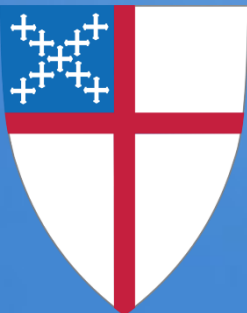


Spring 2023

# IKON

The Ascension Messenger



Church  
of the  
Ascension  
Munich

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# 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](http://www.ascension-munich.org)

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

## Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Mark D. W. Edington, Bishop in Charge  
[mark.edington@tec-europe.org](mailto:mark.edington@tec-europe.org)

The Rev. Canon Dan Morrow, Priest in Charge  
[revdanmorrow@ascension-munich.com](mailto:revdanmorrow@ascension-munich.com)

The Rev. Dr. Ali Gray, Priest Associate  
[revaligray@ascension-munich.com](mailto:revaligray@ascension-munich.com)

## Pastoral Care

In a pastoral emergency, contact **Fr. Dan** on his mobile: 0151 5330 8266  
or **Joan Case**: home: 08024 49945 mobile: 0172 825 6425

You can also contact the wardens:

**Janet Day-Strehlow**: mobile: 0170 792 6767  
**George Battrick**: home: 089 688 1151 mobile: 0152 082 93438

## 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 that graces the cover of this edition is of Mary Magdalene, who as the Gospel of John tells us, was the first person to see the risen Christ, who spoke her name as she wept and thought he was the gardener. Her story didn't end there and this is where the red egg comes in. As a noblewoman she gained an audience with the Emperor Tiberius in Rome. Legend has it that, holding an egg, she greeted him with "Christ is risen". To which he replied: "There is as much chance of someone returning from the dead as there is of that white egg turning red" and it promptly did.

The tradition of having red Easter eggs is especially strong in Eastern Orthodox churches. In areas like Ukraine, the ancient tradition of making intricately decorated eggs (pysanky) in the spring became modified by the spread of Christianity. The eggs now represent and are part of the Paschal feast in homes both in Ukraine and around the world. When this edition of the **ikon** began to take shape slowly it was the week after the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. So let us pause and remember how much we all long for peace.

You will find the old favourites in this edition but also some new items such as My Bible, the Bible Quiz and the item on Easter hymns. Lois Stuckenbruck, our parish administrator, introduces herself in a rather unexpected way.

When reading these pages, you can't help but notice what an active and diverse parish we are with the first Kenyan recipe, reports from the Racial Justice Book Group, from the celebration to honour our retired choir master Jeff, the Pancake Supper and many activities for Outreach.

We should never forget fun, some fun that was inspired by Zoom coffee hour.

This is a bumper edition of the magazine and is the first of three to be published this year. The Vestry has voted on and carried a motion to reduce the number of editions to three, so we will have Spring, Summer and Winter editions from now on.

This Spring edition has a focus on Easter traditions and a poem. So this Easter Season as we walk the way of the Cross let us take to heart what Fr. Dan has written and live into our joy, the joy of the Resurrection.

Peace

*Sue*



## Letter from Fr. Dan

Dear Church of the Ascension Family,

A few years ago, a US Airways jet struck a flock of geese during its initial climb out of LaGuardia, New York, losing engine power and ditching into the Hudson River off midtown Manhattan. Thanks to Captain “Sully” Sullenberger all 155 passengers and crew survived.

A reporter asked one passenger about his experience. Standing there soaking wet and freezing cold, the passenger glowed. With excitement in his voice, he said, “I was alive before, but now I’m really alive.”

Easter is a celebration of life! Jesus calls us to do more than just go through the motions. He wants us to snap up life with passion. Grab hold of it and don’t let go! Easter is a celebration of the fact that life wins...death is not final. Being trumps nothingness, life prevails. Eternal life is the promise given.

So this Easter Season live into your joy. Do something you love doing, experience great Art, nurture your talents. Have meaningful and deep conversations. Choose to see the good in people and love them.

Worship alongside your friends and companions on the journey.

Do all these things in the light of the Resurrection, thanking Christ for the love which makes all things possible.

We will have many opportunities for worship this Holy Week and Easter, I hope to see you in person as we walk the way of the Cross and celebrate the joy of the Resurrection.

My prayer for you this Easter is that the light of the Resurrection will fill you once again and remain with you throughout the year. May the Risen Lord fill you with grace to do God’s will and with the joy to celebrate God’s presence in your life.

Finally, I hope this Easter you will affirm that you are really Alive! Amen.

Much peace

Dan



Photo by Gerd Altmann <https://pixabay.com>

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# An Easter Promise

If we but had the eyes to see  
God's face in every cloud,  
If we but had the ears to hear  
His voice above the crowd,  
If we could feel His gentle touch  
In ever Springtime breeze  
And find a haven in His arms  
'Neath sheltering, leafy trees...  
If we could just lift up our hearts  
Like flowers to the sun  
And trust His Easter Promise  
And pray, "thy will be done",  
We'd find the peace we're seeking,  
The kind no man can give,  
The peace that comes from knowing  
He Died So We Might Live!



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## Shrove Tuesday

Celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday (also called “Pancake Tuesday” or “Pancake Day”) is the final day before the forty day period of Lent begins. Its name comes from the Germanic-Old English word “shrive,” meaning absolve, and it is the last day of the liturgical season historically known as Shrovetide. Because it comes directly before Lent, a season of fasting and penitence, this was the day that Christians would go to be “shriven” by their confessor. Shrove Tuesday also became a day for pre-fasting indulgence. In particular, the need to use up rich ingredients such as butter, milk, sugar and eggs before Lent gave rise to the tradition of eating pancakes on this day.

*Fr. Dan*

As you can see below the Pancake Supper in the Gemeindesaal was a great success!







## Easter Traditions

There are many curious things about the Easter festival.

### The Date of Easter

The way in which Easter is calculated was originally established by the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. Yes – the same council which gave us the Nicæan Creed. This involved the movement of the sun, the movement of the moon, and “the next Sunday”. In 1582, when Pope Gregory XII was reorganising the calendar, he also simplified the date of Easter. He eliminated the movement of the sun by declaring that in his new calendar the “Ecclesiastical Vernal Equinox” was on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The Sunday after the full moon after 21<sup>st</sup> March was Easter Sunday. Thus the earliest possible date for Easter Sunday is 22<sup>nd</sup> March and the latest is 25<sup>th</sup> April. In 2023, 2024 and 2025 it will be 9<sup>th</sup> April, 31<sup>st</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> April respectively

### Now what about those Eggs?

Many of our Easter traditions can be linked to pre-Christian festivals, and eggs as a symbol of Spring and fertility are no exception. However eggs at Easter clearly also have a Christian tradition, in that eating eggs was forbidden during Lent and therefore they were an obvious gift for Easter. The practice of colouring eggs at Easter was probably first established in early Christian communities in Mesopotamia (the region in western Asia within the Tigris-Euphrates river systems). Red became a popular colour because this symbolised the blood which was shed on the cross.

### Chocolate Eggs

The idea of the chocolate Easter Egg originated in Germany and France in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century – this was later copied by Joseph Fry in England in 1873.

### Fabergé Eggs

The idea of a jewelled egg as an Easter present among European royalty did not originate in Imperial Russia. An early example is the Golden Egg with Hen which was made in France about 1702 and is currently in the Danish Royal Collection in Copenhagen. The first Fabergé Imperial Egg was given to the Tsarina in 1885 by Tsar Alexander III. A total of 52 Imperial Eggs were produced over the years by Peter Carl Fabergé, commissioned by Tsar Alexander III and his successor Tsar Nicholas II. After the Russian Revolution in 1917 the production of Imperial Eggs obviously stopped and the Fabergé factory in Saint Petersburg was nationalised.

### Simnel Cake

In England the traditional cake at Easter is the Simnel Cake – however again it is doubtful that this was originally linked directly to Easter. The cake has certainly been known since the Middle Ages, and for the past few hundred years has had a marzipan covering and (eleven or twelve) marzipan decorations. The decorations represent the eleven (true)

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Apostles (excluding Judas Iscariot) or the eleven Apostles and Jesus of Nazareth. However the origin of the Simnel Cake probably dates back to “Simnel Sunday”, which was the original name for Mothering Sunday. In the Middle Ages most apprentices and domestic servants “lived in”, and very rarely saw their parents. On Simnel Sunday they were given time off to visit their mothers, and many of them would take a Simnel Cake as a gift. This was a very nutritious cake, and therefore a very welcome addition to the family larder. Nowadays the Simnel Cake not only has the marzipan layer on top (with the Apostles) but also has a layer of marzipan through the middle.



### Hot Cross Buns

Finally with the Hot Cross Bun we may have something with a more direct link with Easter. It may be that the Hot Cross Bun originates from St Albans Abbey in England, where in 1371 a monk produced buns and distributed them to the poor on Good Friday. It is said that the different ingredients of the Hot Cross Bun are symbolic, with the cross obviously representing the crucifix, the spices representing the embalming of Jesus of Nazareth, and the orange peel representing the bitterness of the crucifixion.

There are also many superstitions concerning Hot Cross Buns. For example, buns baked on Good Friday are said not to go mouldy. One should keep such buns and if somebody in the family is ill then giving them a portion of the bun to eat will aid recovery. Such a bun hung in the kitchen will ensure that all baking is successful. Taking such a bun with you on a voyage will ensure you do not suffer a shipwreck.

*A. N. Other*

## My favorite Easter Hymn

Amanda asked me to write an article about my favorite Easter hymn and I knew immediately which one to write about, "Hail Thee Festival Day", number 175 in our hymnal. I simply love the refrain and how the verses build up loudly and end with cheerful celebration.

What makes this hymn work is the masterful music by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Vaughan Williams, one of England's best-known 20th-century composers, served as the musical editor for the first *English Hymnal*. Originally attributed only to "Anonymous," his tune, SALVE FESTE DIES, has the feel and pacing of a fine processional hymn. The moving organ-pedal part and the stirring melody of the refrain are perfect for a grand celebration.

This hymn is also unique in that it can be sung throughout Eastertide, with verses specifically written for Easter Day, Ascension Day and the Day of Pentecost.

Dr C. Michael Hawn, professor of Pastoral Music at the Perkins School of Theology in the United States, wrote of the fascinating history of this hymn. He notes that processional hymns have a long tradition in the church, especially during the Middle Ages. Venantius Honorius Clementianus Fortunatus (c. 530-609) wrote a 30 stanza hymn for the Easter season and the refrain "Hail Thee, Festival Day!" comes from the 20<sup>th</sup> couplet of Fortunatus' long Latin poem.

*Salve feste dies toto venerabilis aeo  
Qua Deus infernum vicit et astra tenet.*

Hail Thee Festival Day is a reminder to celebrate the fact that God has overcome death and sin through the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We'll sing it this Easter and I hope you sing along loudly with joy in your heart.

Many blessings

*Fr. Dan*

The image shows a snippet of musical notation for the hymn "Hail Thee Festival Day". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble staff begins with a half note chord (F2, A2, C3), followed by a quarter note chord (F2, A2, C3), then a quarter note chord (F2, A2, C3), and finally a quarter note chord (F2, A2, C3). The bass staff begins with a half note chord (F2, A2, C3), followed by a quarter note chord (F2, A2, C3), then a quarter note chord (F2, A2, C3), and finally a quarter note chord (F2, A2, C3). The lyrics "Hail thee, fes - ti - val day!" are written below the treble staff, with hyphens under "fes" and "ti" to indicate syllable placement.

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# Outreach

There have been a lot of outreach activities since Christmas. It all started on 7<sup>th</sup> January, then into February there was a brisk trade in woollen goods sold in aid of a project in Romania. Goods you generously add to the soup kitchen basket are delivered regularly and then 60 Krapfen, maybe more familiar to some of you as doughnuts, were delivered to the Sisters by Jill Thomas to be distributed on Faschingsdienstag. *Ed.*

Read on:

## A Ukrainian Christmas Party

Anyone passing by the Gemeindesaal on 7<sup>th</sup> January and hearing strains of Christmas carols might have wondered what was going on, seeing that our Christmas celebrations were already over. On peeping through the window, the passer-by would have heard the buzz of conversation and seen the happy faces of children enjoying themselves. This was no ordinary party, but was a special event to mark the Orthodox Christmas to which we had invited Ukrainian refugees.

Altogether we had over 60 adults and children who we hope were able to forget their troubles back home for a few hours and participate in a Christmas celebration. Thanks to volunteers from the Johanniter, the American Women's Group and our own congregation we were able to provide scrumptious homemade cakes and later on punch and a home-made soup for our guests. Music was provided by Peter Dalen and his students playing some Ukrainian carols with our guests singing along.

While the adults enjoyed a chat, the children were occupied with games and face painting provided by the Johanniter. It was indeed a busy afternoon but our guests' thanks and appreciation was our reward.

We can now truly say that our Ukrainian project is well underway. We have established a good working relationship with the Johanniter and have got to know some of the people we are helping to settle in.

Thanks once again to all who contributed to this special event and especially to Denise for the organisation. We are now awaiting further news as to what the next steps will be and will inform you accordingly.

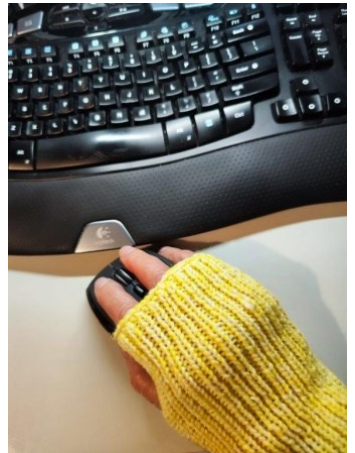
*Barbara Norman*

## Outreach: Romania

The knitted headbands, socks and wrist warmers were knitted by a group of women from the Lutheran church in Sibiu (Hermannstadt) in Romania. The Rev. Dorothee Hahn, who is our contact person, says that they are very grateful as we are their only source of income outside Romania. The proceeds go to support the blind. We raised €977. Thank you to everyone who supported this project.



The wrist warmers were very popular!



*Angela Schneider*

---

# Refugees

*Read this poem from top to bottom then when you have got to the bottom read from bottom to top.*

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cutthroats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here.  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should belong to those who are born  
there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

*By Brian Bilston*

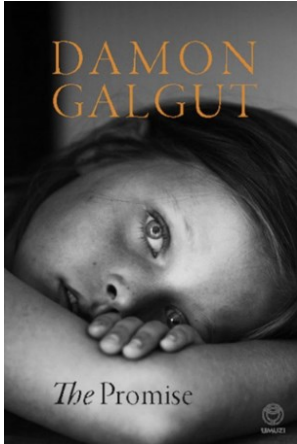
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*Go to the author's Facebook page to read more of his work.*



## Racial Justice Book Group

This quarter the Racial Justice Book Group read and discussed the 2021 Booker Prize winning novel *The Promise* by South African writer Damon Galgut.



The main characters are the white Swart family, descended from Dutch settlers who came to South Africa in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, bringing with them the Dutch Reformed Church which officially supported apartheid and segregation until 1986! – the year the story begins. On her deathbed, ‘Ma’ extracts a promise from her husband to give to the family’s black domestic servant Salome the title deed to the house provided for her since the grandfather began farming the land outside Pretoria. Fortunately, the youngest Swart family member, 12-year old Amor, witnessed that promise and ‘A Christian never goes back on his word’ (Part I).

Well ... both male Swarts do, in fact, ‘go back on’ that promise – echoing all the un-kept promises South Africa has lived through during the four decades of the book: from the State of Emergency to Mandela’s presidency, Mbeki’s inauguration and Jacob Zuma’s resignation.

While the plot is uncomplicated, during the approximately 300 pages the narrator’s point of view shifts frequently: The author Galgut claims ‘like a camera would’: zooming in, cutting to another scene, juxtaposing characters’ voices with ‘accusations’ pointing at the reader (e.g. ‘... if Salome’s home hasn’t been mentioned before it’s because you have not asked, you didn’t care to know’ (Part IV)).

The themes of the text are both political and personal: historic land grabbing, white European arrogance, ignorance, deceit and greed (all exemplified by the Church as well), the passing of time, ageing and mortality. One book group member put it more simply: a lack of love and its resulting unhappiness.

Chigozie Obioma, one of the 2021 Booker Prize judges, summarised the book with the question: Does true justice exist in this world?

We might answer, paraphrasing Galgut’s narrator: Do we care? Yes, we will invest our time and ourselves in justice concerns.

Our next book is *My Grandmother’s Hands* by Resmaa Menakem, to be discussed on Zoom on 23 April at 10.00.

*Carol Adeney*

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# My Bible

I read different versions of the Bible for different reasons: The King James when I know the stories and can revel in the beautiful language, the New English Bible when Paul's epistles in the NRSV are difficult. I asked fellow Vestry members which versions they read. *Ed.*

Here is the first response:

I normally read the bible in German which is why all my bible editions are German. My first bible was the *Lutherbibel* in the 2017 version which I got for my confirmation. I really like it because of its beautiful language and therefore I use it whenever I want to put a Bible verse on a card or need a nice quotation. However, I don't think it is the ideal Bible for daily use because I can't read it when I'm tired or otherwise I won't understand anything.

This is why I recently got the *Basis Bibel* which is a new translation of the Bible in an understandable language with explanations on the side of every page. I really love this Bible because it helps me integrate the scripture into my daily life and motivates me a lot to keep up with reading the Bible on a regular basis. So if you ever see me in the U-Bahn reading Scripture, I will probably have my copy of the *Basis Bibel* in my hands.

*Charlotte Rieger*

# Bible Quiz

The first in a series courtesy of our quizmaster Malcolm. Answers on page 32:

1. Which son of Noah is regarded as the forefather of Jews and Arabs alike?
2. Name Ruth's mother-in-law.
3. Before marrying King David, to whom was Bathsheba married?
4. In which book do we read there was no room at the inn?
5. Who took the place of Judas to make up the twelve?

## Ascension Recipes: Mukimo



There are many variations on this traditional Kikuyu dish made of mashed potatoes, peas, and corn. Here is how Elpinah prepares it.

### Ingredients (Serves 5)

1 kg potatoes (large)  
500 gr green peas (fresh or frozen)  
400 gr tin corn  
250 gr spinach (fresh or frozen)  
Salt  
Butter

### How to prepare

Peel and quarter the potatoes and boil with salt for twelve minutes.  
Steam the spinach for three minutes. Simply unfreeze if using frozen.  
Boil the peas for five to seven minutes.  
Add corn, peas and spinach to the boiling potatoes and cook for a further five minutes.  
Remove from the heat and drain.  
Add butter and mash the mixture until every bit of the potatoes is well mashed.  
Serve with your favourite stew.

*Elpinah Riedme*

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# An Interview with...

## Hyunjin Cho, our new Choir Director

### **What made you choose music as a profession?**

Actually, I am the only musician in my family. I grew up in church, sang in a choir when I was eight, and started to play the piano at church services at nine or ten. That was my whole life... a life in music and praise of the Lord. Faith is an integral part of my life, so I chose church music as my major for college.

### **How did you go from playing and singing to conducting?**

When I was at school, there were choral competitions every year. Every class had one conductor, and for some reason I was chosen as the conductor for our class. One of my teachers told me as she watched me: 'You could do that professionally!.' At that time, I didn't know there was such a profession!

### **Did you always conduct classical music or did you grow up with other styles?**

At school I learned about classical music but in my generation we sang with drums and guitar, so I experienced all kinds of music.

### **Do you have a favorite composer or a favorite style that you like to conduct?**

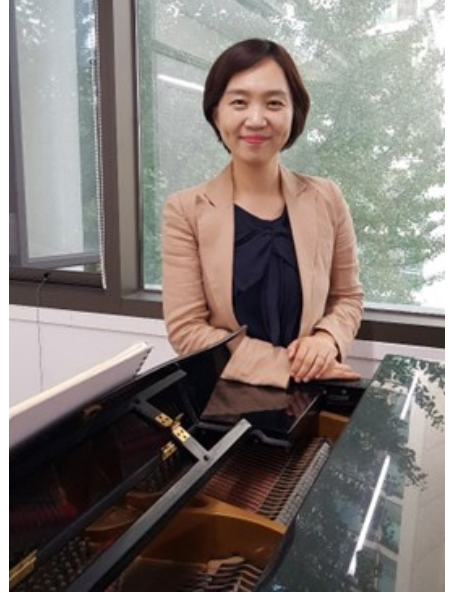
So many! My favorite composer of all time is Bach.

### **You did your Masters and Doctoral degrees in Choral Conducting in the US. What took you to the US?**

Musicians in Korea who want to study abroad usually go either to the US or Germany or Austria. At that time, my best friend decided to go to the US, so I followed her. It is common for Koreans to study abroad; to study western music in the West. In the US advanced degree programs, you are not only doing a lot of performing, but also have time and space to really study as well. I liked that idea.

### **You met your husband in the US?**

Yes – at church, of course! He was the leader of the college group in Tucson, Arizona. He was an engineer when I met him, but now he works in management and promotion all over Europe.



**You conducted professional choirs in Korea and worked at two universities. Can you tell me about that?**

What is very special about choral music in Korea is that there are sixty paid, professional city choirs sponsored by the cities themselves. These are professional paid choirs. I was an assistant conductor in one for seven years, and thereafter the principal conductor of the civic women's choir. At the universities I taught private lessons in conducting, choral literature and also conducted university choirs. I conducted amateur choirs as well.

**You were a busy lady!**

That's why I was not a very good mom. My mom helped me with housework, cooking and with my three kids at home.

**Do you miss all that work or are you happy to have a bit of a break?**

I am happy to have some more time for my kids. It was a fun time, and I am very thankful for all the experiences I had, but I am now very happy to be here.

**We met Sunny at the pancake supper, and Erica sang at the Christmas service. Your other daughter is named Jenny?**

Jenny is 14, Erica, 15 and Sunny is 9. They are enjoying being in Germany, but they are still struggling with both English and German. School is much less stress for them than in Korea, though, so that is nice!

**How are you enjoying being here?**

My biggest struggle initially was being a housewife and doing everything for my family. Now I am getting used to it, sort of. I like living here because music is everywhere. Churches have a lot of classical music and gorgeous organs!

**You have done so many auspicious things, Hyunjin. What made you say yes when we asked you to be our choir director?**

Being a choral conductor at church – that's my whole life. I wanted to do something here as a conductor, and being at an English speaking church is great. I also felt a friendly and warm atmosphere from you, the congregation and the choir!

**We are thrilled to have you. What would you like to say to our parishioners?**

I am also very thrilled to have joined this wonderful community and choir members who are all passionate and faithful. I very much look forward to working with you to glorify God through music that we make together.

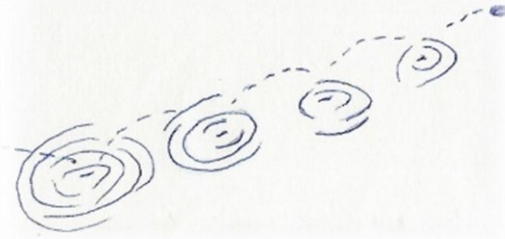
To the whole congregation: You are always welcome to join the choir!!

**Thank you, Hyunjin!**

*Mitchell Woodard-Brand*

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# What one learns in Zoom Coffee Hour!



Among many other topics discussed in a recent Zoom coffee hour, this unique one was mentioned by Roger Houghton.

So what are these kinds of words called (in English)?\*

## **English**

Super-duper

Fender-bender

Okey-dokey

Mumbo-jumbo

Chick-flick

Itsy-bitsy

Hocus-pocus

## **German**

Schickimicki

Mischmasch

Wischiwaschi

Ratz Fratz

Kuddelmuddel

Krimskrams

Ruckzuck

## **French**

Charivari

\*ricochet words

*Carol Adeney*

Try your hand at some more on page 21. Anyone know any more in French? Neither my niece, who translates from French, nor a friend who used to teach this language, nor even our resident Frenchman Rémy, can help! What about other languages? *Ed.*



## Now it's your Turn

Having been introduced to ricochet words on page 20, now try your hand at some more by choosing one word from column A to match with one from column B.

For example, the first one is SILLY BILLY

Answers on page 32.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
SILLY	TOITY
BRILLY	CLAPPY
HOITY	DALLY
HURRY	PIGGLEDY
KNICK	PANKY
SHILLY	WASHY
TOPSY	PATTER
HARUM	TURVY
WISHY	SCURRY
EASY	SKELTER
HAPPY	WILLY
TEENY	GRITTY
DILLY	SCARUM
PITTER	DRUM
HANKY	KNACK
HUM	BILLY
NITTY	WEENY
HELTER	SHALLY
HIGGLEDY	DOVEY
LOVEY	PEAZY

How often do we really use them?

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# On my Desert Island

Our castaway this month, the last for a while, is Steve Sherman.

His academic degrees are in political science, but he performed a lateral arabesque in his second year of graduate school, so that his working life was spent as a computer programmer, for the first ten years in Los Angeles, since 1977 in Munich.

He's been singing in the Ascension Choir since the year of the very first Messiah Open Sing and was a stalwart bass in Gilbert and Sullivan productions. His comments below show what a music aficionado he is.

He now takes up the story:

I learned the classical repertoire largely from recordings. There is a powerful temptation for my desert island to cheat by selecting items that were truly in my collection, like Toscanini's set of the nine Beethoven symphonies, or Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau's recording of all of the Schubert Lieder. However, since retiring in 2004, I have largely abandoned recordings in favor of travelling to live concerts all over Europe, and occasionally in America. My selections, therefore, are of favorite works that can be heard in recorded live performances on YouTube: These are, first of all, the works I could least imagine living without, and second, that I have heard recently in live performance.

**1. Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> Symphony:** Vienna Philharmonic, Leonard Bernstein. This is the orchestra that I most want to hear playing Beethoven. Bernstein wouldn't necessarily be my first choice as conductor, but the Philharmonic always played superbly for him.

**2. Beethoven's 29<sup>th</sup> Piano Sonata:** opus 106 (Hammerklavier): Igor Levit. I recently heard it played by the young Italian Beatrice Rana, a remarkably mature performance by a 29-year-old, but there is no recording, and anyway Levit remains my favorite current Beethoven pianist.

**3. Brahms' 4<sup>th</sup> Symphony:** Vienna Philharmonic, Carlos Kleiber. Again mostly because of the orchestra. I wish I had a recording of this symphony as performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, his first appearance as a conductor, in the early 1970s.

**4. Mahler's 2<sup>nd</sup> Symphony (Auferstehung):** Koninklijk Concertgebouworkest, Mariss Jansons. If the Vienna Philharmonic is not the best orchestra in the world, the Royal Concertgebouw might be. And this magnificent work demands performers of the highest quality.

## 5. Verdi's "Falstaff": Toscanini.

My favorite opera, but this is cheating: I never heard Toscanini conduct it live. I've seen a few productions of it recently, in Munich, Vienna and Berlin, and none of them can touch Toscanini's recording with the NBC Symphony and an undistinguished cast, from which I learned to love it.

**6. Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov":** Bolshoi 1978 with Nesterenko, whom I heard sing the role here in Munich many years ago. Nobody before or since has come close, so he makes the list even though this is the orchestration by Rimsky-Korsakov. I might smuggle in the Tarkovsky production with Robert Lloyd, which retains Mussorgsky's setting, in which version this is my second favorite opera.

**Luxury:** Since I'll need access to YouTube, I'd like a computer with an Internet connection. I promise to only watch my SIX selections – and perhaps the odd baseball game or Australian Rules football match.

*Steve Sherman*

We have well and truly stretched the BBC's definition of a luxury, but we promise to find a desert island where the Internet has arrived! *Ed.*





## Jeff Leipsic's long Years of Service

In 2022 Jeff Leipsic retired as our Music Director after seventeen years' service.

(There was a special "Behind the Scenes" item with Jeff in last summer's **Ikon**.)

He came to CoA in 1986 as a tenor, and we are glad to say that he will continue as a tenor in the choir. On 22<sup>nd</sup> January there was a special celebration of Jeff's service in the Gemeindesaal after the Sunday Service.

*Kristi writes here what many people in the choir will echo.*

To Jeff: our heartfelt and deep thanks for the many happy and inspiring years that Bob and I spent singing in the choir under his direction. We learned so many new things about interesting music and of course the Messiah Sings leave special memories in our hearts, both because of the beautiful music and the good gatherings with the choir that we shared afterwards.

I was also privileged to help prepare and clean up the scores for our Sunday services, and a small group of us had many interesting meetings with Jeff to organize and sort the music as well. Jeff has been a loyal and true friend throughout many long years, for which we are deeply grateful. We now wish him and Antje many happy and relaxing years to share lovely experiences together!

With deep affection from Bob and me.

*Kristi Nowak*



A special choir practice!



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# Parish Administration:

## A timely Explosion

Last summer when I became the Parish Administrator Sue asked me to write an article about life in the church office. I said I need to experience it for a while first. I had asked for a whole year, but sometimes things happen that just need saying...

The following was a post I wrote for the Facebook Members' Page (you don't know about our church Members' Page? Look it up! "Church of the Ascension Members Group". It is a closed group, with only CoA Members (past or present) and people connected to CoA via the Convocation being admitted. It is moderated so that any post which is considered highly offensive or inappropriate is deleted. The Members' Page is intended to help members to connect and to convey information. It is a great way to share news, coordinate activities, prayers, etc.

*December 23, 2022*

*Good Morning! I thought you might like to see what happened in the church office yesterday. I was just starting to print the bulletins for 4 upcoming worship services when Father Dan waltzed in and said he was 'here to bless the copier!' Immediately we heard a 'boom! smack!' Because I had heard something hit the window, I thought something had hit us from the building work next door.*

*But no, the sound we heard was within the room! There was a box of 6 bottles of pumpkin syrup sitting in the middle of the tables. One of them had fermented and literally 'popped it's cork' – spewing stinky orange goo everywhere – even the ceiling. We wiped it off of everything on the table – including the choir books, the radiator, the copier, the windows, even HM the late Queen (may she rest in peace). Thankfully, I had only just started the printing and lost only the 2 Priests' copies of one service.*

*Father Dan did a great job cleaning the ceiling, but I am pretty certain he could have used his time better!*

*It would be helpful if food items that aren't sold or given away immediately be taken back home by the person who brought them. Also, in the long run, we need to find a better location as a drop-off for food. This explosion could have been a much greater disaster had 1) anyone been closer to the bottle when it blew; 2) had the bulletins already been printed; 3) had no one been in the office for several days, allowing the goo to dry; 4) had the cork hit the light, broken it and caused a fire!*





We think the pumpkin syrup was probably brought to the church for a sale that didn't happen in 2021, and there was most likely another lockdown which prevented the items being retrieved.

Therefore, I would like to ask that anything brought to the church be labeled with: Who brought it, who is supposed to pick it up (or what it is for), and the date it was left.

This will make it easier to keep the area clean and prevent any further near disasters.

I still feel a bit queasy not only at the memory of the smell, but also at the thought that Father Dan could have walked in on Christmas Eve to find the service bulletins for 4 services completely destroyed!

Sometimes one has to simply be thankful for good timing!!

*Lois Stuckenbruck*



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# Congratulations

To those who have recently celebrated a birthday

## February

6<sup>th</sup> Tonda Kemmerling

11<sup>th</sup> Sue Knowles

19<sup>th</sup> Kristi Nowak

## March

7<sup>th</sup> Michael Beer

8<sup>th</sup> Lois Stuckenbruck

Yann Savard

Peter Dalen

9<sup>th</sup> Jes Villa

To those who have celebrated wedding anniversaries

Sue and Mike Morris                      13<sup>th</sup> February (no it wasn't a Friday!)

Clair and Rainer Ullmann                7<sup>th</sup> March

Congratulations to Roger Houghton on his retirement. We wish him a long and happy one and we are VERY grateful that he has agreed to continue as the layouter of the **ikon**.

Congratulations to Nathan Stuckenbruck on passing his banking exams.



## Coming Events

### March

26 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Rehearsal	10.30-11.30
	Holy Eucharist	12.00-13.00
	Last Lenten Lunch	13.00-14.00
29 <sup>th</sup>	The Saints of Song Writing	18.30-20.00

### April

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Choir Rehearsal	10.30-11.30
	Holy Eucharist for Palm Sunday	12.00-13.00
7 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Rehearsal	10.30-11.30
	Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday	12.00-13.00
9 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Rehearsal	10.30-11.30
	Holy Eucharist for Easter Sunday	12.00-13.00
16 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Eucharist	12.00-13.00
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Racial Justice Book Group	10.00-11.30
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Choir Rehearsal	10.30-11.30
	Holy Eucharist	12.00-13.00
26 <sup>th</sup>	Vestry Meeting	19.30-21.30
30 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Eucharist	12.00-13.00

### May

7 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Rehearsal	10.30-11.30
	Holy Eucharist	12.00-13.00
	Annual General Meeting	16.00-18.00
14 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Rehearsal	10.30-11.30
	Holy Eucharist	12.00-13.00
20 <sup>th</sup>	Women's Book Discussion	14.00-16.00
21 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Eucharist	12.00-13.00
24 <sup>th</sup>	Vestry Meeting	19.30-21.30
28 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Rehearsal	10.30-11.30
	Holy Eucharist	12.00-13.00

### Regularly Occurring Events

Tuesdays	Morning Prayer	08.30-9.30
Wednesdays	Coffee with Dan	15.00-16.00
Thursdays	Compline	19.45-20.30

For more details see the weekly Announcements and/or visit the Calendar within the CoA Website.

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## Worship in Nürnberg

Church of the Jakobskirche in downtown Nürnberg:

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.

The wearing of face-masks is recommended but is not compulsory.

We are holding services every second and fourth Sunday at 16:00.

Check our Facebook page to get the latest information:  
Anglican/episcopal church of St James, the Less.

<https://www.facebook.com/stjamesnuremberg/>

Our Website is: [www.st-james-the-less.de](http://www.st-james-the-less.de)



## Worship in Augsburg

There is a Holy Eucharist Service every Sunday at 16:30 in the Ev.-Luth. Auferstehungskirche, Garmischer Straße 2a, Augsburg/Hochzoll.

Our Vicar, The Rev. Lutz Ackermann, can be reached via mobile 015 78 83 06 272.

All Services take place on site and also via Zoom (ID 929 3722 6600), no password required.

All welcome, no exceptions.



Check out our Facebook page to stay informed of any last-minute changes.

<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchOfStBonifaceAugsburgEv>

Our AGM (the Annual General Meeting of St. Boniface e.V.) will be held on the **7<sup>th</sup> May at 15:00 in the Gemeindesaal** (Church Hall). All members of the Verein St. Boniface will receive a written invitation at least two weeks in advance. If you are not sure about your membership status, please speak to the Vicar: This might be a good time to fix it!

At this AGM we will hold elections for members of the Bishop's Committee (BC).

If you could see yourself serving in this steering group of our congregation for a term of office of two years (or perhaps even 2 x 2 years consecutively) please make this known to the Vicar or any of the BC members.

## Notes from the Vestry

You are no doubt aware that the AGM is coming up on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Four people are remaining on the vestry – their term ends in 2024. Donald Adewale is standing for re-election and Maria Ramadori-Volker, having been co-opted to complete a term, can now stand for election. Three people have already put their names forward for election but this only makes nine positions and there are twelve places on the Vestry. So we need your help. There is still time for YOU to volunteer.

Every year two representatives are chosen to represent our congregation at the Convocation Convention of the Episcopal Churches in Europe that is to be held in Wiesbaden in October this year.

The following people put their names forward:

Donald Adawele, George Battrick, Lena Petri, Charlotte Rieger.

Donald and Charlotte were elected.

In case either is not available to attend when the time comes, the first alternative is Lena, and then George who would then step in.

*Janet Day-Strehlow, Senior Warden*



## In Memoriam

**Jonathan Peter Nathaniel Case**

**\* 7. February 1988 † 27. December 2022**

**A very courageous young man**

**May he rest in peace**



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# Answers

## Ricochet Words

SILLY	BILLY
BRILLY	WILLY
HOITY	TOITY
HURRY	SCURRY
KNICK	KNACK
SHILLY	SHALLY
TOPSY	TURVY
HARUM	SCARUM
WISHY	WASHY
EASY	PEAZY
HAPPY	CLAPPY
TEENY	WEENY
DILLY	DALLY
PITTER	PATTER
HANKY	PANKY
HUM	DRUM
NITTY	GRITTY
HELTER	SKELTER
HIGGLEDY	PIGGLEDY
LOVEY	DOVEY

## Bible Quiz

1. Shem
2. Naomi
3. Uriah the Hittite
4. Luke
5. Matthias

## Emmauskirche

Most of us do not really pay much attention to what is happening in our host church, which is a great shame. Like Church of the Ascension they are a vibrant and faithful community of Christians committed to sharing the word of God in their worship services and parish activities.

We would like to report in more detail in future on our sister community and in this edition we would like to draw your attention to their well-known "Meditationsweg" (Meditation Path).

A Meditationsweg committee develops a new theme for each exhibition incorporating their chosen Biblical or liturgical motifs. This year the committee has chosen the theme of "Grosse Gefühle" (Emotions), in the Book of Psalms.

In the Psalms we encounter all facets of human emotion. The psalms of lament give voice to feelings of anger, despair, and pain, but always tempered by the awareness of mercy and the expression of faith.

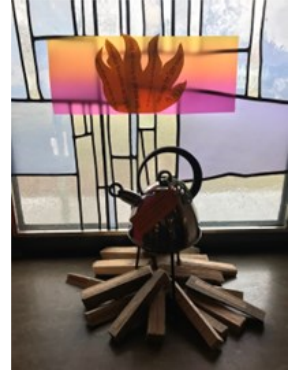
Some of the most beautiful poetry in the Bible is to be found in the psalms of praise which hum with joyfulness, gratitude and praise.

The accompanying text on the website of the Emmauskirche says "Die Psalmen sind mutig" (The Psalms are courageous), and when we regard them as prayers they can indeed be seen that way. How many of us have sometimes felt not only gratitude but also anger towards God but not dared to express that anger?

The psalmists have done it for us, and they wrote and sang with the awareness and expectation that God is listening and will respond.

If you still have a chance, do take the opportunity to walk your own meditation path in the sanctuary and reflect on the words of the psalmists and on how much they still speak to us today.

*Amanda Höschler*





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# Closing Words

Fill in the missing word in these sentences.

- 1 Have you ever drunk -----nog?
- 2 Have you ever taken part in an ----- and spoon race and -----ed on the winner?
- 3 It's not a good idea to put all your -----s in one basket.
- 4 They misunderstood, made a big fuss and ended up with ----- on their faces.
- 5 The Brits call this an aubergine, but those from across the pond call it an -----plant.
- 6 Someone more interested in ideas and theories than practical matters is often called an -----head.
- 7 To go on their dream holiday to Namibia they had to use some of their nest -----.

Easy peazy? (See page 21) Probably. The editorial team and the Vestry hope you found the missing word and will find your share of chocolate ones.

We hope too that you have had some thoughtful moments during Lent, will hear some moving music on Good Friday and will have some reason to rejoice over Easter.

Blessings

*Sue*



## Imprint / Impressum

**Editor:** Sue Morris

**Assistant Editors:** Amanda Höschler, Mitchell Woodard-Brand

**Proof-reader (aka The Nitpicker):** Mike Morris

**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](mailto: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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## Back Numbers

You can find all the previous issues of the **lkon** on our website at:  
<https://www.ascension-munich.org/parish-magazine>



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.