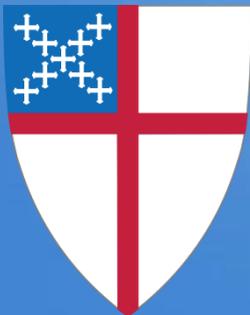
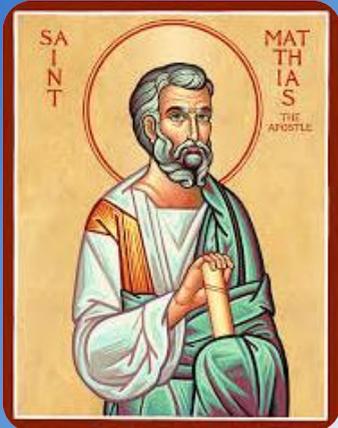


Spring 2021

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
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The Rev. Kenneth Dimmick, Interim Rector
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The Rev. Clair Ullmann, Priest Associate
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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

The icon on the cover of this month's edition is of Matthias, the apostle who was chosen to join the 11 after Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus. He is the patron saint of hope and perseverance. So we hope that, as in Ali's sermon on the 7th February, the fog of our present situation WILL clear and the hills and the new normal life will appear. At times recently I have wanted to lie on the floor like a three-year old having a tantrum, wailing that I want lockdown to finish NOW. But we mustn't lose hope, we must persevere in our quest to establish or re-establish our equilibrium.

So what is there in the **ikon** to help you as you persevere and hope? The season of Lent has influenced some of the contributions. The Power of Prayer, the reflective article by Joy Schindel, details of Exerziten im Alltag, the poems, will help you pause, calm down, listen to the still small voice and hopefully be encouraged.

Those of you who are relatively new to The Church of the Ascension may find the articles on Liturgical Colours, written for us by Ken, and the one on vestments useful to make you feel more comfortable with Episcopal practices.

As well as familiar features and a historical look at our involvement with the Missionaries of Charity at the soup kitchen, there are a couple of new ones. Read the first in a series detailing what goes on behind the scenes to make worship happen, and the first recipe in the Ascension recipe book.

Contents are not all serious, so if you want a fun evening read about our resident quizmaster. Test your knowledge of geography as you look at pictures of where parishioners from USA, UK and Germany were born. Say goodbye too, to an aspect of Pfarrer Reichenbacher you may never have seen before, as, with gratitude, we wish him well in his retirement.

Above all stay distanced and safe, but stay connected. The Most Reverend Michael Curry in talking about The Way of Love put it this way:

“If you are high tech Zoom, if you are low tech text and if you are no tech call.”

Peace

Sue



Ikon

A Letter from the Interim Rector

Dear People of Ascension Church,

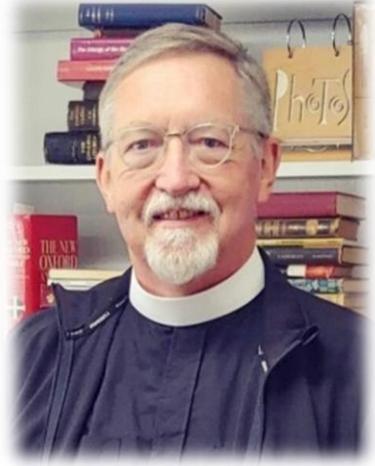
It was a freezing cold evening when I was ordained in Shreveport, Louisiana, USA. Being a southern city, it is not often cold enough to be either frozen or snowy. But we carried on regardless in a very festive and dignified manner. In spite of the weather, the church was full of people who were not going to let anything keep them from the beautiful liturgy and the delicious reception which followed.

The whole occasion lived up to the example of the patron saint of the church, St. Matthias, pictured in the icon on the cover of this **Ikon**.

Being a curate at St. Matthias Church was my first clergy job. It remains precious to me in my memories, partly because of the lovely people who helped me learn how to be a priest, and partly because of St. Matthias.

This little-known saint never expected to be an apostle. He was one of the 'others', standing off to the side, watching all, but never part of the inner circle. Still, he was selected to replace Judas Iscariot. (The story of his election/selection is told in the Book of Acts.)

I grew up never expecting to be a priest. At various ages I wanted to be a scientist, an actor, a foreign



service officer, or an historian. But I got a military scholarship to a university which required I serve in the army upon graduation. While serving in the army (near Nürnberg) I felt a call to the priesthood. It was a surprise to me, and I lingered quite a while before acknowledging it. Eventually I decided to trust in the Lord, and offered myself to my Bishop.

While I was surprised, my bishop was all for getting Captain Dimmick, as he called me, on a fast track toward ordination. But not as fast as the drawing of lots which thrust Matthias from observer to apostle quicker than you can say Urim and Thummim. (Google it!)

St. Matthias Church, at the time of my ordination, was just a parish

hall waiting for the Nave to be built. It was only temporarily a worship space. The altar, communion rail, lectern, and pulpit were all made of plywood. The kneelers were foam rectangles wrapped in unbleached muslin cloth. A linoleum floor and HVAC ductwork in the open rafters made it feel more like a warehouse than a sacred space.

Yet, on that frosty night in December 1984, the Spirit of God was powerfully present in that place.

Later, after my ordination, the nave was built, and all the physical evidence of my ordination, altar and all, was 'repurposed.' But St. Matthias' patronage, as a saint surprised by the call of God, continues to influence my priesthood, which continues to surprise me even after 36 years.

All we really know about St. Matthias is that he was a martyr, giving his life for the Gospel. His symbol is an axe, with which he was beheaded. Hopefully, that part of his story will not extend to yours truly!

Ken +

*(The Rev. Kenneth Dimmick ,
Interim Rector, The Church of the
Ascension)*

The Church's Liturgical Colors

...according to Fr. Dimmick

If you are a relatively new member of our congregation then you are welcome. The significance of the colors of the vestments worn by clergy, the altar frontal, and the hanging on the lectern may not yet be obvious to you. There are five basic liturgical colors: Blue, White, Green, Purple, and Red. These colors are a visible representation of the mysteries of faith and give a sense of the Christian life throughout the liturgical year.

Advent – Blue/Purple

The traditional color for Advent is purple, just like for Lent. Some parishes follow the alternative tradition of the Sarum (Salisbury) Rite, using blue instead. During the Middle Ages, when colors were all natural dyes, purple was a mix of blue and red. As the dyes were not permanent, they often faded when washed. Depending on the kind of natural red, the purples often tended toward the blue, and in Salisbury the dark blue was acceptable for Advent. It is also speculated that it was seen as the color of The Virgin Mary. Mary plays a big role in the lessons of Advent, and this Marian blue is generally lighter than the Sarum blue. Its continued use remains somewhat of a mystery. Still, blue is justified by those who prefer it, as the color of hope, expectation, confidence, and anticipation as we await, with Mary, the arrival of the Incarnate God. However, as in most Anglican and Episcopal churches, we at the Church of the Ascension keep with purple. Penitential purple leads to a glorious white-gold, both at Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter.

Christmas and Easter , and all Feast Days of our Lord or saints (not martyred)– White/Gold

White is the color of both Easter and Christmas. It is the color of celebration, joy, and peace in the Western world. White, and its more festive and glorious partner Gold, symbolize the greatest works of God in the world: His Divinity, seen on the Mount of Transfiguration, but celebrated best through the Feast of the Incarnation at Christmas, and His triumph over death and evil, at the Feast of the Resurrection in the Great 50 Days of Easter. Derivatively, white is the color used for baptisms, as we welcome another child of God into His household of faith. It is used for weddings, as we celebrate the union of two people into one family of God, but also for funerals, as we mark the passage of another soul into the Kingdom of God. In parishes which observe the full calendar of saints, white vestments are used for an observance of any saint other than a martyr, when red is used.

Sundays after Epiphany and after Pentecost (Ordinary Time) – Green

Green is the color of the Sundays and weekdays when there is no feast or designated season. Sometimes called Ordinary Time, it is the largest portion of the church year. Green was probably the easiest dye to produce in pre-chemical times. Grass clippings,

vegetal matter and seaweeds provided abundant chlorophyll for durably staining cloth, so it was probably the cheapest and easiest dye to procure. Epiphany and Pentecost denote the end of the Incarnational season and the Resurrection season, respectively. Thus, Sundays after Epiphany or after Pentecost are called Ordinary days. Symbolically, green can be seen as the color of growth: the flourishing of the natural world in spring and summer. Green encourages the faithful to see Ordinary Time as a time for spiritual growth in Christ, nurtured by His teaching and miracles, which dominate the lectionary in the Ordinary Times.

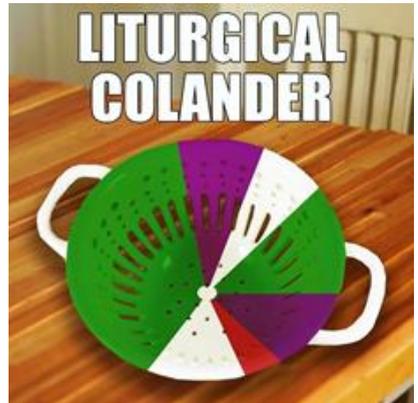
Lent – Purple

Purple is used by the Church as the color of humility, penitence, prayer and inward reflection. We are called in the season of Lent to reflect on the pain and suffering of the Crucifixion willingly endured. Purple may well also be a derivative color, as is blue in Advent. In natural dyeing, black fades to purple when washed. Were the most ancient vestment makers trying for black but ended up with dark purple? Or does the Church enjoy purple for the irony of the fact that in the Roman Empire, it was also the color of royalty? The Church's color for penitence is the same purple as that of emperors who persecuted the Church. Symbolism grows out of use. Now it is often preached that Lenten purple represents both our penitence and Christ's sovereignty. This dichotomy between repentance and royalty can remind us of the purple cloak that scripture tells us was put around Jesus by Pontus Pilate, the Imperial Governor; the cloak Jesus wore as he was taunted "Hail, king of the Jews." He was indeed a king, but a servant-king.

Holy Week and Pentecost Sunday, and all Feast Days for martyred saints – Red

It is often said that liturgical red is the color of excitement, energy, power, and all things intense and passionate – that it represents "divided tongues as of fire," when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus on the Day of Pentecost.

But it is also used on Palm Sunday and during Holy Week, neither of which have fire in their story. As it is also used for the feasts of saints who were martyrs, one can conclude that it is more to represent blood that is red, rather than fire, that is, in fact, yellow. Whether as the blood of the martyrs, or the blood of the Church, or the Holy Spirit, which brings life and unity to the Body of Christ, the color used is more of an oxblood red tending toward maroon. It is also the color for the consecration of Bishops, used for Episcopal visitations, ordinations, and confirmation.



Ken Dimmick

All about Vestments 1

The Alb (from the Latin *alba*, meaning white) is a long, white robe with narrow sleeves, probably derived from the under tunic of the Greeks and Romans of the 4th century. The Alb is the basic garment worn by ordained and lay ministers at the Eucharist and other church services. It may be tied at the waist.



The Chasuble is a sleeveless outer vestment worn by the celebrant during the Eucharist. The Chasuble may be oval or oblong with an opening for the head. It typically reflects the liturgical colour of the day. Chasubles vary widely in fabric and style, from plain cloth to elaborate designs. It is derived from the outdoor cloak worn by all classes and sexes in the Greco-Roman world.



Sources include:
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio / Oxford English Dictionary / An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church



The Power of Prayer

The year 2020 was one to forget for all of us, but I was both lucky and unlucky last year. As most of you now know I had to undergo chemotherapy for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, cancer of the lymph system, from April to September. A double whammy in terms of my immune system.

That is the bad news, but apart from that the news is all good. I didn't lose my hair, I had no nausea or the dreaded diarrhoea, but only extreme tiredness and the occasional shivering fits that could be cured easily with a hot water bottle (they were part of the nurses' armoury at the oncologist's!).

I was anxious, of course, but fear or despair never entered into it and I was grateful. But why or why not?

Grateful because I was much better off than some other patients I saw every month at the oncologist's and I had a caring and protective husband looking after me at home.

Grateful because the diagnosis goes right back to 2014 but the disease was classed as indolent (giving no symptoms) so I was granted six wonderful years during which Mike and I went to New Zealand and to Namibia.

Not fearful because thanks to the unfailing support I received, and still receive, from you, the congregation I felt I was in God's hands. Early on in the year I told Fr. Allan of my illness and he encouraged me to tell as many people as possible as then their prayers would keep me positive, would sustain me through bad days; the more people who knew the more prayers would



ascend and the thicker would be my personal shield, my Linus blanket as it were.

I was reluctant to do so at first. I wanted to be seen as Sue and not Sue who is seriously ill. But gradually I told more than my very dear close circle of friends, and the support has been magnificent. My name was on the prayer list. I was supported with phone calls, cards, chocolate, books, beautiful photographs and those prayers.

I felt very blessed to be part of such a loving congregation. I was told at the post-chemo CT scan in October that the nodes in my abdomen were back to their normal size and that the only treatment I need now is infusions of antibodies every two months for two years. I am well again and it's thanks to you and the power of prayer.

Thank you all.

Sue Morris

How has Contemplation helped me over the last Twelve Months?

Life during this Covid time is a life none of us knew anything about until we were forced to live it. Lockdown. Social distancing. Wearing masks. Not touching anything or anyone. Not leaving home. No open shops or cinemas or theatres. Lockdown. And with this comes the realisation that, at the moment, time is our most precious and valuable possession and resource.

It is something that is given and which we cannot and need not create. There is so much we cannot do right now, but we can take care of ourselves while we have time.

I have taken to contemplating and praying, or contemplating WHILE praying about what this pandemic is trying to tell me. I realise even more now than in the past how truly blessed I am. I have not lost a job. I have a roof over my head. I live in a country that takes care of its citizens. My husband and I have no medical issues and, with all the technological gadgets we own, we have access to the outside world. I have these blessings.

I feel that now, more than ever, is the time to slow down and give my never-ending thanks to God for all His Blessings. I have come to enjoy simply being at home with Jes and preparing us good meals because I have the time to cook. I have learned to appreciate working from home two or three times a week because it offers me more time to approach work in a relaxed manner.

As I have a full-time job I have always muttered that I miss my home and now I am able to enjoy being at home. I actually have it all! But more than all of this, I now have time to LISTEN; to listen to God's Small Voice within me, to be silent and to let Him speak to me without interference.

Thinking of and contemplating the benefits I derive from these forced changes is revealing a certain conversion taking place within me, making me mellower, or perhaps even, wiser. I catch myself experiencing moments of letting go of things, people, or circumstances that I cannot change and learning to accept them as they are. These moments change me and make me GROW. I also know that because I pray and contemplate on what I have to thank God for, especially now, I have less to fear and more to enjoy. I am free-er. I am aware of my blessings. I am connected.

My worries and my problems have not disappeared, but they are not foremost in my mind. They have taken a back seat. With time and at God's Time, even they will go. This thing about prayer is unbelievable; the more you pray, the more you want to pray. The more you speak to God, the more He wants to have a dialogue with you. The more you leave it up to Him, the more peace He blesses you with. The more silence you observe and the stiller you become, the more assurance you receive that He is the One in charge. Is it a give and take? Nope: He gives us more than we deserve. He is God. He is Love.

May we know how to contemplate more than just to see, to be still and to listen to His Voice; to thank more than just to ask, to believe more than just to fear; and to love God with all our heart.

Joy Schindel



Small Kindnesses

by Danusha Laméris

I've been thinking of the way, when you walk
down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs
to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you"
when someone sneezes, a leftover
from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying.
And sometimes, when you spill lemons
from your grocery bag, someone will help you
pick them up. Mostly we don't want to harm each other.
We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot,
and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile
at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress
to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder,
and for the driver of the red pick-up truck to let us pass.
We have so little of each other, now. So far
from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange.
What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these
fleeting temples we make together, when we say, "Here,
have my seat," "Go ahead – you first," "I like your hat."

From: *Healing the Divide: Poems of Kindness and Connection*
(Green Writers' Press 2019)

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*"Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit.
Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if
your whole world seems upset"*

Saint Francis de Sales 1567 ~ 1622

Ökumenische Exerziten im Alltag* in der Fastenzeit 2021



„Halt an, wo läufst du hin,
der Himmel ist in dir:
Suchst du Gott anderswo,
du fehlst ihn für und für.“

Angelus Silesius (1624 – 1677)

Appropriate to our pandemic lockdown, this is the theme of this year's *Exerziten im Alltag*. The poet/mystic penned these words during the upheaval of the Thirty Years' War in Europe. A crisis situation.

As Silesius wrote then, now we too have come to a halt (*„Stehenbleiben“*), have been made to pause for a moment (*„Innehalten“*), (hopefully) to rest in that moment (*„zur-Ruhe-Kommen“*) – where we might be able to find 'heaven'.

St. Ignatius of Loyola envisioned 'Exerziten' as a 'long retreat' of 30 days in solitude and silence. More recently, that 'month' has been made available to people who cannot get away from their normal lives for that long but want to re-connect with God each day.

For over twenty years now, the Lenten ecumenical 'Exerziten im Alltag' from the archdiocese Munich-Freising have been offered to those who want to discover traces of God in their everyday lives (in the past, also in our parish). Recent themes have included Mary Magdalene, Encountering Jesus, the Lord's Prayer, Teresa of Avila, Isaiah 40-55 and St. Francis.

An important part of the four-week 'exercises' is the weekly group sharing time. Sadly, last year only half of the group meetings were able to be held and this year none of them will be allowed. The leaders will no doubt come up with creative ways to keep the participants in contact. With over 300 churches in the greater Munich area participating, that's an inspiring group of *„WegbegleiterInnen“* (companions on your journey)

More details to follow in the next **Ikön**.

Carol Adeney

* These Spiritual Exercises are a compilation of meditations, prayers, and contemplative practices developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola to support people who seek a closer relationship with God.

A Lenten Discipline

Slow to suspect – quick to trust,
Slow to condemn – quick to justify,
Slow to offend – quick to defend,
Slow to expose - quick to shield,
Slow to reprimand – quick to forebear,
Slow to belittle – quick to appreciate,
Slow to demand – quick to serve,
Slow to provoke – quick to conciliate,
Slow to hinder – quick to help,
Slow to resent – quick to forgive.

Anon

From *Short Prayers for the Long Day* (1978)
compiled by Giles and Melville Harcourt



Where in the World is it ?

Guess where these photos of states in the USA, Bundesländer of Germany and counties in UK were taken. Parishioners of the Church of the Ascension were born there. As you will already know if you read the last **Ikön**, we are a very diverse community and we want to celebrate this fact. Answers on page 34.



Picture 1 (USA)



Picture 2 (UK)



Picture 3 (GERMANY)



Picture 4 (USA)



Picture 5 (USA)



Picture 6 (USA)

Ikon



Picture 7 (UK)



Picture 8 (USA)



Picture 9 (UK)



Picture 10 (UK)



Picture 11 (UK)



Picture 12 (USA)



Picture 13 (UK)



Picture 14 (USA)



Picture 15 (GERMANY)

Picture 16 below is a photo that was overlooked last time. Sent in by Phil Franzen-Nicholson and too beautiful to ignore! Mount Rundle, in Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada.
Taken by Meleah Reardon



Ascension Recipes

In the last edition I asked for suggestions for recipes. I am pleased to include the first of what, it is to be hoped, will be a regular feature. (Ed.)

An invitation to lunch or dinner with Horace Gibson and Kevin McIntyre at Piazza Pitti 8 in Florence was a reason to rejoice: The food was excellent, the wine flowed, and the company and conversation was always fascinating. Anyone who was so privileged knew that left-overs at their house were better than first-overs almost anywhere else. Kevin was the dessert maven, and Horace had the habit of naming dishes he concocted after the first person to comment on it at a meal.

Ergo: Fusilli Deirdre

Originally made from left over Brussels sprouts seasoned with lemon juice and zest Horace found in the fridge, I cook my sprouts fresh just for this dish.

8-10 Brussels sprouts - per person - steamed *al dente* then coarsely chopped and seasoned with lemon juice and zest.

Chop and wilt a small onion and a clove of garlic in olive oil along with a pinch of red pepper flakes.

Add chopped Brussels sprouts already seasoned as above.

Add a couple of sun-dried tomatoes, chopped, and salt and pepper to taste.

Optional: Add pine nuts for crunch.

Serve on fusilli and sprinkle with grated parmesan.

Buon appetito!

Deirdre Tincker



Behind the Scenes 1: Altar Guild

It's the Silent Service...

They're there, every Sunday, quietly, behind the scenes, spreading linens, pouring wine, counting wafers, adorning the altar, the holy place for our worship. They are the members of the Altar Guild, who call themselves the 'silent service.' No officers, no meetings, no debates, only a regular duty in the little room specially dedicated to preparing for the Sunday service.

There are some ten Altar Guild members. They all love what they do, though not everyone is able to serve at the moment because of Covid. "The best part is that we work so quietly and companionably," says one member. "We cooperate with each other so well," says another. And still another says, "For me, it is a preparation for the service."

The housewifely aspect of Altar Guild involves taking home the soiled linens — oh, those wine spots! —laundrying, ironing, and bringing them back the next Sunday. Even this has its good aspect. "Why don't you mind doing that washing and ironing," asks one husband," but you complain about doing my shirts?"

(Update for 2021: Do the men in the group enjoy ironing shirts?!)

As you might guess, this is a recruiting notice. The Altar Guild is looking for new members. Satisfaction guaranteed.
Contact Carol Forester at Carol.Forester@web.de for more information.

Dee Pattee

O God of beauty
love and peace
make us thankful for the
privilege of adding **beauty** to
Thy sanctuary,
growing in **love** through
Thy service
and gaining **peace** from
Thy presence;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

Meet the Quizmaster

A baby boomer, Malcolm Phillips grew up in Central London in the 50's. He is divorced, with a son, Ben, daughter-in-law, Anshu, and three-year-old grandson, Harry, living in Reading, Berkshire. An amateur pianist and occasional thespian, he once played the Dame in a pantomime in Sweden.

Some of you will have heard him read Swedish on Pentecost Sunday. Malcolm acquired his Swedish in the six years he worked in Sweden on IT contracts, similar to the one that brought him to Munich in 2000. Since 2002 he has worked as a freelance English teacher, mainly with adults. Despite the pandemic, he has managed to retain five pupils, whom he teaches weekly via Skype.



At Ascension, however, Malcom is best known for his quizmaster skills. These go back to 1995, when he was still living in Britain. He takes up the story himself:

“The vicar of my parish church in the south of England was under attack from much of the congregation, for making certain relatively minor decisions without consulting the PCC (their Vestry). The criticism he received was totally out of proportion, and more than once he arrived at my house, after a meeting, close to tears. As I was one of a small group who stood with him, the vicar asked me to be a warden. I accepted reluctantly, and then found myself the butt of complaints!

Feeling things had gone awfully wrong, I decided to arrange an event to bring everyone together. I chose to run a Quiz Night on the lines of one which I'd regularly attended while working in Newcastle in 1992. The first quiz, in 1995, was a definite success, and helped cool the atmosphere a little.”

Quiz Nights have definitely helped raise everyone's spirits at Ascension, especially during lockdown. Interestingly enough, Malcom's favourite category is not numismatics, (coin collecting) a hobby of his. (He invites anyone brave enough to ask to see his collection of over 4,000 items!) He prefers answering questions on History or Geography, both of which subjects he dropped at school! His least-favourite round is Sport, but thanks to certain Quiz aficionados, this round has now been dropped and replaced by The Bible.

You love 'em or you hate 'em, but the spot questions, when prizes can be won, can cause great hilarity. Did you know that there are 158 verses in the Greek national anthem?

Has this whetted your appetite? The next Quiz Night is on Saturday 17th April at 19.00.

Can't attend on that night? Never mind. Try your luck at this spot question:

This past year many of us have spent an inordinate amount of time at home. But are we really always safe there? Apparently, 1993 was a particularly bad year for accidents in British homes. How many people were injured in bed in the UK that year?

Send your answers to the Editor and the nearest guess wins a copy of 'Day by Day'.

Meanwhile, stay safe, get out of bed, and enjoy the Springtime!

Mitchell Woodard



Congratulations

Congratulations to those who have recently celebrated a birthday:

- The Rev. Ken Dimmick 14th January
- Tonda Graef 6th February
- Kristi Nowak 19th February
- Lois Stuckenbruck 8th March
- Jes Villa 9th March
- Laurian Harris sometime in March!

And to everyone who has had a birthday but hasn't told the editorial team!

Congratulations to:

- Constantin von Kalckstein on passing his paramedic exams.
- Scott McLaughlin who, sadly for us, is leaving. He tells us why:

Scott returned to Dallas, Texas, earlier this month to begin a new career opportunity that suddenly arose with a former colleague. Javine and their two sons will be joining him later this spring.

He asks for the congregation's thoughts and prayers during this time of transition, and thanks everyone for their support and welcome the past two years.



Interview with...



Two-and-a-half-year-old Noelle Denton had had an exciting second day back at Kita after lockdown and the sunshine had allowed her to explore the snowdrops in the garden.

After all that excitement she was very happy to sit and watch Snoopy while her parents Nurtac and Lloyd gave me an interview.

First we talked a little about Noelle. Nurtac talks to her in Turkish and she understands but answers in English, the language she also uses when talking to Lloyd. At Kita she can understand the other children, but as yet doesn't speak to them in German, although she can sing songs in this language and knows all about Peppa Pig in all three languages. Oh the wonders of child language development!

My questions were directed to Nurtac to begin with:

Nurtac: I was born in Istanbul and was brought up there with my four brothers. I studied political science, international relations and history at Bogazici (Bosporus University). Although the medium of instruction was English, I didn't feel really comfortable in this language until – together with my first husband – I went to study for four years in Chicago. We were both working on MA's in Ottoman history. At first, I wanted to go into academia, but for two poor students living on the tough south-side of Chicago, life was pretty miserable and that dream soon faded. I returned to Turkey in 2009 where I got a job in a pharmaceutical company working in their human resources function. At least there I could use some of the analytical skills I gained during my studies. It was while working for that company in Istanbul that Lloyd and I met.

He takes up the story.

Lloyd: In 2002, I moved from Washington D.C. to Istanbul. Turkey had recently been declared eligible to join the EU and was recovering from its banking crisis. There were business opportunities and, together with a Turkish business partner, I started a niche consultancy business specialising in leadership. We were mostly coaching individual corporate executives or implementing mentoring and succession programs.

As it happened, I started coaching Nurtac's CEO in 2010, and as part of that process I arranged 1-to-1 feedback meetings with the rest of her team. I scheduled a twenty-minute talk with Nurtac that ended up going a little over an hour. Looking back on it, it was a remarkable chance encounter – you could even say a providential connection.

In 2014, we had our wedding in San Antonio, Texas, where most of my family are living now. Then, Nurtac and I made a little home together overlooking the Bosporus in Istanbul, and I continued my private consulting as well as my work on the coaching faculty of the business school INSEAD. That work kept me commuting between Fontainebleau and Singapore; to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, and Jeddah, and sometimes Oman, Lebanon, and parts of North Africa. I was typically spending two weeks in Turkey and two weeks away each month. By 2017, that life-style and the political situation in Turkey were nudging us to consider making a major life change.

So what happened to help you make that change?

Nurtac: Two things. That year we had visited London for the Christmas Holidays. We had been going around and around about the decision to have children. On Christmas Eve, we went to a midnight Eucharist Service at Holy Trinity Church on Sloane Square and in our separate prayers that night we each turned the decision over fully to God's wisdom. In January I found that I was pregnant. That made our conviction to leave Istanbul even stronger. At

the same time, a new job opportunity came up in Germany that was too good to refuse. It seemed that stars were aligning! I interviewed for the job in the very early days of my pregnancy.

Then I was pleasantly surprised when I received the offer, even despite the complexities that would result from being a new mother. The company agreed to hold the job open for me during the remainder of my pregnancy and until three months after Noelle was born. They were very supportive about our moving arrangements, the nursing, and flexibility around working from home.

Lloyd: For a while I had not been taking on any long-term commitments as we explored options for moving. So, it was relatively easy for me to take a sabbatical from work and become a full-time father. That made our move to Germany not just a possibility, but a much better scenario that we would have ever known how to pray for!

So how hard was this new role when you arrived in Germany?

Lloyd: Very hard! We came from Istanbul, where we had a comfortable home and a good support network, to Germany where we knew nobody and were living in a very small holiday apartment with one bedroom.

Nurtac: For Noelle sleeping was an issue, so we had to creep around that tiny apartment. Our only moment of respite at the end of each day was the ritual of eating ice-cream from the carton, as silently as possible, in the dark, on a cramped sofa in the living room. The first year was a stressful time at work too, I started working building a human resources function for my company across thirteen countries and implementing software to support it. During the first Covid lockdown, I was working overtime on Zoom from early (China) to late (Brazil). On top of it all, my other project manager caught Covid and was out for ten weeks. He's okay now, thank God. I was often nursing Noelle while hosting Zoom meetings early in the morning, with the video off of course!

Lloyd: The isolation and the difficulties of transition brought us closer together and taught us how to rely on each other in new ways. Then we moved to our present home, only ten minutes away from where Nurtac works and life got a lot easier.

We are grateful that you agreed, in this stressful time, to stand for election to The Vestry, Lloyd. Were you very involved in church activities during your time in Turkey and the Middle East? Did this influence your decision?

Lloyd: Not really. During my first years in Istanbul I had a little involvement with activities at the chaplaincy of the British Consulate General there, but soon my travel schedule made that impossible. I stood for The Vestry because

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I thought my work with leadership would give me a useful perspective on the challenge of selecting a new Priest in Charge, and I thought my experience coaching leadership teams might be helpful to The Vestry. My main reservation when standing was the time issue. If I take on a job I like to do it well, but I think we will be able to make the time to contribute.

We are glad the decision was yes and that we can benefit from your skills. We have talked about your professional lives and the demands of parenthood, but what about relaxation? When and how did you become a yoga teacher, Nurtac?

Nurtac: I had done yoga on my own for a while and then I found myself in a very challenging and pressurised consultancy job that was eating away at me. I needed some healing and to find out if corporate life was right for me. So I took a training programme to become a yoga teacher. At the end of the course I decided I wanted to stay in the business world after all, but in a different job and that I needed yoga teaching to be part of my life too. In lockdown I did some yoga with a colleague who needed calming down and I also started the course for the group at The Church of the Ascension. As I broke my tail bone soon after these classes started it had to be chair yoga! Breathing and stretching exercises will form part of the next classes that I was able to restart at the end of February!

And what about you Lloyd? How do you relax?

Lloyd: Well it has been established that I am not a good yoga student! My creative side finds expression in photography that I am passionate about. My first job was, in fact, as a photographer. I was mentored by Rick Smolan who used to work for National Geographic and published a series of books called ‘*A Day in the Life*’, showing scenes of various cities taken over one day. I went to Myanmar on a photography trip in 2015, and in fact I first went to Istanbul on a personal photography project. I hope to get out and about again in the not too distant future to take photographs of beautiful Bavaria. We are happy to have ended up living in a country where we feel very comfortable and where we will be proud to see Noelle grow up. We are grateful too to have found the Ascension community and look forward to actually meeting friends there again soon.

Thank you for sharing so much of your lives with us.

Sue Morris



The Church of the Ascension and the Soup Kitchen

Some historical notes

For more than two decades, the Church of the Ascension and the Soup Kitchen of the Missionaries of Charity, as the sisters are officially known, have been closely connected. Jane Scheiring remembers that she started going to them with Fr. Tom Pellaton in 1998, when the Sisters still had their center in Kidler Straße in Sendling as opposed to their present home on Margaretenplatz.

They were soon joined by other (former and present) members of the congregation and the former Irish Mission, such as: Joy Schindel, Espie and Ottomar Piltz, Glenys Churcher and Clemens Pilgram. Later Bob Nowak and Liz Wink came to the group, which spent time, individually or together, largely on Monday, Tuesday or Saturday mornings, offering general help where needed and especially in the kitchen – cleaning, peeling and slicing vegetables for the warm meals which were then prepared for the Sisters' needy visitors.

Jane tells of one Christmas Eve, when her husband Christoph cooked 200 schnitzels on the stove for the guests. The Sisters were absolutely overjoyed! And the guests undoubtedly as well! This part of our ministry has unfortunately been put on hiatus, as the Sisters are at present not allowed to have people from the outside helping in the kitchen. Nonetheless, these dedicated women provide endless meals – cold and warm – for their many customers. Providing on-site help is only one aspect of our Outreach Ministry to the Sisters.

Extremely important as well is the basket, put out on Sundays and resident in the Parish Office, for offerings of non-perishable items which the Sisters need for their food preparation and general work in their house. For many years, the contents of this basket were faithfully delivered weekly or bi-weekly, depending on the amount of the offerings, by Fred and Rosie Mayer.

After Fred died, Rosie, for a long time, took on this responsibility alone and Joan Case occasionally helped (and still does). They did all this without any fanfare and certainly deserve a great round of applause for their very caring commitment to this project!

In the past few years, the Outreach Committee, especially under the aegis of Barbara Norman and Liz Wink, have undertaken the deliveries to the Sisters.

For special occasions, such as Christmas and Easter, Joan Case, the Golden Girls and others have for many years contributed to special support for the Soup Kitchen. Particularly Liz has some very creative ideas – see the article on page 30!

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For all who contribute to this very important and wonderful community effort, also those who may not have been mentioned in these lines, a special vote of gratitude and praise. We hope that our community can continue to offer help and support to this very special effort for many years to come!

Kristi Nowak



Espie Piltz with the sisters before her husband died and she returned to The Philippines

150 Doughnuts on Shrove Tuesday 2021

On Shrove Tuesday 2021 Jill Thomas and I sat and packed 150 doughnuts in paper bags. They were for the Soup Kitchen lunch bags which would be served at 14.30, so they would be really fresh. I gave them to two Sisters who wore masks and received them outside from my car boot; there were six trays in total.

What a contrast to last year when we dressed up in Carnival Costumes and the spirit of Carnival filled the lunch room. Everyone was really happy. Ellen, her son and I gave the doughnuts out directly to the Soup Kitchen clients. With 60 doughnuts we had enough for everyone.

This year the amount needed has increased almost three-fold and, of course, I was unable to see the smiles of the people receiving them.

Let's hope that Shrove Tuesday 2022 sees me again dressed up in my clown blouse, with a red nose, silly spectacles and top hat, listening to Carnival music in my car as I drive to the Soup Kitchen to personally give out Carnival doughnuts.

Liz Wink, Outreach Group



2020



2021

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.

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

The Zoom Vestry

When I was first asked to stand for election to the Vestry, I was somewhat sceptical remembering previous times as a Vestry member. Election to the Vestry is an honor. The members of the parish have placed their trust in each and every member to carry out the important tasks of determining how best to use the parish resources.

Discussions at a Vestry meeting can be emotionally highly charged, or very slow to reach any decisions. I had some reservations about a Vestry meeting held on an internet connection. Zoom was a new possibility, but how would we interact with one another?

My scepticism vanished after the first meeting I attended. There was no cross-chatter. Everyone listened to the person speaking. The agenda of the meeting proceeded rapidly to the last item of business. Best of all, the meeting ended at the stated time (or very soon thereafter). And, I didn't have to go out into the cold, dark night and drive home. I only had to end the session by ending the program and turning off my computer. Zoom Vestry meetings are convenient, practical, and pleasant.

Jeanne Glenz

When elections come up would YOU like to put your name forward?

Worship in Nürnberg

At St. James the Less we normally meet 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.



Services were unfortunately suspended in November. Check our Facebook page to get the latest information: Anglican/Episcopal Church of St James the Less.

www.st-james-the-less.de

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 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).

Coming Events

Looking at the Spring 2020 edition of the Ikon I read “We hope to resume live services and activities soon, but at the time of publication we cannot be certain of dates”. Well services in church HAVE resumed, but all other activities are via Zoom. The Church of the Ascension may be in lockdown mode, but it has certainly not closed down.

March 24 th	12.00	Lenten Noonday Office followed by: The Reactive Church: The Industrial Revolution
March 26 th	18.30	Bible Study
March 31 st	12.00	Lenten Noonday Office followed by: The Reactive Church: Seeing the Unseeable
April 17 th	19.00	Quiz Night
April 18 th	12.00	Sunday Service with Bishop Mark (Baptisms)
April 24 th	10.00 – 12.00	Golden Girls
April 25 th	12.00	Sunday Youth Service
June 26 th	10.00 – 12.00	Golden Girls

Regular Events

Tuesdays	08.30 09.10	Morning Prayer followed by: Morning Coffee
Wednesdays	15.00 – 16.00	Coffee with Ken
Thursdays:	09.00 19.30 20.00	Yoga with Nurtac Denton Lent Sur la Table See the Convocation website: http://www.tec-europe.org/ Compline Note: FRIDAYS in Lent

The *Arbeitsgemeinschaft christliche Kirchen in München* (AcKiM, which in effect is “Churches Together in Munich”) is organising a series of “impulses” from different denominations under the general title *Schaut hin. Was gibt Halt?* (“Take a look. What helps us keep going?”)

You can see the details, and connect to them, via www.was-gibt-halt.de

Answers to „Where in the World is it?”

Here are the answers as to where the photos on pages 16ff were taken. There is also a list of the parishioners who submitted photos. Your task now is to find out who was born where. A good topic of conversation at coffee hour!

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. New York | 9. Cheshire |
| 2. Wales | 10. West Midlands (was Staffordshire) |
| 3. Hamburg | 11. Wiltshire |
| 4. Texas | 12. Massachusetts |
| 5. Indiana | 13. Lancashire |
| 6. Pennsylvania | 14. Virginia |
| 7. Northern Ireland | |
| 8. Minnesota | 15. Bavaria |

Carol Adeney, Janet Day-Strehlow, Ali Gray, Roger Houghton, Sarah Moden-Alliston, Sue Morris, Helen Riegert, Jane Scheiring, Angela Schneider, Rolf Schneider, David Schuster, Jill Thomas, Deirdre Tincker, Clair Ullmann.

No. 15 was taken at Schliersee, just to show what a beautiful state we all live in!



LOST IN TRANSLATION...

Farewell to Pfarrer Reichenbacher



In the last edition of the **Ikon** we celebrated the fact that we, The Church of the Ascension, have been guests of the Emmaus Kirche for 50 years.

For 25 of those years we have been welcomed, supported and guided by Pfarrer Christoph Reichenbacher for which we are very grateful.

On 31st January he led his final service in Harlaching before retiring.

We all wish him health and happiness in this next phase of his life.

As a tribute to him we reprint on the next page - with their permission and translated by us - an article from the special edition of the Emmaus Kirche's Parish Magazine.



Pfarrer Christoph Reichenbacher

Twenty-five Years in Numbers

An attempt at an Approximation!

By Pfr. Andreas Lay and Doris Roos

It is not easy to assess the work of a priest in numbers. However Doris Roos, who as Secretary has for many years been the most important employee in the parish office, has managed to establish a few for us.

Rites of Passage

In the years 1996 to 2020 the following “rite of passage” church services were held:

891 Christenings

121 Marriages

849 Funerals.

Pfarrer Reichenbacher has participated in at least half of these notable events, has shared joy or sorrow with the families involved, and has always managed to find the appropriate words.

Confirmation Candidates

In addition there were 848 confirmation candidates, where again over 50% were directly instructed by Pfarrer Reichenbacher. And then there were the numerous “Camps” where, in addition to religious instruction, the “kids” had to be packed off to bed!

“Running the Shop”

Pfarrer Reichenbacher was not only our priest, he was also the manager of the parish. It is impossible to estimate how many contracts, set of minutes, directives and remittances he has signed. However the number of birthday greetings for members of the parish with his signature can be roughly established. In 2007 it was about 700 per year, rising over the years to about 770. This gives a total of about 10,430 signatures!

Singing

Pfarrer Reichenbacher was always happy to mark the birthdays of his colleagues with a song. Thus he has surely sung “Viel Glück und viel Segen” (*Good Luck and many Blessings*) at least ten times per year. This tradition was only established in

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the past five years, but nevertheless we can undoubtedly count at least 50 performances of Viel Glück und viel Segen.

Services

Here we can be very accurate – based on the parish records we know that Pfarrer Reichenbacher has held 861 services – although this figure does not include the Christenings, Marriages and Funerals mentioned above.

Amen

On average “Amen” is said about seven times per service. Thus our final number is that Pfarrer Reichenbacher has said or sung Amen for us 6,027 times!



Pfarrer Reichenbacher
with his wife Pfarrerinnen
Birgit

Zwei Hochseilartisten heiraten. Der Pfarrer predigt:
"Möge der Herrgott immer seine schützende Hand über euch halten."

"UNTER uns, Herr Pfarrer, UNTER uns!"

Closing Words



The editorial team and the members of the Vestry wish everyone a blessed Easter. May we look forward to a more positive spring and summer when we can meet friends and family with lighter hearts.

When you read the next edition of the **Ikron** the decision may well have been made as to who our new Priest in Charge will be, so here is a prayer to say in the meantime.

Keep safe.

Sue Morris (Editor)

Almighty and merciful God, who sent your Holy Spirit to steer us through troubled waters in past years, be with us again now as we journey through the process of finding a new Priest in Charge. With your small voice of calm guide the minds of our Bishop and everyone involved and graciously grant that we will, with open hearts, receive a faithful priest to lead us from strength to strength in the building up of your kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Imprint / Impressum

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Layout: Roger 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.

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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.