



# Becket News

Issue 84/December 2024

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

**Zeughausmarkt 22, 20459 Hamburg  
[www.anglican-church-hamburg.de](http://www.anglican-church-hamburg.de)**

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*Cover photo: Jo Dawes*

**For details of services and events, please see our website  
or Facebook page**

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stbhamburg/>**

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## Seasons' greetings from the Chaplain

At this time of year we are looking forward to the church seasons of Advent and Christmas. Then, early in the New Year, the Epiphany season too, following hot on their heels. All three, times when we celebrate and recall the wonder of our salvation which is Jesus Christ our Lord. God and Man: born on earth to the young girl Mary; Emmanuel, God come down to live among us.



I hope you will all come to more than one of our special services during these coming months, such as the Advent Carols and Nine Lessons and Carols and the relatively new but already much-loved sing-along of Carols and Cakes. Or perhaps the new Crib and Christingle service on Christmas Eve. Sunday morning Eucharists continue, too, and will encompass the move from darkness to light which marks Advent Sunday, as well as

the progression towards the birth of Our Lord at Christmas, and the recalling of the visit of the wise men to the new-born Jesus in the Gospel 'Procession of Kings' at Epiphany.

Seasonal greetings and the good news of Christ, are something we share – in celebration, food, through sending cards (don't forget our lovely church Christmas cards), and in worshipping together. And although I have said this so many times already, let me repeat that all our services and events at the Anglican church are open to everyone to attend. I do this because I still regularly get calls from people along the lines of: *'I am not a member of your church, but I would like to come along to..... is that allowed?'* Yes, of course. We offer a warm welcome to anyone who wants to come through our doors, and that means – well, everyone!

Now, I started by talking about the changing seasons. As many of you know there will be another change soon, too, as I leave my post as the Priest here in Hamburg and for the north German region and move on to Salisbury Cathedral, England, at the end of January. So, I want to take this opportunity to

*cont. overleaf*



fellowship at the Anglican church, in this time and place.

There is of course, much and many of you that I will miss sorely, but there truly is a 'season' for everything on earth and under heaven. I have learned a lot, and it's time! Embrace the change, and God's promises that He will continue to provide.

say thank you for the last four years, and for the privilege and unique opportunity of leading and developing our worship, discipleship and

With all best wishes and every blessing under heaven. I hope you will keep in touch!

*Revd Jules A. Barnes*

Photo: Norbert Schoen



We were delighted to welcome our Diocesan Bishop, Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes, and his wife Helen to Hamburg for the weekend of the Bazaar. After seeing the STB community in frenetic action on the Saturday, Bishop Robert confirmed our ten candidates – three adults and seven juniors – on the Sunday. Meanwhile, a new Suffragan Bishop has been announced following Bishop David's retirement in February. Revd Canon Andrew Norman will join the diocese in the New Year. See page 10 for details.

## Paddington cuts the Bazaar ribbon

Yes, we were all delighted that this year's Bazaar was opened by our furry friend, Paddington Bear, aided by Revd Jules. A fun-packed and enjoyable Saturday was had by all on 16 November from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Bazaar is an annual event in the church's calendar where church members, friends, neighbours and the general public come together and enjoy the day. It enables people to discover the church and its wide range of activities while doing some British produce shopping, looking for those jams and jellies or buying homemade scones and cakes to enjoy later.

Everything is organised by volunteers who run the stalls, rang-

ing from the two tombolas to our Ghanaian, Nigerian and Indian food stalls, supplemented by mulled wine, Christmas cards, not forgetting handicrafts and books (for large and small).

The Bazaar organisational team would like to give a shout-out to Katherine, who has been running the church's own-label branding (blankets, cushions and medicinal cushions) together with the white elephant stall for the past couple of years. Katherine will be moving away from Hamburg soon, so a big thank you to her, a safe trip and all the best for her future. We already miss her and her stall.

Also, a mention goes to Miriam's 'Biscuits Topping Stand', oper-



Photo: Eric Lord



ated especially to cater for young families with children. She will unfortunately not be in the county next year. So, Miriam, we will be thinking of you next year during the Bazaar.

As the church is entirely self-funding, we were pleased with the 13 per cent rise in profits made this year at the Bazaar, the best result since 2014. A quick mention here that, while also running her pop-up stall, Monica and her team did all the cash counting so that they could announce the financial result quickly. So, a big thank you to all who came and spent money and made this day possible.

Lastly, we should not forget the organisational team who work behind the scenes to make it all happen on the day. This consists of

the health and safety, press, pew-moving and cleaning teams.

Will we see Paddington Bear next year for our next Bazaar on 15 November? This very much depends on you. The Bazaar relies solely on volunteers helping run and support the stalls that make up the Bazaar. Why not make your New Year's resolution right now and get in contact with the Bazaar '25 Team at [bazaar@anglican-church-hamburg.de](mailto:bazaar@anglican-church-hamburg.de) and take an active part in planning and running a stall for next year? The more the merrier and, you never know, Paddington Bear might even invite you to join him for a jam sandwich and a cup of hot tea at the upstairs church café run by Becket Mix.

*Eric Lord & Wendy Sprock*





**Our Treasurer, Heiner Quast, not only helped count the takings from the Bazaar on the day, he also carried 9.2 kg of coins and notes home, checked the amounts, and then banked the money. The total income this year came to €11,107.60, not including €3,324.40 so far from sales of Christmas cards, which are still available to buy – see p. 8.**

## Hundreds of different kinds of robins

‘Do you know our recycled Christmas cards?’ This is what members of the card team often say to potential buyers when any of us are selling the church’s cards at bazaars and social events from the beginning of November onwards.

Most people who’ve lived in Britain for a number of years, or who are British, know about the recycled part of the question because churches there, as well as some smaller charities, have been doing it for decades. In fact we first started the project here in Hamburg in 1987 because a friend from the Hamburg Players had received

a recycled Christmas card from England and suggested that this could be a possible fundraiser for St Thomas à Becket.

There are, of course, various reactions to the question: I don’t send any Christmas cards; we send emails now; postage has become so expensive; I’ve already bought other cards..... And living now in Hamburg, perhaps we need to remember that actually writing and posting dozens of Christmas cards every year is a particularly British custom or habit. However, more and more over the past few years the word RECYCLED usually makes people – even young people – stop in their tracks, look interested instead, and ask ‘How does that work – recycled?’

We explain that the cards are made from old used Christmas cards that we collect in the New Year – after Epiphany – from our families, friends and colleagues here in Hamburg and from Britain; that we then sort through the cards for those most suitable for recycling; chop them down to size; and glue them onto new pristine cards printed with a Christmas and New Year greeting in both English and German, and saying that they’re



Photo: Kathrin Goda



sold on behalf of our historic English church in Hamburg. (We often also tell them that the average net profit on the card project in aid of the church in recent years has been between five and six thousand Euros per year – and so recycling old cards instead of throwing them away seems a sensible idea – one certainly wouldn't throw five thousand Euros in the rubbish bin.)

We also explain about the huge variety of the motifs – that there are not necessarily duplicates of any particular motif but literally hundreds of different kinds of robins, nativity scenes, winter landscapes, animals with and without woolly scarves and hats, snowmen, etc., etc. People definitely appreciate the variety – but it can also be difficult to decide on exactly the right card to send to a favourite aunt, neighbour or grandchild – especially when there are two making the decision!

Apart from the word 'recycled', the other big incentive for buying this year has also been the price – it's the same as last year – no inflation – and the STB cards seem to be cheaper than most commercial cards available here in Hamburg.

At the time of writing, we're just over the halfway period of selling. Four of us were selling in the Vic-



Photo: Wendy Sprock

torian Christmas Market at the Baseler Hof Säle over the Advent weekend, and sales will continue now in church after until 22 December after the regular Sunday and carol services, and at other English-speaking events. They are also available online via the church website.

Finally, thank you to all those who have already bought cards for themselves, and/or sold them to others, with a reminder to EVERYONE now that we will need your used Christmas cards in January in order to produce cards again for 2025.

*Judith Holst – on behalf of the whole multi-tasking card team – sorters, choppers, stickers, sellers*

# Andrew Norman to be Suffragan Bishop

Revd Canon Andrew Norman, currently Director of Ministry and Mission for the Diocese of Leeds, will be the next Suffragan Bishop in Europe in succession to Rt Revd David Hamid, who retired in February. Downing Street announced on 27 November that the King had approved the appointment.

Andrew is no stranger to the Diocese in Europe. He worked in Malta for De La Rue, the world's largest commercial printer of banknotes, prior to his ordination in 1996, and served his curacy at St Michael's Church, Paris.

Educated at University College, Oxford, Selwyn College, Cambridge and the University of Birmingham, he trained for ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge and Virginia Theological Seminary. Following his curacy, Andrew served in the benefice of Clifton in Bristol and, in 2002, he was appointed as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Assistant Secretary for Ecumenical and Anglican Communion Affairs, becoming Principal Secretary in 2005. From 2008 to 2016, he served as Principal of Ridley Hall Cambridge, during which time he additionally held honorary canon-



Source: Diocese in Europe

ries in Canterbury and Ely Cathedrals. In 2017 he was appointed to his current role as Director of Ministry and Mission in the newly-formed Diocese of Leeds and was made honorary canon of Wakefield Cathedral.

Andrew is author of *A Church Observed: being Anglican as times change*. He is married to Amanda, who works for the Leprosy Mission and is a Licensed Lay Minister. They have two adult daughters.

'I'm delighted to be returning to the diocese where I served my curacy,' says Andrew. 'Being Suffragan Bishop in this vast and fascinating diocese is an exciting as well as a daunting prospect. I'm really looking forward to coming alongside our chaplaincies in all their glorious diversity, so we can rise together to the challenges and

opportunities ahead, in faith-filled and imaginative ways.’

The Suffragan Bishop in Europe will be based in Brussels where he will work with our Diocesan Bishop, Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes, who welcomed the appointment: ‘Andrew has a great variety of experience and gifts in theology, ecumenical work and strategic development that are highly relevant to our diocese. I’m sure he will be a wise senior colleague

and an encouraging pastor to our clergy and congregations. I am very much looking forward to working with him.’

As Suffragan Bishop, Andrew will chair the Ministry Team of the diocese and will be the Lead Bishop for Safeguarding alongside his other responsibilities.

*Watch a conversation between Andrew Norman and Bishop Robert here: <https://vimeo.com/1031952823>*

## STB news: changes and updates

**N**olene Sheppard joined our **safeguarding team** on 20 October and is now one of our two joint safeguarding officers, along with Norbert Schoen. You can find their contact details on the back page. We are grateful to them both for carrying out this important work for our community. A big thank you to Madeleine Herring, who has stepped down after many years as a driving force in this ministry.

Meanwhile, our **churchwarden and council line-up** has changed since the previous edition of Becket News – all details on the inside back cover. In addition to Norbert Schoen, elected at the AGM, Angeline Wilson was elected as our second churchwarden on 16 June.

Many thanks to Irene Windsor and Christian Nweze, who stepped down as churchwardens this year.

Finally, our **Electoral Roll** is due for complete renewal before the 2025 AGM. You need to have been baptised, have worshipped regularly at STB for at least six months and be 16 or over to qualify for inclusion on the roll, entitling you to vote at the AGM and stand for office. Membership also demonstrates your commitment to STB.

If you are not currently on the ER but would like to be, please contact our ER officer, Dorothee Moeller, [electoralroll@anglican-church-hamburg.de](mailto:electoralroll@anglican-church-hamburg.de) so that you will receive an application form when the time comes. *Jo Dawes*

## The people behind the plaques

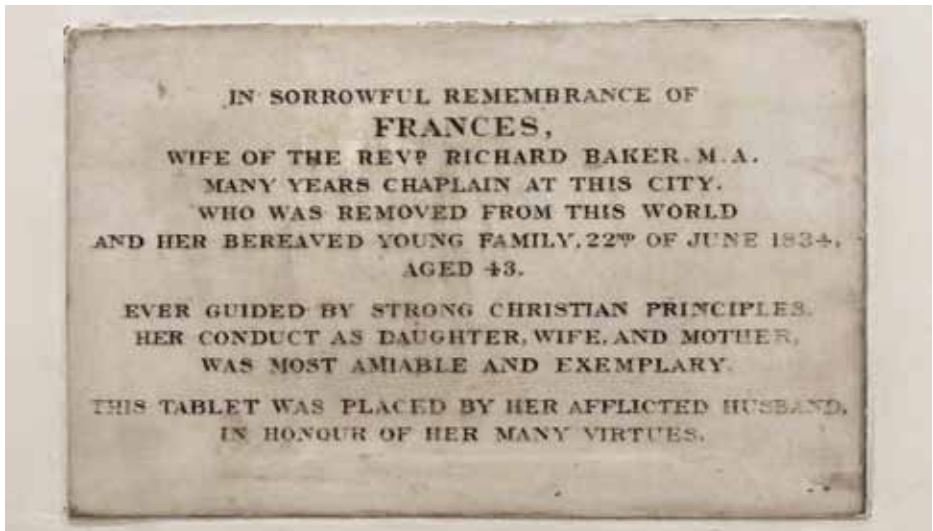
*Madeleine Resühr explores the stories behind the memorials in our church – this time Frances and Revd Richard Baker, whose plaques can be found on the south wall of the church.*

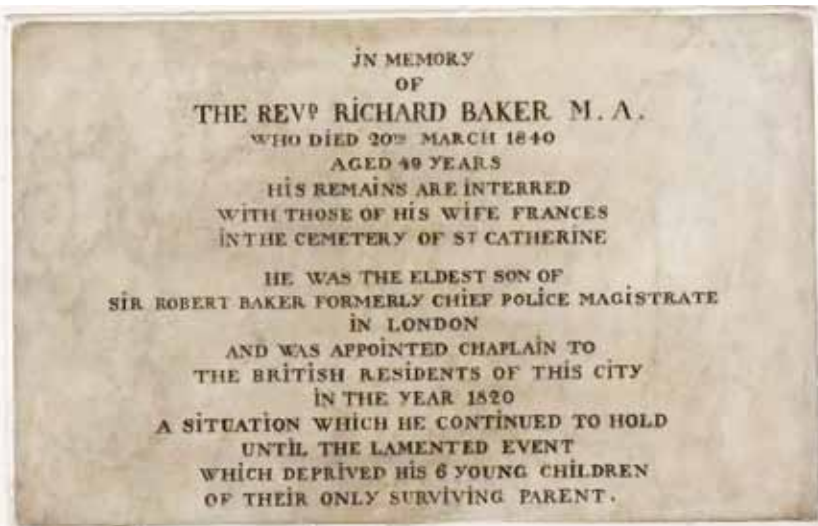
Frances (Fannie) Baker, née Prescott, was born on 15 June 1791 in St Petersburg, Russia where her father John was a merchant and plant collector who had also been born there (17.12.1760).

John Prescott was a cousin of the well-known British merchant William Cattley and ran the Russian side of his grain and plant business. Both men were keen collectors of plants, especially orchids, and Prescott had a large herbarium where he collected and grew plants from the Altai Mountains, Siberia and other Russian regions and sent many samples to Cattley in London.

Frances's mother, Lydia Cattley, was also one her father's cousins. John and Lydia married in St Petersburg in 1788. Their daughter Frances married Revd Richard Baker on 17 August 1824 in Bloomsbury, London, and moved with him to Hamburg where he was serving the British community as Chaplain.

Frances bore six children, but sadly died on 22 June 1834, just two months after the birth of their daughter, Maria. She was laid to rest in the cemetery of St Catherine's Church (Katharinenkirche), Hamburg.





**R**ichard Baker was born in Bloomsbury, London, on 27 July 1790, the eldest son – he had 12 siblings – of Sir Robert Baker and Lady Harriet Baker (née Aufrere). Sir Robert was Chief Metropolitan Police Magistrate in London from 1820–21. Richard Baker became an ordained Anglican priest and was appointed Chaplain to the English Episcopal congregation in Hamburg (as it was known then) by William Howley, Bishop of London, in 1820. Howley became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1828.

At that time, there was no church for the congregation to worship in, as the English had been banned from Hamburg during the French occupation from 1806–1814 and the English House with its chapel in Gröninger Straße, which the

Hamburg Senate had placed at the disposal of the Merchant Adventurers who came to Hamburg in 1611, had been demolished in 1819 to make room for Neue Gröninger Straße. This meant that Revd Baker had to conduct services, baptisms, marriages and funerals in private homes, concert halls, even the Free Masons' lodge, a most unsatisfactory situation for all concerned.

Unfortunately he was not a popular man and was considered by many to be lazy and ineffectual. One member of the congregation stated her intense dislike of the Chaplain and said she could not understand why the Bishop had decided to send him to Hamburg. Another member refused to donate a penny to the building fund for the new church as long as Baker was Chaplain. (*cont.*)

Henry Canning, the Consul General, was extremely disappointed by the lack of enthusiasm displayed by Baker when it came to encouraging the British community to open their purses. Baker also went on a spectacularly unsuccessful fundraising mission to London in 1837. He wrote two begging letters to prominent English personages, both of which were met with resounding silence. The Right Revd Charles James Blomfield, Bishop of London at the time, also told him he was extremely unlikely to collect any money with these weak attempts at drumming up interest for the church building in faraway Hamburg and, in fact, poor Revd

Baker arrived back on the Elbe with a grand total of £28 and 2s, which several well-meaning acquaintances had given him.

However, he lived to see the completion of the church, assisted Henry Canning when the Foundation Stone was laid on 16 June 1836 and presided over the consecration and dedication of the new English Church on 11 November 1838, as the Bishop had refused to make the journey to Hamburg for that purpose.

Richard Baker died at the age of 49 on 20 March 1840 and was laid to rest beside his wife in St Catherine's cemetery.

*Madeleine Resühr*

## Mabel hits the headlines

Two journalists from BBC Wales recently discovered the story of the indomitable Mabel Wulff, our church's caretaker who courageously kept it safe during WWII. They interviewed Eddie Wulff, Mabel's grandson, and also contacted us for information, which Madeleine Resühr provided.

You can read their article on the BBC website: **Secret WW2 bravery of Welsh mum who survived Nazi Germany and saved a historic church:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1wjq2x9x5eo>.

If you're a TV licence-payer in the UK, you can also watch their report on BBC Wales Today: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0024tcv/bbc-wales-today-evening-news-04112024>.

Copies of Madeleine's book on Mabel Wulff, *Two Countries – Two Wars*, are still available, and there is now also information about Mabel on the Imperial War Museum website: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/blog/partnerships/2024/03/two-countries-two-wars-the-story-of-mabel-wulff-bem>.

# Who's Who at our Church

Clergy	Telephone	Email
Chaplain: Revd Jules A. Barnes	(040) 439 2334	chaplain@anglican-church-hamburg.de

Clergy with Permission to Officiate: Revd Dr Majja Priess, Pfr Walter Jungbauer

## Chaplaincy Council 2024—2025

Chair: Revd Jules A. Barnes

Vice-Chair: Norbert Schoen

Churchwardens:

Norbert Schoen	0152 01388810	churchwardens@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Angeline Wilson		

Lay members:

Penelope Loehrig, Council Secretary		councilsecretary@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Monica Schofield, Treasury Liaison		treasury@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Peter Alexander	(040) 475 015	peter.alexander@tts-team.com
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Deanery/CAECG representatives:

Joshua Ezika		joshykime@gmail.com
Madeleine Herring	(040) 279 6514	madeleineherring@t-online.de

Co-opted members:

Heiner Quast, Treasurer	0170 121 2046	treasury@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Renu Roy, Ladies' Christian Fellowship	(04103) 16 584	renujroy@gmail.com

*For other ministries please see following page*

# Who's Who at our Church

*For clergy and council members please see previous page*

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Safeguarding	Norbert Schoen Nolene Sheppard	0152 01388810 0151 1862 1213	safeguarding@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Music	Anwen Pearson		music@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Communications/ webmaster	Jo Dawes	(04862) 201 6870	dawes@dawescom.de
Publicity and e-presence/	Dorothee Möller	0179 764 1132	communications@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Electoral roll	Dorothee Möller	0179 764 1132	electoralroll@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Becket Mix, youth fellowship	Madeleine Herring Emma Richter		madeleineherring@t-online.de therichters@gmx.de
Junior Church	Nissi Marapatla		juniorchurch@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Fundraising	Wendy Sprock	0173 206 1521	fundraising@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Bazaar	Eric Lord		bazaar@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Church Wanderers	Jo Dawes	(04862) 201 6870	wanderers@anglican-church-hamburg.de
Healing Racism and Celebrating Diversity group	Madeleine Herring		healingracism@anglican-church-hamburg.de

**For details of services and events, please see our website or Facebook page**

**Website: [www.anglican-church-hamburg.de](http://www.anglican-church-hamburg.de)**

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