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CROSSROADS

The newsletter of St Catherine's Anglican Chaplaincy Stuttgart
Advent 2009 - www.stcatherines-stuttgart.de

The Vicar writes ...

Gift-Giving

As a child I loved the gift-giving at Christmas time. Who wouldn't?

My family's pattern in America was that the tree was set up early in Advent, lights, bulbs, tinsel, an angel at the top ... the works. Soon wrapped presents started appearing under the tree. Our parents began their never-ending command: "Get away from those boxes ... you can't open them until Christmas!" We children, on the other hand, began our chant, "Just one, please. Just one, pleeeeeeaaase". The house was filled with the music of Bing Crosby and Julie Andrews singing their favourite Christmas Carols on a 33 rpm LP which just played over and over. While we were still very young, we would be put to bed early on Christmas Eve. I believe this was a mistake on the part of my parents. It only ensured that we would also wake up early ... sometimes really early. I can remember several pre-dawn Christmas morning wrapper shredding parties. The shrill cries of delight from whoever was the first awake would awaken all the others, [we were 4 siblings]. We would rush into the living room where the tree and all the presents were waiting, some wrapped and some unwrapped. You see, Santa Claus didn't wrap many of his gifts. There would be several minutes of frenzy as wrapping paper confetti filled the air around the tree. The unwrapping would last just long enough for my father and his Kodak Super 8 movie camera to record us sitting around in our pyjamas amid piles of boxes and crumpled papers. Then we'd have breakfast.

As we got older, we learned to eat breakfast first and then sit in a circle, taking turns so that we could all watch each other open our gifts. My sister whose birthday is 24th December always had twice as many presents since she got her birthday and Christmas presents together. We three brothers learned early on about the injustice in the world. Sadly, as we got older, year by year, the gifts got more practical. We were not fooled when Santa Claus gave us socks and underwear. We knew that Santa and his elves did not mass produce underwear with a "Made in the USA" label. The North Pole is not in the USA!

As the years went by, I came to be the family advocate of Midnight Mass. As Episcopalians we didn't use the word mass very often to talk about a church service, but on Christmas Eve, the service at midnight sounded better when called Midnight Mass. Must be the alliteration. My mother was a nurse and she often had to work over the holidays, sometimes she could come and sometimes she couldn't. By the time I went to university and could drive, I sometimes even went alone. There was something special about singing all the verses of all the carols, in a service that seemed to last all night long.

The unwrapping of the gifts under the tree was no longer the most important part of Christmas for me. The real highlight for me became the singing, the priest, the acolytes in procession during the Midnight Mass carrying the figure of the Baby Jesus to the Crèche up by the altar. While the choir sang some unknown carol, the little Jesus figure was lovingly placed in the manger. Somehow there was a little non-Biblical drummer boy present, thanks, no doubt, to Bing Crosby's pervasive influence.

Suddenly it was really Christmas! Jesus had arrived. Now the 12 Days of Christmas could begin. Seeing Christmas in the light of Jesus meant that the gifts also took on new meaning. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh became an important part of the story, once I figured out was myrrh was. Strangest of all, my favourite carol became Christina Rossetti's haunting "In the bleak mid-winter". Yes ... there were still boxes wrapped in bright colours under the tree, but it had dawned on me very gradually that the real gift of Christmas could never be wrapped and placed under a tree: it had to lie in a manger, wrapped in swaddling cloths.

Since my parents died, I've moved several times and I don't think Santa Claus ever got my forwarding address. He doesn't come any more ... hasn't for years. Maybe it's because I don't have a chimney. Indeed, Christmas for the last 25 years, is for me a busy workday even though everyone else thinks of it as a holiday. Still, despite Santa's absence, Christmas continues to be a time of gift-giving for me: the gifts that I exchange with family far-away and the gift I can give to each of you through preaching and celebrating the St. Catherine's "Midnight Mass" at 14:00 and 19:30. Yet the greatest gift continues and always will be the one which lies sleeping in the manger, oxen and cattle lowing, sheep and lambs standing near, guarded over by a nervous carpenter, suckled by a young, exhausted mother, serenaded by angel choirs and silently observed by the Father in heaven who alone knows why the Babe is born ... to be an eternal gift of love; a gift of eternal life.

My prayer for Christmas 2009: That we at St. Catherine's might all be people who are more mindful of the gifts we give than the gifts that we receive. The only gift we really need to receive is the Gift of God, the Incarnate Word, Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem.

KRD+

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Notices

Christenings

On the 1st November we were pleased to welcome Daniel, Mercy, and David Okutubo into the family of the Church. Congratulations on your baptism.



Weddings

Our very best wishes to Adekunle Oke and Opeyem for their future life together. They will be celebrating their wedding in Nigeria on 19th December.

May the road rise to meet you,
 May the wind be always at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,
 The rains fall soft upon your fields.
 And until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Irish Blessing

Congratulations

To Susan Morris on being named the US Department of Defence Education Administration teacher of the year.

Susan now goes on to the US National competition, but her hard work will be rewarded. In the New Year she will get to meet Barack Obama.

Congratulations also to Morgan Woughter who has achieved his Eagle Scout Award, the highest on offer to an American Boy Scout.



Christmas Message from the Bishop

Bishop Geoffrey's Christmas Message can be found on the church website

www.stcatherines-stuttgart.de

Birthdays

We would like to thank God for the years these friends and members of St. Catherine's have spent with us, be they few or many, and ask his blessing on them in the coming year.

December 7 th	Adekunle Oke
December 7 th	William Crandall
December 9 th	Kim Newberry
December 11 th	Anne McCarthy
December 11 th	Elena Ramquist
December 12 th	Michelle Wohlford
December 12 th	Sarah Abraham
December 14 th	Alison Elk
December 17 th	Stephanie Ramquist
December 22 nd	Rainer Wellhäußer
December 27 th	Alison Seyerle
January 25 th	Dave Newberry
January 2 nd	Ann Funk
January 2 nd	Jackie Wellhäußer
January 10 th	Charles Berry
January 14 th	Ken Dimmick
January 24 th	Grace Friedenreich
January 25 th	Edward Crandall
January 27 th	Shoba Abraham
January 27 th	Aleya Abraham
January 28 th	Seth Wohlford
January 31 st	Esther Monica Stanley
January 31 st	Marva Farrington



Christian Education

Sunday School Classes

It's nearly here! St. Catherine's brand new Sunday school program will begin at 10:30 on Sunday 6th December 2009 in the Parish Centre.

This is also "bring a toy" Sunday. Children who bring toys to donate may bring them to class for a special blessing.

The Sunday School classes will be organised as follows:

- Children aged 4-7 will meet in the new children's room
- Tweens aged 8-12 will meet in the back of the café.
- Teens aged 13 and up will meet in the curtained-off front section of the café.

We have a wonderful group of volunteer Sunday school teachers, but we could always use more. If you are willing to write a lesson plan or to teach a class, please contact Kim Newberry at education@stcatherines-stuttgart.de. We welcome good volunteers, whether on a regular basis or on occasion.

Training and teaching materials are provided to make teaching as fun and easy as possible.

St. Catherine's provides all of the supplies necessary for our Sunday school programs. However, if you have new or recycled supplies that you'd like to donate, they are always appreciated. Donations may be placed in the box labelled SUNDAY SCHOOL DONATIONS in the Children's Room of the Parish Centre. The items opposite are especially useful.

Your ideas and questions are always welcome.

Thanks for supporting our children.

God Bless,

Kim Newberry
Christian Education Coordinator

Sunday school wish list

- Balloons
- Beads
- Blank paper (all sizes + colours)
- Buttons
- Candles
- Chenille stems (pipe cleaners)
- Coloured pencils
- Crayons
- Doilies
- Egg cartons / egg boxes
- Fabric pieces, large and small
- Feathers
- Felt pieces
- Glitter
- Googly eyes and other glue-ons
- Liquid glue
- Marbles
- Single socks and gloves for puppets
- New markers
- Used Christmas cards with religious images
- Paintbrushes
- Paper of all sizes and colours
- Paper clips
- Pompoms
- Religious children's books
- Religious puppets
- Religious stickers
- Religious toys, especially Bible figures
- Ribbon
- Seashells
- Scissors
- Stick glue
- Tape
- Teaching books, resources
- Empty toilet rolls and paper towel rolls
- Unopened boxes of cookies
- Watercolor paints
- Yarn or string

Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study group meets each Wednesday in the Parish Centre. We start with supper at 19:30 and begin the study at 20:00. New comers are welcome at anytime. We study the coming week's gospel passage using the African method of Bible study. This is inclusive and does not require a great knowledge of the Bible or theology; it's a chance to come together for a light supper and to learn, pray and deepen one's faith.

Toddler Group

The Toddler Group usually meets on the third Thursday of the month at 15:30 in the Parish Centre.

The coming themes are :

10th Dec - God is with us - it's Christmas !

21st Jan - God gives us families

18th Feb - Lent

All parents, carers and their 0-4 year olds are welcome. For more information speak to Aysin Getto or e-mail toddlers@stcatherines-stuttgart.de

Liebfrauenberg Weekend

The parish weekend in Liebfrauenberg, France will be held 19th - 21st March 2010. As places are limited and St. Catherine's had no problem filling their 20 allocated places last year, you may want to make a note of the dates. Further details will be available after Christmas. For more information please e-mail liebfrauenberg@stcatherines-stuttgart.de or speak to Susan Jüptner.

Cross Roads Contributions

Contributions for the Candlemas edition of CrossRoads should be sent to Frances Buttle (crossroads@stcatherines-stuttgart.de) by the 20th January.

You are all invited to submit details of parish activities, reports on events you've attended, articles about specific issues or events of interest to the Church, questions and answers for the A-Z of Anglicanism ... anything you can think of.

Stewardship 2010

I often grapple with the concept of stewardship.

I ask myself, "Why does every church focus on stewardship in January?"

I visited a church two years ago in January. The topic was giving. The pastor later apologized for preaching on giving the one day we visited and promised it was not his weekly sermon. I responded by saying, "Don't worry, I couldn't have found a church not speaking about money at this time of the year!"

In preparing to write this article I started studying the meaning of stewardship. By definition, stewardship is the "careful and responsible management of *something* entrusted to one's care." I now realize that stewardship can apply to anything that I've been entrusted with, including: skills, time, family, ministry, our ability to worship and of course money.

Luke 12:48 says, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more." If stewardship applies to the myriad of daily choices we make and are going to be held accountable for, then we should continually study, learn and grow as stewards.

St. Catherine's will begin our annual stewardship campaign on January 3rd. I hope you will join me in an open and unprejudiced study of being good stewards.

Nathan Ramquist

St. Catherine's Directory

Did you receive the latest copy of the St. Catherine's Stuttgart directory?

Are all your family's details correct?

If not, please contact Frances Buttle
crossroads@stcatherines-stuttgart.de

If you are not yet listed in the directory forms can be downloaded from the church website.
www.stcatherines-stuttgart.de under Membership.

Mission

Outreach giving 2009

At the November Council Meeting the Church Council finalised the remaining outreach giving for 2009.

The following organisations will benefit from the generosity of giving at St. Catherine's::

The Prakash's Indian Projects in the Diocese of Karimnagar, India will receive a further 1000 €

Café Strichpunkt, a local project run by the Old Catholic Church will receive 1500€. (For more details see [CrossRoads Advent 2008](#))

Finally a donation of 1000€ will be sent to the work of St. George's Anglican Church, Baghdad, Iraq.

Our Church Warden, John Thompson, spent much of 2008 in Iraq and gave the council a personal testimony as to the value of the work that St. George's carries out and the dangers which its congregation and clergy deal with on a daily basis.

St. George's has a congregation of over 3000 Iraqi Christians and provides a vital medical clinic for the people of the local Iraqi community, regardless of religious affiliation. On the 25th October a suicide bomb attack caused severe damage to the church and clinic depriving Iraqis of desperately needed healthcare services. (see http://www.episcopalchurch.org/81808_11612_2_ENG_HTM.htm for more information)

Toy Service

On Sunday 6th December we are planning a children's service in celebration of the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas, the fourth century Bishop of Myra.

We will tell the children about St. Nicholas, the legends which have grown up around his name and the various customs which are still observed in celebration of his good works.

Moreover, we are asking all the children to bring new or nearly new toys to the service. They will then process to the altar and lay out the toys to be blessed. The toys will then be

distributed to children in need - in orphanages, hospitals or homes.

Please make a note of this special service and help the children in our congregation to help children who are less fortunate than themselves.

For more information please contact Alison Seyerle mission@stcatherines-stuttgart.de

Poppy Appeal 2009

A big thank you to everyone who purchased a poppy in November. A total amount of 167.00€ was raised which I know will be much appreciated by the British Legion.

Hilary Norman

Bishop's Advent Appeal

It is a tradition in the Church of England that each Advent and Lent the Diocesan Bishop selects a specific charity and launches an appeal on its behalf. This Advent Bishop Geoffrey has nominated Child Aid as the recipients of the appeal.

ChildAid enables lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus to be transformed. Through short and long-term aid and development initiatives and in collaboration with established local partners, usually Christians, we improve the quality of life for abused, abandoned and neglected children from extremely poor families; orphans; and children with disabilities.

As a Christian charity we seek to serve any child or young person that is in contact with our project partners. It is never contingent on or restricted by whether the child or young person has a faith or not. The help we give is unconditional.

www.childaidrr.org.uk

At the November Council Meeting the PCC moved that the collection from the Carol Service at St. Catherine's on the 13th December be donated to the Bishop's Advent Appeal.

Fellowship Events

Ladies' Evening Group

The Ladies' Evening Group meets on the last Monday of each month, at a restaurant somewhere in Stuttgart, for food and fellowship. The next meeting will be an exception to this rule and is at Kochenbas on Wednesday 9th December at 19:00. E-mail legs@stcatherines-stuttgart.de if you would like to join us or speak to Stephanie Ramquist.

Women's Group

A chance for coffee, fellowship and chat.

The Women's Group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10:00 in the Parish Centre.

For more information contact, Alison Seyerle women@stcatherines-stuttgart.de

Walking Group

The second group hike took place in October and saw an intrepid group following the Stuttgart Weinwanderweg.



As this edition goes to print the walkers are preparing to visit castles and the Ludwigsburg Weihnachtsmarkt. If you have a walk which you would like to share with us in January e-mail walking@stcatherines-stuttgart.de

Ecumenical meetings

Following the inaugural meeting of women from non-German speaking churches organized by the Evangelical Church Council, Ken was only too glad to offer our Parish Centre as the venue for the next meeting. It will be held on Friday 11th December 2009

from 16:00-18:00. We will talk about Christmas customs in our various churches and enjoy typical Advent fare. Although the common language at the meetings is German I hope many of you will attend the meeting and help make women from other churches welcome. I am sure some of the other women will also be able to speak English.

We also hope to welcome a group of women at the bi-lingual service on Sunday 28th January 2010.

Alison Seyerle

Fundraising events

Bazaar thanks

A big, big thank you to everyone who helped make the St. Catherine's Bazaar such a great success. It is impossible to mention everyone by name, but without YOU this event would not have been possible. So thank you to all the cooks, bakers, confectioners, craft makers, stall holders, money counters, advertisers, dish washers, visitors, buyers ...

The proceeds are still being counted, but will be split between the following organisations SOS Kinderdorf (40%), Casa Una Romanian Orphanage (40%) and Friends of the English Church (20%).

The date for the next St. Catherine's Bazaar has already been set for Saturday, 20th November 2010 - so mark your calendars and diaries now!

Julie Faust

STOP PRESS – Initial Count – c. 1800 Euro

Carol Service Hospitality

After the Carol Service, all are welcome to join us for a social gathering in the Parish Centre where we will be offering Glühwein, fruit punch and Christmas biscuits. Anyone wishing to donate cookies or mince pies should speak to Julie Faust.

The remaining crafts and preserves from the Bazaar will also be on sale so if you couldn't make it on Saturday, don't despair. All proceeds will be added to the monies collected at the bazaar.

Christmas around the World

Finland

Christmas in Scandinavia begins on Christmas Eve with a church service, Lutheran in Finland. Unfortunately my parents never went to church, so as a teenager I went on my own.

In Finland, children not only believe in Father Christmas, which originally was a Christmas Goat, but also in all those little helpers called tonttu (tomte in Swedish). I don't know what they would be called in English, goblins or fairies perhaps. They spy on little children to discover who has been good and who has been bad. Then they report back to Father Christmas. He arrives personally with a sack on Christmas Eve, usually disguised and impersonated by an elderly uncle. If you have been good you get presents, if not you get a birch twig. But I never heard of anyone getting a birch twig.

On Christmas Eve we have a great ham served warm with several oven cooked dishes such as mashed swedes, carrots and potatoes. Christmas pudding is rice pudding, Rice was always exotic and foreign in days gone by. The rice pudding usually contains a blanched almond. The person who gets this may make a wish. In many Scandinavian families Christmas is more like the Pagan Mid Winter Feast, with too much food and drink. Christmas has already been celebrated as the rest of Europe goes to bed anticipating it the next morning.

Arja Faller

England

It's Christmas Eve. Imagine over 200 children and their parents stood in a huge circle around the edge of a darkened church, clutching lighted candles and singing Away in a Manger (imagine the British tune to get the picture completely right ☺).

What could be more Christmassy?

Look a little closer. What exactly are these children holding? Why are just a few of them not singing, but already eating?



This is a Christingle Service. On the 23rd December the 2nd Ulverston (St. Mary's) Guides have gathered together to make Christingles. Take an orange (which represents the world) stick a red tape around it (which represents the blood of Christ, shed for all) and stick a candle in the top (Christ, the light of the world). Then stick in four sticks holding sweets and dried fruits – the bounty of God's creation and the fruits of the Spirit stretching to every corner of the world).

On the 24th December children from all over town congregate to celebrate a special Christmas service where the Christingles are distributed. For many of the children who come this will be the only church service they attend in the year.

The symbolism of the Christingle goes a step further than the traditional Christmas story of the baby in the manger. Jesus has come as light of the world it tells us, but it also forewarns that blood will be spilt before Easter.

The Christingle is not just about symbolism, closely tied with the service is an active continuation of Christ as light of the world. Each year collections are taken up at Christingle services throughout the country to support the work of the Children's Society, bringing light into dark corners of the world.

For more information see www.christingle.org.uk

Frances Buttle

¹ Photo taken from http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/resources/images/fundraiser%20focus/8485_rhfull.JPG

A-Z of Anglicanism

D is for Dalmatic

2000 years ago, in the days of the Roman Empire, it was not uncommon for those captured in battle to be taken as slaves. A particular people, known as the Dalmatians, were brought to Rome from the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea, the area which is modern day Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina. (Curiously this is the same place where the famous spotted dogs, also known as Dalmatians come from ... but that is another story.)

The Dalmatian slaves were highly sought after as good workers. Part of their great value was that they wore a very practical garment while they worked. This special garment did not restrict their movement during manual labour. It had wide sleeves and a loose skirt to the knees. With not restrictions around the arms or legs, it was a perfect garment for any worker. Gradually other workers, both slave and free, adopted this Dalmatian garment, so that it became known as a “*dalmatic*.”



Early on, the Christian Church adopted this garment, the *dalmatic*, for the “worker-ministers” of the church: the Deacons. [See Acts 6:1-6] Priests wore big poncho-like *chasubles*, over long white undergarments called *Albs* [Latin for white]. The deacons wore albs, but instead of a chasuble, they wore a *dalmatic* over it.

To this day, the deacons of the church are allowed to wear dalmatics as their vestment at all Eucharistic services. Nowadays the dalmatics are often made of beautiful silk damask, lined with satin and embroidered or appliquéd with the finest handwork. They usually match the colour of the priests’ vestments according to the season.

Some modern deacons don’t like to wear dalmatics, thinking it is too old fashioned. But I liked wearing it when I was a deacon. I enjoyed the irony of wearing a beautiful vestment, lovingly sewn, almost luxurious, so much transformed from those original slaves’ garments. I also think wearing the *dalmatic* makes sense, however, since we are all, in truth, servants of our Lord Jesus and ever ready to do whatever work He asks of us.

The Deacon and his or her *dalmatic* remind us all of our servant status, as we are willingly enslaved by the Love of God, ready to do His Will.

Since we have no deacon at St. Catherine’s Church you don’t see anyone wearing the *dalmatic* that hangs in our vestment closet. But it is there ... just waiting, in case a deacon should ever become part of our community.

KRD+

The Candlemas edition of CrossRoads will feature the letter E in the A-Z of Anglicanism. Do you have a question related to something Anglican beginning with E? Or would you like to write about something beginning with E?

Send your questions or contributions to crossroads@stcatherines-stuttgart.de

A visit to Kloster Kirchberg.

Thick fog enveloped Stuttgart on the morning we were invited to Kirchberg. Monika and Michael Naidu had invited Kenneth Dimmick, Peter Faller and myself to visit them. Arriving at Kirchberg, after an hour and a half's journey, it was still foggy and the buildings of the former convent looked ghostly through the moving white wisps. There was no-one to be seen.

Having been there before, I led the way, to the gift shop, where Monika usually works. She founded the gift shop, now a good income for Kirchberg. It was closed, so I made for the reception. There we found a friendly lady, who told us where to find Monika and Michael.

They live on the first floor of a small building. They received us with open arms and served us sherry and Monika's Cumin sticks.

Here I have to tell you a little bit of the history of Kirchberg. When Napoleon had conquered most parts of Germany, he closed the monasteries and convents. Their property was turned over to the state. The nuns of Kirchberg were allowed to go on living there, unlike during the dissolution of monasteries in the time of Henry VIII in England, when the nuns and an monks ended up as beggars, unless they had family or friends, who took them in.

Nowadays a protestant brotherhood of people, men and women, live at Kirchberg. We went to join them in midday prayers upon the gallery of the church, where the nuns used to follow the church services.

We had a nice lunch in the refectory, before we were taken for a guided tour of the convent and the church. The church interior is Baroque in style with over-large altar statues and decorations. Behind the altar there were stacks of old church furniture and an opening in the wall, where a nun could receive food and drink while living imprisoned in a single cell alone, whether voluntarily or not we do not know.

The cloisters have only two walls left which

were the church and sleeping quarters of the former convent. They are now guest rooms, where one can stay and include rooms for conferences. The outbuildings were at one time an agricultural school and have now been converted into a sort of youth hostel.

The nun's cemetery is preserved. There is the herb garden and under the walls are several fish ponds and there is a beautiful view of the landscape around. It is all together a lovely place to stay in.

By the time we had to leave, there was a clear blue sky and we made good time back to Stuttgart.

Arja Faller

Most of you will have read the other half of the above story in the Vicar's e-mail but I think a small excerpt deserves republication [Ed.]:

...So I was sitting at the table in Father Michael Naidu's house in Kloster Kirchberg, 60 km south from Stuttgart enjoying a piece of Zwetschgenkuchen and a cup of coffee.... talking with Father Michael about his very interesting life-story. It includes such various chapters as Growing up in India, The Malay Rubber plantations, Helping Build the Bridge over the River Kwai, Becoming Anglican in Bangkok, Getting to Germany, and Ordination in Berchtesgaden. [How he got from Bangkok to Berchtesgaden is a story he'll have to tell. Space in this Vicar's letter does not allow for an adequate telling of the story.] In the telling of the story, he mentioned Bishop Burgreen, the sometime American Episcopal Bishop of the Armed Forces. Ah, I said to myself, ... that is a familiar name. Then Father Michael mentioned the Annual Episcopal Retreat in Berchtesgaden. Ah, I said to myself, I went to one of those when I was stationed in Bavaria in the army . Then Michael said 1980. Ah, I said to myself,.... I must have gone in 1979. What a small world to have missed meeting Father Michael before he was 'Father' Michael. I laughed at the table, telling how I had been in Berchtesgaden for a previous conference, ... mentioning

tangentially how I still value so highly the conference photograph with the attendees standing outdoors on the steps at the Conference Hotel. [It was a time in my life when I was seriously considering pursuing ordination myself ... so I had spent the time at the conference talking to various bishops and guest clergy about 'the call to priesthood'.] Wait! Father Michael said ... I think I have a picture like that in my scrapbook. Let's look at it, I suggested. Setting the cake aside, we moved excitedly to his study and pulled down his scrapbook. It opened right to the photograph. It looked just like my photograph. Ah, I said, in my photograph I was standing just about here... And there I was...in his photograph. What a surprise! ...to see my own face staring back at me from the past. A nearly 30 year old photograph, ... evidence that, despite my own reckoning,... I actually went to the 1980 conference ... and therefore must have been present at Michael's ordination ... at the very moment I was considering my own potential ordination. I had to sit down. We flipped through several more pictures of the ordination and a flood of memories came back. I saw things I hadn't thought of for sooooo long.

How circuitous this world can be. I have known Father Michael now for three years, since moving to Stuttgart. He was there at the beginning of my ministry in Stuttgart. Wishing me well. And I was there, [we have the proof...though my memory is still somewhat vague] at the beginning of his ministry, praying for him along with all the others at the conference.

Surely his ordination [the first I ever attended], watching him take his vows, hearing the prayers, joining in with the praise ... and singing the hymns must have influenced my own decision ... to seek the call to the very ministry which eventually brought me here, to be a successor to Father Michael at St. Catherine's Church.

Thank you Father Michael for the realization that we are all so much more connected than we can ever know.

Fun stuff



The recent attempt by the Vatican to attract Anglicans to their fold is reminiscent of a similar occurrence in 850s when Pope Joan, the infamous female pope, tried to lure our very own Eric Jarman to the Roman Catholic Church. This amazing story has recently been the subject of a major motion picture, "Die Päpstin, Looking for Eric" which has been playing at the Delphi Cinema on Tübinger Strasse. We wouldn't want to spoil the plot, but suffice to say that Eric decided to stay at St.Catherine's!

A point of view

Kids at St. Cats!

Pardon my criticism, but I do not like abbreviations or nicknames.

They degrade the lovely English language.

I hate children being referred to as the offspring of a goat and our Church as St Cats! Cats indeed! What Cats?

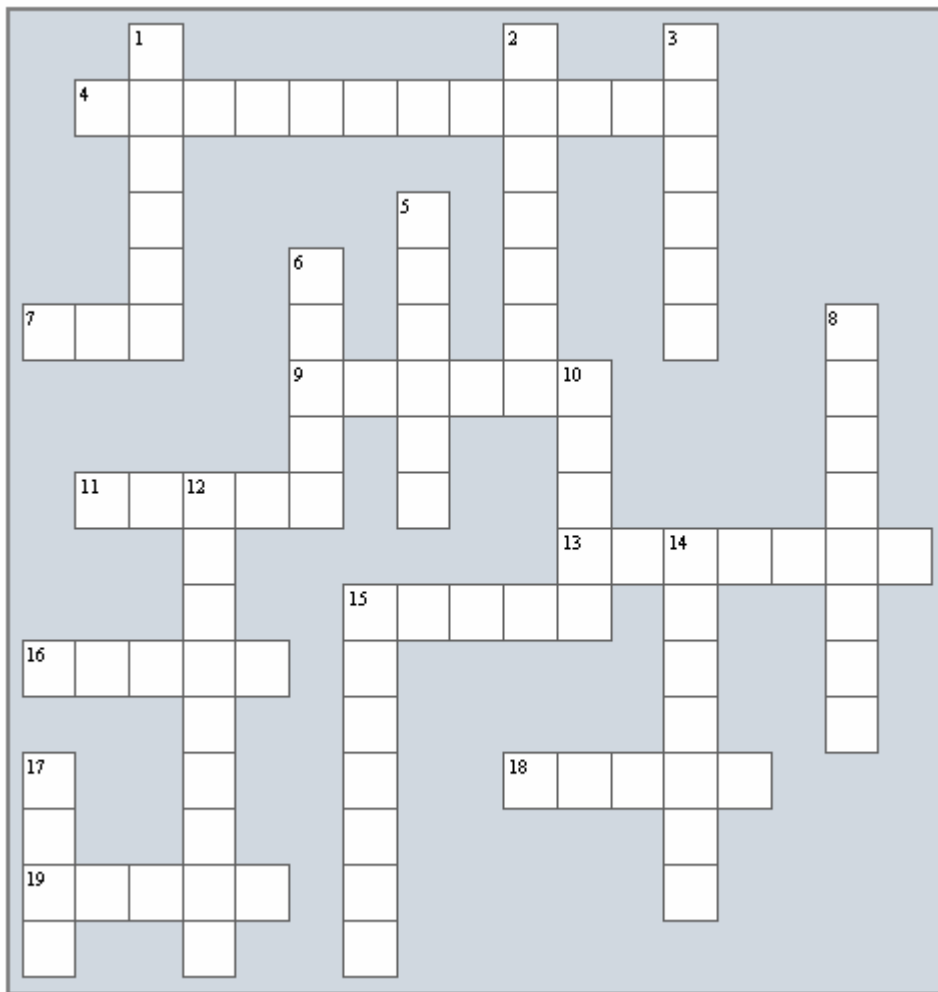
It is downright sacrilegious.

Is it too much to write St. Catherine's or children?

They are beautiful words and deserve to be written or pronounced correctly!

From that Finnish woman, Arja Faller

Christmas Carol Crossword



Across

4. To which tune is "What child is this?" sung?
7. What sort of coat will we lend Jesus?
9. What was given on the 9th day of Christmas? (word 1)
11. What do we all want? (word 1)
13. What do we all want? (word 2)
15. What were the shepherds washing?
16. What colour do star crowned children wear?
18. What did the shepherds keep 'til morning?
19. Which Saint's fountain did the peasant live by?

Down

1. Who wrote the tune to silent night?
2. What should good Christian men do?
3. Which captive will be ransomed when Emmanuel comes?
5. Who wrote the music to Joy to the world?
6. What was the first tree in the greenwood?
8. Which English city features in the title of a carol?
10. What three things came sailing by?
12. Which undismayed people may rest on Christmas day?
14. What was given on the 9th day of Christmas? (word 2)
15. What did the third king ride on?
17. What did the bleak midwinter wind make?

What's on at St. Catherine's

Tues	1 st December	07:00	Morning Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	2 nd December	19:00	Evening Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	2 nd December	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: Luke 3.1-6
Sat	5 th December	19:00	Benefit Concert	St. Catherine's	Benefit Concert in aid of "Rettet die Katharinen Kirche e.V." with "Pop Up" Women's Choir Schorndorf and "Grooving Voices" Jazz Choir Waiblingen featuring Gregor Kissling on piano, Hartmutt Ott on percussion and directed by Margot Kroner.
Sun	6 th December	10:30	Sunday School	Parish Centre	See p.4
Sun	6 th December	11:15	<i>Advent II – St. Nicholas</i> Toy service with Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Malachi 3.1-4 Psalm: Benedictus NT: Philippians 1.3-11 Gospel: Luke 3.1-6
Tues	8 th December	07:00	Morning Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	9 th December	19:00	Evening Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	9 th December	19:00	Ladies' Evening Group	Kochenbas	See p.7
Wed	9 th December	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: Luke 3.7-18
Thurs	10 th December	15:30	Toddler Group	Parish Centre	God is with us – it's Christmas! See p.5
Sun	13 th December	09:00	<i>Advent III</i> Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Zephaniah 3.14-20 Psalm: Canticle Isaiah 12.2-6 NT: Philippians 4.4-7 Gospel: Luke 3.7-18

CrossRoads - Advent 2009

Sun	13 th December	10:30	Sunday School	Parish Centre	See p.4
Sun	13 th December	16:00	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	
Sun	13 th December	17:00	Service on Nine Lessons and Carols	St. Catherine's	
Tues	15 th December	07:00	Morning Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	16 th December	19:00	Evening Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	16 th December	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: Luke 1.39-45
Sun	20 th December	10:30	Sunday School	Parish Centre	See p.4
Sun	20 th December	11:15	<i>Advent IV & Nativity Play</i> Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Micah 5.2-5a Psalm: Psalm 80.1-8 NT: Hebrews 10.5-10 Gospel: Luke 1.39-45
Tues	22 nd December	07:00	Morning Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	23 rd December	19:00	Evening Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	23 rd December	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: John 1.[1-9] 10-18
Thurs	24 th December	14:00	<i>Christmas</i> Family Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm: 98 NT: Hebrews 1.1-4 Gospel: John 1.1-14
Thurs	24 th December	19:30	<i>Christmas</i> Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm: 98 NT: Hebrews 1.1-4 Gospel: John 1.1-14

Sun	27 th December	09:00	<i>Christmas I</i> Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Jeremiah 31.7-14 Psalm: 147.13-21 NT: Ephesians 1.3-14 Gospel: John 1.[1-9] 10-18
Sun	27 th December	10:30	Sunday School	Parish Centre	See p.4
Tues	29 th December	07:00	Morning Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	30 th December	19:00	Evening Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	30 th December	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12
Sun	3 rd January	11:15	<i>Epiphany</i> Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Isaiah 60.1-6 Psalm: 72 10-15 NT: Ephesians 3.1-12 Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12
Sun	3 rd January	10:30	Sunday School	Parish Centre	See p.4
Tues	5 th January	07:00	Morning Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	6 th January	19:00	Evening Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	6 th January	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: Luke 3.15-17, 21,22
Sun	10 th January	09:00	<i>Baptism of Christ</i> Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Isaiah 43.1-7 Psalm: 29 NT: Acts 8.14-17 Gospel: Luke 3.15-17, 21,22
Sun	10 th January	10:30	Sunday School	Parish Centre	See p.4
Tues	12 th January	07:00	Morning Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	13 th January	19:00	Evening Prayer	Parish Centre	

CrossRoads - Advent 2009

Wed	13 th January	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: John 2.1-11
Sun	17 th January	10:30	Sunday School	Parish Centre	See p.4
Sun	17 th January	11:15	<i>Epiphany II</i> Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Isaiah 62.1-5 Psalm: 36.5-10 NT: I Corinthians 12.1-11 Gospel: John 2.1-11
Tues	19 th January	07:00	Morning Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	20 th January	19:00	Evening Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	20 th January	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: Luke 4.14.-21
Thurs	21 st January	15:30	Toddler Group	Parish Centre	God gives us families see p.5
Sun	24 th January	09:00	<i>Epiphany III</i> Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10 Psalm: 19 NT: 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a Gospel: Luke 4.14.-21
Sun	24 th January	10:30	Sunday School	Parish Centre	See p.4
Mon	25 th January	19:00	Ladies' Evening Group	TBC	legs@stcatherines-stuttgart.de
Tues	26 th January	07:00	Morning Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	27 th January	19:00	Evening Prayer	Parish Centre	
Wed	27 th January	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: Luke 2.22-40
Sun	31 st January	10:30	<i>Candlemas</i> Bilingual Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Malachi 3.1-5 Psalm: 24.[1-6] 7-10 NT: Hebrews 2.14-18 Gospel: Luke 2.22-40