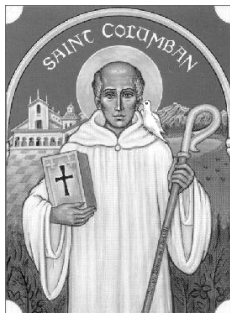


# Saint Columban's Newsletter



Saint Columban's Mission  
Priest in Charge:  
The Rev. Dr. Hanns Engelhardt  
D-76133 Karlsruhe, Stephanienstr. 72  
Tel.: (+49 721) 2 83 79  
E-mail: [priest@st-columban.de](mailto:priest@st-columban.de)  
Website: [www.st-columban.de](http://www.st-columban.de)

*“Peregrinari pro Christo”*

April-June 2008

*From the Presidential Address of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the opening of the General Synod of the Church of England*

...To start with, I want to say just a few words about the kind of conference that is envisaged, in part repeating some of the things I said last month at the public launch of the programme. The challenge has been to devise a structure for our time together that manages both to address the major issues and to refresh and inspire those who will attend. The twofold focus is equipping bishops for leadership and strengthening the identity and confidence of the communion.

There will of course be extended discussion of the proposals around the Covenant which we shall be discussing in this Synod also. We shall have the opportunity of several plenary sessions but we are planning fewer resolutions; and we have invited a number of high-profile speakers from public life as well as from other Christian communions to address us.

I respect the consciences of those who have said they do not feel able to attend because there will be those present who have in their view acted against the disciplinary and doctrinal consensus of the communion. Needless to say, I regret such a decision, since I believe we should be seeking God's mind for the Communion in prayer and study together; but it simply reminds us that even the most 'successful' Lambeth Conference leaves us with work still to be done in rebuilding relationships. The decision of some to be absent not only shows the deep

differences over theology and ethics that have so strained our connections; it also reflects, uncomfortably for us, some of the legacy of hurt that is felt by some of our provinces at what is experienced as patronising or manipulative or insensitive actions and attitudes on the part of many of the churches of the 'West' or 'North' - not only the Episcopal Church in the USA, but us as well. That's hard to hear, but we have to hear it and to offer apologies and seek for better understanding. Lambeth can't be the end of the story; and if at Lambeth we try to do proper justice to the idea of a Covenant, it must be in the light of that need for a more serious and profound mutuality between us all.

My point is that our mutuality in the Communion - and in communion itself - is not a matter of ecclesiastical housekeeping: it's also about helping one another to be the Church in any given place; that is, to be a community whose loyalties are to the Kingdom, not to any kind of cultural or political partisanship. It means hearing critical questions from elsewhere and not dismissing them as ignorant or irrelevant; it means challenging one another to act with integrity; but it also means a degree of care and hesitation about assuming at one that you know how things work in another context. Now our current style of electronic global communication is manifestly not designed to nurture these virtues, and it can have a toxic effect on all sorts of other areas of communicating with each other; and we remain, thanks to original sin, much in love with talking about, rather than with, one another at the best of times. My deepest hope and prayer for Lambeth is that it will be a decisively counter-cultural event. Whether or not we arrive at some unimaginable solution to both our theological and our structural challenges, I hope we shall at least have shown that it is possible to think and speak with one another in the presence of God. Now I think about it, that is of course what Synod itself seeks to do. So please continue to pray for the Lambeth Conference - pray that it may find new ways forward that will restore and deepen confidence in our Communion and trust between us, and that it may help to open up reconciliation for those who have felt injured or marginalised in any setting; but pray even more that it will be a context where, by thinking and speaking together in the presence of God, all of us may be set free to be more fully the Church God calls us to be wherever we may find ourselves - which is also of course the real issue in what I spoke about in the earlier part of this address. So may God in this Lenten season help us move more deeply

into the mystery of our baptism into the fellowship of the Crucified and Risen Christ.

February 11, 2008, ACNS 4369

*Bishop Whalon's Report on the Meeting of the House of Bishops*

Dear Ones,

I have returned from the meeting of the House of Bishops in Texas, and I would like to give you a brief report, needing some time to give you a fuller account.

It was a difficult meeting in terms of subjects, but under Bishop Katharine's exemplary leadership, the work was done with tremendous openness and participation by all the bishops. Nevertheless, it was also exhausting.

First, in reacting to the decision not to invite Bishop Gene Robinson, the tone was given by Bishop Robinson himself. He asked us not to personalize the matter, but rather to serve as witnesses for the people who have invested so much in his episcopate as a sign of their full inclusion in the church. He made allusion to the back-and-forth negotiations which he had initiated to be helpful to the Archbishop of Canterbury, with regret that they had not succeeded.

The House welcomed my suggestion that we make our presence a witness to Jesus' call to all to sit around the table, and therefore excluding people from the table of the Anglican Communion--including those who have decided to exclude themselves--is not a faithful way to deal with conflict in the Communion. We discussed possible ways to make our witness concrete.

(I appreciated Dr Michael Vono's reflections on the matter, which also appear on the Europe list.)

Second, we voted to depose Bishops John-David Schofield and William Cox, for "abandonment of the communion of this Church," as the canon says (Title IV.9). This means that they by their actions have violated their vows as bishops of this Church and left The Episcopal Church (not the Anglican Communion, as some misread the canon). Since neither man replied to these charges within the canonical delay, they were deposed. Had they merely challenged that assertion, no action could have been taken. Clearly, by their silence they were acknowledging that indeed, they have left us. Moreover, their actions have been directly harmful to the life and ministry of this Church.

We bishops took this action with great heaviness of heart. There were several wrenching moments. Many rose to speak of the two bishops' personal integrity. Most of these acknowledged, however, that following one's conscience, when it goes against the church and one's vows of ordination, must have consequences. Of course, depositions can be reversed, and the deposed bishop reinstated.

Third, the House agreed to enter a process that I proposed that would enable us to consider as dispassionately as possible the various theological positions on the inclusion of gay and lesbian people in the church. The Theology Committee of the House will name a panel of Episcopal scholars from across the spectrum of opinion to lead us in this discussion, which will emphasize the scriptural basis of the different positions. It is hoped that the outcome will finally be a teaching document of the House of Bishops. However, whatever the outcome, it will be a salutary exercise for us, as the House of Bishops has never discussed the question at all. I had to do a great deal of re-writing for the Theology Committee. I am very grateful to the Presiding Bishop, for her support of this idea since I proposed it to her early last year.

Much more was done, but these are the highlights that come to mind on my first day home.

Yours in Christ,

+Pierre  
March 14, 2008

### **New Church's Teaching Series**

'The books in the new teaching series for the Episcopal Church attempt to encourage and respond to the times—and to the challenges that will usher out the old century and bring in the new. ... It has no official status, claims no special authority, speaks in a personal voice, and comes not out of committees but from scholars and pastors meeting and talking informally together.' Its assumed readership are 'adults who are not "cradle Anglicans," but who come from other religious traditions or from no tradition at all, and want to know what Anglicanism has to offer.' (from the Series Preface of the editor) But that does not mean (at least according to my experience, HE+) that people who have been Anglicans for many years cannot learn a lot from them also. The Mission has bought a number of volumes of the series, They are very useful for study groups, but also for private reading. All members and

friends of the Mission are invited to make use of these opportunities. It would be great if we could form a group meeting regularly, and working their way through one of these books. Perhaps, we will be so fascinated that we decide to continue with another one. But this decision can of course be made only when we have finished the first book. The members of the group will decide which book to take first. If you are interested to be part of this, contact the Priest in Charge.

Meanwhile, we have obtained two more books, viz.

Welcome to the Episcopal Church: An Introduction to Its History, Faith, and Worship, by Christopher L. Webber, 1999;  
Dictionary for Episcopalians, by John N. Wall, 2000.

Members and friends of the Mission are invited to make use of these resources.

### **“The Eagle and the Dove”**

Anyone who would like to know more about our Patron Saint might look into “The Eagle and the Dove – The Spirituality of the Celtic Saint Columbanus”, by Katherine Lack, Triangle SPCK, 2000, £6.99 + shipping. Ask the Priest in Charge how to get this most valuable little book.

### **Our Services**

Our regular services in Karlsruhe are held, if not indicated as otherwise, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. in the chapel of *Luisenheim*; in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2008, i. e.:

April 6	— Easter 3: Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
May 4	— Easter 7: Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
June 1	— Pentecost 3: Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

You reach *Luisenheim* by public transport using trams to *Schillerstraße* (nearest) or *Mühlburger Tor* (from *Hauptbahnhof*, the direct line is 6). From *Schillerstraße* walk on the north side of *Kaiserallee* in the direction of *Mühlburger Tor* and turn into *Kochstraße*. Enter the gate of No. 2-4 and turn to the building to your right, showing the inscription “Luisenheim” on the wall facing the street. You find the chapel on the ground floor at the end of the long corridor, last door on the left side. From *Mühlburger Tor* cross *Kaiserallee* in northward direction (to the side of the red *Christuskirche*) at *Rathaus West*, and walk into *Südl. Hil-*

*dapromenade*. After some steps, you reach the Old-Catholic Church of the Resurrection. The gate to *Luisenheim* (Kochstr. 2-4) is just opposite to the end of *Helmholtzstraße*, the street passing on the south side of the Old-Catholic church,

A **children’s group** at the time of our Sunday service may be arranged by a group of parents of young children if we know in advance. Please approach the Priest in Charge or Todd Phillips: (0721) 75 65 80.

For weekday services see “Old-Catholic Church” (below p. 7).

### Readings and Psalms of Forthcoming Services

Day	First Reading	Psalms	New Testament Reading	Gospel
April 6	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	116:1-3, 10-17	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
May 4	Acts 1:6-14	68:1-10, 33-36	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
June 1	Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28	31: 1-5, 19-24	Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28	Matthew 7:21-29

### Known Birthdays in April, May and June

<u>April</u> 9. Michael Gast <u>May</u> 3. Bernd Osafo Opoku-Boadu 6. John King 19. Melanie Dunn-Fiedler 27. Thomas Edward King 29. Samuel Opoku-Boadu	<u>June</u> 13. Meredith Colleen Skelton 23. Mathilda Duthie 29. Elke Gebhard 31. Noah Francisco Nicolai
---	--

To all of these, blessings and most sincere congratulations! Remember them in your prayers!

We know very well that we do not know the birthdays of all our members and friends. So, if you miss your birthday let us know. Likewise if you know the birthday of any other member or friend not listed, who would not object to being included. If you should prefer your birthday not to be mentioned, do let us know also.

## **“If anyone is ill enough to call the doctor...”**

“...call the parson too”. The Church is always available to those who desire her ministrations in time of sickness. But we often do not know who does. So if you know of someone who is sick or otherwise housebound, and would like a priest to visit her or him in order to talk to him or to receive communion, the laying on of hands and/or anointing (cf. Letter of James 5:14), do let the Priest in Charge know as soon as possible.

## **Old-Catholic Church**

The Old-Catholic Churches, which gained independence from papal jurisdiction in the course of time, and especially in the 19th century, are in full communion with the Anglican Churches. For a time we were their guests with our services, and we are most sincerely invited to their (German language) services (Holy Eucharist: Sunday at 10 a.m., Tuesday at 7.10 a.m., Thursday at 7 p.m.) in the *Auferstehungskirche* (see above p. 6).

## **Clubs**

English speaking Clubs and groups in our region where our members and friends are always welcome:

**Anglo-German Club Pforzheim:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 19.45, Ratskeller, Pforzheim

**British Baden Club:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month from 8 pm, Restaurant “Prinz Eugen” Malsch (Information: Tel 07246-5992)

**Deutsch-Englischer Freundeskreis Karlsruhe,** Conversation Circle: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7.30 pm, Jugendheim Anne Frank, Moltkestr. 2a (Engländerplatz)

**English Speaking “Stammtisch”:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 8 pm, Flynn’s Inn, Hirschstr. 70, Karlsruhe (Tel 8303641)

**KONTAKT Karlsruhe** (German-American; opportunity for Germans and Americans to practice the other language): Information regarding time and place from Mr. Steven Miller, Tel. 0721-503139.

**Royal Canadian Legion Branch 001:** Tue–Fri 4–11 pm, Sat 2–12 pm, Sun 10 am–12 pm, Kirchstr. 9, Rheinmünster-Söllingen (Tel. 07227-991753, Fax: 07227-990979, E-Mail: RCL.Branch001@T-Online.

## Mission Statement

Saint Columban's Mission is a self-supporting congregation in the Anglican Communion under the jurisdiction of the Bishop in Charge of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe (Episcopal Church in the United States of America). It

- offers a spiritual home to all English-speaking residents of, and visitors to, Karlsruhe and the surrounding region,
- makes the Anglican tradition visible in the local Ecumenical environment,
- contributes—together with other Churches—to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people in the city and the surrounding region.

Firmly rooted in the Anglican tradition, St Columban's Mission is open to all Christians, regardless of their denominational affiliation. They are most welcome at our Services. The Mission is a member of the Council of Anglican Episcopal Churches in Germany, which organizes the co-operation of Anglican and Episcopal chaplaincies, and congregations in this country. It is also a member of the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen* (Council of Christian Churches) in Karlsruhe.

*The Priest in Charge may be contacted in case of pastoral emergency at any hour of the day or night. If he is absent or cannot be reached the following persons will be pleased to give all relevant information:*

*Dr. James Hunt, mobile 0172 726 5094*

*Todd Phillips, Tel. (0721) 75 65 80*

*The Blessed Sacrament is reserved permanently and always available for the purposes of Holy Communion for those who are sick or housebound.*

*The Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession and Absolution) and of the Sick (Anointing with laying on of hands) are also available for those who wish to avail themselves of them, by arrangement with the Priest in Charge.*

*Information about preparing for Baptism, Confirmation or Marriage can also be obtained by telephoning the Priest in Charge.*