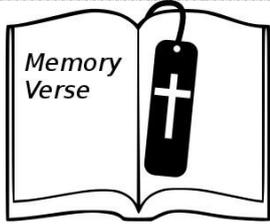




News-sheet December Gemeindebrief January



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in the land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9 v. 2*



For the healing of the nations

We pray for all countries where wild fires have consumed land, homes, livelihoods ...

For your prayers this month ...

Advent marks the start of the Church year and gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we use our time... Have you ever considered...

- reading in church
- leading prayers
- offering technology support
- helping with Sunday School
- becoming a chalice assistant
- helping with refreshments (setting up or clearing away after)
- act as an acolyte

Training provided for interested parties aged 10-100 ... Speak to Kara to book in
Happy New Year!



O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face;



through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Support St. Catherine's

Where will we be in two years time? No one knows what the future holds for them, but one thing we can say: at present the financial future of St. Catherine's doesn't look too secure. The current projection for 2019 is a deficit of well over €10 000!

We have fixed out goings: clergy salary, Anglican Centre rent, contribution to the Diocese's Common Fund, donation for use of church building... There is little we can do to reduce these costs, and in recent times our income has failed to keep pace with them. St. Catherine's receives no funding via Kirchensteuer, nor from the Church of England. All our income comes from donations. Many of our congregation are transitory, staying in Stuttgart for just a few years. In recent times the mix of people has shifted such that the level of giving has simply dropped, both regular planned giving and the collection at Sunday services. The generosity of giving hasn't changed, but the bottom line has.

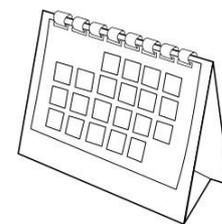
As Christians we trust in God to provide for our needs, but he also needs us to play our part, which is why we would like to ask everyone who values what St. Catherine's has to offer, to re-examine what you can do. If you are only passing through, an occasional visitor or a past member, we would also like to ask you if you could, in some small way, help to sustain St. Catherine's? If your donation is recorded (best via bank transfer) and we have your postal address, we can of course provide the required tax confirmation for Germany or a simple letter of confirmation.

If you are a longer term member of St. Catherine's, you can complete a planned giving form from the website and send it to finances@stcatherines-stuttgart.de.

Thank you to everyone who gives this their attention and reviews what their possible course of action is. We hope to be here in 2 years with the funding to carry on for many more! If you would like to know more, speak to Jackie or any member of the Church council. Thank you so much for your help!

• Upcoming events (see website for services)

- Wednesdays - 19:30: **Bible Study** check website for exact details.
- Friday 6th December – 18.00 - **Scratch Choir** rehearsal in the Anglican Centre – come and join our choir for the carol service
- Friday 6th December – **Men's Pub Night** – meet at the Weihnachtstmarkt
- Saturday 7th December – **Nativity Play Rehearsal** – 13:00 – Anglican Centre
- Sunday 8th December – **Children's Nativity** – contact Marianne if you would like to take part
- Friday 13th December – 16:00 - Adventsfeier for the group "Frauen anderer Herkunft, anderer Sprachen" – In the side room of St.Catherine's church. See website for more details.
- Saturday 14th December – 09:15 – **Prayer breakfast** - Anglican Centre – let Kingstone or Kara know if you are coming or just turn up.
- Sunday 15th December – 17:00 – Leonhardskirche – **Service of 'Lessons and Carols'**
- Thurs. 19th December 10:00: **Women's Group** in Anglican Centre for coffee, friendship and sometimes cake ...
- Friday 20th December – 17:00-19:00 – **Ecumenical Lichtfest Leonhardsvorstadt** (meet at Anglican Centre 16:30) (mainly in German)
- Tuesday 24th December – 14:00 – **Crib Service** – come as a Christmas character
- Tuesday 24th December – 20:00 – **Christmas Eve Eucharist**
- Wednesday 25th December – 10:00 – **Christmas Eucharist**
- Saturday 11th January – 09:15 – **Prayer breakfast** - Anglican Centre
- Thurs. 16th January 10:00: **Women's Group** in Anglican Centre
- Tuesday 28th January – 19:00 – **Ladies' Evening Group** - <http://www.zumhotzenplotz.de>



Children & Young People

Services for children:

Nativity Play (8th Dec.)

Crib Service (24th Dec.)

Epiphany Service on 5th January.

Sunday School resumes on 12th January.



Informal German Conversation

Resuming early January
Monday evenings from 19.00 - 20.00 in Anglican Centre
Welcoming anyone, including native speakers, to help members of the congregation and local refugees improve their language skills.

Baptism opportunity...

Sunday 12th January: Baptism of Christ

A celebration of baptism with the opportunity to renew baptism vows for everyone and baptism for the not yet been baptised.

If you or any of the children would like to be baptised please register with Kara by 31st December.

<https://stcatherines-stuttgart.de/about-st-catherines/sacraments/>

Keeping you safe

our Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer is Katy Kefferpütz who, should you have any queries, concerns or feedback, can be contacted at safeguarding@stcatherines-stuttgart.de

