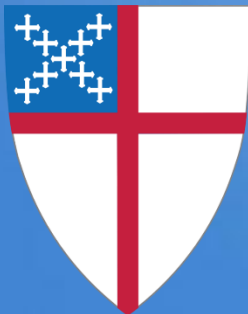
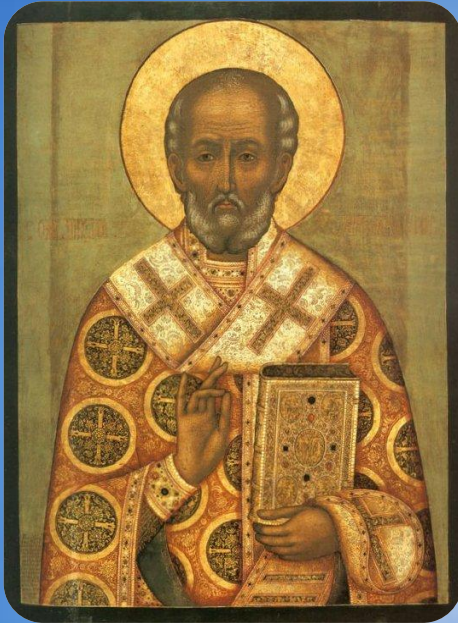


Winter 2019

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

Clergy

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

The Rev. Allan Sandlin, *Priest in Charge*
revallansandlin@ascension-munich.com

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

The Rev. Dorothee Hahn, *Priest Associate*
revdorotheehahn@ascension-munich.com

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

Pastoral Care

In a pastoral emergency, please contact The Rev. Allan Sandlin at +49 170 505 3582
Note: Friday is Father Allan's day off. Please contact him if it is a pastoral emergency but otherwise he will respond to emails and phone calls on Saturday.

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

By the time you are reading this, the stewardship campaign will have finished, the theme of which this year was gratitude.

I must express my gratitude to the editorial team, and to all the contributors to this edition for giving up their precious time, be they writers or photographers or interviewees who didn't mind answering personal questions.

There are items in this edition that you will recognise from the last one: Father Allan's letter, the interview, a getting-to-know-you item of information, this time about our associate clergy. Reports from far and wide are included too: activities from our parish and from the Convocation Convention in Geneva. As I have said before this is your magazine, so please keep the ideas coming.

I assume you recognize St Nicholas, the patron saint of children and, in fact, a lot more besides, on the front cover of this edition of the **lkon**. Thoughts turn to mince pies, spiced biscuits (make sure you sample some of the wares on sale in the next couple of weeks), mulled wine, holly, mistletoe, carol singing and how many shopping days there are left until Christmas. My dad hated the commercial run up to Christmas, but

as soon as we heard him putting Handel's Messiah on his turntable, we knew he was ready to enjoy the real meaning of Christmas. May Advent and Christmas be a blessed and not-too-hectic time for us all.

I leave you with a prayer which we used some years ago for a prison service. Doors and keys seemed important to everyone present, not just those who had no keys and could not open physical doors:

At Advent we should try the key to our heart's door. It may have gathered rust. If so, this is the time to oil it, in order that the heart's door may open more easily when the Lord Jesus wants to enter at Christmas time!

Lord, oil the hinges of our hearts' doors that they may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.

Amen

(Prayer of a New Guinea Christian, taken from "The Lion Prayer Collection")

Sue Morris





Letter from our Priest in Charge

Dear People of Ascension,

I'm writing this on a mid-November morning when the trees outside my window here on the Seybothstrasse have only a few brown leaves remaining on their branches. By early afternoon, the light in the sky will have already shifted toward the growing darkness that comes too soon this time of year.

Yet, I love late autumn in Germany and don't really mind the long nights all that much. November, for this American who now finds himself anticipating a considerably longer stay in Germany, has long been a time for reflection, for looking back

and remembering. We do that naturally in the church as the end of the long season of Pentecost draws to a close and we prepare for Advent, the season of hopeful expectation of the birth of Jesus.

At this moment in time, I am particularly happy to have been appointed by Bishop Mark as your Priest in Charge with the knowledge that we'll have some more Novembers together, God willing.

The assurance that I will be with you for awhile gives us all a chance to breathe deeply, relax our shoulders a bit and continue learning to lean into each other, into God.

That's what I am thinking today as I write this for the December **Ikona**. However, I'm mindful that when you read these words, it will be only a few days until Christmas.

Some of you may know this prayer attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson, American author and poet, of the 19th century. It's long been one I keep close during Advent and Christmas.

O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas Morning make us happy to be thy children and the Christmas Evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving, and forgiven, for Jesus's sake. Amen.

With grateful thoughts and a most grateful heart,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Faithfully, Allan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue, textured background.

Allan +

Our Clergy in Bavaria



Frauke Ackermann was born in Germany and ordained priest in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa in 2010. She and her husband served in South Africa in several parishes in a poor Sepedi-speaking diocese, started a soup kitchen and parish in a township; she also led a Christian house community for young people during their gap year, and organised retreats, training and

conferences. She has lived in the Munich area since 2016 and has taken services for us when needed for several years. She has a full-time job as a pharmacist, and will continue to help us from time to time.

Lutz Ackermann was born and grew up in the vicinity of Munich; he lived in South Africa from 2001 to 2018. He is married to Frauke, and is also a Priest ordained in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. He was installed as Vicar at St Boniface in Augsburg, a part-time post, by Bishop Pierre last autumn. Lutz also works part time in a secular job. Lutz and Frauke are in the process of moving to Augsburg-Lechhausen in December, which will bring them closer to the place and community in which they are ministering.



Alison (“Ali”) Gray comes from Great Malvern, UK, and is a Church of England priest who moved with her husband to Munich last year in support of his career. Until recently, she was a practicing psychiatrist, and continues to chair the Spirituality Special Interest Group of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in London. She was ordained in Worcester, UK, in 2011 and is now serving on the Commission on the Ministry of the Baptised (COMB) of the Convocation of

Episcopal Churches in Europe, and as one of our Priests Associate.



Dorothee Hahn grew up in Hochheim am Main in the Lutheran faith, but was a member of our congregation for several years before being trained and ordained in The Episcopal Church. She was ordained deacon in May 2005 in Alexandria, Virginia and priest in November 2005 at Ascension, Munich, both by the Rt. Rev. Pierre W. Whalon. She was Vicar of the mission congregations in Augsburg and Nuremberg for some years before moving to Romania as a missionary to work with the Romanian Orthodox

Church. She is currently back in Munich while looking for a new opportunity, and is serving as one of our Priests Associate.



Anitra Kitts comes from Portland, Oregon, and is in Munich accompanying her husband, who works for Allianz. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), which corresponds to the Evangelisch-Reformierte Kirche in Germany. The Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Episcopal Church are in ongoing dialogue about their relationship, and do not currently share sacramental ministry with each other, but Anitra can still act as reader, intercessor and Eucharistic Minister, and also preach. She has a special interest in Celtic Christian traditions.



Holger Laske is a German from Hagen (Westphalia), but was ordained in The Episcopal Church in Los Angeles in 1998, and has helped both us and the Munich Old Catholic parish (St Willibrord) for some years. He is currently serving as Priest in the Old Catholic parish in Neugablonz, a suburb of Kaufbeuren.



Scott A. Moore lives in Erfurt, and was a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which is in full communion with TEC. Scott has since then transferred to TEC and is Vicar of Nuremberg, part-time. Before this he spent three years in Erfurt serving the United Methodist Church in Germany.

He is currently completing his doctorate in liturgical studies at the University of Erfurt and is a part-time instructor in liturgy for deacons in the Evangelische Kirche in Mitteldeutschland (Protestant Church in Central Germany). Scott holds services in Weimar in addition to his service of weekly evening prayer in English in Martin Luther's Augustinian Monastery. He is also excited to be one of the team of Convocation priests, along with Lutz Ackermann, to serve our new mission in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Ikron



Allan Sandlin is a priest in The Episcopal Church (TEC) and is our full-time Priest in Charge. This is an appointment made by our Bishop in consultation with the Vestry. He came to the us in April 2019 as Interim Rector and became Priest in Charge on December 1, 2019. While continuing the work of reconciliation and healing he began as Interim Rector, he now becomes our settled pastor and priest. Allan grew up in the Southwestern United States, mostly in New Mexico and Texas.

Before his ordination to the priesthood, he worked as a professional musician as the violist in a string quartet and symphony orchestra in the Midwestern United States. He was ordained priest in the Diocese of Atlanta in 1991 and has served parishes in Atlanta, Georgia, Blue Hill, Maine, and for eight years (1999-2007) was Rector of the Anglican-Episcopal Church of Christ the King in Frankfurt. Allan is married to Gretchen Nagy, an Atlanta/Cologne attorney. Their son, Thomas, lives with his wife, Alex, in Amsterdam, where they both work, and daughter, Lizzy, lives and works in Atlanta.



Clair Ullmann is an Episcopal Priest who lives in Austria with her husband Rainer. As one of our Priests Associate she assists with services and pastoral care, and in particular helped us keep going during the winter and early spring of 2019 before Allan's arrival.

Clair was born in Baytown, Texas and has lived in various states on the East Coast (USA), Bogota, Colombia, Belgium and Austria. She was ordained priest by George Carey, the then Archbishop of Canterbury, in Canterbury Cathedral in 1996. In 1999, she planted a chaplaincy for the Church of England in Leuven, Belgium which now is well established and has a permanent priest.

In 2001, she and her husband moved to Austria to be closer to his aging mother. Over ten years ago, Clair formed Golden Girls at Ascension and also began an annual women's retreat, both of which are still going strong.

Sunday School and Youth Groups

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School offers Christian education and fellowship in the English language to children from age 3 – 11 on Sunday mornings. Lessons are held on Sundays from 11:45 – 12:45 (during the normally scheduled service).

NOTE: At present, Sunday School is offered once a month. Please watch the announcements for dates.

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

The Junior Youth Group is for youth aged approximately 10 to 13. The group will meet regularly for fellowship and activities on a Christian platform but we are currently looking for new members – please inform any Vestry member or the Church Office if you are interested.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP:

The Senior Youth Group welcomes young people aged approximately 13 and above. We meet regularly for fellowship and fun activities, currently once a month on Sundays from 11:30 – 12:30 (during the normally scheduled service)

In addition, youth who are aged 13 by May and who are interested in being confirmed may participate in confirmation instruction led by our Priest in Charge.



Out of the mouths of infants...

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to do something else.

Mitchell (7)

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from holy cows

Jack (6)

Convocation Convention

Convention of the Convocation of the Episcopal Churches in Europe, Geneva, 24 - 27 October 2019



Chateau de Bossey

Steve Knowles and I had the honor of being the lay delegates for Church of the Ascension, Munich to this year's Convention of the Convocation of the Episcopal Churches in Europe. Yes, that is a mouthful. Think of the convention as the gathering of the European Episcopal churches. It was based this year at the Chateau de Bossey, some 15 minutes outside of Geneva, but still near Lake Geneva.

This was my fourth Convention, but it was a first for Steve. However, we weren't the only Ascension members present. The Clergy from all the congregations is required to attend as they are able, so Father Allan, The Rev. Clair Ullmann, and The Rev. Dorothee Hahn were also present. David Case, Jes Villa, and Janet Day-Strehlow were present as either members or chairs of Convocation committees. Rainer, Joy and Joan were pre-

sent as accompanying spouses, so we got to see them at social events.

The Convention is a packed schedule for 4 days of meetings, worship, celebration, dinners and even dancing. At meals and coffee breaks there is a lot of catching up with friends from around Europe. It is really delightful to reconnect with other members of the wider church. And there is a lot of learning involved - from what other churches are doing with youth, mission, building renovations, etc. to conducting the business of the Convocation - budgets,



Clair and Lois ready for work

canons, resolutions, etc., and not least - how to use Robert's Rules of Order.

This was the first Convention for our new Bishop, Mark Edington. He gave an inspiring opening Address and proved himself to be a wonderfully entertaining public speaker. He went from humorous to dead-serious without skipping a beat, and challenged all

of us to follow his lead in carbon-reducing initiatives to protect the climate, to re-invigorate and prioritize our work with youth and migrants / refugees, and to be proactive in our work of understanding and promoting equal and peaceful treatment of all human beings regardless of race.



Clergy

Our guest speaker this year was The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers who

led two marvellous sessions on “Mission, Evangelism and the Way of Love”. She taught us to practice holding a mirror up to someone else’s experience to show them where God is actively working in their lives, and not to be afraid of evangelism. She also encouraged us to ‘see’ the people on the edge of



Stephanie

society in our own situations.

The Convocation grew this year! We added another Mission, St. Nino from Tbilisi, Georgia. It was quite exciting to see and hear prayers in Georgian.



Bishop Mark greeting a Georgian delegate

On Friday night, we attended the Bishop’s banquet. We were treated to a Barbershop Quartet (but sung by 5!), and the wonderful voice of Miss Jones singing ‘Summertime’, and with Helena Mbele-Mbong ‘He Scandalized my Name’. The Bishop gave out several awards - each well-deserved - to different members of the Convocation, including one to Chris Easthill for his ecumenical work in Germany.

Ikon

Saturday evening we all were treated to 'Africa Night' at Emmanuel Church in downtown Geneva. There was an unbelievable spread of food and, of course, dancing. The proceeds from the night were given to a special fund to provide clean water to a community of 14,000 in Africa. And Sunday morning, we were once again guests

at Emmanuel for our closing service and a potluck afterwards. The church was packed, the singing was incredible, and the sermon from Stephanie Spellers once again challenged us to love. If you ever get the chance to attend the convention as a delegate, I highly recommend it.

You will be inspired.

Lois Stuckenbruck

Rainer, Clair and Janet being inspired by the landscape



Allan, Janet and David getting into the mood for "Africa Night"



Fellowship Soup Sunday

On Sunday 10th November after the service about fifty-five parishioners met in the church hall to enjoy a chat and a bowl of home-made soup together.



The table decorations reflecting the beautiful colours of autumn were a visual delight.

Parishioners appreciated the friendly atmosphere and the strong sense of fellowship at Ascension.



The Lenten Soup Sundays will return next year starting on 1st March and will continue until 29th March.

We hope as many of you as possible will join us.

Volunteers sought

Enjoy fun, fellowship and service by volunteering for one or more of the following ministries:

Coffee hour



Contact: John Hamilton
0891708408
john.hamilton@mnet-mail.de

Altar Guild



Contact: Carol Forrester
0172 257 6446
carol.forrester@web.de

Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers,
readers and prayer leaders



Contact: Sue Morris
08122 8928560
sue.morris@web.de

Choir (tenors particularly
welcome!)



Contact: Jeff Leipsic
0176 5012 3388
jeffantje@aol.com

Holistic Healthy Eating

This programme, mentioned in the Autumn Ikon, has merely been postponed and not cancelled.

As Christmas is rapidly approaching - a time when we all tend to indulge more than usual - I believe it would be prudent to start the group sometime early in the new year (date and time to be arranged). Please note that the original announcement gave the wrong email address – there should be no dot between Carmen and Dacre. The correct contact details are given below.

We have many group activities at church targeting the mind and spirit. It is my intention to include the body, hence doing something for all three: the holistic approach.

Please contact me at: carmendacre@hotmail.co.uk

Carmen Dacre

Interview

A conversation with Rohit and Shema Paul.



Since coming to the Church of the Ascension in October 2017 Rohit and Shema have quickly got involved in the activities of the church; they help with the Altar Guild, the Sunday School and their own special project: The Young Adults' group (more of that in this edition of the **lkon**).

But how much do you know about them?

Tell us a little about your family.

Both our families have their roots in Kerala, southern India. However, both families moved to Bangalore. I (*Shema*) studied with Rohit's sister, and that's how we met. Both families went to the same church and shared activities. My family – my mum and dad - moved again and now live in Pune, as my mother works for the government and was posted there. My sister has recently come to Germany to pursue her Masters at Kaiserslautern.

(*Rohit*) My family – my mum, dad and sister - are still in Bangalore, where my dad works with an aerospace manufacturing company.

So you met through the church in your home town, and worship is obviously important to you. How did you find out about the Church of the Ascension?

The church community back in India has been an integral part of our lives, so when we came to Munich, one of our first priorities was to find a good Christian community here. We googled “English churches in Munich” and Ascension came up!

What are you studying, and why did you choose Munich?

Shema: I have a bachelor's degree in Biotechnology Engineering from the VT University (VTU) of Karnataka. Currently, I'm pursuing my Master's in Life

Ikron

Science Economics and Policy (MLSEP) at TUM. This course explores the economics and policy aspects of areas like agriculture, natural resources, biotechnology etc. For example, the controversy over the use of genetic engineering for crops. I have finished all my course work, and I now only have to write my thesis.

Rohit: I have a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from VTU. I worked as a Design Engineer, where I would use computer software to design various machines or components for the oil and gas industry. Currently, I'm pursuing a Masters degree in Computational Science and Engineering at TUM. I have almost finished the course work part of my Master's and will begin writing my thesis soon.

Studying beyond the Bachelor level in India is difficult. Places for high-standard courses, from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for example, are very limited, so many students continue their studies abroad. Cost affected our decision as to which country to choose, but also the unsettled political situation in the US, and the fact that long-term prospects in the UK were not good. We chose to come to Germany, as our courses are all in English.

But you have been learning German, haven't you? How is the German coming on?

We have, for the moment, stopped at A2.2, level (*editor's note: A1 is a beginner and C2 is a native speaker*). Though we don't need it for our studies, but we realised very quickly that life would be easier if we could communicate with people here.

For the Pentecost Service you read in Hindi and Malayalam. Which language do you communicate in when you are together, if that is not too personal a question? (smiles here!)

Rohit: I was brought up to speak English and spoke very little Malayalam at home (though it is my mother tongue).

Shema: My mother tongue is also Malayalam and it is very important to me. I believe that if we don't use it, it will disappear.

Rohit: We found a compromise that we speak in both English and Malayalam at home – Shema corrects my Malayalam pronunciation. It can be tricky at times. For instance, the word “Puli” could mean Tamarind, Man or Tiger depending on the pronunciation of the ‘L’!

You showed me some beautiful photos of your wedding in August last year. Can you tell us about some special traditions that are important in an Indian wedding?

One important tradition, called “Guru Dakshina,” happens shortly before the wedding ceremony when a gift is given to a guru or teacher, someone from whom you have learnt a lot. This doesn’t have to be a particular skill you have learnt or a particular subject, but something that you will benefit from for the rest of your life. It is believed that when this teacher blesses you, the blessing of all your teachers, both past and present come upon you. I (*Shema*) honoured a teacher in this way, and Rohit honoured his late grandfather.



Before the wedding, the young man’s family buys the “Manthrakodi”, a red or pink saree - celebration colours - for the bride. From this saree 7 threads are taken and woven with another white thread. At the end of this thread is a “Minnu”, a leaf-shaped pendant with a cross made up of 7 beads of gold. The bridegroom ties this thread around his new wife’s neck at the wedding

ceremony, and then covers her head with the saree as a promise of his constant care and protection from that day forward. At the reception, the bride changes into this new saree.



Also at the reception the bride’s mother offers tender coconut water or milk to her new son-in-law and the bridegroom’s mother does the same to her new daughter-in-law, symbolising that they are all now one family.

Thank you for sharing so much with me. I wish you success in your studies, and a happy and fulfilling time in Germany.

Sue Morris



Anglican/Episcopal Churches and the German Church Tax

Have you ever checked your pay slip to see if church tax is being deducted? Well, if you are listed as *‘Evangelisch’* or *‘Katholisch,’* you should be aware that the money will benefit one of the established German churches, but not the Church of the Ascension. Anglican Episcopal Churches are not part of the German church tax system, and therefore do not receive any financial support from the German government.

What should you do if you find you are registered in the German church tax system, but would rather use that money to support the Church of the Ascension? What you do is, in German: *‘Austreten aus der Kirche’*. It means you have to declare that you want to stop paying church tax. This is actually not very difficult.

You have to go in person to the local *Standesamt*, fill in a form, and sign it in front of a *Standesamt* official. You will need to have an identification card (e.g. passport) to show to the official. For a single person, the fee is €35 (€25 leaving fee plus €10 optional charge for a certificate as proof of your decision); for spouses or families who are leaving the same denomination it is €41. You will then receive a copy of the form.

The *Standesamt* will automatically inform the respective denomination and the tax office. Your *Austritt* will become effective for tax deduction at the end of the month of your declaration. The automatic payment of church taxes will then stop, and your money will be free to be committed to the Church of the Ascension.

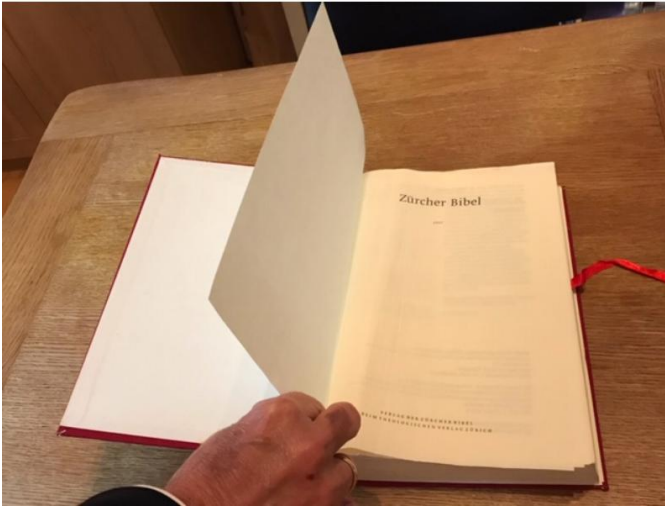
If you moved to Germany and registered as *‘Evangelisch’* you will pay church tax. If you never officially joined (*‘eintreten’*) a church covered by the *Evangelische* church tax, then you don't have to officially *‘austreten’*. You just send proof that you belong to a Protestant church not covered by church tax (e.g. Anglican) to the *Kirchensteueramt* and you will stop paying church tax.

Mitchell Woodard

Rebinding the German Bible

In 2004 Ascension bought a copy of the Zürcher Bible (*more background about this in the next issue of Ikon. Ed.*). Since then it has been in regular use for our German readings. However, a recent inspection showed that it was in terrible shape: the cover had seen better days; the corners were bent and worn; the cover spine was ripped and falling off; when I opened the Bible, I discovered that the first half-dozen pages looked like an accordion; and the book as a whole was riddled with yellow stickers.

Having taken a couple of VHS courses and being the happy owner of a hand-made bookpress, on the spur of the moment, I offered to rebind it.



The first step was to free the text-block from the old covers and ease the endpapers away from the text-block, which was done with a sharp knife. I then went to Carta Pura to buy the necessary materials and was delighted to find they would cut the boards to size for me (phew!), as well as a remnant of

lovely red linen to use as covering material.

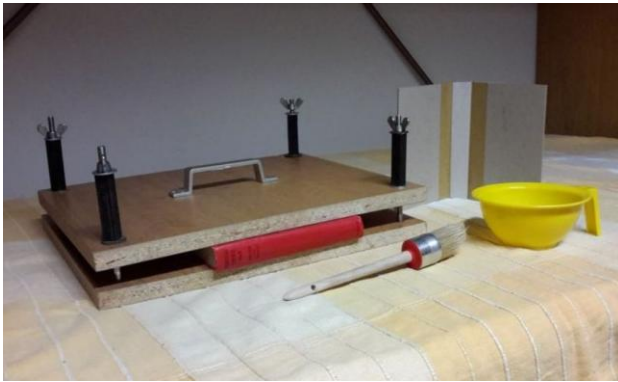
Making careful measurements, I prepared the case. The case of a book consists of two boards (covers), an inlay (the spine), and covering material. The case is made separately from the text-block and is later attached to it in a step called casing-in. The text-block is attached to its case by means of hinge endpapers, backing, and glue. Needless to say, there is a lot of measuring and double measuring. The cover spine is especially tricky. This is the space between the cover boards needed to

Ikon

accommodate the thickness of the text-block. The inside of this space is strengthened with a cardboard spine strip. A hinge area is left on either side of the spine strip to allow for the movement of the cover boards on the text-block as the book is opened and used.

Then I went to work on preparing the text-block for the new cover. All the yellow stickers were removed and I ironed – yes, ironed – the “accordioned” pages very carefully. Then I attached a new backing which accommodates the boards and provides the hinge along which they swing and the ornamental headband. When everything was dry, I glued on the endpapers.

When text-block and case were finished, I applied glue to the outer



side of the endpapers of the text-block and fitted it into the case, one side at a time. Being careful that the spine and hinge area be free, the cased text-block was then left in the bookpress overnight.

Binding a book – especially a Bible – is

an expression of love and respect for the contents, and a little bit like a leap of faith. It is measuring, checking, and measuring again before cutting endpapers, backing, linen, and especially when glueing. Hurry-up and wait until the glue in each step is dry, watching the case come together, preparing the text-block and then...will it fit? Yes! It fits!

The next time you open the German Bible, please be careful when closing it. Be sure the extremely fine and thin leaves of the text-block are flat before closing the endpaper and cover. And please: leave no yellow stickers in the Bible!

This labor of love was performed by *Deirdre L. Tincker*

Who are those people singing upstairs ?

Who are they? Why are they singing upstairs? Why are they singing THAT? Can I sing that too?

I first joined our choir when I was 23. New to Munich as a student, I found a group with a number of young-ish people who were singing professionally in Munich or auditioning for opera jobs as well as a number of music enthusiasts and singers meeting every Sunday before church, under the auspices of Fred Mayer.

Fred was a tenor soloist at the opera house at Gärtnerplatz at the time. He was also a gifted choral conductor, having worked with Robert Shaw in the U.S. In Fred, we had an inspired musician and singer, who saw it as his mission to bring his choir together to make beautiful music to worship the Lord. Our repertoire was varied, but spirituals were a recurring theme. My love of spirituals began with Fred Mayer.

When Fred no longer felt he could continue Jeff Leipsic took over. Writer, singer, opera

critic, and a retired archivist from the *Bayerische Rundfunk*, Jeff is still our fearless leader at the podium. Jeff brings his own flavor to the choir as a conductor, challenging the choir with a *Capella* works or anthems with funky harmonies, so we don't have the chance to become complacent or boring. He has kept alive time-honored traditions at Ascension: The annual Messiah Sing at Christmas and sometimes Easter as well, a Good Friday Service not to be missed, and of course, the Carol Sing!

Today, the choir is a mixed group of Ascensioneers, some of whom have been members for many decades, and some newcomers. There are still a few professionally trained singers and any number of trained musicians, but also music enthusiasts whose skills have been honed through many years of choral singing.

We are lucky to have a pool of talented organists: Michael Prager, Stephan Schmidt, just to name a few, who play for us, not to mention our Artist in

Ikon

Residence, Stephen Norton, who can be heard at the organ or seen at the podium giving Jeff a Sunday off. Nick Ukiah and Tonda Kemmerling can also conduct when Jeff is away.

Though we are upstairs singing hymns and anthems on a Sunday, that doesn't mean you won't spot a choir member elsewhere: on the vestry, setting up the altar, serving tea and coffee after church, serving at the altar as an acolyte, reading, on the mission or worship committees. Right now, both our Senior and Junior Wardens are long-time members, who climb the stairs to strengthen our sopranos and tenors!

Some of us divide our time on a Sunday, sitting downstairs for some of the service, and dashing up when the anthems come. Others of us have our 'spot' upstairs where we have sat for decades like *putti* at the top of a baroque cathedral. The real reason the choir is upstairs, though, is because that is how the church is built. The organ is upstairs, so we are too.

I, myself, am fiercely dedicated to the choir. The church, the choir and its members have

been a huge support for me, personally and professionally, throughout my many years living in Munich. If I ever felt incapable, blue or just not all together, I always felt able, appreciated and accepted on any given Sunday morning in the Gemeindesaal. Writing this, I am feeling incredibly grateful!

Though we, the members of the choir, are a motley group of souls, we love coming together to sing with one another and make music for Sunday services. We are always looking for new members.

Jeff sends us the music in advance, and we rehearse Sunday morning before church. Regular attendance is encouraged, but not enforced! You don't have to be a musician or an experienced singer to join us.

Come! Help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Mitchell Woodard



Worship in Augsburg

Anglican/Episcopal Church in Augsburg. We worship each Sunday, normally at 4:30 PM (16:30h CET) at our host church,

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

(Please check for eventual time shifts on www.stboniface.de or on Facebook.)

After services, we enjoy a time of fellowship with coffee/tea, cake and/or home-made goodies. Please feel free to join us as we worship together.



Worship in Nuremberg

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

Please come and join us! We would be honored 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.

www.st-james-the-less.de

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

Ikon

To drive the darkness away

Are you afraid of the dark? As humans are primarily active during daylight hours, we're naturally wary when shadows begin to lengthen. And that instinctive fear is present in the concept of Evensong, when we pray that God will '*defend us from all perils and dangers of this night*'.

Evensong combines the monastic offices of Vespers and Compline, which means that it has a direct connection with the very earliest Christian worship, and it takes its current form from the Book of Common Prayer of 1662. The service progresses from psalms to the two great canticles – the joyful *Magnificat* (the song of Mary) and the more sombre *Nunc Dimittis* (the song of Simeon) – interspersed with Bible readings, the recitation of the Apostles' creed and a beautiful sequence of collects.

As its name implies, Evensong is usually partly sung – usually by a choir, with the congregation joining in with hymns. For this, we are indebted partly to the foresight of Queen Elizabeth I, who understood the importance of music in winning the hearts and minds of a divided English nation to the Anglican Church.



At Ascension, Evensong is usually celebrated at 7pm on the third Wednesday of the month at St. Willibrord Church, Blumenstr. 36 near Sendlinger Tor. Here we come together to hear the splendid Munich English Choir or the Munich Evensong Vocalists and join with them in offering up this meditative and peaceful service.

Darkness is not only a physical state, of course. Evensong's first collect begins with a plea to '*lighten our darkness*' and that's what this very special form of worship is all about: a wish to gain a better knowledge of God through deeper understanding, a reflection on the day that's finished and an anticipation of continuing the journey of faith on the next day.

Kate Winn

Statistics Quiz

"There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics."

That saying was popularized in the United States by Mark Twain (among others), who attributed it to the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli.

I hope that we, as a church community, are not into the business of lies, but what about statistics? Do you know what these refer to? Some are to do with our church or all churches, some are statistics from the Bible and some are related to Christmas.

Test yourself and then see the answers on page 30. Don't cheat!

24

42

119

27

4

720

969

**14 minutes
and 20
seconds**

504

9

39

7.2 million

2.7 million

61%

75

Where is the Holy One in my Life ?

Women's Retreat, 13-15 September 2019



Seventeen women of our parish gathered for the 12th annual retreat at the Bildungshaus Kloster Armstorf, near Dorfen. After all these years, the Franciscan sisters there seem like relatives and our coming, like a family reunion.

Delicious home-grown salads, lovingly-prepared meals and desserts are only a

few of the reasons we eagerly anticipate returning each year. We enjoy the labyrinth, the woods, the countryside and this year, the Harvest Moon on Friday, the 13th.

Our introductory meeting, in front of the St. Francis cross and lit candles, focused on Maundy Thursday and Jesus' memories of his life on earth, the people who had touched him, and those whom he had touched.

The Saturday sessions concentrated on three sermon paintings by Pater Sieger Köder.

- 1) ‚Fußwashington‘ : John 13: ‚Ich habe euch ein Beispiel gegeben.‘
- 2) ‚Das Mahlbild‘ from the 1996 Misereor-Hungertuch ‚Hoffnung den Ausgegrenzten‘
- 3) ‚Labyrinth und Rose‘: Revelation 22: ‚Gott wird über ihnen leuchten.‘



Ikon



Clair Ullmann, Joan Case and Carol Adeney had prepared the Morning, Midday and Vesper Prayer Services, incorporating reflections on the respective paintings.

The first two paintings depicted Jesus as he was on earth, and the third, the Christ as he is and will be in heaven. So, where is the Holy One in our lives now (not merely in the past and future)?

- The Holy One is present in those whose ‘feet we wash’, as Jesus bade us do.
- The Holy One is present in each meal we share lavishly with ‘the excluded’.
- The Holy One is present in each human being whose heart breaks open and blooms.
- And the Holy One is present in the broken bread and communal wine offered around the Altar.

Thanks be to God!

All Ascension women are invited and welcome to join in next year’s retreat. There are places for 20 in 2020. The exact date will be announced in February 2020.



Auction of Talents - Results

Our summer Auction of Talents resulted in many happy events. Carol Adeney, with her granddaughter Sarah, successfully bid for a lesson in Apfelstrudel baking and here she describes how they got on...

A Delightful Afternoon with the Apfelstrudel-Queen, thanks to The Auction of Talents



The apples had been gathered in. Baking could now begin.

Baked apples, easy;
Applesauce, easy;
Apple Betty, easy...

But a real live *Apfelstrudel*?
Daunting!

Never fear: Apfelstrudel-Queen
(and Master Teacher) Deirdre

Tincker can show us (Trainee Sarah and Reporter-cum-Washer-Upper Gramma) exactly how!



Each recipe step was discussed and then carefully enacted.

The end result? Passing on “secrets” of previous generations to future ones! Making both generations pleased with the outcome – both before and after the taste test!

Long live the Queen – and her students!

Answers to the statistics quiz on page 26

24	Number of Sundays after Pentecost
42	Number of times you hear Hallelujah in Handel's chorus of that name
119	The longest psalm
27	The number of books in the New Testament
4	The Gospels
720	The number of hymns in our hymnal
969	The age of the oldest man in the bible, Methuselah
14 minutes 20 seconds	The average length of Fr. Allan's sermons
504	The number of people who attended our carol Service in 2018
9	The number of reindeer, including Rudolf
39	The number of books in the Old Testament
7.2 million	The number of British people who watched the Queen's Christmas broadcast in 2018
2.7 million	The number of British people who attend a Carol Service over Christmas
61%	Percentage of American Families who attend a Christmas church service
75	The average attendance at the Church of the Ascension in September and October 2019

Well done if you got ANY of them right !

The Young Adults' Group

Who: For anyone in their 20s and 30s, married, partnered or single, with or without children

When: Once a month after church in the upper room usually towards the end of the month, though this is not fixed

What: We share songs, food, fellowship and study. We also have occasional more casual spontaneous meetings at restaurants in the city.

If you are interested or have any queries, please contact Shema or Rohit Paul:

shemaeliz18@gmail.com or paul.rohit08@gmail.com



- *Between what is said and not meant,
And what is meant and not said,
most of love is lost.*
- *Exaggeration is truth that has lost its
temper.*

Kahlil Gibran

Coming Events...

<i>December 1, noon</i>	<i>Advent I service</i>
<i>December 8, noon</i>	<i>Advent II service</i>
<i>2pm</i>	<i>Messiah Open Sing</i>
<i>December 15, noon</i>	<i>Advent III service</i>
<i>December 18, 7pm</i>	<i>Christmas Lessons and</i> <i>Carols at St. Willibrord's</i>
<i>December 22, noon</i>	<i>Advent IV service</i>
<i>2pm</i>	<i>Christmas Carol Sing</i>
<i>December 24, 10pm</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i> <i>at St. Willibrord's</i>
<i>December 25, noon</i>	<i>Christmas Day service</i>
<i>January 11, 7pm</i>	<i>Quiz Night *</i>
<i>January 12, noon</i>	<i>Epiphany:</i> <i>The Baptism of Our Lord with the Rt. Rev. Mark Edington, Bishop</i>
<i>February 2, 2pm</i>	<i>Concert "The 3 Divas"</i>
<i>March 14th, 7pm</i>	<i>Quiz Night *</i>

* Feeling quizzable?...Who was Henry the eighth's fourth wife? What is the world's highest mountain peak? What Shakespeare play mentions the New World? Come to **Quiz Night** in the Gemeindesaal and pit your knowledge against Quiz Master Malcolm Phillips. Born and bred in London, Malcolm has been testing memory and brain for many years in Munich. He first picked up his skills in a "Pub Night" in Newcastle and then honed them when he was church warden in a church in Reigate. A lively and entertaining evening is promised.

The 2019-20 Vestry

The vestry members wear a name badge so don't hesitate to speak to one of them if you have any questions. There is an "Ask the Vestry" box on the ushers' table and answers will be published in the **Ikon**

Janet Day-Strehlow, *Senior Warden*
George Battrick, *Junior Warden*
Michael Beer
Carmen Bleicher
Roger Houghton, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Steve Knowles
Sue Morris
Graham Pearce
Joy Schindel
Angela Schneider
Lois Stuckenbruck
Mitchell Woodard



Each vestry member (excepting the Senior and Junior Wardens) has the responsibility of being in touch and close communication with the leaders of these 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.

Administration..... Lois Stuckenbruck
Communication..... Steve Knowles
Children, including the crèche, through age 9..... Mitchell Woodard
Youth (ages 10-18)..... Roger Houghton
Hospitality..... Joy Schindel
Music..... Michael Beer
Outreach/Mission/Ecumenical..... Angela Schneider
*Parish life, including the Men's Group,
Golden Girls, retreats, young adults*..... Carmen Bleicher
Stewardship/Finance..... Graham Pearce
Worship..... Sue Morris

Did you know...

The Church of the Ascension moved to our present location in 1970 as guests of the Lutheran **Emmauskirche** in residential Harlaching, on the southern edge of the city.

The first service was held here in November 1970 – which means that next year, 2020, we shall celebrate our Golden Jubilee. Fifty years of friendly cooperation is a good excuse for a party, and Fr. Allan has already held talks with Pfr. Reichenbacher of Emmauskirche on what kind of joint celebration we should plan.

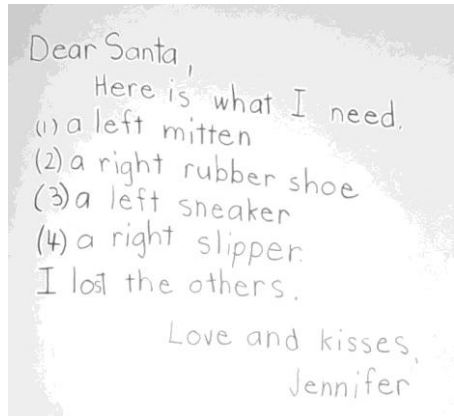
Watch this space for further news!

Closing words...

Dear Jennifer,

I sympathise, as I have lost my keys, an earring, a travel guide of Sicily (when I was on holiday there) an invaluable USB stick, and, most important of all and yet worth the least: an Italian notebook with three years' work in it.

A prayer to a beautiful wooden statue of St. Anthony calmed me down enough so that I could think carefully and rationally and was able to find the stick. Everything else was, alas, lost.



I hope Santa finds you replacements for your lost things, and also brings you something that will gladden your heart at Christmas.

The editorial team and the vestry wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year, during which we hope you can find what you might have lost – peace of mind, happiness, contentment, new enthusiasm for a forgotten hobby, new friendship to replace a lost friend, and renewed joy in worship.

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 **Ikon** 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 run it past Fr. Allan for approval, or - if he is not available – the Senior Warden, Janet Day-Strehlow.

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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