



- Christmas 2007

CrossRoads

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Stuttgart

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The "Adventures" of St. Catherine's

When I came to Stuttgart nearly 18 months ago, I knew my German was weak after 25 years of ignoring it. I hoped, however, that it would revitalize itself with daily exposure to life in Germany. I am glad to report that I was right. My German has improved greatly since my arrival; yet I am honest enough to admit that I still have a long way to go. I still prefer to go to the cinema in one of the Kinos which shows the English language version; I still can't read a German newspaper other than the headlines; I still find I'm often asking Germans "*Was bedeutet das?*"

A sign of my linguistic improvement is that I can now do a daily devotional reading from a German book. Each page of this book has a meditational musing by a spiritual writer. I can't always understand every word, but I can understand enough that I feel I am entering into the thinking of the author. One of my recent readings has really affected my theological thinking.

I am referring to a page that came early in December with an author writing about the Season of Advent. Now... I have been celebrating Advent, preaching Advent, and encouraging others to think about Advent for a long time, but never had I read anything about the linguistic similarity between the two words: *Advent* and *Adventure*. As I read, *auf Deutsch*, this author's musings about the adventurous side of Advent, I was thrilled to realize that not only was my German good enough for me to understand what he was writing, but that my spirituality was mature enough joyfully to accept his new idea.

I really like the idea that Advent and adventure are somehow linked. I like that idea that the Church Calendar, in all its recurring stability, can be juxtaposed against the idea that our spiritual pilgrimage takes us always into a new and adventurous land: a place of new discoveries, new possibilities, and new mercies. A life in Christ is truly an adventure with each new day opening new experiences of grace and blessing.

How odd that all this new "adventure" comes to us as we, as a congregation, go endlessly round the cycle of the Church Year. Each year we repeat the same feasts, the same fasts, and the same seasons. Each year our purple vestments change to white; our green Sundays are punctuated with the occasional red Feast Day; our traditional worship brings back traditional hymns and readings which seem remarkably similar to last year's. We work very hard to create a firm foundation of liturgical stability. Even our Bible Readings repeat over and over and over again in the three-year cycle as defined by the church over a thousand years ago. Yet, somehow, it is a new adventure every time!

Contact Information:

CHAPLAIN:

Rev. Kenneth Dimmick

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Senior Churchwarden
Eric Jarman

Junior Churchwarden
John Thompson

Secretary
Christopher Sloan

Treasurer
Charles Berry

Frances Buttle
John Friedenreich
Hilary Norman
Diana Seidel
Joachim Zeller

WEBSITE:

www.stuttgartanglicans.de

SYNOD & CAECG REPRESENTATIVE:

Hilary Norman

Why? If we are doing the same things, singing the same songs, reading the same readings, praying the same prayers, wouldn't you expect the same result? Yes, but for one factor, which is never within our ability to control or limit: God. As God is part of our doings, something uncontrollable and unpredictable will always take place. God's Presence is the "adventure" in an otherwise well-controlled human venture. Even if we were to try and make this Sunday's liturgy exactly like last Sunday's liturgy, it wouldn't work. We can never control the infinitely uncontrollable God, Who brings Truth, Life, Grace, and Blessing according to His Will, and often in ways, which amaze and surprise even the most mature and experienced Christians.

I love this stuff. What a realization! All I can do is continue on the pilgrimage; God will do the rest. Even when I say familiar words; God will give new meaning. And I can sing the same song a hundred times, yet each rendition will be harmonically unique, poetically different, filled with unexpected emotions. As St. Catherine's Anglican Church enters a new year, our 164th year in Stuttgart, we know what to expect on one level: first will come Advent, followed by Christmas, and Epiphany. Lent will then come and Holy Week will follow. Easter will burst forth leading us to Pentecost, etc. etc. etc. But in truth we have no idea what to expect. We expect just one thing: we expect God With Us!

On, then, into the "Advent-ure"; onward then... into a New Year of Grace... a new and exciting year as God's People. I can hardly wait to see what God has in store for us in 2008 --- I'm sure it will be a great and exciting adventure.

Rev. Ken Dimmick

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.

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 has become a moveable feast at present, depending on the schedules of the various children, so please ask Ken for the time, date and location of this weekly session.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

This year has seen so many new faces in church each Sunday. I myself was not a member of the church a year ago. Because of all of you the church has been able to do some wonderful things this year, including helping the Indian Widows, Café Strichpunkt, and the Romanian orphanage. We have also been able to increase the amount of our Chaplain's salary we are paying.

We are currently standing on two legs, which sounds like a good plan. However, only one of them belongs to us and that is the only one we can count on in the long-term. The other one is the generous support of Ken's former parishes and the people in them who have given generously to us not having ever even seen St. Catherine's. But that support will not last forever. If we want to continue having a vibrant English Church here in Stuttgart we will have to take over the rest and be able to support ourselves.

Stewardship may be a new concept to some of you. It is for me. For those of you who pledged in the beginning of 2007 you carefully considered how much you were able to

sacrifice for the church. The amounts which you pledged in the beginning of the year really play a significant role in determining the church's budget. Especially because we are such a small community with no long-term outside support. Most churches are supported by the diocese in paying the Priest's salary. In the Diocese of Europe, however that is not the case. So, just a friendly reminder. If you haven't given as much as you said you would, please see if you can complete your pledge. Each person's donations really do make a difference in our little church!

- For all newcomers: we will be having another pledge drive in the beginning of the New Year
- To all: anyone wanting more information should feel free to contact me.

Charles Berry

(Editor's note: We hope to start off the Stewardship campaign on 3 February when we will have a pancake lunch after the service. The end of the campaign will be the last Sunday of February when we will have a potluck lunch after the service.)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. CATHERINE'S

On 16 December there will be an 11.15am 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.

There will be no service on Christmas Day but we will have two services on Christmas Eve both with Holy Communion - one at 2.00pm 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 11.15am service. All children can take part.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

This will follow our service of Nine Lessons and Carols. There will be refreshments, including Glühwein, and the sale of Christmas goodies, such as mince pies, marmalades, chutneys, jams and Christmas crackers. In addition we will be having stalls selling cards, books and other items. If anyone would like to make any finger food - in particular savoury items - for sale they would be most welcome.

We will also be selling tickets for two baskets filled with food items and possibly a stocking filled with presents. Ina Laemmerzahl has kindly donated a dolls house, which she has lovingly furnished/decorated in Christmas style for which we will be running a silent auction. This is a beautiful house as you can see from the following photograph. Let's hope there will be lots of bidders for this prize!

DID YOU KNOW?

The last Sunday before Advent is called "Stir-up Sunday" because the words of the Collect in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer are: "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded."

One of the pagan traditions that Christians have incorporated into their Christmas celebration includes hanging mistletoe.

1. Ancient Europeans believed that the mistletoe plant held magical powers to bestow life and fertility as well as protect against disease.
2. The Celts believed mistletoe brought about peace and goodwill.
3. Northern Europeans associated mistletoe with the Norse goddess of love, Freya and developed the custom of kissing underneath mistletoe branches.

Many people are familiar with the term "The Twelve Days of Christmas," but do you know where it originated?

Well, they represent the length of time that the three wise men from the East travelled to reach Jesus after his birth.

KEN - OUT OF TOWN

Ken will be on holiday between 13 and 19 January. Please contact either of the wardens if assistance is required during his absence.

ST CATHERINE'S MUMS', BABIES' & TODDLERS' GROUP

Most of you will have seen and more than likely heard (!) that there are now a number of babies and small children in Church. Although all of us mothers do try very hard to keep our little ones quiet in church, it is hard work sometimes and we are grateful to everyone for being so patient with us and our families!

These youngest members of our Church are also too young for Father Ken's Children's Bible Story group but we decided that it is never too early to start teaching our children about Jesus and the values he tried to teach us. Things like patience, sharing, expressing joy and thanks and His love for all living things on the earth, whether large or small! These are things that children can start to learn when together with other children, in particular if the mothers have a similar outlook on the world. This is given as we are all members of St. Catherine's Church, trying to bring our children up with Christian values.

We meet once a month and have met twice so far. We were few in number but of course a few babies and toddlers always make a room feel full! The children had fun in each other's company and playing with each other's toys. This is of course also a rare chance for them to be in an English-only group and so also supports their language skills. We added a very short (matching to the attention span of our little ones!) activity with a religious theme to it. As the children are so small, this mainly takes the shape of a song or story with actions. The babies responded very well and enjoyed the fun! They particularly like our adopted prayer of "As high as the sky, as deep as the ocean, as wide as the world, is his love for me" with reaching high, low and wide actions to go with it!

From January onwards we are planning to meet in the side room at St. Catherine's at 3.30p.m. until approx 5p.m. on the third Thursday in the

month. Anyone with children too small to attend the Bible Story group is very welcome to join us. Please contact Sarah Lepschy for more details, confirmation of the dates or to be added to our E-mailing list. The more the merrier!

Jackie Wellhäußer

R.I.P.

Alexander Donald Ross
11 November 1910- 3 December 2007

Mr. Ross was the oldest member of our congregation. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his widow, Jutta, his children and grandchildren, and to all who mourn his passing. May the Peace of God and the Presence of the Holy Spirit bring strength and comfort to all who grieve.

The funeral took place at St. Catherine's on 10 December.

NEWS FROM FORMER PARISHIONERS

All those who knew them were delighted to see Surya Prakash, the Bishop of Karimnagar Diocese and our former officiating minister, and his wife, Vindhya, during their visit to St. Catherine's on Sunday, 18 November. They brought us up to date with what is happening with the Indian Widows' project, which we support, and about their new life in Karimnagar. They are both kept very busy visiting the various parishes in their huge diocese and in setting up new fellowship programmes helping in particular young children, widows, the aged and those affected by HIV/Aids. 2008 will take Surya and Vindhya to England to attend the Lambeth Conference and to meet the Queen at a tea party she is hosting. With over 800 bishops attending the conference Surya says that the

delegates from the Church of South India will be easily recognisable in the official group photograph, as they will be the only ones wearing white!

John D. Brownlie is getting to know south-east Asia well, as he is now living in Mumbai and working, he says, "25 hours a day"!!

Dan and Lisa Dorrs now have a baby daughter, Malia Katharine. Malia is the Hawaiian version of "Mary." She was born on November 29th in Bloomington, Indiana at a whopping 10lbs 11oz. Mother and baby are both doing great.

Matt Johnson, who spent some time with us this summer, has written to say that he has one more semester before becoming ordained in the Spring. He hopes to visit us again next year with Katharina. They will be getting married three times next year - a civil wedding in the Spring, a church wedding in Richmond, Virginia (Matt's home town) and then another church wedding in Ingolstadt (Katharina's home town). They will be well and truly married after all that!

SHOEBOX CHARITY

As advised in the last edition of CrossRoads we will once again be sending shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts to a Romanian orphanage. Susan Morris is co-ordinating the collection of the boxes and the deadline for getting them to her is now 20 December.

Please contact Susan to find out the age and sex of the child for whom the shoebox is intended, so that you can fill it with the appropriate gifts.

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.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to all who bought poppies for Remembrance Sunday. We raised £35 and the editor has received a letter from the British Legion expressing their grateful thanks and assuring us that our contribution will be used to help the Royal British Legion to carry out its welfare and benevolent work for the ex-Service community and their dependants who may be in need.

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 give them 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!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will be resuming in February and will run until April. They will be held at the church on Sundays starting at 6.00pm. Anyone who would still like to join the classes with the intention for confirmation, reception into the Anglican Church, or just as a refresher course is welcome. Please call Ken for more information.

Also, are there any parishioners who will be willing to provide simple suppers for the class? If you can, please let Ken know.

ENROLMENT FORMS

Enrolment forms for anyone wishing to affiliate "officially" with St. Catherine's Church are

available in either printed or digital format. Simply request a form from the Chaplain. Membership is not required of anyone. Our doors are open to all people, members and non-members alike. "English Language worship for people of all nations", that is our motto.

**SPOTLIGHT ON
THE COUNCIL'S SECRETARY**

This will be part of an occasional series spotlighting some of the members of your Council. The spotlight this quarter falls on Christopher Sloan, who is our longest serving member.

Christopher is an Essex lad who, after graduating from Oxford, initially decided to teach and see the world according to a 5 year plan - 5 years in England, followed by 5 years in Germany, then 5 years in France Well, you get the picture. However, soon after arriving in Stuttgart in 1973 he was stopped in his tracks by Gudrun and so, fortunately for us, he never made it to France. He discovered St. Catherine's after writing to the Archbishop of Canterbury - well you might as well ask the top man! - to find out the nearest Anglican chaplaincy and was directed to St. Catherine's, which had the previous year got a new chaplain, David Stonebanks. David in fact married Christopher and Gudrun at St. Catherine's on 22 March 1975.

Christopher was elected on to the Council in the early 80s (the exact date is lost in the mists of time) and he became the secretary in 1984 or 85. He has never been allowed to leave the Council or his post as secretary, as his minutes, which are full of wit and English dry humour, are second to none. Although he was never able to carry out all his 5 year plans, Christopher has been able to see the world through his children (three, with one living in Canada, one in England and the other wherever an archaeological dig will take her) and one of his interests, school debating which has taken him to South Korea and beyond. In

the 30+ years that Christopher has been a member of St. Catherine's he has seen many changes from the time when the chaplain was in charge of three parishes - Stuttgart, Heidelberg and Strasbourg - then two and now finally, with the arrival of Ken, to one. If there is anything you want to know about the history of St. Catherine's during the last 30 years, then Christopher is your man. He is one of St. Catherine's treasures and long may he remain on the Council!

ENGLISH MUSIC HALL EVENING 30 NOVEMBER

A fantastic evening of fun awaited the 70+ people who attended this event. Who would have thought we had so many talented people within our midst. Even the audience showed their wonderful singing talents as they joined in singing "*Lloyd George knew my father*", "*Old McDonald had a farm*" and "*ta-ra-di-boom-di-ay*". Our special thanks go to - and this is in no particular order - Eric Jarman, Darren Buttle, Axel Schwaigert, Anja Hübel, Margaret Brauch, Ken Dimmick, Andy Dewar, Christopher Sloan and Yvonne Armbruster for providing a wonderful evening of song, music, stories and laughter. Over 600 Euro was raised, which figure will go towards the restoration of the church roof.

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....

A Sunday school teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a babysitter."

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad."

**A Very Happy Christmas To You
All!**

LECTIONARY FOR SERVICES AT ST. CATHERINE'S

Date	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
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
6 January	Isaiah 60: 1-6	72: 10-15	Ephesians 3: 1-12	Matthew 2: 1- 12
13 January	Isaiah 42: 1-9	29	Acts 10: 34-43	Matthew 3: 13- 17
20 January	Isaiah 49: 1-7	40: 1-12	1 Corinthians 1: 1-9	John 1: 29-42
27 January	Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 3	136	Romans 8: 18-25	Matthew 6: 25- 34
3 February	Exodus 24: 12-18	2 or 99	2 Peter 1: 16-21	Matthew 17: 1- 9
10 February	Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7	32	Romans 5: 12-19	Matthew 4: 1- 11
17 February	Genesis 12: 1-4	121	Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17	John 3: 1-17
24 February	Exodus 17: 1-7	95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4: 5-42
2 March	1 Samuel 16: 1-13	23	Ephesians 5: 8-14	John 9: 1-41
9 March	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	130	Romans 8: 6-11	John 11: 1-45
16 March	Isaiah 50: 4-9	31: 9-16	Philippians 2: 5-11	Matthew 26: 14- 27: 66

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

DATE AND TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
DECEMBER		
16 th at 11.15am	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 2.00pm	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
24 th at 8.00pm	Holy Communion (candlelit service)	St. Catherine's
30 th at 10.30am	Joint Christmas Carol service with the Old Catholics	St. Catherine's
JANUARY		
6 th at 11.15am	Holy Communion with children's Epiphany play	St. Catherine's
13 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion - (followed by Council meeting)	St. Catherine's
20 th at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
27 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
FEBRUARY		
3 rd at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
10 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion - (followed by Council meeting)	St. Catherine's
17 th at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
24 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
MARCH		
2 nd at 11.15am	Holy Communion (Mothering Sunday)	St. Catherine's
9 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion - (followed by Council meeting)	St. Catherine's
16 th at 11.15am	Holy Communion (Palm Sunday)	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.	

ANY QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT CROSSROADS?

Contact: Hilary Norman