

Becket News

Issue 78/May 2021

**The Anglican Church of
St Thomas à Becket**

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

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Throughout this issue: haikus by Madeleine Resühr. A haiku is a Japanese poem of 17 syllables and three lines – 5-7-5 syllables. They traditionally describe scenes from the natural world, often with an unusual, philosophical or unexpected image in the last line.

Cover and other blossom photos by Jo Dawes

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

My brief 'A–Z' of the first couple of months!

A is for Anglican: both ends into the middle, and a welcome for all.
B is for Behörde: those already encountered, and the
Ausländerbehörde to come.

C is for Church and all people of God; my brothers and sisters in
Christ.

D is for diaspora, and each of you joining our services from right
around the world!

E is for Elbe, and the myriad lovely waterways, in the city that is newly
my home.

F is for February and my first, failed attempt to move to Germany
(turned back at the border, as a danger to public health).

G is for the great and good God, with us always, and everywhere,
whatever befall.

H is of course for Hamburg, Freie und Hansestadt.

I is for Impfung, and the roll-out of the vaccine. May it ever gather
speed!

J is for me, Jules your Chaplain, and happily in post since mid-March.

K is for Konto, and the ability to transact business in Euros (saving
currency conversion fees).

L is for all our first and other languages too; and especially for love – the
one we all speak.

M is for our Music. And der Michel, under whose wings I now reside.

N is for Norbert, who at the second and successful attempt
collected me from the airport (but who was creatively
thinking of arresting me, to keep me on German soil!)

O is for the openness of the people I am meeting and getting to know.

P is for Pfand – what a good idea! Also for Prayer – an even better
one in my book.

Q is for my quarantines, both here and in the UK (hopefully now a
thing of the past).

R is for radio, which I have on all the time at home: ‘full immersion’
into the Sprache.

S is for STB – Saint Thomas à Becket, dedicatee of ‘die Englische
Kirche’ – who else?

T is for tea, which is one of the few things I’m rather British about.

U is for the U-Bahn; the efficiency, and usually cleanliness of the
system.

V is for the visits I can now make to you in person, albeit with care, but
to speak face to face.

W is for worship and the warmth and willingness of our communities.
X and **Y** are for the X-axis and the Y-axis of the cross, forming
the symbol of our salvation.

Z is for Zollamt, and the three different offices my removal company
were sent to in order to clear my
personal belongings for delivery.

Revd Jules A. Barnes

A report from churchwarden Madeleine

In my last warden’s report in
Becket News, I was happy to be
able to report that a new Chap-
lain, Revd Jules Ann Barnes, had

been appointed and was to come to
Hamburg in March. The good news
is, as you know, that she is indeed
with us at last – but what an advent-
ure it turned out to be! Here’s the
very short version – the long version
would fill the entire magazine:

When Revd Jules first arrived
here at the end of February, armed
with reams of paperwork, a nega-
tive Covid test, an assurance from
the local Hamburg authorities that
there would be no problems, the
regulations had been changed by
the Auswärtiges Amt, as the UK had
been declared a high-risk area, and
she was not allowed to enter Ger-



Photo: Madeleine Resühr

many. So straight back to the UK, ten days quarantine, lots of emails, phone calls, zoom conferences to try to find a way to get her here as soon as possible... In the end, things improved in the UK, the regulations went back to square one and Jules marched through the doors at the airport on Monday, 29 March – and straight into another two weeks of quarantine. We are delighted to welcome her in person to St Thomas à Becket!

In spite of the fact that the church is still closed as a result of the rising numbers of corona infections, church life is buzzing.

Revd Jules has prepared all the Sunday services and the Holy Week Services, first from her sister's home in Somerset, then from the Chaplain's flat, since 21 March using Zoom. Attendance has been very good and so she has had the opportunity to 'meet' many members of the congregation already.

Jules is also preparing a weekly news-sheet with the readings from the services, the Zoom link and notices. This is sent by email, by regular post to those without internet and is also posted to the church website. Modern technology has indeed made this unexpectedly long period of closure more bearable.

As I write, we are hoping to be able to reopen the church soon, with all the hygiene and safety measures in place. We are all so looking forward to being back together in our church with our new Chaplain!

Madeleine Resühr

Safeguarding news

Even though the church has been closed, there has been a mountain of safeguarding work going on behind the scenes. The team, Norbert and Madeleine H., have met online, and each taken on parts of the substantial safeguarding role. Both safeguarding officers attended the Chaplaincy Safeguarding Conference, held across the diocese on 17 March. It was an opportunity to understand what is expected in the role; to meet more of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST), and other safeguarding officers around the diocese.

Our safeguarding team have been involved in supporting the recently established Junior Church online project, which started in April. The safeguarding team have assisted in developing the registration documents, and in attending the Zoom conference, to ensure the project remains safe as well as fun!

contd overleaf



Welcoming the bees
Its speckled mouths wide open,
A purple foxglove.

Madeleine has now been trained to deliver the online C2 training course for the Diocese, and led her first group through the course in mid-April. She has also recently attended a DST course on documentation and safeguard checking. There are some new documents and checks that need to be made to keep up the safeguarding standards expected of us, so if you have a lead role in church, you'll probably need to complete a form. We will contact you about this in due course.

Norbert and Madeleine have also started using a Safeguarding Dashboard, a software program to help us keep up with our responsibilities.

If anyone would like to complete safeguarding online courses (C0 and C1), they are free and available to every parishioner. Do let Norbert or Madeleine know if you

complete a course, please: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Lastly, if anyone needs to know why the diocese is serious about safeguarding, why Norbert and Madeleine are busy trying to bring our chaplaincy alongside current standards, or if anyone doubts the need for safeguarding, we would ask you to watch this BBC two-part exposé about the Church of England. Each part takes an hour:

Part 1: <https://bit.ly/3uY8FpZ>

Part 2: <https://bit.ly/3yfXN8Y>

We recognise that this documentary is harrowing; Madeleine H is available for debriefing if requested (safeguarding@anglican-church-hamburg.de)

*Norbert Schoen &
Madeleine Herring*

Good Shepherd visits online

We held our first Saturday Junior Church Zoom Session on 24 April 2021 and learned about the Good Shepherd. The children made a lovely stable for the sheep they had drawn. On these they placed their prayers for people to be cared for by our good shepherd, Jesus.

Chaplain Jules Barnes led us in prayer with actions (see video):

*Dear God,
Bless our Junior Church today.
Help us to learn, to play and to pray.
Amen.*

We have posted the video on our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stbhamburg>) and website (www.anglican-church-hamburg.de) for all to see the fun we had.

If you and your families would like to take part in the next Zoom

session on Saturday, 5 June 2021 at 9.30am please send an email to register and receive the link to: juniorchurch@anglican-church-hamburg.de We would love you to join us!

Meanwhile, Junior Church is planning to lead a themed Sunday service later in the year, date to follow.

*Miriam Hinz, Kate Power,
Wendy Sprock*

Easter bilbies – the Australian bunny

As Australia is a migrant country, Easter is celebrated according to many different traditions – the German/English tradition of the Osterhase/Easter bunny; the colourfully painted eggs and the Easter egg hunt, also popular in

Germany and Eastern Europe; the special cakes and pastries brought by Italian migrants, and the rich traditions of the Russian and Greek Orthodox churches.

But one character is uniquely Australian – the Easter Bilby, who sometimes also brings the Easter eggs to the children, instead of the Easter bunny – although they do tend to vie for attention, and lately the bunny has gained the upper paw. The bilby is a small marsupial that was once found in all the dry and desert areas in Australia – and that is about 70 per cent of the country. Now, however, it is in danger of extinction and is only found in small colonies in south-west Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. It is

Cave paintings of bilbies, 6,000–9,000 years old, in Maliwawa, Arnhem Land (Prof. Paul Tacon)



already extinct in the other states. The cats and foxes introduced with European settlement and the herds of domestic animals, such as cattle and sheep which ruined their habitat, led to a sharp decline in the population.

Bilbies are about 20 inches long and have a pointy snout and long tail. They live mostly underground in burrows and eat anything and everything from tubers and roots, to insects, spiders, witchetty grubs and even smaller animals. They hunt at night to avoid the extreme heat during the day and carry their young, like kangaroos, in a pouch. The name 'bilby' comes from the languages spoken by the Yuwaalaraay and Wiradjuri peoples of New South Wales.

A national recovery plan was developed, which all started in 1968 when a nine-year-old girl, Rose-Marie Dusting, wrote a short story called 'Billy the Aussie Easter Bilby'. This was not published until 1979, but then caught the interest of the public. The idea of the Easter Bilby was born and used by conservationists to raise awareness of the vulnerable position of this little



Photo: Madeleine Resühr

My very own Billy Bilby

furry animal and soon big chocolate manufacturers such as Cadbury, Darrell Leas and Haigh's Chocolate began producing chocolate bilbies and donating a percentage of the profits to the 'Save the bilby fund'. During the 1990s, this generated close to \$1,000,000.

Unfortunately, consumers have recently become less interested in chocolate bilbies and both Cadbury and Darrell Lea ceased production in 2019. Nevertheless, as a result of the Easter Bilby idea, work continues to save them by breeding them in captivity, and efforts are being made to re-establish them where they used to live.

Madeleine Resühr



Click & Pray – the STB way

In the middle of our Palm Sunday Zoom service it suddenly came to me: How can church survive in a pandemic? It has to offer its services online just like retailers in the high street – so if you can Click & Buy or Click & Meet, then you can certainly Click & Pray!

That is exactly what STB in Hamburg is doing by offering online Sunday services. We can zoom into the service, listen, participate by responding to prayers and psalms and by singing the hymns at the tops of our voices (because we are mute anyway) and pray as loudly as we wish. I had forgotten, though, that my son was still sleeping upstairs

and he asked me later if I had been singing that morning. I had obviously only been muted to those online – oops!

In the film and theatre industries you can stream on demand or binge on Netflix series throughout the pandemic. In the church community you can pray on demand. You can attend many services when and as often as you like all over the globe. This is the first time in the Church's history that people can indulge digitally in hearing the word of the Lord so conveniently. What a revelation for local church communities! The word of the Lord can be spread across the whole world in this way. What a wonderful side effect of Covid-19.

I once followed a Bible study on an App called Bible in One Year by Nicky and Pippa Gumbel from HTB in London. This was during a time when I could not easily attend church. This App encouraged me to read a Bible passage every day. It would be quite easy to apply the phrase 'out of sight, out of mind' to the Church, especially at the moment. There are currently no church services being held physically at St Thomas à Becket so we could just accept that, but now we have



the opportunity to participate in the Zoom services being offered by our new chaplain, Revd Jules Barnes.



It is wonderful to be able to feed ourselves on the word of the Lord using modern technology whilst a physical presence is not possible.

So next time you think it may be too difficult to practise your faith as a Christian, please remember to ‘Click & Pray’!

Text & photos Wendy Sprock

Please check the weekly news-sheet or the church website for details of our online services.

Church Bazaar: the more, the merrier

In these digital times we will have to evolve and change our concept to make a success of our pivotal Church Bazaar. This is where the whole congregation and community beyond the congregation gets involved.

In 2020 we made it work with a semi-physical bazaar with digital elements. Covid-19 has not made it easy for many of us but for the Church Bazaar it has meant some radical changes. Since this led to a lot of positives – getting younger people in the community involved, encouraging people who had never been to St Thomas à Becket before to come to collect their goods and advertising in channels we had never used before – we decided to follow this path in 2021.

We have a date and we have a plan! This year’s Bazaar will be a “Hybrid Bazaar” (Covid-19 allowing) – part physical and part virtual!

Save the date:

Saturday, 20 November 2021
(exact times tbc)

Eric Lord will be contacting those involved before by phone/email in the next couple of weeks.

If you would like to get involved by helping on a stand or making things or have an idea for something new, please email Eric Lord: bazaar@anglican-church-hamburg.de.

Any questions? We look forward to hearing from you and to putting together a spectacular Bazaar programme this year. Our motto is ‘the more, the merrier’.

Wendy Sprock

Healing Racism & Celebrating Diversity

So, I guess you might want to know what the KulturKlub has been up to!

The KulturKlub is the name chosen by the members of Healing Racism and Celebrating Diversity, who are parishioners of St Thomas à Becket. The group that was formed in August 2020 has been consistently enjoying each other's company by going through the journey of discovering and understanding the scourge of racism.

Six members of our group meet monthly to go through the YouTube series called 'Conversations on Race' that has been graciously created by the Kings Cross Church in London and is available on YouTube. This

month, we will go through the fourth video of this series called – Conversations on Race: Spiritual and Relational Engagement (Kings Cross Church), which can be found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpcYTZicYhQ>. These videos have made our group grow so much, as we have gained invaluable insights from experts and they have made us embrace our diversity and sometimes even question ourselves and come to terms with some of our biases.

Our little group has not only watched this YouTube Series, but we have watched the movie 'Get Out', have had active discussions in our WhatsApp chat, have exchanged and shared books, have attended online events and are constantly sharing information found across different platforms.

This group has been a safe space for everyone, as each group member is free to relate their experience, and ask questions that may seem difficult to understand or make other people uncomfortable. This group can also be challenging, as heavy topics can be discussed, but always while respecting each other's perspectives.

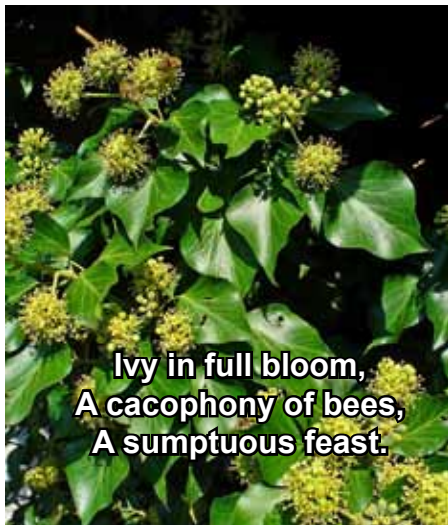


Photo: H. Zelli, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



Of course, we do want to have more people join in and we already have two more interested members of the church community who are planning to. So, if you feel you would like to enjoy an interesting evening learning new things about topics you think you know, you are most welcome to join! If you think you only want to listen and be in a safe space, please do join in!! Or again, if you want to be actively engaged in

this topic, please do join in!!!

The KulturKlub is diverse in itself in terms of age, sex, gender, race and cultures. If you are intrigued or your interest has been piqued, please do contact Yotin Tiewtrakul (yotin@gmx.de), Valerie Müller (valbo@hotmail.de), Madeleine Herring (ph 040 279 6514) or again Emilia Monica (monica.emilia@ymail.com).

Monica Emilia

Mixers dream of another glamping trip

What's been happening with the Becket Mix youth group in 2021? To quote Basil Fawlty in Fawlty Towers, in the episode the Kipper and the Corpse, 'not much'.

Our group have an age range of between 14 and 17, which means they are in the thick of ESA, MSA and Abitur exams. Further, they have been trying to manage with mostly online learning. Emma and Madeleine H. figured the Mixers had enough to do.

However, as the year has worn on, home schooling has become at least more familiar, the group has

reformed, sadly only online, around Kahoot! quizzes. What's a Kahoot! quiz? It's a website for creating your own fun quizzes, about any topic. So far we've had two quizzes, and our next one this month has been created by Emma and Madeleine.

We hope that some time this year we can meet up again in person. We even dream of going on another summer glamping weekend. It very much depends on what's allowed by the Hamburg authorities. In the meantime we're trying to stay in touch online.

Madeleine Herring & Emma Richter

How can we fill our funding gap?

In February we formed a new fund-raising group consisting of Monica Schofield, Anthony Peter, Christian Nweze and Wendy Sprock (coordinator).

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We started our kick-off meeting looking at:

- Where our funds come from and what our main expenses are
- Potential 'target groups' from internal to external, from crowd funding to donations from wealthy individuals or organisations
- How to communicate with these groups.

A few key facts:

Our church receives no money from the Church of England or from the German State Church Tax (Kirchensteuer).

Our income comes from voluntary donations from our members and congregation and from

fund-raising activities (difficult in Covid-19 times).

We need to pay for our chaplain and the upkeep of the church.

In a good year we have a surplus, in a bad year we need to use money accumulated from previous years.

If you have any fund-raising ideas, please contact Wendy Sprock at fundraising@anglican-church-hamburg.de.

If you would like to support St Thomas à Becket with a one-off donation or a direct debit for as little as €5 per month, then please do so to the account in the box on the left of this page.

Thank you for ensuring the continued existence of the Anglican Church in Hamburg.

Wendy Sprock



Helicopter whirr
And a blur of tiny wings,
Jenny-wren zips by.

To be a pilgrim this holiday?

‘Pilgrimage is the invitation to walk an inward-leading path, to myself and to God,’ writes Gothard Magaard, Lutheran Bishop of Schleswig and Holstein.

Members of our congregation will be well aware – certainly if they read Madeleine Resühr’s article in our November issue – that the shrine of Thomas of Canterbury was one of the most important mediaeval pilgrimage destinations. To this day, his tomb in Canterbury Cathedral is both a goal in itself and a departure

point for other pilgrimages, such as on the Camino to Santiago in Spain.

Interest in pilgrimage is on the increase, and now perhaps more than ever due to the enforced deceleration and reflection many have experienced during the pandemic. Once we can go on holiday again, we may want to stay closer to home, or have no choice, and we may be looking for a slower, more reflective holiday than we used to have.

Bishop Magaard’s words above introduce a new 140-km pilgrim

St Pancras Church, Oldenswort (photo: Jo Dawes)



route along the German-Danish border from Lunden in Schleswig-Holstein to Tønder in Southern Denmark – www.pilgern-an-der-nordsee.de. It leads the pilgrim from the Eider estuary to the Vidå creek along lonely coastal paths, through the marshes, and by the hedges and woods flanking the ice-age moraines, taking in the village churches en route.

The route borders on Eiderstedt, where I live. Eiderstedt has its own pilgrim pastor, Inke Thomsen-Krüger, who is not only responsible for the parish of Oldenswort, but is also Pastor for Church and Tourism in an area that takes in the popular North Sea resort of Sankt Peter-Ording. She is co-initiator of a 30-km cycle route, comprising five tours that link all 18 churches on the Eiderstedt peninsula, and regularly leads cycle pilgrimages herself – www.eiderstedt-entdecken.de. Many of the churches here are over 900 years old and date from a time when the landscape was one of marshes, creeks and shifting sands, with settlements often cut off from one another. ‘On the pilgrimage you take a look at the churches, but also at yourself,’ she says.

The Mecklenburg Lakes in former Communist East Germany are perhaps not the first place you would

associate with the Blessed Virgin Mary. However, several ‘open churches’ in the Verchen-Kummerow parish boast Marian paintings or statues and are now to get a 28-km pilgrimage route of their own – a tour that takes pilgrims through the landscape on the eastern shore of Lake Kummerow (thanks to Petra Osinski for the tip) – <https://bit.ly/3tYNT0W>.

A highlight of the route is bound to be the ‘Wolkwitzer Madonna’, a carved figure over 750 years old, that is now back home at St Mary’s Verchen after an eventful past. The figure is thought to have been brought to Verchen by nuns from the convent at Altentreptow. At some point, the carving found its way to Wolkwitz, about ten miles away, where it was discovered in the 1920s walled into the base of the altar in the church. The figure was then passed from museum to museum before finally being returned to Verchen in 2017.

Of course, you don’t even need to leave Hamburg to go on a pilgrimage. See November’s *Becket News* for Revd Canon Mark Dimond’s account of his urban pilgrimage. (Back numbers can be found in the *Becket News* archive on the church website.)

Jo Dawes

New Thomas Becket exhibition opens

‘Thomas Becket: murder and the making of a saint’, the British Museum’s special exhibition to mark the 850th anniversary of Becket’s brutal murder in Canterbury Cathedral on 29 December 1170, opened in London on 20 May.

Delayed since October 2020 due to the pandemic, the show is the first major UK exhibition on the life, death and legacy of Thomas Becket, whose brutal murder in 1170 shook

the Middle Ages. It presents Becket’s journey from merchant’s son to archbishop and his enduring but divisive legacy in the centuries after his death, bringing together a whole array of objects associated with the saint and martyr, from illuminated manuscripts to jewellery and sacred reliquaries.

Among the many objects on loan is an entire mediaeval stained glass window, one of the Miracle Windows

Below: Reliquary casket showing the murder of Thomas Becket. Limoges, France, about 1180-1190. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Made less than 20 years after the murder, this enamelled casket once contained Becket’s relics, either bits of his bone or blood-soaked clothes.



from Canterbury Cathedral, which forms the centrepiece of the exhibition. The British Museum reports that new research, recently carried out due to its removal for study prior to the exhibition, has revealed that some of the panels have been in the wrong order for centuries. They were probably mixed up during a hasty rearrangement in the 1660s and the errors were discovered after close inspection of individual pieces under a microscope. When the window is shown at the British Museum, it will be rearranged in the correct narrative order, and this will be the first time in over 350 years that visitors will be able to view these panels as they were made to be seen.

‘The Miracle Windows are medieval versions of graphic novels illustrating the experiences of ordinary people,’ says Leonie Seliger, Director of Stained Glass Conservation at Canterbury Cathedral. ‘They greeted the pilgrims at the culmination of their journey to Becket’s shrine with images that would be reassuring and uplifting. The window that will be

Right: Miracle window, Canterbury Cathedral, early 1200s. © The Chapter, Canterbury Cathedral. This window, the fifth in the series, shows the myriad ways that St Thomas intervened in the lives of ordinary people.





Above: Ampulla showing Becket between two knights, England, 13th century. © The Trustees of the British Museum.

shown at the British Museum is only one of seven that remain, and they are one of Canterbury Cathedral's greatest treasures.'

Lloyd der Beer, co-curator of the exhibition, describes the violent death of Thomas Becket as the ultimate true crime story. 'There's drama, fame, royalty, power, envy, retribution, and ultimately a brutal murder that shocked Europe.'

Becket's reputation for miracles after his death spread quickly throughout Europe and pilgrims flocked to his tomb in the cathedral. The Canterbury monks were clearly no less enterprising than our own

church bazaar team. As well as visiting the tomb, pilgrims could buy 'St Thomas' Water', a mixture of his blood and water bottled and sold in small lead ampullae.

For the many of us who will be unable to visit the exhibition, the website – www.britishmuseum.org/becket – already contains a wealth of information. Soon to come is a digital tour of the exhibition, and there will be a range of public programme events. Registration is necessary to be part of the live events via Zoom, but they will also be streamed on the 'British Museum Events' YouTube channel and available to watch there afterwards.

Thomas Becket: murder and the making of a saint runs until 22 August 2021 in the Joseph Hotung Great Court Gallery at the British Museum, London.

Jo Dawes



*A flash of orange
Outside my bedroom window,
A painted lady.*

Who's Who at our Church

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For other ministries please see following page

For the latest on how Covid-19 is affecting services and events, please see Facebook: stbhamburg or 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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