



January 2007

# CrossRoads

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Stuttgart

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

### A Tiny Cross of great meaning

This recent Christmas Season had many interesting features: The Festival of Lessons and Carols, the Bazaar, the Nativity Play, and, of course, the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. But there was one feature of the Season which might have been missed by the casual worshipper. It was the "Baptismal Bookends" feature. Did you notice that on both the first Sunday of the Season [1st Sunday of Advent] and the closing Sunday of the Season [The Feast of the Epiphany] we administered the sacrament of Holy Baptism?

Babies seem to come along at their own rate, and the Church cannot always arrange for two such baptisms to "bookend" the Christmas holidays, but I am very glad it happened this year. Not only was it a wonderful sign of the future generation which will call St. Catherine's Church its spiritual home, but it served to remind us all that it was through just such a vulnerable little baby that the Salvation of God came to us. How appropriate that we should be so "baby-oriented" this year. There is no reason to believe that Jesus was any different from the babies at St. Catherine's. He cried when hungry; he had colic in the middle of the night; Mary had to sing him soft lullabies to get him to sleep; nappies needed changing; aunts and uncles made funny faces and cooing noises over him.

When we baptize a person, whether baby or adult, we both pour the water over the head of the person and mark a sign of the cross on his/her forehead. This gesture is small and not very visible to most people in the congregation, but the words reflect the action when I say: "Receive the sign of the cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified." With the thumb the priest traces the horizontal and vertical lines of a cross directly on the forehead of the person. [Some traditions use Holy Oil and others use the Holy Water of the font.] This cross "...marks you as Christ's own forever." This little cross, though not visible to the human eye, remains on our foreheads as we go through our lives. When receiving the sacrament of confirmation, the bishop retraces it to remind us of the covenant God began with us in baptism. When receiving prayers for healing in the sacrament of unction, the cross is retraced with oil of healing to claim the grace as a derivative of our baptism. When receiving an absolution in the sacrament of reconciliation the priest again retraces his cross as a way of affirming that all forgiveness was promised in the moment of our baptism. There is a lot of meaning in that little cross. Soon we'll all have an opportunity to see our baptismal crosses again.

This year on Wednesday February 21 the Church throughout the world will observe Ash Wednesday, as a beginning of the season of preparation we call Lent. Christians by the millions will gather into their churches for a service of penance and sorrow as we remind ourselves of the mortal weakness of our nature. The great symbol of Ash Wednesday is, of course, the cross of ashes, applied to the foreheads of the people. Yes, it is that same little cross given to each of us at baptism which on Ash Wednesday is traced with the ashes of a flawed mortality. It feels to me like such a shame that our pure and spotless cross of hope has been soiled with the "Schmutz" of our own sinfulness. But even this dose of humiliation bears in its very shape the divine promise of hope. Because the ash is shaped like a cross, we cannot help but see the sacrifice of Jesus on his cross in all its loving glory; arms outstretched as if to embrace the whole world with forgiveness.

Once again the baptism cross we wear leads us to new understandings and to a hope that goes beyond natural expectations. How good God is to us! First, he baptizes us into his life and adopts us as his children. Then, he shapes us with his Word, heals our scrapes and mistakes with his grace, feeds us with his own body and blood, and washes away the ashes and dirt of worldly sin which tries to woo us away from our beloved. And finally prepares a place for us in his eternal kingdom. Through it all we bear: a tiny little cross on our foreheads, reminding us that we are his and his is ours forever.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Ash Wednesday service at St. Catherine's Church. It is good, right, and our bounded duty to confront our own "ashiness" from time to time... and seeing the ashes to see also the cross which is that baptismal promise of great meaning.

#### WARDEN'S CORNER

This year Christmas at St Catherine's was outwardly much the same as in previous years: the Carol Service has always been well attended and the Christmas Eve service has become well established since we gave up ideas of a midnight mass. But this year there was something extra. The Carol Service all but caused the church to burst at the seams, but this is in itself not so unusual: there was somehow a different atmosphere. This is best summed up by some visitors a few years ago as they took their leave: "Thank you, it was a lovely service. *See you next year.*" That was it. The full church was a one-off, and we would soon be 'back to normal'. But this year was different: it was not a one-off – it was a beginning.

What has happened? Well, talking with another member of the congregation after church the other week, the term 'critical mass' came up, and we both agreed that this term can be applied to groups like congregations. If there are less than a certain number of worshippers in a service when a newcomer arrives, the newcomer may be made welcome, but cannot somehow feel that he or she is joining a viable community. The atmosphere may be good, but it feels non-permanent. Once a congregation reaches a regular size, this 'critical mass' is reached, and newcomers are much more likely to stay. We have reached 'critical mass' and the first objective of our growth has been achieved.

Now it is time for the next and even more important stage, and this again can be summed up in a short quotation.

In case you were not aware of this, the German Evangelical Church has a "Jahreslosung", a motto of the year which is selected and published at New Year and preached on in the churches. This year's motto could not possibly be more apt for our situation:

"Thus says the Lord...: Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (RSV. Isaiah 43; 19)

Because growth is not just a matter of numbers, of achieving 'critical mass', but of commitment, and that is what we are striving for in 2007. Call it stewardship, or what you will, we all have roles to play in St Catherine's. We don't have to worry what our particular role will be. God is already working on that.

*Eric Jarman*

It was Renate who told me about the "Jahrelosung", which she had used with great success in her RE lessons in school. She had also been provided with materials and lesson suggestions by the Haus Birkach, which supports teachers in this way. One of these suggestions is the following parable by Kierkegaard:

"Christians live like geese in a farmyard. Every seventh day there is a parade, and the most eloquent gander stands on the fence and gaggles about the miracles of geese, expounds the deeds of their ancestors who once dared to fly and praises the grace and mercy of the Creator, who gave geese wings and the instinct to fly. The geese are deeply moved, lower their heads in their emotion and praise the sermon and the eloquent gander. But that is all there is to it. The one thing they don't do – they don't fly, because the corn is good and the farmyard is safe."

*Eric Jarman*

#### **THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE**

Dr Rowan Williams' New Year message was shown on BBC television. The message, which drew on the example of William Wilberforce to urge people to act to change the world, included footage of Holy Trinity Church, Clapham, which had been attended by Wilberforce and his fellow reformer, Henry Thornton, and also of two world food

programme aid projects in southern Sudan. One of them, a church school project in Malakal, feeds around 700 pupils their only solid meal of the day and the other, in nearby Obel, a food distribution point supporting families seeking to re-establish themselves on their farmland, having been displaced by conflict.

"Here in London - as in towns across the UK - the January sales are well underway - after a Christmas when many of us probably spent more than we should and eaten more than we should. It's all in stark contrast to Sudan where I visited last February.

The local church feeds several hundred each day, using its school as the feeding point where the World Food Programme's supplies can be distributed. Centres like this are few and far between - and the World Food Programme is already warning that resources are running out.

We all respond as best we can to one emergency appeal after another. And we feel just a bit guilty as we acknowledge that we're almost bored by yet another appeal - yet another set of pictures of suffering children in need.

It's true that endless appeals lose their impact. Information and statistics won't really motivate us; the only thing that makes a difference is if we get to see those faces and figures as somehow about us - not just Them.

It's when the hunger or the homelessness or the loneliness of someone else becomes something that I feel for myself as an affront - something that makes me less of a person.

In the Bible, Jesus talks about being hungry and thirsty for righteousness, for justice. And if we hear that in the way it's surely meant, we have to conclude that he means that we should feel there's something missing in us, something taken away from us, when another person, near or far away, has to face need and suffering. We get to be ourselves only when we wake up to

them and their needs.

2007 marks two hundred years since the slave trade was abolished. Here at Holy Trinity Clapham a group of Christians called the "Clapham Sect" was at the forefront of the fight to end the slave trade.

People like William Wilberforce and Henry Thornton felt they were made less human than they should be by the appalling injustice of the slave trade. They felt a hunger for justice - a sense of being spiritually impoverished - "undernourished" because of slavery.

This is what made the difference. When we look at the familiar images of other people's suffering, do we feel a void inside ourselves, a yearning for something different and a conviction that it needn't be like this?

That's where change begins. And it's one of the differences that faith can make; faith in God and in people.

It's worth remembering this year those who struggled to do away with the slave trade. If we lived in a society that tolerated slavery now, wouldn't we feel soiled and diminished by it? Wouldn't we feel hungry for something different?

So what are the things today that make us feel the same?

People often speak about the spiritual hunger of our society. But the answer to that isn't in ideas or spiritual feelings; it's in the decision to act - to reach out to feed, to heal, to befriend, knowing that this is where we discover who we're really meant to be.

We get the power for that when we believe that there is a divine love that is waiting eagerly for us to cooperate.

And when we do, both physical and spiritual hunger can be met. We find our nourishment as human beings together, as we really learn to share the world we've been given to live in.

God bless you all in this New Year and help you find the nourishment you need for spirit and body."

### **BAPTISMS**

Since the last edition of CrossRoads came out we have had two baptisms. The first was the baptism of Amy Jane Wellhäußer on 3 December 2006. On 7 January it was the turn of Clare Fergus Barrett Seidel, who had been born on 14 November 2006.

Welcome to both young girls to the family of St. Catherine's!!

Thank you to both families and friends for providing wonderful receptions after the services.

### **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.

### **LENTEN SERVICES/EVENTS**

On 18 February after the service we will be having English, American and German pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.

As we will be unable to use the church on Ash Wednesday, we will be having an "Ash Thursday" service at 6.30pm on 22 February when we will have the imposition of the ashes.

Mothering Sunday is on 18 March. If anyone would like to bring a simnel cake to be blessed (and eaten afterwards by the congregation!!) please do!!

During Lent, as in past years, we will be having a series of Lenten Suppers every Thursday during March - this time at the vicarage - where over a bowl of soup and some bread we will be discussing C.S. Lewis' "*The Screwtape Letters*". The first Lenten Supper will be on Thursday 1 March at 6.30pm. If you would like to attend please see Ken. Susan Morris has kindly agreed to make the soup for the first session. Any volunteers out there to make the soup for the following Thursdays??

### CAROL SERVICE

For those of you who were there you will know that the church was packed - at least 160 attendees. For those who could not be there it was a wonderful service, full of music, wonderful singing and bonhomie. So many people made the carol service and the bazaar afterwards possible. Not all of you are able to get Ken's weekly email letter but in his letter of 11 December he wrote:

"There is no way I can thank all the people who need to be thanked. It would be woefully inadequate, because so many things were happening simultaneously that I couldn't note them all. But suffice it to say: you know who you are! You are the ones who set up the tables for the bazaar in the coffee room, decorated them, filled them with delicious homemade things. You heated the Glühwein, laid out the cups and wine glasses, sold the tickets for the raffle, washed up afterwards, restacked the tables when it was over, and put it all back to normal. Some of you stayed long after the crowds had gone, scrubbing, sorting, and storing. I want to thank also those who moved chairs in church to squeeze 160+ people into a church designed for 120. And I want to thank the musicians, the readers, ushers, the crucifer, & the soloist. Her gentle solo voice rang out to start the whole evening - "Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed..." Thank you, Kate... And thank you Donald. I know at 96 it is not easy to make it to church. But you did....

Thank you Isaac, who stood faithfully in the back greeting everyone who came in, passing them the booklets and helping them find seats... Thank you John Thompson, who, even while "under the weather" came to make sure the altar was all set up properly before allowing himself the well deserved rest which I hope has restored your health... Thank you Christian Wilson for filling in at the organ on such short notice. It didn't show. Your professionalism carried the day... Thank you Eric for bearing the cross, in and out, not an empty gesture of old ceremonial, but a visual reminder that the One who is born was also the One who died out of Love for us... Thank you Hilary, who not able to be here, made sure that all her crackers and goodies got delivered for sale... Thank you Kathy Friedenreich, and all the sales people who helped the sales of untold number of exotic jams, preserves, mincemeats, and such. Thank you Christopher for hawking those raffle tickets with humour and enthusiasm. Thank you parents who brought your children with you even, knowing it would be a long night... And thank you children for behaving so well and singing along with everyone else, as equals in the sight of God. Thanks to all those who greeted visitors, willingly shared pews, and made Jesus happy by loving the stranger... Thank you all who donated or purchased, not just because you wanted Glühwein or jelly, but because you wanted to help get a kid off the streets, or help a widow in India, or bring Christmas joy to a Romanian orphan. Your donations will not be in vain".

### NATIVITY PLAY

This was held during the service on 17 December. With a script written by Ken and costumes beautifully made by Ina Lämmerzahl and Kathy Friedenreich all the children looked angelic as each took part in this our first Nativity Play. Thank you too to Bill Morris for the "flashing" star!

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

About 60 people attended the service. An added highlight to the service was the Bethlehem Peace Light (Friedenslicht), which Frances Buttle brought to the service from the Pfadfinder Friedenslicht Aktion in Stuttgart. During communion we were all able to light our candles from a flame that had been lit in Bethlehem. Each year the Peace Light is lit in Bethlehem on the third Sunday in Advent and then carried throughout Europe by Scouts and Guides, who receive it at special services organised by their local association. The Scouts and Guides then take the light with them into their local communities, churches, schools, and houses.

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**



Thank you to all who contributed money and present-filled shoe boxes which were donated to a Romanian orphanage. Thanks go also to Susan Morris for delivering them to her American colleague who took them to Romania. They were very well received!

### **ENROLMENT FORMS**

Are you enrolled? In order to try and keep our records up to date every member of St. Catherine's Anglican Church is requested to fill out an Enrolment Form. If you haven't filled one out since the arrival of Ken, please do so. Blank forms can be obtained any Sunday at Church or via email from him at [KennethRDimmick@yahoo.com](mailto:KennethRDimmick@yahoo.com). Each adult member of the church should fill out a separate form. Children below the age of majority do not need to fill out a separate form but should be included on the form of a parent. Thank you to all who have already filled out a form.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ST. CATHERINE'S, SUNDAY 6 MAY**

Every time during the last few months when I have been privileged to read the lesson in St Catherine's I have been uplifted by the sea of faces in front of me; our congregation has been growing exponentially of late. The coming A.G.M. will be an opportunity for everybody, both new members and old, to have a say in the way our church is run, and we hope for an attendance to rival that at the services. It would be an excellent thing if some more of you could be persuaded to stand for election to the Church Council. Most of us on the Council have been at the business for a very long time; we enjoy our work, and do not necessarily wish to retire; but the new members should also be represented, and an infusion of new blood is always desirable.

If you would like to know what work is involved, talk to any member of the Council (our names are on the front page of CrossRoads).

*Christopher Sloan*

### **NEWS OF FORMER PARISHIONERS**

Gary Cunningham writes:

On 1 September 2006, I arrived in Umeå, Sweden to take up a new position as a visiting professor of accounting at the Umeå School of Business, Umeå University. This is in the north of Sweden, so I will be looking forward to a cold dark winter. So far, I really like my new job and working environment. The city, although a bit isolated and smallish, about 100,000 population, is very pleasant and full of all sorts of interesting things to do for whatever suits one's fancy. In one month's time I have been invited by a colleague to a concert of the Umeå Symphony Orchestra featuring a very eclectic program and a guest violinist from the U.S. The conductor is a young British lady by the way. Two nights ago I attended a

performance of the opera Porgy and Bess with the primary performers from the Capetown Opera with which Umeå has an ongoing exchange. So far the weather has not been cold at all. Lowest so far about 5. No freezing weather much less snow. I have been attending a Lutheran church, part of the Church of Sweden, that provides simultaneous translation for the English speakers that attend.

For those who do not know, the last year I was in Ankara, Turkey. The university and I were not compatible, so I was quite happy to move on to Sweden. Still a year in Turkey had its pleasant sides. Among other things, I updated my Biblical history. Current-day Ankara is the Biblical Galatia. The Biblical-era Galatians have long-since moved on somewhere else and had only a minor impact on the history of Ankara and that part of Turkey. Still, Paul must have found something there to want to write them a letter about. I also went to Ephesus, the ruins of a magnificent city that also obviously got Paul's attention. Also, to Cappadocia, an area Paul passed through and is known for its weird rock formations and cities dug into the ground. On the drive from Lebanon to Turkey, I drove through Antakya, the Biblical Antioch, which is now a modern Turkish city. I also learned some other interesting trivia. Santa Claus is Turkish. The original Saint Nicholas was a bishop somewhere along the southern coast of what is now Turkey. Somehow, sailors adopted him as their patron saint. St. Nicholas was especially fond of giving gifts to children. Apparently Dutch sailors from Rotterdam perpetuated the custom in the Netherlands and the rest is history, as the old saying goes. I attended St. Nicholas Anglican Church in Ankara, which is on the grounds of the British Embassy because churches have great difficulty operating as independent entities in Turkey.

### **HAS ANYONE SEEN THIS VICAR??**

Since moving to Stuttgart Ken has been quick to get involved in the local English speaking community but some sections of the English

speaking community make stranger demands on you than others - if you've ever wondered what kind of disguise a vicar might choose to wear to help out at a Children's Halloween party you need wonder no more! "The King" was a definite hit at the Children's English Library Halloween Party and has been invited back to read again - although this time we'll let him come in mufti!



**"GOD'S VALENTINE" (John 3:16)**

For God so loVed the world,  
 That He gAve  
 His onLy  
 BegottEn  
 SoN  
 That whosoever  
 Believeth In Him  
 Should Not perish,  
 But have Everlasting life."

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2007**

The theme of the World Day of Prayer in 2007 is "United under God's Tent" and the services are being prepared by the women of Paraguay.

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions, who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March – to which all people are welcome.
- It is a movement which brings together women of various races, cultures and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

Through the World Day of Prayer, women around the world

- affirm their faith in Jesus Christ
- share their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs.

Through the World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged

- to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation
- to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures
- to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them
- to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society.

Through the World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

Elements from the World Day of Prayer will be incorporated in our service on 4 March.

**ACTIVITY SHEETS FOR KIDS**

Over the last few months most of our parents and children at St Catherine's have become used to the fact that there are colouring sheets and pens available to take to their pew during the service - things are now going to become more complicated! There will be two activity sheets available!

Many of the slightly older children will have noticed that the colouring sheets we have at the moment are aimed at smallish people - and now we have something to offer slightly bigger people too!

Look out for:-

\*Step by step - for 3-7 year olds\* - colouring and simple puzzles

\*Footprints in faith - for 7-11 year olds\*- activities and more complex puzzles which require some reading and writing

The activity sheets are designed to fit with the Church of England Common Worship Lectionary (which we use at St Catherine's). The

pictures, puzzles and activities are linked to the week's gospel reading - requiring children to perform the feat of taking in what is being read whilst helping Ken by balancing the bible on

their heads - but kids are good at multi-tasking and seem to have coped well so far!!

To help save the planet, it would be great if parents could drop me a quick e-mail (fabuttle@gmx.de) or have a word after church to let me know their children's ages so I can work out how many of which sheet to print. I know not everyone can make it every week but it will help us gauge an average number in each age group. It would also be good to know how the new sheets go down with the older children.

*Frances Buttle*

### FACTS ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

Our son Christopher was born with Down Syndrome. So I thought you might like to read more about what this means.



In 1866, the English physician John Langdon Down identified the syndrome in children he referred to as "mongoloids," since people from

Mongolia were thought to suffer from arrested development. By the 1970s, the condition was known as "Down's syndrome" or "Down syndrome."

Individuals with Down syndrome have 47 chromosomes instead of the usual 46. (They have 3 copies of chromosome 21, so the condition is also known as "trisomy 21"). It's the most frequently occurring chromosomal disorder, usually caused by an error in cell division at conception. The chances of having a child with Down syndrome are higher for older mothers and also for very young mothers.

Most people with Down syndrome have a mild to moderate mental handicap. Nearly all learn to read, write and do simple maths. Some have earned college degrees with assistance. No-one yet knows their limits, they keep pushing them!

About 40 per cent of children with Down syndrome have congenital heart defects. Some require surgery and others monitoring. Because of the extra genetic material, they have a greater risk of many other conditions, too.

Children with Down syndrome have a higher incidence of infection as well as respiratory, vision, hearing and thyroid problems. The average life expectancy is 55, although many live into their 60s and 70s.

### What's it like to live with a child with Down Syndrome?

Well, I'm no expert yet: Christopher is only 14 months old. But I'd say he's much like any baby, except that every stage he goes through takes much longer than with a typical child. He has the typical low muscle tone and it will take him much longer to learn to sit, crawl and walk. And there are many more health issues to watch out for: his eyes, heart, and ears have to be tested regularly, for example. He has physical therapy once a week, and an early intervention teacher comes to our house once a week to play with him. So we have a lot of appointments. On the whole he's a very contented baby, who mostly sleeps through the

night and is happy to play by himself. It's also noticeable that he studies my face longer than a typical baby would. It's often said that children with Down Syndrome have a high emotional IQ. He is certainly very sensitive to moods. I look forward to discovering more about our son's personality as he grows. Just like any other child.

Most problems facing families like ours are not caused by the child at all but by society's prejudices. Many parents have to fight very hard for their child to attend a normal school rather than a special school. For example. I know of a little girl in Stuttgart whose mother had to approach 9 kindergartens before finding one that would take her. That's a scandal and a crying shame. Another scandal is the fact that in Germany most pregnant women over 35 are encouraged to take prenatal scans, and 9 out of 10 choose abortion if the foetus has Down Syndrome. So the rest of us are more or less blamed for making the mistake of having such a child. Can you imagine how much it hurts when people regard my cherished child as a mistake?

#### **And how should we treat him?**

Just like any other child. Find out what he's like before coming to him with preconceived ideas. People with Down Syndrome have the same emotional life as everyone else, and if anything, are very sensitive. They endure a lot of discrimination in their lives because they look different, and people make unjustified assumptions about their inabilities on the basis of their looks. Don't we all fall into that trap from time to time?

*Anja Hübel*

#### **RESTORATION OF ST. CATHERINE'S**



Enclosed with this edition of CrossRoads is a pamphlet detailing the repairs that are required to restore St. Catherine's. If you wish to make a donation, bank details are shown at the back. If you know of any organisation or company which may be prepared to offset some of the costs, please let Christopher Sloan know.

St. Catherine's will be embarking on a series of fund-raising events in the coming months. The first one will be a special performance by Brian Barnes of Jerome K. Jerome's "Three Men in a Boat."

#### **Brian Barnes**

#### **One Man Theatre**

A special performance of

### **Three Men in a Boat**

By Jerome K. Jerome

for the Restoration Fund of St. Catherine's

**Saturday 10 March 2007**

In the Gemeindesaal of the Leonhardsgemeinde  
Christophstrasse 34, Stuttgart-Mitte  
At 7.30pm

Tickets €15 for adults, €10 for students and  
senior citizens

Tickets available from Ken Dimmick or Jackie  
Wellhäußer

#### **CATHEDRAL RESTORATIONS**

Ours is not the only church that is in need of restoration. Both the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity in Gibraltar and Canterbury Cathedral have launched appeals. The Gibraltar appeal is for £850,000 and every chaplaincy and congregation in the Diocese in Europe has been asked to contribute. 15 October 2006 was designated "Cathedral Sunday" and, as requested by the Bishop, we donated that Sunday service's offering to the appeal.

£50 million is urgently needed to save Canterbury Cathedral and a global fundraising campaign to finance an extensive conservation and development programme for the Cathedral was launched in October 2006.

The Cathedral is suffering serious damage through a combination of old age and modern pollution. Fabric conservation is the most urgent priority of the campaign with parts of the roof already leaking badly and elements of the masonry crumbling. Vital repairs must be carried out on the buttresses to the West Towers in order to avoid eventual collapse and the tower roofs need re-leading to protect the bells and clock. The mammoth task of re-leading the nave roof is a further priority as are critical repairs to the stonework, carvings and pinnacles on Bell Harry. Fundamental structural work within the North and South Transept roofs is a matter of urgency. Conservation and protection of the stained glass and, in particular, the 12th century south Oculus window is required.

An integrated conservation and improvement programme of repairs has been approved ensuring the work is done in a logical sequence in order to deliver best value for money. The cathedral is regarded as the Mother Church of the world-wide Anglican Communion. It is a World Heritage Site continuing every year to host more than one million visitors transcending all denominational barriers.

If you should be visiting the Cathedral in the near future, please give generously to the restoration fund.



## **CHILDREN'S ENGLISH LIBRARY IN STUTT GART**

The Children's English Library  
Etzelstraße 25-27, 70180 Stuttgart  
Tel: (0711) 3 58 22 15  
Email [info@celstuttgart.de](mailto:info@celstuttgart.de)  
[www.celstuttgart.de](http://www.celstuttgart.de)

This is a great resource to help families with children in the Stuttgart region learn and grow in the English language.

Library hours are as follows:

Tuesdays 16:15 -18:15  
Fridays 15:00 - 18:00  
Saturdays 14:00 -17:00

The library is closed during school holidays and on the Saturdays at the beginning and end of the school holidays. Limited opening hours operate during the long summer holidays.

### **Membership:**

(1) Family members' fees are 50 Euro per year. Each family is entitled to borrow 15 items for up to four weeks.

All members of CEL receive a bi-monthly copy of our newsletter the *Looking Glass*. This is distributed by e-mail as a pdf document and is also available in hard copy from the library.

### **Other activities:**

Rhyme Time for 0-3 year olds and their parents/ caregivers

Listen In 3-6 year olds

Workshops on a variety of themes for a variety of ages.

English classes for native and non-native speakers, taught by a qualified native English speaker.

More details of all these and other activities can be found on the library website

[www.celstuttgart.de](http://www.celstuttgart.de) or in the *Looking Glass*.

**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). 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](http://www.iwcstuttgart.org)

**AND IN CONCLUSION.....**

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me." "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

After the christening of his baby brother in church,

little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!"

The Sunday School teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?" "No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to." "My Mom is a good cook."

A college drama group presented a play in which one character would stand on a trap door and announce, "I descend into hell!" A stagehand below would then pull a rope, the trapdoor would open, and the character would plunge through. The play was well received. When the actor playing the part became ill, another actor who was quite overweight took his place. When the new actor announced, "I descend into hell!" the stagehand pulled the rope, and the actor began his plunge, but became hopelessly stuck. No amount of tugging on the rope could make him descend. One student in the balcony jumped up and yelled: "Hallelujah!" "Hell is full!"

*Contributed by Martin Otto*

**LECTIONARY FOR SERVICES AT ST. CATHERINE'S**

<b>Date</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
21 January	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10	19	1 Corinthians 12: 12-31	Luke 4: 14-21
28 January	Ezekiel 43: 27-44	48	1 Corinthians 13: 1-13	Luke 2: 22-40
4 February	Isaiah 6: 1-8	138	1 Corinthians 15: 1-11	Luke 5: 1-11
11 February	Genesis 2: 4-9, 15-25	65	Revelations 4	Luke 8: 22-25
18 February	Exodus 34: 29-35	99	2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4: 2	Luke 9: 28-36
25 February	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11	91: 1-2, 9-16	Romans 10: 8-13	Luke 4: 1-13
4 March	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18	27	Philippians 3: 17 - 4: 1	Luke 13: 31-35
11 March	Isaiah 55: 1-9	63: 1-9	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13	Luke 13: 1-9

18 March	Joshua 5: 9-12	32	2 Corinthians 5: 16-21	Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
25 March	Isaiah 43: 16-21	126	Philippians 3: 4-14	John 12: 1-8

**The All-in-One St. Catherine's Church Schedule**

Date and Time	Activity	Location
<b>January</b>		
21 <sup>st</sup> at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
26 <sup>th</sup> at 10.00am	St. Catherine's Women's Group meeting	Vicarage
28 <sup>th</sup> at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
<b>February</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup> at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
11 <sup>th</sup> at 9.00am	Holy Communion followed by Council meeting	St. Catherine's
18 <sup>th</sup> at 11.15am	Holy Communion (followed by pancake reception)	St. Catherine's
22 <sup>nd</sup> at 6.30pm	Ash Thursday	St. Catherine's
25 <sup>th</sup> at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
<b>March</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> at 6.30pm	Lenten supper	Vicarage
4 <sup>th</sup> at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
8 <sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm	Lenten supper	Vicarage
10 <sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm	"Three Men in a Boat"	Leonhardsgemeindesaal
11 <sup>th</sup> at 9.00am	Holy Communion followed by Council meeting	St. Catherine's
15 <sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm	Lenten supper	Vicarage
18 <sup>th</sup> at 11.15am	Holy Communion (Mothering Sunday)	St. Catherine's
22 <sup>nd</sup> at 6.30pm	Lenten supper	Vicarage
25 <sup>th</sup> at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
29 <sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm	Lenten supper	Vicarage
	St. Catherine's Women's Group meets once a month at the vicarage. Alison Seyerle is the co-ordinator of the meetings. Please contact her if you wish to come along to any of the meetings.	