

Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Bayern

Die Oberkirchenrätin und der Oberkirchenrat im Kirchenkreis Nürnberg
Regionalbischöfin Elisabeth Hann von Weyhern
Regionalbischof Dr. Stefan Ark Nitsche

The Bishop of Hereford
Right Rev. Richard Frith
Bishop's House Hereford
HR4 9BN

United Kingdom

Nürnberg, July 8th 2016

Dear Friends in Hereford,

we cordially thank you for your letter concerning your country's referendum to leave the European Union. From this letter, from Bishop Michael's article in "Reflections" and from many discussions we know well that you have made a clear point in favour of Great Britain staying within the EU and we appreciate that very much.

Unfortunately, a majority in England and Wales have made a different choice. We share your pain about the outcome of the referendum and its implications: The hostility toward migration, the threats to the unity of the United Kingdom and the peace process in Northern Ireland and the dangers for the stability of the EU as a whole, whose benefits for peace, prosperity and freedom we cherish.

As political ties between our countries may become more difficult, the ties between our churches are getting even more valuable. We are looking forward to Judy Dinnen's stay in Hilpoltstein, the curates' visit, the choirs' exchange at Erlangen and to all the many meetings and encounters on the different levels our long lasting partnership has brought about and will continue to do so.

We are determined to stay united with you in fellowship and in prayers, encouraged by the second verse of John Ellerton's wonderful hymn:

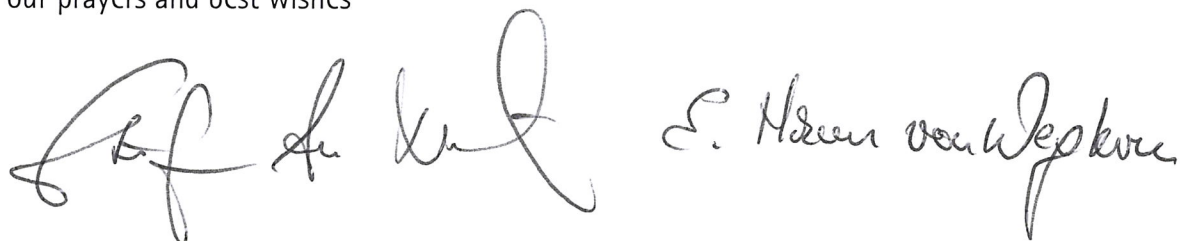
We thank thee that thy church unsleeping
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping
and rests not now by day or night.

Pirckheimerstr. 10
90408 Nürnberg
Telefon: 0911 358738
Telefax: 0911 361144
Regionalbischof.Nuernberg@elkb.de
www.kirchenkreis-nuernberg.de

And we feel comforted by the certainty that is expressed by its last verse:

So be it, Lord, thy throne shall never
like earth's proud empires pass away;
thy kingdom stands and grows forever
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

With our prayers and best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "E. Hagen von Jepsen". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.