

Becket News

Issue 79/November 2021

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

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

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Cover photo by Monica Schofield

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From the Chaplain

Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure!

These were the key words for our summer series of five special themed services at STB. What do they make you think of? Well, for us as part of the global Anglican Church, they embrace the breadth of God's holistic and integrated mission to his creation. Obviously, just these five words can do this only in very summary form. Nonetheless, they are easy to remember, and intentionally challenging in their scope. We all want to make the world a better place, and for us in the Church, this means joining God in his mission.

What is God's mission? Well, first of all, you may well be realising that it is much broader than you thought – ranging as it does not only across the proclaiming of the Good News of the Kingdom, but the imperative to tend one another in our need, to work for good stewardship and the sustainable future of the planet, and to address issues of social justice and reconciliation in society.

So, to help us focus, each week of our summer series, we took one of

the following five 'Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion' as our theme – TELL: Proclaim the Good News of the kingdom; TEACH: Baptise and nurture new believers; TEND: Respond to human need by loving service; TRANSFORM: the unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation; and TREASURE: Safeguard the integrity of creation, sustain and renew the life of the earth. Each one, as you see, is headed up by one of the key words of my headline. The five Marks were interpreted with creativity, energy and prayerfulness by our wider STB church community. Young and old, new voices and new perspectives were heard in our Sunday morning meetings, giving us all pause for thought (and thanksgiving for one another), as well as lots of enjoyment and not a little laughter.

Tell the Good News! was led by members and friends of our Junior Church, and their leaders. They took the Gospel reading for the day and acted it out in a

semi-dramatised version, so that we not only heard the words but saw it in action too, with props including a dinghy, and cotton wool manna falling from heaven. The central message was Jesus telling all those who would listen that he is ‘the bread of life’. For the second Mark, Teach and nurture new believers, Pastorin Gundula Meinert from the Nordkirche was our guest preacher, embodying the interdenominational aspect of the Church’s mission.

Members of our Young Adults group took Mark 3, ‘Respond to human need with loving service’, and gave us a contemporary take on the parable of the Good Samaritan, putting together their own sketch and asking us to think anew about how we discriminate and judge when it comes to assisting others and responding to distress. Then members of our Racial Diversity and Healing group explored the fourth Mark, with its key word of TRANSFORM. This group came together within STB as a result of the Black Lives Matter movement, and they led us all in a moving exploration of past and present injustices of our societal and institutional structures, using the specific lens

of racism. Cause to lament, as individuals, and specifically as church, and to work for transformation, that we may be conformed to the values of God’s kingdom: love, justice and peace.

And the last Mark we subtitled ‘Theme Green’, as we considered our role as stewards of God’s creation. God is maker of ALL things, and humankind must live sustainably and fairly within the entirety of the ecosystem, rather than exploiting and abusing the world’s resources. Lots for us to think about!

But, we also wanted to make the point that each week’s key ‘T’ word is a Verb – that is, ‘a doing word’. First we always need to listen and engage with a topic – absolutely correct – and the creative interpretations briefly referred to above helped us to do that in new ways. (Each week, many of us went home with a brand-new thought that posed an associated personal challenge: to help, to change, to recognise prejudice, whatever it may have been.) But then, we need to take our learning forward and to act – that is, ‘to DO something’ – starting, I would suggest, with ourselves, and in those places where we already have

relationship, and therefore agency.

One of the ways in which I picture the work of the Church is as an iterative cycle of 'looking up, looking in, and looking out'. We look up to God and to heaven to see how things should and, ultimately once again, will be; we look out to the world and identify where there is damage and distress and then we look into ourselves and identify how we can work with God in the power of the Spirit, to bring the two closer together. As Christians, we believe that, in Christ, God has given us the 'bridge' or the 'ladder' to close the gap between how things are and how they should be, and that we need to learn from and follow Him.

Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure. We all want to make the world a better place, and these are good words to guide us, whoever we are. But where to begin? Wherever we stand in relation to faith, we can often feel overcome by the enormity of the pain, fear and distress we experience around us. That's entirely normal, entirely human, entirely to be expected. But, 'Think global, act local'. Each small step in the right direction is just that:

it makes a positive difference, and it counts! Yes, I know it's been said before, many times, but do what you CAN do.

So, that is why we had our August and September summer series, to revisit and amplify the all-encompassing scope and active ongoing nature of the marks of God's mission. And why we in the Church express our 'trying to make the world better' as joining Him in this Mission. Bringing the ways of heaven to earth, so that justice and peace rather than injustice, the abuse of power, war and enmity once again hold sway.

All good stuff! And now, of course, we are fast approaching the celebration of the Advent and Christmas seasons of the church year, the time when heaven literally comes to earth in the person of Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, Emmanuel, God with us, and the everlasting Prince of Peace. May he bring light to wherever there is darkness in this world, and hope into all places of present fear. I wish you and yours a joyful, safe and blessed festive season and all the best for 2022.

Revd Jules A. Barnes

Our actions, however small, matter

This is an adapted version of the reflections delivered at the 'green' themed service on the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity on the 5th mark of mission: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

In 2008, I heard a presentation by the research director of a very well-known US software company that shook up the audience with the words: 'We are not on track to keep global warming to less than 2C. It's more likely to be double that since targets on CO2 emission reduction are not being met' and 'It is a case of when, not if, the next pandemic will occur – the last one being the Spanish flu that wiped out 3% and affected about half the world's population.'

I have been sharing these warnings on many occasions, since my work involves promoting a reorientation of research and innovation priorities, but even so, I was not ready for the coronavirus pandemic. It had never occurred to me that I should stock up on toilet paper and pasta! As for climate change, this is something that is too easy to project into the future, or somewhere else on the globe.

In amongst all the statistics thrown at us about corona over the past 18

months, there have been reports on record weather conditions. Our immediate experience of climate change is in the weather: weather that is too hot, too wet, too dry, too cold, too windy. One of the biggest challenges for climate modellers is to predict the weather in the situation where the climate is changing. Predicting weather is important, as we saw in the tragedy of the flooding in western Germany this summer. Hamburg is home to a world-class research institute for climate modelling, the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, acknowledged by the fact the director, Klaus Hasselmann, was co-awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics on 5 October.

Our choices matter

Climate change is for real but, faced with big global challenges, it is easy to feel rather small and powerless. Yet the past 18 months have shown the power of collective individual action. Our individual actions matter because when multiplied they have impact. We have saved lives by accepting the need to radically change our behaviour.

The day of the themed service coincided with the German Federal election. To be able to choose how we are governed is a privilege, but the

climate crisis isn't something to be fixed by one country's government. Our politicians face a tough job to change our whole global economic system to achieve CO2 neutrality, to make it acceptable and fair across the globe. However, 'a politician without votes is like a CEO without profits', a politician pointed out to me. Politicians putting forward the actions that must be taken need our support.

If we demand that industry play its part, we have a responsibility as consumers and customers to buy from those companies doing the right thing. How does this influence our purchasing decisions? The same goes for investments. Pension funds are enormous influencers on the priorities set within a company. Do we care how the profits are made, or just that we get a good pension?

Through the Church Commissioners, the organisation that looks after the Church of England's financial assets, the CofE has been a leading light in using the influence of its £9.2 billion investment portfolio to help pass shareholder resolutions that prioritise our need to protect the planet. So the contribution to the pension fund we make on behalf of our Chaplain is in good hands.

Change is easier if we take action together

At the end of 2019, I decided to have as a goal for 2020 to significantly cut down on my flying, parti-

Storm surge in HafenCity in 2013, photo Florian, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



cularly for business. I did amazingly well in 2020 and even better in 2021!

Of course, I can't take the credit for this. It is very much easier to change behaviour if we all have to do so.

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth is a big and complex topic. It encompasses more than just human influence on the climate. It lies at the heart of the way we view the world as Christians. We are stewards, not owners, of God's creation. We share it with all humanity and are to pass it on to the generations that follow.

This 5th mark of mission is not isolated from the others we have heard about in the series. It goes hand-in-hand with our commitment to dismantling unjust structures, our acceptance of others as being equally entitled, what it means to show love for my neighbour.

Measures to mitigate the coronavirus spread have been more brutal for some than others. The effects of climate change will be felt more adversely in some places than others. Some parts of the planet may become uninhabitable and people will have to move. Our energy consumption may mean someone else's water well dries up. What is our response? Or, closer to home, when the water level of the Elbe rises by 2m, as is predic-

ted will happen by the end of the century, where do the good people of Wilhelmsburg go?

'If you want to change the world – start with yourself'
(Mahatma Ghandi)

Our faith provides the inspiration to do so. Being a community means we can encourage one another – it is so much easier to change behaviour if others are doing so, too.

The Christian message is one of hope. The experience of the past 18 months does give me hope: we have collectively paused to think about what it means to be human and become perhaps more conscious of the lives of others and our impact on this. We face challenges and need to radically change our way of life, but as the outgoing Chancellor of Germany would say, 'Wir schaffen das' – but ACT WE MUST.

Here are some suggestions how.

Monica Schofield

- » Find out how big your **carbon footprint** is and what you can do to reduce it.
- » **Don't buy bottled water.** Help reduce plastic use and delivery traffic.
- » **Eat less meat.** 41% of the greenhouse gas emissions from

- our food come from meat and meat products.
- » Try to **buy seasonal food that's been produced locally.**
 - » **Cut down on single-use plastics.** Plastic refining is greenhouse-gas intensive. As plastics break down, they release greenhouse gases. And microplastics end up in the sea, in fish, and then in us.
 - » **Fit energy-saving lamps** (LED are best) and use a renewable power supplier.
 - » Watch out how much **time you spend on the internet.** The carbon footprint of our gadgets, the internet and the systems supporting them, accounts for about 3.7% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
 - » If you've got a garden or a balcony, or even a window box, **create green, leafy spaces** that absorb rainwater and cool the air around your building. It's good for insects and other wildlife, too.

Jo Dawes

Helpful websites with lots of facts and ideas

Measure your own carbon footprint

There are many reference sites to help assess your impact

See for example Global Footprint Network

<https://www.footprintnetwork.org/>

Find things you can change

Hamburg's platform for climate protection in our daily lives <https://moinzukunft.hamburg/alltags-tipps/>

Here's another in English

<https://en.reset.org/act/reduce-your-ecological-footprint-0>

Sustainability website and newsletter (in German) with lots of practical ideas

<https://utopia.de/>

Carbon offsetter if you do fly. Top-rated in 2018 Stiftung Warentest survey

<https://www.atmosfair.de/en/>

Read up on the facts

Improve your understanding of the topic

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Reports

<https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/>

COP26 in Glasgow

<https://ukcop26.org/>

What the City of Hamburg is doing

<https://www.hamburg-news.hamburg/en/location/hamburg-strengthening-its-resilience-climate-change>

Learn what the business community is doing

World Business Council for Sustainable Development

<https://www.wbcsd.org/>

Sustainable investment and influential work of the CoE

The Church Commissioners of the Church of England advice on sustainable investment

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/how-you-can-act/sustainable-1>

Monica and Jo

Church heating RIP...out of the ashes

As many of you will already have heard, or felt, the heating boiler in St Thomas à Becket church has finally given up the ghost after a number of years of being on its last legs. So we now have a major project on our hands to replace it. However, *in adversis occasio est* (there is an opportunity in adversity). This is our chance to move out of fossil fuels and into technology more in

tune with the goals of the 5th mark of mission of the worldwide Anglican Communion: 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth' (see previous article).

Obviously, the greatest reduction of all would be achieved if we didn't heat the building at all and everyone just wrapped up warmly – which is probably what we are going to



have to do for the next few months. However, with the amount of wood in the building, and the need to be comfortable in church, this isn't a viable option in the long term. We are stewards of a great and unique building that should be preserved for current and future generations, and for both the worshipping community of STB and our wider Hamburg.

As the first stage of the project, we are commissioning professional advice to assist in looking at the breadth of options available to us. We have already been helped by the Nordkirche with contacts and given encouragement by the Denkmalschutzamt. Professional advice costs money and we want to do the best job we can. So we have launched an

appeal on **betterplace.org** (www.betterplace.org/p101234). Please do forward this to people who you think may be happy to donate to this cause.

Regular updates will be given as the project progresses, and we plan to hold a public meeting once we are clearer about the options.

*Monica Schofield,
newly appointed project manager
for the heating*



Photos: Monica Schofield

Habeas corpus – and lots more besides

Many members of the congregation of St Thomas à Becket not only know each other but also know about one or two of the church's famous historical figures such as Mabel Wulff, courageous caretaker for more than 40 years, who saved the church from burning down after a fire-bomb attack during World War II and was honoured with a memorial plaque in September, 2019, when members of her family came to Hamburg from Newport, Wales for the unveiling ceremony.

You can read about her far-from-easy life and her dedicated work for the church in the brochure, *Two Countries – Two Wars The English Church in Hamburg and an indomitable caretaker Mabel Wulff, B.E.M.* by Madeleine Resühr.

Walking around the church, you will have seen many other plaques in memory of those who left their mark through their enduring service to the church. The largest of these is the marble memorial at the south-east end of the church to Henry Canning which bears the inscription:

*Sacred to the memory of
Henry Canning Esquire
during eighteen years H.B.M Chargé d'Affaires
and Consul General to the Hanse towns
who died Feb: 9th 1841 aged 66 years.
He was esteemed in private life and exemplary
in the discharge of his public duties
In token of their attachment
this tablet is dedicated by his friends
the British residents of Hamburg*

You might also have seen him on one of the posters hanging from the gallery on special occasions. As British Consul General to Hamburg from 1823 to 1841, he succeeded in persuading the Senate to give the British residents a plot of land on

which to build a new English Church and canvassed tirelessly for donations from British merchants and companies, German business associates and the British government so that this church could be built. After many trials and tribulations, a



Danish-German architect, Ole Jørgen Schmidt, was engaged to design a handsome neoclassical building on Zeughausmarkt. The English Church was dedicated in November 1838 and renamed St Thomas à Becket in 1947 after extensive renovations following World War II, in honour of the patron saint of the Merchant Adventurers who were the first British merchants to settle in Hamburg in the 17th century.

However, one mystery had us puzzled until very recently. As a mark of respect, after his death Henry Canning was laid to rest, with great pomp and ceremony and special permission, in the church. Various rumours sprang up over the years, but the actual whereabouts of his mortal remains remained a mys-

tery – was he still in the church or had he been moved to his daughter's family vault in Mecklenburg, as some of his descendants claimed?

The fascinating story of Henry's life, his role in the building of our church and the solution to this mystery can be read in the booklet by Madeleine Resühr: *Banker, Bankrupt, Builder Henry Canning, Esq. British Consul to Hamburg 1823–1841 – An illustrated biography.*

Madeleine researched the subject for more than two years, scouring the church archives, documents in the Staatsarchiv Hamburg, the Staatsbibliothek, the London Metropolitan Archives, the Denkmalschutzamt Hamburg and many other sources. She also travelled around Mecklenburg, paid several visits to the archives of the Lutheran church in Schwerin and contacted many descendants of Henry Canning in Germany and further relatives in the UK to find out as much as possible about the elusive gentleman.

The result of her detective work is a booklet which tells the story of his life in England, Ireland and Germany, from schoolboy in London to Consul General in Hamburg, and contains reproductions of many important documents, portraits of

contd on p. 16



Summer and a
 Anticlockwise from bottom right: On 10 J
 along the Elbe to Teufelsbrück, and on t
 finally celebrated the licensing of Revd J
 for the harvest festival on 3 October were
 Holst and Ellen Thomas. 24 October was
 and finally an opportunity to thank Jochim
 at our church. And finally, the 2G Church
 success. Even better news, Eric Lord an
 event again next year. Photos: M. Sch
 C. N





Autumn in pictures

July, the Wanderers met for a walk from Rissen
the following day, after several false starts, we
Jules A. Barnes as our new Chaplain. Flowers
beautifully arranged by Ellen Ziesmann, Judith
Music Sunday, with a special Choral Eucharist
n Trede for more than half a century as organist
ch Bazaar on 20 November was an all-round
d Wendy Sprock have agreed to organise the
hofield (1), E. Liebender (1), E. Thomas (1),
lweze (6).



continuation from p. 13

members of his family and photos of places which played a significant role in his life. We catch a glimpse of society in 19th century England and Germany and learn about his successful diplomatic career in Hamburg, where he met and was befriended by many well-known personalities, such as Karl Sieveking and Johann Martin Lappenberg, whose names you will have come across on street signs in Hamburg.

Madeleine's book is compulsory reading for all those interested in Henry Canning and the history of the English Church in Hamburg, and who want to know the answer to the question of his final resting place.

You can order a copy by emailing info@anglican-church-hamburg.



Photo with kind permission of Eckhard v. Paepcke/Christoph Graf v. Poller

de or buy one from the author in church after the Sunday service. Reduced price for members of the congregation €7.50. All proceeds go to church *Jens Resühr*

Podcast junkie

Like a few in my generation, I grew up largely without a television. Major events were followed on my Nan's black-and-white rented set, but otherwise one of the BBC's radio channels was almost constantly on: mostly the Home Service (now Radio 4), but often also Radio 3 or, on Sunday lunch-times, comedy on Radio 2, then still called the Light Programme. My Dad would have frowned upon people who had the TV on all day

in the way he consumed radio programmes.

I'm still a radio addict. I love the fact that I can do something else while listening – making bread or my dinner, doing the weeding – and I really value having a human voice around the place. Since acquiring a smart phone, I've become a podcast junkie. Any number of my favourite programmes are now available on demand and drop into my feed all the time.

I'm definitely a regular series listener, but I also love discovering one-off programmes or subjects that interest me. I thought I'd share one or two church-related pods with Becket News readers. BBC podcasts can be found on the BBC Sounds app or the BBC website. Other podcasts should be available on your podcast provider on your phone or on the website of the broadcaster concerned.

Regulars

BBC R4 Sunday

Heart and Soul – BBC World Service

Schabat Schalom – Fridays from NDR Info – magazine programme about Jewish life in Germany, including interpretation of the Torah reading for the week.

Im Anfang war das Wort: Die Bibel – conversations about the Bible with public figures and others from NDR Info.

Vertikal horizontal: Glaubens- und Gewissensfragen. Also from NDR Info, this pod tackles interesting issues of belief and conscience from religion and society in general.

One-offs

Political Thinking with Nick Robinson on BBC R4: Archbishop

of Canterbury Justin Welby, 23 April 2021.

Moving Pictures on BBC R4: The Sherborne Missal, 30 Nov 2020, focusing on the Easter Day page with link to high-resolution images of the Missal.

The Long View on BBC R4: Statues in Churches, 15 Jun 2021.

Jo Dawes

In memoriam – Rosi Curran

Rosemarie 'Rosi' Charlotte Margarete Curran (née Hellwig), 24 March 1920 – 9 September 2021. The funeral was in church on 25 September.

Rosi, who has died aged 101, was for decades a faithful member of our congregation, taking on myriad responsibilities, including that of church warden, and latterly acting as a valued counsellor and sounding board for chaplains and laity alike.

We hope to do justice to Rosi's long life and service to the Anglican Church of St Thomas à Becket in a future edition of Becket News.

A family reunion in Lithuania

I've never been much of a globe-trotter, having spent my early life moving from several countries on three continents, and with increasing age I have tended to stay at home because that's where I like to be most. So the restrictions on travel imposed by the Covid pandemic were probably less frustrating for me than they were for many.

Nevertheless, it took nearly one and a half years before travelling outside Germany again felt like a fairly safe and sensible option. Of course, these days modern communications make it easy to keep in contact with family, but video calls are not the same as a real live family reunion. Missing our two granddaughters, who are 9 and 6, and growing up fast and far away in Kaunas, Lithuania, was a constant heartache. So we booked our long-planned Lithuanian trip for mid-August 2021, while our grandchildren were still having school holidays, so that we could enjoy as much of their company as possible.

We felt a surge of excitement as we drove off the small ferry which had brought us overnight from Trelleborg in Sweden to Klaipeda in Lithuania (in the tiniest cabin I have ever squeezed into). It was sunny,

dry and warm, and Klaipeda a typically bustling harbour city without much sign of the gloom and dilapidation which I had half expected to be the legacy of the Soviet past. It was obviously high time to correct my outdated notions after three decades of Lithuanian independence.

The advantage of a small land was brought home to us as we sped along excellent roads to Kaunas (the second biggest city after the capital Vilnius), which is situated more or less in the middle of the country and reachable within a mere two hours. The pretty countryside, with its gently undulating fields and lush woodland, felt positively cosy and strangely familiar. When we reached our family's home, the welcome was as warm and tumultuous as our hearts could desire, with even the dog, normally a little shy of visitors, joining in the boisterous greetings.

A week of immense activity began. Our son and his family are young, fit and very sporty. We stepped out of their garden gate and into a forest which runs along the banks of the Neris River (the Memel in German). This area is frequented by dog walkers, cyclists, joggers and all sorts of lovers of fresh air and nature and we were all able to join them on



Zalgirio Arena which looks, especially at night, as if it had been set down by visitors from another planet. Holding 17,500 people, it is the home arena of the Kaunas Zalgiris basketball team, the most successful of this basketball crazy country's many teams.

There are over 40 museums in Kaunas, including what claims to be the world's only devils museum, the National Arts Museum, and the Great War Museum, to mention but a few.

Kaunas is scheduled

many enjoyable occasions. Our evenings were mostly spent talking and playing with the children, when my husband's gift for inventing games and re-telling legends and fairy tales added to the fun.

We were keen to do some sight-seeing, of course, and were mostly accompanied by the children, who were happy to dash about in the Kaunas castle, the many parks, or the magnificent multifunctional

to be a European Capital of Culture city in 2022 and consequently there is a lot of building and renovation going on in preparation. Architecturally the city is fascinating, with many baroque houses and a large number of modernist German Bauhaus-influenced structures that were built between the two World Wars.

We had no problems communicating because most people speak good English as well as Russian



and Lithuanian. This last is apparently one of the oldest and most difficult languages in the world, sounds pleasant, but is unintelligible to those without a command of Sanskrit, old Latin and ancient Greek. Important information like menus, street signs, etc. are mostly in Lithuanian, Russian and English. Restaurants, by the way, are reasonably priced and offer a whole range of options from fast food to haute cuisine and, of course, the national dishes – cold beetroot soup with sour cream and warm potatoes and

delicious potato dumplings stuffed with a variety of fillings.

Our time was too short for more than a quick visit to Vilnius, the capital city of Lithuania, once known as ‘the Rome of the North’ because of its numerous Catholic churches. Astoundingly, Lithuania was the last land in Europe to be Christianised – in 1387. There are an amazing number of churches, predominantly Catholic and Orthodox and a few Lutheran. There is a British Consulate in Kaunas, but no Anglican church. One was built in 1863 in Klaipeda for the British seamen and merchants arriving in the city, but closed its doors after less than four decades and was, sadly, demolished during the extension of the harbour after the Second World War.

Our week in Lithuania was one of the most varied and enjoyable we have spent. Our happiness at being reunited with our son, his wife and their children was augmented by the discovery of a country previously unknown to us. Lithuania seemed to us young, ultra-modern, and moving forward with optimism and confidence to play its part in what will, hopefully, be a peaceful, prosperous Europe. We returned home exhausted – but rejuvenated!

Text and photos Nicki Schiller

Reverend Jules shines at British Flair

It was a typical summer's day for Hamburg, or rather Britain, with sunny spells and showers, except the showers were more like monsoon rain! All the more impressive was the fact that the audience at the Anglo-German Quiz, held at the Hamburger Polo Club in Osdorf on 7 August to mark the 30th anniversary of Friends of Britain, still sat on the benches in front of the stage clutching their umbrellas in suspense!

Who was the stronger team? Julia Westlake (NDR) and Jason Couch (Couch Theatre) led the contestants through the topical questions – on Britain for the German team (GER) and on Germany for the British team (GB). Team GER made up of Sandra Quadflieg (Benita Quadflieg Stiftung) and Tobias Lucht (Freundeskreis die ARCHE e.V.), both well-known personalities in Hamburg, had a good chance, but Team GB with Lydia Struck (Speicherstadtmuseum) and our own Reverend Jules A. Barnes proved a strong competitor. After several rounds of questions, it was a draw – there were no penalties in this game!

After so much excitement and rain, the sun shone intensively and the participants and organisers

enjoyed a Pimm's or a G&T before moving into the evening atmosphere of the Friends of Britain reception at the clubhouse in anticipation of the beautiful Open Air Proms Concert later that evening.

After the event Jules thanked me saying, 'I really enjoyed my first British Flair, and will try and make the concert a priority for next year. For this time, thank you for inviting me to be part of the quiz – and for the lovely reception and delicious canapes in the clubhouse. Great to make some more connections, and to have some conversations'.

Thank you to you too, Jules, for participating and making the event so much fun. We look forward to seeing you there next year.

*Wendy Sprock, CC member and
Chair of Friends of Britain e.V.*



L-R: Julia Westlake, Lydia Struck, Revd Jules A. Barnes, Sandra Quadflieg Photo: Kamtsikis-Jones/Pawlowski

Becket Mix goes bowling

On 2 September the Becket Mix went bowling. We went to the bowling place at Mundsburg. We met at half past three, showed the bowling place our corona tests and vaccination certificates, changed our shoes and were ready to throw some pins. We played in total for 1 hour and 30 minutes. We were three boys and eight girls plus the two leaders of the Becket Mix, Emma and Madeleine. We were split in two different groups – the older group and the younger group.



While we were playing we ate some chips, nachos, cookies and drank a lot of Fantas, Sprites and Cokes. In the older group the winner was Bridget and in the younger group the winner was Lilly. Lilly even got a little trophy. We all had a lot of fun. Everyone did a lot of strikes and spares and went all happy and exhausted home.

Patrick Scharwies
Photos: Becket Mix

Mixers should be at least 13 and/or confirmed. If you're interested, please contact Madeleine or Emma – see back page.



Be careful what you say on social media

On 7 July the Becket Mix had a little picnic at Planten un Blomen. Revd Jules joined us in our picnic and we all had lovely conversations about school, our future and other things, while having snacks and having a great time. I was encouraged by Fr Leslie in 2017 to join this lovely group that I've been also seeing as my little family. I'm very thankful for everything they've done for me, how much work and love they've brought into this group.

The 7th of July was also the first meeting after the Corona pandemic and my attack. In May I was attacked by 17 unknown people (boys and girls) who accused me of being a cybermobber, insulting and threatening them on social media, because I looked similar to someone they were looking for. After they beat me I suffered serious head injuries, spent many weeks in hospital and in a psychiatric clinic to recover from this horrible experience.

In this time I've also gotten to

know our new priest, Revd Jules, and she was very caring and loving towards me and my family. I thank the whole church and the Becket Mix for standing and supporting me at this horrible time.

After this situation I want to spread awareness and warn everyone about social media. Be careful about what you post, comment or even say to someone about a person, because you'll never know how it'll end up and social media isn't a safe place. If you're feeling uncomfortable with any situation or a person, speak up to someone you trust (for example parents, best friend, cousin) or call an organisation who will always have an open ear for you, like 'Die Nummer gegen Kummer'.

(PS: I'm also there if you're feeling uncomfortable, just reach out to my mail and I'll always have time to listen :)))

*Jessica (18), Becket Mix
(jessyelums@gmail.com)*

www.nummergegenkummer.de/

Wonderful music in aid of the church

Friday, 10 September, the *Tag des offenen Denkmals*, saw a classical concert at St Thomas à Becket with Astrid Müller, viola and Rudolf Kelber, organ.

The church was booked to capacity (within coronavirus regulations), the audience being made up of members of the congregation and many visitors who had come to enjoy the music in the warm, candle-lit atmosphere of the church. Astrid Müller and Rudolf Kelber played seven short pieces, which they had adapted for viola and organ, by composers from three hundred years of music history: Henry Eccles, Paul Hindemith, William Flackton, J.S. Bach, César Franck and Henry Purcell. Their performance of these

complex pieces was superb and the audience was quickly drawn into the spell of the sound and the mood and fascinated by the harmony between the two instruments, which was enhanced by the excellent acoustics of the church.

The long-lasting applause at the end of the concert was well deserved and reflected how much we had all enjoyed the music. As a small mark of appreciation, the artists were presented fittingly with Mozart-Kugeln in chocolate boxes shaped like small violins.

All proceeds go to church funds and we are very grateful to the two musicians for such a delightful evening.

Jens Resühr

Open Day for *Tag des offenen Denkmals*

As part of our contribution to the *Tag des offenen Denkmals*, on 11 September, when several hundred listed buildings in Hamburg opened their doors to the public, we also opened ours. The English Church, built in 1838, was placed on the heritage list in 1941, ironically in the middle of World War II, as its neoclassical architecture was considered of historical importance.

Nevertheless, the building was severely damaged by bombs later in the war, but could fortunately be rebuilt and restored to its former glory by Royal Engineers and local craftsmen between 1945 and 1947. The English Church was rededicated on 26.9.1947 and named St Thomas à Becket after the patron saint of the Merchant Adventurers who had been granted the unique



right to hold services according to the rites of the Church of England in their own chapel in the English House on Gröninger Straße from the early 17th century.

When Napoleon occupied Hamburg in 1807, the British were forced to leave the city, only to begin returning as soon as the French had been driven out in 1814. Unfortunately, the English House was in a rather desolate state by then and was pulled down in 1819. Building began on the present church in 1836 and the new English Church was dedicated on 11 November 1838. Naturally a building which is over 180 years old and has weathered such storms as the terrible fire

of 1842, which destroyed many buildings in Hamburg, and two disastrous world wars has many a story to tell and houses many objects of interest. And so we all looked forward to sharing these stories with visitors on Open Day.

In order to comply with the corona regulations, the Stiftung Denkmalpflege had asked visitors to register for guided tours. During the day, we had nine small groups who had pre-booked their tours and we were fortunately also able to welcome a number of tourists and Hamburgers who were passing by and saw the doors open. In spite of the necessary restrictions, nearly 60 people came to see our church.

We had let down the hanging posters which describe the history of the Merchant Adventurers and the church up to the present day; Birgit Kiupel's delightful film ran on a loop all day so that visitors could watch it independently. As usual, it received much praise! The 'guides' took visitors around, explaining the history, pointing out interesting objects like the font, the organ, kneelers, chandeliers and much else.

It was a busy but really worthwhile day. Many people said they had had no idea how interesting the church

contd overleaf

was, how impressive its history and architecture. Quite a number also asked about services and said they'd like to attend one Sunday – a very pleasant result of the Open Day.

Thanks to Dorothee, Peter, Norbert and Jens for being on hand to welcome the visitors, provide material and guided tours and answer lots and lots of questions.

Madeleine Resühr

Nacht der Kirchen

Nacht der Kirchen takes place in September every year in Hamburg, with churches taking part all over the city. Many people take the opportunity to visit several churches – both to see them from the inside and to enjoy the various music programmes, talks or special services that have been prepared.

This year's Nacht der Kirchen fell on 18 September, and our church was open from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. In spite of corona restrictions and the triathlon, which made getting into town by car a bit difficult, we were pleased to welcome nearly 60 visitors during the evening. Some came for Evening Prayer, led by Susanne Hergoss at 6 p.m., others just for a brief look and a chat.

At 9 p.m., our Chaplain, Revd Jules A. Barnes, led the choir for

compline, a delightful sung service with our choir in good voice and supported by friends from the Old Catholic community. Further Old Catholics joined our congregation with their Pfarrer, Walter Jungbauer – always a welcome visitor.

As during Open Day, a number of visitors expressed an interest in attending services at St Thomas à Becket. Nacht der Kirchen was altogether a pleasant and rewarding evening.

Madeleine Resühr



There's still time to buy your Christmas cards in aid of our church. Judith Holst and her team have produced a wide selection of recycled cards as usual. They are on sale after the Sunday service or available to order online. Further details and an order form can be found on the church website: <https://bit.ly/3FALhns>

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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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