



Autumn 2007

CrossRoads

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Stuttgart

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St. Catherine's is represented by the Friends of the English Church, e.V.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Confirmation anyone?

I am always a hopeful person. I am a bit pragmatic, a little sceptical, often misinformed, but almost always hopeful. I like to sit around and daydream, because I can really imagine that my hopes might, God willing, come true. (With God, all things are possible.)

When I was first called to be the priest for St. Catherine's Church, I often sat and made list after list of possible ideas for the development of the church. This was before I even set foot in Europe ... and deep down inside, I knew that the exercise was not likely to produce lots of actual programmes. Nevertheless I was glad to exercise my ability to dream big dreams. I think that every Christian ought to be good at dreaming and hoping. There are no limits to God's power so why should God's People place limits on either dreaming or hoping.

One of the first dreams I had, ... which might well be coming to pass, ... is for a fun, informative, and inclusive Confirmation Class at St. Cat's. It is one of my dreams, because, frankly, I love teaching. I love telling the stories of how God has loved His people in ages past ... and how He is loving us right now ... and how His love will for all times. I love teaching about the Holy Scriptures, where they come from, who selected them, why we read them, and how they affect our lives. I love helping people to understand theological concepts such as incarnation, atonement, and salvation. I love watching the lights come on in the minds of Christians who previously thought it was all so complicated and irrelevant.

When I was growing up in USA, our standard was that we would be confirmed at age 13 or thereabouts. We would go to classes with the priest on Saturday morning and, after a few weeks of lectures, we had to recite from memory the creed, Lord's Prayer, and the 10 commandments. Then, in my particular case, the bishop came and confirmed 35 of us on a particular Sunday morning: Palm Sunday, 1967. I was 12 years old. (It was also the day of my first communion, because in those days one had to be confirmed in order to receive communion.)

In truth, I can hardly remember anything about the classes. The only thing I remember was going into the church to look for Christian symbols in the architecture. But all the class lectures, dull and boring ... are gone. Can a hormonally charged 12 or 13 year old really be expected to retain much when presented in an abstract/academic way?

communion is offered to younger children, there is not so much coercion toward confirmation. Now 15 or 16 is a more normal age ... with the hope that an older young person will better remember and understand the material presented in the classes.

But my favourite way to teach is to avoid the abstract academic approach altogether. I try to mix together the young people and the adults who are also seeking Confirmation. And when possible I mix in those who were long ago confirmed but, like me, can't remember much about it. For them it is a "Refresher Course." The goal is that all together they can learn through discussion, activities, and testimonials those things important to becoming a fully committed adult member of the church. Subjects include: Church History, the Bible, Christian Morality, Worship, Music, and Sacramental Theology, but to the best of my ability I work to keep them from becoming dry or boring.

My dream of a Confirmation Class/Refresher Course for St. Catherine's may soon become a reality. A visit from Bishop David Hamid is scheduled for April 2008. He is the Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese in Europe. Several people have already expressed to me an interest in being confirmed by Bishop Hamid while he is here. Maybe there are more who have never yet been confirmed ... or who would be interested in a refresher. (If you don't know what a Suffragan Bishop is, you might enjoy being part of the classes!)

The series of classes will be divided into two groups, to avoid the Christmas/New Year's activities. Part 1 will be in November (3 weeks) and Part 2 will be in February and March (6 weeks including Holy Week). Each class will be offered on a Sunday evening. It will include a worship service, a light supper, and a time of instruction. More specific details will be announced later.

I'll also be looking for volunteers who would be willing to come either to help with the suppers or to share their own experiences of what it means to be a Christian. If you know you'd like to be part of the group - either as a student or as a volunteer - please let me know.

My dreams often do not come to pass. Things happen; situations change. This is a dream I hope very much will happen. Leading newcomers, converts, and young people to a place where they can decide for themselves about their mature commitment to Christ and His Church is as important as anything we do. Knowing our faith, being able to talk about it, sharing our ideas, and listening to others ... all these are things from which we can all benefit. Do you see yourself being part of my dream? I hope so. But then ... I am always a very hopeful person.

Rev. Ken Dimmick

VISIT OF BISHOP CHANG - 21 OCTOBER

As part of the Old Catholics' centenary celebrations Bishop Richard S.O. Chang and his wife will be visiting St. Catherine's on October 21. Bishop Chang was the bishop of the Episcopal Church of Hawaii from 1997 until his retirement last March.

And what is Bishop Chang's connection with St. Catherine's? Well, the connection has nothing to do with the person but rather with the position he held, since it was the Bishop of Honolulu who, at the request of the Bishop of London, who was in charge of all foreign parishes at the time, consecrated St. Catherine's on 15 August 1868.

The service will begin with a Children's Procession and we hope that many children will participate in this. The children will also form a choir, which will sing a welcome song to Bishop and Mrs Chang. There will be a potluck lunch after the service, so all edible contributions will be gratefully received!

And another bishop will be visiting us this Autumn. Surya Prakash, the Bishop of Karimnagar Diocese and our former officiating minister, will be in Stuttgart with his wife, Vindhya, during November and they hope to attend St. Catherine's on Sunday, 18 November. Please come and give them a warm welcome.

BIBLE STUDY

This is held every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at St. Catherine's. All are welcome to attend.

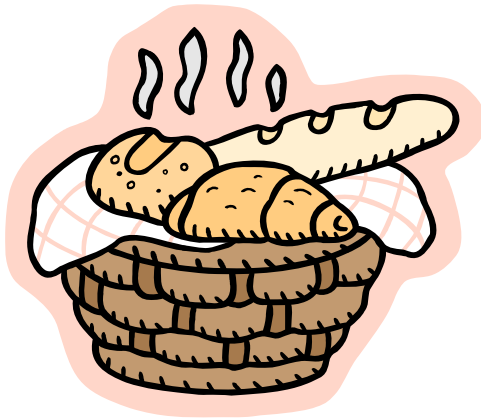
CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY TIME

This is held every Monday at the vicarage in Möhringen at 3.30pm.

ST CATHERINE'S ON-LINE

Don't forget to click onto our website, www.stuttgartanglicans.de, every now and then for the latest news. We would welcome any feedback.

HARVEST FESTIVAL - 7 OCTOBER



Thank you to everyone who brought non-perishable goods for the harvest festival service and also on the following Sunday. All the gifts will be donated to the Schwäbische Tafel. Our thanks go also to Alison Seyerle for collecting and transporting the goods to the Tafel.

THANK YOU TOO....

to Julie and Leslie Lipp-Nathaniel who took the services during Ken's recent trip to Texas.

BAPTISMS

We should like to welcome three young children into our church. Anna Magdalena Lepschy was baptised in Esslingen on 18 August and Christian John Gurdak and Jonathon Daniel Estrada who were baptised at St. Catherine's on 19 August. Many thanks to all the families who provided such wonderful refreshments after the service.

WEDDING

On 16 September Mary Suzan Abbo and Isaac Wani were married at St. Catherine's. The church was full of their friends, including some from the Episcopal church at Karlsruhe, where Suzan has been worshipping. Thanks to everyone who made it such a wonderful occasion. And "pongezi" to Isaac and Suzan!



The photograph shows Eric Jarman presenting the newly married couple with the congregation's present.

GIRL SCOUT

Congratulations to Grace Friedenreich, who completed her Girl Scout religious badge called God and Country. This was presented to her during the service on 16 September.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. CATHERINE'S

On 16 December there will be an 11.00 am Eucharist. At 5.00pm there will be our traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols preceded at 4.00pm with a service of Holy Communion. Following the carol service there will be our annual bazaar with refreshments and the sale of Christmas goodies, such as mince pies, marmalades, chutneys and Christmas crackers. If anyone would like to make any goodies for sale they would be very welcome. We would also appreciate any contributions for our tombola/raffle.

There will be no service on Christmas Day but we hope to have two services on Christmas Eve both with Holy Communion - one (provisionally) at 1.00pm and the other at 8.00pm. The latter will be a candlelight service with refreshments afterwards.

On 30 December at 10.30am we will be having a joint Christmas Carol service with the Old Catholics.

There will be a Children's Epiphany Play on January 6 during the 11.15 am service. All children can take part.

SHOEBOX CHARITY

We will once again be sending shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts to a Romanian orphanage. This gives us all a chance to be involved in a simple, hands-on missions' project that reaches out to disadvantaged children while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas – Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift.

Participating has never been easier. Here's how to make and fill your box(es):

1. Collect an empty shoebox and wrap the outside, and the lid, with Christmas paper.
2. Ask Susan Morris for the age and sex of the child for whom the shoebox is intended.

Attach the appropriate label on the **TOP** of your box.

3. Fill your shoe box with a variety of gifts, for example:

Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, plastic kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

School supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, colouring books, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, etc.

Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, washcloth, etc.

Other: hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, sunglasses, flashlights with extra batteries, ball caps, socks, T-shirts, toy jewellery sets, hair clips, watches, small picture books, etc.

Bring your completed shoebox to St. Catherine's by the first Sunday in December where it can be taken to the person who will be taking the boxes and other supplies to Romania.

If you are unable to participate in sending a shoebox this year, perhaps you would like to donate money towards the making of a shoebox. Please contact Susan Morris.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE PUZZLE

During one of our recent coffee hours Ken distributed sheets with the following puzzle. In case you were not there and would like to have a go here it is (*sorry, no prizes!*):

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him

occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing in a john boat. Another friend studied it while playing the banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

(Answers on the back page)

ST. CATHERINE'S COOKERY BOOK

We are still looking for recipes to include in our new St Catherine's cookbook, which will be sold in aid of St Catherine's restoration fund.

Recipes should be sent by e-mail if possible to Frances Buttle or given to her in church. We intend launching the cookbook at a special "bring and share" party where people are invited to bring a sample of the recipe they have contributed to the book to whet our appetites!

CAECG MEETING IN NECKARGEMÜND

The meeting of the Council of Anglican and Episcopalian Churches in Germany was held in a beautiful location at a hotel on the banks of the Neckar between 20 and 22 September. Thursday 20 September was reserved for the clergy; the laity joined the clergy the following day.

Friday afternoon was taken up by CAECG official business. We heard reports from all the churches represented - Berlin, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, Cologne/Bonn, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Freiburg, Munich and of course Stuttgart - as well as on the Diocesan Synod which had been held in May and where a motion from the CAECG regarding environmental concerns was heard and discussed. As a result a Diocesan Environmental Officer has been appointed, who will carry out an environmental audit on every chaplaincy in Europe to see how we can help reduce our carbon footprint. The Church of England in the UK has already agreed to reduce its carbon emissions by 60% by 2050.

On Friday evening and on the following day the delegates were introduced to "Fresh Expressions", an initiative started by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2004. The speaker was Steven Croft, who is the Fresh Expressions' team leader and who works with a team of 15

people from the Church of England and the Methodist Church, whose mission is to assist in forming new church communities. Due to various reasons, e.g. Sunday trading, changing cultures, changing relationships, deeper spiritual hunger, it was found that either people were moving away from church or that the traditional church did not meet people's changing needs. New types - or fresh expressions - of church therefore had to be established to meet these needs/changes in society. The mission, therefore, was to go to where the people were, form communities and make disciples. Eventually it was hoped that new churches would be formed.

By way of various films Steven introduced us to some of the new communities, which have been started by this initiative. There was for example the Goth community who have their own Eucharist services in a Cambridge church, Legacy XS which attracts young skateboarders who use a hall in Essex not only to practice their sport but also to have services, "Taste and See", a coffee shop which offers religious information and services as well as coffee, "Messy Church" for young children and their parents which meets midweek in Portsmouth and "Friday Fridge", which serves the surfing community on a beach in southern England. Through Steven's expert tutoring we were guided to look and think "outside the box", to put aside the traditional view of what constituted a church and to look at the demands and requirements of today's societies to see what new forms a church could take. It proved a fascinating insight into the way the Church of England was moving into the 21st century.

Hilary Norman

BRIAN D. BARNES' ONE MAN THEATRE

Many of you attended Brian's performance of "*Three Men in a Boat*" back in March when we raised funds for the church's restoration. If you would like to see him again - or if you missed him last time! - he will be back in Stuttgart in

November and December performing "*Alice's Adventures Under Ground*" and "*A Christmas Carol*" at the Theater der Altstadt, Rotebühlstrasse 89, 70178 Stuttgart. (Tel: 61553464 Fax: 61553469 www.theater-der-altstadt.de)

Alice's Adventures Under Ground

Tuesday 13th November at 8pm

"Alice's Adventures Under Ground" is Lewis Carroll's original title for what has become known as "Alice in Wonderland". Brian's portrayal presents a general perspective of Wonderland starting with Alice's descent down the rabbit-hole and her various changes in height. Then, with his rapid changes of voice and physiognomy, follow such adventures as the Caucus Race and Alice's meeting with the Duchess and her cook.

Watch Brian transform himself into the Cheshire Cat, before Alice joins the Mad Hatter, the Dormouse and the March Hare at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. After the interval, more zany characters emerge to take part in the game of croquet, which leads up to Alice's conversation with the Gryphon and the Mock Turtle. The climax comes with the trial presided over by the King and Queen of Hearts.

A Christmas Carol

December Sunday 16th at 6pm and Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th at 8pm

In the preface of "A Christmas Carol" Charles Dickens wrote: "I have endeavoured, in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it."

The tale is a mixture of the sentimental and the supernatural, a blend of jollity and melodrama, all expressing Dickens's sense of the rights and wrongs of Victorian society.

CHILDREN'S ENGLISH LIBRARY IN

STUTT GART

Children's English Library
 Etzelstraße 25 27,
 70180 Stuttgart
 Tel: (0711) 3 58 22 15
 Email info@celstuttgart.de
 www.celstuttgart.de

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

The library is run by volunteers and funded through membership fees and donations. Family membership costs 50 Euro per year. Members may borrow up to 15 books at a time for four weeks and have free access to various English language activities including Rhyme Time singing sessions for toddlers, Listen In readings for 3-6 year olds, workshops for school age children and a youth club for 10-13 year olds.

Further details can be found on their website www.celstuttgart.de

New members and volunteers are always welcome.

**THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF
 STUTT GART 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). The closest S-Bahn stations are Schwabstrasse and Feuersee. The number 44 and 92 buses also stop close by.

Contact the club for more information at their website www.iwcstuttgart.org

AND IN CONCLUSION....

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Johnny interrupted, "My mommy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"

Enclosed with this newsletter is the latest membership directory. Please let the editor (details at the back of the newsletter) know of any inaccuracies or any additional information

you would like to have included in the next directory, e.g. e-mail addresses, birthdays, etc.

LECTIONARY FOR SERVICES AT ST. CATHERINE'S

Date	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
21 October	Jeremiah 31: 27-34	119: 97-104	2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4: 5	Luke 18: 1-8
28 October	Joel 2: 23-32	65	2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18	Luke 18: 9-14
11 November	Job 19: 23-27a	17: 1-9	2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17	Luke 20: 27-38
18 November	Malachi 4: 1-2a	98	2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13	Luke 21: 5-19
25 November	Jeremiah 23: 1-6	46	Colossians 1: 11-20	Luke 23: 33-43
2 December	Isaiah 2: 1-5	122	Romans 13: 11-14	Matthew 24: 36-44
9 December	Isaiah 11: 1-10	72: 1-7, 18-19	Romans 15: 4-13	Matthew 3: 1- 12
23 December	Isaiah 7: 10-16	80: 1-8, 18-20	Romans 1: 1-7	Matthew: 18-25
30 December	Isaiah 63: 7-9	148	Hebrews 2: 10-18	Matthew 2: 13- 23

THE ALL-IN-ONE ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

DATE AND TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
OCTOBER		
18 th at 10.00am	Women's Group	Vicarage
21 st at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
28 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion (followed by Council meeting)	St. Catherine's
NOVEMBER		
4 th at 10.30am	Joint Service with the Old Catholics to celebrate Old Catholics' centenary	St. Catherine's
11 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion - Remembrance Sunday (followed by Council meeting)	St. Catherine's
18 th at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
25 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
DECEMBER		
2 nd at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
9 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
16 th at 11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
16 th at 4.00pm	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
16 th at 5.00pm	Christmas Carol Service (followed by refreshments and Christmas Bazaar)	St. Catherine's
23 rd at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
24 th at 1.00pm	Young Families' Early Christmas Eve Service with Christmas Communion (provisional)	St. Catherine's
24 th at 8.00pm	Candlelight Festival Christmas Eucharist with reception to follow	St. Catherine's
30 th at 10.30am	Joint Carol Service with Old Catholics	St. Catherine's
	St. Catherine's Women's Group meets every month at the Vicarage on a Thursday or Friday. Please contact Alison Seyerle for details of the meetings.	

Answers to Books of the Bible puzzle in the order they appear: Amos, Mark, Luke, John, Joel, Judges, Job, Hebrews, Esther, Acts, James, Ruth, Romans, Titus, Matthew, Genesis, Philemon, Chronicles, Daniel, Nahum, Hosea, Lamentations, Revelation, Timothy, Samuel, Numbers, Malachi, Peter, Exodus, Kings

ANY QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT CROSSROADS?
Contact: Hilary Norman Fronäckerweg 37 71101 Schönaich