

NEWSLETTER

for the

The Anglican Chaplaincy of Bonn and Cologne



Editorial: Happy Summer

After the Summer Fete, I promised not to speak about the Summer Fete for at least four weeks. Now that those four weeks have passed, please indulge me one last time as I say a very big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the day a success.

We're now looking forward to the Garden Party in Bonn. See the next page for more details.

Much like the last edition of the newsletter, this one contains a mix of notices and items relevant primarily to our chaplaincy, as well as some news and commentary applicable to the wider Anglican and Christian community.

If you, dear Reader, have anything to contribute, please send it to **newsletter at**

anglicanbonncologne dot de. You can expect the next edition to arrive in your inbox towards the end of September, or the beginning of October. Till then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

Carrie Andrews

Regular Worship

St. Boniface, Bonn: Sundays, 9:30 am, Eucharist, at St Paulus Church in Bonn-Beuel
Siegburger Strasse 75, 53229 Bonn-Beuel-Ost

Public transport: Bus 609, 603, 608, 529 to Pantheon Beuel

All Saints, Cologne: Sundays, 11:45 am, Eucharist, in Cologne-Marienburg

Lindenallee 61, 50968 Cologne-Marienburg

Public transport: Bus 132 to Arnoldshöhe

We meet for coffee after each service, in both Bonn and Cologne.

Dates for your diary

Saturday, 3 August

Chaplaincy Walkers

The Chaplaincy Walking group head to **Hennef** on Saturday, 3 August.

The 17 km Dreitälerweg (Three-Valley Trail) takes in castle ruins, spectacular views, the pretty town of Blankenberg, the idyllic Ahrenbach valley, the Krabachtal nature reserve and the former Merten monastery. We meet at the carpark of Gasthof Steinhof at **1pm sharp** (satnav: Am Burghart 27, 53773 Hennef, or train station: Blankenberg, Sieg). We will be dealing with an altitude difference of 330m, so some stamina and sturdy boots will be required, plus plenty of water and sun protection. The trail takes around 5 hours. Afterwards we will have a meal at Gasthof Steinhof at 6pm. To sign up, see the clergy or contact Christoph Heinrich at All Saints. More information on the trail: <https://tinyurl.com/y3ec9qg9>

Sunday, 18 August

Lunch at the local Chinese Restaurant

In order for people to enjoy a time of fellowship beyond coffee after services we have lunch together, once every two months, after the service in Cologne at the local Chinese restaurant for those who wish to do so. All are welcome, but everyone pays their own way. If you would like to join us, please tell Richard by the afternoon of Friday, 16 August, so that he can reserve a table.

Sunday, 18 August

Evening Service in Cologne city centre

6pm - Service of Holy Communion at the Antoniterkirche, Schildergasse 57, 50667 Köln

Saturday, 7 September

Pilgrimage to Echternach

On Saturday 7 September we are making an ecumenical pilgrimage to Echternach together with the Old Catholics. Those of you who would like to take part in this need to let Fr. Richard know by **15 August** at the latest as we need to arrange transport. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of transport.

Saturday, 21 September

Garden Party in Bonn

Come to our annual Garden Party in Bonn from 12–4pm and enjoy delicious refreshments, home produce, crafts, a second-hand book sale, prize draws and fun for all the family."





News

Sir David Attenborough backs major new report on plastics from Tearfund

A new report has revealed that one person is dying every 30 seconds in developing countries from diseases and illnesses caused by plastic pollution and uncollected rubbish dumped or burnt near their homes.

The new figures were released in *No Time to Waste: Tackling the Plastic Pollution Crisis Before it's Too Late*, by international relief and development agency Tearfund, in collaboration with conservation charity Fauna & Flora International (FFI), the Institute of Development Studies and waste management charity WasteAid.

The report looks at the health impact of plastic pollution and rubbish on the world's poorest people.

It found that each year between 400,000 and a million people (at the upper end one person every 30 seconds) are dying in developing countries from illnesses and diseases like diarrhoea, malaria and cancers caused by living near uncollected waste and plastic pollution.

The report calls on multinational companies to commit to reporting the number of single-use plastic items they distribute in developing countries by 2020, and halving this by 2025.

“This report is one of the first to highlight the impacts of plastic pollution not just on wildlife but also on the

world's poorest people,” Sir David, a vice president at Fauna & Flora International, said.

“It is high time we turn our attention fully to one of the most pressing problems of today – averting the plastic pollution crisis – not only for the health of our planet, but for the wellbeing of people around the world.”

“We need leadership from those who are responsible for introducing plastic to countries where it cannot be adequately managed, and we need international action to support the communities and governments most acutely affected by this crisis.”

Globally two billion people (one in four), don't have their rubbish collected. This often leads to disease and death. When rubbish isn't collected it often builds up in rivers and causes flooding, which can lead to diarrhoea and a host of infectious diseases.

Often the only other way to dispose of waste is to burn it in the streets, with the resulting fumes being extremely damaging to health as well as – in some countries – being the single largest source of carbon emissions. Dr Ruth Valerio, Global Advocacy & Influencing Director at Tearfund said: “Tearfund's new Rubbish Campaign calls for urgent action from four multinationals – Coca-Cola, Nestlé, PepsiCo and Unilever.

“They sell billions of products in single-use plastic packaging in poorer countries where waste isn't collected, in the full knowledge that people will have no choice but to burn it, discard it in waterways or live among it.

The full report can be read [here at the Tearfund site](#).

A guide to making our church more inclusive

How do you help those with disabilities to feel included in local church life? With a reported 99 per cent of all churches having a disabled person in the congregation, it is not an idle question.

Now the charity Livability has issued some guidelines for the best way to get started. 'Recognise this will be a process, and a journey that you're on. A series of conversations with people in your church who are disabled would be an excellent place to start.'

Livability has produced a report, *More Than Welcome*, which is a guide to churches to be more inclusive. Read it [here at the livability.org site](http://livability.org).

Church of England announces up to £155m investment in mission and ministry

Up to £155 million of additional investment may be spent over the next three years by the Church of England. The funds will aim to increase the number of people coming forward to train for the priesthood, support cathedrals, and help disadvantaged areas.

These spending plans for 2020 to 2022 will help build on the significant progress already made by the Renewal and Reform programme.

The proposals include the Church of England's drive to recruit 50% more candidates for ordination, the programme of Strategic Development Funding for major growth programmes in the dioceses, and the expansion of the Church's programme of digital outreach.

Over the past two years there has been a 23% increase in the number of people starting training for ordination to the

priesthood and the Church of England has embarked on a major programme to spread the Christian message in the digital sphere.

The proposals include:

Investment in recruiting and training new ministers – helping dioceses to meet the Church-wide goal of increasing the number of ordinands by 50%; and providing funds towards the costs of an increased number of curates;

Supporting dioceses in making strategic investment in change programmes designed to grow worshipping communities.

The continuation of specific funding to help dioceses to support mission in communities where income levels are low, places of greatest financial need.

The proposed plans include up to £155m to be made available for additional distributions in 2020-22 to support ministry growth including funds for:

Up to £63m for Ministry growth to meet the full additional costs of training ordinands.

Up to £45m of diocesan sustainability funding, mainly focused on providing funding for dioceses with financial difficulties.

Up to £20m for a social impact investment programme.

Up to £10m to help develop cathedrals' financial sustainability. Cathedral attendance across the country continues to see an increase and this investment will help to protect these buildings for future generations.

Church of England Alexa skill asked 75,000 questions in first year

Alexa, let us pray?

A year after its launch, the Church of England's award-winning Alexa skill has been asked more than 75,000 questions, according to recent data. The smart speaker skill was originally launched with prayers, explanations of the Christian faith and details of where to find the nearest church for local events and services based on location.

The data also reveals a trend of highest numbers of people using the skill in the evening. As a result of this, the Church's Digital and Church House Publishing teams added a wider range of mealtime, evening and night prayers during the year.

More family prayers have also been added, and integration improved with [A Church Near You](#), the national church finder tool, to show maps of where the nearest church is. A range of videos have also been added to bring the Christian faith to life and showcase the social action work of churches across the country.

In a typical week people ask the following questions by topic area:
 Read today's daily 'EasterPilgrim' reflection – 16%
 Say a prayer – 40%
 Explore the Christian faith – 31%
 Share a grace before a meal – 6%
 Where is my local church? – 7%.

The skill is average 4.2 out of five stars on the Alexa store, with comments such as "Love it - great example to the kids on how to pray".



Wilfred hoped to discourage any drones spying on the parish open gardens day.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, said: "The aim of the Alexa skill is to help users to know more of the love of Jesus Christ, to enable regular churchgoers and those exploring faith to connect with God in another way and at a time that's right for them."

Adrian Harris, Head of Digital at the Church of England, said: "We are pleased with the levels of engagement in the first year of launching the skill, which was built in just three months in 2018." The skill has also been recognised at a number of leading digital industry awards.

To activate the Church of England skill "*Alexa, open the Church of England*". A full list of commands is available on the C of E's [dedicated Alexa page](#).

From the Chaplaincy

In the last issue of the newsletter, we included an item on how one becomes a vicar. Here our very own Father Michael offers us his reflections on his journey.

Ordained Ministry: Looking Back

Somewhere in the bowels of Church House in London there is a document I wrote in 1970 setting out why I thought I should be a priest in the Church of God, and this document formed the basis of some interviews I had at a Selection Conference I attended later that year at a convent in Woking. Forty years later I returned to Woking to the same building (alas no longer a convent) to another Selection Conference, this time as a selector where I had been a selectee. It was one of the officials from Church House who assured me that my 1970 paperwork still exists, and that under freedom of information law I was entitled to consult it.

I don't think I will. If I did, I suspect that I would find the terms in which I expressed myself in 1970 cringingly pious; I might use different vocabulary now. And yet the sense I had that if I didn't do something about priesthood it would never go away, has in fact never gone away. It brought me to Woking in 1970 and it brought me to Bonn and Cologne a couple of years ago. One of the responsibilities I have been given by the Diocese is that of Assistant Director of Ordinands for Germany, which makes me a first point of contact for those in this country who feel they should be ordained, although I have so far not been greatly taxed.

I was ordained priest in June 1976 in Peterborough Cathedral in England, when I was asked "Do you think in

your heart that you be truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the order of this Church of England, to the order and ministry of priesthood?" At this point I definitely did not fall into religious ecstasy nor did the sky light up, but I was able with all my heart to make the required response "I think it".

A lot has happened in my priestly ministry since then. Perhaps what my ministry has lacked in stability it has made up for in variety. As with most Christians' spiritual lives there have been days, years, even decades, that have been better than others. But what has stopped me throwing it all in and, say, retraining as a chiropodist to the greater benefit of all is my abiding belief that I have been commissioned by God through his church for a task within it and, less awesomely but rather comfortingly, the traditional Anglican teaching that the unworthiness of ministers does not hinder the effect of the sacraments.

Michael Bullock OGS

In June Jenny Knudsen attended the annual Diocesan Synod as lay representative for our archdeaconry. This is her report.

Synod snapshots

Here in Bonn and Cologne, we're just two of the 300 congregations in over 40 countries across Europe – plus Turkey, Morocco and Russia – that make up the Diocese in Europe. The chaplaincies and archdeaconries of the diocese are widely scattered and hugely diverse, so regular opportunities to get together in person are crucial. One of those is the annual Diocesan Synod. This year's synod met in June, and I went along as the lay representative for our

archdeaconry: Germany and Northern Europe. With the diocese covering one-sixth of the earth's landmass, I was excited to discover where the synod would be held. Athens, perhaps? Helsinki? Casablanca? Well, not quite. Bergisch Gladbach. So I hopped on the tram, and off I went.

Diocesan Synod meets to consider matters concerning the Church of England as a whole and how they relate to the Diocese in Europe. Among other things, the members advise the Bishop as needed, discuss matters raised by the Archdeaconry Synods, and act as the Diocesan Board of Finance.

Each day is shaped by the rhythm of regular worship: Morning Prayer, Eucharist, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer. Then there's an intense four-day programme of sessions, debates, daily Bible study, presentations by guest speakers, and meals together. And much coffee and cake.

This year's main themes included:

Ministry: Young people's ministry, BAME ministry, spiritual direction, Ministry Experience Scheme

Mental health: Resilience, spirituality and well-being for clergy and laity

Safeguarding: Current challenges for the diocese and the resources available; update on training

Communications: Forming a supporting network of chaplaincy communications officers across the diocese; creating a communications profile that is visible, projected, attractive, engaged, and focused. I was elected to the Diocesan Communications Committee for the next three years and will share tips and ideas that could be useful for our chaplaincy, too.

Finances: Financial report for 2018 and budget forecasts for 2019

Church of England programmes: Setting God's People Free

Synod is a great opportunity to talk to interesting people with a wide range of views and backgrounds. As a first-timer, I very much enjoyed getting to know new people and finding out more about life in chaplaincies all over Europe. The days were long, and sometimes tiring, but I came back feeling invigorated from hearing about the diversity of vibrancy of so many congregations that we're linked with through the diocese.

Jenny Knudsen



An Abundance of Marys

As anyone who has ever said to themselves, “wait, which Mary was that now?” while reading the Gospels can attest, Jesus had a few Marys in his life (Read on, apparently Pope Gregory was also confused). With the Church celebrating Mary Magdalene’s Feast Day in July and the Assumption of Mary in August, late summer seems a good time indeed to consider the Marys.

What do we really know about Mary Magdalene?

Fake news is not new. Perhaps one old example is the assertion that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. Back in the 6th Century, Pope Gregory is said to have confused her with two other women in the Bible. Medieval Bible scholars also attempted to name an unidentified sinful woman who had washed and anointed the feet of Jesus. As Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the next chapter, they regarded her as the same person! After this, many classical artists painted Mary in various states of undress, perpetuating a falsehood.

So what do we really know about Mary? The Gospels tell us that she came from Magdala, a town in Galilee, and Jesus healed her by casting out seven evil spirits. After this she followed Jesus, with other women, on His ministry providing resources. Later, Mary watched Jesus die

on the cross, and having cared for His needs while He was alive, wanted to care for Him after His death.

It was when Mary went to anoint the body of Jesus at the tomb that the risen Jesus appeared to her. He told Mary to go to His disciples and tell them about His return to Heaven. She was obedient and became the first emissary of the resurrection. In those days, the witness

of a woman was worthless. Despite ridicule, Mary had the courage to speak about Jesus in a place of great disbelief. We have to ask ourselves do we have the same courage as Mary? How prepared are we to stand our ground to share Jesus with others in the face of those who mock and scoff at us?

Although we usually associate Mary with the Easter story, the Church celebrates her Feast Day on 22 July. In this snapshot of Mary’s life we know she had experienced great distress and suffering. After Jesus healed her, Mary expressed her gratitude by being utterly committed and devoted to Him.

Jesus can give everyone a new start; a new purpose and direction in life. Like Mary we can thank Him for blessing us, loving us and forgiving us and moving into practical forms of service. Only Jesus can transform our lives so that we can glorify God in all that we do.



‘Shall we not love thee, Mother dear?’

The Church responds with a resounding ‘Yes’ to that question, as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary on 15th August. An ancient name for this day is the transition of Mary – her crossing over to eternal life – or the assumption of Mary. But her story begins in the Gospels, in Nazareth and Bethlehem.

At the Annunciation, Gabriel announces the good news to Mary. She becomes a mother and embarks on a journey that takes her to the temple in Jerusalem, a wedding feast at Cana, the Cross of Calvary, and the upper room of Pentecost. Through Christian history her story has spoken to people in every age and culture and land.

As we look at her life now, there are two qualities that stand out. The first is thanksgiving. Mary came from a people that realised the importance of thanking God, and her response to the good news is to raise her heart in the words of the Magnificat. ‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour.’

The second quality is trust. Rowan Williams has written that despite the years of controversy about the place of our Lady, we still need to hold out our hands to her for guidance and succour. “For at the very least she is the first person to put her trust in God who is shown in Jesus.” Through all that happened to her – the amazing news of Gabriel, no room at the inn, the worry over wine at the wedding – Mary ponders and trusts. To the servants at Cana, she says, “Do whatever Jesus tells you. It will be all right. You will see.”

Thanksgiving and trust: easy enough to see in our Lady, but perhaps more difficult to own for ourselves.

Yet Mary assures us that with God all things are possible. Holding on to that faith, we can journey with her Son through life and death to eternal life.



Prioritising

Martha cooked
But Mary looked
And sat at the Master’s feet,
It’s a story of old
But we are told
It’s where man and God can
meet.

So much to do
But think it through
There’s a place for you and me,
To spend time with the Lord
And be found in His word
It’s where we are meant to be.

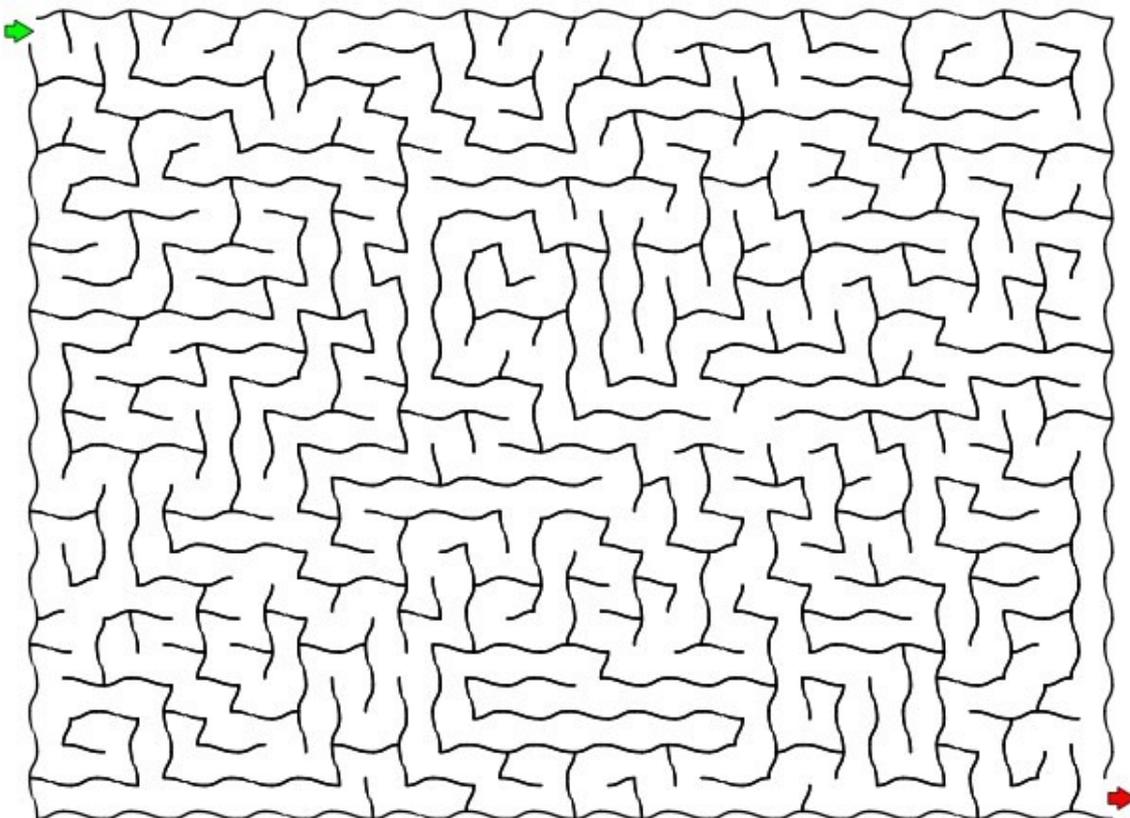
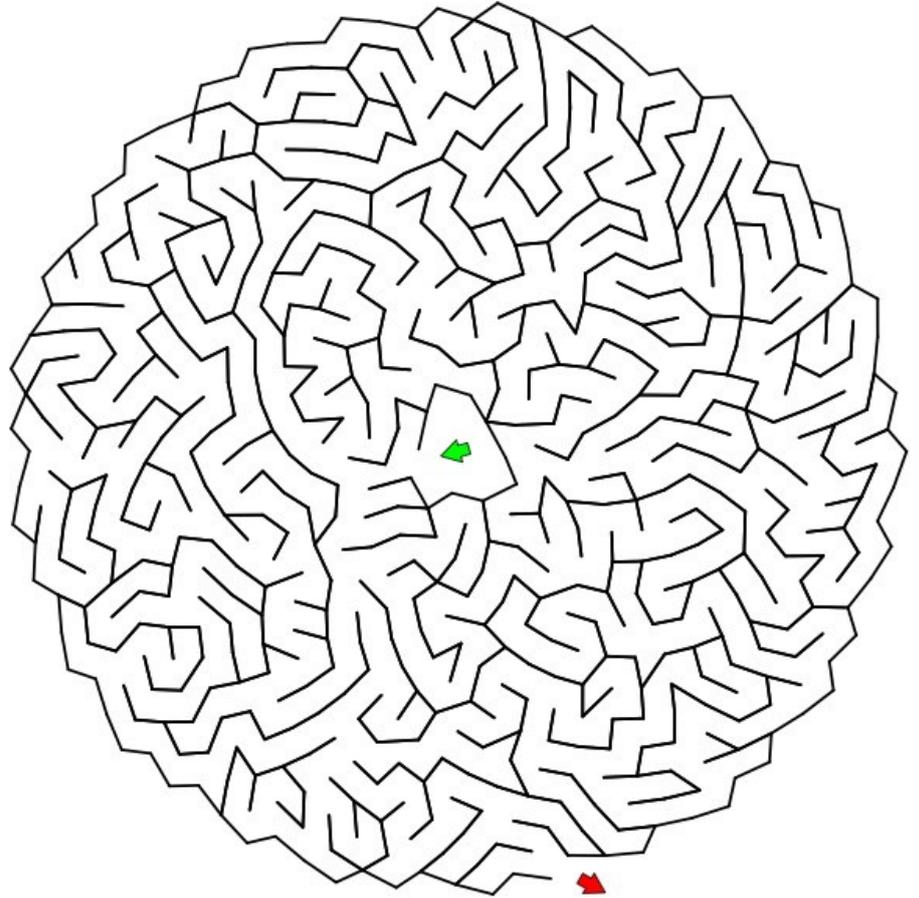
So find a place
To seek His face
Where the Lord Himself is
found
With a God who cares
Hears all our prayers
The place where grace
abounds.

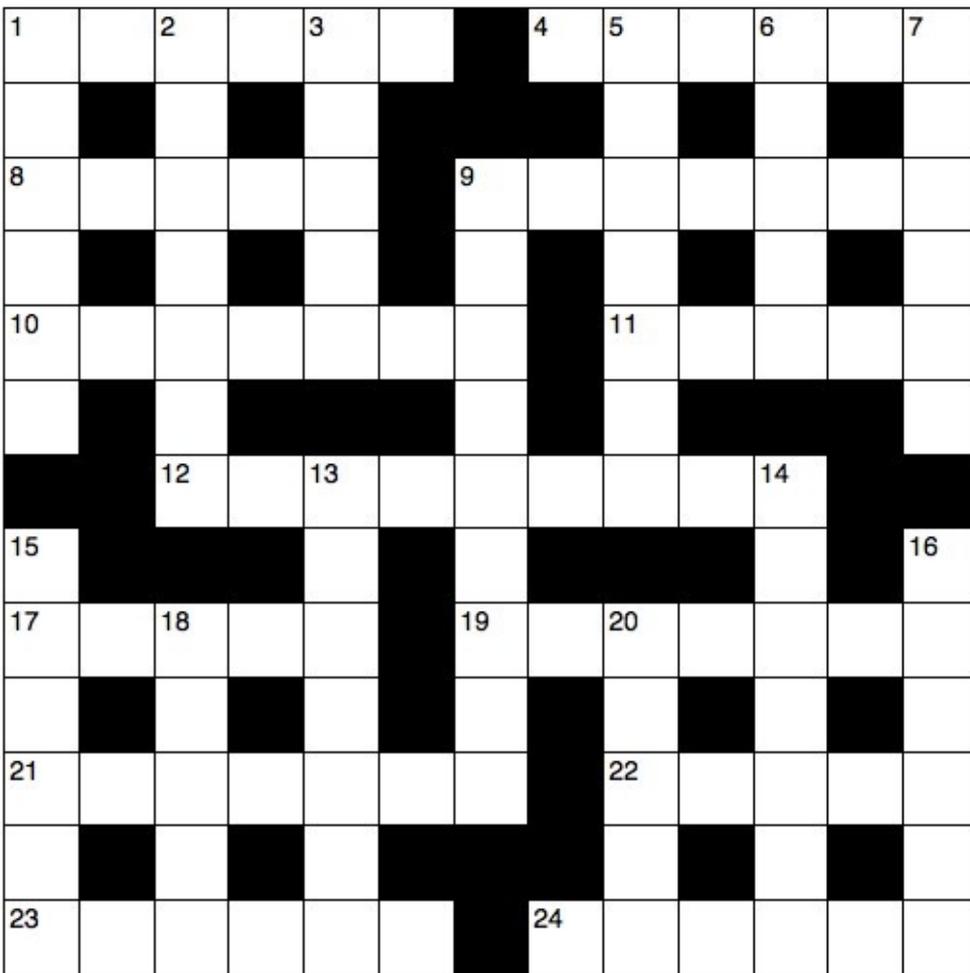
By Megan Carter



Puzzle & Activity Pages

For young and old(er). Get your pens, pencils and crayons ready! Crossword solution can be found at the end of the newsletter.





Down

- 1** To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10)
- 2** Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8)
- 3** 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18)
- 5** Tuba ale (anag.)
- 6** 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is —'
- 7** Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13)
- 9** Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10)
- 13** Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them —, that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8)
- 14** City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35)
- 15** See 12 Across
- 16** Rioted (anag.)
- 18** She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13)
- 20** Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4)

Across

- 1** 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22)
- 4** 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35)
- 8** He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14)
- 9** Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21)
- 10** One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35)
- 11** ' — thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer)

- 12 and 15 Down** 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16)
- 17** 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5)
- 19** Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23)
- 21** This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26)
- 22** David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25)
- 23** Detest (Job 10:1)
- 24** 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16)

Home-made goods for sale

Cologne member Patra Al-Saadi made flavoured oils and vanilla extract for the Summer Fete back in June, and still has some bottles of each available. The vanilla extract will need to age still, but should be ready just in time for holiday baking in December. The bottles are large, and would be good for splitting with a friend or two.

If you are interested buying a bottle or two, please speak to Patra or Carrie Andrews, or send an e-mail to **newsletter at anglicanbonncologne dot de**. All proceeds go directly to the Chaplaincy.



Movie Watching Club

Elizabeth Hormann in Cologne is interested in starting a movie and discussion club. More details will be forthcoming, but anyone who would be interested is invited to speak to Elizabeth directly, or to send an e-mail to **newsletter at anglicanbonncologne dot de**.



*Till next time
... in
September!
(...or maybe October)*

R	E	S	S	E	L		E	H	T	V	O	L	
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