



Summer 2006

CrossRoads

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Stuttgart

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Rev. Kenneth Dimmick

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Arriving in Stuttgart 1 June 2006 begins a new phase in my life; a life already more "phasic" than seems normal to most people. I am a nomad, a gypsy, and sometimes, I think, a pilgrim on a path into an unknown, yet congenial future.

Having been born in the state of Wyoming, I am a very rare breed. Wyoming, although approximately the size of all Germany, has the same population as Stuttgart. You'll not meet many people from Wyoming in your whole life, but I'll be one of them. The only other famous person from Wyoming of whom you might have heard is the present Vice-president of the USA, Dick Cheney. But I didn't stay there long. When I was nine years old, my father, tired of the humdrum routine of small town living, went on "active duty" in the U.S. Army. The year was 1964. Since that time, I have never lived in Wyoming again. But I have lived in many other places: Georgia, Colorado, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Georgia (again) and Texas. I graduated high school in Kingsville, Texas. I received an R.O.T.C. scholarship and so attended Texas A & M University knowing that at the time of graduation I would be commissioned in the Army as a Lieutenant. That knowledge gave me the freedom to study all the wonderful but vocationally useless subjects that I love: history, philosophy, theatre, political science, and German. Little did I know at the time what helpful subjects those would be when I went to seminary after my army days were finished.

It was while in the army that I first experienced life in Germany. For three years I lived in the Nürnberg area. My memories of that time 1977-1980 were so pleasant that, when the possibility of living here again, doing a more important work than ever the army asked, I jumped at the chance. Nearly a year later that dream has become a month-long reality.

Although I am still so new to Stuttgart, I already can sense that this new work is exactly what I have wanted. St. Catherine's Church is a wonderful place to worship. And I can't speak highly of the Parish Council and the leadership they have provided. With creativity and a good bit of hard work, they have done those things which had to be done, and made the decisions which had to be made for the good of the church, the future of the congregation, and the satisfaction of the bureaucracy. God is an endless fount of mercy and grace. He has poured out His grace in abundance all around in order that our present situation could come to be. May we all depend upon His continuing grace as we face together the days, months, and years ahead.

God, in my experience, has been with me throughout my nomadic

WARDEN'S CORNER

Ah, that's better already! At last the warden can creep back into his safe little Corner, out of the glare of the Front Page, and leave this to Father Dimmick. It's much nicer here, talking about warden-ish sorts of things (though I don't know if I'll actually get round to this today!), rather than trying to compose a lead article. The problem was always trying to strike a balance – to be substantial without being portentous.

Father Dimmick has been with us for three weeks as I write this article, and he is staying at Fischer-Jarman Towers until he can find a flat. In this time he has already started making contacts and forging links. I remarked to him today that the Spirit seems to be making up for lost time, as each day brings fresh phone calls and mails, sometimes from quite unexpected directions, giving cause for optimism for the future. Attendances in church on Sunday are already up, and, as they usually drop in July, this in itself is remarkable. A baptism is also in the offing.

Very soon we will be celebrating a remarkable double: Father Dimmick's installation and the first visit by our Bishop for as long as I have been here. We are having a luncheon party afterwards, with catering, and were debating how many should be catered for. We did not want to be over-optimistic, but 50? - 70? – even more? Invitations are gong out, and work is going ahead, so it is bound to be exciting. I'm excited already – the climax of more than a year's hard work.

This is, of course, a time of transition and getting to know each other. The council has kept things ticking over for a number of years, and now is the time to hand over the reins. This will take time, diplomacy and patience. A new leader in any group has a tricky task in front of him. I remember being appointed Senior Teacher at Norbury Manor High School for Girls in London in 1988, getting the job ahead of a popular internal candidate, which didn't make things any easier. I felt that every move was being scrutinized. If I had tried to move things on, I imagined people saying: "Huh, look at him muscling in with his big ideas." If I had spent time looking round and studying the

situation, I thought of them saying: "Huh, don't think much of him: here two months and hasn't done a thing yet!" Steer a middle course? - well, then some out of both camps would have found an excuse to be upset. We human beings are a funny lot, and Christians are no exception! So let us give Father Dimmick our unconditional support to make St Catherine's grow.

Father Dimmick: welcome, thank you for coming to lead our worship and be our spiritual guide, and good luck and God bless for the coming months.

Eric Jarman

OUR NEW CHAPLAIN



Many of you will have already met Ken Dimmick either at church or during a social visit. For those of you who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting him here are some further facts about him to add to those which he has written about on the front page.

Ken was born on 14 January 1955 in Wyoming and, after a spell in the army, became a seminarian intern at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Washington D.C. and then a seminarian trainee at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He studied at the Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Wisconsin where he obtained his M.Div in 1984. He then moved to Louisiana where he was ordained deacon in June 1984 at Leesville. Six months later he was ordained priest in Shreveport, Louisiana. He worked in the

diocese of Louisiana for six years, firstly as curate at St. Matthias' Episcopal Church in Shreveport and then as rector at Grace Episcopal Church of West Feliciana in St. Francisville. In 2000 he moved to the diocese of Texas where, until he accepted the calling to come to Stuttgart, he was associate rector at the Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston (with a congregation of 2,500!!), chaplain to a diocesan home for the elderly and missionary vicar at Trinity Episcopal Church in Anahuac.

In his ministerial career he has been heavily involved inter alia in developing children's and adult Sunday schools, expanding the size of congregations, developing outreach programmes and ministering to those who were ill, elderly, housebound or incarcerated.

As to his liturgical style Ken says: "I am personally attracted to worship that is ceremonial but sincere. High church with meaning is my favorite, but I have worked successfully in many different settings, and like to shape a parish liturgy to the needs of the parish. In small congregations I shape the liturgy to the skills and gifts of the members of the congregation. I love to sing and incorporate music into worship on both the congregational and choral level."

Ken has one sister, two brothers and seven nieces and nephews. He counts singing, poetry, swimming, theatre, opera and travelling amongst his hobbies.

INSTALLATION - 16 JULY 2006

Ken will be installed as our priest-in-charge during the service on Sunday, 16 July by the Right Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Rowell, the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe. Personal invitations to attend the service have already been sent out to every member of the congregation by email or post. If for any reason the invitation has not reached you, could you please let the editor know by 11 July (address and phone number at the end of the newsletter) if you will be coming so that we will know how many people to expect and to cater for (there will be a buffet lunch after the service). We would be delighted to see as many people as possible, as not only is

this a joyous occasion but it is the first time the Bishop has been to our church (in fact nobody knows when the last time an Anglican bishop visited us, so this will be a rare sighting!) and we need to give him and Ken a rousing welcome.

THE RT REVD DR GEOFFREY ROWELL

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Rowell is the third Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe. He was ordained priest in the Church of England in 1969. He became Canon of Chichester Cathedral in 1981 and was Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Leicester 1979-1990 and to the Bishop of Winchester 1991-1993. Before his current role Rowell was the Suffragan Bishop of Basingstoke from 1994.

He was commissioned as Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe on 18 October 2001 at St. Margaret's, Westminster and enthroned in Gibraltar Cathedral on 1 November 2001. He is based in Crawley, West Sussex.

His diocese covers approximately 260 chaplaincies in almost 50 countries extending from Tangier in north Africa to the Ukraine and beyond in the east.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Ken is still looking for a 2 (or 3) bedroomed flat. The flat should be in or close to Stuttgart and within easy access of public transport. If anyone knows of a suitable flat that will be available, please let Eric Jarman know.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At this year's AGM held in May attendees were told of the deliberations and the progress the Council had made over the past months in getting a permanent chaplain for our church. Jackie reported that our accounts were in a healthy state but that we would require more income and more parishioners in order for us to become self-sustaining within the next three years.

St. Catherine's continues to support various charities, the main beneficiaries being the Indian Widows' Charity and Café Strichpunkt.

Christopher, who is our representative on the committee for the renovation of St. Catherine's, reported on the work that had been carried out following the fire and the plans for the future, including fund-raising activities.

Thanks were extended to all who had organised or assisted in any way in our services, church music, social activities, and refreshments after the services, etc.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that Mel Spiese was elected as a new member of the Church Council at this year's AGM.

BOOKS FOR UGANDA

It is shocking the way our fast-moving society thinks nothing of scrapping perfectly usable objects because something new has come along. I am having to go down to the scrap yard this week with a printer which nobody wants to repair and a modem in excellent condition which just happens to be the last model instead of the latest.

Some years ago, the Church of England adopted Common Worship, and the ASB 1980 became illegal. We proudly purchased a set, which we have been using ever since, and the ASB was relegated to the top shelves, where it has been languishing ever since. No use, but too good to throw out.

Just before the fire, I had mentioned in the notices that we would like to donate the books, and was very happy when Isaac Wani approached me after the service and said that his Bishop in Uganda would welcome them. After the delay caused to everything by the fire, contact was taken up and the books, over 80 of them, dispatched in 3 boxes.

The post in that part of the world is not over-reliable, so we were very pleased to get an e-mail from Canon Davis Omella acknowledging

receipt of the books and expressing his thanks. Let us pray that we can continue to help others in such small but significant ways.

Eric Jarman



NEWS FROM FORMER PARISHIONERS

No sooner had we welcomed Judson Rollins back in the last edition of CrossRoads than he was transferred by his company to a project in Los Angeles that is expected to last until Christmas. In an email to the editor he said that, as his company could not promise him that he would be permanently based in Stuttgart after that, he decided to give up his apartment in Stuttgart and move everything back to the US. He is not entirely enamoured with the move but hopes that the opportunity will arise again for him to come back to Stuttgart. Some very happy news though is that he is now engaged to Terri. They will be getting married on 9 December in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Here is an engagement day photograph taken in the Florida Keys.



Thomas Kraft, whose flat Judson had taken over, is enjoying life in London. He writes: "My job here is very good and interesting. People are very kind. Last week I had my first meetings at King's College London, from this week on I will visit university departments all over the country trying to find new authors and to get some projects for us. Absolutely exciting.

"St Anne's church round the corner is wonderful, Fr. Gordon an excellent priest, the liturgy is out of this world (incense every Sunday) but still very open-minded (women curate) and not fussy. They don't do funny hats and maniples and that kind of thing. Very lively, welcoming congregation. I am very happy there.

"The music in the inner city churches is just divine, I've had the chance to hear several Choral evensongs in the Cathedrals and in smaller churches. I still have to find a choir I could join, but there's no need to rush."

ST. CATHERINE'S COOKERY BOOK



The St Catherine's Cookery Book (second edition) is here!

The first edition of the St Catherine's Cookery Book was sold out soon after it appeared. So Frances Buttle has arranged a second printing.

This is a truly international recipe collection with recipes from various members of the congregation and friends. It is a must have. Books will be available after each Sunday service or can be ordered from Frances.

All profits from the sale of the books will be donated to the Indian Widows Charity. (Minimum donation per book 5 Euros)

THE BONN AGREEMENT

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Bonn Agreement between the Churches of the Anglican Communion and the Churches of the Union of Utrecht (known as the Old Catholic Churches in Germany).

In 1867 the Anglican Church advocated the formation of international denominational alliances. The Old Catholics made contact with the Anglicans and entered into ecumenical dialogue with them from 1871 to 1875. In 1878 the Lambeth Conference presented its position on the Old Catholic Church for the first time. Further statements followed in 1888 and 1897.

In 1883 the Synod of the German Old Catholic Church passed a resolution inviting Anglicans to partake in communion at Old Catholic eucharists. In 1925, Anglican orders were recognised by the Church of Utrecht and the International Bishops' Conference. The Bonn Agreement was proclaimed in 1931. This agreement brought about the relationship of full communion which means that we fully recognize each other's ministries and sacraments. It was one of the major ecumenical steps of the last century.

A number of celebrations throughout Europe to mark the event are being planned. One of them will be a service of celebration and thanksgiving which will take place during the course of the 29th International Old Catholic Congress being held between 7 and 11 August in Freiburg. Both the Archbishops of Utrecht and Canterbury will be taking part in the service.

Kenneth is planning to go to the service and, if anyone would like to join him (it will be a great opportunity to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury), can you please let him know.

NEW PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Episcopal Church, 30 years after it allowed women to become priests and bishops, has elected a woman as its 26th Presiding Bishop during its Convention in June.

52 year old Katharine Jefferts Schori, bishop of the Diocese of Nevada, is the first woman to hold the top post in the church's nearly 400-year history.

She was ordained deacon and priest in 1994. Prior to ordination, she was a visiting assistant professor in the Oregon State University Department of Religious Studies; a visiting scientist at the Oregon State University Department of Oceanography; and an oceanographer with

the National Marine Fisheries Service in Seattle. She is also an active, instrument-rated pilot, who has logged more than 500 flight-hours.

In a pre-Convention interview Jefferts Schori said that the priorities for the next Presiding Bishop would include bridge-building and boundary-crossing as well as "moving our sanctuaries into the streets to encounter and transform the bad news of this world." She added that implementing the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals of embracing and celebrating diversity, eradicating poverty and hunger, and creating an environmentally sustainable world were also priorities.

As Presiding Bishop she will also face such challenges as boosting declining membership and reconciling the church nationally and globally over issues of human sexuality and mission.

Her nine-year term officially begins on November 1. She will be invested and seated on November 4 at Washington National Cathedral.



CHILDREN'S ENGLISH LIBRARY IN STUTTGART

Children's English Library

Etzelstr. 25-27

70180 Stuttgart

0711 358 2215 (opening hours only)

info@celstuttgart.de

www.celstuttgart.de

Public transportation: U5, U6, U7- Bopser, Bus 43 Falbenhennenstr.

The opening hours are set by the Board in accordance with the availability of volunteers. These times are displayed on the website and at the library entrance.

Opening Hours

Tuesday 16:15-18:15

Friday 15:00-18:00

Saturday 14:00-17:00

Closed during school holidays.

A non-profit organization offering over 6000 books (fiction and non-fiction) for 0-16 year olds. Books on tape, CDs and cassettes, English games, Rhyme time, Readings, Workshops, English classes and Special Events and much more. Its day to day running is carried out by volunteers.

Membership

There are two types of library Membership:

Family:

A parent/guardian must complete the membership form and becomes the 'Member'. All Children recorded on the membership form are registered as 'Junior Members'. The Family will then be issued with a membership card, which entitles the family to borrow up to 10 items for a period of 4 weeks.

Membership Plus

An individual must complete the membership form and becomes the 'Member'. The library membership is for that individual and not for the institution for which they work, regardless of whether the institution pays the membership fee. Members are also entitled to borrow up to 10 items for a period of 4 weeks.

Membership Fees

Family Membership - 50 Euros

Membership Plus - 100 Euros

If you are not familiar with this jewel of Stuttgart's English-speaking community, please join us, as a member and, of course, as a volunteer.

Four reasons not to mess with children

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from

her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun wrote a note, and put on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds.

After explaining the commandment to "honour" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

LECTIONARY FOR SERVICES AT ST. CATHERINE'S

Date	1 st Reading	Psalms	2 nd Reading	Gospel
9 July	2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10	48	2 Corinthians 12: 2-10	Mark 6: 1-13
16 July	2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19	24	Ephesians 1: 3-14	Mark 6: 14-29
23 July	2 Samuel 7: 1-14a	89: 20-37	Ephesians 2: 11-22	Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56
30 July	2 Samuel 11: 1-15	14	Ephesians 3: 14-21	John 6: 1-21
6 August	2 Samuel 11: 26-12, 13°	51: 1-13	Ephesians 4: 1-16	John 6: 24-35
13 August	2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33	130	Ephesians 4: 25- 5:2	John 6: 35, 41-51
20 August	1 Kings 2: 10-13, 3: 3-14	111	Ephesians 5: 15-20	John 6: 51-58
27 August	1 Kings 8: 1-6, 10-11	84	Ephesians 6: 10-20	John 6: 56-69
3 September	Song of Solomon 2: 8-13	45: 1, 2, 6-9	James 1: 17-27	Mark 7: 1-8, 14, 15, 21-23
10 September	Proverbs 22: 1,2, 8,9, 22,23	125	James 2: 1-10, 14-17	Mark 7: 24-37
17 September	Proverbs 1: 20-33	19	James 3: 1-12	Mark 8: 27-38
24 September	Proverbs 31: 10-31	1	James 3: 13- 4: 3,7-8a	Mark 9: 30-37

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

DATE AND TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
JULY		
9 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion - (COUNCIL)	St. Catherine's
16 th at 11.15am	Installation of Rev. Kenneth R Dimmick	St. Catherine's
23 rd at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
30 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
AUGUST		
6 th at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
13 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion - (COUNCIL)	St. Catherine's
20 th at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
27 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
SEPTEMBER		
3 rd at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
10 th at 9.00am	Holy Communion - (COUNCIL)	St. Catherine's
17 th at 11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
24 st at 9.00am	Holy Communion	St. Catherine's
	St. Catherine's Women's Group meets every month on a Thursday or Friday. Please contact Alison Seyerle for details of the meetings.	