



My name is Caroline Kemp, born von Rabenau. I am one of Pfarrer von Rabenaus grandchildren. My father was Eckhard, the 5th of Eitel-Friedrich's six children.

I and two of my four sisters (and our husbands) have come from England and are very proud to be here to celebrate and honour the faith, courage and conviction of our Opa.

I am especially grateful to have heard about this service, because I'm not sure we would be here today were it not for a God-ordained chance meeting with Pfarrerin Martina Steffen-Elis, when my family visited this church last summer while on a brief visit to Berlin.

Sadly, I never met my grandfather, but his legacy and influence lived on in our father, Eckhard, (who was also a Pastor) and has shaped us all nonetheless.

We have a particular and personal reason to feel grateful to him - our very existence is a direct result of his welcome to people of Jewish heritage.

Our mother, Margarete, grew up in the Bayerischen Viertel and as a child attended the local church there - until the Pfarrer made it clear that her family was no longer welcome because her father was Jewish.

They heard that they would be welcomed by Pfarrer von Rabenau here at Apostel Paulus Kirche and so they started attending here. Our mother, aged 10 or so, joined the Sunday school and became best friends with Hildburg, Pfarrer von Rabenau's youngest daughter. Eckhard found an excuse to tag along as often as possible, as he was rather captivated by her.

But then, at the age of 12, our mother and her older sister, Annette, were wonderfully (but also tragically) sent to England on the Kindertransport (the Quaker initiative to rescue Jewish children from Nazi Germany). The plan was that their parents would follow as soon as possible, but three months later war broke out and they never saw their parents again. She made a life in England.

But our father never forgot his first love. After the war he came to England to find her - and in 1953 they were married. And here we are! But that is a different story!

So, I'm sure I speak for the wider family when I say how proud we are of our Opa, but we (the "English" part of the family) have particular reason to be grateful to him and are delighted to be here to honour his legacy.

*July 2026*