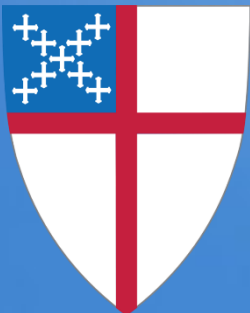


Summer 2022

IKON

The Ascension Messenger



Church
of the
Ascension
Munich

Points to Note

Worship

We worship every Sunday at midday in the Emmauskirche, Laurinplatz, 81545 München, Germany. For up-to-date news and details of services, check our website at: www.ascension-munich.org

Do also take a look at our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ascensionmunich and our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UC4802rHFcPLNCJxnSGeZ3FA

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Mark D. W. Edington, Bishop in Charge
mark.edington@tec-europe.org

The Rev. Canon Dan Morrow, Priest in Charge
revdanmorrow@ascension-munich.com

The Rev. Dr. Ali Gray, Priest Associate
revaligray@ascension-munich.com

Pastoral Care

In a pastoral emergency, contact **Fr. Dan** on his mobile: 0151 5330 8266
or **Joan Case**: home: 08024 49945 mobile: 0172 825 6425

You can also contact the wardens:

Janet Day-Strehlow: mobile: 0170 792 6767
George Battrick: home: 089 688 1151 mobile: 0152 082 93438

Financial Support

Our church receives no funds from any government body; we are entirely supported by the contributions of our members.

Donations and pledges can be made by bank transfer to:
The Church of the Ascension, Deutsche Bank
IBAN: DE49 7007 0024 0459 8702 00

2 Corinthians 9:7 *“Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Editorial | 4 |
| Letter from Fr. Dan | 5 |
| Education for Ministry | 6 |
| Children’s Work | 7 |
| The Sanctuary Course | 8 |
| Speaking in many Tongues | 9 |
| A Visit to the Soup Kitchen | 11 |
| Wonderful Personal Impressions | 12 |
| Racial Justice Book Group | 14 |
| Behind the Scenes: Music | 15 |
| On my Desert Island | 18 |
| Interview with Maria and Reimar | 19 |
| Clair’s Farewell | 23 |
| The Photo Studio | 27 |
| Congratulations | 28 |
| Termite Teaser | 29 |
| Worship in Augsburg and Nürnberg | 30 |
| Notes from the Vestry | 31 |
| Coming Events | 33 |
| Answers to the Flag Quiz | 33 |
| Emmauskirche | 34 |
| Closing Words | 34 |
| Imprint / Impressum | 35 |

Editorial

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This edition has a saint on the cover who has graced the **lkon** before. In 2020 St Christopher helped us on our journey in finding a new priest and now he is here again to make sure that any journeys we undertake in the summer go well and that we come back refreshed.

Deirdre has come back refreshed enough from her hiking holiday in the Lake District to share her choice of desert island discs; we are all refreshed after the party for Clair's retirement – see some photos on Page 23; read about the fun that was had at The Photo Studio on Page 27.

I have said before that the pages of the **lkon** tell of hallos and goodbyes. We say hallo to Maria and Reimar Volker and get to know them in the interview and find out why the spelling of Reimar's name in these pages is not a misprint; say goodbye to Jeff, our retiring music director, and remember all the musical activities that have enriched life in our church.

There is a lot you can get involved in when you return from your holidays: you can find out details of the EfM; you can see if Sanctuary is maybe a course for you; or maybe the Alpha Course; or, as Fr. Dan suggests, you can welcome someone you don't know into the church and so foster the church's work of transformation.

If you take photos while you are away, I leave you with this quote attributed to the photographer Walker Evans:

Stare. It is the way to educate your eye and more. Stare; pry, listen, eavesdrop. Die knowing something. You are not here long.*

Come back refreshed and having learnt something!

Peace

Sue

** Printed with permission of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY.*



Letter from Fr. Dan

Dear Church of the Ascension Family,

The work of the church is a work of transformation. It's that simple. It's that profound. We gather each week as simple elements, bread and wine, are turned into spiritual food. We gather to hear the scriptures, and to let their wisdom transform our hearts and our minds.

We gather in community to laugh, and to cry, to celebrate and to mourn, all the while these experiences are transforming us, drawing us closer to God and to each other. When we are at our best, we are working for the transformation of individuals, communities, and the world. Everything we do at Ascension, then, has to do with transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary.

All organizations have what might be called their "primary task", that is, their reason for being: the focused activity that they uniquely exist to do. The primary task of a social service agency is different from an auto manufacturer which is different from an educational institution which is different from a Christian congregation. Being aware of and reminding ourselves about our organization's primary task helps us to focus our efforts and define what our organizational "faithfulness" looks like.

One way of describing the primary task, the unique purpose and work of a congregation is to **gather** those called by God into Christ's body, the Church, a community of **transformation** of mind, heart and action, and to **send** these same into the world to be and to act as God's loving and transforming presence.

Another way of saying this is that the purpose of a congregation, is to be the body of Christ and, with God's help, to create and renew the Christian folk who, in turn, create and renew a world that we believe both already is and is in the process of becoming God's own realm – a realm of forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, peace and hope.

The Vestry and I will be working diligently on how we help to gather people in God's name. When we say Gather, we are thinking of how people are invited, how people are greeted when they come to church, how people are oriented to our way of being and our way of faith, and how people are incorporated into our faith community.

While we'll be thinking about this intentionally, I hope that you can see that this good work is for all of us to joyfully participate in. One simple task for you after you read this article: If you see someone at church who you don't know, go ahead and introduce yourself to them. If you've been here a while, then they could definitely use the experience and history that you possess. If you're new, then you might have just the right idea of how to welcome someone into our church.

This is just a piece of the transformational work that we're called to do, I hope that you'll engage in it with joy and gladness.

Many blessings, much peace and see you at church.



Dan+

A Program to immerse yourself in your Christian Faith



Efm is a four-year programme in practical theology for lay people which explores a wide concept of ministry, based on the baptismal call to minister to each other in our daily lives. Participants register for a year at a time.

There are 5 core practices in the programme:

Living in Community

We share our stories and listen attentively to others to build empathy and community in the group. We talk about our personal spiritual truths and longings and learn to acknowledge and respect differences.

Theological Reflection

This is the central spiritual discipline in Efm. We examine life through a theological lens combining our life experience, the culture/society around us, our beliefs and values and Christian tradition. TR is practiced in group meetings throughout the year and participants are given instructions on doing this individually too. We aim to become reflective practitioners of faith in our daily lives.

Study of the Christian Tradition

The focus of the 4 years of the Efm programme are the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, the history of Christianity and modern Christian Theology studies through readings and discussion in the group sessions.

Regular Prayer and Worship

Group members take it in turns to lead the worship at each group session and the Efm curriculum also introduces different practices from our Christian tradition. These different offerings enrich the group as well as our individual spiritual practices. Participants are also encouraged to attend congregational worship regularly. All this helps develop a spiritual connection to God and our neighbours.

Vocational Discernment

During our worship, reflections and study we listen to God's call and discern what the needs of our group and our communities are and what gifts we can offer. We affirm and support each other in our various callings.

Our group meets online (Zoom) on Tuesday evenings, 19.00 – 20.30. We begin in early September and meet for 36 weeks, usually ending the following June. For further information/to join our 2022/23 Group starting September, 2022 contact the Efm Online Mentors:

Kaye O'Connell Tel: +49 176 8448 7420 Kaye.oconnell@gmx.de
Yvonne Cockcroft Tel: +49 171 4517 654 Yvonne@cockcroft.de

Children's Work

Having in previous weeks learned about why we do what we do in the Eucharistic celebration, and unpacked a box of presents from the Holy Spirit for Pentecost, the youngest members of the Church of the Ascension congregation had an exciting time during the service on 26th June, when we went on a bear hunt together.

Five children from four families brought their grown-ups to a pop-up Sunday School. "We're going on a bear hunt" is a lively action poem written over 25 years ago by Michael Rosen, you can find him performing it on YouTube.

We're going on a bear hunt
We're going to catch a big one
What a beautiful day!
We're not scared.

We acted out this poem with great excitement, pushing through long grass, swimming a river, squelching through mud, shivering through a snow storm, stumbling through a forest and eventually reaching a deep dark cave...

We then thought about what makes us scared, and how we can ask God to be with us and give us courage, as well as asking other people for help. We prayed, drew or made a bear out of clay, and finished with pop-corn and gummi-bears.

This was the first children's teaching outside of the main service since COVID-19. Our plan is to continue with events as we gradually build momentum and increase the pool of those who can help with the children's work, aiming eventually to transition to regularly scheduled Sunday School sessions. New helpers are always welcome.

Ali Gray, Interim Children's Work Coordinator



The Sanctuary Course

The Sanctuary course, led by the Rev. Dr. Ali Gray, Priest Associate, aims to enhance awareness of persons with, and issues surrounding, mental illness; to foster understanding, and to garner strategies for supportive action.

Learning about mental health issues within the context of the church opens the possibility to inspire and involve the community at large in the lay ministry of building the caring connections that foster mental health.

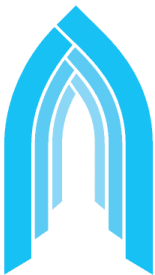
What to expect:

Content: Hearing, over videos, from people who share their stories of the challenges and stigma as well as the love and support they encountered on their own personal journeys to recovery.

Discussion: The invitational model of responding so that everyone gets a fair and balanced chance to speak, but with no pressure to overshare. People are encouraged to share as they feel comfortable, or to "pass".

The three participants in the pilot group encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. The next course starts on 26th September.

Barbara Pines



SANCTUARY

Mental Health Ministries

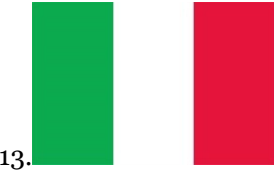
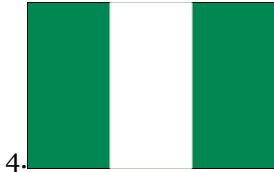
Speaking in many Tongues

Look how many languages are spoken by members of our congregation. There was a real cacophony of sounds when everyone was speaking together on Pentecost Sunday. It really brought to life the message of the reading from Acts. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to read.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rémy Bethmont | New Testament Greek |
| Jes Villa | Latin (Vulgate) |
| Loren Stuckenbruck | Ge'ez (Old Ethiopic) |
| Ragaie Alfy | Arabic (Egypt) |
| Nurtaç Denton | Turkish |
| Eleonore Dascalu | Romanian |
| Joachim Zeller | Russian |
| Rohit Paul | Hindi |
| Shema Paul | Malayalam (India) |
| Mhabeni "Beni" Bona | Angami (NE India) |
| Joy Schindel | Tagalog (Philippines) |
| Nathaniel Anene | Igbo (Nigeria) |
| Donald Adewale | Yoruba (Nigeria) |
| Carol Teresita Forrester | Spanish (Uruguay) |
| Bob Nowak | Portuguese (Brazil) |
| Kristi Nowak | Norwegian |
| Malcolm Phillips | Swedish |
| Yann Savard | French (Quebec) |
| Deirdre L Tincker | Italian |
| Janet Eck von Schanzenbach | Welsh |
| Michael Beer | German |

You dear readers now have a task to perform. You will now see a flag for each of the countries represented. Decide which flag shows where the language is/ languages are spoken.





Answers on Page 33.

A Visit to the Soup Kitchen

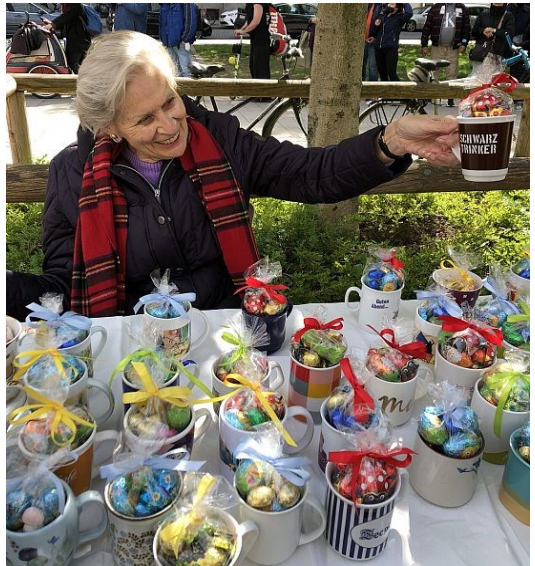
The contrast in my Easter Sunday could not have been starker. Having enjoyed an uplifting service with joy and celebration, ending with champagne and cake, Liz Wink, Mary Wulf and I drove to the soup kitchen in cars loaded with gifts donated by members of our congregation to distribute to the truly needy in society.

As we were setting up our tables covered with an assortment of mugs filled with chocolates, colourful pot plants and an array of greetings and post cards my eyes focused upon a seemingly unending queue of needy people lining up to receive a warm meal from the sisters. They patiently shuffled forward, dirty, shaking hands held out to receive some much needed sustenance.

Turning to leave and clutching their precious bags of provisions tired, weary eyes lighted upon what we were there to give them and suddenly the atmosphere changed. Many asked if the gifts were for them and being assured they were indeed, they smiled, some taking time to choose and talk, one man so happy as he had broken his only mug that very morning. I was joined by a bearded man, ragged coat tied up with string and most teeth missing, who made sure that no-one took more than their fair share; we made a good team and he was a great help.

It only took us two hours to make one hundred and ninety-five people happy, to give them a smattering of the dignity and respect lost along the way to their present downtrodden, sad state and for the three of us to receive an amazing and very special Easter gift.

Janis Wiedemann



Wonderful Personal Impressions

Members of the CoA visited the Münchener Tafel on 9th April and here are some of their impressions.

As usual, it was a pleasure to meet the team and to sing some cool songs with Dan. The organizers kindly offered coffee and Brezen as usual. This time, an obvious change was the number of Ukrainians. I was surprised to see that Joachim can speak Russian and could interact with them, answering specific questions and offering a more personalized support ☺.

At one point, a man came in and said he had a box full of clothes to give. At this center, I saw mostly food, toilet articles and books... but no clothes. It was an invitation from God that could give extra blessings to our guests, so I said to the man that I would take the responsibility for it. The front part of our kiosk transformed into a thrift store with used clothes, mostly for kids. Within a few hours, they were almost all given away. At the end of the day, the last people remaining of our crew were dismissed by the team organizers who kindly packed up the rest for us all. Another day to serve the Lord! We are just servants, nothing else. We did what we had to do with a cheerful heart. ***Yann***

The Easter distribution at the Tafel is not new to me but there was a marked difference this time. There was nearly three times the normal number of people and many of them were refugees from Ukraine. It was painful to see the effects of war on innocent families, most of them women or younger children. Their gratitude was touching and made me feel like every little effort makes a difference. ***Rohit***

Impressions: This was my first time at the Münchner Tafel, and I found it to be a moving and sobering experience. I hadn't realized how many people are in need of the everyday items I take for granted, even in a wealthy city like Munich. After what must have been a tiring day of queuing for food, many seemed to appreciate taking a moment to peruse the extra items we had at our stall, and to have the chance to choose what they wanted. I'm grateful to have played a small part in bringing some joy and care to the people we served. ***Beni***

I find the outreach projects very inspiring and am always amazed, when visiting such events, how much I take for granted in life. We had chocolate lollipops in a glass for children to take, when the glass was nearly empty a man asked could he have it. Of course I said yes; I had a second one which was empty so I gave him that too. You can't imagine how pleased he was to receive two drinking glasses. I have a cupboard full at home, how about you?? ***Liz***

Ikon

Although it has almost become a routine for me to join the Outreach group at the Münchner Tafel, each time has its unique aspects and interesting accidental encounters. This year we saw about a doubling of the number of customers receiving food donations as well as the service time, now covering a full day (09.00 – 17.00). It drastically illustrates the growing need for essential goods within the local community, partially related to refugees arriving from Ukraine. What I always find moving is the gratitude that the Tafel customers express for even the most inconspicuous items, and their generosity, when they pick up items not for themselves, but as gifts for others. Moving was also the story of a Ukrainian woman, who, when asked about her origin, said that she arrived from Kiev, only to add that she originally was from Donezk, whence she had to flee eight years ago, when the conflict started (and has been smouldering ever since) – a refugee twice..... One could argue that the gifts that we provide, chocolates, toiletries, books, toys etc. do not really cater to the basic needs (like food), and that we could spend our money in a more efficient way. But these items are not just material things – to those in need they convey that they are worthy of not just the leftovers of supermarkets, but of a gift that recognizes them as an individual with personal dignity. **Joachim**

Being at the Tafel was again a very enriching experience. The interaction with lots of people was moving, humbling, and, yes, fun! **Angela**



Racial Justice Book Group

Frederick Douglass once wrote that “Once you learn to read, you will be forever free”.

This quote makes me think of my father saying to me that an education is something no one can take away from you; it’s yours. Reading provides the best education. Even in these crazy times right now, I still find a soothing comfort in reading. Although most of the books we read in the Racial Justice Book Group have been heavy and at times downright painful, they have also been incredibly enlightening and thought-provoking. I have not regretted reading any of them. An example of this has been our most recent book *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes.

This is a story about Jerome, a 12-year-old black boy, who has been killed by a white police officer. The book takes us on a journey to understand the life of Jerome before the shooting and his experience of being dead, where he meets the ghosts of other boys, especially Emmett Till, the 14-year-old boy whose death back in 1955 sparked the Civil Rights Movement in America. Jerome also meets Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old African-American fatally shot as a result of systemic racism.

Ghost Boys has been masterfully written for youngsters to be able to examine the themes of systemic racism, telling one’s story, police brutality, bullying, empathy and understanding. She writes at a level that is so on their wavelength and gives them the space to think about the world around them. It is a perfect example of how reading can bring about discussion and hopefully change in people’s lives, no matter how young or old!

Our next zoom meeting will be on Saturday, October 15th at 10:00 when we will be discussing Howard Thurman’s book *Jesus and the Disinherited*.

Jane Scheiring

“Let your heart be more attentive than your head, for the Holy Spirit is love, and to take hold of her, it is more important to love than to understand”

Madeleine Sophie Barat 1779-1865

Behind the Scenes: Music

We take it for granted that we will have hymns, music, will know what that music is and that we will have singing in the worship service. The person who makes sure we have all this is Jeff Leipsic born in Brooklyn, New York, married to Antje and father of Rebecca who is 22, now finishing her second Bachelor degree in Information Management after finishing her first Bachelor in Political Science. He studied Music at the Mannes College of Music in New York earning a Bachelor of Science degree and received his Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut.



He does a lot of work behind the scenes. So what does it involve?

Well, I use The Episcopal Musician's Handbook as my guide. It shows me a choice of hymns for each Sunday, the ones with an asterisk are particularly appropriate for the liturgy. I tended to choose well known favourites in COVID-19 times so that at least members of the congregation could sing along at home and those in church could hum behind their masks. When we sang again, but only two verses, I would have to choose which ones. Because we cannot use the hymn books, hymns are included in the bulletin and so I have to coordinate that with Michael. If an anthem is sung in Latin or another language, I make sure that a translation is included. I choose hymns three months in advance in consultation with the Priest in Charge. I must say that it has, for the most part, been extremely easy working with them and there have been many.

So that is hymns What else do you have to do?

Well, I have to make sure that there is an organist who will play every Sunday. There were many anxious Saturday nights when I didn't know if the promised organist really would be well enough to play. The same went for soloists such as Peter with his brass instruments, singers such as Mitchell, Deirdre, Cathy, Janet, Karen Buck, Lena Petri, Carmen and Rémy among others. Even if it sometimes just meant singing the hymn melodies. When restrictions were lifted and we could have four or eight voices that meant making sure that those agreeing to sing had the music well in advance and then have socially distanced rehearsals in the Gemeindesaal.

This all goes on behind the scenes but what members of the congregation may not know is the huge contribution Jeff made to the life of the church before COVID-19 curtailed them. So let's find out before Jeff goes into a well-deserved retirement. When and why did you first come to Ascension.

I came in 1986 because Steve Sherman sang the praises of the C of A's conductor, Fred Mayer, in the highest possible way. I sang in the tenor section of the choir and was immediately struck by the genius, sincerity and enormous musicality of Fred Mayer, so I stayed. I helped out as conductor on the odd occasion, but it took a while before I was seen as Fred's assistant. One thing that didn't take so long was the formation of the Barber's Shop Quartet of Fred, myself, Paul Millikan and Steve Sherman. This was hugely enjoyable and continued even when members moved or when Fred sadly died. We had many substitute Barbershop singers, even during Fred's active time including Keith Butler and David Schuster. The last version of the quartet saw John Alford singing with us for many years.

And Gilbert and Sullivan. How did that come about?

Because of their enthusiasm for Gilbert & Sullivan, the Munich Savoyards, that is, Deirdre Tincker, Janet Day-Strehlow, Steve Sherman and myself, was founded in 1993. Fred was happy to sing but didn't want the stress of organising it. So organise it we did. Any expenses the church incurred were paid back as a designated donation and any money that came in from the box office went to the church too. We sang Trial by Jury in the church, excerpts from Pirates of Penzance, full blown staged performances of Rudigore, Iolanthe, Patience and H.M.S. Pinafore as well as highlights from five others. We also presented an evening in concert of selections from all of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

We don't sing spirituals now. Any reason for that?

The first rule for a choir director is "You can only choose music that your choir is able to sing." The nature of the choir has changed over the years. In Fred's day he would induce singers – sometimes even offering them free voice lessons in return for singing in our choir on Sunday. More or less every American singer who came to audition in Munich ended up singing in our choir. After the fall of the Berlin Wall and the opening up of the eastern states, opera houses in Munich were no longer employing as many Americans. They could get singers much more cheaply from the east and we could no longer rely on a large supply of aspiring professional singers to support us the way they did when we gave spiritual concerts. We did continue to sing full blown Masses - Haydn, Schubert or Mozart - for a number of years.

Ikon

So when did you take over from Fred?

Seventeen years ago. Fred gave us very little notice of his retirement and announced it in September saying he would be leaving in the following January. At the beginning Michael Prager and I shared conducting duties and at the same time we advertised the position and we interviewed several people, who the choir found rather unsatisfactory. In the end Tom Pellaton, the then Rector, simply asked me to take over. I said I would give it a try and that was seventeen years ago and I have not regretted a minute of it. It has been a joy working with such talented musicians and such devoted, amiable people.

Was taking over from Fred difficult?

Not really because as we have said the choir was changing and I could be part of that change and choose music that suited them and me. Certainly conducting the Messiah was no problem as at the beginning Fred let me conduct two pieces, a short solo and a chorus, each year. So when he stopped, I simply carried on, organising the orchestra and soloists myself.

Everyone knows you for the Messiah sing and helping Janet with the Carol sing, but the liturgy for Good Friday stands out for the congregation.

It stands out for me too, particularly because every single priest I have worked with, without exception, appreciated the contribution that the choir made to worship on that day. There is a special atmosphere to the whole service. Singing César Franck's Seven Last Words on the Cross, for example, was a highly emotional experience, bringing many choir members to tears.

You will stay with us as a welcome tenor I believe.

I will indeed. I will also stay as a tenor in the Munich English Choir and sing at the service at St Otilien, that this year will be conducted by Nick Ukiah.

So what in all this will you miss?

Without a doubt the liturgy on Good Friday. But what I will definitely not miss are the sleepless nights on Saturdays worrying that everything had been done and everyone will turn up to sing in our non-professional choir. I am retiring because I don't want the Sunday by Sunday commitment any more, just as Fred didn't. Rest assured there is no rancour; I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with so many members of both the Choir and the Congregation.

Jeff was talking with Sue Morris.

On my Desert Island

Deirdre Tincker, a cradle Episcopalian, grew up near Boston, Mass and sang in NYC under the direction of Dr. Robert Baker, a founder of the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University. She has been a member of the Church of the Ascension for nearly thirty years.

1. Richard Strauss' "Rosenkavalier" While it is hard to choose just one Strauss opera, this one I can sing along to.
2. Georges Bizet's "Symphony in C" has a wonderful oboe solo in the second movement and I can imagine the New York City Ballet, almost all 100 members on stage for the finale. So sad Bizet never got to hear a performance of his first Symphony.
3. Samuel Barber's "Violin Concerto" because it is so beautiful, poignant, and humorous, and so I can envision Merrill Ashley letting her hair down.
4. Elgar's "Enigma Variations" runs the gamut of emotions.
5. The collected monologues of Ruth Draper so I would never be alone.
6. One more Strauss: "The Four Last Songs" preferably sung by Renée Fleming or Margaret Price.

Luxury: A piano – oh, why not – a grand piano with a piano bench filled with my favorite music, a tuning fork, and a copy of "Piano Tuning for Dummies".

Deirdre is rather stretching the "one luxury" here, but past castaways have done so too, so we are casting a blind eye over it! Ed.



Interview with Maria and Reimar

I talked to Maria and Reimar one evening, and I was happy that they found time after a busy day.

So Reimar you have an unusual name that is often misspelled, including by me. How did that come about?

Reimar: Reimar is a minstrel in one of the poems by the Mittelhochdeutscher (Middle High German) poet Walther von der Vogelweide. My father was an enthusiastic reader of Herr Vogelweige's poems and so he chose it.

And you Maria. I assume that you use your maiden name in your email address, so also an interesting name. Tell us about it.

Maria: It is Italian: My father was born in Italy and immigrated to Canada in his early twenties following one brother and sister who had immigrated in the fifties. My whole name Maria Catarina Sophia Ramadori shows you how Italian I was meant to be. My upbringing was very much Italian. My father would tell lots of stories about work as a labourer in Canada. Then he met my mother who's Canadian.

So did you and do you speak Italian?

My father was one of those immigrants who truly believed we should integrate and so we spoke English at home. He said when in Canada we should speak English or French.

So where were you living in Canada? Montréal?

No, Ontario. So no Italian, no French. I'm now struggling with German. I am self-conscious speaking German but Reimar is very kind. I feel comfortable with him, maybe because when I met him I thought he was English. He has two mother-tongues.

You do indeed speak impeccable English Reimar. How did that come about?

Reimar: I grew up in England and went to a Church of England School in Liverpool where my father was pastor to the German Lutheran congregation.

But you don't have a Liverpool accent.

Reimar: If I dared to speak with a Liverpool accent, I was given 100 lines* and if the



offence was repeated one could even be caned, as that practice still existed when I went to school. We had elocution classes so “correct” pronunciation was very important.

Maria: Reimar even corrects my English pronunciation.

What brought you to Munich?

Reimar: It's all my fault! The long answer is that I sold my soul to the Goethe Institut fifteen years ago. I was posted to Cairo and then my first official posting was to Calcutta in India. That is where we met on a tea plantation in Darjeeling on New Year's Eve, under parental guidance. My parents and Maria's mother met first and then we were introduced and then it started to rain and the rest is history. Our friends joked that this way of meeting was the norm and it would indeed have made a good story for a Bollywood film.

So in the beginning Maria was in Bangalore and I was in Calcutta and then together we went to Seoul in South Korea and we had five very happy years there. We were part of a Lutheran church community and had a very interesting time. From there we went to Istanbul, Turkey and from there we came here. The Goethe institute likes their employees to work a few years at head office to re-connect with Germany. A posting is between four and six years. So when you are up for reposting you are sent a list and can choose where you want to go next. Every posting I have been sent to so far has been the posting of my choice.

Maria: Munich was our choice as we wanted to come back to Germany.

So are you a teacher or an administrator, Reimar?

Reimar: Well I am a musician by training. I studied music and have a degree in teaching music and a Ph.D. in Musicology. My job description is, I suppose, Arts Administrator. I am the head of music at the Goethe Institut.

What does that involve?

Reimar: Well, part of my work is to keep my finger on the pulse of music and what is going on in the area. We may get a phone call from another of the 144 Goethe Instituts asking about a good band or a good musician.

Maria: So it is a great hardship having to go to concerts in Berlin or a jazz festival in Italy or a performance here in Munich and I have to tag along of course.

Reimar: Someone has to do it I suppose. (Lots of laughter here.)

And what do you do, Maria?

Maria: At the moment I don't have a job. I have never had an issue getting a job but it has been very difficult here because of my lack of German it seems. At the moment I'm doing private tutoring. I have just had contact with a neighbour who wants help with academic

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writing. I am still applying for jobs in Munich and Berlin. Munich is an expensive city to live in on one salary and we already have a very small flat in Berlin. I have ESL qualifications for teaching English as a second language but my real love is to teach plays, poetry and novels. I love talking about stories. I also have a Master's in film studies and have taught film before.

So you have had a very varied life. Which posting was the most interesting?

Reimar: They were all interesting in different ways. I had probably the most emotional connection with India. The time in Calcutta reminded me a lot of my childhood in England. It may well have changed now but the remnants of the Raj made me feel comfortable even despite the heart-breaking poverty and the great gulfs in society.

Maria: It's hard to say which was the most interesting because when leaving a place after five years we felt connected with that particular culture. We have been privileged to be able to immerse ourselves in many different cultures and really learn about how people live in other parts of the world. Even in Asia cultures are very different. We met in India so India is very dear to us. But so is South Korea where we got married.

Reimar: We have been privileged to share faith with so many different people. Seoul was wonderful because of the church community we found but there was always tension between North and South.

I got to the point in India where I needed either to accommodate myself to the privilege I had and see through the injustice or leave and then come back. As far as job satisfaction is concerned, I would say that India comes out top as I really felt comfortable immersing myself in the culture and the music.

Maria: I think we both experienced more culture shock moving from India to South Korea, than we did moving from Europe to India. Society is so driven by ambition and I describe it as North America on steroids. Consumerism is everything.

Reimar: India felt very retro, while South Korea seemed more futuristic. It felt like going from the past, directly to the future without stopping in the present.

Maria: On first meeting people in Korea, they can seem very insular and reserved, but when you get to know them you realise they are very warm and welcoming.

What drew you to Ascension?

Maria: When we were living in Istanbul and knew that we would be posted to Munich, Reimar did some research to find an English-speaking Anglican church and then when we were actually here for four days about a year ago now, we went to a service at Ascension and felt very comfortable. It is really important to me that the service is in English and that I can understand the sermons. Even Reimar is more comfortable, for example, saying the Lord's Prayer in English rather than German because of his upbringing.

Reimar: In fact Maria was originally baptised in the Catholic Church.

Maria: But a lot of my values are Protestant and even as a young adult I felt that some things just weren't open for discussion. And that I couldn't accept.

Reimar: And for a Catholic the Anglican liturgy is, of course, familiar.

Maria: So we sort of meet in the middle.

Reimar and Maria you have provided two photos. One that is maybe an unusual one – tell us about it.

Maria: The photo stems from our time in India when we did yoga regularly; we now take a head stand photo from every place we visit. We have about twenty now.

Well thank you for talking to me after a long day fighting with those figures. Enjoy your dinner!



*“100 Lines” would involve writing out a sentence 100 times (or whichever number was specified by the teacher):

I mustn't speak with a Liverpool accent

I mustn't speak with a Liverpool accent

I mustn't speak with a Liverpool accent etc. etc

Reimar and Maria were talking with Sue Morris

Clair's Farewell

On Sunday June 26th the congregation said a final farewell to the Rev. Clair Ullman, Priest Associate of The Church of the Ascension for so many years.



Food and entertainment enjoyed by the young and not so young.





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Golden Girls sang for Clair how she does it God's way.

A fond farewell.



The Photo Studio



Clair's farewell party was certainly a day to remember; one of the highlights was the Photo Studio. Basically, you put on a hat, look through a picture frame and have your photo taken. In the beginning guests were hesitating and had to be coaxed by myself and Jill to come forward for a photo, however within no time young and old were enthusiastically waiting to put on a hat and were ready to pose!

The crowning glory was a magic machine that printed out the photo on the spot so people could take the memory home with them. It doesn't sound very funny but believe me when it comes to British / American humour we can laugh about the most ridiculous things, think about cracker jokes!



Well at Clair's farewell party it was a bit like that! The sillier the hat, the more we laughed! The more serious the person (the men) the more hysterical we became!

So we had a lot of fun. I hope everyone who participated enjoyed it as much as we did and we are looking forward to the next Nostalgic Photo Studio, where we can look even more ridiculous and laugh even more.

Many thanks to Janis Wiedemann for lending her printer and donating the ink and photo paper.

Also to Jill Thomas who ran between studio and printer most of the afternoon.

Liz Wink



Congratulations

To the following people who have had birthdays recently.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| April 4 th | Wendy Mountford |
| April 7 th | Loren Stuckenbruck |
| April 10 th | Carol Adeney |
| April 17 th | Deirdre Tincker |
| April 26 th | Yvonne Cockcroft |
| May 10 th | Kurt Strehlow |
| May 13 th | Nurtac Denton |
| May 17 th | Jill Thomas |
| May 19 th | George Battrick |
| May 21 st | Mary Wulf |
| May 21 st | Anna-Louise Faller |
| May 27 th | Roger Houghton |
| May 29 th | Jeff Leipsic |
| June 16 th | Priscilla Klingl |
| June 18 th | Janis Wiedeman |

To Lloyd Denton and Joachim Zeller who were re-elected to the Vestry.

To Shema Paul and Charlotte Rieger who were elected to the Vestry.

To Paul Houghton and to Anna-Louise Faller who achieved their *Abitur* and to everyone else who was successful in their exams this summer.



Termite Teaser

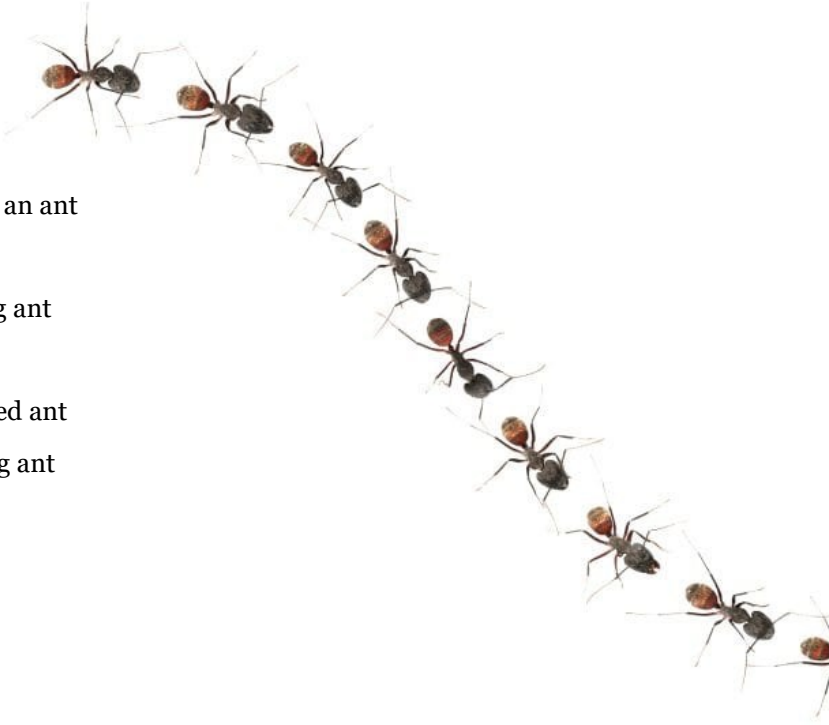
A procession of ants

Here's a quiz about ants, or at least words (nouns, adjectives) that end in *-ant*

e.g. A graceful ant...

Solution: elegant!

- a) A floating ant
- b) A vagabond ant
- c) A plentiful ant
- d) A large beast of an ant
- e) A helpful ant
- f) A clean-smelling ant
- g) An unsure ant
- h) A badly-educated ant
- i) A sweet-smelling ant
- j) A young ant



Answers below

- a) buoyant, b) vagrant (or itinerant), c) abundant, d) elephant
e) assistant (or attendant), f) deodorant, g) hesitant,
h) ignorant, i) fragrant, j) infant

Worship in Nürnberg

Church of the Jakobskirche in downtown Nürnberg
Church of St. James the Less
Jakobsplatz 1
90402 Nürnberg

Please come and join us! We would be honoured to have you worship with us. No matter who you are, or where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome at St. James the Less.

Hygiene rules will, of course, apply due to COVID-19.

We are holding services every second and fourth Sunday at 16:00.

Check our Facebook page to get the latest information: Anglican/episcopal church of St James, the Less.

Our Website is www.st-james-the-less.de

<https://www.facebook.com/stjamesnuremberg/>



Worship in Augsburg

There is a Eucharist every Sunday at 16.30 in the Ev.-Luth. Auferstehungskirche in Augsburg/Hochzoll which is always accessible via Zoom as well.

Information: www.stboniface.de or www.anglican.at
or catharina-ginsel@t-online.de

Mark your calendars for a celebration of 20 years
St. Boniface on Saturday 17th September in the Gemeindesaal from 15.00 to 17.00.

Especially now that there are a large number of Ukrainian refugees in Augsburg, the Augsburg Tafel is requesting extra support in the form of toiletries of any kind and non-perishable food i.e. noodles or tinned soups, tinned vegetables etc. We collect the gifts at church on Sundays and Rev. Lutz takes them to the Tafel on Monday mornings. Rev. Lutz is always happy to stop by your home to collect the gifts in case you can't be in church. Please contact him for further information.

Rev. Lutz celebrated the Eucharist at the Church of the Ascension, Munich on 19th June in the absence of Rev. Dan.



Notes from the Vestry

Two familiar faces were re-elected at the last AGM, namely Lloyd Denton and Joachim Zeller.

We also welcome the following newcomers: Shema Paul and Charlotte Rieger

Shema



I am 28 years old and come from Bangalore in South India (though my family is originally from Kerala). Following our engineering studies back home, my then fiancé (now husband) Rohit and I came to pursue our Master's education at TU Munich in October 2017. I now work at Allianz in Munich, in their Digital Health segment, focusing on Data Protection and Compliance topics for health insurance. Since early in my childhood, I have been an active part of my church (the East Parade Malayalam Pastorate, which falls under the umbrella of the 'Church of South India') in

Bangalore. It has more or less been a second home to me, shaping me in every phase of my formative years - from being a student in Sunday School, the Youth Group and Young Adults group and an active member of the Church Choir - to later being able to give back to these groups by being a Sunday School teacher, Assistant Choir Secretary, Young Adult committee member, vocalist on the worship group and one of the keyboardists for our church services. Above all else, the faithful men and women there helped nurture my faith in my Lord Jesus and led me to develop a personal relationship with Him, for which I will be eternally grateful.

Apart from my dear family, I truly believe that the good seed that the Lord sowed in me through the church has made me who I am today and it has been such a great blessing in my life! Oh, and it was at church that I also met my husband (we undertook many activities together 😊). My personal experiences have led me to believe that the church is vital to a believer's growth and spiritual nourishment. Ascension has been our church away from home these past 4.5 years. I would like to serve this place and it's beautiful and loving people by contributing my mite to the Vestry, especially by being a representative voice for my generation. I hope to learn a lot from all the faithful and experienced people around me. I pray that through this service, I will get to know and serve even more members of our congregation and that I will grow and mature more every day.

Charlotte

Hi! My name is Charlotte, I'm 19 years old and I study mathematics at the TU in Munich. I have been attending Church of the Ascension since November and found a new spiritual home here in this community. As I immediately felt like I belonged when I first visited Church of the Ascension I would like to contribute so that other people can feel this incredible welcoming spirit as well. I also participated in the Lenten program of discovering our identity as Anglicans and as a community. I enjoyed our discussions during these sessions and would like to continue this journey of community building.



This is why I want to serve on the Vestry and offer my gifts for the community to help us grow together in Christ.

So the whole Vestry looks like this:

Janet Day-Strehlow (Senior Warden)
George Battrick (Junior Warden)
Angela Schneider (Clerk of the Vestry)
Donald Adewale
Rémy Bethmont
Lloyd Denton
Jeanne Glenz
Sue Morris
Susanne Moskopf
Shema Paul
Charlotte Rieger
Joachim Zeller

Coming Events

Some (or all!) of these must be just what you are looking for:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bible Study | 22 July |
| Art & Faith | 28 July |
| Education for Ministry | 06 September start |
| Women's Book Discussion | 10 September |
| Installation of Rector Emeritus | 11 September |
| Golden Girls: Salzburg | 17 September |
| The Sanctuary Course | 26 September start |
| The Alpha Course | 27 September start |
| Women's Retreat | 30 September to 02 October |
| Racial Justice Book Discussion | 15 October |
| Women's Book Discussion | 12 November |

For more details see the weekly Announcements and/or visit the Calendar within the CoA Website.



Answers to the Flags Quiz

1) India, 2) Norway, 3) Brazil, 4) Nigeria, 5) Wales, 6) Egypt, 7) Canada, 8) Sweden, 9) Greece, 10) Romania, 11) Russia, 12) Turkey, 13) Italy, 14) Uruguay, 15) Germany, 16) Ethiopia, (not the current flag but the first flag that was attributed to Ethiopia), 17) Philippines, 18) Latin Vulgate: In the time of the Roman Republic the Standards were imprinted with the letters SPQR which was the abbreviation for Senatus Populusque Romanus (Senate and People of Rome)

Emmauskirche

George Battrick and Steve Knowles have had a very convivial meeting with Pastor Lay and Pastor Nugel about the possibility of sharing certain cabling used by the tech teams. This is, at present, unfortunately not possible as cabling used by Emmauskirche is intended for YouTube whereas we are using Zoom.

Talks are ongoing so watch this space!

George Battrick



Closing Words

- Seen at Stansted Airport: **All perfume 20% off!**
Passenger: I wonder what perfume smells like when it is 20% off!
- Mother to child: “Don’t take food from other’s plates. It’s rude.”
Child: “But I like rude!”
- Grandmother to granddaughter: “Those flowers are called begonias”
Granddaughter: “Yes, we have some little onias at home.”
(From my niece many years ago!)

Laughter does you good and so the editorial team and the Vestry wish everyone a laughter-filled, relaxing, hot but not too hot, summer.

Sue

Imprint / Impressum

Editor: Sue Morris
Assistant Editor: Mitchell Woodard
Layout: Roger Houghton

Please help us to fill the magazine with the life of the church and send any ideas or contributions for the next issue of **lkon** to the editor for consideration: sue.morris@web.de

Please note ...
if you want to have anything announced during the church service or in the bulletin, you will need to first run it past the Senior Warden, Janet Day-Strehlow.

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Back Numbers

You can find all the previous issues of the **lkon** on our website at:
<https://www.ascension-munich.org/parish-magazine>



The Church of the Ascension is an Anglican/Episcopal Church in the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

We extend a warm welcome to all!

Our Purpose and Mission

We offer worship in English, serving Greater Munich and the surrounding area. We welcome people of all nationalities to join our community and share in our journey towards a deeper knowledge of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

We seek to:

- Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed
- Celebrate God through beautiful and meaningful worship
- Minister to one another through worship, fellowship, Christian education and pastoral care
- Care for people in the wider community through outreach projects, both alone and together with others.