

Becket News

Issue 74/November 2019

The Anglican Church of
St Thomas à Becket

Zeughausmarkt 22, 20459 Hamburg
www.anglican-church-hamburg.de

In this issue

From the (ex-)Chaplain	3
What next in the interregnum?	4
Magic and Myths – a fundraising treat	4
Christmas cards – same procedure as every year	6
Service, soup, spices and solemnity	8
A pilgrimage round Hamburg's churches	10
Varied programme to mark monument day	10
Evensong and refreshments for Nacht der Kirchen	11
Two Countries – Two Wars: all about Mabel	12
Intergenerational focus at CAECG	13
Married 52 years ago at our church	13
We will remember them – in church and at Ohlsdorf	14
Who's Who at our church	15

Cover: Photo by Jo Dawes

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From the Chaplain

Dear Friends,
As circumstances will have it, I am writing this message for Becket News 2019 as your former chaplain.

For most of you who read this, my appointment as Archdeacon of Germany and the North and Archdeacon of the East in the Diocese in Europe is not news, as it was announced in our church on 8 September. Messages have since been posted on our website in which I shared these developments and particularly my sentiments about leaving the St Thomas à Becket family and the wider ecumenical and social networks in Hamburg. All these both Julie and I will greatly miss. A consoling thought is that my new role as Archdeacon will provide occasion to stay in touch, and to visit from time to time.

My formal licensing as Archdeacon was in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Brussels on 17 October by the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, The Rt Revd Robert Innes, during the final Eucharist of the annual Bishop's Conference. It was a joy



Photo: Roland Magunia

that Bishop David who has visited our chaplaincy on several occasions during my time as priest at St Thomas à Becket was also present.

17 November will be our last Sunday when at the 10.30 service Julie and I will be saying Auf Wiedersehen! My time as chaplain in this beautiful church and among its vibrant congregation will, however, continue to hold a special place in my heart. You have become our extended family; together we have shared times of rejoicing and times of sorrow in the lives of individual members as well as times of celebration and times of struggle in our community life.

I commend you all to the love and care of God who can continue to do great things in and through St Thomas à Becket. Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Leslie Nathaniel

Bye bye, Leslie – and now what?

As we say goodbye to Father Leslie and Julie, you may be wondering what happens next.

The vacancy period from now until a new full-time chaplain takes up his position is called the interregnum. During this time, we will always have a priest, a locum; some will stay for several weeks, others maybe for a couple of months. Our first locum, Revd Ian Eglin, will be arriving on 22 November and will conduct Evensong the same day. He will be with us until January. There are several priests who have expressed

an interest in serving as locums at St Thomas à Becket after that, too.

All the paperwork necessary for the appointment of a new chaplain is being prepared and, with the help of the diocese, ads will be placed, for instance in *Church Times*.

Applications will be considered by both the diocese and the Church Council and the most suitable candidates will be interviewed before the final choice is made. The whole process will take several months.

Madeleine Resühr and Susanne Hergoss, Churchwardens

Magic and Myths – a fundraising treat

A magical evening was enjoyed by the audience who were treated on 19 September to a recital of songs and Lieder by three artists at the top of their profession.

With the English Church immersed in the light of German romanticism, who in the audience could have escaped the unforgettable impressions that a soprano from Austria, a bass-baritone from Germany and a pianist from Britain could bring?

Soprano Christina Gansch, and bass baritone Martin Hässler, accompanied by Sholto Kynoch, pianist and director of the now world-renowned Oxford Lieder

Festival which he established, performed a programme of Loewe's glittering ballads and beautifully expressive songs, alongside works by Schubert, Robert Schumann, and Clara Schumann. In particular, settings by Loewe and Schubert of poems by Goethe were performed. However, as the pianist Sholto Kynoch explained, the focus would be on a song composer who is unjustly underestimated. Carl Loewe, like Händel, was born in Halle. He died 150 years ago in Kiel. Loewe, in his time and later, was given the nickname 'North German Schubert' and with a creation of around 500 songs and ballads deserves a rediscovery.

‘For many years, Carl Loewe, our most outstanding ballad composer and quite likely the most productive one in this genre, completely disappeared from the collective memory of the public at large, this even though hardly any leading music expert would dispute his importance.’ This assessment by Walther Wossidlo is more than 100 years old. In the 150th anniversary of his death, this concert in the English Church explored the prolific and brilliant song composer Carl Loewe and his astonishing gift for storytelling, showing the breadth and depth of his work, and reasserting his place as one of the most important song composers.

The concert brought Loewe to life as an equal among the eternal greats of the ‘art song’. Ballads and songs, including Loewe’s version of the Erlkönig from Goethe, were presented to perfection by Christina Gansch and Martin Hässler. Goethe’s famous *Nachtlied* was performed in the version of three composers. The poem ‘They both loved each other’ compared the compositional conception of Clara Schumann with that of her male colleague Carl Loewe, sung to perfection by Christina Gansch.

The appreciative audience was treated to a master-class in Lieder



Photo: Monica Schofield

singing by these three sympathetic artists equally at home on the international opera and concert stage. Once again, the acoustics of the English Church impressed with clarity of sound and the church was filled with glorious music.

For someone who is not particularly a Lieder fan, I was totally convinced and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Following a beautiful song by Peter Cornelius as an encore, the artists received a deserved standing ovation at the end of the concert.

Those attending the Oxford Lieder Festival in October can look forward to a treat when this programme will be repeated.

Finally, many thanks to the sponsors, Monica Schofield and Clive Kennedy, the church and Claus Budelmann and Nick Teller for making this concert possible and treating us to an unforgettable evening.

*Richard Sanderson and
Volker Grebe*

Christmas cards – same procedure...

During 2018 we made about 5,800 ‘recycled’ Christmas and greetings cards in aid of ‘The Historic Church of St Thomas Becket’ and, in spite of more people sending emails and email cards, we sold nearly all of them. This report now is to thank everyone involved in the project in any way at all – some literally for decades – and particularly those who, although not members of the congregation, are nevertheless willing to help – as ‘kind friends’ of Hamburg’s English church.

We started the recycled card project in 1986 – that first year making and selling just 300 cards with a net profit for church funds of DM145. Last year, after deducting €955.36 for expenses (envelopes, glue and printing the blank cards), we made an interim net profit ourselves of €5,877.94 – only about €100 less than the previous year. I say interim because the former British Honorary Consul Claus Budelmann and his wife Annegret have once again made a very generous donation earmarked specifically for the card project – €1,122.06 – to bring the final net profit for the cards in 2018 up to €7,000. We are extremely grateful to them both – for all the financial help they have given us over so many years now, as well as for their continuing

support, encouragement and suggestions for promoting the project.

Now to the other thanks: in the first instance to the comparatively small team of volunteers who actually make the cards – sorting through all the used cards we’ve been given, chopping them with a guillotine to size, sticking them onto the new blank cards and finally sorting them again into boxes for the sellers – always working very professionally and very carefully, and with great attention to detail. A very big THANK YOU to: Debbie Faddul, Maureen Fischer, Jane Harding, Sarah Meister, Linda Rainer, Emma Richter, Mary Sanderson, Cathrin Schierholz, Katrin and Ruediger Schnetzer, Cordula Seidel Winter, Ellen Thomas, Lorna Yadzani and Caroline Yarnold.

Secondly, THANK YOU very much indeed to all those who sell the cards within the wider English-speaking community and organisations in Hamburg, and to their friends, families and work colleagues. Nearly 1,000 cards were sold at the Church Bazaar in November, and approximately 600 more after Sunday church services and at church events in the period before Christmas. The remaining cards – about 4,200 – were all sold outside the church. We’re thus able to reach out

to a far larger public than would otherwise be possible and it's also a good way of advertising the church's presence here in Hamburg. We are very grateful indeed to all the sellers: AGIWA (Ulrike Lemke and Julie Cook); The Arts Society Hamburg (formerly BRIDFAS – Pat Pledger); The British Club (Alison Fry); the British Flair Event at the Anglo-German Club (Wendy Sprock and Linda Struck); the British Ladies' Luncheon Club (Lorna Yazdani); Brenda Buhmann-Gore; Jennifer Bullinger; the English-Speaking Union (Howard and Gabi Kroch); Friends of Britain – Tales & Tunes (Eileen Broadbent); the German American Women's Club (Bettina Wex and Nancy Fischer); Helga Goerike (pharmacy in Reinbek); Holger Goerike (radiology practice in Hamburg); the Hamburg Players (Sigrid Reuter); Pam Hanus; Jane Harding; the International School Hamburg (Tracey Rabbitts); Carol Kloevekorn; Barbara Leeney; Margot Lord; Elke Norden; Family Schnetzer; the Victorian Christmas Market (British Honorary Consulate and Gwen Cochrane); and Tim Winter.

And finally THANK YOU to everyone who helped by collecting used cards for the church both in Hamburg and in Britain – sometimes even sending packages by post and sometimes collecting vast quantities

in their own communities, churches or in their offices. We are absolutely dependent on this support in order to get enough variety of motifs, and sufficient cards – only about every sixth card is suitable for recycling and so each year we need around 30,000.

Christmas cards for 2019 are already on sale. And looking ahead to Christmas 2020, we shall again need used cards. We are also grateful for good flower cards and photos for the greetings cards sold throughout the year. There is a basket for cards just inside the church door or they can be handed in through the various clubs.

With very many thanks again to ALL who helped and supported the 2018 card project.

Judith Holst

An apology from the editor

I'm sorry it's been nearly a year since the last edition of Becket News. There are all sorts of reasons, technical, organisational and personal, that I won't bore you with. And then the imminent announcement of Fr Leslie's appointment as Archdeacon led to a further delay. I hope very much to resume more regular publication in 2020.

Service, soup, spices and solemnity

At this time of year Becket Mixers is focusing on service to the Church. We are in nativity planning mode, having selected the play with Junior Church. Like last year, we will take on the narrator parts, whilst helping with costumes and directions on the day. For a guaranteed dose of cuteness, and the odd hilarious hiccup in proceedings, come to witness the nativity at church on 22 December 2019.

We are also preparing our Bazaar stand, with waffles like last year, however this time with toasted sandwiches and take-away, ground-bean coffee. We have prepared some branded coffee mugs to sell coffee in – which is an environmentally more suitable option. Due to a stall space being available at the

last minute last year, two Mixers spontaneously set up a loom band stall, which proved to be popular with young children and kept them busy creating something they could then take home. We plan to repeat this stall again, too.

Last year we also started the tradition of ‘Soup ’n’ Stuff’, which was a light lunch served to the parish after church. This year, in June we served soup and ‘other stuff’ – namely toasties and coffee. We made an impressive €180 on the day, which up until now we have saved.

It hasn’t all been hard work, however. In February we kicked off the year at ‘Sprung Raum’, a trampoline centre. In April we had a quiet event, with games, pizza and planning for the year. In August Emma and Rolf hosted our annual summer BBQ for Mixers and their families. This year was again very well attended with more than 25 people; enough people for a full soccer game, some volleyball, and just being silly. It was also a perfect afternoon for parents to get to know each other better.

One of our Mixers lost her father in late 2018. As part of her grieving process she designed and co-wrote a memorial service to honour her father. She invited the Mixers, and



together we sat in the middle aisle at church and cried, listened, prayed, sang, and even laughed together. Nine Mixers attended that day in May, which was a sign of love and care for our grieving friend. This event marked a new maturity in the group, whereby fun and service could be beautifully balanced with solemnity and respect. For us, as Leaders, it was an indication of the emotional and spiritual depth, strength and cohesion of the group. Afterwards Fr Leslie, Leaders and Mixers went for Mexican food.

In September we embarked on our first overnight adventure – we spent two nights glamping on the Elbe in four retro-caravans. The weather was just glorious. We hired bicycles, and rode along the Elbe; we BBQ'd, the Mixers even swam (splashed each other) in the Elbe, and hung out on the beach. There was plenty of food, games, spiders and a few late nights. It was wonderful to see friendships blossom over the weekend, whilst Emma and Madeleine could natter to our hearts' content. Thank you to the parish for supporting this special event.

Just a week later there was another special spiritual moment in that one of our Mixers was baptised. This is another sign of growth in the faith within the group.



The highlight of the year, for the Leaders, is the annual curry lunch at Fr Leslie's. It is a day where we put our feet up whilst Fr Leslie organises, measures, chops, instructs, stirs, directs and teaches the Mixers how to make a true Indian curry without a jar of Patak's curry paste. We sit and eat like a big family, complete with unusual lunch conversations. We are going to miss Fr Leslie, not least for his curry expertise.

The group itself has grown; we have lost one or two members and gained seven more, so that we now have about 14 relatively active participants – who are committed attenders for most events, including church, and always attend when they say they will. They are reliable, honest and fun to be around, if not sometimes a bit loud, with questionable taste in music. We have had a fun year and, looking back, have grown enormously in every way.

Emma and Madeleine

A pilgrimage round Hamburg's churches

Late last year, Pastor Bernd Lohse, the pilgrim pastor of St James's Church (Jacobikirche) in Hamburg, asked us if the English Church would like to be represented in the booklet they were producing as a guide for a pilgrimage around various churches in Hamburg. Naturally we are delighted

The introductory pilgrimage was on 13 April, beginning at the Mariendom. Five routes in different parts of the city are described in the booklet which is called *Stattwege*.

We have some copies which can be borrowed and more that can be bought for €2.00, the proceeds



to be included in the project and the booklet contains a short introduction to our church, as well as good photos, of the front of the church and our Thomas of Canterbury window.

going to the Jacobikirche and their pilgrim work. The booklet provides an excellent introduction to some of Hamburg's most interesting churches.

Varied programme for monument day

St Thomas à Becket took part in the 'Tag des offenen Denkmals' (Open Monument Day) on 6–8 September with a varied programme. On the Friday evening, our organist, Jochim Trede, treated

us to a concert of neo-romantic church music and popular hymns. About 55 people came to the church for this event and sang along enthusiastically. It certainly was a most enjoyable evening.

On the Saturday, we had an open day which attracted more than 150 visitors, most of whom were visiting the church for the first time, even if they lived close by. They were very pleased to be able to see this architecturally interesting building from the inside at last and were surprised by the rich history of the Anglican Church in Hamburg.

We let down the posters we had produced for our exhibition last year, had Birgit Kiupel's entertaining film 'On tour with Henry and Mabel' running and had a small team of meeters-greeters-guides, who had a very busy day taking our guests around. We met many interested and interesting people and were happy to welcome a small group from the Martin Bucer Seminar in Hamburg for a guided tour.

A delightful lute concert on Sunday evening with the Italian-Croatian lutenist Diego Leveric and an audience of nearly 40 rounded off our weekend.

We were very pleased with the number of visitors who had read about us in the official Denkmalstiftung programme and who had come to meet us and learn about our church.

*All articles on this page by
Madeleine Resühr*



Nacht der Kirchen took place this year on Saturday, 14 September. Seventy people came to Evensong and many stayed on after the service for light refreshments and a chat. Yotin and the choir were, as usual, a joy to listen to and many visitors expressed their gratitude and admiration. We stayed open until about 9.30 p.m. and were able to welcome a few more visitors, but as it was also Cruise Days in Hamburg, the blue port, big ships and fireworks proved to be stiff competition for the churches.

Two Countries – Two Wars

Following her work on the 180th anniversary of our church building and ferreting out what became of the remains of our former benefactor Henry Canning (see *Becket News* issue 73), churchwarden Madeleine Resühr has turned her detective skills to the life of the church's indomitable wartime caretaker.

'Welsh-born Mabel Wulff,' writes Madeleine, 'was caretaker for over forty years, starting shortly after the end of the first World War and remaining with her German husband, Max, in the small flat at the east end of the building throughout the dark days of the Third Reich and the Second World War, suffering personal tragedy, but never losing sight of her goal to care for and defend the church at all times and against the odds.'

Mabel did much, including taking down and storing the altar panels and personally putting out fires caused by incendiary bombs. She also managed to provide shelter for 60 of the thousands of people made

homeless by bombing until the Gestapo turfed them out. After the liberation of Hamburg by British forces, Mabel again came to the fore during restoration work. She was awarded the British Empire Medal for her services.

Madeleine's research in the archives in Hamburg and the UK also took

her to Wales, to Mabel and Max Wulff's grandson, Eddie, and his family and to Newport Register Office. The result is a fascinating portrait of a remarkable woman and an important contribution to the history of the British in Hamburg. Thanks to Madeleine, a commemorative plaque to Mabel Wulff was unveiled

on 29 September in the presence of Eddie Wulff and his wife and daughter.

Two Countries – Two Wars: the English Church in Hamburg and an indomitable caretaker by Madeleine Resühr can be purchased for €6 at the church or directly from Madeleine (see Who's Who on page 19).

Jo Dawes



Intergenerational focus at CAECG

The Council of Anglican and Episcopal Churches in Germany (CAECG) met for their autumn meeting in Stuttgart on 13 and 14 September. The opening talk of the meeting was a presentation on the new General Data Protection

Regulations (GDPR) and how these apply to and affect the CAECG member churches. CAECG member Barbara Rushiti, a qualified lawyer, described what the new regulations require of groups and Vereine and gave useful information on how to ensure compliance with the regulations and where to find additional information and help.

The topic for the rest of the meeting was 'Intergenerational Work, Worship and Witness' with Diane Craven and Harvey Howlett from England as the invited speakers. Diane is a licensed lay minister in the Church of England, has completed a PhD in theology and education and has undertaken research on children's experiences of believing and belonging in a church community. Until recently, Diane was the co-ordinator for ministry with children, families and young people at York Minister. Harvey works for the Church Commissioners in England and outside his work he has been the Secretary of the Society for Liturgical Study in the UK and Ireland for 10 years. His main interest is in the received meaning of worship and how our liturgies form and sustain the people in their faith.

continued overleaf

Photo: Madeleine Resühr



There were special visitors to our church on Saturday, 7 September – Derek and Christel, visiting from their home in Switzerland. Derek, who hails from England, and Christel from Hamburg were married here 52 years ago. How fortunate that the church was open for the Tag des offenen Denkmals when they came by! We were delighted to meet them and for them there were happy memories of their wedding day at St Thomas à Becket more than half a century ago when Frank Leonard was Chaplain.

Madeleine Resühr

During this main part of the CAECG meeting we worked in small groups for much of the time, and talked about how different generations can learn together, pray together and serve together. We looked at different aspects of mission and worship and considered different models of church and the positive and negative aspects of these models. In our groups we talked about which aspects of the models we saw in our own communities. We then considered a widely accepted

definition of good intergenerational practice and discussed what factors are enabling intergenerational work in our communities, what is preventing this and what might be stifling suggestions of growth.

There were also meetings of the three sub-groups of CAECG: Communications, Youth and Learning Together, and of course we worshipped together with compline on 13 September and morning prayer and a closing Eucharist the following day.

Kelvin Asante

Photo: Monica Schofield



We will remember them

Remembrance Sunday this year fell on 10 November. Our 10.30 service in Hamburg was attended by armed forces representatives. A police trumpeter sounded the last post and reveille as we remembered those who lost their lives serving in conflicts from the First World War to the present day. Wreaths were later layed at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Ohlsdorf. The Sunday collection came to over €400 and will be split between the Royal British Legion and the Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge.

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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:
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For clergy and council members please see previous page

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