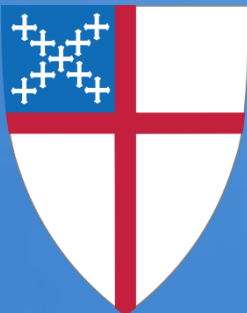
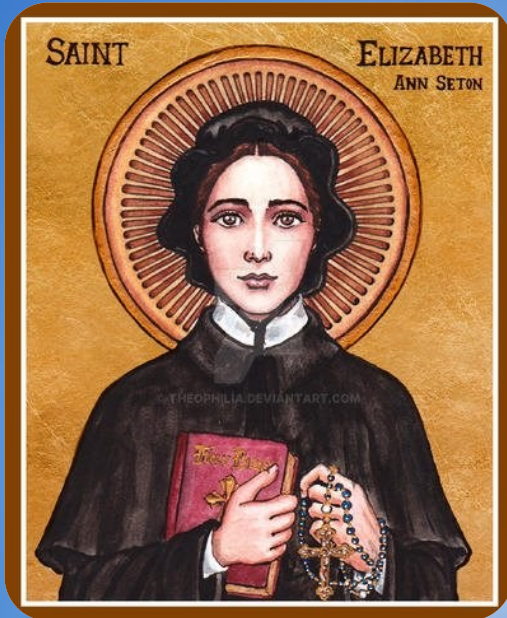


Winter 2021

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

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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*”

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Editorial

When trying to find an icon to grace the cover of this magazine I began thinking of new beginnings and have chosen Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, who is honoured with a Lesser Feast in the liturgical calendar of the Episcopal Church of America on January 4th. Although officially the patron saint of Catholic schools, seafarers and widows, she is sometimes remembered because through her life and work she showed how new beginnings brought her new challenges and new joy. We are grateful that we have a new challenging beginning now that we have Dan and Teresa amongst us. Welcome to them and anyone who is reading the **ikon** for the first time.

Many of the usual items appear: Behind the Scenes – in this edition we say thank you to the Tech Team, the Letter from the Priest in Charge, the interview, a new slant on Outreach, Ascension Recipe, On my Desert Island and news from the Vestry and from Emmauskirche. There is also an interesting report on this year's Convocation Convention. In this edition we have a little festive spirit and I am particularly happy about two items. Firstly that we have an article about two of our super loyal organists who have ensured we always have music even during pandemic times and secondly that we have contributions from the younger generation about being a Sanitäter and being a lover of the guitar.

This is where I need Kitchener's poster: "Your country needs you." Well the **ikon** needs you too. You don't have to be a budding writer or editor of a glossy magazine to be welcome to the team. You could keep your eye on what events are planned and make up that page for the **ikon**; you could find out who has birthdays or other things to celebrate and

ask their permission to print them on the Congratulations page; You could help us with copyright enquiries. Also please don't wait to be asked to write something, don't think it is only the others who have something to say.

On British television there is a quiz programme called "Only Connect" that airs on Monday evening, that is quiz evening. A team has to establish connections between seemingly unconnected items be they words, pictures or pieces of music. I fail most of the time. So I leave you with a challenge.

What is the connection between the following?

leaf, moon, broom, blood, ball game, lease of life...

Still guessing? Well let me make it easy by finishing with:

The editorial team wishes you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy ----- Year!

Peace

Sue



Letter from the Priest in Charge

Dear Church of the Ascension Family,

Teresa and I are so excited to celebrate our first Christmas here at the Church of the Ascension. You all have welcomed us so warmly. Your words of encouragement have warmed our hearts. Your invitations to lunch and coffee have gladdened our spirits. Your housewarming gifts have shown great hospitality. But most of all, You - you all are truly a gift to us. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

This time of year there's a lot of talk about gifts. We all know the joy of giving and receiving that special something from that special someone. Gifts are, when given with the right attitude and in the right proportion, a sign of love.

This love is seen most evidently in the gift of God giving God-self at Christmas. When Jesus came to Earth, born of the Virgin Mary, God was entering humanity in a real and profound way. It is as if God was teaching us that we are good, we are worthy, we are loved, we are more than enough.

The mystery of Christmas is that God has chosen to forever unite the spiritual and the physical. There is no sacred/secular divide. The incarnation is a sign that God loves creation enough to be created, to be formed in the womb, and cared for by earthly parents. Christmas is a sign of the eternal blessing of creation, eternal

good will and eternal "chosen-ness." We can't get away from our goodness and spiritual blessedness no matter how hard we try! What an incomparable gift of love! In fact, I view my ministry here at the Church of the Ascension as essentially one of reminding all of us of our "belovedness" in Christ. This love is a gift of profound and inestimable meaning.

The only way to respond to such a gift is gratitude. When we live in gratitude, we realize that we are blessed to be a blessing. Christmas means so much more when we realize that God has given God-self to the world and that we are another of God's gifts to the world through Christ.

This year I encourage you to give that gift, to be that gift and to share your giftedness. Just remember, all who we encounter are also gifts and also gifted. Look for the gift of Christ in them, celebrate the gift of Christ in yourself, and give the gift of Christ's love to others.

Merry Christmas Blessings,



Dan+

Covid: A Letter from the Clergy and Wardens

Dear Church of the Ascension Members and Friends

The priests and wardens have been discussing our response to the fourth coronavirus wave. We recognize that the situation is serious, but we also recognize that it is different from previous waves, when going fully online was the obvious next step because almost no one was vaccinated.

We also acknowledge that there are downsides to each of the possible courses of action that we might take. We could go completely online. But this option disenfranchises those who have no or poor computer access, and those who are fully vaccinated and are keen to take the risk of meeting together. Further, Church services are specifically excluded from the increased legal restrictions, and are considered places with a lower risk of transmission of virus.

On the other hand, we could insist on 3G, but this would actually have limited impact on the likelihood of people spreading Covid, since those who are fully vaccinated can still carry and spread the virus. Those who are not yet fully vaccinated are at risk of catching the virus from the rest of the congregation, and we would encourage them to get vaccinated, and to consider attending church online for their own health. Requiring tests from all who attend the service would be possible, but it would be logistically challenging to check these, and might be interpreted as unwelcoming to have to turn people away.

On balance, following consideration, discussion and prayer we have decided to take a few intermediate steps.

First, we feel it is appropriate for the Church of the Ascension to suspend Coffee Hour until further notice, and to continue with in person services for those who wish to attend. This step will eliminate the activity with the most risk, i.e. eating/drinking with masks down.

We will also continue to follow all the established hygiene regulations. In worship, there will be no choir, but there will be a hymn leader(s) guiding our humming (singing online) from the balcony. There is no pressure to attend in-person church, but all are welcome to do so. Those who are due to take a role in the service and no longer feel comfortable/safe should let their rota organizer know. All those who wish to join the Zoom congregation will be very welcome.

Please know that we believe the measures we have taken mitigate risk in the most responsible manner. Following our guidelines, gathering for worship, unless you are immunocompromised, remains a relatively low-risk activity.

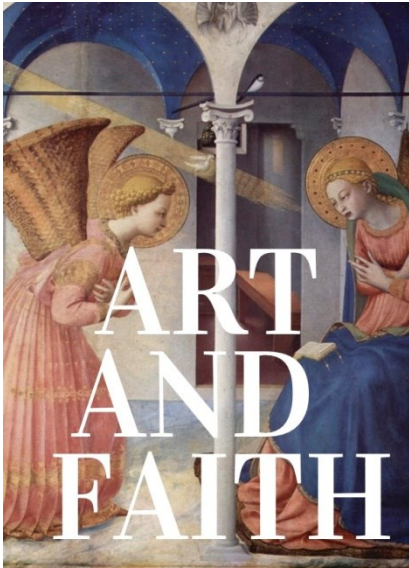
We do, however, feel like we should take all appropriate action to keep all of us safe and sound. Our guiding principle, as always, is the great commandment to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we navigate these difficult times rife with difficult decisions. You remain in our prayers always.

In Christ,

The Clergy and Wardens of the Church of the Ascension

For more information please review:

- This summary of the new rules in English
<https://www.muenchen.de/int/en/events/corona-virus-current-rules-regulations.html>
- The amended law, in German
<https://www.verkuendung-bayern.de/baymbl/2021-816/> see Para 4(8)



A new group is being started for those interested in the intersection between the arts and the life of faith. This group will meet monthly at a local museum to share our thoughts about an artwork and discuss a timely theme. This coming month we will be meeting on December 14th at the Alte Pinakothek at 18.00 hours. The theme will be Advent in Art. Because the museum has limited the group size please register with Fr. Dan by emailing him at revdanmorrow@gmail.com.

The Museum requires that all visitors be vaccinated or recovered and to have a negative test (24hrs for quick test or 48 for PCR) (2G+). We are also required to wear a mask. Please visit this site for information about admission prices:

<https://www.pinakothek.de/tickets>

Every Perfect Gift

As Lois explained on 7th October, this year's Financial Commitment Campaign goes under the heading of Every Perfect Gift from the book of James.

When you read this the campaign will be over, but gratitude will persist. To help us remember that gratitude, here is the resource that was written with the Church of the Ascension in mind.

May prayer bring you peace.



Priest: In gratitude for all we have received, every perfect gift that comes from God above, we gather to offer our intentions, petitions, and thanksgivings to God.

Leader: We pray for the Church, founded on the gift of your Word, and for all who gather to worship, praise, and work. Pour your blessings on Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, Presiding Bishop, Mark, our Bishop in Europe, and our clergy and leadership.

May we who witness Your saving acts in the world, be ever grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Response: *Which comes from God above.*

Leader: We pray for the world, one of your greatest Gifts to us, and the gift of all Creation. We pray for the welfare of our planet, and for the wise stewardship of our world. Bless and guide all leaders and those in authority around the world. We pray especially for those who are in the process of forming the next coalition government here in Germany, for our current chancellor Angela Merkel, our legislative and judicial institutions, and the members of our local government. May they always care for the people they represent and work for peace and justice. I invite your prayers for our world, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

May we who witness your power in the world, be ever grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Response: *Which comes from God above.*

Leader: We pray for the work of our church in the world, in particular our outreach and mission initiatives to the Soup Kitchen and the Münchener Tafel. As we enter this season of intention and focus on the gifts that we give, inspire us to be generous with our time, our talent, and our treasure.

Ikon

May we who witness the impact of our gifts in our community be grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Response: *Which comes from God above.*

Leader: We pray for our neighbors and all who need or request our prayers. We remember the sick, the lonely, the suffering; those oppressed domestically or abroad and those in prison; for all who give care and comfort to those in need; for the poor and those who sleep on our streets; for those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts. [Add names here]. We pray for those whose needs are known to you alone.

May we who witness your healing in the world, be grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Response: *Which comes from God above.*

Leader: We pray for our very own Church of the Ascension and thank you for your faithfulness towards us through these challenging past few years. Your perfectly timed gifts, in the form of people and resources, have enabled us to be gift givers ourselves. We pray that we may be examples to those around us and beacons of your goodness.

May we who witness your gracious leading in the world, be grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Response: *Which comes from God above.*

Leader: We pray for those who have died. May they rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them. We pray for [names], and for those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

May we who witness your eternal love in the world, be grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Response: *Which comes from God above.*

Leader: It is impossible to number the blessings we have received, the many gifts that we have been given and those we share with the world. We especially thank you for the greatest gift you have given us, Your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ through whom we have salvation.

May we who witness your gifts at work in the world, be grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Response: *Which comes from God above.*

Priest: With grateful hearts we thank you, Abundant God, for hearing the faithful prayers of your people, granting them grace and love and blessings for Every Perfect Gift.

Response: *Amen*

Helping People Live Generously

Convocation News

The 110th Annual Convention of the Convocation of the Episcopal Churches in Europe 2021.

October 21-23, 2021 in Nice, France and Online via WHOVA and ZOOM

In 2020, the Convention was entirely online for the first time ever due to the lockdowns to control the outbreak of COVID-19. This year because the travel and health issues were not entirely known at the time of preparation, the decision was taken to attempt this year's convention as a hybrid one. Not only



that, the Bishop would like future conventions to also be held in hybrid form so that anyone who cannot otherwise travel can still take part in the convention.

Steve Knowles and I were once again the lay delegates at the convention on behalf of Church of the Ascension. We both attended virtually. The attendance in general was about an 80/20 split with 80% being in person and 20% being online.

The main complaint about the 2020 convention was that being entirely online as mostly a webinar kept the attendees from being able to socialize with each other and share experiences, joys and concerns. To address this problem this year the Digital Ministry Team added the platform WHOVA. This added another element to the convention and allowed for those present and those online to interact with each other privately or as groups during the convention. It took a bit for all of us to learn how it worked, and there were some internet connection issues, but it was definitely a huge step forward from the 2020 convention.

The normal annual reports from the various committees and ministries were presented. We also had updates from the various task forces from last year: Climate and Creation Care; Racism, Reconciliation, and Beloved Community; Children and Youth; and Migrants and Refugees. The elections for new members to the Council of Advice (Bishop's Vestry) were held. David Case was elected President of the Council, and I was elected to my first term as a council member.

The hybrid element to this year's convention allowed once again for small group discussions.

Ikon

Bishop Mark gave the small groups a challenge to imagine where the church in Europe could be in 1, 3 and 10 years' time with the focus on listening intently to each other and our communities. These discussions resulted in resolutions of action on how to become a 'missional church' instead of an 'attractional church'.

To understand the difference, you will want to watch the Bishop's Address video on the Convocation website (highly recommended!). <http://www.tec-europe.org/convocation/who-we-are/our-bishop-the-rt-rev-mark-dw-edington/sermons/convention-address-2021-our-coming-in---and-our-going-out/>

The Convocation Budget has ended in a healthy surplus due to the lack of travel, and a generous grant from the Board of Foreign Parishes. It is the intention of the Convocation to continue the practice of travel reduction – to be responsible with the budget in the era of Zoom, but also in response to the call to change habits for the sake of Climate and Creation Care. As a result of the important work done by the task force on Children and Youth, the convocation has appointed not one, but two Children and Youth Coordinators – as paid part-time positions.

The Convocation also intends to continue giving grants to the churches for digital ministry needs. All churches in the convocation pay a percentage of their income to the Bishop's office to cover the central expenses of the convocation. This amount was reduced by 5% during the lockdowns of 2020, and kept that way for 2021. They will remain reduced for 2022 also.

We had a speech from a Guest Speaker, the Most Rev. Ian Ernest, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Personal Representative to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome. He reminded us that people are our greatest asset. But my favorite takeaway from his speech was "God is the God of surprises. God surprises you at all times." I am looking forward to His next surprise!

Lois Stuckenbruck



Interview with Dan and Teresa

After a busy day when Archdeacon Walter Baer was at the morning worship Dan and Teresa found time to talk to me, only occasionally interrupted by squeaks from a toy Melba was playing with or by Miles with erect tail walking in front of the camera.

You spent the last few weeks before your arrival saying goodbye to your families. Tell us where you grew up and about your families.



Teresa: I was born and raised on the coast of North Carolina on a marine corps base. My dad is in the military and my parents still live there. I have two brothers and I am the middle child and between these brothers we have eight nieces and nephews which is great fun.

Dan: I grew up in Tulsa Oklahoma right above Texas and my dad is a retired pastor. He was the music pastor at the church and is still very involved with the music. He has a very good southern gospel style voice. My mother is a retired teacher. I have two brothers, also teachers, who are teaching at the high school that we graduated from. My little brother teaches history and my twin brother teaches physics and math.

Are you very close as a twin?

Dan: Yes. We talk all the time over Zoom and FaceTime.

Teresa: Sometimes they call each other and they are doing the same things. Like when they were both chopping wood!

Dan: On my side we have altogether four nieces so we have bought a lot of princess toys over the last few years.

You have been out of parish ministry for a while, Dan. What did being the Canon for Congregational Life and Mission involve?

Dan: In the British context it's an Archdeacon, in the American it goes by many names: Canon for the Ordinary, in our diocese it was Cannon for Congregational Life and Mission. I was one of the chief administrators in the diocese, kind of the bishop's right hand guy, to advise and help carry out her mission and vision. I did all the congregational development in the diocese, helping congregations thrive and move through change and transition. So if a congregation needed a new priest I was involved in that process. I helped churches work through conflict in a constructive way. When Covid struck I was in charge of the

committees set up to address the church's response to the crisis. Pre-Covid I visited all the sixty-six worshipping communities in my five years.

So was he away a lot, Teresa?

Teresa: Yes. We had a very strange schedule because the earliest I would get off work would be 11 pm and I sometimes worked till 2 am and on night shifts. Then he was gone maybe for two days a week.

So was this a negative aspect of the job?

Dan. Well I liked the travel. It was beautiful country to drive through and I enjoyed meeting people in person. Travel could, however, be burdensome when you drive four hours to have a one-hour meeting and then drive four hours back.

You have now taken on a parish again. So what did you miss about not having one while you were working for the diocese?

Dan: I think what I missed the most was having the more developed deeper relationships that you have in a parish. I knew a dozen or so people in every parish as I was working with vestries, but I didn't know them very well. I was no-one's pastor. I didn't have a pastoral relationship with anyone. I didn't baptize any babies. I didn't do funerals or get to care for families in tragedy. I only did a couple of weddings as a fill in. I worked for and with the best bishop I have ever met, but I missed not being involved in the rhythm of a parish over the church year. I missed the love and the care you develop with people in a community. In a parish you help a church to flourish and you see the work happening on the ground. In a diocese you go in and you do your thing and you leave. I wanted to go back to a parish, but not any parish. This is where we feel God sent us.

So back to a parish and back to Europe. You have already worked in parishes in Europe. How did you enjoy that?

Teresa: I had never been to Europe at all before we lived in Zurich. I had to get a passport to go to Europe. Everything was incredibly new and exciting. The church was a beautiful ancient one. We worked together with the Sunday school and with the youth group. We were newlyweds and it was my first time experiencing life as a priest's wife. So that was interesting. (Funny stories were mentioned! Ask her to tell you some when you know her better!) It was a learning process and I really enjoyed it, but I had some visa problems and had to return to the States a couple of times. That was hard. You grow as a person when you experience something like this so we felt called to come back.

And was the fact that you ended up here in Munich at all influenced by your exposure to the German language?

Teresa: Certainly for me it was. My language skills are not as good as those of Dan. I know a little Spanish and because of my experience in Zurich German wasn't a terrifying thought. I will need classes but I know I can learn German.

Dan: My experience with a youth group in Paris means that I can speak French like a teenager from the early 2000s. I can speak French better than I can speak German. I can get by. I attended B1 classes eleven years ago. Since then I have forgotten a lot and only spoken a little on vacation in Austria, Switzerland and Germany. The good news is that I can understand a lot; I can talk to people at the grocery store or to the neighbors, but I will not be giving any philosophical lectures any time soon. What happens at the moment is that I stop to think about what I am going to say and in that time they say “Oh you speak English.” I really appreciate it sometimes and sometimes I’d just rather muddle through. We are looking forward to German classes in the new year either at the Volkshochschule or the Goetheinstitut.

We have heard a lot about Dan’s job. What do you do Teresa?

I have a degree in clinical laboratory science and that is just a term that means I work in clinical settings, so hospitals mostly, in any kind of laboratory whether it is microbiology, haematology, transfusion medicine, chemistry. In transfusion medicine for example before you can have a blood transfusion your blood is collected and tested to make sure that you do not have antibodies, which are possibly formed after exposure to foreign cells after previous transfusions or pregnancies. We need to know this in order to find blood that is compatible for the transfusion. We also had a donor center so people could come and donate their blood. I enjoy that. I also love microbiology and I spent many years working in the field of what we call molecular microbiology, an example would be Covid testing. I’ve been a lab scientist for exactly twenty years now and what I have found here so far is that my language needs to be at B1 or B2 level if I want to work in a hospital. I’m giving myself time to look around and see what the options are in Munich. I know there are some English master’s programmes that are health-care related, so I might want to look into that but my priority at the moment is learning German.

It seems to me that in Covid times your skills are ones that will be really needed.

Teresa: Certainly. In the States there are shortages of laboratory scientists so it would be great if someone could work with me to get my German up to speed.

You mentioned shift work earlier. I somehow don’t think of this in connection with a laboratory.

Teresa: Well a laboratory never closes! Gunshot wounds, car accidents, heart attacks can happen at any time.

Of course! But let’s move on to more pleasant things. What do you like doing in your free time?

Dan: We have always enjoyed hiking together and one of the main reasons why we have been to Munich several times is to go to the museums. We’re both really big art lovers and the museums here are great.

Teresa: He loves the Lenbachhaus.

Ikon

Dan: We both listen to music and I like to play guitar and mandolin.

Teresa. I think Covid has made me more of an introvert than I already was. I am quite happy to go outside for a walk with the dog and then to read a good book. I used to dabble in painting and a lot of craft things, so I hope to get back to doing that. I'm getting excited that I will be able to get involved in parish life again that didn't happen when Dan was travelling.

Dan: We are also foodies in the sense that we like to explore different kinds of food.

Teresa: That is because we lived in Oregon and it was renowned for its food and we got to like trying new things.

I believe your kitchen is installed apart from the dishwasher so you can experiment with food and your settling in can continue, but how are Melba the dachshund and Miles the tabby cat?

Dan: They are not at all nervous any more. In Pennsylvania we lived in a purpose-built block on the second floor. Now we live in a house and it is exciting for Miles to look out of so many windows! He didn't come downstairs for the first couple of days until he got his bearings. We have never had a garden and so we have been letting him out there and he loves it. Melba is queen of all she surveys.

Teresa: She is spoiled so has felt happy from the day she arrived.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

The thing I would say is I invite people to reach out. I will reach out too but if people just want to have a conversation that is what I am here for. I hope people won't feel too reserved or shy about getting in touch if they want someone to pray with them or if they want to run their thoughts past someone else. I don't want anyone to feel that they should leave me alone or treat me with kid gloves because I am new. I want to get to know people. I am here to be their priest and I like being their priest. We sometimes don't want to bother the priest. Well I want to be bothered.

It should be noted here that Friday is Dan's day off and also Saturday if there is nothing going on at church, when he should only be bothered in an emergency.

Dan: As soon as we get my cell phone sorted out I will publish the number and times when I can be found at the office. I will also set up times when I get out and see people.

Teresa: I just want to say it has been amazing how welcoming everyone has been when we got here jet-lagged. Everything we needed was already here and it was so thoughtful. Thank you.

It was a pleasure talking to you and we are all very happy you are here. Thank you.

Sue Morris

Feast of Saint Teresa of Calcutta

As supporting the Missionaries of Charity in their work at the soup kitchen in Munich is an important part of outreach at the Church of the Ascension, Liz Wink went along to the celebrations on 4th September 2021.

I always feel that no country can compete with the pomp and glory that takes place in Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace!

However, the atmosphere in St. Margaret's church in Munich on Saturday evening September 4th 2021 rivalled such ceremony. St Margaret's is a Baroque church 'a jewel' filled with wonderful lamps, beautiful sculptures and paintings. The Mass in honour of Saint Teresa of Calcutta was led by Cardinal Marx in his glorious vestments. He was surprisingly friendly; took his mitre off and came down from the pulpit for the sermon in order to be close to his congregation - very informal.

It was a perfect setting: The smell of incense from the censers swung by the acolytes filled the church; the organ played; the choir sang and finally the procession came down the aisle, the cardinal's mitre again in place. The pomp and glory was complete!



Myself, I prefer the simplicity of our church, it's an atmosphere that for me cannot be replaced. I wonder too how comfortable Saint Teresa of Calcutta would have felt, as I imagine her working in a wooden shack or on the streets helping the poor and needy.

The contrast between pomp and simplicity was a unique experience that I will fondly remember for a long time.

This is an annual event which everyone is invited to. It is published in the bulletin.

Liz Wink

Often Heard but Seldom Seen

Upstairs at Ascension, sometimes things are liable to get dramatic. You might have heard. We happen to be incredibly blessed with some truly amazing musicians at the organ. I asked two of them a few questions about their time with us. A few words from **Gudrun Forstner** and **Michael Prager**:

Gudrun: First Call

It was Christmas '95 or '96, and I was still doing my student teaching. A colleague of mine asked me if I had time on Christmas Eve for a church service. Because I had just quit a full-time job as an organist, no one knew that I was available. That was my first time at Ascension.



What keeps you coming back?

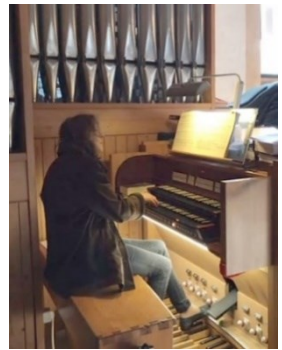
I was raised by my parents to believe that if you can do something and other people need you to do that, you should make yourself useful. Even if you prefer to sleep late, if you are needed at the crack of dawn for a church service, you get up and play. For me, this is just how I am. The other aspect is the creativity and high quality of the music made at Ascension. Everyone is very friendly and kind; I feel that I am genuinely welcomed by the church.

The atmosphere at Ascension is good. I enjoy that.

How did you become an organist?

When I was 8 or 9, I had been doing some musical afternoon activities with my sister at a retirement home - we sang, and played a bit of piano. In Kelheim, at our church, we had five services a weekend, and sometimes there was no organist to be found. The priest asked my parents if one of their musical daughters would like to learn organ to fill in sometimes. I was the middle sister, and he figured I could learn enough to play for them before I left home.

My dad knew a young priest nearby who, as a student, had helped his parents on their hops farm who could play a bit of organ. I was already a bit too advanced for his limited abilities after



just a few lessons. My father called the organist at the Cathedral, Eberhard Kraus, repeatedly, and he finally consented to hear me audition. He consented to take me on till he found another teacher for me, but after just a few months, he decided to keep me as a student. That is how I came to the organ; as a practical, on-demand substitute at 10 years old.

What should the parishioners know about you?

Perhaps the question should be, what should they under no circumstance find out?? In the church I grew up in, playing a service was something everyone was expected to be able to do. I was lucky to be able to read music easily, and accompany easily. When you accompany a congregation, you often have to sense their tempo, adjust and keep up. You have to be flexible and pay attention to what's going on in the mass. I like to improvise, so I don't have to plan much. Sometimes it works really well, but I don't know what is going to happen 10 seconds beforehand. I don't really have to prepare for a mass, unless there is something especially tricky.

oooo



Michael: First call

After Easter 1984, I received a phone call from a certain Mary Jane Matheny. She had learned that I had just quit a church position in Pasing. She explained shortly what CoA was all about and asked me if I would be able to substitute as organist for 2-3 Sunday Eucharists.

What keeps you coming back?

I considered this interesting enough to give it a try. After getting acquainted with this very special semi-professional choir and its fabulous leader Fred Mayer, and seeing that I was able to apply my practice of hymn and anthem accompaniment that I had brought back from my studies in USA better than ever before, I saw my way clear to come back whenever requested.

I carried on for 24 more years.

Ikon

The various pastors, the international nature of the congregation and the choir, and the deep appreciation for the treasures of sacred music kept me there for all that time, despite my numerous other musical activities. Even after the retirement of Fred and the fulfillment of his legacy, that spirit kept me close.

How did you become an organist?

My family background, especially one of my aunts being a professional singer, voice teacher and soloist for church and oratorio repertoire, kept me close to classical music from early childhood on. During vacation times, I had my first organ lessons. Later on, I earned my diploma in music education in Munich, a diploma in choral conducting in Frankfurt, and a post graduate conducting scholarship in California / USA.



By that time, I had developed a strong inclination towards choral conducting. While I carried on with organ practice, resulting even in regular recital appearances between 1976 and 1984, I in fact never earned an organ concert diploma! But my work at CoA kept me in practice, and only on rare occasions did I work with the CoA Choir as a conductor.

What else would you like to tell the parishioners?

Please carry on with your great appreciation for church music - in words and also in deeds!

oooo

Thank you, Gudrun and Michael, for your time, your beautiful music, your presence and your friendship!

Making music with you is such a great pleasure!

Mitchell Woodard

[We hope to hear from another loyal organist Nick Uriah in the next edition! Ed]

A good conscience is continual Christmas
Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790

Behind the Scenes: The Tech Team

We have now got used to hybrid services and are grateful for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes both on Zoom and in physical church. But do we really know what all this hard work means and have we ever considered how many people find their way to the service thanks to them?

Members of the Tech Team tell us what is involved:

Those who are Zoom co-ordinators:

- have strong nerves
- maintain a sense of humour when internet or sound issues occur
- accept complaints and continue
- coordinate with the team in church before the service to check that the sound is coming from and going to where it needs to
- check who is in the waiting room and admit them as soon as possible
- make sure that members of the Zoom congregation stay muted during the service unless they are reading
- record the service
- follow the action in church via the two or three cameras for the benefit of the Zoom congregation and the recording
- organise breakout rooms to keep our fellowship going.

Those in physical church:

- arrive well before the service is due to start
- transport and carry everything necessary into church
- set up the camera/microphone at the lectern
- mount mobile phones on tripods and position them as the altar and organ loft cameras

Ikon

- cover all the cables
- connect and place a projector so that participants in the Zoom space can be seen in church
- arrange for Zoom contributors to the liturgy to be audible in church
- pray that everything works
- clear everything away.

Some members of the team are on duty most if not all Sundays in a month. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who gives their time in this way. Anyone who might think about joining the team would be welcomed with open arms. You do not need to be an IT expert to join. Anyone who is willing to carry items into church, help set up and clear away afterwards is needed. Contact one of the team.

Some members of the team serve in both capacities but normally the team is as follows:

On Zoom: Rémy Bethmont, Carol Forester, Deirdre Tincker, Jo Westcombe.

In church: Lateef Adawele, George Battrick, David Case, Steve Knowles, Sue Knowles, Kurt Strehlow.



Ascension Recipes: Oatmeal Cookies

Yield: 2 dozen.

Prep time: 15 Minutes. Baking time: 16 Minutes.

Total time: 31 Minutes

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (120g) all-purpose flour
- ¾ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 165g butter softened but still slightly cool
- 1 cup (200g) granulated sugar
- ¼ cup (50g) light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2½ cups (225g) old-fashioned rolled oats

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Adjust an oven rack to the middle position and heat the oven to 350 degrees (180°C). Line large, rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.
3. In a large bowl (of a stand mixer or with a handheld electric mixer), beat the butter, granulated sugar and brown sugar together until just combined, about 20 seconds. Increase the mixer speed to medium and continue to beat until light and fluffy, about 1 minute longer.
4. Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. Add the egg and vanilla and beat on medium-low until well mixed, about 30 seconds.

Ikon

5. Scrape down the sides of the bowl again. Add the flour mixture and mix until barely incorporated, 10-20 seconds. It's ok if there are a few dry spots.
6. You can also add dried fruit or nuts – currants or raisins or blueberries, or chopped walnuts or for a special treat, macadamias. If so wished add them now and stir.
7. Gradually add the oats and mix until well-combined, about 30 seconds to 1 minute. If needed, give the dough a final stir with a wooden spoon to ensure that no flour pockets remain and that the ingredients are evenly distributed.
8. Scoop out about 2 tablespoon-sized mounds of dough and roll them to form balls. Place the cookies about 2 ½ inches apart on the baking sheet(s) - about 8 cookies per sheet. They will spread quite a bit.
9. Bake 1 sheet of cookies at a time until the cookies are golden brown, edges are crisp, and centers are still very slightly soft, 13 to 16 minutes. Cooling the cookies completely on the baking sheet will yield crispier, more perfect cookies.

Clair Ullmann

“Part of the secret of success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside.”

Mark Twain, 1835-1910

“Tis an ill cook that cannot lick his own fingers.”

William Shakespeare, 1564 -1616 from Romeo and Juliet



Christmas Carol Quiz

We all love singing Carols – witness the numbers that come to the Christmas Carol Sing that can sadly not take place this year.

The melodies are very familiar, but are all the words? The following come from traditional carols. Do you know which ones? Answers on page 37. Don't cheat!

1. Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation!
2. Be near me lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me for ever and love me, I pray;
3. Good news of greatest joy I bring
to you and all mankind.
4. At Bethlehem they entered in,
on bended knee they worshipped him;
5. While mortals sleep the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
6. The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
7. -ox and ass before him bow
and he is in the manger now!
8. God with us is now residing:
see, there shines the infant light!
9. Hail, O ever-blessed morn;
hail redemption's happy dawn;
10. –glory streams form heaven afar
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,



Congratulations

To the Hladek family on the birth of a daughter Cella Maya in September. The picture shows her with big sister Una who was five on 15th November.



Congratulations also to Rhyssa Graef on the birth of daughter Lilia on 26th November.

To those who had Birthdays in September that were not included in the autumn edition

Jane Scheiring 25th

Steve Knowles 28th

To those with October birthdays

Penny Dite 17th

Susanne Moskopf 24th

Janet Day-Strehlow 24th

Rainer Ullmann 31st

To those with November birthdays

Jeanne Glenz 10th

Paul Houghton 12th

Una Hladek 15th

To those with December birthdays

Clair Ullmann 2nd

To those with Wedding anniversaries

Lloyd and Nurtac Denton 4th October

To the new members of the vestry

Donald Adewale, Rémy Bethmont, Susanne Moskopf

(Read more about them on Page 38)

On my Desert Island...

The first of this month's castaways is **Barbara Norman**.

A former employee at the European Patent Office Barbara is now retired and, amongst other things, teaches English at the Sozial-psychiatrisches Zentrum. She has been a member of our church choir for many years and also chairs the Outreach Committee.

She writes:

Whenever I am in the UK I often listen to Desert Island Discs on Radio 4 and have often wondered what I would choose if I were the castaway and now I have my chance! Not an easy task, but here is what I finally decided to include:

1. *'I know that my Redeemer liveth'* – my favourite aria from The Messiah.
2. *'King ever glorious'* - a powerful tenor aria from Stainer's Crucifixion, a work that is performed all too seldom.
3. Mozart's 'Exultate Jubilate' with its wonderful soprano coloratura, culminating in the Alleluia which soars to ethereal heights as a finale.
4. *Dich teure Halle grüß ich wieder* from Tannhäuser. I'm not a great Wagner fan but Tannhäuser has something magical about it. I will always remember the performance I saw at the Wartburg. The setting couldn't have been better.
5. Gilbert and Sullivan's *'Iolanthe'* to remind me of the Ascension choir in which I have sung for many years and all the fun we had performing this and other operettas. This one stays in my mind particularly as I was given a small solo part. What an honour!
6. Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto. I like a lot of the music by Russian composers and this is one piece I can listen to over and over again.

My luxury: a television so that I could watch my favourite series and stay in touch with the outside world.



Ikon

Also cast up on another desert island is **Rev. Dr Ali Gray**.

Ali Gray lives in Starnberg with her husband Peter. She is a psychiatrist and priest. She writes, teaches at the University of Birmingham, and for the Royal College of Psychiatrists UK. Ali is a Priest Associate at CoA, and is a member of the Commission on the Ministry of the Baptised (COMB) and chaplain to the Convention Clergy Spouses Group.

Assuming we have the Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare (as per the BBC Radio 4 version) I would choose:

1. Messiaen: *'Quartet For The End Of Time'*. Written in a concentration camp for the four poor instruments available it is a stunning work. I'm also fascinated by Messiaen since he had synaesthesia, and his particular crossed brain wiring meant that he saw colours when he heard chords.
2. Steven Faux: Psalm 57, from *'The Psalms project 2'*. A film-score like rendering of 'Have mercy on me, O God.' I find it very comforting; we played this at my mother's funeral so it reminds me of her and so the whole family.
3. Stuart Townend: The Liturgy of the Hours, from *'The paths of grace'*. A simple song which reminds me to keep turning back to God throughout the day.
4. *'It is well with my soul'* Spafford/Bliss sung by Wintley Phipp; his deep rich bass notes are so powerful and joyous, and the hymn has a moving back-story.
5. David Suchet reading the bible: he has a beautiful, expressive voice, and can make even Leviticus sound like poetry.
6. GF Handel: The Messiah. So I can join in with the alto part, and the Hallelujah chorus would always lift my spirits. This would remind me of my family at the Church of the Ascension.

My luxury, assuming I'm not allowed to sneak Peter into my luggage, would be a Kindle device containing some family photos and my favourite hundred books (poetry, science and golden age murder mysteries), and infinite battery life.

Ali Gray

If Jo Westcombe was allowed to take BBC Sounds I think we can allow the Kindle but in our version it is only the Bible and not the works of Shakespeare. (Ed.)

Christmas Thoughts

What do you think of when you think of Christmas?

Maybe Covid concerns will make Christmas a more reflective one this year. We asked members of the congregation what they thought of when they thought of Christmas.

Lights

Gingerbread

Singing Silent Night

Turkey

Family

Peeling potatoes and carrots at the soup kitchen on Christmas Eve

Children's laughter and wonderment

Midnight Mass

Candles (but not scented ones)

Mulled wine (I'll miss Christmas markets as they are not allowed yet again)

The Queen's Speech (A Brit must have written that)

The tree

Mince pies

Peace on the evening of the 24th

Vanillekipferl

Christmas cards from old friends

Christmas breakfast with family

Red noses on walks on Christmas afternoon

Carols from King's College Cambridge on Christmas Eve

The season of love and care for every human being

Ikon

Taking care of the family's prize chicken with pride before killing it for the Christmas feast.

The Messiah Sing (Let's hope it will happen again next year)

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire (I loved the smell of - and buying - the chestnuts along the Kaufingerstr.)

Waking up to whiteness

The cracked lips and dried skin caused by the dry wind "Harmattan" from the Sahara that fills the air with dust and bright lights always told us that Christmas was round the corner.

Remembering Christmases past

Putting up the Nativity Scene figures that we have had for 50 years and don't put away until Candlemas

Fun buying for and packing shoe boxes to be delivered to the Tafel

Giving and receiving gifts

Christmas plum cakes

Jim Reeves and Kenny Rogers cassettes



Life as a Paramedic

I talked to Constantin von Kalckstein on his day off. He has been working as a paramedic with the Johanniter since he left school in August but even before that he was already involved in this sort of work as a volunteer. He would combine a late shift with catching up on his school work for his Abitur.

Being a paramedic is a very responsible job and there are four stages leading to full qualification.

As a Sanitätshelfer (San H) you learn the basics of expanded first aid - measuring pulse and breathing rate and treating life-threatening wounds. Constantin started this training in 2017.

Then he moved on in 2018 to be a Rettungsdiensthelfer (RDH) when he learnt the structure and function of the body and learnt the theory so that he could relate it to what he had seen in practice. Here he was taught how to deal with patients.

Then a Rettungssanitäter (RS) is a person who is qualified to answer an emergency call. This is where Constantin is now having finished this training when he was in the 12th class at school in 2020.

Finally, with experience you can become a Notfallsanitäter (NFS) the person who takes ultimate responsibility in an emergency situation. This is his goal.

So what does being a Rettungssanitäter involve?

At the beginning of a shift the vehicle and equipment are checked. Is there enough oxygen on board; are there enough bandages and blankets; does the defibrillator work? Only when such checks have been carried out can the crew send a message to the emergency service to say that they are ready to go out on calls.

Night shifts are the busiest when there can be up to five call-outs in an eight-hour shift; each call-out being about 90 minutes. Constantin's unit is based in Hohenbrunn, classed as Landrettung (rural area rather than urban one).

What can happen on such a call-out? Anything and everything. For example, we discussed how to get a patient with a stretcher, who needs to be kept in a horizontal position from the seventh floor of a building that has no lift. Well how do you? Answer: By trial and error, through experience, through liaison and training exercises with the local fire department equipped with ladders and trucks. How to successfully extract a person from a smashed car was also mentioned.

Technical details such as how to tie knots or deal with ropes for moving equipment were already familiar to Constantin as he had been a volunteer with the Technisches Hilfswerk from 2018-2020 but somehow this was not enough for him. He wasn't really having direct contact with people, "basic humanity was missing" and throughout the interview it was obvious that the relationship to the people he helps is very important to him.

When on call there are usually two people – the driver and the other RS. Sometimes there is a third person who is being trained. Constantin enjoys being in a team of three as he can pass on all the knowledge that he learns every day that he didn't learn at school. At this point in the interview I learnt more about what to me was just an ambulance! A Rettungswagen is one that is sent to an urgent call – when time is of the utmost importance as in the case of a heart attack or a stroke. A Krankenwagen is sent out when there is urgent need for attention but the time is not so critical. A person may have difficulty breathing but is not in immediate danger or may have problems with blood pressure that is, however, not life-threatening. Such a situation can, of course, escalate very quickly and the team Constantin is working in has to be prepared to take a patient directly to hospital if necessary.

There will be times when the call-out is anything but routine and the paramedics are faced with people screaming in acute distress. Talking about this showed me how mature Constantin is, what he has had to face and what he has come to terms with. He explained how you learn to concentrate on one patient at a time and do the best you can. You can't block out the screaming as this is, in the long run, bad for your mental health and it would mean that you are cold-hearted and don't recognise the pain of the people you are dealing with. What you must do, however, is be honest enough to say that you cannot cope anymore and ask for help. You are not alone. You work as a team and there is always another crew that can be called in for assistance if necessary who will take over if you just can't face being called out yet again.

He admits that because of the job he sees himself in a different light. When still at school frustrating situations would annoy him and he simply saw the problem, but now he can calmly look for the solutions.

As if working in a stressful job were not enough in his free time he is the leader of a unit of the Katastrophenschutz. If there is a fire in a huge residential area, for example, and families have to be evacuated, accommodated and fed it is the job of his unit to help. Some of them volunteered in the recent floods for example. This is how he avoids "wasting his free time!"

Disasters do not always figure in his work, however. At the recent postponed Euro 2020 football championships he was not very excited by football but he joined other paramedics to simply enjoy fellowship "Vereinsleben" when they

were not on call, chatting and catching up with friends and having a barbecue. He will have such an opportunity again in August 2022 when Munich hosts the biggest sporting event since the city hosted the Olympics of 1972 when nine Olympic disciplines will take place in and around Munich, supported by teams of Johanniter from Hamburg and Berlin as well as Munich.

So this is the life for Constantin as a Rettungssanitäter. His ambition is to become a Notfallsanitäter. For this he needs to do a three-year training course and competition for places on such a course is fierce. In the case of the Johanniter only two are given in Bayern per year and he had the misfortune to see his application rated number three last year. His experience will count towards his success next year. Anyone who has talked to him and realises how much he loves his job will wish him well as I do.

Sue Morris



Playing Guitar for a Decade

When I was 6 years old in 2011, I started taking lessons with my guitar teacher Philipp, with whom I'm still playing today. I remember seeing some clip of the Beatles in kindergarten or at home - I don't know which any more - which inspired me to play guitar myself. I'm not even sure if I knew the difference between an electric and a classical guitar back then.

However, the classical type ended up being the instrument I play, with pieces varying from Bach to Brower. My teacher is mainly a rock musician, who later on picked up the classical style, which I have been learning from him until the present day.



I mainly play at home, for practice and for my own fun, but occasionally I perform in front of an audience. The music school which my teacher belongs to puts on regular concerts for the pupils. Also, sometime at the beginning of this year, I was kindly asked to perform one or two solos during the Ascension service via Zoom. As you may or may not remember, I gladly performed the Bach “Bourrée” and “Lágrima” by Francisco Tárrega.

Also recently, at my English aunt's 50th wedding anniversary party, I played four pieces in a repurposed church building in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where the event was taking place.

During the lockdowns (March-May 2020, December-April 2021) we had online music classes via Zoom or Skype, which worked better than expected, but was of course no match for playing together in a room. I hope (and sincerely demand) they won't shut it all down again. Sorry, I don't want to get too political here!

I know a lot of people whose parents forced them to play piano when they were young - for “proper musical education” I guess - so I am very happy I was not forced to do anything and was able to choose my musical hobby freely.

Paul Houghton



Playing in St. Mary's Heritage Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 2021



Aged 10: performing on stage with my guitar-teacher in 2015

Coming Events

Saturday, December 11 th	The Outreach Group at the Tafel, Sendling
Tuesday, December 14 th	18.00 Art and Faith Group, Alte Pinakothek
Thursday, December 16 th	18.00 Worship Committee
Friday, December 17 th	18.30 Bible Study Room opens at 18.15
Wednesday, December 22 nd	19.30 Vestry Meeting
Friday, December 24 th	22.00 Service at St. Willibrord's
Saturday, December 25 th	12.00 Christmas Day Service
2022	
Saturday, January 8 th	14.00 Women's Book Group
Saturday, January 15 th	16.00 Racial Justice Book Group
Sunday, January 16 th	Church starts at 13.00. (Emmaus Minigottesdienst)
Saturday, January 29 th	Quiz Night at the venue: Zum Wilden Mann
Sunday, February 13 th	Church starts at 13.00. (Emmaus Minigottesdienst)

Recurring Events

Tuesdays	08.30 09.10	Morning Prayer followed by Morning Coffee
Wednesdays	15.00	Coffee with Dan
Wednesdays	19.30	Study Group "The Way of Love" (1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesday of the month)
Thursdays	20.00	Compline Room opens at 19.45

Worship in Nürnberg

At St. James the Less we normally meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday for worship at 16:00 in the main church of the Jakobskirche in downtown Nürnberg:

Jakobskirche - 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.

Services have now resumed thankfully but do check our Facebook page to get the latest information:

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

Worship in Augsburg

You are cordially invited to our Sunday Service at 16.30 which is currently an Evening Prayer on-site that is also shared in a Zoom session. Please feel free to ask for the Zoom code via the Facebook Messenger function or via the contact details on our website: www.stboniface.de.



It may, however, take us a few hours to respond. If you want to participate on-site, you will need to wear a face mask and comply with the other usual rules for disease prevention. There is, unfortunately, no singing at the moment, no separate child care or Church coffee.

Please see our website for details of Christmas services.

Answers to the Carol Quiz on Page 24

Lines taken from well-known Christmas Carols:

1. Come all ye Faithful
2. Away in a Manger
3. While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night
4. The First Noël
5. O Little Town of Bethlehem
6. It came upon a Midnight Clear
7. Good Christians all Rejoice (used to be Good Christian Men Rejoice)
8. Angels from the Realms of Glory
9. See, amid the Winter's Snow
10. Silent Night



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Vestry 2021 - 2022

The Vestry, together with the Priest in Charge, are responsible for the running of the church. Don't hesitate to contact any member if you have a question.

Here is your new Vestry:

Donald Adewale		Tonda Kemmerling	<i>Clerk of the Vestry</i>
George Battrick	<i>Junior Warden</i>	Sue Morris	
Rémy Bethmont		Susanne Moskopf	
Janet Day-Strehlow	<i>Senior Warden</i>	Graham Pearce	
Lloyd Denton		Angela Schneider	
Jeanne Glenz		Joachim Zeller	

Here are some details of the three new Vestry members:



Donald Adewale is a German citizen, born in Nigeria, and has a Masters in Business Administration and a Diploma in Marketing. He is 68 years of age, married with children and grandchildren. He worked within Nigerian companies and industries in various Marketing and Business positions up to the managerial level.

Service to God:

St Anne's Anglican Church, Molete, Ibadan - served as chorister, usher and Assistant Secretary of the Parochial Church Council.

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship, Molete chapter - served as Vice President.

Coming to Germany served as Sunday school teacher, performed leadership roles and as speaker at conferences and gathering of Christians.

At The Church of the Ascension:

He joined this year and is happy being part of the family. He is serving as a reader and participates in the Tuesday Morning Prayer and Morning Coffee: Also Thursday Compline.

Serving on the Vestry will give him the opportunity to contribute more to the Church activities and promote her vision.

He believes mission work starts from the family or church community where welfare and love for one another is demonstrated. He promotes Christian values and uses every opportunity to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ikon



Rémy Bethmont, 52.

I was born in Paris and baptized in the French Reformed Church. The Anglican Church was always there in the background somehow. The pastor with whom I took my three-year confirmation class as a teenager was English with an Anglican background. I became interested in what was happening in the Church of England and eventually decided to write a PhD about it. Little did I know when I made that decision that I would be formally received into the Episcopal Church a decade later in Munich.

I moved to Munich in 1994, after a couple of years in England, and became a member of the Church of the Ascension in 1998. It immediately felt like coming home and the church community has very much been my extended family ever since. My job as an academic has been located in France since the late 1990s and I have become highly skilled at weekly cross-border commuting. Munich, however, is the place I call home. My husband, Michael Beer, and I were married at Ascension in 2016.

I have been active in various ways at Ascension. I have been a member of the choir almost ever since I arrived. I led the monthly Taizé meditation for about 15 years until 2019 and I was one of the Munich delegates on the Council of Anglican/Episcopal Churches in Germany for about 10 years until 2009.

I was a member of the English Speaking Prisoners' Support Group for four or five years before it closed down. For the last three years I have been leading the monthly Friday night Bible study. The Covid crisis has been the occasion to discover new ways of serving the church community; I have recently joined the Altar Guild and the Tech Team.

At Convocation level, I was a member of the Board of the Institute of Christian Studies in the mid-2000s. Since 2019, on Bishop Mark's request, I have represented the Convocation on the French ARC, the Anglican – Roman Catholic dialogue in France.



Susanne Moskopf

I was born and went to school in Nürnberg. When I was 14 I was confirmed in the Auferstehungskirche in Nürnberg and that is when I gave my life to God. In all ups and downs in life that I went through I felt the presence of Jesus and trusted in a positive attitude. I was not a regular churchgoer; however, wherever I lived I loved to be part of a choir.

When I was 17 I had an exchange year to Old Lyme, Connecticut, where I was a senior in the Old Lyme High School and got my High School Diploma. My guest family gave me such a warm welcome and their very friendly way of accepting me gives me, up to today, a warm feeling. That had a great influence on me.

Coming back to Germany I got the German Abitur and learned to be a secretary in an office. Shortly after I married, my daughter was born and we moved to Hanoi, Vietnam. We lived five years there and travelled back and forth to the USA, where my son was born.

After that we went back to Germany and soon got divorced. Then, I was a single mother and lived with my children in Bad Tölz. There I worked as a receptionist for an ophthalmologist at Tegernsee.

Ten years ago I moved to Munich, my children were then moving out and starting to go to university and I started to work for Lufthansa as a flight attendant.

I always loved to help, listen to the big and small problems, just to be there for people. So last year I attended a seminar to become a “Senioren Assistentin” and this is now my second job.

Due to the pandemic I started last year to read the bible daily and that led me to the Church of the Ascension. There I experienced the same warm welcome as more than 40 years ago and I thank God that he led me to you. I am an usher in Sunday service and a reader.

I am very happy to be part of the vestry and will give my help and input as well as I can.



A Special Appeal from Fr. Dan

Dear Church of the Ascension Friends and Family

One of my mentor priests had a catchphrase that he used to say all the time, “Never refuse a generous impulse.” When I asked him about it he told me that we serve a giving God who continually showers us with blessings. He said that it is simply in God’s loving and generous and blessing nature to give. He went further and said that when we give good gifts, we emulate the God who sustains us. His words resonate with me to this day. Whenever we show our gratitude to God through giving of our time, talent and treasure, we emulate the very nature of God. We get a chance to be a blessing. We get a chance to show our love, to extend our grace to someone, some group or some organization.

Over the past few days, I’ve also had a chance to go over the financial situation of the church and to start to plan for the future - a future that I believe will be bright. At this time, however, the church could use some real financial blessings. We receive no income from the state and **our finances are not where they should be.**

In truth, we need faithful folks to stand up and show their love for God and this church through financial support. If you can, and if you haven’t yet, would you please consider making a pledge of financial support? In order for us to build together the kind of future we dream of, we need everyone who loves and supports this church to make a financial commitment. After all, how we spend our money shows, in a very real way, what kind of world we want to live in. Giving to the church shows that we want the kind of world where Anglican/Episcopal worship thrives in Munich.

It shows that we want the kind of world where the English speaking community of Munich can have a place to learn about God and the life of faith. It shows that we value both what this place has been, and what we believe it will be in the future. I’m asking you to invest in the future of this church because I believe that God wants to do big things in and through it.

Thank you in advance, and God’s peace,



Dan+

Emmauskirche

As at the Church of the Ascension, events at our host church, normally scheduled for this time of year, have been cancelled and so we have not had the pleasure of sharing the Advent market with them, having fellowship over mulled wine and delicious cake, giving us the opportunity to browse the stalls for that elusive stocking filler.

We wish all in the Emmaus congregation a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



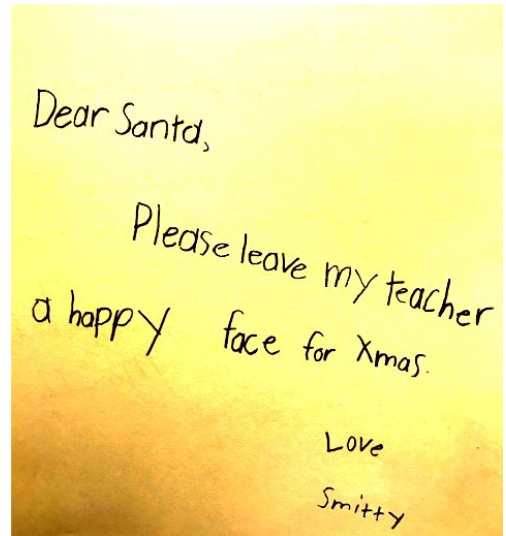
Closing Words

The editorial team and the Vestry all hope that it is not only teachers who have happy faces for Christmas.

A happy face, a smile, is a very special gift that can be freely given. So keep smiling as we enter into the New Year, a year when it is to be hoped we can see more friends and family than we could in 2021 and one in which we, at Ascension, have so much to look forward to with Dan and Teresa.

Blessings

Sue



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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.