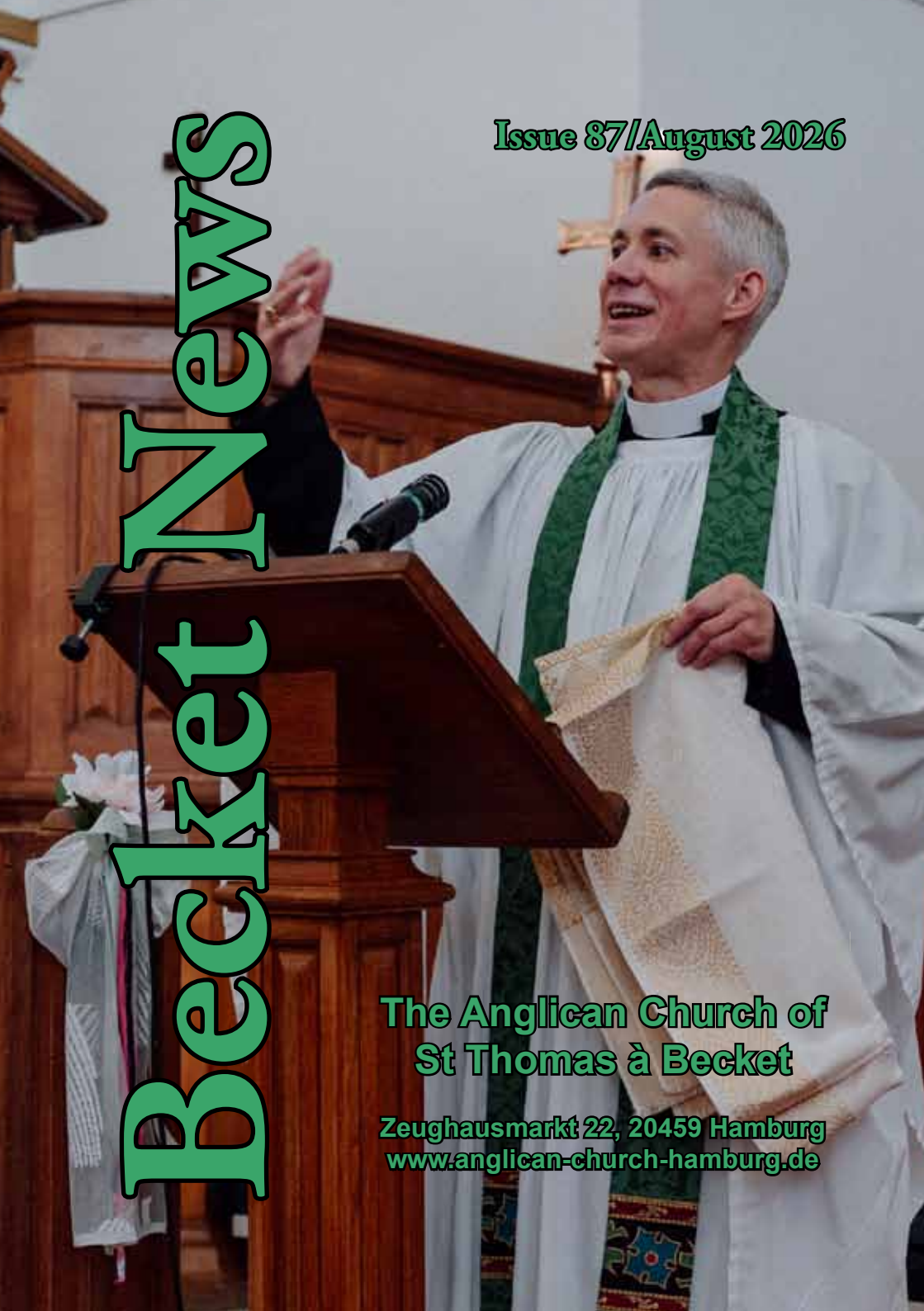


# Becket News

A photograph of a priest with grey hair, wearing white vestments and a green stole, speaking at a wooden pulpit. He is gesturing with his right hand and holding a white cloth in his left. The background shows a church interior with wooden paneling and a cross.

Issue 87/August 2026

The Anglican Church of  
St Thomas à Becket

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



**Anglican Church**  
of St Thomas à Becket

|                                               |    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|
| From the Chaplain                             | 3  |
| Our Voice Matters – a<br>report from Freiburg | 6  |
| Becket Mix relaunches                         | 8  |
| Out with the Wanderers                        | 9  |
| Licensing in pictures                         | 10 |
| Turning pain into glory                       | 12 |
| Mable honoured                                | 13 |
| People behind the<br>plaques                  | 15 |
| Inspired by the sunburst                      | 17 |
| Gala concert news                             | 18 |
| Who's who at our church                       | 19 |

*Cover: Carolin Rieger*

Welcome to *Becket News*.

Yes, we have a new Chaplain at last. Revd Matthew 'Matt' Johnson started his ministry with us on 1 August by marrying Norbert and Nolene. What a premiere! He writes on page 3 opposite and we profile him on page 5.

Elsewhere in this issue, there is news from our younger members – a report from the 'Our Voice Matters' youth event in Freiburg by our two delegates, and the latest on the relaunch of Becket Mix. Nolene writes movingly about the background to the founding of Magnificat and the Ukraine Aid Project. Madeleine brings us the latest of her investigations into the people behind the plaques and also updates us on the recognition of Mabel Wulff in her home town in Wales. Plus, we explore the message of our new logo. Finally, be sure not to miss the gala concert during Nacht der Kirchen on 12 September. You can find our other NdK events on our website.

I hope you enjoy the read.

*Jo Dawes*

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

**Church Bank Account: Englisch-bischöfl. Gemeinde  
Hamburger Sparkasse,**

**BLZ 200 505 50, Konto-Nr. 1280146422**

**SEPA – BIC: HASPDEHHXXX,**

**IBAN: DE46 2005 0550 1280 1464 22**

## From the Chaplain

Dear Friends

I mentioned at the service to license me as your Chaplain that before arriving here in Hamburg, the five years I've lived in Germany have been something of a wilderness experience. When my family and I moved over here, it was very much a leap of faith. My now ex-wife had a position lined up with the Bavarian Lutheran church, where she is a pastor, and I was confident that I would be called to a church within a few months. However, nothing quite fit for me and, after 20 years of successful ministry in a variety of parishes, I found myself without a congregation for the first time since I started on the path to ordination.

At first, I held a strong belief that God was preparing me for something, I just didn't know what it was yet. But as weeks turned to months then years, and I still didn't sense a particular call, my patience started to wear thin, and I faced some of the deepest challenges to my faith I can remember. More than once I shouted with the psalmist 'How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all day long?' (Psalm 13.1–2).



Photo: Carolin Rieger

It's bred into many of us that we need to be productive, and I tried to use my time wisely. I took a great many German classes (although the Lord has given me many gifts, learning languages isn't one of them, and it took me more than twice as long to reach B2/C1 as the language learning charts said it should). I also returned to secondary education, my pre-ordination career, and taught a few English classes at a Bavarian gymnasium. Then I got my Permission to Officiate from the bishop and served as a locum priest at a few Swiss and German chap-

laincies during their interregnums. Although I enjoyed most of these experiences, they were all temporary – and there didn't seem to be anything that was right for the long-term. I could get jobs, but nothing that felt like a calling where I might 'dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life' or at least for a good while.

Just as I thought I might have to return to the US for my vocation, I saw the profile for St Thomas à Becket. It read almost exactly like one I might have written for a church where I thought I would be a good fit. My gifts and experiences appeared to align so well with yours and, for the first time since moving across the pond, I sensed that Christ might be calling me to long-term ministry with a congregation.

As I engaged in discernment with the bishop, archdeacon, and congregational representatives, this quiet conviction that we're called together in the Spirit only strengthened, and it has continued to grow in these first days as your chaplain. Although I could make a list of reasons why I think we'll have such a fruitful ministry together, it comes down to the gut (where I believe the Spirit reveals a great deal). You are a wonderfully unique, diverse, and enthusiastic group of folks, and I feel a powerful sense of belonging here with you.

I'm grateful that God has brought us together to serve at this time in this place. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

*Matt Johnson, Chaplain*





**Rev. Matthew 'Matt' Johnson**, formerly Priest-in-Residence at St Catherine's, Stuttgart, is an Episcopalian priest from the USA. He commenced his ministry with us on 1 August and was licensed as our 48th Chaplain on 9 August by the Archdeacon, Ven Dr Leslie Nathaniel.

Before moving to Germany in 2021, he served both large and small congregations in the US. Ordained in 2008, he first served as Assistant and then Associate Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in The Plains, Virginia. He moved in 2011 to become Associate Rector of St Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia. In 2014, he became Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, where he served until moving to Ingolstadt, Bavaria, in 2021.

Alongside parish ministry, he has taught English and history, coached track and field, written and lectured on liturgy and theology, and remained active as a church musician. A father of two daughters, he is the devoted owner of a Labrador, Nopey, and enjoys running and the outdoors. He and Nopey have already been out with the Church Wanderers and kindly adjusted their pace to ours.



## Our Voice Matters – a report from Freiburg

We recently had the wonderful opportunity to visit Freiburg with other young people from different chaplaincies to attend the Our Voice Matters conference from 31 July to 2 August. It was a beautiful and enriching experience, and we are very grateful to have been part of it.

In Freiburg, we learned a lot about how to unite young people and bring people together in faith. Through workshops, shared prayers, singing, and group activities, we saw how important community is. It was inspiring to meet so many young Anglicans who share the same faith and the same desire to make the Church a welcoming home for everyone.

### A Special Memory

One of our most precious memories was the fun time we spent together with friends and priests. We laughed a lot, shared stories, prayed together, and made memories that we will never forget. The priests were so open, joyful and close to us youth. That fellowship showed us what a living Church really looks like.

### What surprised us about the Anglican Church

What surprised us most is how open and participatory the Anglican Church is. It is deeply rooted in beautiful traditions like the Book of Common Prayer and Evensong, but at the same time very welcom-



Photo: Stuttgart Chaplaincy

## Facilitators

Ven Dr **Leslie Nathaniel**  
Archdeacon of Germany and  
Northern Europe and the  
Eastern Archdeaconry

Revd **Iain Bendery**  
Assistant Chaplain, Lisbon  
& Head of Children, Young,  
Youth Adult Ministry

Revd **Vinod Victor**  
Chaplain, Anglican Church  
Freiburg

Revd **Debbie Flack**  
Dean of Women's Ministry,  
Diocese in Europe

## 15 young delegates

There were 2 delegates from  
Heidelberg, 1 from Geneva,  
1 from St James Episcopal  
Church, Nürnberg, 1 from  
Christ the King Church,

Frankfurt, 8 from the  
Anglican Church, Freiburg.  
and 2 from STB

## Topics discussed

- » Discrimination in the church
- » What 3 things the church could do to make your future better
- » What challenges do you face as a young person in the future?

## Plans/steps

- » Making events to unite youth
- » Safeguarding team – who can stand against injustice at the Church
- » Creating Bible study course for young youth

ing and modern. We learned that everyone has a role to play – not only priests, but also lay people and young people.

## What we would like to bring back to Hamburg

We would love to bring this spirit of unity and joy back to Hamburg. We would like to help create more moments where young people can come together – perhaps a youth evening or a shared lunch after the

Sunday service to welcome newcomers.

And yes, we would be very happy to write a Bible study together with Fr Matt for our community. A simple, open Bible study could be a wonderful way to grow in faith together.

Thank you so much to Fr Matt and to the whole STB community for your support and prayers.

With much gratitude,

*Devoy and Bianca Rullar*

**Issue 87/August 2026**

## Becket Mix is keeping the ball rolling

Becket Mix, the adolescent group of St Thomas à Becket Hamburg, is entering an exciting new chapter. After eight years of dedicated service, our founding leader, Emma Richter, is stepping down from her leadership role. We would like to thank Emma for her incredible dedication, commitment, enthusiasm and, of course, all the fun she has brought to Becket Mix over the years. The group would not be where it is today without her.

We are delighted to welcome our two new leaders, Nicolette Brilling and Kingsley Okonkwo. With Madeleine Herring continuing in her role after several years of supporting Becket Mix, we have the luxury of three leaders, allowing us to share responsibilities and bring new ideas and energy to the group.

Becket Mix is rolling again! Our first get-together was at a restaurant on 5 July, where 15 young people had the opportunity to get to know each other and meet the new leaders. This was followed by an afternoon of bowling in Wandsbek on 17 August, starting at 15:00. We had a record number of young people joining us, as well as Nolene and Norbert, our new Chaplain, Revd Matt Johnson, and his two daughters.



Some had never bowled before, while others were clearly experts. There was lots of laughter, good conversation and plenty of encouragement.

The idea of Becket Mix is simple: to give young people aged 13 and upwards, or those who are confirmed, a chance to have fun together, get to know each other and talk about faith. We also want to find ways to serve the Church and the wider community, for example helping with church events such as



the Nativity Play and raising money for charitable causes.

Our next event will be pizza and games on Sunday, 11 October, immediately after church. We will make pizzas together with different toppings, enjoy games and snacks, and begin planning for Nativity Sunday. We will also be working together with Junior Church on this year's Nativity, with further details to follow.

If you are a young person who would like to get involved, or a parent who would like to know more, any of the Becket Mix leaders can be approached after church. We would love to welcome new faces and new ideas as we begin this next chapter.

It has been a great start, and we hope to keep the ball rolling!

*Nicolette Brillinger, Kingsley Okonkwo and Madeleine Herring*

## Stepping out with the Wanderers



Our long-established walking group, the Church Wanderers, has been out regularly in all directions around Hamburg since the last issue, with landscapes of fields, lakes, heaths and woodlands and terrain ranging from the almost flat to the decidedly hilly.

We were joined on our most recent excursion in early August to the almost mountainous Harburger Berge by Fr Matt with Nopey, who covered about twice as much ground as the rest of us. Seldom has a bus seemed so enticing.

Wandering is the name of the game, not too fast, usually under 10 km, and in almost all weathers. We're always open to newcomers. For contact details, see back page.

*Text and photo Jo Dawes*



## LICENSING IN PICTURES

Thanks to our photographer, Carolin Rieger, who caught the atmosphere and excitement of the 9 August licensing of our new Chaplain, Revd Matt Johnson, by our Archdeacon and former Chaplain, Ven Dr Leslie Nathaniel.







## Turning pain into glory

*Nolene Sheppard, the leader of our Women's Empowerment Group Magnificat and Ukraine Aid Project support lead, was asked to contribute the 6 – 12 September page to the current USPG prayer diary. We are reprinting her article with permission from USPG below. You can find the article and accompanying prayers as well as all other entries in the prayer diary on the USPG website <https://uspg.org.uk/pray/>*

**I**t was a deep pain that hurt so bad it made me feel sick. I looked into the mirror and saw black and brown

lines. The image couldn't possibly be me – an unrecognisable, swollen face. My head continued to spin out of control. All I felt was helplessness, anger and frustration.

Traumatic experiences like these are not an unusual experience – a first for me, but nothing that other women haven't experienced. Could I find my way back from the depths of such overwhelming despair? How can I do this when I am in a country where I am a foreigner, and at a disadvantage in every aspect of the word.

'Are other women going through



Photo: Carolin Rieger

this same emotional and psychological torture due to similar experiences?’ I asked myself. The findings were overwhelming. With the power of prayer, I knew I was not walking the journey back to the top on my own. God was at my side every step of the way. He showed me the path, gave me wisdom, strength and vision.

Now on a road better than I could have ever imagined, in the same country, I created a group within the English Anglican Church in Hamburg called ‘Magnificat’. This group is all about empowering women. We give financial support to Ukrainian

refugees, made up of women and children, in Romania and put on activities for women in Hamburg, too. I listen to each of their stories. It’s been a year now and the bond is still there. Magnificat continues to uplift them, as it does me.

*Nolene Sheppard*

*To hear more about Magnificat, please email [magnificat@anglican-church-hamburg.de](mailto:magnificat@anglican-church-hamburg.de). Donations to the Ukraine Aid Project can be made via the church bank account (see page 2 for details). Please mark your transfer Spende: Ukraine Aid.*

## Mabel awarded a Purple Plaque

Our former Welsh caretaker, Mabel Wulff, has recently been awarded a Purple Plaque. These honour remarkable women in Wales, an accolade Mabel richly deserved as a wartime heroine. Her grandson, Eddie Wulff, and two of his granddaughters unveiled the plaque at the Maindee Library in Newport, Mabel’s home town, on 26 June.

Mabel was caretaker of the English Church in Hamburg from 1924 to 1964, remaining at her post throughout WWII. She saved the church from almost certain destruc-



tion by putting out fires caused by incendiary bombs, she successfully hid both the British Legion and Union Flags from the Gestapo when

*cont. overleaf*



they came looking for them, she took down and hid the reredos and sentence boards and gave shelter to the homeless.

iTV Wales heard about the Purple Plaque and contacted Eddie to interview him about his grandmother and her special award. They also approached us to hear all about her fearless defence of the church, and so Eddie was interviewed at home in Newport and I via Zoom here in Hamburg by iTV journalist Megan Boot. Mabel's story was broadcast during the 6 p.m. News on 2 July. Her Purple Plaque, as well as photos of the flags she saved, her memorial plaque in our church and further photos of Mabel and her German husband Max and of our church were included in the report.



BBC radio Wales also interviewed Eddie on this occasion and he and his family feel justly proud – as do we here at STB – to see her recognised for her bravery not only in Hamburg, but also in her home town, Newport, Wales.

*Madeleine Resühr*



Photo: Staatsarchiv Hamburg

## The people behind the plaques

*Madeleine Resühr explores the stories behind the memorials in our church – this time Lady Mary Ward and the Altar Cross in her memory*

A brass plaque behind the cross reads: In Memory of Lady Ward, Wife of Sir William Ward, H.B.M's Consul General at Hamburg who died March 7th 1910.



Lady Ward was born Jenny Maria Fowler on 7 August 1854 in Memel (now Klaipeda, Lithuania). Her father, Henry Fowler, was a merchant and banker who became Hanseatic and North-American Consul there in 1859. His father had been British Vice Consul in Memel. Lady Ward's mother, Jenny Bruder, was originally from Berlin.

The Fowler family lived at Marktstraße 11 in Memel.

Maria Fowler married William Ward, the future British Consul General to Hamburg, when she was just 20 years old and 14 years his junior.

Sir William Ward, KCMG, CVO (1841–1927) was Consul General in Hamburg from 1897 to 1911. He was one of the sons of English diplomat, John Ward (1805–1890), who spent many years in Germany and had his sons educated mainly in this country. His second son was the well-known British historian, Sir Adolphus William Ward. In 1814, John Ward was sent to Berlin, became Consul-General in Leipzig in 1845 and spent the rest of his diplomatic career in Germany. In 1860 he became Consul General for the Hanse Towns (Bremen, Hamburg and Lübeck), only leaving Hamburg in 1870 when these towns joined the North German Confederation (Norddeutscher Bund). Very fitting, therefore, that his son, Sir William, should spend 12 years as Consul General in Hamburg 30 years later.

*cont. overleaf*

Mr. 167  
Hamburg, am 7. März 1857. 180. O und zehn.

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschien heute, der Vorfalligkeit nach Leinhard Thompson meine kennt  
der Großbritanniſche Generalconſul  
in Hamburg Lieut. William Ward,  
wohnhaft in Hamburg Hotel England, England,  
und ſetzte an, daß Johann Christoph Tennor von  
María Ward geborenen Förlar,  
55 Jahre, 2 Monate alt, als protestantischer Religiöſer,  
wohnhaft in Hamburg bei ihm,  
geboren zu Mennel am 2. August  
1802,  
Taufte der in Mennel protestantisch in Königs  
aus Henry Förlar mit ihm in  
Berlin protestantischer Lehrer in Lehrer  
geborenen Brüder,  
zu Hamburg in ihren Lehrer  
am ersten März  
des Jahres tausend neun hundert sech  
und mittags um zwei und zwei Uhr  
verlesen ſei.

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterzeichnet  
William Ward  
Der Standesbeamte  
F. W.  
Christoph

## Becket News

Dumas had brought a list of 28 questions for Sir William to answer, but he took so long to provide the answers that Dumas assumed he was simply not interested. However, when they next met, Sir William surprised him with thoughtful, intelligent responses to the questions, and Dumas admitted that he

needed to reconsider his opinion of the British Consul in Hamburg.

Sir William and Lady Ward had two children, both born in Bremen – John Henry William, 27.2.1873 and Frances, 23.7.1875.

John migrated to the USA in 1900 and became an American citizen in Chicago in 1908.

Sir William retired aged 70 in 1911, just one year after the death of his wife.

## Inspired by the sunburst window

Those of you who have been to our church recently or who are on the eNews mailing list can't have failed to notice our new logo.

In the course of redesigning and relaunching our website, the communications team thought it an ideal opportunity to get our designer to work on a proper logo for the church, something that has been attempted several times over the years but with little fruit borne.

Barbara Schwarz, of the Hamburg design agency Köckemann|Schwarz, was inspired by the half-moon or sunburst window in the wall behind the altar. As she says, the logo is a stylised representation of the window. It strikes one when first entering the church and is also visible during church services from the congregation's perspective, thus creating a strong visual recognition factor. In its full colour version, the representation is complemented by the liturgical colours of the church year, giving the logo additional symbolic depth. Barbara



Anglican Church  
of St Thomas à Becket

has produced black and white and greyscale versions of the logo as well as print and online colour variants in all the usual graphic formats, plus guidelines for use, so we now have a versatile, high-quality solution.

Meanwhile, work on the website is progressing apace. Our current version is out of date technically and we are struggling to keep it running. Barbara is now incorporating the new logo into the design and will then start feeding in the text. We hope to relaunch this cleaner, simpler web presence soon.

*Jo Dawes, Dorothee Möller,  
and Monica Schofield*



# 23. NACHT DER KIRCHEN CHARITY CONCERT

**SATURDAY  
12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - 6PM**

AN EVENING OF MUSIC



Richard Morrison  
baritone



Jon Mortimer  
piano



Collegium Musicum  
piano, clarinet, viola, cello



Christian Sach  
guitar



Mardon & Vaughn  
violin & guitar

THIS CONCERT IS PART OF NIGHT OF THE CHURCHES

FREE ENTRY, FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE OFFERED  
DONATIONS ARE MOST APPRECIATED

All proceeds go to fund the upkeep of the church and its work

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST THOMAS BECKET  
ZEUGHAUSMARKT 22

# Who's Who at our Church

## Clergy

Chaplain: Revd Matt Johnson

## Telephone

(040) 439 2334

## Email

chaplain@anglican-church-hamburg.de

Clergy with Permission to Officiate: Revd Dr Majja Priess

## Chaplaincy Council 2026—2027

Chair: The Chaplain

Vice-Chair: Norbert Schoen

Churchwardens:

Norbert Schoen

0152 01388810

churchwardens@anglican-church-hamburg.de

David Delaire

Lay members:

Jo Dawes, Council Secretary

(04862) 201 6870

councilsecretary@anglican-church-hamburg.de

Monica Schofield, Treasury Liaison

treasury@anglican-church-hamburg.de

Katja Clajus

Susanne Hergoss

Maureen Njagi

Carsten Renken

Emmanuel Saarkodie

Nolene Sheppard

Angeline Wilson

Deanery/Diocesan Synod reps:

Joshua Ezika

Kingsley Okonkwo

Madeleine Herring

Co-opted members:

Heiner Quast, Treasurer

0170 121 2046

treasury@anglican-church-hamburg.de

*For other ministries please see following page*

# Who's Who at our Church

*For clergy and council members please see previous page*

| Other ministries                                  |                                          | Tel              | Email                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Safeguarding                                      | Nolene Sheppard                          | 0151 1862 1213   | safeguarding@anglican-church-hamburg.de   |
| Music                                             | Arwen Pearson<br>Tom Kessler             |                  | music@anglican-church-hamburg.de          |
| Communications/<br>webmaster                      | Jo Dawes                                 | (04862) 201 6870 | webmaster@anglican-church-hamburg.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,<br>youth fellowship                   | Nicolette Brillinger<br>Kingsley Okonkwo |                  | becketmix@anglican-church-hamburg.de      |
| Junior Church                                     | Miriam Hinz                              |                  | juniorchurch@anglican-church-hamburg.de   |
| Young Adults                                      | Nolene Sheppard                          | 0151 1862 1213   | youngadults@anglican-church-hamburg.de    |
| Bazaar                                            | Eric Lord<br>Wendy Sprock                |                  | bazaar@anglican-church-hamburg.de         |
| Church Wanderers                                  | Jo Dawes                                 | (04862) 201 6870 | wanderers@anglican-church-hamburg.de      |
| Healing Racism and<br>Celebrating Diversity Group | Madeleine Herring                        |                  | healingracism@anglican-church-hamburg.de  |
| Magnificat – Women's<br>Empowerment Group         | Nolene Sheppard                          | 0151 1862 1213   | magnificat@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)**

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

**Please email [communications@anglican-church-hamburg.de](mailto:communications@anglican-church-hamburg.de) if you would like to receive *Becket News* and further news updates from the church**

*Becket News* is published by the Anglican Church of St Thomas à Becket,  
Zeughausmarkt 22, 20459 Hamburg • Editor: Jo Dawes  
We are part of the Church of England Diocese in Europe