

Becket News

Issue 80/April 2022

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

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

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Cover photo 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

The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed!

The message of Easter is one of new beginnings: the chance for a new start, arising out of circumstances which may have seemed impossible. Green shoots rising from the cold, black earth of winter or war; new life and nascent growth. And I wish you and yours every blessing this Holy Week and Eastertide.

The original story, as you will be aware, is one of betrayal, death and darkness, as Jesus is deserted by his friends, condemned to an ignominious and painful death on the cross, and then incarcerated deep in the tomb. But then, beyond everyone's wildest imaginings, on the very first Easter morning it is discovered that he is no longer there in the grave: the shroud lies empty and, by the miracle of the resurrection, Jesus has risen to new life. The first fruits of the dead – he has 'burst his three-day prison', and risen in triumph, and to be once more among us, humankind.

The well-known story of the first Easter. And during this Holy Week and Easter 2022, we celebrate it again, as the central act of God's miraculous and grace-filled

redemptive work for his people and creation. I hope you will be there for some of the services, and look forward to seeing you in the Michel crypt. It will be a week full of the agony and the ecstasy of the Passion, leaving nothing out, but moving inexorably to the deep joy and exuberant victory of Easter Day. THE new beginning, that is representative of the hope that springs eternal for us all; emblematic of all the new starts and healing actions that can rise out of darkest of events and experiences. On Easter Eve, the Paschal candle is marked with the wounds of Christ on the cross, but then lit and brought into the unilluminated church, piercing the darkness with the light of our resurrected Lord and Saviour. That light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it!

Maybe this year especially, as we think of the barbarity of war waged once again in Europe; as we receive those who have left their homes, fleeing from the Ukraine and elsewhere, Easter will connect with an extra level of reality and relevance.

Darkness and light: beyond, but not forgetting the ongoing sufferings also associated with the global pandemic, and other personal trials. And our Lord be received and understood with a new sense of solidarity and real presence: for Christ, Son of Man, as well as Son of God, went through all human suffering before he came out the other side, and rose again to the light. He knows our pain first-hand, and is always present and alongside us. He is the promise that new beginnings do come to pass, arising out of circumstances that may, at times to us, seem impossible to transcend. That new green shoots will rise up, from the cold dark earth of winter and of war. Amen.

*Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

*In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

*Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

(J.M.C. Crum)

Revd Jules A. Barnes

Raising the profile: Safeguarding 2022

The Safeguarding Team is made up of two members of the congregation, who often do other jobs that are far more visible. Norbert has Council and sidesperson's duties, whilst Madeleine co-leads Becket Mix. However Norbert and Madeleine also work together as the Safeguarding Team, to raise awareness of safeguarding in our chaplaincy.

What's Safeguarding? It's the chaplaincy's commitment to

- promote a safer environment and culture.
- safely recruit those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church
- respond promptly to a safeguarding concern or allegation
- care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.

- care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- respond to those that may pose a risk to others.

That list can seem a little overwhelming, and at times we at the STB Safeguarding team would agree with you. However it boils down to two important principles:

The welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount at all times.

Safeguarding is part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian values.

Caring for and protecting others are core Christian principles. It follows that the work we are required to do to ensure our Chaplaincy is as safe as possible, for everyone, is as much a part of Christian life as worship, and other



Photo: Becket Mix

spiritual components. Slowly we hope that safeguarding will become as integrated into church life as singing and praying are.

Despite its lofty ideals, much of safeguarding is administrative. There are forms to complete, online courses to do, and perhaps police checks, especially if you are taking an active role in church life. We understand that it involves commitment and time. However we ask you to do this in a charitable, selfless way, knowing that your effort makes a difference.

How does it make a difference? First, by helping the Safeguarding Team work through the Diocesan requirements. However, perhaps more importantly, your efforts might result in increased pastoral care for your neighbour; indeed, ultimately you might just be the key to keeping someone safe.

Thank you to everyone who has completed the courses and forms, and booked courses in the future. It is very much appreciated.

*Norbert Schoen and
Madeleine Herring*

STB heating – What’s the latest?

At its 16 February meeting, the Chaplaincy Council gave its go ahead to commission the option studies from the shortlisted technical building consultants.

The studies are now ongoing and reports expected to be received in April. Once we have these, a clear picture will emerge of what the different options mean, and we will be using our network of experts then to help advise on which is the best way forward. No decisions will be

taken without consultation with the church community.

We are now moving to the warmer time of the year (though as I write there are still patches of snow) and so can return to our unheated building. We have been blessed to have had the use of the Michel crypt as a warm space to worship. We are also blessed not to have to pay for gas at current prices.

*Monica Schofield
STB Heating Project Manager*

The studies are being funded by money raised through our special crowd funding appeal. The crowd funding site www.betterplace.org/p101234 remains open to receive donations. Please do encourage your friends to donate to this.

An altogether Bazaar year for the Mixers

We have welcomed two new Mixers to Becket Mix in the past 6 months, though sadly haven't had a chance to get to know them in person. Covid regulations curtailed our activities for most of last year, except for a picnic, last September's bowling meet and our annual Bazaar contribution.

The Mixer team performed in their usual spectacular fashion at the Bazaar; all arriving for the shifts they promised, bringing good cheer along too. The waffles and coffee proved popular, while half the team manned the Children's Books stall. The team was very proud of their €120 contribution.

Next, the Passion Gospel was read in a dramatised version at the 10.30 service on Palm Sunday, completing the triad of Becket Mix activities: community work for our church, ministry in church, and of course fun!

We have extended an invitation to the January confirmands to join Becket Mix. The youth group is open to any young person over the age of 13, or any young person who is confirmed. Contact Emma Richter on therichters@gmx.de or Madeleine Herring at madeleineherring@t-online.de for more information.

Madeleine Herring



Photo: Christian Nweze

Racism, Diversity and Healing at CAECG

At the beginning of this year, Jules invited the Racism Diversity and Healing Group to be part of the congregation's representation at the Council of Anglican and Episcopal Churches in Germany (CAECG). The CAECG meets twice a year to discuss pertinent questions that concern the member congregations, and one of the special themes of the March session was racism and racial justice.

For me, the meeting was an interesting and overall positive experience. To see the topics that we as a group have been discussing over the past year are part of a greater discussion – not only on the (sometimes a bit distant) 'global' level, but also in other Anglican and Episcopal congregations in Germany – was encouraging.

One thing that was said at this meeting left an especially deep imprint on me. It was part of a presentation by Revd Smitha Prasad, who joined us online from Copenhagen, although it was not the main point of her talk. Rather, it was something she mentioned in passing, as one step in the thought process that led to the formation of the Archbishop's Racial Justice Commission.

Revd Prasad took a starting point in the last words of George Floyd: 'I can't breathe', repeated over and over again... From these words, from this ineffable moment on a hard street in Minneapolis only one and a half years ago, made a connection to the very beginning of our religion: to the moment of Jesus's death on the Cross. As we will soon hear in the Easter readings, this is when Christ 'called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."' And 'when he had said this, he breathed his last' (Luke 23:46).

I don't want to make the brutal killing of George Floyd into something poetic, but still, this parallel – between George Floyd's failing breath and the failing breath of Christ – has remained with me. As Revd Prasad explained it, this parallel is precisely why the Diocesan working group on racial justice decided to call their document with reflections and recommendations 'Breathing Life'.

Many people have felt that George Floyd's call for air echoes their experiences in society, meeting with suspicion and discrimination based on the colour of their skin. For me, the encounters in our group have

been precisely about this: to learn, together with fellow parishioners, about how racism is experienced in people's everyday lives.

As we wait for the solemn days of Easter, let us nevertheless remember that the failing breath of Christ on the Cross is not the end. After His Resurrection, Christ came to

the disciples through locked doors, and again, he breathed on them, breathed Holy Spirit into them. The Resurrection is a reminder that the Kingdom of Justice is approaching – and we as Church are called to hasten its arrival by the culture that we live and form.

Jonas Karlsson

Diocesan Chrism Mass



The Diocese in Europe Chrism Mass, held this year at the Pro-cathedral of Holy Trinity, Brussels, is an annual opportunity and invitation from the Bishop for licensed clergy to renew their vows of ordination and to receive the oils of chrism, baptism and for ministry to the sick. The oils are blessed by the Bishop and then used at services here in Hamburg throughout the year. Reverend Jules attended on behalf of STB.

Card sales raise €7,000 for the church

The interim net profit, despite Covid, for sales in 2021 of our recycled Christmas and greetings cards amounted to €5,232.77, after deducting €894,73 for expenses (printing, glue and envelopes) – ‘interim’ because once again the former British Honorary Consul, Claus Budelmann, and his wife Anne very kindly made a donation earmarked for the card project, bringing the final net profit for 2021 up to €7,000. We are extremely grateful to them for all the help they have given us over so many years through their financial generosity, encouragement and support.

For newcomers, the project for recycling used cards, and selling them in aid of ‘The Historic English Church of St Thomas à Becket Hamburg’, began in 1986 when we sold 300 cards with a net profit of DM 145. In recent years around 5,000 cards have been sold annually.

Apart from giving the facts and figures, this report is to thank, very sincerely indeed, all who are involved with producing and selling the cards, especially those who help though not members of the congregation.

First and foremost a huge THANK YOU to the small team of volunteers working with the project – some literally for decades, but always

reliably, professionally and with great attention to detail: Debbie Faddul, Jane Harding, Sarah Meister, Linda Rainer, Mary Sanderson, Cathrin Schierholz, Katrin and Ruediger Schnetzer, Ellen Thomas, Caroline Yarnold, Lorna Yazdani and Ellen Ziesmann – sorting the used cards, chopping them, sticking them onto new blank cards, sorting again for selling – and now also preparing online sales.

Following the maxim that ‘after the Bazaar is always before next year’s Bazaar’, the first stage of the project is to collect used cards. We’re dependent on this support in order to have sufficient cards to recycle and to ensure a good variety of motifs. So a second very sincere THANK YOU to everyone who helped us in this way – by collecting cards from their families, neighbours, friends, and often in vast quantities within their own communities, churches or offices both in Hamburg and Britain, sometimes sending packages of cards by post, even from Canada.

Selling cards in 2021 has once again been very challenging because of the pandemic and so the final THANK YOU – to those who bought and sold cards, and gave the project extra publicity – is a particularly appreciative one this



year: to all our wonderful regular customers and all our new ones, to those who bought where possible in person, either at the bazaar, after services or other church events, or here from me at home, and to those who advertised the project or were still able to sell on our behalf in different venues or through other English-speaking societies – and also to those who bought cards online. In addition, thank you to everyone who gave an extra donation, large or small, when buying either in person or online.

Looking ahead to Christmas 2022 we shall need used Christmas cards. From May onwards there will be a basket for cards just inside the church door, or they can be handed in through the various clubs and societies, to me, or to church committee members. Please don't include any cards with glitter on them, as they 'infect' the other cards.

Judith Holst

Debut for Little Church Life Group

Our church has a new group for women, which has grown out of the former Mothers' Union group. Called 'Little Church Life Group', it is intended to be a safe place for women and a support group where they can meet regularly to talk about problems and to share advice and moral support.

The group has had an inaugural meeting and taken part both in an ecumenical workshop and a worship service for the 'World Day of Prayer'. With Covid restrictions easing, the plan is to meet again soon. Meanwhile, a WhatsApp group has been established where members can share thoughts and keep in touch. All women are welcome to join. Please contact Valerie Müller (valbo@hotmail.de) or Revd Jules for more information.

On the humanitarian aid front line

My name is Natalie Faddul, you probably won't remember me – I'm Debbie and George's daughter, now 31 and a doctor, and for the past 18 months I have been volunteering in the humanitarian aid sector. Judith asked me to write something about my experiences for the church magazine.

I have worked in five different locations with three different organisations with asylum seekers, refugees, people on the move and migrants – many different words for people looking for safety, respect, basic human rights and a chance for their future, things many of us in Western Europe take for granted.

Even if the locations and the work varied widely, there are some things they had in common: One, you get to meet the most amazing people, people who are struggling themselves but still do everything in their power to help others and manage to stay hopeful and positive in the worst situations. Two, you see the worst sides of humanity and what it does to the individual – fascism, violence and the way people without power, rights or a voice are treated and what it does to them, how they learn to live with discrimination, constant fear, and the feeling of not

being wanted, how it becomes normal. Three, the discrepancy between the picture the people coming to Europe have and what life for most of them is like once they are here. And four, how far a friendly face, an open ear and a helpful hand can reach, even if the help that can be offered is limited.

I started off in Thessaloniki, volunteering with Medical Volunteers International, an organisation based in Hamburg, offering primary healthcare to everyone, independent of their legal status. Initially, we saw a lot of foot wounds from the long trek made by our beneficiaries who had come on the overland route from Turkey, and infected mosquito



bites from the days spent in the forest – most would need around 10 days to walk from Turkey to Thessaloniki. We saw emergencies that needed hospitalisation, but our patients were too scared to go to hospital if they had no documents. We saw pain and problems resulting from living on the streets and in bad hygienic conditions, along with physical and psychological traumas suffered in the country of origin or on the way. And we would try to find a way to solve the problem, to give our patients the best possible care in the situation they and we were in.

Next, I went to Chios, one of the Greek Islands, where, at that time, 4,000 refugees were living in a camp built for 1,000. The hygienic conditions were terrible, we would have to treat rat and scorpion bites regularly, and the camp was quite a long way from the main city of the island, which meant that the people living there were totally isolated. Because of the bad conditions and some refugees having to wait years for their immigration interviews and therefore their chance to get off the island, many were stressed with worries about themselves, their families, and their futures.

I then returned to Thessaloniki to work as the medical coordina-

tor with the same organisation as before. I found that even if the work often felt like putting a plaster on a wound that would fall off again anyway, it was worth it. There is a need for easily accessible health care in this humanitarian crisis, which has been ongoing since 2015. Even if we, as the team on the ground or an organisation, can't change the overall situation, we have the possibility to change the everyday situation for the individual by offering a safe space, health care and, thanks to MVI's partner organisation Wave, also food and clothes.

Seeing the results of attempted border crossings in Thessaloniki, I decided to go to Bosnia for a month, since there are few medical organisations there. We visited our patients in the squats, abandoned houses and forest where they lived temporarily, trying to cross the border every day and coming back with bruises, torn clothes and destroyed phones: families with babies, pregnant women, old people with chronic diseases, single men, and men whose families had already arrived in Europe and were waiting for them there.

In October, I decided to leave the European continent and started volunteering with Endless Medical Advantage in Lebanon, an organisation that offers primary health care

for Syrian refugees and, because of the current economic and political situation in Lebanon, also for Lebanese.

Due to medication shortages in the country and an exclusively private healthcare system, the overall medical coverage is below optimum and even worse for displaced people, who face discrimination and financial difficulties. Whatever their level of training or education, Syrians in Lebanon are very restricted in what they are allowed to do, leaving most of them working in the fields or on construction sites and earning around 50¢/hour, sometimes girls as young as 14. With inflation escalating unchecked and the cost of living increasing, the displaced people living in one of around 34 camps in the Bekka area can barely afford basic necessities, let alone medical care.

During my time there, I witnessed one case that has stuck in my mind: a young man had been stabbed multiple times in the chest and abdomen. At the hospital, treatment was refused until the family had paid \$500. This was a life-threatening emergency, and the young man would probably have died if the family hadn't been able to get the money together.

Now I'm back in Athens, volunteering with Medical Volunteers



International again. What I see is that the situation for our beneficiaries is getting more difficult, access to services and asylum more and more restricted. I would like to think that the work of NGOs like Medical Volunteers International or Wave might not be needed in the future, that Europe will start to welcome people and treat them fairly, but looking at current developments, I can't say I'm very optimistic.

This is my story of the past year. I hope it makes you interested in the stories of the people whose stories should be told, but who rarely have a voice to tell them. These are not my stories to tell. These are the stories of people still stuck on the European borders, in forests and in the cold.

Those who are in Europe, but who are not being treated equally and with the compassion human beings deserve.

Some of you may be interested in the following for further information:

Journeys into Europe, Reform Radio: bimonthly interviews with people on the move and people working with people on the move.

Border Violence Monitoring Network: a network dedicated to documenting human rights violations on Europe's borders and to changing the situation.

Natalie Faddul

Natalie has since returned to Germany, working in A&E in a hospital in Berlin and continuing her speciality training in internal medicine.

Lent and Easter Appeal: Aid to Ukraine

Bishop Robert's Lent and Easter Appeal this year is to provide critical financial resources towards the urgent and immediate needs of people in Ukraine and those who have fled as well as supporting long-term recovery in the country.

The Diocese has launched the appeal together with USPG to get aid to people in desperate need because of the invasion of Ukraine. Partners on the ground are providing food, medicine, shelter, care for children and people internally displaced in Ukraine. With refugees they are supplying care at the border and beyond, including attention to those from Africa and Asia as well as Ukrainians who are fleeing the war. The appeal is for urgent help now but the work will go on for many months.

Bishop Robert says, 'War is horrible. It injures, destroys and kills in an often indiscriminate and uncontrollable way. And now, we face war in Europe. The people of our little church, Christ Church Kyiv, find themselves in the midst of this crisis. They are typical of so many others. Some have fled the city whilst others are still there; praying for their safety and for peace as they shelter as best they can. These people are our brothers and sisters. Those still in Ukraine and those who have fled need our help.'

For more details of the appeal and how to donate, please see the Diocese in Europe website: <https://europe.anglican.org/> or the USPG website <https://www.uspg.org.uk/>

Jo Dawes



Congratulations to our five candidates, who were confirmed on Sunday, 30 January by the Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese in Europe, Rt Revd David Hamid. Please pray for them, and for their continuing growth and understanding of their faith, in the days and years ahead.



The wind bloweth where it listeth...

The Archbishop Interviews

Your editor is enjoying BBC Radio 4's series where the Archbishop of Canterbury interviews people who have made a significant contribution to public life about what they believe. His guests include Tony Blair, Stephen King and Dr Susan Blackmore. The interviews can be found on BBC Sounds and the BBC website.

Junior Church returns

From 1 May there will again be JJC each Sunday morning. Please let people with children know. We also welcome extra leaders and helpers. More info from Nissi Paul, on juniorchurch@anglican-church-hamburg.de.

A tribute to and in memory of Liz Nietz, one of the longest standing members of the congregation of St Thomas à Becket, who died on 16 November 2021 while staying with her daughter Sarah and family in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Dear Liz,
You are no longer with us. You left us to visit your family in South Africa, knowing that you were gravely ill. You leave an empty space at St Thomas à Becket and leave us all very sad. You will not be forgotten.

When you started coming to St Thomas à Becket, you had a young daughter, Sarah, who now lives in Johannesburg with her husband

and two little sons. During the many years that you were a member of the congregation, you saw Chaplains come and go, you took an active interest in all the events that took place. You were always there to lend a helping hand at the bazaar, often joined the Church Wanderers and did a great job writing about the fabric and vestments for the Church Recorders.

During lockdown, you suggested a thorough spring-clean and we tidied cupboards and got all the vestments and altar cloths washed, ironed and ready for whenever the church would be able to open again.

In spite of the physical difficulties that you faced, you were always in a good mood and had a great sense of humour which you shared with Madeleine and me on our way to and from church on so many Sundays.

Although you never complained, it was a treat to see your delight when the hand-rails were finally



attached to the south wall and you could get up to the library and the café gallery safely at last.

You were patient and in good spirits when we visited you in hospital, never losing hope – and the bobotie and lasagne that you made for us on several occasions were second to none! And then we sat on your balcony and watched the stand-up paddlers wobbling past on the canal below, waving royally to them – not such a good idea for the few who waved back and ended up in the water!

Your last days in Hamburg were marked by excitement, stress and frustration, but with the help of the doctors and nurses who were caring for you, you were finally able to board the flight to South Africa and so to be with your loving family, as you had wished, at the end of your life.

Dear Liz, you were an extraordinary person and a great friend. We will remember you.

Jens Resühr

HAVE YOUR SAY ON YOUR CHURCH

The Annual General Meeting of our chaplaincy will be held on Sunday, 1 May 2022, at 12.30 in the church building at Zeughausmarkt.

Do you want to vote (or perhaps stand for election)? If so, you need to be on the Electoral Roll, the official list of our church members. If you have worshipped at STB for at least six months, and have been baptised, please do consider adding your name to the list. Contact our ER officer, Norbert Schoen, and he can give you the short application form. If you have any questions please ask the Chaplain.

Who's Who at our Church

Clergy

Chaplain: Revd Jules A. Barnes

Telephone

(040) 439 2334

Email

chaplain@anglican-church-hamburg.de

PTO: Revd Majja Priess

Church Council

Madeleine Resühr, Churchwarden

0177 651 061 6

mad.res@t-online.de

Christian Nweze, Churchwarden

0177 773 6454

cnweze@physnet.uni-hamburg.de

Peter Alexander, Minute Secretary

(040) 475 015

peter.alexander@tts-team.com

Norbert Schoen, Vice-Chair

(040) 2983 4263

norbertwschoen@web.de

Heiner Quast, Treasurer (co-opted)

0170 121 2046

treasurerstb@web.de

Jo Dawes, Communication

(04862) 201 6870

dawes@dawescom.de

Andrea Grantz

0176 4194 6235

andrea_grantz@web.de

Susanne Hergoss

0176 2152 3516

S.Hergoss@gmx.net

Valerie Mueller

0171 501 6089

valbo@hotmail.de

John Alex Pamu

0151 4542 8056

pjohnalex@gmail.com

Emmanuel Saarkodie

(040) 2199 2730

-

Monica Schofield, Treasury Liaison

(040) 5305 2889

web@stbecket.de

Wendy Sprock

0173 206 1521

wendysprock@t-online.de

Council of Anglican and Episcopal Churches in Germany – Delegates

Susanne Hergoss

0176 2152 3516

S.Hergoss@gmx.net

Andrea Grantz

0176 4194 6235

andrea_grantz@web.de

For other ministries please see following page

**For the latest on how Covid-19 and our heating problems
are 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

Other Ministries		Tel	Email
Choir Director	Yotin Tiewtrakul	0176 7236 4865	music@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Buildings Working Group	Birte Fischer	(040) 2105 7391	fischer_birte@web.de
Safeguarding Officers	Madeleine Herring Norbert Schoen	(040) 279 6514 (040) 2983 4263	safeguarding@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Electoral Roll	Norbert Schoen	(040) 2983 4263	norbertwschoen@web.de
ER Assistant, Gift Envelopes	Emmanuel Saarkodie	(040) 2199 2730	-
Intercessions	Peter Alexander	(040) 475 015	peter.alexander@tts-team.com
Deputy Sacristan	Matilda Hammond	0176 4932 4073	matilda.hammond@hotmail.de
Junior Church	Miriam Hinz Wendy Sprock Nissi Paul	0160 9103 9354 0173 206 1521	juniorchurch@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Becket Mix	Madeleine Herring Emma Richter		madeleineherring@t-online.de therichters@gmx.de
Young Adults	Fiona David	0151 7545 0114	-
LCF	Renu Roy	(04103) 16 584	renujroy@gmail.com
Little Church Life Group	Valerie Müller	0171 501 6089	valbo@hotmail.de
Church Wanderers	Jo Dawes	(04862) 201 6870	dawes@dawescom.de
Recycled Cards	Judith Holst	(040) 880 0727	judithholst31@gmail.com
Fundraising	Wendy Sprock	0173 206 1521	fundraising@anglican-church-hamburg.de

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Please email contributions to: becketnews@dawescom.de

Please email communication@anglican-church-hamburg.de if you would like to receive *Becket News* and further news updates from the church.