

Aspects of Erlangen

One might be forgiven for thinking that the Bohlenplatz in Erlangen was named after an Erlangen gentleman called Bohlen, but you would be wrong. In the 19th century it was in fact called the Polenplatz as it was close to a building yard used by (“inferior/untidy” or whatever) Polish carpenters. It became the Bohlenplatz in 1872, a name that also referenced the “timber-yard” location, “Bohle” meaning a wooden plank in English. The reference to the “looked-down-upon” Polish workers was suddenly deemed inappropriate!

Those of you familiar with the Bohlenplatz will know that at one end there is an elegant church. This is the former German-Reformed church of the “Erlangen New Town”, begun in 1728 and consecrated in 1734. Built in the Baroque manner with no aisles, it was extremely well lit, and was once considered the most elegant place of worship in Erlangen.



In 1922 the two Erlangen Reformed Churches (Old Town and New Town) were consolidated into one, making the church at the Bohlenplatz redundant. The building was purchased by the Protestant-Lutheran (New Town) parish and renamed the Christuskirche and came to serve essentially as a “Gemeindehaus”. However, after considerable renovation work, it has now – since 2016 - become an attractive event location under the name of “Kreuz + Quer – Haus der Kirche Erlangen”, able to accommodate some 350 people.

The Bohlenplatz is also occasionally used as a location for flea markets, and I could add, is very popular with several of our members.