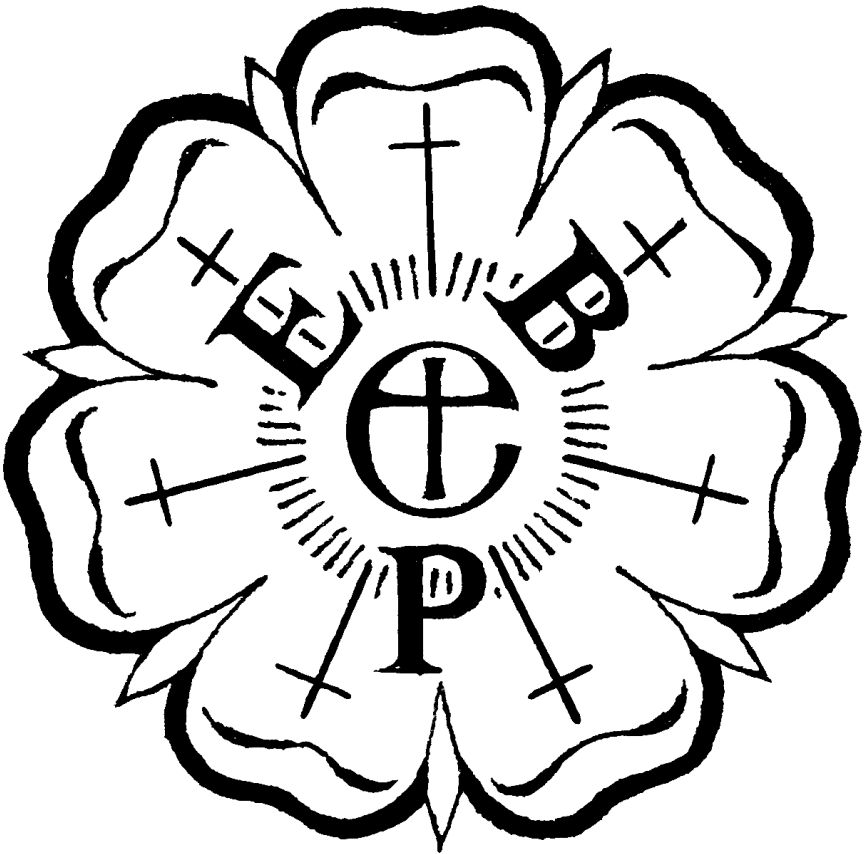


**East Bristol Partnership  
Quarterly Newsletter  
Spring 2010**



**Appeal from for Choir Members for Nick Adam's First  
Eucharist -Sunday 4th July - 10am - St Aidan's**  
*Keith Thomasson*

On Sunday July 4th at 10am, all the churches will be invited to meet at St Aidan's to celebrate Nick Adams' ordination as a priest and support him as he presides at the Eucharist for the first time. Nick has asked me to convene a choir for this occasion from all those who want to participate and all regular church/choristers. Furthermore all those who wish to participate in this way (who do not sing in church choirs) are welcome to let me know directly (please by the beginning of May). I am happy to hear from individuals as well as from choir directors. Names, contact details and voice part (if known) would be helpful too. I will then see what can be done musically and draw a team together to help it happen. This is going to be a really good occasion, so please come and join in!

My number is 0117 965 7740 (leave a message if necessary), or email [keiththomasson@hotmail.com](mailto:keiththomasson@hotmail.com)

Best Wishes,

Keith

**Why do I come to church?**

*Members of the EBP*

For the Spring edition of the Partnership Newsletter members of all congregations were invited to submit anything from a sentence to a short paragraph on 'Why do I come to church', with a view to reminding ourselves of the essence of what makes us keep turning up Sunday by Sunday. Here's what people have said:

“I come to Church because I believe the Church is God’s people, the Body of Christ through the Holy Spirit and that it is important to be together to learn from God’s word for us in the Bible and through prayer. I feel it is important for healing and understanding, discernment and communication to be together regularly. We need to celebrate together and care for each other. It is great to witness God’s power, love and grace together and offer ourselves in service.” – *Anon, All Saints*

“I like coming to church because it is my extended family. I think of the older members as old aunties, and uncles, and the younger members as little nieces, nephews. And the ones my age are as daft as I am. The fellowship and support I have had over the years has been wonderful. I feel especially lucky to have had such support in my life.” – *Anon, All Saints*

“I come to church because the Church, my faith and to worship God is a central focus within my life. I feel very comfortable with ‘High Church’ services at St Michael’s, and the diversity of service, which Partnership clergy bring. I enjoy church fellowship, and that St Michael’s offers welcome friendship and support. I always have and always will come to church.” – *Anon, St Michael’s*

“I come to church because it often feels right. Not always the thing I want to do on my ‘day off’, but it’s just the right thing to do. It’s often on the ‘reluctant days’ that I get the most from the service. Maybe it’s the lack of anticipation that makes me more open to new ideas or points of view from the Preacher. I have found that it is also missing Sunday when life is getting too hectic, is not the end of my Christianity, but a little gap makes

you appreciate how church life is a major part of being a Christian.” – *Anon, St John’s*

*Many thanks to the people who so beautifully and eloquently shared their thoughts and feelings.*

### **André Urbanczyk: Bad Reichenhall**

*Chris Whitehead, All Saints*

On Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup>, Helen and I were delighted to be able to attend the service, and other events connected with, the Installation of André to his new post in the Lutheran Church of Bad Reichenhall, Bavaria, where he has been appointed to serve. His post will involve in particular, working with young people, some teaching of Religious Education in the local schools, six lessons a week, as well as more general ministry duties, in the Evangelische Stadtkirche and several outlying villages.

The service itself was on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, and was in the context of a communion service, and took place in the main church building. Many local clergy were present, from the Lutheran Church, but also the two local Roman Catholic Priests. This is very significant as in Bavaria, more than 80% of the population is Roman Catholic, and Lutherans are very much in the minority, and thus André’s symbolic welcome by the Roman Catholic community is very encouraging. The service was led by the Area Dean, but representatives from important aspects of André’s Christian journey were there to bless him with a verse from scripture. Brigitte, a Lutheran minister already serving in Bad Reichenhall, and Wolfgang, the churchwarden, were representing

those welcoming André. Dieter, the minister who Baptised André at the age of 19, and Angelika, a ministry colleague from before André's time in Bristol also blessed him. I was very privileged to be able to do the same, representing André's ministry in the East Bristol Partnership. I chose as my blessing verse, Galatians 3, verse 28:

*There are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (JB.)*

It very much felt like that to Helen and I over the whole weekend of André's Installation. We really are all one in Christ Jesus, and Helen and I felt very much at ease, having fellowship with Bavarian Christians, worshipping together, all supporting André and Bettina in this new stage of their lives. This is something we have experienced many times in the past, and especially at Taize.

After the service there was a civic reception in the church hall, and I was able to say how very fortunate the people of Bad Reichenhall are to have André working with them, and to pass on the greetings of the people of the East Bristol Partnership to the Lutheran congregation there, and I was able to stress the common history of our churches, right back to Martin Luther, and the debt the whole church today owes to him. Additionally Helen and I gave André and Bettina a "photo montage" of the seven East Bristol Partnership church buildings, to remind them of their time in East Bristol. This was provided by the Partnership Forum. The day concluded with a lunch for André and Bettina, their families, and his two co-priest and deacon colleagues, town officials, plus ourselves. It was a great privilege to be involved at

this real “turning point” of André’s faith journey. We wish both André and Bettina every blessing in this new stage of their lives and work

## **Dancing in Fishponds**

*Keith Thomasson*

I am very keen on developing our involvement in the arts as we develop community and explore our faith. Within the Saturday Music School we have witnessed an increase in wellbeing for many involved, we have shared in pastoral care and people have explored questions of faith in a relaxed atmosphere. And of course our singing has improved!

Currently many faith communities are asking the questions, 'how can we relate more to our local communities?' and, 'how can we explore faith in ways which are stimulating but not solely focused on reading a book?

Releasing the compact disc last year, 'The Freedom Train' was a real attempt to engage with these questions. Through participation we developed community and contributed to the well being of the local community. It was mutually beneficial. There was a 'cascade of grace'. We received more than we gave.

This year, in working to explore developing the opportunity to encounter God in meeting 'the other' (those we meet whom we don't know well or at all as well as those we know already) I have secured funding for a dance project. 'Why dance?' I hear your wonder. Well-it is something I am no good at, but it is something that many of the young people and quite a few adults have

expressed an interest in. For example the dancing at Holiday Bible Club was a real hit. Also many of the families from the schools, church and local community pass through dance schools such as the Dance Station on Alexandra Park in Fishponds regularly. We have also found that exploring faith using craft, music, drama and dance are very popular across age groups and generations and something that seems to be developing well in East Bristol and which will have a very specialist facilitator in Nick Adams when his 'drama based' programme is soon introduced.

And so this June (11-13th), All Saints will host a dance weekend which will hopefully comprise a series of workshops for all ages and performance, which is fun in and of itself, but which will also help us all, whether dancers or not, explore the response of our whole bodies to God's overwhelming love for us. If I am willing to have a go, I am sure everyone else could feel confident to do so.

The London-based dance company, Elevate, will join us for the weekend as part of their national and international tour. This is potentially a fantastic opportunity for engagement with the local community in a fun and meaningful way and an opportunity to explore our relationship with each other and with God further. In addition to dancing there will be opportunities to reflect about God and dance and faith, share food, have fun games and enjoy some good weather (?!).

I hope you will feel excited enough to put this in you diary with this provisional programme):

Friday 11th June, late afternoon/early evening (welcome and

performance)

Saturday 12th June, day time (morning workshops and late afternoon performance)

Sunday 13th June, morning (worship including dance).

Any offers of involvement from: operating sound systems, offering daytime hospitality, a bed for the night for a dancer, front of house and CD sales are most welcome.

(tel.9657740, email keiththomasson@hotmail.com).

## **Partnership Website**

*Mark Gartside*

Many thanks to Jim Elliot of St Michael's, and Rus Clarke of Heads-Up Consultancy (former choir-boy at St Mary's!) for all their time and expertise they dedicated – free of charge! – to getting the Partnership website back up and running. Rus runs his own IT consultancy business, and I would highly recommend him for all your computer woes! Contact him on rusclark@headsupconsultancy.co.uk or tel. 0117 902198. And keep checking out the EBP website at [www.eastbristol.org.uk](http://www.eastbristol.org.uk)!

Deadline for Summer Newsletter is Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Email articles to [info@eastbristol.org.uk](mailto:info@eastbristol.org.uk), send them to me c/o St Mary's Church Manor Road, Fishponds, BS16 2JB, or ring 0117 9586412, mobile: 07918 903635. Thank you!