



St. Augustine of Canterbury

Parish Newsletter

October 2016

Frankfurter Str. 3

65189 Wiesbaden

parish@staugustines.de

newsletter@staugustines.de

IBAN: DE48 5107 0024 0033 8020 00

Dear Faithful and Friends of St. Augustine's,

As I write this column, I am on my way back from the autumn meeting of the German Council of Churches in Augsburg. I represent all the Anglican parishes in Germany as a delegate and, for my sins also sit on the board. It is always good to meet and to exchange information and experiences with other Christian churches. We can do much more together, than apart. The first part of this meeting was a study day on the theme of Christian Freedom. Four theologians, on Catholic, one Protestant, one Baptist, and one Orthodox gave presentations on their perspectives. Of course there were differences, e.g. on the role of the church, issues of authority, but also some common themes:

- Freedom, and free will, is an essential component of our faith
- Freedom is a gift from God
- Freedom does not exist in isolation

The Catholic theologian (!) quoted Martin Luther's famous saying on Christian freedom: "A Christian is perfectly free and lord of all, subject to no one. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Or to quote one of our Anglican collects, we love and serve God "whose service is perfect freedom."

It is not as paradoxical as it sounds. We are free – but we can only exercise that freedom if we respect the freedom of others. We are free to choose whether we enter into the relationship God offers and created us for. Self-fulfilment is our goal – but our self is only fully realised in relationship with others. In freedom, we are called to follow Christ, a choice that expresses itself in faithful worship, loving service, and generous giving of time, talent, and treasure.

Yours in Christ,
Chris+

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Vestry Minutes

The Anglican/Episcopal Church of St. Augustine of Canterbury

SUMMARY DRAFT MINUTES

Saturday, September 24, 2016, 9.35 – 12.40 (Church/Undercroft)

Worship/Prayer

Governance

Formal meeting items:

Quorum established. Agenda no changes. Minutes of the last meeting approved.

Follow-up on action items: all completed.

Convention (2016 and 2017)

Bishop Pierre officially plans to retire by 31.07.2019 latest.

Council of Advice has asked all Vestries to consider 3 questions ahead of this year's Convention and the Bishop's retirement. Discussion and suggestions.

Council of Advice to meet in Wiesbaden 16 – 18 Feb 2017. Convention 2017: 2nd committee meeting in October. Treasurer to apply for a cash advance.

Community

Calendar overview 2016

Review of past events: Night of the Churches: c. 600 visitors. Tag des offenen Denkmals: c. 35 – 40 visitors.

Biennale: Beerdigung (Funeral): c. 2500 visitors attended over 10 days. 2 donations received.

Upcoming events: Victorian Music Box, 28.10.2016. Christmas Bazaar 19.11.2016: Committee appointed.

Jim White volunteered to be Vestry member. Evensong on 30.10.2016. Messiah 3.12.2016: rehearsals every Monday in November, 8-9 pm. Choir to include American schools and German choir singers. Tickets: change to donation principle 15€ per head to simplify matters. Vestry approved Messiah event taking place with a professional paid orchestra (c. 1200€) on the basis of free admission, but with a suggested donation of 15€ per person.

Events in first half of 2017: Chris+ will pass on dates of Evensong and Lunchtime recital for the Wiesbaden Events Calendar.

Exhibition "Zeugen/Witnesses" Nikola Saric in 2017:

To run during Night of the Churches in 2017. Chris+ has received a 500 € grant from the City of Wiesbaden Kulturamt. Estimated costs: 3000 €. No entrance fee to be charged (but donation box). Vestry approved proceeding with the exhibition while exploring further grants and donations.

Summer Lunchtime Recital Series

By: Madeline Bohr

What a Summer! The St. Augustine's monthly Summer Lunchtime Recital Series (Musik am Mittag) during the summer months (May to September) came to an end on 21st September. Despite Erika LeRoux' heavy schedule, she was able to find the time and the energy to present us with five performances of unusual and uplifting quality, with some of her very gifted musical colleagues and "friends". A total of 450 guests came to the concerts, and the Recital Series raised over E 2,000.00 for St. Augustine's in the course of the summer months. *cont on pg 4*

Vestry Minutes

Managing God's Assets

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Jim White. Handout. Brief review. Good overall situation.

Audit report (Peter Hellbach and June Dewell)

Three suggestions by auditors reviewed and discussed by vestry. Vestry extend their thanks to Peter and June for their careful and intensive audit. Thanks also to all concerned with financial matters.

Stewardship/Capital Campaign:

Cards printed for both purposes to allow year-round pledges/donations possible. To be distributed at Sunday services.

Endowment Fund Committee

Vestry approved appointment of Dieter Bölzing as a new member of the EFC.

Capital Campaign:

Chris+ reviewed the handouts summarizing expenses/income of our building renovation project.

Application for approval of the new WC has been submitted and hopefully completed this year.

Ranking of proposed projects for 2017/2018: Heating, tower entrance and east side, apse roofing, ramp for disabled.

Formation

All vestry members urged to complete the safeguarding requirements.

Mission and Outreach

Small groups to review our mission: 6 evenings to be hosted by vestry members with up to 10 participants.

Next Vestry presentation for Newsletter: Susan Pinnells. Presentation: Raymond Hodgkinson to present

the "3 Questions" and ideas on 2nd Oct.

All other Mission and Outreach and Formation agenda items deferred to next meeting, also discussion on church/building security.

Closing Prayer

Next Meeting: Thursday, 13th October 2016, 18.30, church

Notes: Susan Pinnells, Vestry Secretary, 24.09.2016

cont from pg 3

But even more important than the financial success of the series, was the artistic impression it made on so many. As a friend of mine put it, "I left the church a better person after hearing Erika play. For some magical reason, the world is a better place because of her music."



We are surely blessed to have Erika give so freely of her time, her energy and her incredible talent. Thank you to all of those who made the Lunchtime Recital such a tremendous success again this year.

The Biennale Performance “The Funeral” at St. Augustine’s

By: Father Chris

From August 25 – September 3, St. Augustine’s was the venue for Dutch artist Dries Verhoeven's performance "The Funeral" as part of the Wiesbaden Biennale. Every day a different concept or idea (some political such as the multicultural society, the welfare state, nature, the European ideal; some personal/social like the right to privacy, rebellion, innocence ...) were buried – symbolically. For the artist, it was a way of drawing attention to those values we are about to lose, if we do not act to save them. While the basic structure a traditional Roman Catholic burial ceremony, was the same each day, the “prayers”, readings, symbols and the mourners varied each day, depending on the theme. Once, when we “buried” the European ideal, I even got to play the chief mourner! It proved to be one the more popular Biennale events, I think over 2,500 people visited



the church over the 10 days. One day, due to the presence of "starlet" Gina-Lisa Lohfink as one the "mourners," drew a lot of media attention. I don't think I've ever seen so many photographers in one place



I went to every performance. I was always fascinated by Dries' creativity. Some evenings amused or moved, other made me a little uncomfortable at times. One headline said that the event “used imagination to initiate conversation,” it certainly did. Was this good for the church? While we knew of, and approved the basic concept, we did not know nor influence the content of the individual performances. So we took a risk. We receive some critical responses, both from within and without the church, but even more positive comments for us having allowed our church to be part of the Biennale. The church was



packed every evening, which we used to draw attention to our church and the Capital Campaign. We received a rental fee. Most of all though, I believe that an image as a church that feels it is part of the surrounding community, supports the arts, is tolerant and open, does not avoid controversial topics, and is willing to take risks is not a bad one.



Night of the Churches

September 2, 2016

By: Madeline Bohr

This year's Nacht der Kirchen (Night of the Churches) took place on 2nd September. The local media describes this as an event where the general public is invited to become inspired, to take a deep breath, to discover unusual things and to listen. Twenty-two churches and congregations participated in this 15th Night of the Churches in Wiesbaden.



St. Augustine's and the Old Catholic Church (Friedenskirche) received special mention beforehand as being churches which are colourful and tolerant ("weltoffen", literally: "world open" or open to the world) and worth the visit.

A total of **600** people visited our Church that evening. Activities started

with the ninth of 10 "Funerals", as part of the Biennale Festival (see Chris+ article for more information), in which "Innocence" was "buried". Following that, St. A.'s choir performed English and American religious music, which included everything from "Crown Him with Many Crowns" to "When the Saints go Marching in", to a most enthusiastic audience.

A very special treat of the evening was an impromptu musical program with Erika, and our every own professional singers – John Richards, Ivan Williams and Deborah Lyn Cole – whereby John's sung version of the Lord's Prayer was particularly moving. This was all followed by an evening service, which included evening prayer and Evensong. I'm sure that everyone who was able to attend this year's NOTC would agree that the

Source: www.wiesbaden.de/leben-in-wiesbaden/gesellschaft/kirchen-religionen/content/nacht-der-kirchen.php

Tag des offenen Denkmals

September 11, 2016

By: Madeline Bohr

For the first time, St. Augustine's participated in Tag des offenen Denkmals (Open Historical Monument Day). This is an annual event which takes place in the fall, with the intention of raising awareness and interest in historical monuments all over Europe, and is part of the European Heritage Days.

Our Church was open from 4:00 until 8:00 pm on Sunday, 11th September, and passers-by were invited in to become acquainted with the historical significance of our building. Just one of the unique points in our church is the fact that we still ring our bells by hand. Also, did you know that the bells, a gift from the State of Hessen in 1964, have names? The largest bell is "Augustine", the middle one is "Thomas" (named after Thomas Becket), and the smallest is "George" (patron saint of England).



A small group of bilingual "guides" was on-site to show approx. 35 interested guests through the Church. This is certainly an exercise we would like to repeat next year.

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Visit to Maja Speranskij's Exhibition "Einblicke"

By: Madeline Bohr

**Women of the
Church**

On 7th September, the women of the church were invited by Maja Speranskij to view her "Einblicke" / "Insight" in the wood-panelled historical Wiesbaden Library. Maja showed us the exhibition, and answered all our questions about what we saw - the quiet corners of big bustling cities, Chinese food culture, artisan workshops, small buildings off the beaten path, Asian love of game-playing and gambling, and modern-day, emerging Chinese life-style - the small mosaic stones which make up the larger picture of today's China.



In general, we were treated to very surprisingly private views into Chinese life. Thank you Maja for your invitation, your patience and a refreshingly new perspective on China in your beautifully crafted photos.

Susan Pinnells, Vestry Secretary

How long have you been coming to St. Augustine's, and how did you find the church?

We found the church in 1984 after we met Father Bean, the presiding priest at that time. He was riding his horse through the fields in Bierstadt and we got into conversation with him. We had our second daughter, Isabel, baptised at St



Augustine's that same year. From then on we attended sporadically until 1994, when we became more regular members. In 1995 I was confirmed at St Augustine's together with our older daughter Eleanor.

How long have you been on the Vestry and why did you stand?

This is my 4th term as a Vestry member (first two terms were during Father Bell's ministry). I joined the Vestry in February 2014 and am currently in my second term - each time serving as Vestry Secretary. Why did I stand? During the challenges of 2013/2014 I felt a strong call to serve our church, to deal with the problems that we were facing and to move on from troubled times.

What's the best thing about being on the Vestry?

It's a chance to see how the church really works, how decisions are made and being an integral part of that process. Being a Vestry member offers me that chance to make a difference, no matter how small, to our church. I hear different ideas, opinions, insights on each matter concerning our spiritual and administrative workings and I am honoured to be a member of a team that is tolerant, respectful and dedicated to serving our mission at St Augustine's.

What's the worst thing about being on the Vestry?

Getting to meetings on time (I have to cross the Schiersteinerbrücke). Sitting in a chilly church for 3+ hours. Worrying about if we're going to meet our financial goal for the building renovation project. Learning to agree when I disagree.

Note from the Editor:

Each month a member of your vestry will be featured here. If you have any questions you would like to ask please send them in for consideration.

Capital Campaign - "A Strong Tower"

The special bank account is:

St. Augustine's Capital Campaign

IBAN: DE64510700240033802003

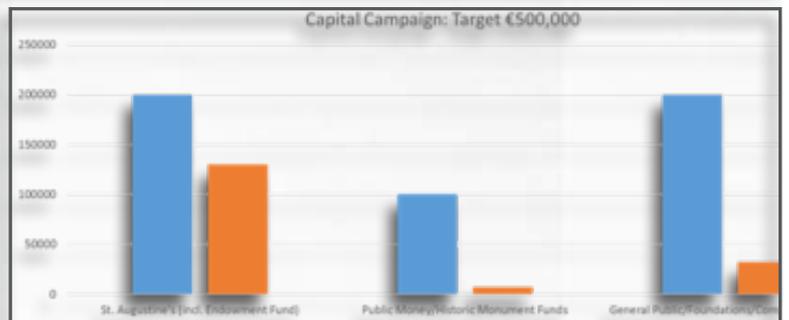
BIC: DEUTDEDB 510

Last month I wrote about those renovation/construction steps that are not very visible. This month of course I can report on a very visible construction project: the new glass partition, now including (after a little delay) the doors, just in time for the colder seasons of the year. The partition still needs to be decorated,

both to avoid painful collisions and to provide any mothers using the children's corner with a little privacy, especially if they are nursing. We will be asking for your ideas and opinions when choosing the patterns/symbols.

You will also be glad to hear that we have now handed in the official application for the renovation of the toilet and we hope that we will receive the permit in time to finish work this year.

During the September meeting, the Vestry reviewed the estimated expenses/income for the whole renovation project. Based on the current situation and realistic expectations, the following projects (in order of completion) seem feasible within the 5 year timeframe we gave ourselves for the whole campaign and program:



1. New heating system
2. Tower entrance and east side (sandstone, joints, sills)
3. Replace apse roofing
4. Install a ramp for disabled access (subject to third party funding)

Even with these restrictions, we still have a long way to go to raise all the money we need. Please use any contacts you have to companies, wealthy individuals, clubs or associations to ask for financial support for our campaign. As part of our annual stewardship campaign we are asking you to remember not only the general financial needs of the church, for our ongoing mission and ministry, but also the Capital Campaign. Our target from you, the members, is a further €25,000.



**Eine Kur für die
Englische Kirche:
Be part of it!**

Music Night

By: Deborah Lynn Cole

On September 30th was our 3rd Music Night at St. Augustine's. The participants and audience were enthusiastic and grateful for the opportunity to meet and share their music and that was our goal.

The PEACEMAKERS, the Christian Pakistainis Gill, Asher, Ibran and Haroon and our very own NELSON SISTERS were our guest artists. Everyone joined in the singing and with rhythm instruments. We even sang a couple German folksongs.

One of the refugees said to me afterwards. "Deborah, I am so grateful. Today I did not miss home." That is why we are doing this. So the refugees can start integrating and feeling more at home in their new home.

Thank you everyone who helped, participated and took their time to come and support this project! We couldn't have done it without you!



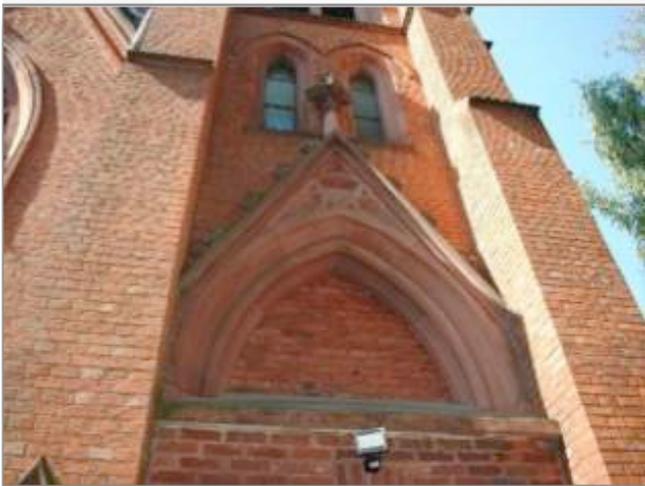
Hier renoviert der Pfarrer noch selbst

from Tina Lürtzing at the Mercurist

Am Samstagmittag ertönt lautes Hämmern aus den geöffneten Türen von St. Augustines an der Ecke Wilhelm- und Frankfurter Straße. Die Gemeindemitglieder, die sich draußen zum samstäglichen „Kaffeeklatsch“ versammelt haben, scheint das nicht zu stören - der hochgewachsene Mann, der gerade letzte Bauarbeiten vornimmt, ist Christopher Easthill, Pfarrer von St. Augustines. Die Kirche St. Augustine of Canterbury, auch als „Englische Kirche“ bekannt, ist eins von 26 Denkmälern in Wiesbaden und Umgebung, die am heutigen „Tag des offenen Denkmals“ für Besucher geöffnet sind.



Tag des offenen Denkmals



Der „Tag des offenen Denkmals“ ist eine bundesweite Veranstaltung im Rahmen der „European Heritage Days“, die der Europarat 1991 ins Leben rief und die der Öffentlichkeit den kulturellen Wert von Denkmälern vermitteln sollen. Mittlerweile nutzen jedes Jahr mehrere Millionen Menschen in ganz Deutschland an diesem Tag die Möglichkeit, Denkmäler zu besichtigen und mehr über deren Geschichte zu erfahren. In diesem Jahr findet der Tag unter dem Motto „Zusammen ist man weniger allein“

statt.

„St. Augustines ist ein lebendiges Denkmal mit einer langen Geschichte“, erzählt Pfarrer Easthill.

Die Kirche wurde 1863 im neugotischen Stil errichtet und von britischen Kurgästen für Gottesdienste genutzt. 1966 brannte das Gebäude aus und wurde anschließend restauriert. Bilder von der zerstörten Kirche und dem Wiederaufbau hängen in einer kleinen Ausstellung an den Seitenwänden. Im Eingangsbereich zeugt ein verkohltes, aber gut erkennbares Kruzifix von der Zerstörungskraft des Feuers. *cont on pg 17*

cont. from pg 16

Eine internationale, offene Gemeinde

Mittlerweile hat St. Augustines erneut Renovierungsbedarf. Da die Gemeinde keine Kirchensteuer erhält und die Bauarbeiten aus Spenden finanzieren muss, versuchen Pfarrer Easthill und die Spenden finanzieren muss, versuchen Pfarrer Easthill und die Gemeindemitglieder, möglichst viele Arbeiten selbst zu erledigen.

Gerade haben sie den Windfang im Eingangsbereich fertig gestellt, der gleichzeitig als Konferenzraum genutzt werden soll. Sie besitzen keinen Gemeindesaal, weswegen St. Augustine auch als Treffpunkt und Gesprächsraum dient. Außerdem sind Gruppenräume, eine Bibliothek und eine Küche im Keller untergebracht. „Wir sind eine internationale Gemeinde und offen für Veranstaltungen aller Art“, sagt Easthill, der glücklich ist, dass die Kirche vielfältig genutzt wird. Neben dem wöchentlichen Kaffeeklatsch und dem Kleiderbasar gibt es eine Reihe kultureller Veranstaltungen, die nicht nur von der Gemeinde organisiert werden: „Wir möchten auch eine Ressource für die Stadt sein.“

Schön, aber anfällig: Sandsteinbögen an der Außenfassade

Ende August wurde St. Augustines sogar zum Spielort der Biennale, als Gina-Lisa Lohfink hier die Privatsphäre beerdigte. Auch Konzerte finden häufig statt. „Wir haben viele Sänger aus dem Ausland, die Engagements am Staatstheater haben. Unser Kirchenchor ist zwar verhältnismäßig klein, dafür aber sehr professionell“, lacht Easthill.



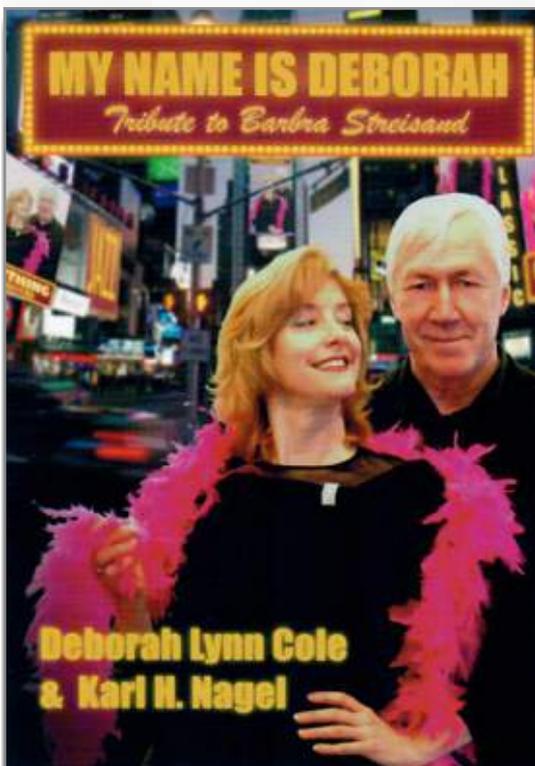
Out and About in Wiesbaden

By: Madeline Bohr

It is no secret that St. Augustine's has a congregation of very special people of different nationalities, backgrounds, ages and talents. Evidence of that is most obvious at our Time & Talent Auction. We discover that our pledge coordinator and staunch supporter of St. A.'s lived in France for many years, and is fluent in French (as well as German); that an internationally renowned tenor has a passion for Indian cooking; or that a long-time vestry member is an expert on military history and shows guided tours around European battlefields.

But did you realise that we have unique musical talent among us? This month I'd like to introduce you to some people who are so busy supporting our church in other functions, that you might not know about another side of their lives.

Many of you know Deborah Lynn Cole. You will see Debbie serving Communion, managing outings for the Youth Group, and singing in St. Augustine's choir - where she is not above singing the Soprano, Alto, or Tenor line, as required. She is presently involved in a monthly music project with Refugee neighbours from the ex-American Arms.



But did you realise that Deborah is also a classical, musical and jazz singer? Besides her upcoming performances at St. Augustine's (Victorian Music Box on 28th October, or Handel's Messiah on 3rd December), Deborah also sings professionally in and around Wiesbaden on a regular basis. Her next concert is "My Name is Deborah. A Tribute to Barbra Streisand" and will take place on 9th October at St. Nepomuk Church in Taunusstein-Hahn.

For more information on Deborah's background and her schedule of events check out her website: www.deborah-cole.de/en/deborah-lynn-cole-2/.

From all of us – a big thank you to a very special for all that she does for St. Augustine's.

St. Augustine of Canterbury

Frankfurter Straße 3, 65189 Wiesbaden



Christmas Bazaar



Saturday, 19th November 2016

10.00am – 4.00pm

Dear Faithful and Friends of St. Augustine's,

Our annual **Christmas Bazaar** is on **19th November 2016** and we need a lot of help to make it happen! We will prepare sign-up sheets for key areas, which you will find in a binder/folder at the back of the church.

These are for help needed on or just before the day of the bazaar, such as for people to help staff some of the stalls (book sales, British Women, Christmas decoration, Coffee and Cakes...), sell raffle and tombola tickets, and to set up, clean up and take down the tables and stalls, but also for **your help in making/baking/collecting/donating** many of the items we will sell on the day.

Here are some of the things we will need:

- For the (US) **Cookie and Candy** stand: cookies, brownies, homemade candy
- Homemade or second hand **Christmas Decorations**, stockings, bags, or candles, homemade Christmas cards and gift tags, second hand fashion jewelry and scarves
- Cakes to sell on the day at the **Coffee and Cake** stand
- Good quality clothing and household goods for the **Flea Market**
- Bottles (wine, spirits/liquor, soft drinks, perfume and toiletries, etc.), boxes of sweets/candy/chocolate, also nice gifts that you couldn't use for the **Tombola**
- Baked Christmas goodies, cakes, mince pies, short bread, sausage rolls, chutney, lemon curd for the **British Women's** stand
- Themed Baskets for the **Christmas Basket Raffle** stand

We will start collecting non-perishable goods from the beginning of November (except items for the Flea Market – 2 weekends before the event).

Right now we need your help in advertising the Bazaar and you will find posters and flyers at the back of the church for you to take with you and pin up wherever you can (and are allowed to)!

Upcoming Events

Victorian Music Box Evening

Friday, October 28 at 19:30

By: John Richards

Dear congregation, friends and music lovers,

Following the great success of last years Victorian Music Box we are offering you a second chance to hear some of the great old favorites and also seldom heard songs of this period of musical history.

The love between Queen Victoria and her (German!) husband, Albert, is well documented and our concert will feature songs and arias they loved, composed and even performed themselves.

Don't miss what promises to be a splendid evening featuring many of your favorite singers such as Deborah Lynn Cole, Sharon Kempton, Ivan Williams, Tami Jantzi and moderated by our very own master of ceremonies, the indomitable Rev. Chris Easthill.

I am also reliably informed there will be actual "royalty" in attendance!

We look forward to welcoming you all then.

Yours cordially,
John Treleven (tenor singer for the occasion!)

The Book of Love

An Evening of Songs and Poetry

By: Dorothee Dzwiewas



On Friday, 21 October 2016, at 7.30 pm fellow parishioners Dorothee and Paul (NORTH) will be performing together with Rheingau poet Gernod Pfeiffer in the Evangelische Kirche in Mittelheim. They will be opening the "Book of Love" for you, and presenting its colourful stories in word and song. Entrance is free, but as this evening is a fundraiser for the new Mittelheim church organ, generous donations will be welcome. Don't

Upcoming Events

- October 11: Theology Pub 7 pm (Bredvik's)
- October 12: Holy Eucharist (10.00 am) and Bible Study (11.00 am)
- October 13: Vestry Meeting 6.30 pm
- October 15: 11 – 2 pm Kaffeeklatsch/Nearly New/Book sale
- October 16: Holy Eucharist at 10.00 am
- October 11: Theology Pub 7 pm (Bredvik's)
- October 20 – 23: Convocation Convention in Munich
- October 23: Holy Eucharist at 10.00 am (Rev. Douglas Robinson)
- October 25: Theology Pub 7 pm (Bredvik's)
- October 26: Holy Eucharist (10.00 am) and Bible Study (11.00 am) and Bible Study (10.30 am)
- October 28: Victorian Music Box Concert at 7.30 pm
- October 29: 11 – 2 pm Kaffeeklatsch/Nearly New/Book sale
- October 30: Holy Eucharist at 10.00 am
- October 30: Worship Committee 12 noon
- October 30: Anglican Evensong at 5.00 pm
- October 31: Prayer Meeting at 6.00 pm.

