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# CROSSROADS

The newsletter of St Catherine's Anglican Chaplaincy Stuttgart  
Easter 2009 - [www.stcatherines-stuttgart.de](http://www.stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

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## The Vicar writes ...

If the daffodils are blooming, it must be Easter, right?

Just for the information of those who may not have walked in the Schlossgarten recently, the daffodils are blooming, so are the crocuses all around the church. It was such a surprise to see them upon my return from Liebfrauenberg this past weekend. I don't remember seeing any blooms in Alsace, so maybe their spring is a bit behind ours. The flowers made a glorious welcome home treat for me. Some were appropriately purple, it still being Lent, but some were white and many were the gold more suited to Easter. Spring bulbs are nice - once planted, they will surprise you almost every year. They bloom and disappear, waiting a year before they spring up almost overnight.

Once, when I was a rector in Louisiana, I had a church set in the midst of a cemetery. Every spring the church yard bloomed to overflowing with azaleas, wisteria, and my favourite of all, the Red Bud (*Cercis*). Whenever Easter was early, it would coincide with this massive blooming. One year I was so moved that when Easter Sunday came I gave a beautiful sermon about how Easter and the renewal of the springtime fitted theologically together: new life, new hope, and new beginnings. Of course I mentioned the beautiful flowers around the church as a sign that even Nature is celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord. I am probably not the only priest who likes to see God's saving deeds paralleled in His creation, but, I may well be the only priest that year who found himself surrounded after church by a group of Australians who challenged the whole premise of my sermon. "Springtime? Easter is not springtime everywhere. ... In Australia, it is autumn. For us Easter ushers in the onset of winter."

I wasn't quite sure how to answer them. They were right. It was very "North-ist" of me. People in the Southern Hemisphere have just as much to celebrate whether or not there are Red Buds or daffodils. In the same way, we don't need snow and pine trees to have Christmas. Nor do we need paper poppies to remember those who died for us in wars.

Christ is everywhere, always, and for all. His Resurrection is an eternal thing ... not a springtime thing. If one sees Easter just as the beginning of spring, one is missing the point. Easter is Christ's triumph over death and the grave. Easter is the eternal victory over the power of sin.

I love working at St. Catherine's Church for many reasons. One reason is our international-ness. With so many people from so many nations we can never fall back into the old provincialism which sees the Church as having a nationalist definition. Our Africans and Australians and New Zealanders make me constantly aware that we can never see the truths of the

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Scriptures as being fixed into a single geography or a single season of the year.

The Rising of Christ is bigger than that. Jesus' Resurrection transcends the calendar months, the angle of the sun, the ebb and flow of tides, the rising or falling of temperatures, the season of harvest or time for plantings. Easter is so much more than our human existence can fathom. And yet....

I am glad that there are daffodils blooming in the park and crocuses flowering around St. Cat's . They may not be "important harbingers of Easter" ... but they sure are pretty.

*Ken+*

## Celebrating Easter around the world

### Kenya

In Kenya Easter is celebrated differently depending on the group of people and their affiliations or churches. For the people who are not spiritually oriented or not frequent churchgoers, they take the time (usually there is no work) to be with their family or friends. Some go up country to be with their parents while some stay in towns and go to clubs and endless parties that are usually organized at this time. Basically this class of people take Easter as a time to extend the Christmas party and to enjoy their "financial breakthrough" after the long lean months of January to March.

The other class of people are the "churchgoers" who take Easter seriously and take time to pray and organize prayer meetings. Usually they will organize night-long prayer meetings commonly called "Kesha" in Swahili. The Anglican Church in Kenya rarely has these "Kesha" but instead, it administers the Holy Eucharist all throughout this Holy period. There are also special masses on Good Friday and Easter Monday in the Church. After the service on Monday, people gather in different places and sing and dance to songs with a resurrection theme and lots of Hallelujahs!! This is usually so lively and I will personally miss it so much.

Of course there is the portion of the society (about 20%) that never celebrates Easter. This includes the tribes that still worship their tribal gods, like the Maasai people. You ask them if they know what is Easter and they will tell you, "Yes! It is just another day to take our cattle to graze!"

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## CrossRoads Contributions

Contributions for the next edition of CrossRoads should be sent to Frances Buttle ([crossroads@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:crossroads@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)) by 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

All are invited to submit details of parish activities, reports on an event they've attended, articles about specific issues or events of interest to the Church or volunteer to write regular columns such as Saint of the Month.

In this class we also have members of the non-Christian religions like Hindus and Muslims. Considering this weekend is a public holiday starting Good Friday to Easter Monday, this group of people usually finds it a very long meaningless weekend and sometimes they gather in their place of worship or in public places where they admonish their faithful from following the Easter celebration. The Muslim community is very fond of this time as they gather in public places with public address systems, the Bible and the Koran and try and prove to anyone who cares to listen that Christ never rose!! In Mombasa, where I live, it's so interesting to see this community, which forms quite a sizeable percentage of the society, inviting Christian denominations to inter-religious meetings during this time so that they can challenge each other. These meetings are usually peaceful and I never saw anyone physically fighting with someone of a different religion. Instead each faith loses or wins members during these meetings depending on which group was most convincing. Well, in this coastal town where there are so many Muslims ... the winner is definitely obvious!

I must generally say that however people celebrate Easter or whatever they do during these days, about 80% of the Kenyan population, Christian or otherwise, can clearly narrate to you the whole Easter story! This is most impressive!

*Elias Ngari Njiru*

## **Cumbria, England**

Churches together in Ulverston have developed over many years the tradition of greeting the Easter morn with an ecumenical sun rise service on Birkrigg Common, just outside the town overlooking Morecambe Bay.

Worshippers leave home in the dark and the service starts at 6am just around sunrise.

One year in particular stands out in my memory. The cloud was low; would we see the sun rise at all? Just before dawn the clouds lifted slightly from the horizon. The red ball of the sun rose and shone brilliantly for a few minutes, a stream of light reflecting across the

water of the bay. Then the sun rose further disappearing behind the clouds, and yet the reflection remained shining forth over the sea. A clear reflection of the Easter message. The Sun rose, was seen by the faithful and then was taken up into the heavens. No longer visible to human sight, he remains visible through his reflection in our lives.

*Frances Buttle*

## **The Philippines**

Holy Week in the Philippines does not get into full swing until Maundy Thursday afternoon, when the marathon chanting of Christ's passion starts. This is mostly done by devout old ladies, who take turns in reading and singing Bible texts. This goes on, without interruption, till Friday afternoon. Where I grew up, this actually started on Monday, to accommodate other companies or groups who want to do their own Pasyon or Pabasa. Our next door neighbour used a loudspeaker all the time, as most do.

Christian and superstitious traditions mix in this most solemn religious event in the country. Many still practice fasting and do not eat meat during Lent. Instead, we eat puddings made of sweet rice, yams, cassava, corn, and bananas cooked in coconut milk. As children, we were not allowed to take a shower as a sign of mourning, nor to be too loud or wild on Good Friday. This was supposed to be a precaution against minor injuries, as cuts suffered on this day take a long time to heal, according to the grandparents.

On Good Friday, it is a common sight to see a man wearing a robe, carrying a cross, followed by men whipping him. Some in the group would be naked from the waist up, and most would be barefoot (Holy Week is always the hottest time in the Philippines) as they scourge themselves with ropes, twigs or horsewhips. This is for atonement for their sins, a vow of penitence or penance. It is the person concerned's own wish to be hung on the cross or nailed.

At noon, the sermon on the Seven Last Words starts. This is held in every church and is

organized in some homes and broadcast on the radio. There are seven speakers, interpreting and expounding on each sentence, all designed to make even children cry, and making you feel sad for Mary, above all. By 3 p.m., when the seventh word is spoken, the atmosphere becomes more sullen and sad, with sobs and recitation of various litanies. There follows a procession led by the image of the weeping Mary (Mater Dolorosa) followed by more religious floats with their images of saints, all ornate, rich and shiny, belonging to wealthy families and handed down through the generations as heirlooms. These start and end at the church. The general mood is reverent and subdued, till dawn on Sunday.

Saturday is when pilgrims of various sects or cults, or even those practicing witchcraft, worship their deity in caves, on mountains and at waterfalls, or old trees, offering food or sacrificing animals. This is when they gather to test their amulets or concoct potions. It is said that this is effective because God is still dead.

At dawn on Sunday, in the town next to ours, a play is performed when the image of the Risen Christ and that of the sorrowful Mary (Mater Dolorosa again) meet in front of the church – people clap hands and sing happy hymns. This is followed by a fiesta. Good Friday and Easter Sunday are the only days of the year that the image of Mater Dolorosa leaves the church.

In most towns, though, Easter Sunday is just like any other Sunday. As children, we were woken up early and told to jump, so we would grow tall. Perhaps I just did not listen to my mother!

*Naomi Billard*



## **Bishop's Easter Message, 2009**

Is Easter a noun or a verb? Most of us would, I suspect, say it is a noun. We might also, if we were interested in the origins of words, go on to say that our English word 'Easter' comes from the name of a pagan goddess of spring, Eostre. The old Christian name for this festival was 'the Christian Passover', often called simply the Pasch, from the Hebrew word for the Jewish Passover Festival – hence that mysterious word 'Paschal' in older Easter hymns.

We are used to keeping Holy Week, starting on Palm Sunday and then moving through the great three days – Maundy Thursday, when we commemorate the Last Supper, the Institution of the Eucharist, and Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, the new commandment (mandatum in Latin which gives the day its name) to love one another, followed by Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, and his betrayal by Judas; then on Good Friday, the starkest day in the Christian Year, we come to the foot of the Cross to contemplate the three hours of agonising dying, the mockery and the taunts, with the beloved disciple and Mary the Mother of Jesus and the other women at the foot of the Cross; and on Holy Saturday, Easter Eve, there is total nothingness, the life which 'was the light of men' blotted out, engulfed in the darkness of death; and so to the sunburst of the Resurrection on Easter Day.

Although the early Church marked these days and their happenings, in the earliest keeping of Easter it was seen as one great festival and commemoration – the Passover of the Lord. There were echoes of course of the origins of the Jewish Passover Festival in the deliverance of God's people from slavery in Egypt, but the Christian Passover was greater – it was God's deliverance of us all from the burden and chains of sin and death and the powers of evil. The ancient hymns sing of 'the glorious battle', God in Christ in our human nature engaging with all that imprisons us, and routing the spiritual powers of darkness that hold us captive. So on Easter Day we sing 'The fight is o-er, the battle done', and of the victorious

Christ binding Satan and bringing to an end the tyranny of sin. He is victorious over death, and it is from the dead that he is raised.

No one of the Gospels dares to describe Easter itself, the moment of resurrection, for this cannot be captured in the description of human words which belong to the old order. At Easter the new creation breaks through the old order of sin and death, and Christ – the same Christ – is raised to a new and transfigured life. He is recognised – but not immediately; the empty tomb points as a sign, and St John gives us the detail of the folded grave-clothes, for St John wants us to see that Jesus is not like Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead, and who then had to be unbound and set free. The resurrection of Jesus is new life itself, an eternal life which is shared with us as St John again makes clear by setting his Pentecost on Easter evening, when the Risen Lord breathes his life-giving Spirit upon the disciples to be their transforming new life.

It is because of this that Easter is present, Easter is active, Easter is not something mysterious shut up in the past, but a new and transforming life given to us. The poet-priest, Gerard Manley Hopkins, was surely right to make Easter a verb, and to speak of the Risen Christ 'eastering in us', and therefore of Christ 'playing in ten thousand places, lovely in eyes and limbs not us, to the Father, through the brightness of men's faces.'

So St Paul, writing to the Christians of Corinth, in the great fifteenth chapter of his first letter, makes a clear and absolute connection between Christ being raised to new life at Easter, and the sharing of that new life with us. Through our baptism we share in that resurrection life, which is why Easter was and is the time for baptism. But Paul also knows that the present reality of Easter looks to a future reality, the completion and fulfilment of Easter in us at the Last Day. What was true of Jesus who truly died and was taken into the nothingness of death will be true for us. 'As we have worn the likeness of the man made of dust, so we shall wear the likeness of the heavenly man.' What is promised is new creation, transformation and

change. For Christians death is not the end, it is not the horizon which closes off our life; for Christians our horizon is the living Christ, and the hope that already gives us.

In St Luke's wonderful and moving story of the unrecognised Risen Lord meeting two dejected disciples on the way to the village of Emmaus from Jerusalem, Jesus points them to how the suffering Messiah was already part of Jewish understanding. They ask the stranger to come and eat with them, and he sits at table with them. He takes bread, blesses it, breaks and shares it. 'Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; but he vanished from their sight.' In the Eucharist, in the breaking of bread, Easter comes to us over and over again. Christ feeds us with his new life, his risen life, that he may 'evermore dwell in us and we in him.'

May Christ indeed Easter in you, and bring you the joy of his resurrection, his new life, that, like St Paul, writing to the Christians of Rome you may be convinced 'that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of the spirits or superhuman powers, in the world as it is, or the world as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths – nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' 'Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+*Geoffrey Gibraltar*



## Stewardship

### Thank You and more thoughts on Stewardship

Thank you to all those who took part in the 2009 Stewardship Campaign and those who returned their pledges.

Most of the time, we talk about stewardship in terms of the costs associated with running a parish, but I think we also need to talk about the attitude we have within the Church community. We have been given an abundance of gifts and riches from the Holy Spirit. Our stewardship of these gifts will be proven in how well we succeed as a parish.

A few years ago, the church council looked around and saw a community that was struggling. In a great leap of faith, they decided to hire a full time priest ... - aware of the risk of failure, but also trusting that their leap of faith would be rewarded by the growth in numbers, talent and the financial base to support their decision.

Rev. Dimmick has added great leadership and vision to this Church. He has instilled in the St. Catherine's community a desire to succeed and to be more than a place. This desire always existed with the parish; it just needed a little help to realize its potential. Since then, St. Catherine's has continued to grow thanks to the hard work of many hands.

As we grow in people, we also grow in programmes, events and the need for space to host us. We have social groups, study groups, and opportunities to expand our horizons. The Parish Council has leased the new Parish Hall to expand our physical space and provide for our future - again trusting that this step will generate the growth that is needed to sustain a Parish Centre in the long term. Having a place that is ours will enable us to determine our own path, and provide more for St. Catherine's and eventually the community as a whole.

We have a new attitude – an attitude that says we can succeed as a parish, and that we have an abundance of riches with something to offer the wider Stuttgart community. This is the

stewardship that we must provide to this Church community. The challenge before us is to prevent this gift of the Holy Spirit from withering on the vine. We must allow the Spirit to help us continue to grow into a vibrant church community. The Church Council is extremely grateful to all the members of this parish for their support of in this goal. The numbers of people pledging has increased, as well as the amount pledged. We are well on our way to our goal of achieving self-sustainability. Also a "Thank you" to all who have given their skills and time as volunteers during the ongoing renovations.

Your dedication to this Church community is proof that God has touched us and has a great plan for St. Catherine's. Please know that your gifts of your treasure, time and talents are sincerely appreciated.

*John Friedenreich & Joachim Zeller*

### Using your gifts

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone." 1 Corinthians 4-6.

Each of us has different gifts that we can offer to the service of the church: some are confident standing up in public reading, leading prayers, some sing, some are good at organising, others at hosting events, others at DIY and cleaning, some at greeting or supporting others ...

Since moving into our new Parish Centre, where we have the potential for expansion and the possibility of expanding our ministries, be they fellowship, entertainment, fundraising, educational ... However, none of this growth can be accomplished without the valuable help of volunteers.

During a church service have you ever stopped to think what it would be like if there was no friendly face on the door to greet you, if no-one got up to read a lesson or there was no-one to be the second adult for the children's class?

Have you ever stopped to think when drinking your mug of coffee after the service just who

made this coffee or where did this cake come from or who clears up after I've gone home?

We are all very busy people dedicated to our jobs, families, hobbies, but your help can make such a difference to these church functions, turning them into enjoyable and successful occasions.

We all have gifts and we are all called to serve. Never feel that you are too new to St.

Catherine's to answer a call for volunteers or that we already have everything under control!

If you would like to be involved or help in any way or are new to St. Catherine's and would like more information about how you could serve please contact the following people:

Fellowship/Coffee - Julie Faust

[fellowship@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:fellowship@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

Sunday Services - Frances Buttle

[junior\\_warden@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:junior_warden@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

Choir – Marva Farrington [choir@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:choir@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

Christian Education – John Friedenreich or Del Crandall [education@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:education@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

Renovations – Joachim Zeller

[renovations@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:renovations@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

Or if you have ideas for new ministries speak to Ken – [vicar@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:vicar@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

What could your act of service to St. Catherine's be? Whatever it is you can be sure that it will be very much appreciated.

*Julie Faust*



*La cappella degli scrovegni*

## Outreach projects

### Count your Blessings

Have you been Counting your blessings during Lent? Are you horrified by the number of suitcases you own, suddenly aware of the ease with which you flush the toilet, thankful that you are not one of the 923 million people who will wake up to another day of hunger, shocked by the fact that even those on the minimum wage of €8.65 an hour are in the richest 11% of the world, humbled by the bounty with which we are surrounded and the need in which so many of our brothers and sister live? Well now is the time to act – count up your donations and transfer them to the Church Account clearly marked – Bishop's Lent Appeal.

All monies will be transferred collectively to the Diocese who will direct them to Christian Aid's project partners at Thandanani in South Africa, which helps vulnerable children, including those affected by HIV.

For more information on Christian Aid see [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Please transfer your Count Your Blessings Donations to:

Kontoinhaber:

Friends of the English Church e.V.

Kontonummer: 402 222

BLZ: 520 604 10

Bank: Evangelische Kreditgenossenschaft Kassel (EKK)

Verwendungszweck : Bishop's Lent Appeal

### A helping hand

#### Little Telly seeks good home!

Have you recently arrived in Stuttgart and haven't yet got a TV? We have a 15" portable, colour TV which is free to a good home. All instruction books etc. available. The only thing missing is the remote control – this could be replaced or just keep fit walking over to change the channel!

Interested? Speak to Frances or Darren Buttle.

## Activities at St Catherine's

### 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. Newcomers 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

In February the Toddler Group learnt about making friends with each other and with God: which seems a good mission statement for a toddler group. So if you are new to St. Catherine's and have little ones and would like with them to get to know others and God better then why not come along on 23rd April at 15:00 in the Parish Centre. The theme will be Easter and we will be making Easter Nests.

Dates for your diary:

14th May (Theme: Stories of Jesus - where we will be acting out one of the stories of Jesus). All meetings are at 15.00 'till 17.00 at the Parish Centre - all children from 0-3 are welcome accompanied by an adult. For more information speak to Sarah Lepschy or e-mail [toddlers@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:toddlers@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

### Confirmation Classes

The current programme of confirmation classes is now in full swing in preparation for the visit of Bishop Geoffrey on 7<sup>th</sup> June. If you are interested in confirmation and haven't yet been to a class please speak to Ken as soon as possible.

### Choir

If you would like to be part of our developing St. Catherine's Choir please get in touch with Marva Farrington ([choir@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:choir@stcatherines-stuttgart.de))

## Women's Group

For those of you who might be new to the Church, or for those of you who still haven't made it to us yet, let me tell you a bit about the Womens' Group. We started meeting about 5 or 6 years ago and the idea behind it was for the women of the Church to get to know each other, offer support and back up should any problems arise and to rally round should there be a project or special event which needed our help. Initially we met at each other's houses, taking it in turns to act as hostess. Then when Ken came along he was kind enough to have us come to his flat in Möhringen. Now we have the Parish Centre as a meeting place which is ideal, being more central and easy to get to by public transport. It is just a social group where we enjoy a chat, a cup of tea or coffee and catch up on each other's news.

Children are always welcome and there is a good store of toys now at the centre for them to play with. So why don't you come along to our next meeting which will be on Thursday, 23rd April from 10:00 until 12:00. If you have any questions, do get in touch with me, Alison Seyerle, [women@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:women@stcatherines-stuttgart.de) See you there!

### Ladies Evening Group

The Ladies Evening Group is a social and fellowship group for those who would like the chance to get to know each other better. Our next meeting will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> April at the Indian Palace (<http://www.indianpalace-stuttgart.de>) Please speak to Jackie Wellhäußer or e-mail [legs@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:legs@stcatherines-stuttgart.de) if you would like to join us.

### Visit to the Church of the Nazarene

Many of you will have met Pastor Mary Schaar and members of the Church of the Nazarene at various joint events we have held. We have been invited to share in worship with them on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April at their 18:00 service at the Friedenskirche, Mergentheimer Str. 15, Bad-Cannstatt. If you are interested in going to the service please speak to Ken. For more information on the Church of the Nazarene see their website <http://www.stuttgart-nazarene.de/>

## Annual General Meeting

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April – 11am in the Parish Centre.

A – All welcome

G – Get yourself registered

M – Make your voice count

The AGM is the day of the year when the members of St. Catherine's get to hear what the Church Council has been doing in their name over the past year. They review the activities, finances and plans for the next year. Then the Church Wardens and Council members for the coming year are elected. All members of the Church Council must be re-elected on a yearly basis, with the expectation that they will serve for a maximum of three years.

This year there are two vacant posts on the Council and the congregation is called on to prayerfully consider who might be called to fill these posts. Nominations should be made to the Vicar or Church Wardens in consultation with the person being nominated.

All are welcome to attend the AGM but only those on the church electoral roll are entitled to stand for election and vote at the meeting.

So the important question is: do you want to take an active part in the decision making at St. Catherine's? If so, you need to ensure your name is listed on the electoral roll. A list of enrolled members has been e-mailed to those who regularly attend St. Catherine's and is also available at the back of Church. If you are not listed, simply complete the form which you will find on the church website <http://stcatherines-stuttgart.de/uploads/documents/enrolment.pdf> and return it to Del Crandall or one of the Church Wardens. Enrolment at St. Catherine's does not affect your membership of any other church.

## AGM Potluck Lunch

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April post-AGM Parish Centre

Another chance to show off your culinary skills and talents as well as an opportunity to share fellowship after our Annual General Meeting.

Please contact Julie Faust if you can help

[fellowship@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:fellowship@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

## Social, Fellowship & Fundraising Events

### English Music Hall 4

Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 19:30 St. Catherine's

A fun-filled evening of frivolity and silliness!

Bring out your feather boa, dust off your straw boater and help us recreate the authentic atmosphere of the Victorian–Edwardian music hall of the “good old days” with songs and sketches of the era rendered by present-day performers in the style of the original artistes.

Please come along and support this St.

Catherine's fundraising event - you won't be disappointed!

### NEW! St. Catherine's Walking Group

We aim to meet after church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. Our first walk will be on 14<sup>th</sup> June and if you would like to join us or find out more, please contact Julie Faust

[walking@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:walking@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

### Beginning of Summer Picnic

Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June post 11:15 service Killesberg Park

What better way to welcome in the summer than with a traditional St Catherine's bring & share picnic in the beautiful surroundings of Killesberg park. Just bring along your favourite picnic foods plus a little extra to share with others to give the picnic that typical St. Cat's fellowship feeling. (More details to follow nearer the time).

### Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November - put the date in your diaries now!

The Bazaar Working Group has, with the blessing of the Church Council, decided to resurrect an old St. Catherine's tradition and to separate the Bazaar and the Carol Service. This year the bazaar will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November in the Parish Centre. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer in any way to help with the Bazaar please contact Julie Faust [fellowship@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:fellowship@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)



Once again St. Catherine's is pleased to be taking part in the Stuttgart American Days programme.

### **Booksale**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 09:00-17:00 and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 12:00-14:00

This will be a joint event between St. Catherine's, the International Women's Club (IWC) and the Children's English Library (CEL). IWC will be organising a bake sale, CEL will be selling new and second hand children's books and St. Catherine's will also be selling new Christian books and a wide range of second hand books.

If you have any books you wish to donate or wish to help on the day please speak to Tiffany Le Clerq or e-mail [booksale@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:booksale@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

### **Multiple Sclerosis Society Benefit Concert**

Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7 p.m. in St. Catherine's Church.

Let JOYces & Friends entertain you with their international repertoire of jazz, swing and gospel. JOYces (joy voices) is a group of young and talented musicians who have one thing in common – devotion to music and singing and a motto of dedication, enjoyment and fun. This is a benefit concert in aid of multiple sclerosis (MS) research kindly hosted by St. Catherine's Anglican Church. For more information on MS see p11.

### **Gospel Concert**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 18:00 at Leonhardskirche)

For more information see

<http://www.daz.org/americanandays.html>

## **Parish Centre Update**

### **Much achieved – much ahead**

It is now roughly 6 months ago that several members of the Parish Council and other St. Catherinites witnessed the signing of the rental contract for the Parish Centre (or simply 'the Bakery').

At that point, the 200 m<sup>2</sup> were a ruin: the big ovens and furnaces just ripped out, disconnected gas pipes sticking out from walls and floors, mould on the wall, layers of grease and dust everywhere on the shelves and cabinets (accumulated over so many years that made cleaning it an archaeological excavation).

In the 6 months since then, the Bakery has seen tremendous change: the "Great Cleaning" in late October, when all the shelves and cabinets were thoroughly cleaned from grease and dust, all dishes cleaned to be ready for use. All Saints Day saw the formal inauguration of the Parish Centre when we hosted the first coffee hour there.

The next challenge was to get ready the 2 rooms that were to form the vicar's apartment, so that Father Ken could move in by the middle of January 2009. The activities involved ridding the walls of mould, putting up wallpaper, having gas heating installed, laying flooring, sanding the doors. With the help of volunteers and professional construction businesses, we managed to get the apartment ready by the target date.

The next step involved getting the Main Hall ready for use during the CAECG meeting in early March. This involved volunteers removing the tiles from the walls and washing off the ceiling and a local firm being called into plaster the walls. The challenge of having a target date mobilized us so that the CAECG meeting - centering on Parish building - experienced a living, practical example of their topic - developing churches.

At this point, we want to say "Thank You!" to all those who have helped in so many ways and let stewardship come to life by using their talents.

Although we could have all reason to be tired of renovation, yet other projects lie ahead, and yet again, we will be relying on volunteers to make things happen. The next steps are:

- To paint the ceiling and the freshly plastered wall in the Main Hall
- To have ceiling lights installed
- To raise the floor in the rear section of the Main Hall
- To modify the kitchen so that it can be efficiently used for catering

Again, it will be a challenge to make this happen: Bishop Geoffrey will visit in early June, he is already most curious to see the fruits of growth and community building in Stuttgart. At this point, we want to appeal to St. Catherine's Parishioners to help with whatever skill and gift they have: cleaning, painting, putting up wallpaper, doing plumbing. If you are capable of practical work and willing to help, then please make sure that you are on the e-mail list [renovations@stcatherines-stuttgart.de](mailto:renovations@stcatherines-stuttgart.de)

While success can't be taken for granted, we can be confident that, given the metamorphosis that the Parish Centre has seen, we will again meet this challenge.

*Joachim Zeller*

## Parish Administration

This is just to let you know that Lauris Prince-Schröter and I are now the new parish administrators. We will be in the office in the parish centre every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 2pm dealing with general administrative matters pertaining to the parish and the centre, sorting out the church's archives, dealing with telephone enquiries and welcoming visitors to the centre. In addition we keep a watchful eye on the two parking spaces reserved for the centre on the pavement in front of the building to ensure that they are kept solely for the use of members of the congregation or visitors! So, if you would like to pop in for a cup of tea or a chat or if you have any questions, please come and visit us or give us a ring during the above hours. We would be pleased to see/help you!

*Hilary Norman*

## "Life doesn't stop when MS starts"

One morning in July 2005, my daughter Karin woke up with a numbness and heaviness in her left arm which rapidly spread to the whole of her left side, causing difficulty in walking and unsteadiness. These symptoms were also accompanied by a hollow, numb feeling in her stomach. Consultations with a neurologist, blood tests and a full MRI scan followed, the results of which were suggestive of demyelinating disease and the possibility that she had multiple sclerosis (MS) was mentioned, but not confirmed. As the doctor had predicted, Karin recovered completely and we both set our faith in his prognosis that the symptoms would be non-recurrent, but how wrong we were. Karin found it increasingly difficult to cope with the demands of university, due to what we now know to be fatigue, caused by the effects of MS on the central nervous system, as well as cognitive problems.

Since her first visit to the neurologist in 2005, Karin has experienced a huge range of emotions, among them anger, aggression, denial, fear, distress and frustration and has asked the inevitable questions "why me?" and "what have I done to deserve MS?" But now, four years on, and at the age of 24, Karin is gradually learning to come to terms with her now official diagnosis of relapsing remitting MS. This was the result of yet another series of gruelling hospital tests, after suffering a relapse, including her third MRI scan, blood tests, evoked potentials and a lumbar puncture, followed by a three day course of intravenous steroids. Karin has had to face many setbacks, not only the disappointment of not being able to complete her studies, but also redundancy and unemployment. However, despite periods of depression and despair, Karin has overcome these difficulties and became an active member of the MS Society in the UK. She is learning to defend herself against the non-visible challenges of MS and people's conceptions about disability. Yes she has MS – and no, she is not in a wheelchair. What many people don't know is that only a small percentage of people with MS are in wheelchairs! Karin is

determined to achieve her future goals in life and I will be there to support her wherever and whenever she needs me. Both she and I now know that MS is not life-threatening but certainly life-changing. MS is not the end of the story!

## **About MS**

Although no-one is certain why people get MS, research suggests that it is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. It is the most common disabling neurological disorder affecting young adults and it is estimated that around 85,000 people in the UK have MS. Most people get diagnosed aged between 20 and 40 and it's almost twice as common in women as men. MS occurs when there is damage to the protective material (myelin) around the nerves in the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord). When myelin is damaged, messages from the brain to the body are slower or do not get through at all, causing symptoms of MS like fatigue and difficulty walking or speaking. The myelin damage leaves nerve fibres partially or completely exposed, with scars known as lesions or plaques. This lack of protection then disrupts messages travelling along the nerve fibres - like an electrical cable whose insulating plastic has been damaged. The electrical impulse can't make it down the cable so messages can slow down, become distorted, short circuit, or not get through at all. As well as myelin loss, there can sometimes be damage to the actual nerve fibres. It is this nerve damage that causes the progression of disability that can occur over time. There is no set pattern of how MS will progress and the cause of remission is unknown. By nature, MS is variable and unpredictable, which many people find difficult to deal with, especially at first.

## **The MS Society (registered charity number 207495)**

The MS Society is currently the largest charitable funder of MS research in the UK and is committed to finding a cure for MS. During 2008 over £7 million was invested into research

projects on all aspects including the symptoms, causes and a cure for MS. To date the Society has invested nearly £78 million in research programmes that will hopefully one day bring about a cure for MS. However, it could not continue to provide this amount without the work of fundraisers.

## **Is a world free from MS possible?**

By supporting the concert on 9<sup>th</sup> May you will be making a vital contribution to funding research programmes into the causes and treatment of multiple sclerosis. A further step towards a world free from MS.

Guest speaker at the concert will be Annette Abraminko ([www.dare-the-dream.de](http://www.dare-the-dream.de)) who, despite being diagnosed with chronic progressive MS at the age of 40 and wheelchair bound, crossed the Atlantic in a tall ship as an active crew member. Perfect proof that life doesn't stop when MS starts!

*Julie Faust*

As a postscript I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have remembered Karin in their prayers. Please continue to pray for her.

## **Goodbyes**

This Lent we have sadly said goodbye to several St. Catherine's families.

Ina, Glenn, Hazel, Violet, Ruby and Felix have returned to the States.

Glen and Celine have set off for Ireland.

Anton Miranda returned to India.

Bijoy, Binita, Jessica and Ashley have moved to Frankfurt.

Douglas returned to Brazil.

and most recently Adekunle Oke has started his doctoral studies in Magdeburg.

We wish all those who have left us all the best in their new homes and can assure them they will miss them and they will always receive a warm welcome if they happen to be in Stuttgart.

## Council of Anglican and Episcopalian Churches in Germany

From the 5th – 7th March we in Stuttgart were the proud hosts of the meeting of the Council of Anglican Episcopal Churches in Germany.

The CAECG meets twice a year each time at a different parish. This time the meeting, involving over 30 clergy and laity - including two bishops -, was held in our new parish centre.

The clergy arrived on the afternoon of Thursday 5 March for their own meeting which lasted until Friday lunchtime. They were then joined by the laity. The Friday afternoon and part of Saturday morning were taken up by CAECG official business. We heard reports from all the churches represented – Berlin, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, Cologne/Bonn, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Freiburg, Munich, Augsburg, Nuremberg and, of course, Stuttgart (Leipzig and Karlsruhe were unable to be represented) as well as from the Diocese in Europe. The main news from the Diocese is that a new Archdeacon for Scandinavia and Germany has been appointed to replace Mark Oakley. Jonathan LLoyd (yes, spelled with two capital Ls!!) from the diocese of Bath and Wells will take up his appointment in January 2010. Joachim Pfützner, representing the Old Catholics, was also present for part of the meeting and gave us a report on the latest developments in the Old Catholic Church in Germany.

Finance, environmental issues, educational programmes, ACK matters and the ecumenical Kirchentag to be held in Munich in 2010 were also discussed at the meeting.

At each CAECG meeting we have either speakers giving talks of mutual interest to all or a retreat. This time we had talks on the theme “Congregational Development”. Our speakers were Rev. Canon Martin Seeley (Principal Westcott House, Oxford), Rev. Kempton Baldrige (Rector, All Saints Waterloo, Belgium) and our own Rev. Ken Dimmick. They led three sessions on this topic during the

late afternoon and evening of 6<sup>th</sup> March and the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> March.

The delegates wanted to know how to develop and involve their congregations, how to deal with issues and how they could learn from each other. Martin asked us, therefore, to first look at our strengths and our weaknesses, establish what our concerns were and what opportunities we were aware or not aware of. It was found that our strengths were clearly being caring, welcoming communities with diverse congregations with lots of talents, sharing fellowship and spiritual experiences, and with good lay and pastoral leadership. Our weaknesses and concerns were mainly transient congregations, retaining newcomers and teenagers, lack of long term commitment, core group burn out, parish sizes and clergy isolation. Examples of opportunities could be found in flexibility, involvement with other churches, location, developing outreach programmes, improvements in communication and more lay leadership training. Martin emphasised that growth was a sign of quality. It was clear that we were all on the right track but we should not stand still. We had a quality product and quality membership but we should still continue to be innovative, listen to what people want, let people know who and what we are and what we can offer and look out for more opportunities to develop and grow. This was clearly brought out by Kempton and Ken who, assisted by various video clips, told us about their experiences with their own parishes and gave many examples of what had driven their growth. At the end of the last session the delegates were asked to return to their parishes to implement some of the ideas they had gained from this meeting.

It proved to be yet again a very thought provoking meeting and an excellent chance to meet delegates from all over Germany and exchange ideas and information. All the delegates enjoyed themselves and were very impressed with the progress we had made with our parish centre. My thanks go to all (too many to mention individually) who were involved in organising the meeting, preparing

the parish centre and hosting delegates, but particular mention should be made of the coordinators Eric Jarman, Susan Morris and John Thompson, who respectively supervised the accommodation, catering and church services, and to Ken, for being one of the speakers.

The next CAECG meeting will be in Hamburg in mid-September when we will have a retreat.

*Hilary Norman*  
CAECG secretary

## **Fun Stuff**

Practice your German and learn the secrets of the global financial crisis.

Die Finanzkrise ganz einfach erklärt ;)

Erklärung unserer globalen Finanzkrise für den Hausgebrauch !!!!!

Heidi betreibt eine Bar in der Münchener Innenstadt. Um ihren Umsatz zu steigern beschliesst sie, die Getränke für die treue Kundschaft - (mehrheitlich Alkoholiker ohne Arbeit) - anzuschreiben (ihnen also Kredit ohne festgelegten Konditionen zu gewähren).

Das spricht sich herum und dadurch drängen sich immer mehr Kunden in Heidi's Bar. Da die Kunden sich um die Bezahlung zunächst keine Sorgen machen müssen, verteuert Heidi die Preise für die meistkonsumierten Getränke Wein und Bier und erhöht damit ihren Umsatz massiv.

Der junge und dynamische Kundenberater der lokalen mündelsicheren Bank sieht in diesen Kundensschulden wertvolle künftige Guthaben und erhöht die Kreditlinie für Heidi's Betrieb.

Er hat dabei keinerlei Bedenken, denn er hat ja die Schulden der einkommensschwachen Alkoholiker als Deckung.

Am Sitz der Bank transformieren ausgewiesene Top-Banker diese Kundenguthaben in SUFFBOND, ALKBOND und KOTZBOND um. Diese Papiere werden dann weltweit gehandelt. Niemand versteht zwar, was die Abkürzungen bedeuten und was die Papiere beinhalten und wie sie garantiert werden. Da die Kurse aber steigen, werden die Papiere im Bankgeschäft ein Renner.

Irgendwann stellt, obwohl die Kurse immer noch steigen, ein Risk-Manager (inzwischen selbstverständlich entlassen - Begründung: seine Einstellung war zu negativ) der Bank fest, dass man die Schulden der Alkoholiker aus Heidi's Bar einfordern solle.

Da diese jedoch nicht zahlen können, kann Heidi ihren Kreditverpflichtungen nicht nachkommen und geht in Konkurs. SUFFBOND und ALKBOND verlieren 95% ihres Kurswertes. KOTZBOND hält sich besser und stabilisiert sich nach einem Verlust von 80%. Die Lieferanten hatten auf Grund der Umsatzsteigerung Heidi's Bar längere Zahlungsfristen eingeräumt und außerdem in die so toll laufenden Papiere investiert. Der Weinlieferant geht dadurch in Konkurs. Der Bierlieferant wird von einem Konkurrenten übernommen. Die clevere Bank mit ihrem Top-Vorstand wird durch eine Bundesbürgschaft und Stützungszahlungen des Bundes gerettet. Nur die Stammkunden sind enttäuscht und frustriert, weil man sie über das Anschreiben und seine Folgen nicht informiert hat.

## **Local directory**

### **The International Women's Club of Stuttgart e.V.**

New to the Stuttgart area or have an interest in activities in English? Come join us at our monthly meeting at Cafe Merlin, Augustenstr. 72, 70178 Stuttgart-West (entrance in the back). Contact the club for more information at their website [www.iwcstuttgart.org](http://www.iwcstuttgart.org)

### **Children's English Library e.V.**

The Children's English Library provides a source of English language books and activities for native and non-native speakers in the Stuttgart region.

New members and volunteers are always welcome.

CEL is situated in Etzelstr.25-27 not far from St. Catherine's. Opening times and more information can be found on [www.celstuttgart.de](http://www.celstuttgart.de)

**What's on at St. Catherine's**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>
Sun. 12 April	17:00	<i>Easter Holy Communion</i>	St. Catherine's	OT: Acts 10.24-43 Psalm: 118.1-2, 14-24 NT: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 Gospel: John 20.1-18 or Mark 16.1-8 Post Service: Easter celebration bring and share with Easter Egg hunt
Wed 15 April	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: John 20.19-31
Sat 18 April	19:30	English Music Hall #4	St. Catherine's	See p.9 for more details
Sun 19 April	11:15	<i>Easter 2 Holy Communion</i>	St. Catherine's	OT: Acts 4.32-35 Psalm: 133 NT: 1 John 1.1-2.2 Gospel: John 20.19-31 Post Service: Fellowship
Sun 19 April	18:00	Joint Service with the Church of the Nazarene	Friedenskirche - Bad Canstatt	See p.8 for more details
Sun 19 April	18:00	Confirmation Class	Friedenskirche - Bad Canstatt	Visiting the Nazarene Church/ Ecumenism. See p.8 for more details
Wed 22 April	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: Luke 24.36b-48
Thurs 23 April	10:00	Women's Group	Parish Centre	See p.8 for more details
Thurs 23 April	15:00	Toddler Group - Easter	Parish Centre	See p.8 for more details

CrossRoads - Easter 2009

Sun	26 April	09:00	<i>Easter 3 Holy Communion</i>	St. Catherine's	OT: Acts 3.12-19 Psalm: 4 NT: 1 John 3.1-7 Gospel: Luke 24.36b-48
Sun	26 April	11:00	Annual General Meeting	Parish Centre	See p.9 for more details
Mon	27 April	19:30	Ladies Evening Group	India Palace	See p.8 for more details
Wed	29 April	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: John 10.11-18
Sun	3 May	11:15	<i>Easter 4 Holy Communion</i>	St. Catherine's	OT: Acts 4.5-12 Psalm: 23 NT: 1 John 3.16-24 Gospel: John 10.11-18 Post Service: Fellowship
Sun	3 May	12:30	Confirmation Class	Parish Centre	The Sacraments: Baptism and Communion
Wed	6 May	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: John 15.1-8
Sat	9 May	09:00-17:00	"American Days" Book Sale	Parish Centre	See p. 10 for more details
Sat	9 May	19:00	"American Days" Benefit Concert for the Multiple Sclerosis Society	St. Catherine's	See p.10 for more details
Sun	10 May	09:00	<i>Easter 5 Holy Communion</i>	St. Catherine's	OT: Acts 8.26-40 Psalm: 22.25-31 NT: 1 John 4.7-21 Gospel: John 15.1-8 Post Service: Booksale Sell-off
Sun	10 May	11:00	Confirmation Class	Parish Centre	What we believe: the Catechism

Sun	10 May	18:00	Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion	Ulm	see <a href="http://stcatherines-stuttgart.de/index.php?page=ulm-mission">http://stcatherines-stuttgart.de/index.php?page=ulm-mission</a>
Wed	13 May	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	
Thurs	14 May	15:00	Toddler Group – Stories of Jesus	Parish Centre	See p.8 for more details
Sun	17 May	18:00	“American Days” Gospel Concert	Leonhardskirche	See p.10 for more details
Sun	17 May	11:15	<i>Easter 6</i> Holy Communion	St. Catherine’s	OT: Acts 10.44-48 Psalm: 98 NT: 1 John 5.1-6 Gospel: John 15.9-17 Post Service: Fellowship
Wed	20 May	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: John 17.6-19
Thurs	21 May	19:00	Feast of the Ascension	St. Catherine’s	OT: Acts 1.1-11 Psalm: 47 NT: Ephesians 1-15-23 Gospel: Luke 24.44-53
Sun	24 May	09:00	<i>Easter 7 [Sunday after the Ascension]</i> Holy Communion	St. Catherine’s	OT: Acts 1.15-17, 21-26 Psalm: 1 NT: 1 John 5.9-13 Gospel: John 17.6-19 Post Service: Fellowship
Sun	24 May	11:00	Confirmation Class	Parish Centre	Personal Belief, Commitment and Responsibility
Sun	24 May	11:00	Council Meeting	Parish Centre	
Sun	24 May	18:00	Worship Service	Ulm	see <a href="http://stcatherines-stuttgart.de/index.php?page=ulm-mission">http://stcatherines-stuttgart.de/index.php?page=ulm-mission</a>

CrossRoads - Easter 2009

Mon	25 May	19:30	Ladies Evening Group	TBC	See p.8 for more details
Wed	27 May	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	Gospel: John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15
Sun	31 May	10:30	<i>Pentecost [Whitsunday]</i> Bilingual Joint Service of Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	Joint Service with the Old Catholics [with Easter proclamation in as many languages as possible.]
Wed	3 June	19:30	Bible Study	Parish Centre	
Sat	6 June	19:00	St. Catherine's Talent Show	St. Catherine's	Polish off your dancing shoes, dig out your top hat, warm up the vocal chords and put on a show ...
Sun	7 June	11:15	<i>Trinity Sunday</i> Confirmation with Holy Communion	St. Catherine's	OT: Isaiah 6.1-8 Psalm: 29 NT: Romans 8.12-17 Gospel: John 3.1-17 For more information see p.8
Sun	7 June	12:30	Blessing of the New Parish Centre	Parish Centre	To be followed by a Lunch in honour of the Bishop and Confirmands.