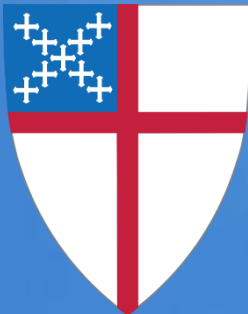


Autumn 2020

IKON

The Ascension
Messenger



Church
of the
Ascension
Munich

Points to Note

Worship

We worship every Sunday at midday in the Emmauskirche, Laurinplatz, 81545 München, Germany. For up-to-date news and details of services, check our website at: www.ascension-munich.org

Do also take a look at our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ascensionmunich and our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UC4802rHFcPLNCJxnSGeZ3FA

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Mark D. W. Edington, Bishop in Charge
mark.edington@tec-europe.org

The Rev. Dr. Ali Gray, Priest Associate
revaligray@ascension-munich.com

The Rev. Clair Ullmann, Priest Associate
revclairullmann@ascension-munich.com

Pastoral Care

In a pastoral emergency, first point of contact should be **Joan Case** for the fastest response: mobile: 01728256425 home: 0802449945.
You can also contact the wardens:

Janet Day-Strehlow: mobile: 01707926767

George Battrick: mobile: 015208293438 home: 0896881151

Financial Support

Our church receives no funds from any government body; we are entirely supported by the contributions of our members.

Donations and pledges can be made by bank transfer to:
The Church of the Ascension, Deutsche Bank
IBAN: DE49 7007 0024 0459 8702 00

2 Corinthians 9:7 “*Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver*”

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Editorial

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Janus, the Roman God who has two heads, one looking backwards and one looking forwards, could have adorned the cover of this edition of the IKON. Well maybe not appropriate, but we are indeed looking backwards and forwards: backwards over 50 years that this congregation has worshipped at the Emmaus church in Harlaching; forwards as we come to terms with this new normal and find a new Priest in Charge with the help of our Bishop, the dedicated Parish Profile Committee and the Vestry.

St Christopher graces the IKON cover to guide us on this journey forwards together.

As we do not yet have an Interim Rector, though we met Ken Dimmick virtually at the AGM and he labelled himself ‘the aspiring interim rector’, in this edition you don’t get a letter from him, but you get three-for-the-price-of-one as it were: reflective contributions from Clair, Lutz and Ali who have guided us so well since Allan left.

There are many reflections from erstwhile parishioners on their time with us at the Emmaus church over the last fifty years. Let us hope that memories are as

positive for the younger members of the congregation over the next 50 years! Read about one of these young families as Chris, Michelle and their son Kai share their lives with us.

Find out how the Outreach Committee has been busy even in lockdown. Mitchell has contributed a moving article on where we are now and long, as we all do, to be able to burn her mask. Find out what church activities you can get involved in even in these COVID-19 times and see what we have to celebrate. If you didn’t attend, catch up on the first two sessions in the Racial Justice Course. As days get shorter and autumn marches on, read how there is hope for the fledgling church garden.

Above all stay safe, healthy and positive.

Never have more than one kind of trouble at a time. Some people bear three kinds of trouble – the ones they’ve had, the ones they have and the ones they expect to have.

Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909)

Blessings

Sue



A Praying Community

Our lives are enveloped by prayer, individually and together. In the catechism at the back of our Book of Common Prayer, the question is asked: What is prayer?

The answer is: Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words. We pray multiple times during our service on Sundays. Those prayers unite us with one another and with the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Not only do we pray during our service, many, if not all of us, pray throughout the day to give thanks and praise, to repent, to ask for and receive forgiveness, to reach out for help and to be assured we are not alone.

I cannot tell you how many of our sisters and brothers speak about how our prayers for them have helped them in their time of need. We don't talk about prayer very much, just as we don't often ask others to pray for us. This is a gift given freely to us by our Beloved.

When I walk in nature, my prayer is one of awe and thanksgiving. When I look at the stars at night, my prayer is for all those who are under this same canopy of light

and love. When a baby comes into my view, I pray for all parents and those children who are entrusted to them. When I see the pictures of nurses, doctors, patients, my prayer is for those affected by COVID-19 and other ailments in any way.

And now with the fires in the United States, a prayer goes up for all involved, those helping and those being helped.

As I work on the course dealing with Racial Justice, prayers of sadness are asking what to do and how to change to be part of a new world-view where justice and respect for each individual is a given. And lastly, for those who are homeless, without country, and with few countries willing to care for them, my prayer is for our humanity and for their survival and safety.

The list goes on and on. As I pray for each of you, I ask your prayers for me and my family. Join us in making our days filled with prayer, praise, and gratitude.

Clair

(The Rev. Clair Ullmann, Priest Associate, Church of the Ascension)

The Season of Creation

The church year offers "seasons", which highlight certain aspects of our Christian life and faith, be it the incarnation of God in Christ during Christmas time, the presence of God's Spirit among us at Pentecost or, of course, the death and new life of Jesus in the Resurrection at Easter time.

But traditionally there is no season that would focus on "God the Creator" or "God's Creation" – until recently, when churches have begun to do so throughout the month of September (and into October). Spring in the southern hemisphere, autumn/fall in the north, have traditionally been the time of harvest celebrations, and the 4th Oct is the Feast of St Francis – a nature lover, we are told.

More and more Anglican provinces around the world are adopting this now into their annual rhythm, and the September Convocation newsletter (<http://conta.cc/2QG89KC>) gave a clear indication, that this is true for TEC as well. We are still borrowing liturgies and thoughts developed by others, but it would be my hope that during the next

couple of years, we can create our own liturgical and theological resources in the Convocation; step by step, marking this season and directing our thoughts and energies towards God's glorious creation – and highlighting our own responsibility in the safeguarding and protection of this world and its resources. Remember, there is no Planet B!

I invite you to join in with the following prayer:

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life in all its diversity and beauty. Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we praise you that you came to redeem all of creation.

Holy Spirit, we rejoice that you breathe in the life of the world. Grant us faith and courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus as caretakers of, and justice-seekers for, your beautiful and bountiful creation. For the blessing of your people, the sustaining of the earth and the glory of your name. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Lutz

*(The Rev. Dr. Lutz Ackermann
St. Boniface, Augsburg)*

God is Unchanging

It has been a long time since I was last in Germany, and what a lot has happened. When I flew back to the UK in the middle of March, I fully expected to return to work as a doctor within days, but I was never needed.

Instead, I have been spending time with my family, making sourdough bread, getting fit, struggling to pray, and sorting out the garden.

It was a great challenge to me, as an activist, to have to be in total lockdown for three months. Miraculously, we were able to meet, whilst still in isolation, via Zoom. I pay tribute to Father Allan, and to all those who stepped up, took risks, and worked so hard to enable the church to re-gather to resume face-to-face worship.

Particular thanks to those who continue to work hard week by week to sustain this. We plan to continue with Zoom worship for

those who need to continue to isolate, or cannot access the physical service. I am blessed to be able to resume in-person worship, and have heard how much those who cannot currently attend, miss physical church, and the opportunity to serve in practical ways.

We miss handshakes, hugs, hymn books, and choral singing; but these things are not essential to our Christian lives. Parts of our Sunday worship may have changed, but our God is unchanged. God still loves us and longs to meet each one of us.

Whether we worship online or face-to-face, together we can engage actively in the service and so create a sacred time and place which enables us to encounter the one true creator, sustainer and redeemer God.

Shalom, Ali

The Rev. Dr. Ali Gray (Priest Associate, Church of the Ascension)

50 Years with Emmaus

Because of the pandemic we can't physically celebrate the fact that we have been guests of Emmaus for 50 years. We can, however, express our deep gratitude to Pfarrer Reichenbacher and all his predecessors, Pfr. Paul Maßmann, Pfr. Dieter Helbig, Pfr. Günter Söllner, Pfr. Jürgen Kauffmann, who have shared their church with us since October 1970.

We are lucky to be able to worship in such an airy, spacious setting. Consider the wall paintings by the altar. They were added in 1970 by Herbert Distler and represent two Bible stories: On the left, Zacchaeus, the customs officer, in a tree, and Noah's ark on the right. The round window above reflects the shape of the altar island.

Pfarrer Reichenbacher has been with us since the first of March 1996 and he officially retires at the end of February 2021. His official farewell will be in the service on Sunday 31st January next year.

No Ascension Messiah Sing or Carol Service this year; no Emmaus Jahrmarkt in October or sale of Fair Trade Goods in the foreseeable future; events that we can share and that bring us closer together. It is sometimes hard to be grateful, but it is not all bleak.

When you rest after the church service and chat to your socially-distanced friends on the metal bench outside the Church, take the time to notice the plaque on the side of it. This shows us that the bench was installed in memory of Pfarrer Söllner.

Be grateful that this, at least, we can share.

The Editorial Team



Alumni Memories

Parishioners who have passed through the doors of Ascension over these 50 years were contacted and here are some of their memories.

Gladys de Vos

One great memory I have is that party we had together celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary. That memory stays alive because I have such nice pictures of it. And the choir every Sunday was such a blessing and something Warren and I both loved.

Steve Tatchell and Katie Weld

We have many fond memories of Munich and our friends there. We mainly keep up with Deborah Kintner-Richter, Janet Day-Strehlow, and occasionally Jeff; also Tom Pellaton in New York or wherever he may be. We especially remember our hike in the mountains with the youth group staying overnight in the hut with all those teens, bicycle trips, Gilbert and Sullivan shows, and a Broadway musical review we produced once! The Church of the Ascension and our friends there were one of the main reasons we stayed in Munich for four years instead of the original six months planned. We hope the Church of the Ascension continues to be a home away from home for all those Anglican and Episcopal folks.

Summer Akimoto

The Church of the Ascension was a vital part of our experience from early days in 1959 until we retired in 1992. It was still meeting in an office/apartment in Kaulbachstraße before moving downtown to St. Willibrod's Church, and then, in 1970, to the Emmauskirche. In all those places we treasured the community of our international congregations. Life-long friends such as the Nowaks, Mayers, and Pattees were made. Both of us served on the Vestry and worked in various ministries such in the altar guild, and as Junior Warden. The most rewarding of all has to have been the music program, first under Dick Verduin and then our dear, dear friend Fred Mayer. What a privilege for us to sing with so many gifted musicians. One of them, Ruth Hosman Lewis, lives in a suburb near us.

The Church of the Ascension remains dear to my heart, as it did to Ted's. Blessings.

Martin and Judith Hannam

We remember so much of our time at Ascension: The flamboyant and welcoming leadership of Father Tom and the warmth and enthusiasm of his curates - Dale and Tyler.

Coffee hour going on for ages as there were so many lovely people to talk to and a chance to speak English after a week of German conversations.

Wonderful support from ladies like Joyce, Helen and Wendy who made me feel that I was doing OK as a mum, far from my own mother.

The first time, as relatively straight-laced Anglicans, we encountered the whole-church walkabout of 'The Peace' - we still do it in our much smaller church today.

Sunday School for the children led by Joan, Jane Scheiring, Gaynor Koobs, Nicola Moloney, especially when they came back into the service. The nativity plays, especially getting the chance to write one. Seeing my children as kings, shepherds and angels - and one year being Mary and Martin as Joseph with a tiny Cecily as baby Jesus. Most of all it was the sense of people trying to be their best selves and feeling that I too might be able to raise my game!

Rev. Julie Nelson

I first encountered Church of the Ascension in June 2001 on a weekend visit to Munich, the purpose of which was for me to decide whether I was willing to relocate from the UK so that Ernest could be based in the Munich office of his company. Church was hugely important to me – I had a fulfilling ministry as Associate Priest in my home parish and was reluctant to lose all that. The warmth of the welcome at CoA and Father



L to R: Rev. Julie Nelson, Rev. Tom Pellaton, Rev. Dale Carr

Tom's obvious delight and enthusiasm about having another priest colleague (for free!) convinced me to take the plunge. The warm welcome was not a one-off. I remember the smiling greeters, the encouragement to wear name badges, the coffee hour – which really did last an hour – often morphing into an afternoon at the Mengerschwaige. As for my ministry – I will always be grateful for a renewed

sense of vocation and a deepened, broadened understanding of 'Church', as well as the stimulating discussions at Wednesday morning Bible Study. We made friendships that have endured. The Women's Group emerged and flourished. We laughed and cried together, and supported each other. Other memories include a Thanksgiving celebration where Jane miscalculated the turkey required (everyone went home, it seemed, with a tray full of roast turkey), and having to wear a dirndl to sing (and 'dance') in the chorus for Iolanthe. And then the farewells: much more laughter and tears, a 'Calendar Girls' style calendar from the Women's Group (for my eyes only), several women wearing red shoes (don't ask!) for my final service, and that brilliant choir singing the theme from The Vicar of Dibley. God Bless you all!

David Michael Schuster Avon, Indiana

As an alumnus of Church of the Ascension, Munich my memories are both sweet and bittersweet. For a decade, my life was in that church, and especially in the choir loft. And because of that choir loft, my life was allowed to blossom and flourish throughout Europe. Thanks to the pandemic (hard to believe one can be thankful), Zoom has brought me back.

I arrived by train from Rome in September 1985 just as the Oktoberfest began and ended up sleeping in the Hauptbahnhof. Sadly, because of bronchitis, my auditions at the Staatsoper were not very successful, although the agents were very encouraging and I was determined to stay. I ended up finding a cheap room to live for the next week.

During that week I found the American Church on the base and met Mary Ellen Kitchens, who directed me to Fred Mayer at the Church of the Ascension. I appeared one evening at a rehearsal of the Ascension choir for a recording of the Dvorak Mass in D, and afterward I sang for him and he asked me to join. That was all I needed to keep me in Munich for the next 10 years.

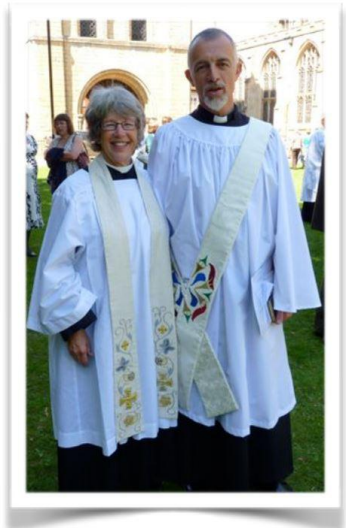
As a lifelong Episcopalian, Ascension was my home there. Without the wonderful friends I made there, too numerous to mention, I would not have survived, mentally musically or spiritually. The spirit of God truly inhabits the Church of the Ascension and its people. God willing, it will someday be my home once more!

Happy 50th anniversary at Emmaus and prayers for the next 50.

Philip, Mary and Andrew Payne

We first came to Church of the Ascension in early September 2003. We lived in Dachau, and Philip, a serving RAF officer, worked at NETMA on a multi-national aircraft project. Andrew was a full-time boarder at school in England and came home for holidays; Mary used her time to complete a degree with the Open University. A Reader in the C of E, Philip very quickly became involved in services. We immersed ourselves in activities with the church: Attending Harlaching weekly, the Bible study group, women's group, as well as forming close links with the Mission Church community in Ingolstadt, travelling to their service each month. We formed good and, long lasting, relationships with many during our four years. In early 2007,

Father Tom, suggested to Philip that he might wish to attend a Discernment Conference taking place at Villa Palazzola, Rome. Philip, with several others from the congregation, attended the conference, and whilst there felt the hand of God confirming he ought to seek ordination to the priesthood when he retired from the RAF. We left Dachau and the Church of the Ascension later that summer. Once in England, Philip began to pursue ordination; he retired from the RAF in September 2009 and became a student



at Cambridge University. In June 2011, Philip was ordained Deacon at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, and it was a thrill that Rev Clair was able to attend. After 3 years as a curate, we moved to mid Suffolk, where for the past 6 years, Philip has been the Rector of a rural Benefice of 8 churches. Very, very different from the cosmopolitan city of Munich! We thoroughly enjoyed our time living in Bavaria; we keep in touch with several people, and visit when we can.

Fredericke Johns, Calico Rock

It is a Wednesday, where in a small chapel room, a dozen or so of us, Americans, Germans, Africans and Brits attend Bible study at the Church of the Ascension. We sit around a rather worn card table. There is always a rather festive atmosphere. In the centre of the table is a variety of sweets and savouries that vary according to the season, but leaving food apart, we are more interested in what we hear from each other, in this little circle of believers who have a curiosity about the Bible.

I had heard of this church for almost as long as I was in Munich, about what a good atmosphere of worship existed and how good the choir was. But my contract as chapel organist at the U.S. Army chapel in Augsburg kept me away. Not until my contract ended could I attend a service at Ascension.



This fellowship, much different from the Missionary Baptist Association, of which I was a member, helped me to realize that we all believed in the same God. Ben, a Ugandan man, confirmed for me the exhilaration I was feeling. He said, “It is really wonderful to see how the love and joy of God can be seen in your smile.”



Garrick Comeaux

The Church of the Ascension became my spiritual home in the fall of 1986. David Schuster and I both sang in the choir under Fred Mayer and enjoyed taking private voice lessons from him as well. It was at Ascension under Fr. Henry Wilson’s watch that I became enamoured with the liturgy of the Church and the relationship between music and ritual. “Evensong at Ascension” was what we did and Fr. Wilson presided. We also celebrated occasional Solemn Sung Eucharist on the evenings of Feast Days. When discussing these liturgical events with Bishop Bigliardi (Bishop of the Convocation 1988-93), he would always say “Don’t look for numbers, just do what you do with great intentionality.” I was soon approved by the parish as a postulant to Holy Orders of Permanent Diaconate. Bishop Bigliardi hesitatingly agreed that I could begin formal studies at the Gregorian University in Rome. He affectionately referred to reception

into the Church of Rome as “swimming the Tiber”. I was never ordained, but I did spend five wonderful years in a Roman Seminary (Collegio Capranica) and finished a Doctorate in Sacramental–Liturgical Theology at the Benedictine Sant’ Anselmo Athenaeum in Rome.

I returned stateside in 2005 to be closer to immediate family and have had the pleasure to work as director of Music and Liturgy in numerous parishes in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul–Minneapolis. I am indeed grateful for the five years I spent in Munich and at Ascension. God is good, always.

Rev. Dorothee Hahn

I remember well that Easter Sunday 1989 when, having already sung at one service with Garry Comeaux, he asked if I could drive him to another one. I said, yes. Who could have known that this would change my whole life? Garry convinced me to sing in the choir. Upon arrival, the rehearsal was almost over and he handed me over to Mitchell Woodard and left to serve as Eucharistic Minister - not that I knew then what that was. I realized everybody was speaking English! A minor fact Garry forgot to tell me beforehand. I spoke only poor English. After the rehearsal, I was introduced to Fred Mayer, the choir director. I made it through the service, not understanding much of what Fr. Hank Wilson was saying in his Texan American English. I wanted to disappear quietly, but Fred caught me and asked the key question, “You are going to come again, aren’t you?” My answer; “I don’t think so.”

Well, God had other plans. The welcome of the people had touched me and two weeks later I was back. I started singing in the choir, then began serving as a Eucharistic Minister more and more often, when eventually I felt the call to the priesthood, which Ascension and Fr. Tom Pellaton supported throughout.

After four years of studies, one in the US, I came back already ordained deacon in August 2005 and was ordained to the priesthood on November 27, 2005 by Bishop Pierre W. Whalon. It was a day of extraordinary joy. My Ascension community, most of my family and friends from the US were present. Fred Mayer conducted the choir and told me afterwards how proud he was of me. I will always be thankful for all Ascension did for me and all the friends I have found there.

Dorothee and others have said why they came to Ascension and why they stayed. How would YOU, YES YOU, answer these questions? Let the editorial team know if you are inspired to do so; and we can publish ideas in the next edition.



COVID-19 and Outreach Activities

When Lockdown began the nuns were no longer allowed to run their lunches under normal circumstances, so they decided to compromise by giving out packed lunches.

Now they needed containers, carrier bags and utensils for sandwiches, fruit, yogurt and drinks. Saturday and Sunday they provide warm take-away lunches. Consequently, at the request of the nuns, the Church of the Ascension bought 1000 plastic containers and 1000 knives, forks and spoons. These were a huge success, so at our last meeting we moved to double this.

In April as the pandemic took hold, we supplied the soup kitchen 1,200 wet wipes, and provided 200 disposable masks. Our parishioners made 120 washable masks as well.

The soup kitchen needs a regular supply of drinks (between 70-90 per day and on Sunday 150.) Though we cannot provide this on a regular basis, at Father Allan's farewell, bottled drinks were collected in the soup kitchen basket and taken to the soup kitchen to be distributed. Homemade cakes were taken to brighten up the meals being served, and 40 small pots of African violets were delivered as well. The clients were so grateful and really loved the flowers, even the men! The nuns expressed that no one had ever donated flowers before. We at outreach feel that to supply things we take for granted, such as Butter Brezen, doughnuts or a flower are the little things that bring a lot of pleasure!

In the autumn we will supply more disposable face masks, as they continue to be compulsory, and continue to supply cutlery and containers.

In Advent we plan to supply Christmas chocolates and Christmas plants in pots, and a car full of basic groceries, to be divided and distributed among the needy. We have agreed to set up our stand again with knitted goods, toiletries and Christmas chocolates in December if this is permitted. We also hope to supply chocolate Father Christmases for mentally and physically challenged students from disadvantaged families at the preschool of the *Christophorus-Schulverein München*.

Now, items from Romania, previously sold after church, are available online and can be sent to your home for a small charge. Do you need some lavender oil or a lavender pillow? A beautifully hand-carved wooden cross perhaps, or just some honey? If you are interested please send an email to Angela Schneider at:

angelarolf@hotmail.com

for full details. All proceeds go towards supporting mission work in Romania.

Liz Wink

Ikon



Where we are now

This morning I read a post that said, 'I'm going to stay up on New Year's Eve this year. Not to see the New Year in, but to make sure this one leaves.'

Of all the challenges we face in today's world, a global pandemic was not one on our radar. We thought digitization, globalism, the complexities of social media, inequality socially and economically, climate change, and political divides were really enough – just for a start.

And the good news is that, due to the pandemic, Germany has met its 2020 climate goals. Who would have thought that could happen just by everybody staying home?

I was all right just staying home at the beginning of the lockdown. The weather was gorgeous. We went for walks, and I, like everyone else, baked a bit, cooked for my family, enjoyed some free time. I had my grown boys at home, as did many of us - an incredible, unexpected gift, though it wasn't always easy all Zooming in different rooms.

Bernhard could work from home, and Christian had a digital internship. I had my 'technical support team' at home, so I learned to Zoom teach voice early on, and found it feasible and surprisingly acceptable, as long as everyone's WiFi worked. We actually did some serious garden work, as did everyone else, and garden centres were rushed once they opened again.

In some ways, the pandemic has been sort of like the frost that killed our mirabelle crop this year. Our tree was bursting with beautiful blossoms one day, and withered and frozen the next. Last year we were 'blessed/cursed' with too many of those tasty little orange plums. We made jam, sauce, syrup – hundreds of kilos. We shared with the neighbours. We worked and worked. I am sad that there are no mirabelles this year, though I should be glad not to have to work quite so hard to preserve them.



This pandemic has taught us to appreciate what we have in this life. We see how our relationships, family, friends and connections to one another are such a vital aspect to our lives. They sustain us and also make us crazy. We have had to learn to slow down, cherish simpler things in the absence of other things

that we care about. We see how vital a functional government can be, and how it can impact our lives. We are forced to learn new things: Zooming, cooking, finding and dealing with our fears, self-expectations, our stress levels challenged. Some learn how to sustain too much time together, and others, how to be alone. There is a new insecurity about tomorrow. Others face financial difficulties. Artists are struggling all over the world.

We are learning to treasure the things we love to do in a different way. We realize what a great pleasure it is to hug others on a regular basis, and how much we miss it if we can't; how lovely a smile is, and how you can see it in people's eyes, even if they are wearing a mask. The joy of being near to one another, and singing together, and how eagerly we anticipate being able to do this again. We appreciate how dedicated health professionals are risking their lives for others; how teachers, working online and off, continue to serve and there are artists making music together online just to make everyone a bit happier.

We see how hard it is for many; how fear and insecurity drive people to drastic measures: Extreme political views, expressions of anger and hate; how the stress takes its toll on children and their struggling parents, young people waiting for their lives to continue; the not-so-young scared to go out in public. Health issues arise. Loved ones pass. We experience loss, and are faced with a present moment looking a bit less Disney, a bit more Grimm.

Can we rise to the challenge? What can it teach us? Can we learn to care more about one another in real life, as opposed to on social media? Can we live with less, loving more? Can we act for a safer world, a healthier planet? Can we make haste to love one another, even when we are driving each other just a bit nuts? Can we just hold on to the good things, till things start looking a bit brighter? Can we treasure the mirabelles when they grow, and also the year they freeze?

Some days I can. Some days I can't. I have to accept that I have neither cleaned out my basement, nor discovered gravity during lockdown; that all the bushes we trimmed need trimming again, and that though I have loved having my sons with us, they cannot wait to escape to their next adventure. I do know that I will REALLY enjoy the next time I share the peace and can hug everyone in sight, the next time there is Sunday choir and there are hymns in church, and the moment, when it comes, that I can burn my mask.

Mitchell Woodard

Congratulations

It is good to have something to celebrate!

Birthdays in August

Rémy Bethmont 2nd
Dee Pattee 16th
Angela Schneider 17th
Claire Bartsch 29th
Sue Morris 29th

Birthdays in September

Bob Nowak 4th
Harald Bayer 7th
Kaye O'Connell 8th
Rolf Schneider 10th
Nathan Stuckenbruck 21 on 14th
Ali Gray 19th
Jane Scheiring 25th
Steve Knowles 28th

Wedding anniversaries

Bob and Kristi Nowak
50th on 15th August

Wendy and Kelvin Mountford
40th on 30th August

Lois and Loren Stuckenbruck
36th on 1st September

Congratulations also to all the other parishioners who have had birthdays or anniversaries over these months, but didn't tell us!

Congratulations to:

- **Christian Brandt** who has finished his Bachelor's in Math and Computer Science at the TU München and will start his Masters there in the fall.
- **Alexander Brandt** who is doing a Masters in Educational Policy at the University of Glasgow. He has a DAAD Scholarship. (German Academic Exchange Service.)



- **Steve Knowles**, awarded the Senior Warden's cross at the AGM for all his hard work, particularly with regard to Zoom, thus keeping us together as a community over lockdown.

- The newly elected vestry members:
 - **Lloyd Denton**
 - **Tonda Kemmerling**
 - **Mavis Oteng-Mensah**
 - **Joachim Zeller**

(Read more about them on page 19)

- **Graham Pearce** for his re-election to the Vestry.

New Vestry Members

Lloyd Denton



I was born in Dallas Texas and was baptised at age 10 by my father, a Southern Baptist minister. I attended a small Baptist liberal arts college in Missouri — William Jewell — and there received a scholarship, at age 20, to study history at Oxford University. While there, I was drawn to the liturgy and sacraments of the Anglican Church. Back in the US I was involved in a house church ministry at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Kansas City Missouri. I attended Princeton Seminary from 1992-1995 completing a Masters of Divinity. I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1993 at the Princeton University Chapel. After seminary, I decided not to seek ordination, but continued my education in Washington D.C., and remained active in the church. Then in 2002, I moved to Istanbul, Turkey, where I lived until 2018 working for the INSEAD business school, and independently as a coach and leadership advisor to corporate executives throughout the Middle East. Nurtac and I met in Istanbul in 2009 and were married at the Little Church of La Villita in San Antonio, Texas in 2014. Our daughter Noelle was born in September 2018. We live now in Geretsried, where Nurtac works as Global HR Director for Pulcra Chemicals, and I mostly function (and sometimes malfunction) as a stay-at-home dad.

Tonda Kemmerling



I am originally from Oregon and after graduating from Woodburn High School I went on to Willamette University and received a degree in Vocal Performance. After two semesters in Munich studying the German language and culture, I returned to Oregon and completed my Master of Music at the University of Oregon, then moved lock, stock and barrel to Munich.

I have been a member of the Church of the Ascension and the choir since 1993, with a brief five-year stint in Great Britain. Besides singing in the choir, I did the layout for the IKON for one year and recently joined the Altar Guild. My work experience is in data management and invoice processing, both outgoing and receivable. I have three adult children between the ages of 19 and 24.

Mavis Oteng-Mensah



I was born in Koforidua, Ghana. I'm a secretary by profession, and am married to Joe Oteng-Mensah, with whom I have four children: Malakai, Ethan, Ezekiel and Jeremiah. I became a believer when I was around 13 years old. My first church was a Methodist church in Ghana, where I was in the choir. Until I came to Germany, I attended a charismatic church called Lighthouse Chapel International in Ghana. In Frankfurt, Germany I met Joe at a church my mother was attending, which is also where we got married. And then the family moved to Reading, England, where we attended a branch of Lighthouse Chapel International. We continued worshiping at a branch of this church when we moved to Dublin, Ireland. Another move took us to London where we attended Streatham Baptist Church and became full members. I joined the Mom's Group, and was also a teacher in the Sunday School. I also joined the Prayer Group. Our next move took us to Zurich, Switzerland, where we continued our Christian worship with the Baptist church. Now in Munich, we're at the Church of the Ascension. We've been here for about a year now. We are enjoying being part of, and contributing to the online course dealing with Racial Justice, organised by Clair and Rainer Ullmann.

Joachim Zeller



I was born in Germany as son of a Lutheran pastor and baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church of Württemberg. I studied physics at the University of Würzburg for 3 years and continued my studies at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. What started out as one year of studies abroad ended up being a 10 year stay in Albuquerque, during which I obtained my M.Sc. then my Ph.D. in Physics. During this time, I joined the Episcopal Church, being attracted by the combination of rich liturgical tradition and progressive theology. After returning to Germany, I took a postdoc position at the University of Karlsruhe and in 2005 changed into industry as an optical engineer in Stuttgart. Here, I was member of St. Catherine's Anglican Church. I moved to Munich in 2011 after starting a new position as an optical engineer at OHB, a company in the space industry, designing and analysing optical instruments for satellite missions. Since then I have been a member of the Church of the Ascension, where I serve as usher, lector and on the Outreach Committee. At the Church of the Ascension I cherish the diversity of different nationalities, cultures and religious traditions, open-mindedness, the important role of music in liturgy and - last but not least - the good sense of humour.

An Interview with...

I had the pleasure of interviewing Michelle and Kai Yuan together with son Kai. For clarification: Michelle calls her husband Chris. A university professor in Kuala Lumpur (KL) first called him that and Chris used the name at his workplace too, as his Chinese name was “too difficult to pronounce.” Now we can call him this too.

How did you two meet?

Chris: We met when we were both working for the same German company, Arvato Systems from the Bertelsmann Group in KL in Malaysia, in the same team in fact.

Michelle: The job interested me but, as a Christian, I was wary of leaving my home in Manila to work in a Muslim country. I was reassured, however, that this would not be a problem. I was brought up a Catholic, and my religion is very important to me. When I got to know Chris better, I asked him if he would attend my church with me.



Chris: We agreed that I would give “going to the church” a try, then we’d see how it goes. After a year, I decided to get baptised and confirmed at St. Mary’s Cathedral (an Anglican church in KL).

(Smiles here!)

Now they are settled in Germering. So why did you choose to make your home in Germany?

Chris: We were married in 2017, and at Chinese New Year in 2018 I was offered a job in Germany though LinkedIn. We had been on a business trip to Gütersloh in 2014 while working for the company in KL, so Germany was not strange to us. Before we accepted, we did some research and found that software engineers were in demand in Germany, so we went ahead. Our first German home was in Obergiesing in April 2018. I was working for Zooplus then and still do in fact.

Michelle: When we arrived in Germany, I was still working for Arvato Systems remotely while rendering my notice period. I went for several job interviews. We decided to disclose to the interviewers that I was pregnant, as being new in Germany we thought it was best to be transparent. I got a job offer from a company called Simple Systems as a freelancer and worked there for five months, until I went on maternity leave. I was hired as a full-time employee when I returned to work, 6 months after giving birth.

Chris: The team I work with now at Zooplus is very international, so we all speak in English.

Do you speak English at home too?

Michelle: Yes, we speak English together, and I speak to Kai in English.

Chris: And I speak to him in Mandarin.

How old is he now?

Michelle: He will be two on January 12th.

So he had his first birthday and his baptism on the same day!

Michelle: Yes, but he didn't really take much notice of the birthday. The other children loved the cake, but he didn't eat any of it!

Chris: We wanted to register his name as Kai Mikael Perello Lim, Perello being Michelle's surname, but that was apparently not possible in Germany.

Tell us about your families and other languages that you speak.

Chris: English is my first language, followed by Malay and then Mandarin, but I also spoke Hokkien, mainly with my grandma from Penang Island, and Cantonese with the community that we lived in at my grandma's home.

In Malaysia back in the 1980s and early 2000s, kids normally learn some Cantonese via television programs. My mum's father was from Melaka. My father's family are all from Kuala Lumpur.

Michelle: My first language is English, followed by Tagalog, and of course, I speak Filipino, which is the national language, and is a standardized version of Tagalog.

I have two sisters working in Dubai. Currently my brother and two sisters are residing in the Philippines.

Ikon

We have all been suffering in lockdown, but has this been a particularly difficult time for you with a small child?

Chris: Not really. I have been working from home and my contract for home office is until next January. I look after Kai in the morning.

Michelle: At lunchtime we change over roles and it's my turn.

Chris: It is challenging to work full-time while trying to take care of Kai alternately, but we have also enjoyed it, because we were able to observe many of Kai's developmental milestones. Michelle thought we might miss Kai taking his first steps, as he might be in the crèche when that happened, but he actually did that at the start of the lockdown. We were very happy!

And what of the future beyond Covid-19? What plans to do you have?

Chris: We planned to see our family in Malaysia in November, but that is not possible now.

Michelle: The highlight for us will be in November. We hope that my sister and brother-in-law can come to Germany then, to live and work. They will be staying with us, and the best part is that they also have a toddler who is almost the same age as our son.

Is there anything else that you would like to tell us?

Chris: Yes. We wanted to say how grateful we were for the care we had when Kai was born. Everyone was so understanding when we were in an emergency situation and didn't speak much German. It all started at 1 a.m. when Michelle's water broke. Contractions didn't kick start until 8pm, then we had to wait for her labour to progress at home and were only told to go to the Geburtshaus at midnight. When, after almost 48 hours, Kai still hadn't arrived, we were sent to Schwabing hospital by ambulance. With the help of the doctor there, Michelle managed to have the baby normally within 30 minutes of arrival. I appreciate that here in Germany the husband can be with his wife all throughout the labour, as this is not common in South East Asia.

Michelle: It was a very emotional time for me. A rollercoaster ride would be best to describe it. We experienced being worried, excited and happy. It didn't help that we were experiencing our first winter here.

Chris: Also Kai had jaundice when he was six days old and the team at the hospital was marvellous. There wasn't really room in the ward, but they made room and gave Kai very good care.

Michelle: The government here in Germany gives great support to families and we appreciate it very much. I'd also like to say how grateful we are to have googled "English speaking church in Munich" and found the Church of the Ascension. I find services very calming and it is good that we have met other people from the Philippines.



And we are very grateful that you have become involved in the life of the church. You are a Zoom host, Chris. Have you had a lot of experience with this system?

Chris: No. I didn't know anything about Zoom or break out groups, but Steve gave me some lessons. Now that I understand the system, I am happy to help. We are being cautious at the moment and are not physically coming to

church, but we can participate this way that we enjoy very much.

Thank you for taking the time to talk to me and for sharing so much of your lives with us.

Sue Morris



**Sing, hum, speak along in Zoom.
We can't hear you in church, but God can.**

Ikon

Activities you can Get Involved In

In these difficult Corona times we could not have a Celebration Sunday as we have known it in the past, when all the activities of the church were showcased. Many of our activities have, however, continued online and now that worship in church has resumed, there is the need for volunteers. So read on and see how you may get involved. (O) Denotes activities limited to online.

Golden Girls (O)



We are a group of women who are over fifty (or practising to be so!). We come together about once a month to sing, pray, ponder God's plan for us, laugh, cry, share experiences and support each other in love as we all grow older.

Contact: Clair Ullmann at: revclairullmann@ascension-munich.com or

Joan Case at: MJCase@gmx.net

The Men's Room (O)

This is a meeting place for the men of the parish. We meet every couple of months or so on Saturday from 10.00-12.00. All men of the parish are welcome to join us for conversation, discussion, prayer and reflection on our lives as Christian men.

Contact: George Battrick at: gwb@muc.de

The Young Adults' Group (O)

For anyone in their 20s and 30s, married, partnered or single, with or without children. We share songs, fun and fellowship, not to mention prayer and Bible study.

Contact: Shema or Rohit Paul at: shemaliz18@gmail.com or paul.rohito8@gmail.com

Quiz Night (O)

Yes a fun evening even without the pouring of drinks or the tasting of snacks or the banter as the tension mounts as to which team will win. If you missed the one on September 19th make a note of November 14th and register at: quiz-night@ascension-munich.com or mail Malcolm to find out more.

Contact: Malcolm Phillips at: malcolmjphillips@hotmail.com

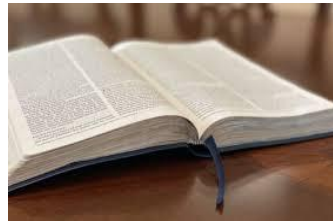
Sunday School (O)

As there is no possibility of in-church Sunday School at the moment, we are offering an online Sunday School Program for children 10 years or younger, created by the Rev. Katie Osweiler from All Saints, Waterloo. One can view the weekly offering at any time and more than once.

Contact: The Rev. Clair Ullmann at: revclair@gmail.com

Friday Night Bible Study (O)

Currently we are reading the Bible with Jewish Tradition and have completed most of Genesis and Exodus. Before we embark this autumn and winter on Leviticus, we shall spend two sessions on the first eleven chapters of Genesis. Rémy sends the latest Parashas via e-mail so that we can read it in advance. New members welcome.



Contact: Rémy Bethmont at: remy@bethmont.net

Women's Book Group (O)

We meet every two months and in non-COVID-19 times at a member's house. Members make suggestions for books to be read and then votes decide which are chosen. One person, not the host, is responsible for leading the discussion that has been surprisingly lively lately, despite having meetings on Zoom. New members always welcome.

Contact: Yvonne Cockcroft at : yvonne@cockcroft.de

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The Youth Group (O)

In normal times the group meets once a month on a Sunday from 11.30-12.30 for fellowship and fun activities, joining the main service for the peace. This year the youth of Ascension took part in the very successful online Pentecost Project to produce a film featuring the youth from all over Europe.

Contact: office@ascension-munich.com or a member of the Vestry.

Men's Night Out

Meet other men of the parish and their friends for a good meal, fellowship and good conversation. The meetings have been in restaurant gardens because of COVID-19. It is uncertain what the future holds, but contact Phil if this sounds interesting.

Contact: Phil Cockcroft at: phil@cockcroft.de

Also keep your eyes open for details of the link to Morning Prayer on Mondays and Compline on Thursdays in your e-mail box.

There is no right way to worship; you may continue to do so via Zoom, but if you wish to get involved in the following teams, you will have to be physically present in church

The Tech Team

The time and dedication of this team has made hybrid services possible. They set up cameras so that those worshipping on Zoom can see what is going on in church. One member of the team is responsible for what happens on Zoom. To give the technical experts a Sunday off, more volunteers would be much appreciated.

Contact: Andreas Bartesch at: anbart@gmx.net or
David Case at: d_case@gmx.net

Lectors and Intercessors



We have lectors in English and German. The Prayers of the People are read by a member of the congregation. The Senior and Junior Wardens have been taking on this latter role over the past months. Anyone who will be in church even once a month will be very welcome to join the team.

Contact: Sue Morris at: sue.morris@web.de

Greeters and Ushers

A very important role in times of strict social-distancing regulations in our church. The team arrives early before the service, makes people welcome and shows them to their pew. They also direct the people who go up to the altar rail to take the Eucharist, so that distancing rules are maintained.

Contact: Mary Wulf at: mary.wulf1@googlemail.com

Altar Guild

The team prepares the altar and the credence table on which there is the wine and the host (wafers). A job for you if you like to work behind the scenes.

Contact: Carol Forrester at: carol.forrester@web.de

A big thank you to Javine McLaughlin and the cleaning team that was active until recently, sanitising surfaces and cleaning toilets before the service. Rest assured this work still goes on, but in a reduced form as regulations change.

The following activities have been strictly curtailed because of COVID-19 but we want to look to the future.

Acolytes



These volunteers prepare the altar area with chairs for clergy, acolytes and Eucharistic ministers and place the kneelers; hold the cross or bear a torch when the priest enters and leaves the church or when the gospel is read; put everything back in order after the service so as to respect our host church.

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic ministers serve the deacon/priest during the setting up of the altar; give the wine at the Communion; help clearing the altar after Communion.

Training is needed for these two jobs and can be given by Martin.

Contact: Martin Schäffer at: dycon@online.de

Ikon

Music and Choir

Because of COVID-19 restrictions there is no choir at the moment, but Ascension has a long tradition of music, highlights being the open sing of the Christmas section of the Messiah, the Carol Service and music in Holy Week. So if you are a singer or an instrumentalist you will be very welcome.

Contact: Jeff Leipsic at: musicdirector@ascension-munich.com

Coffee Hour

The Coffee Hour team serves coffee, tea and soft drinks to the congregation after the service. There is a rota for volunteers and there are usually two people on duty each Sunday. This is a very important ministry offering hospitality and being able to speak to the parishioners as we offer them refreshments. Volunteers are always welcome. For now, stay on Zoom after the service to enjoy fellowship until we can really meet again.

Contact: Joan Case at: MJCase@gmx.net



In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things, the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.

Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolution.

Kahlil Gibran: The Prophet

How does your Garden Grow?

Some older Brits like me, might remember this nursery rhyme from their childhood.

*Mary, Mary, quite contrary
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells and cockle shells
And pretty maids all in a row.*

Like many nursery rhymes, it has acquired various historical explanations. One theory is that it is religious allegory of Catholicism, with Mary being Mary, the mother of Jesus, bells representing the Sanctus bells, the cockleshells the badges of the pilgrims to the shrine of Saint James in Spain (Santiago de Compostela) and pretty maids are nuns, but even within this strand of thought there are differences of opinion as to whether it is a lament for the re-instatement of Catholicism or for its persecution.

Maybe for the Church of the Ascension it should be re-written:

*Liz and Angela, Hans as well
How does your garden grow?*



When lockdown was eased and small groups of people could meet outside, Liz Wink, Angela Schneider, and Hans Schmidt dug over the neglected borders in front of the windows of the church office and round the small apple tree at the right end of the garden, planted lavender and hydrangeas and filled window boxes. When you are next in church take a look at the burgeoning garden and see how the lavender and hydrangeas are thriving (unfortunately not, at the time of writing!). If the garden looks dry, give it some water. There is a watering can in the porch!

Sue Morris

Ikon



Before....

and after....



Racial Justice

Five modules about **Racial Justice** (from Trinity Church Wall Street's Faith Formation & Education Department) are being made available by Clair & Rainer Ullmann for our Bavarian parishes this fall.

The first two, **Spirituality** and **Whiteness**, were offered in September. The lecturers so far have been our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary.



As a springboard for 'sacred conversations about racial justice', the initial co-facilitators Elpinah Riedmeyr and Carol Adeny asked small groups on the Zoom discussion to respond to two basic, but pivotal questions:

- Have I ever been treated 'unjustly' because of my race? Have I ever witnessed someone being treated 'unjustly'? How did I react? and
- What does 'Black Lives Matter' mean to me? What would Jesus do about 'Black Lives Matter'?

Next, co-facilitators Dustin Crummett and Rainer Ullmann focused on Dr Douglas' statements that 'whiteness became associated with freedom and democracy and other privileges' and 'blackness became associated with the opposites.' To help illuminate the fundamental systems that keep Blacks 'enslaved', Dustin used Marilyn Frye's birdcage analogy:

The Birdcage Analogy

Consider a birdcage. If you look very closely at just one wire in the cage, you cannot see the other wires. If your conception of what is before you is determined by this myopic focus, you could look at that one wire, up and down the length of it, and be unable to see why a bird would not just fly around the wire any time it wanted to go somewhere... *It is only when you step back... you can see that the bird is surrounded by a network of systematically related barriers, no one of which would be the least hindrance to its flight, but which, by their relations to each other, are as confining as the solid walls of a dungeon.*



Douglas does not believe one can ‘tweak’ the unjust system (i.e. the birdcage); rather, she advocates ‘changing’ the system. She is convinced that this change is possible, that we are living in a ‘kairos time’ and asks ‘How is God working and moving in these times?’ If that was true in 2016, how much more does it apply to 2020! And what are we being called to **do**?

In October, two professors, Dr. J. Kameron Carter, Indiana University, and Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Duke University, will be presenting **Theology** and **Racism**, respectively.

A reading list is being compiled and will be made available.

Carol Adeney



The Kingdom of God

In her sermon on 26th July, Clair shared with us some 21st century parables.

The Kingdom of God is like:

- The Church of the Ascension discovering unconditional love within each other and sharing it freely and joyfully with one another and out into the world
- The baptismal candles that were lit and given to Noelle and Nurtac on 19th July and even though they were blown out, their glow continues to carry God’s love within each one of us
- The appearance of Claire and Noelle and all the children, who bring smiles to our faces and warm our hearts
- The discovery of a small gift that arrives in the mail and delights us
- A message on WhatsApp that is covered with hearts and flowers and rainbows and smiles.

She encouraged us then to think about what the Kingdom of God means to us.

Send your ideas to the editors and we will publish them in the winter edition of the IKON.

Worship in Augsburg

You are cordially invited to our Sunday Service at 4:30 p.m. local time, which is currently an Evening Prayer on-site that is also shared in a Zoom session. Please feel free to ask for the Zoom code via the Facebook Messenger function or via the contact details indicated on our webpage www.stboniface.de. It may, however, take us a few hours to respond.

If you want to participate on-site, you will need to bring and wear a face mask and comply with the other usual rules for disease prevention. There is, unfortunately, no singing at the moment; no separate child care or Church coffee.

**Evangelisch-Lutherische Auferstehungskirche,
Garmischer Str. 2a,
86163 Augsburg (Hochzoll).**



Worship in Nürnberg

St. James the Less meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday for worship at 16:00 in the main church of the Jakobskirche in downtown Nürnberg:

**Jakobskirche - Church of St. James the Less
Jakobsplatz 1
90402 Nürnberg**

Please come and join us! We would be honoured to have you worship with us. No matter who you are, or where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome at St. James the Less. Hygiene rules will, of course, apply due to COVID-19.

www.st-james-the-less.de

Ascension in Text, Audio and Video

The Parish Profile Committee is a small but highly efficient group who were commissioned by our wardens and Vestry to create a church profile. Once endorsed, it will be published widely and will play a pivotal role in the process of calling our next Priest in Charge.

The PPC was given a twofold task: First, to conduct research about the Ascension community and its thoughts concerning a new priest and, second, to develop the profile. After some debate, mostly good-humoured and certainly harmonious, we devised an online survey. Over 110 members of our community contributed, primarily current parishioners but also a few friends and former parishioners. The results have offered us a lot of useful data for the profile and will also serve as a helpful source of information for the Vestry and, ultimately, our new priest.

To further compile the profile and to allow the community to directly discuss this topic, we hosted small group sessions on Zoom that focused on several survey themes. The aim was to supplement the survey findings and these sessions provided just that.

The committee meets weekly. At one of our early meetings, our very engaged bishop joined and expressed with great excitement the prospect of creating the profile in an electronic rather than paper format! Our level of enthusiasm was somewhat subdued (more work? resources? technology?), but over the weeks and with the immense support from other church members, we are now also enjoying the challenge.

While this is new ground for us, we look forward to sharing a parish profile with you that we hope will be as stimulating as it is informative. Thank you to all who have provided support thus far and to those will do so in the future. May your prayers continue for the work in progress, for the dedicated service of our Vestry and for our next Priest in Charge.

The PPC: Sue Knowles, David Case, Scott McLaughlin.

Thank you to the team for all their hard work on our behalf!
Editor

Coming Events

We hope to resume many activities soon, but at the time of publication we cannot be certain of the future.

Please, therefore, always check on our website for the latest news.

November 14th

Quiz Night 7 p.m.

Keep your eyes (and ears!) open for choral activities that might take place between now and Christmas. Not face-to-face unfortunately – singing together is just too risky – and plans are in their infancy at the moment, but we hope that hearing choral music again will cheer you all.

Please take a look at our calendar on the website; this will be updated on a regular basis. The link is:

<https://www.ascension-munich.org/calendar>

If you click on the Google Calendar icon at the bottom of the calendar, it will link your Google Calendar to the Church of the Ascension calendar.



**FÜLLE DEIN LEBEN MIT DINGEN UND MOMENTE,
DIE DICH DARAN ERINNERN, DASS DU GLÜCKLICH
BIST AUF DER WELT.**

ANON

The 2020-2021 Vestry

The Vestry, together with the Priest in Charge, are responsible for the running of the church. Don't hesitate to contact any member if you have a question.

The current Vestry includes four new members (printed in **bold**) who were voted in at the AGM on September 13th.

Janet Day-Strehlow	<i>Senior Warden</i>
George Battrick	<i>Junior Warden</i>
Michael Beer	
Lloyd Denton	
Tonda Kemmerling	<i>Clerk of the Vestry</i>
Steve Knowles	
Sue Morris	
Mavis Oteng-Mensah	
Graham Pearce	
Joy Schindel	
Angela Schneider	
Joachim Zeller	

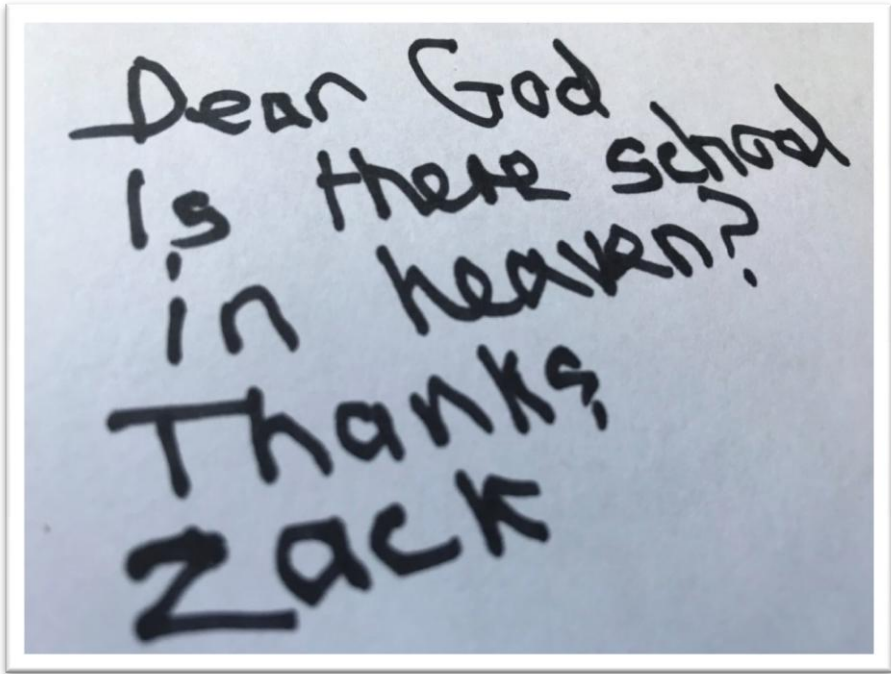


Each vestry member (excepting the Senior and Junior Wardens) has the responsibility of being in touch and close communication with the leaders of various church ministries, to support them and serve as a liaison to the Vestry. They keep the Vestry informed of the needs of the parish in terms of these ministries.

Not all new responsibilities have been assigned yet, so until they are, contact one of the "old" vestry members who can point you in the right direction.



Closing Words



Dear Zack

We found your note and would like to say this to you. Does that mean that you love school and it is heavenly to be back in the classroom or are you sad that you don't learn at home with your family anymore? Hopefully it doesn't mean that you don't like school.

This autumn is a season of new beginnings: A new school year, a new academic one, new patterns of working, challenges as new-normal life slowly emerges.

The editorial team and the Vestry hope that everyone has had successful beginnings this September. Don't burn your mask yet. Keep safe and enjoy the remains of the golden autumn weather.

Blessings

Sue Morris

Imprint / Impressum

Editor: Sue Morris

Assistant Editors: Dee Pattee, Mitchell Woodard

Layout: Roger Houghton and Paul Houghton

Please help us to fill the magazine with the life of the church and send any ideas or contributions for the next issue of **lkon** to the editor for consideration: sue.morris@web.de

Please note ...
if you want to have anything announced during the church service or in the bulletin, you will need to first run it past the Senior Warden, Janet Day-Strehlow.

Contact Information

Address:

lkon Magazine
Church of the Ascension
Seybothstr. 4
81545 Munich

Phone: +49 (0)89 648 185

Fax: +49 (0)89 644 428

Email Church Office: office@ascension-munich.com

The Church of the Ascension is an Anglican/Episcopal Church in the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

We extend a warm welcome to all!

Our Purpose and Mission

We offer worship in English, serving Greater Munich and the surrounding area. We welcome people of all nationalities to join our community and share in our journey towards a deeper knowledge of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

We seek to:

- Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed
- Celebrate God through beautiful and meaningful worship
- Minister to one another through worship, fellowship, Christian education and pastoral care
- Care for people in the wider community through outreach projects, both alone and together with others.