

Becket News

Issue 82/June 2023

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

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

In this issue

From the Chaplain	3
A message from Revd Daniela	5
Church Record presented to STB	7
An audio Bible celebrates women's voices	8
Could you help us make more music?	9
Music Fit For a King: the Benefit Concert in pictures	10
Diocesan women clergy meet in Hamburg	12
Cards project gears up for another year	14
Exploring the churches of Revelation	17
Wanderers explore Hamburg's green jewels	18
Who's Who at our church	19

Cover photo: Jo Dawes

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From the Chaplain

Vivat Rex Carolus

Since last we met, the Coronation of King Charles III has taken place in Westminster Abbey, London. Did you watch on the day? I did, after an early morning visit to the studios of NDR to talk on the subject in their ‘Kirchenleute heute’ spot. And I imagine many, if not most of you, will have done so too. Wherever one stands in relation to faith, monarchy and the associated public spending, it was a wonderful spectacle and an opportunity that presented itself for the first time in 70 years. Glorious music, a splendid visual presentation, and all the history and symbolism of a coronation rite that has remained substantially the same since 1327.

We took it up at St Thomas—as the Church of England church in Hamburg—as a chance to offer a

public lecture entitled ‘Crown, Orb and Sceptre’, and a bit of a party. Maybe you came to that too? King Charles is, of course, amongst his other titles and responsibilities, also the Supreme Governor of our church. While the Archbishop of Canterbury is the spiritual and institutional leader, the monarch still holds this ancient title and position. And, as you probably saw in the coronation rite, it is a deeply Christian sacramental service; in liturgical terms, taking the form of a Baptism within a Eucharist.

The spiritual climax is the anointing of the King with the oil of Chrism, on head, hands and breast, behind a screen, and with the Archbishop speaking his words sotto voce at that point. In the anointing, the power of the Holy Spirit is called



Image: public domain

The coronation of George IV in 1821, the most extravagant ever

down upon the King, to strengthen him in his challenging role, and to guide him in leading the people and the church. No soft tones at the second, spectacular climax of the coronation though! Then, with Charles sitting on the ancient chair of St Edward the Confessor, Archbishop Justin shouted out with loud voice and for all to hear: God save the King! To which all those assembled replied in kind: God save the King, long live the King!

‘Called to serve’ was the headline for this coronation. And, although it held firmly to tradition, it also reflected the diversity of the present day make-up of British society in a number of carefully considered and crafted alterations. Most notably, women took part, as did young people, and church leaders from other Christian denominations; there was also the opportunity for those of other faiths to share in the investiture and to offer a welcome to the King at the end of the service: a completely new departure. The role of the peerage was much reduced in keeping with the times, and a new ‘Homage of all people’ element was added; everyone being invited to take part at that this juncture, if they so wished.

In a world now characterised by transient loyalties and fleeting

fashions, the immense continuity that the coronation represents has been appreciated by many. From a more spiritual perspective, the experience was one that, in ways we probably can’t explain, nonetheless opened us up to the realm and the axis of the transcendent. And for every Christian, no matter their nationality or confession, there were resonances with the renewal that we all receive in the power of the Holy Spirit at our own sacramental rite of baptism.

Let me leave you with a quote from our previous Archbishop, now Lord Williams of Oystermouth. Here he is writing in ‘The Times’ newspaper about the monarchy, following the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II last year.

The Coronation singles out someone to occupy a position whose point is to manifest something about the whole community’s life: holding its ideals and aspirations and carrying its projections. It is about fidelity to that position for the sake of the community’s peace and well-being. The monarchy is there so that we can gather around something other than our preferences and anxieties and prejudices; around a gift of ‘kinship’ in which we can stand together before God.

Revd Jules A. Barnes

Cherish, nurture and cultivate diversity

Dear brothers and sisters at St Thomas à Becket,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. It's been only a few days since I finished my placement at St Thomas. With a grateful heart I remember your warm welcome, especially the lovely cards made by the children and your kindness towards me. It was only a short visit, but I gained a good insight into a chaplaincy within the Diocese in Europe.

Sometimes God's ways are quite amusing. So my name created a bit of a confusion amongst you. Eisentraeger is an old German name. There are sources that mention the name already from 1631 in the region of Hessen/Thuringia. So, yes, I am German but I live and serve in England, in the Diocese of Winchester. I was ordained as a priest at Winchester Cathedral in July 2022. I'm in my last year of my curacy (practical training to become a vicar), which I'm serving



in the Parish of Swaythling in Southampton. In order to widen my experience within the Anglican Communion and as part of my discernment process, I thought it would be a great idea to do a placement outside of the UK and in my homeland, Germany.

I enjoyed my time with you and I loved the diversity of the congregation. I'm aware, from the parish I work in, that this comes with different perspectives on theology, traditions and culture, but it also represents a beautiful picture of God's kingdom and part of God's ultimate design for His people. We need each other to properly understand our blind spots and widen our horizons as well as smooth our sharp edges. We need each other to understand Scripture more fully, and to learn from each other. Every single one of us is part of the body of Christ.

In Charlie Mackesy's words, 'Always remember you matter, you're important and you are loved, and you bring to this world things no one else can'. Therefore, cherish, nurture and cultivate your diversity so that you glorify our Lord and make our Christian unity attractive to the world we live in.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all, especially Wendy

and Tom for their great hospitality and generosity. Thank you to Judith and Irene for taking time to show me Hamburg and thank you to Arwen for the guided tour at DESY. Finally, many thanks go to Jules for taking me on to do this placement, the reflective conversations and her support.

I leave you with St Paul's great prayer:

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

Revd Daniela Eisentraeger

Church Record presented to STB

The Church Record was finally completed and bound in 2020 but we were unable to present it to the church due to Covid regulations. This was followed by the winter church services taking place elsewhere due to the heating problems. We are now pleased to announce that the beautifully bound Record will be presented to St Thomas à Becket on Sunday 25 June after the morning service. The Church Recording team will all be there and we hope you will be interested enough to come along for this short presentation and/or stay behind to have a look through it.

To give you some background info, over 2,000 churches (mainly in the UK) have previously been recorded through The Arts Society (formerly NADFAS), but more recently a decision was taken to set



Photos: Jo Dawes

up a separate society, The Church Recording Society (see www.churchrecording.society.org.uk), a charity registered in England and Wales and in Scotland. This charity was formed by church recorders themselves and means that local arts societies can still have church recording groups as a volunteering activity.

As a gentle reminder, a church record is a comprehensive record of the interior of a church, providing not only a fount of historical facts—a living history—but an inventory of the interior, which can also be used for insurance purposes in the event of a fire or robbery.

The team for our Church Record was made up of volunteers from The Arts Society Hamburg and the church community and we had our first meeting in 2014. I have





of St Thomas à Becket who, at the time of writing, is intending to join us from the UK for the presentation on 25 June.

Copies are then sent to Church-Care and the Victoria and Albert Museum in the UK.

So this Record is a culmination of lots of hard work and many volunteering hours, and it gives us a great deal of pleasure in finally being able to present it to St Thomas à Becket. Please come along and have a look.

*Pat Pledger,
Team Coordinator*

reported on this project periodically and, since its completion in 2020, the Record has been awaiting presentation to the church. The work involved 10 of us and we were ably assisted and trained by an experienced church recorder, Liz Chalmers, in the UK. The recorders spent many hours working inside the church and at home and we had regular meetings to coordinate progress.

When all facts had been gathered by the individuals covering woodwork, metal/silverware, memorials, stonework, textiles, pictures and documents, there was a set format for bringing the whole lot together into one document. Our copy was even bound by a previous member

Her Audio Bible UK...

aims to record the New Testament using just women's voices. The organisers say, 'we wanted to represent, as much as possible, something of the range of backgrounds and voices of women in the UK. Listening to the Bible not only has the potential to bring a new vibrancy to the words of Scripture, but also makes it more accessible. A woman's voice is particularly helpful to those for whom male voices can be triggering, for example those who have experienced domestic abuse'. The Gospels, Ephesians and Revelation are already online at www.heraudiobible.org.uk

Music is a wonderful thing

The food of love? An international language? And to sing; well, according to St Augustine, *that is to pray twice*. At St Thomas, we love our music, and keeping the Anglican style of worship going is part of our joy, mission and work here in Hamburg and the region. And right now, we are looking for new musical leaders for our community.

Last year we had a super time, with our robed choir and congregation, plus an organist and Director of Music. In addition to Sunday morning services, we managed a Choral Evensong most months, plus three carol singing events, and the extra festivals of Holy Week and Christmas. Sadly, however, both our organist and director left at the end of 2022, so this year we are rather more in maintenance mode.

As the only Anglican church in north Germany, we have a unique role in taking the Anglican tradition of music in worship forward. Our liturgy is a rich and wonderful inheritance, and our style is part of what makes us distinct in what we can offer here, both to church members and the wider community alike. Accordingly, we are seeking a new musician or musicians to lead our worship: anything from playing the

organ to taking on the full role as choir trainer and musical director—a truly one-off opportunity to lead and direct and develop this type of church music.

Financially, we can offer a mini-job, but anyone taking on this role will need to have another paid post, or independent means. (Unlike other churches in Germany, we are completely self-supporting, paying for everything ourselves, including our Chaplain, and building, without any assistance from Kirchenteuer, government, or the Church of England.)

The additional ‘soft value’ of the benefits is of course enormous: the joy of singing and worshipping; the development of our singers and congregation; the facility of our building and excellent pipe organ; the opportunity to praise God using your skills and passion for producing good music. We are pretty much ultimately flexible in how we go forward. So, if you think this might be for you, or you know of someone else who might be interested, please do get in touch with either myself, or our choir leader, Arwen Pearson music@anglican-church-hamburg.de, for more information.

Revd Jules A. Barnes, Chaplain



Music Fit For a King was the title of the superb fundraising concert on 5 June with mezzo-soprano Claire Barnett-Jones and pianist Sholto Kynoch. As friend of STB Nina Stedman writes, 'Sholto's playing was beautiful and the programme in the best sense clever, weaving together the royal theme, the English and the Germanic, and of course showcasing Claire





Barnett-Jones' amazing range and presence for us in the intimate church setting before her career goes stratospheric. The highlight for me was Howells' King David, and Schubert's Ave Maria was wonderfully restrained and quite free from romantic excess so that we were brought back to earth gently at the end.' *(contd overleaf)*



Photos: Monica Schofield and Wendy Sprock

Diocesan women clergy meet in Hamburg

The Diocese in Europe conference for ordained women with licensed ministry was held in Hamburg in April. Twenty-three delegates gathered at the St Ansgar Haus centre in Hamburg St Georg for this conference, organised by a team from the Diocese in Europe of the Church of England. (This is the Diocese we belong to, as the Anglican Chaplaincy in Hamburg.) They came from near and far, including clergy from France, Latvia, Greece, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland and Germany. (And yours truly

was there as host organiser too, of course, and representing St Thomas.)

The Diocese now has 31 women in licensed ministry across its wide geographical expanse (just one in Germany), all in positions of responsibility, and therefore with the Bishop's full licence to minister in their various contexts and roles. (In addition, there are others who have the Bishop's permission to officiate.) This conference was a rare opportunity for this discrete group, with its particular focus and perspective on

(...continuation)

Claire Barnett-Jones is very much a rising star, having won the 2021 Cardiff Singer of the World audience prize, and went on from this concert to sing at Bayreuth. Sholto Kynoch is Founding Director of the Oxford Lieder Festival, now the Oxford International Song Festival (oxfordsong.org) and performed at our last Benefit Concert in 2019.

Their programme featured royal figures from through the ages, with composers ranging from the 18th century to the present day. Your editor's



favourite was King Harald's Saga by Judith Weir, a dramatic tale of the Norwegian invasion of England in 1066 set for solo soprano, and composed in 1979. Thanks to sponsorship and generous donations, the concert raised over €13,000 for the church.



priestly ministry and leadership, to come together and spend three days in fellowship, intellectual stimulation and worship.

Our speaker was the Revd Dr Simone Sinn from Geneva, who works at the World Council of Churches and Bossey Institute; also a Lutheran priest. We were blown away by her input on the general theme of ‘Contemporary Challenges in Public Theology’, and her immense knowledge of the international church. We also benefited hugely from her being a European. The new-in-post since January Diocesan Director of Communications (who is based in London) also joined us for the first 48 hours.

The first night began with a jolly old quiz, and wine. Then it was into the lectures and plenary ses-

sions, and all the practical things like putting ourselves and our chaplaincies on the map with pins, and coping with the German version of boiling water (not) at tea time. Our accommodation and the entire team at the Ansgar-Haus were wonderfully welcoming and helpful. The Chapel was a place of quiet beauty, and the Archbishop even came in to say a personal hello and welcome to his Anglican colleagues, a generous and much-appreciated gesture from our Roman Catholic hosts.

Day two brought the news of a lightening Verdi strike, which would close Hamburg airport completely on our departure day. Astoundingly, even that couldn’t dampen our spirits: we re-hashed the lecture programme and re-scheduled transport plans; and

...continuation

one delegate even took the opportunity of having an impromptu further two days away from home. And we were determined still to see something of the city, too, retaining the planned walking tour in our programme. The sun shone brightly for us as we set out, and we were able to encompass some of the main tourist sites from the Alster to the Speicherstadt, even visiting the location of the first Hamburg 'Englische Kirche' en route.

*Contemporary Challenges
in Europe: Diversity and Pub-*



*lic Theology through the lens
of women's experience. 18–20
April 2023, Ansgar-Haus, Ham-
burg. Sponsors: CCLA Investment
Management*

Revd Jules A. Barnes

Cards project gears up for another year

The month of June is almost exactly halfway between Christmas 2022 and Christmas 2023 and so perhaps a logical time to report in Becket News on the results of last year's recycled card project and about the ongoing preparations now for this year's—always bearing in mind the motto: 'After the bazaar is before the next bazaar'. For newcomers to Hamburg and to our congregation the project for recycling used greetings cards in aid of 'The Historic English Church of St Thomas à Becket, Hamburg' began in 1986/87. In

that first year we sold 300 cards and made a net profit of DM145. Nowadays between 4,500 and 5,000 are made and sold annually.

After deducting €834.92 for expenses (printing, glue, envelopes) the interim net profit for the 2022 card project was €5,231.89. I say interim because the former British Honorary Consul, Claus Budelmann, and his wife Anne once again made a kind donation specifically earmarked for the card project which brought the final net profit for 2022 up to €6,000. We are extremely grateful to them both not

only for their generous financial help over so many years, but also for their continuing encouragement, support and ideas for promoting the project.

And now to the other (heartfelt) thank yous—to members of the congregation, to former parishioners now living elsewhere, and to the enormous number of kind ‘friends of the English church’ amongst Hamburg’s English-speaking community. The latter ensure that we are able to reach out to a far wider public than would otherwise be possible. And, apart from helping with Christmas and greetings cards, they also help STB in multiple other ways—making and baking for the bazaar, and at concerts, lectures and other external events.

First and foremost, a huge thank you to the team of volunteers who actually make the cards—year after year, some literally for decades, some new to the team, but always working reliably, professionally and with great attention to detail—sorting the used cards, chopping them, sticking them onto the new cards, checking and sorting again, and since the pandemic also packing and preparing online sales. Some of us live locally and can easily meet, others live far away and work at home: Debbie Faddul (Schleswig-Holstein), Jane Harding, Sarah Meister,

Arwen Pearson, Linda Rainer, Mary Sanderson (Altes Land), Cathrin Schierholz, Katrin and Ruediger Schnetzer, Ellen Thomas, Caroline Yarnold (England), Lorna Yazdani and Ellen Ziesmann.

Secondly, thank you to everyone who sold cards last year. The pandemic and the church’s heating problems definitely affected how and where we were able to offer cards for sale. There were far fewer external events happening in church and only very reduced possibilities through many of the English-speaking societies and organisations in Hamburg that have previously always supported us.

The good news was, however, that after two restricted years cards could once again be chosen individually and sold in person at various events and places—the STB stall at British Flair in August, the Annual STB Bazaar, the Victorian Christmas Market, the British Flair event in November at the Anglo-German Club, when cheques are presented to various Hamburg charities, the two Carol Services and Advent Sunday services in church. Cards were also sold wherever possible during the autumn by the card team, parishioners and friends of STB, and also within the Hamburg English-speaking community, includ-

ing the Arts Society Hamburg, the Anglo-German International Women's Association (AGIWA), the British Ladies Luncheon Club, and the German-American Women's Club—Bettina Wex.

Very special thanks to those who helped sell at the larger events: Brenda Buhmann-Gore, Alison Jacob, Ulrike Lemke, Lydia Struck and Lorna Yazdani; to Jo Dawes, Jane Harding and Dorothee Moeller, who upgraded the forms and publicity for the online sales; and to those who still sell larger quantities to their families, friends, bridge groups and work colleagues—Elke Norden, Helga Goerike, Pam Hanus, Carol Kloeve Korn, Margot Lord, Ulrike Lemke and Katrin Schnetzer.

And **thirdly**, thank you to all who collected used cards on our behalf from their friends, families, churches and offices for us to recycle into new cards. Several parcels were sent by post from Hamburg and elsewhere in Germany, and even from former parishioners in Canada (Pat and Dennis Baker) and Britain (Irene and John Finn). In addition two Anglican churches in England—St Michael's, Amersham, Bucks., through Jenny Baker, and St John the Baptist, Puttenham, Surrey, through Caroline Yarnold (Caroline and Patrick were also parishioners) have

for many years now been responsible for supplying us with a vast proportion of the cards we recycle. On average we can only use every sixth card, and so need between 20,000 and 30,000 annually.

Looking ahead to Christmas 2023, cards are being chopped to size, the first Christmas cards have already been stuck, and there is a basket in church for used cards. Birthday and flower cards (left blank for your own greeting) are now being sold at some events—enquiries welcomed.

With very many thanks again to everyone connected in any way with the 2022 card project for all your wonderful help—collecting, making, selling, advertising, encouraging and buying. We realise that the number of cards sold in the future will probably become less. People buy fewer cards nowadays, more emails and digital cards are sent, and postage is higher. However the project still seems worthwhile continuing at present—not only for financial reasons. Increasingly people, especially at external events, are interested in the fact that the cards are recycled, a handwritten card is often still appreciated by close friends and family, and using the cards is also an excellent way of publicising our historic church.

Judith Holst

Diocesan study pilgrimage for clergy: the Seven Churches of Revelation

The seven churches of Revelation are all located in modern day Turkey, around the area of Izmir. We have our own Church of England Chaplain there, James Buxton, so this May 2023 trip was led by him and our Diocesan Bishop, Robert. And for those of you trying to recall the names, here they are: Smyrna (Izmir), Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

What was the best thing? Well, for clergy, the all too rare blessing of not having to make anything happen—someone else was doing the checking, nudging and compensating on the hoof (fantastic!). And the dynamic nature of the sites of the seven

churches of Revelation: we got to them all, and most were clearly places of still ongoing discovery. New streets and temples are being uncovered all the time, so praying there really brought home how these were places of living, worshipping and themselves dynamic and changing communities. And we were privileged to make a short, extra stop at Colossae. Here, the very first excavation is just about to commence, so we stood in the midst of what is a field of thistles, but within the obvious embrace of the soon to re-emerge arc of the amphitheatre.

Our 'Holy Trinity' of leaders proved an engaging and unique part



A. Savin, Wiki Commons

The acropolis of the ancient city of Colossae prior to excavation

of our pilgrimage too. James, the local Izmir CoffE Chaplain, Bishop Robert our Diocesan Bishop (great to meet him at last, after two years in the DinE), and Macit, our local Turkish guide. Macit was heavily occupied with the national election and gave us insights into how he and friends were campaigning for the opposition. When it came to speaking of the violent times of the Greek/Turkish twenties in Turkey,

he and James also complemented one another in outlining what had happened. And thereafter, it made it all the more meaningful to be received by the current Orthodox Archbishop of Izmir, in post now for six years, but following a long gap since his predecessor, Chrysostomos, met a violent death at the hands of a mob in 1922.

Revd Jules A. Barnes

Photo:Ulrike Lemke



This year the Church Wanderers have really shaken off their Covid blues and have been out and about every month and in all weathers, with walks in the Sachsenwald, Volksdorf, Sülldorf, along the Alster and here from Stellingen to Klein Flottbek, with Stuart's legendary Baltic coastal walk from Timmendorf to Travemünde due to take place as Becket News went to press. We've had a few new walkers join us recently and welcome anyone who wants to come along. Our walks are usually about 10 km long, at a fairly leisurely pace, with stops for refreshments, a picnic and at any cafés we can find. Our next walk is on 29 July in Duvenstedter Brook. Email Jo Dawes to go on the mailing list (see opposite).

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For other ministries please see following page

**For the latest on services and events, please see Facebook:
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For clergy and council members please see previous page

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