of you who have supported us and our activities.

Ben and Lilli from Becket Mix

## Arts Society fundraiser brings in €700

The Arts Society Hamburg held its November lecture at St Thomas Becket.

The lecture, entitled 'The Secret Language of Sacred Spaces: religious architecture of the world', was given by Jon Cannon. Jon is Lay Canon (Keeper of the Fabric) at Bristol Cathedral. He also lectures in the History of Art and on medieval church art and architecture. He has written a number of books on religious buildings.

Two of Jon's books, by the same name as the lecture, were raffled during the evening and, together with the entrance fees, wine and raffle ticket sales, a sum of €712 was raised for the church fund. Thanks to all who helped to make a success of this evening and to those of you who attended. Pat Pledger

#### CAECG 2018 – the talk gets serious

After the discussions in autumn 2017 on 'What did CAECG do, where do we stand now and how can we improve?' the debate in 2018 had a more serious tone.

As usual, the clergy meetings started on a Thursday, with the lay delegates appearing on Friday around noon for the synod (in March) meeting and later on for the regular discussions. Each parish send their clergy and up to three lay delegates.

The March meeting for the laity started with the synod and business meetings (finances, reports from the parishes about the previous year and similar topics). We had to elect a new standing committee comprising a lay delegate and a member of the clergy from the Church of England chaplaincies as well as the Episcopal Church of America chaplaincies, plus a secretary who can come from either.

After evening prayer and dinner, we started with the lectures and discussions. The first was a serious lecture on 'The Challenge of Modern Secularism to our Churches' given by the guest lecturer, Prof. Dr Andreas Krebs, Professor for Old Catholic and Ecumenical Theology at the Old Catholic Seminary at the University in Bonn. It was a high-end intellectual lecture and reflected very well the problems churches face in these rather secular



times in the western world.

Saturday was dedicated to the future of CAECG. The main visions of the autumn 2017 meeting were discussed in detail. We had three main focuses: young adults and youth ministry; communication; learning together.

The groups worked out ways to connect better with each other. A few things discussed were:

- a twinning between parishes (here the writers see some difficulties with our rather isolated position in the north of the country with Berlin being the closest Anglican church)
- a network/platform for junior church teachers with a possible retreat for junior church members to get to know each other

- a platform where CAECG members could communicate with each other easily and help out rather informally between the biannual meetings
- actively involving the elderly congregation members according to their wishes and abilities (we must not let their wisdom be forgotten).

At the end of the March meeting, we also discussed the topics for further meetings. High on the list of interest were 'Racism, Xenophobia and the Rise of Populism' and 'Same-Sex Relationships – Are they a Sanctuary Question?' We discussed the former in the last meeting in September and will most likely discuss the latter in our next meeting this coming March.

The September meeting was held in Heidelberg. The lay delegates arrived by 3 pm, and our guest speaker, the Revd Kimberly A. Vaughn, assistant to the Bishop for Multicultural Ministry and Disciples & Witness for the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), started her presentation. She



started with a focus on North America with an overview of the historical context and continued to describe the current situation, e.g. that a lot of people are still discriminated against after the 2016 election. It looks as if there has been both a relapse in the sense that discrimination has risen again recently but also awareness of the situation has increased.

In the second part the focus was on the European situation. Here, we might not face some of the atrocious examples we saw in the North American setting, but we were again made aware on how far-right parties all across Europe gain votes and seats in the parliaments of the various countries. As in the US in recent years, discrimination has risen. It was best seen on a chart where the countries of the EU were displayed against one another. Especially the former socialist countries in Eastern Europe have seen an above-average increase in the past two or three years. Another relatively new development is the networking of the far-right parties across the countries. Sometimes, even if there are animosities between some countries in daily politics, the rightwing parties simply jump borders and work together nonetheless - even if on opposing sides in some cases.

On Saturday we saw a ray of hope: The third session focussed on the *continued overleaf* 

Photos: Andrea Grantz

#### continuation from previous page

Church's reaction. In fact, not only church organisations but many people across the US, organised or not organised, are starting to stand up to it, going on walks, demonstrating against discrimination. Some of these walks, mostly in places where they would be quite visible, have increased

in numbers despite the danger – because speaking up against discrimination in the US in public is quite dangerous as well.

We finished with a group discussion on the question what we can do, each and every one of us.

Andrea Grantz & Kelvin Assante

#### Bazaar builds on past successes

On a lovely, sunny, fall Saturday, 17 November, St Thomas Becket threw open its doors and welcomed Hamburg residents from near and far to the annual Bazaar! This year's Bazaar built on successes of the past including stalls for British goods, arts and crafts, CDs, cakes and cookies, English language books for children and adults, the bottle stall, the raffle, Glühwein and lots of freshly prepared food – Nigerian, Ghanaian and Indian cuisine as well as waffles from the Becket Mix and sandwiches





and cakes at the cafe. New additions this year included an African arts and crafts table, an exhibit on oils of the Bible and new signs for all of the stalls. We had lots of visitors over the course of the day and tremendous help from many members of the St Thomas Becket community with set-up, the Bazaar itself and clean-up afterward. Our (almost) final tally indicates that we raised over € 11,500 for the Church. Thank you!

Photos: Andrea Grantz and Dorothee Möller

James Fischer

#### Who's Who at our Church

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For other ministries please see following page

We meet every Sunday at 10:30 for a service of Holy Communion followed by refreshments – all welcome For events, please see our website:

www.anglican-church-hamburg.de

#### Who's Who at our Church

For clergy and council members please see previous page

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