

Extending a welcome

400 years Anglican Church in Hamburg



**Symposium organized by the University of Hamburg, Graduiertenkolleg
“Interkonfessionalität in der Frühen Neuzeit“**

Embracing Difference: The Tradition of Anglican Inclusiveness

Venue: *Danish Seamen's Church Hamburg Ditmar Koel Straße 2, D 20459 Hamburg*

22 September 2012 9:30-16:00

The history of the Anglican Church is characterized by a continuous struggle for inclusiveness. In the early years of the Anglican Church this strive towards comprehensiveness was primarily due to the endeavour of establishing a national Church enabling as many subjects as possible to feel part of a united Church and its creed. This intention entailed the famous *via media* of the Anglican Church, still an integral part of its identity today. The ensuing shift from national to international Church through trade, colonial and imperial enterprises lead to an internationalization of Anglicanism, thus further reinforcing the heterogeneity of the Anglican community. In today's postcolonial and globalized world, identities – national, regional, social or religious – are constantly being negotiated and questions of identity and alterity are particularly relevant.

This symposium sets out to explore the challenges of heterogeneity the Anglican Church has been confronted with in the past, is facing at present, and will have to negotiate in the future. Four contributors will analyze how the Anglican Church came and still comes to terms with internal and external differences: the cultural and social heterogeneity of its members as well as the relation to other Churches or positions of doubt. The aim is to explore the limits of tolerance and the malleableness of the *via media*.

The format will allow participants to share the thoughts of some eminent theologians and churchmen, including

- The Very Revd Dr John Arnold, Dean Emeritus of Durham Cathedral and Co-Presidents of the Anglican Lutheran Association
- Revd Canon Brian Mountford, Vicar of the University Church in Oxford, author of *Christian Atheist*
- Britta Eger, Pastor at the Christianskirche in Hamburg
- Dr Walther Bindemann, Faculty of Theology, University of Rostock

The symposium will be chaired by Susanne Rupp, Professor for British Literature and Culture at the University of Hamburg, and Dr Felix Sprang. A roundtable discussion will be moderated by Monica Schofield, Coordinator of the programme to celebrate 400 years of the Anglican Church in Hamburg.

In the evening there will be the opportunity to attend a concert in St Thomas Becket Church given by the Embassy Singers Berlin *Jubilee: Royal Music Across the Centuries*. On Sunday 23 September there is a parish Eucharist at 10:30 and Choral Evensong at 17:00 (where the preacher will be the President of the Mothers' Union) to which participants are warmly welcome to attend.

Registration for the symposium can be done via the website www.stbecket400.de (Events)