



**THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF
ST ANDREW, KYRENIA
in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf**

JANUARY 2024



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SERVICE TIMES FOR JANUARY

**A service of Holy Communion
will be held
each Sunday morning at 10:30am**



All are welcome

WELCOME

Thoughts From The Hermitage

JANUARY 2024



Happy New Year!

Monday January 1st marks the beginning of the year 2024 in the Gregorian calendar, named after Pope Gregory XIII, who introduced it in October 1582. It was a modification of, and replacement for, the old Julian calendar. The principal change was to space 'leap years' differently, so as to make the average calendar year 365 and a quarter-days long, more closely approximating to the 365.2422-day 'tropical' or 'solar' year that is determined 'naturally' by the Earth's orbit around the Sun. The Roman Empire would have called 2024 'MMXXIV', but in most contemporary (western) academic circles it will simply be the 2,024th year of the Common Era (CE). Like most, but not all, 'fourth years', 2024 is a leap year, which means you can re-use your old calendar(s) from 1940, 1968, or 1996; the days of the week coincide throughout 2024 with the weekdays in those three years. It won't happen again until 2052!

For Christians, 2024 can also be designated '2024AD' – or 'Anno Domini', after the division of history into those years 'Before Christ' (B.C.) and those after – the 'year(s) of our Lord' which is the English translation of the abbreviation 'A.D.' I was surprised to discover that this division did not actually occur until some time in the sixth century CE, and was made by an anonymous monk, who wanted to relate the birth of Jesus to the ancient Roman calendar. As my informant put it, "whether or not his calculation was correct, the beginning of the Christian era is assumed to date from the birth of Jesus – which could have been at any time from before the death of Herod the Great (in what we call 4BCE), according to Matthew's gospel; to when Quirinius was governor of Syria, (which was 6-9CE), according to Luke's gospel!" However, Luke also tells us that Jesus was baptised at age thirty in the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius (26/27CE) – suggesting a date for the birth of Jesus of 4-3BCE. If you're confused, don't worry! The simple truth is that we don't know exactly in which year Jesus was born; and I have never met a faithful Christian whose faith depended on it!

My own father didn't know exactly the month in which he was born – someone had lost his birth certificate – but he was 'fairly sure' that it was either February or March. He decided to celebrate his passing years each March, as that was when the daffodils came into bloom, and he liked them! And I suppose there have been millions, perhaps billions, of human beings, throughout history, who have not known precisely when they were born – not the date or the month or even the year; and sometimes not even where. The point, of course, is that it doesn't matter too much what number year we are living in - it's obviously convenient if we can agree what calendar we are using – but our 'earthly years' are, in the end, mere circuits of the Sun. Is not the true measure of a life its quality, rather than its quantity? What did this

person contribute to the common good? Is the world a better place for their having passed through it? Have they left behind good memories, and real reasons for celebration? Or . . .?

Whatever 2024 holds in store for us, both individually and collectively, I pray that you will use the time that is gifted to you as a priceless opportunity to turn always to Christ, and to follow more closely in the Way. The time is always 'now' for eternal God, and every day is 'new'.

Fr Alec Mitchell
Priest-in-Charge



Let us Pray

Creator God
at the start of this New Year
when thoughts turn again
to beginnings starting afresh
new leaves
and turning skeletons free from cupboards
be with us
as we gaze into the distance
of fresh mission grounds
of hopes and dreams
opportunities for service
challenges
and uncertainties
Take our fears and turn them into strengths
Take our lack of faith and empower us
through the Spirit
who breathes life into this world
whose presence is reflected
in the icy chill
of winter's breath
as well as the comforting warmth
of a summer breeze.
Walk with us into this New Year
of opportunity

Amen

ST ANDREW'S NEWS

Synopsis of October and November Council Meetings (Subject to ratification)

Safeguarding Officer: Linda Balfe has been appointed as the new safeguarding officer.

Christmas Services:

Saturday 16th December Nine lessons and Carols at 3.00pm.

Christmas Eve Sung Eucharist at 10.30am

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day Sung Eucharist 10.00am

Tea and Coffee:

From January 2024 tea and coffee will be served on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's.

If you are able to help please speak to a Sally Birt.

Thursday Service: An announcement will be made in the New Year.



RIP - WILLIAM JAMES GIBBS 1936 - 2023 **Warden at St Andrew's Church, Kyrenia**

At the recent *Celebration of the Life Service* to mark the passing of James Gibbs, held at St Andrew's church on Wednesday 20th December, several people were asked to share their memories of James.

Carol Blackwell-Gibbs:

My James

Where do I begin?

He was most of the following; Augmentative, stubborn, frequently late, how he was an airline pilot with a schedule, I am not quite sure. He was always right, but then most men are, and they say woman are!

He held strong political views, He and my son Mark had endless arguments about the EU. My son lives and works happily in France so that tells you what James's views might have been.

He was, Frugel – he had the best plastic bags and if I took one to wrap the rubbish in he would say - 'No you cannot have that one, it's my best one!,' He was one of the original

'preppas'. He always bought in bulk, from socks to batteries, he would have to get a bargain. He was not very 'luvvy dovey', well he went to Marlborough where a cold shower and a mile run before breakfast was the norm. I used to get a nightly kiss but otherwise had to wait until we shared *The Peace* in church on Sundays.

He had a sharp wit, way ahead of most people who thought that perhaps he was 'away the fairies' and unaware of what was going on in the room. He knew perfectly well! However he was a true old fashioned English gentleman who just swept me off my feet with that cheeky smile that made me crumble.

How did we meet?

We met in the Guernsey Aero Club bar. I had just flown some people to France for the day in a Tobago TB10 – G-LUAR which I flew. I was introduced to him as he was joining the local airline, Aurigny. He was looking for accommodation and I had a couple of rooms I let out. He quite cheekily said to me, I understand that you are in aviation? I thought this was a little nosey and replied, "Sort of." He then continued with "So which airline are you a Trolley Dolly for?" You could have heard a pin drop in the bar! "If you do not mind," I replied, "I am front left hand seat!" He was quiet for a few minutes as he realised he might have overstepped the mark, but I did become his Landlady!

Now daughters should always listen to their mothers, not many do, and that included myself. When it was obvious that James and I were getting very close to bonding our relationship, my Mother said to me, "Carol, are you falling for this man James? Be careful, he has not been married before and probably only wants you to make his nightly cocoa!" Later that day I told James the story and asked if was ready for his cocoa. "Cocoa he retorted, I cannot stand it!" Actually he did quite like it, but that was James sense of fun

As I said earlier he was not very 'luvvy dovy,' but he was full of surprises. A couple of years into our relationship on the eve of my birthday, nothing had been mentioned about any plans for the day. The following morning I awoke and there was no 'Happy Birthday darling'. I was fuming, but kept quiet. He got up and went downstairs. I thought OK, he had forgotten. A few minutes later he came in with a tray, two cups of tea and a rose! He went to the window ledge and pressed a button on a very old fashioned radio he kept. Suddenly Neil Sedaka's 'Oh Carol' blared forth *Oh Carol, I am such a fool, darling I love you....* What a romantic he really was!

He had a strong faith. He worshipped his way, no one else's. Standing up straight, hands by his side. When I sing praises I often raise my hand. James on many occasions, would then whisper in my ear, "Carol what's up? Is the roof leaking?!"

We both loved to travel and had visited his relatives in Australia a couple of times. Relatives who he did not even know existed until I came on the scene and made him research his family roots. His mother for one reason or another did not tell him that he had grandparents alive when he was 15 years old. A World Cruise was a possible plan for 2024, but we just got our timings wrong. Take a good tip from us, get on with your lives, do not stand still. Plan for the future but live for today.

Well my darling, we are thinking of you up in the skies with all your pilot friends who have gone before you, flying your DC10s and 707s. When our Lord calls me home I shall file my flight plan, leap into my Tobago TB10 and come soaring up to the skies to find you!
Chocs away!

From Bishop Michael and Julia: 'Our deepest love to you. If I say that James is unforgettable you'll appreciate, I know, the smile with which I say it.'

Dean Jeremy Crocker recalled his memories of James.

"I first met James at the Cathedral 8 and half years ago, and have since met up with him and Carol most months for a meal and catch-up. Many of my family and friends have enjoyed his company. He used to confide in me with things on his mind. He had a deep traditional Anglican faith with strong opinions, very involved in the Diocese - often quite stubborn and as Carol says a 'cheeky devil'. Very proud to be British loved this Church and the times each year of festivals and Remembrance.

His illness and passing has all happened so quickly, but the life he has had for the past 3-4 weeks was not for James. He was unable to walk beyond a few steps. I last saw him on Friday 8th December, ten days ago, where he struggled to eat some soup but chatted away constantly as usual.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: 'Nothing can make up for the absence of someone we love. It would be wrong to find a substitute: we must simply hold out and see it through. That sounds very hard at first, but at the same time it is a great consolation, for the gap, as long as it remains unfilled, preserves the bond between us. It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap: He does not fill it, but on the contrary, God keeps it empty and so helps us to keep alive our former communion with each other, even at the cost of pain. The dearer and richer our memories the more difficult the separation. But gratitude changes the pangs of memory into tranquil joy. The beauties of the past are borne, not as thorn in the flesh, but as a precious gift in themselves. We must take care not to wallow in our memories or hand ourselves over to them, just as we do not gaze all the time at a valuable present, but only at special times, and apart from these keep it simply as a hidden treasure that is ours for certain. In this way the past gives us lasting joy and strength."

Finally, Dean Jeremy shared a poem he'd written a few years ago which he dedicated to Carol.

'TO THOSE I LOVE, AND THOSE WHO LOVE ME'

When I'm gone, release me, let me go
I have so many' things to see and do
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears
Be thankful for our many beautiful years
I gave to you my Love, you can only guess
How' much you gave to' me in Happiness
I thank you for the Love you each have shown,
But now it's time I travelled on alone.
So grieve a while for me if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust
It's only for a time that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away, for life goes on
So if you need me call, and I will come,
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near,
And if you listen with your Heart, you'll hear
All my Love around you, soft and clear.

And then when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile, and say
WELCOME HOME!

Amen.

Carol asked me to include this message.

James was a passionate supporter of the Palestinians peoples. The hospital in Gaza, as you will know, has been bombed to smithereens. It will need to be rebuilt.
If you would like to make a Donation, in memory of James I have arranged with JMECA that donations given via the link below will be In Memory of James, (Jim). Thank you very much, It is much appreciated.

[//www.jmecca.org.uk]www.jmecca.org.uk Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza Appeal.

It's very easy and they claim the tax back too so the funds are increased!!!!

Carol x

If you would like to watch a recording of the survive this can be done using the following link:

<https://evt.live/memorial-service-for-william-james-gibbs-jim-21-08-1936-11-12-2023>

The UK funeral service for James will be held at St Bart's Church, Horley, Surrey Monday January 22nd at 1.30pm. Anyone who knew him is most welcome but please contact Carol for catering numbers. Email: carol@cansigorta.com



A most successful concert given by Ekaterina and Elena Stern was held at St Andrew's church on 19th December





A great start to 2024 as St Andrew's celebrated the baptism of Jason Eze during the morning service on Sunday 7th January.

We wish Jason every blessing.

FRIENDS AND PEOPLE OF ST ANDREW'S

As we read our newspapers and magazines, we learn that these are difficult days for so many. We pray for family and friends, and we pray for all those who struggle.



As most of us know St Andrew's Church is self-supporting, receiving no finance from outside. We give thanks to God that this summer has seen many making the journey to Kibris and coming to worship at our lovely church of St Andrew's again.

Of course, the reduced numbers over the past few years have left St Andrew's without the usual generous collections. If you wish to donate from wherever you are to support the work of the Church, you can make payments to the Church UK Charity bank account by cheque or bank transfer and details are given below.

Bank Details:
Bank – Unity Trust Bank, 4 Brindley
Place, Birmingham B1 2HB
Account No. 20372187
Sort Code: 60-83-01
Account Name – St Andrew's Church
Kyrenia UK Charity
BIC: CPBKGB22
IBAN: GB15UYTB60830120372187

Regular monthly Standing Order donations enable budgeting of church finances. You do not have to be a UK Taxpayer to contribute in this way. However, if you are a UK Taxpayer your Donations can be Gift Aided. Contact the gift aid officer at giftaid@standrewskyrenia.org for assistance with this.

You may ask what we do with your financial donations. In addition to keeping the church alive, in recent years the St Andrew's community have made generous donations to local charities including Tulips, The Sarioğlu Foundation, Karakum Special Needs School and internationally to The World Day of Prayer.

Thank you so much for your support.



Terry was sure he'd only cast four angels



TODAY'S WORLD

Ukrainian faith leaders condemn bombing wave

by JONATHAN LUXMOORE Church Times

RELIGIOUS leaders in Ukraine have condemned a wave of Russian missile strikes marking the start of 2024.

“We express condolences to Ukrainian families who have suffered and are suffering as a result of Russia’s terrorist actions — we thank the Ukrainian defence forces and ask God to bless their service with success and victory,” the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organisations said.



The body, which includes Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant leaders, as well as Jews and Muslims, said: “We call on all states declaring respect for human life and international law to condemn the actions of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, to recognise Russia as a terrorist state, and to provide Ukraine with the necessary means to protect life, including additional air defence equipment and aircraft.”

The weekend statement was published as Russian missiles and drones rained down over the New Year on Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa, Lviv, and other cities, leaving dozens of Ukrainians dead and injured.

The Primate of the Ukrainian independent Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumenko), thanked “air defence officers, rescuers, doctors and everyone helping Ukrainians survive”, and called for those “ruthlessly spewing the deadly venom of angry hearts” to face God’s “rightful punishment”.

“The Russian scoundrel commits international terrorism by mass-shelling the civilians of an independent state, inflicting more ruin, injury, death, pain and tears,” Metropolitan Epiphany said in a social-media message on Tuesday.

More than 500 Russian missiles and drones had hit Ukraine by midweek, killing and injuring 130 people on Tuesday alone, in the largest aerial attack wave since Moscow’s invasion almost two years ago.

Ukrainian forces were reported to have responded by counter-shelling occupied Crimea and the Russian border region, leaving at least 25 people dead in Belgorod.

Gaza mourns after air strike hits refugees

by MADELEINE DAVIES Church Times



A MASS funeral was held on Christmas Day in Gaza, after an Israeli air strike the previous day reportedly killed 86 people at Maghazi refugee camp.

“Heavy Israeli bombardment from air, land, and sea” continues in most of Gaza, especially in the refugee camps in

central Gaza, and in areas where Palestinians have relocated, following evacuation orders from the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), according to an update from the UN aid-co-ordination office, OCHA, on Saturday. Palestinian armed groups continue to fire rockets into Israel.

It has been reported that on 24 and 25 December there were more than 50 strikes on three refugee camps: Bureij, Nuseirat, and Maghazi. The IDF has said that, when targeting Hamas militants, neighbouring buildings were hit, causing “unintended harm to additional uninvolved civilians”.

Last Friday, an Israeli government spokesman, Eylon Levy, told Sky News that the incident at Maghazi was due to the use of an “incorrect munition” and “should not have happened”. But he emphasised that Israel was facing a “unique counter-terrorism challenge” and that it was “inevitable that mistakes will be made” and lessons would be learned. He was critical of the UN’s approach to relocating civilians, “funneling them to Hamas strongholds”, while Israel had set aside a designated safe-zone free of Hamas militants.

Writing on social media, Mr Levy described the UN aid distribution as an “abject failure, because it goes through UNRWA, an agency that covers up for and is complicit with Hamas”.

In total, the number reported by the Palestinian authorities as killed in Gaza since 7 October has exceeded 22,000, of whom 70 per cent are said to be women and children. Another 7000 are reported to be missing or under the rubble. An estimated 1.9 million people have been displaced. UNWRA reports that more than one million are seeking safety in Rafah, in the south, where “hundreds of thousands [are] sleeping in the open with inadequate clothing or materials to keep out the cold”.

On Tuesday of last week, it reported that an anti-tank missile fired by Hezbollah, in Lebanon, had hit St Mary's, Iqrit, in northern Israel. Nine Israeli soldiers and one 80-year-old civilian were wounded, it has been reported.

On New Year's Eve, buildings in Israel were lit in yellow in solidarity with the 133 hostages who remain in Gaza.

In recent days, some of those released have begun to speak out. In an interview with the Israeli Channel 13, Mia Schem, a 21-year-old French-Israeli woman seized at the Nova musical festival, described her captivity as a "holocaust". Shot in the arm, she had lost consciousness several times. Her arm had been strapped to a piece of plastic, and she had been held in a dark room, watched at all times and fearful of being raped. Her last days had been spent in a tiny room with other hostages, "one on top of the other inside a cage" — they had begged her, on her release, to tell others not to forget about them.

Nigerian gunmen leave scores of Christians dead

by REBECCA PAVELEY Church Times

SCORES of people died in an attack on Christian communities in Plateau State, Nigeria, which began on Christmas Eve and continued into Christmas Day.

About 195 people are thought to have died after armed gunmen attacked remote communities, destroying homes and property and killing people indiscriminately. Many are reported to have been burned to death in their homes.

The Pope, his Angelus message in St Peter's Square, on New Year's Eve, prayed for God to free Nigeria from such atrocities.

The charity Release International said that, in one village, nine church members, including the pastor, were murdered, and eight Baptist churches were burned down. In footage circulating on social media, a woman carrying a baby was seen being attacked.

Attacks on Christian communities in this part of Nigeria have been increasing for years. Tensions between the largely Muslim Fulani herdsmen and Christian farming communities have been inflamed over access to land and water, but Christians believe that religious persecution lies behind the rising violence.

The state government declared seven days of mourning.

The president of the Christian Council of Nigeria, Archbishop Daniel Okoh, of Christ Holy Church Interational, called for a stronger police and military response. "The burning down of houses, worship centres, and the destruction of properties worth millions of naira is not only a criminal act but also a direct assault on our shared values of peace, unity, and mutual respect. Such acts have no place in our society, and must not be allowed to prevail," he said.

The general secretary of the World Council of Churches, the Revd Professor Jerry Pillay, called on partners and Churches around the world to “raise their voice in prayer for equal human rights, justice, and peace in Nigeria”.

Release International published its latest *Persecution Trends Report* at the end of December. This warns that violence against Christians is expected to intensify this year in Nigeria, and also in India, Pakistan, and China.

“The persistent killing of small groups and individuals is spreading across the central regions of southern Kaduna, Benue, Plateau, and Taraba states,” the report says. Jihadists and their allies are attacking Christian communities, “dispossessing them of their lands by destroying their food supplies and forcing them to convert or flee”.

It estimates that, in 2023, more than 6000 Christians were killed in Nigeria.

Irish government acts to hasten reparation payments to survivors of mother-and-baby homes

by REBECCA PAVELEY Church Times



Silhouettes of children and the names of those who died in Bessborough Mother and Baby Home in Cork are projected on to Sean Ross Abbey, in County Tipperary, in 2021

THE Irish government is to carry out its own assessment of the assets held by church organisations, in a bid to speed up negotiations over reparation payments to survivors of mother-and-baby homes.

Discussions about who should contribute to compensation packages for the women and children who survived the homes, which operated from 1922 to 1998, have been under way for three years. So far, only one Roman Catholic order has said that it will contribute to payouts.

The €800-million redress scheme was announced by the Irish government in 2021; it is estimated that 34,000 former residents will be entitled to compensation. The scheme followed a five-year investigation into the homes, in which women who became pregnant outside marriage were sent, many under duress, to avoid what was then seen as scandal.

The Commission of Investigation report, dated October 2020, found that the harsh treatment of residents was “supported by, contributed to, and condoned by” the institutions of the State and Churches.

Seven RC bodies and one Protestant organisation that ran homes or were linked to them have been asked to contribute financially to the redress scheme. The Church of Ireland has been asked for a contribution on behalf of the Protestant-run Bethany Home, although the Church said that it “neither owned nor operated any of the homes”.

Copts attacked in Egypt, CSW reports

by REBECCA PAVELEY

THE site of a new church and homes of Christians in Upper Egypt were attacked before Christmas, in another outbreak of sectarian violence in the region, Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) has reported.

The site of a new church, in Al-Azeeb, Minya Province, was attacked by “extremist members of the Muslim community” from the area on 18 December, the charity said.

The village is home to about 3000 Copts. The government had granted permission for the church to be built, and foundations of the building were being laid, when a group attacked the workers and fired Molotov cocktails, which set fire to homes.

The founder president of CSW, Mervyn Thomas, said: “The torching of Coptic homes and properties highlights once again the urgent need for the Egyptian authorities to enact the law regulating the construction and renovation of houses of worship in a manner that guarantees the right of Christians to worship in community with others.

“We call on the Egyptian authorities to hold those responsible for this attack accountable, and to refrain from resorting to reconciliation meetings as a replacement for the rule of law, as they impose ad-hoc, unjust, and often unconstitutional conditions on the victims of sectarian violence, and perpetuate impunity for the perpetrators.”

COP28 agreement ‘stops short’ say Anglican Communion representatives

by FRANCIS MARTIN Church Times

THE Anglican Communion’s delegation at COP 28 has queried the robustness of the final decisions of the conference, while welcoming what it regards as progress in certain areas.



In a statement on Wednesday afternoon, the Anglican Communion delegation — which included the Primate of Central America, the Most Revd Julio Murray, and the Primate of Jerusalem and the Middle East, Dr Hosam Naoum — said that the commitment to a transition away from fossil fuels was “highly welcome”,

but noted that the agreement “stops short of committing to phase fossil fuels out”.

“While this decision is low in ambition, we recognise that it offers hope in different pathways for energy transition based on different countries’ circumstances. This aligns with calls from developing economies which need transitional fuels to meet the huge gap in their energy access and security,” they wrote.

The statement says that the agreements to build resilience in vulnerable communities offer “much weaker commitments to supporting the most vulnerable in adapting to the impact of climate change than we had called for”, and vows continued advocacy on behalf of those “most vulnerable to climate shocks including for many Anglican communities across Africa and the Pacific”.

Some progress has been made on establishing a loss-and-damage fund, but the sums need to be larger and the contributions mandated rather than voluntary, to “restore trust and reduce inequality”, the statement concludes.

Former UK Post Office chief executive to hand back CBE

by MADELEINE DAVIES Church Times

THE Revd Paula Vennells, the Anglican priest who was chief executive of the Post Office during the Horizon IT scandal, has said that she will hand back her CBE “with immediate effect”.

More than one million people had signed a petition calling for Ms Vennells to be stripped of the honour, which she was given in 2019 “for services to the Post Office and to charity”. On Monday, a spokesman said that the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, “shares the public’s feeling of outrage on this issue” and would “strongly support the Forfeiture Committee if it chose to review the case”.

In a written statement issued to the PA news agency on Tuesday afternoon, Ms Vennells said that she had not considered it appropriate to comment publicly while an inquiry into the scandal was ongoing and before she had given evidence. “I am, however, aware of the calls from sub-postmasters and others to return my CBE. I have listened and I confirm that I return my CBE with immediate effect.”

She continued: “I am truly sorry for the devastation caused to the sub-postmasters and their families, whose lives were torn apart by being wrongly accused and wrongly prosecuted as a result of the Horizon system. I now intend to continue to focus on assisting the inquiry and will not make any further public comment until it has concluded.”

Shortly before Ms Vennells’s statement, the BBC reported that she had been shortlisted in 2017 to succeed Lord Chartres as Bishop of London. The Rt Revd Sarah Mullally was translated from Taunton to the post.

Between 1999 and 2015, the Post Office prosecuted 736 sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses for false accounting, theft and fraud, based on information from Horizon, its online accounting system.

Almost immediately after the introduction of the system in 1999, sub-postmasters began to report unexplained shortfalls, but prosecutions continued, with hundreds sent to prison, including one sub-postmistress eight weeks pregnant with her second child. Some were financially ruined, and some have since died, including Martin Griffiths, who took his own life in 2013.

Second Sight, a forensic accounting firm commissioned by the Post Office to review Horizon, reported evidence of “flaws and bugs” and raised serious concerns about the treatment of sub-postmasters including the pursuit of prosecutions.

In 2019, the Post Office agreed to pay out £58 million after 550 sub-postmasters brought a group action. In 2021, the Court of Appeal ruled that it was “satisfied that a fair trial was not possible in any of the Horizon cases” and that “the failures of investigation and disclosure were in our judgment so egregious as to make the prosecution of any of the ‘Horizon cases’ an affront to the conscience of the court”.

To date, 93 convictions have been overturned. On Sunday, the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, told the BBC that the Government was looking at the possibility of exonerating all those convicted. Addressing the House of Commons, the Post Office minister, Kevin Hollinrake, said that the scandal was “one of the greatest miscarriages of justice in our nation’s history”.

A dramatisation of the scandal — *Mr Bates vs The Post Office* — broadcast on ITV, has brought the matter to greater public attention.

On Monday, the Bishop of St Albans, Dr Smith, the son of a former sub-postmaster, said; “I hope and pray that the public inquiry will explain fully the sequence of events, provide redress for the victims and hold to account the responsible people and organisations.”

Ms Vennells joined the Post Office as group network director in 2007. She became chief executive in 2012, when the Post Office was separating from Royal Mail as an independent company with its own board. She resigned in 2018 and stood down in 2019. *The Times* reports that, during her time as chief executive, she collected more than £4.5 million in pay, including £2.2 million in bonuses.

After the 2019 court ruling she said: “It was and remains a source of great regret to me that these colleagues and their families were affected over so many years. I am truly sorry we were unable to find both a solution and a resolution outside of litigation and for the distress this caused.”

Faith leaders call on politicians to eliminate poverty at home and abroad

FAITH leaders have released an open letter calling on politicians to make tackling home and overseas poverty a priority in this General Election year.

The letter, signed by church leaders and leading figures at the Christian development agencies Tearfund, Christian Aid, and CAFOD, says that the human cost of failing to take action now is "too big and too damaging to ignore".

The causes of poverty, it says, "have been neglected by our political leaders in the UK parliament for too long. . . As this new year begins, the cost of living scandal is clearly not over for the poorest people in the UK. Around the world, poverty holds too many individuals and communities back from fulfilling their potential.

"But we know that poverty is not inevitable — it's a consequence of political choices and priorities. With a General Election on the horizon, we call on our political leaders to make tackling poverty a priority. In line with our existing commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, this should include setting out clear plans to eradicate extreme poverty and reduce overall poverty by at least half, in both the UK and globally, by 2030."

The signatories include the Moderator of the United Reformed Church, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, bishops of the Church in Wales and the Scottish Episcopal Church, and the General Secretary of Churches Together in England, Bishop Mike Royal. They have made a commitment to "practical action, prophetic words and courageous campaigning" this year to bring about change.



THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY has been appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO) in the New Year Honours list. This is one of a number of awards for people who played a part in the Coronation in May.

The Dean of Westminster, the Very Revd Dr David Hoyle, is appointed a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO). Both the Archbishop's and Dr Hoyle's citations read: "on the occasion of the coronation of their majesties the King and the Queen".

On Saturday, Archbishop Welby *posted on social media*: "I am delighted to receive this award from His Majesty. It was a great honour and privilege to conduct the Coronation. This award reflects the efforts of the amazing team behind the service, and I am deeply grateful for their many hours of hard work."

“This award reflects the efforts of the amazing team behind the service, and I am deeply grateful for their many hours of hard work.”

The King intervenes to expedite boy’s burial

by MADELEINE DAVIES Church Times

THE King has given permission for a seven-year-old boy killed in a suspected hit-and-run car crash to be buried in the churchyard of St Mary and St Eanswythe, Folkestone, where the burial ground has been closed.



The boy, William Brown, was hit as he walked on Sandgate Esplanade, in Folkestone, on 6 December, and died at the scene. A 49-year-old man was arrested the following day, on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving, causing death by careless driving, failing to stop at the scene of a collision, and perverting the course of justice. He was later bailed.

In the days after William’s death, his mother, Laura Brown, launched a fund-raising campaign for a funeral at the family’s church, St Mary and St Eanswythe; any remaining funds would go to the church, “a place so dear to William’s heart”. William was a pupil at St Eanswythe’s C of E Primary School.

St Eanswythe, a seventh-century Anglo-Saxon princess, is said to have founded Folkestone Priory (News, 6 March 2020).

Mrs Brown wrote for the online appeal: “Our son’s service will be held at the St Eanswythe’s church and God willing we will be able to bury our son in the grounds of the church he absolutely loved.

“He was child of God and he spent nearly everyday after school in that graveyard. He would spend his time collecting conkers, foraging for wild garlic or generally digging, something that he loved.”

The churchyard was closed nearly 170 years ago, in 1857, and only one exception has been made for a burial in 1898, according to the Law & Religion website. Mrs Brown was told that it would take two meetings of the Privy Council to approve an application to bury him in the churchyard, and that the Council was not due to meet until February.

On Christmas morning, Mrs Brown drove three-and-a-half hours to the Sandringham Estate to hand a letter to the monarch's security team, *The Daily Telegraph* reported. In it, she asked whether the case could be expedited, "to help me bury my boy, so he is no longer alone".

A spokesman for the Privy Council said: "We are pleased that His Majesty the King, on the advice of his Privy Council, has granted permission in order to support the family in these tragic circumstances. The Brown family and the local community in Folkestone are in our thoughts at this difficult time."

A spokesman for the King said: "His Majesty was exceptionally moved by the family's circumstances, and pleased to be able to assist."

Mrs Brown, who also has six-year-old daughter, told the BBC that she had been "blessed with a miracle". She hopes that her son's friends will be able to visit his grave on their way to and from school. Her appeal, with a target of £10,000, has already reached £21,000, and the BBC reports that the funeral is due to take place on 13 January.



Surgery shouldn't be a luxury.

From a child injured by a bomb blast in Gaza to a woman with pregnancy complications in rural South Sudan, an operation can be a critical tool in saving a life. And yet, a staggering 70 percent of the world's population doesn't have access to safe surgery at all. Whether it's complex care or a routine procedure, the option just isn't there. So, in crisis zones across the globe, in overwhelmed wards, in remote field hospitals... MSF surgical teams are taking action.

With our specialist surgeons, nurses, logisticians – and your support behind them all – we have the expertise and the equipment to deliver life-saving surgical care wherever it's needed most.

The health impacts of climate change are already hitting vulnerable communities hard: people that MSF projects around the world work to support.

At Al-Mowasah Hospital in Jordan, home to our specialist reconstructive surgery programme, a team of expert staff works to treat and rehabilitate patients with traumatic injuries from across the Middle East.

It makes up one of MSF's most innovative and transformative projects worldwide... however, it's also one of our most resource-intensive.

The team in Amman is determined to change that.

Rodolphe Clair frequently checks the new app on his phone. He downloaded it after the solar panels were installed on the roof of Al-Mowasah Hospital. At the time of this interview, he had been MSF's logistics director in Jordan since August 2022.

"Here, we can see the energy produced and the carbon saved in 24 hours," he explains, gesturing to the screen.

"It's interesting, it even tells us that the 626 kilos of CO2 saved represents around 50 trees planted."

MSF has run Al-Mowasah since 2006, when it was set up to provide reconstructive surgical care to people with life-changing injuries from the war in neighbouring Iraq.

This was a new way of working for MSF, and the project was a success, that soon expanded its criteria to provide care for people injured in conflicts across the Middle East region.

Now, the hospital performs almost a thousand surgical interventions a year, but its commitment to innovation continues.

"For the moment, the solar panels cover only eight percent of the hospital's electricity needs, but we have a second plan to cover the car park, like the big supermarkets here. This should enable us to exceed 30 percent," says Clair.

As a large, modern hospital in a desert country, the Jordan project is one of MSF's biggest emitters of CO2. Its energy consumption accounts for almost a third of its carbon footprint, so the team knew this was an area they wanted to target.

Around the world, MSF teams are seeing first-hand the devastation caused by extreme weather events such as flooding and drought, and are working to provide medical care to people who have been hit by these crises.

The science points clearly to the fact that in many places, these events will become more frequent and more intense as the planet heats. MSF has pledged to reduce its global CO2 emissions by at least 50 percent compared to 2019 levels by 2030.

Some of the changes needed to do this are happening at a movement-wide level, for example, as we work to make our global supply chains more sustainable. But others, require local knowledge and an approach that's tailored.

"We have been in touch with local authorities and our hospital seems to be a role model to apply further in Jordan," says Clair.

"It has become a project for the whole hospital. The staff and even the patients are proud of it," Clair adds.

"It has become a project for the whole hospital," says Jean-Pierre Pujo, who has recently taken over from Clair and is now continuing to develop Go Green Amman.

"The plans for the next round of solar panels are already underway. The main challenge is to maintain the involvement and ownership of the project throughout the hospital, beyond the attractive effect of the novelty. "

“I think it's very positive that an NGO like MSF is not just interested in treating people, but also in its environment.”

Médecins sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is horrified by the killing of two MSF doctors in Gaza.

On 21 November, Dr Mahmoud Abu Nujaila, Dr Ahmad Al Sahar, and a third doctor working at Al-Awda, Dr Ziad Al-Tatari, were killed following a strike on **Al-Awda Hospital** – one of the last remaining functional hospitals in northern Gaza. Our thoughts are with their families and all colleagues mourning their death.

Dr Abu Nujaila and Dr Al Sahar were in the facility when it was hit on the third and the fourth floors. Other medical staff, including MSF staff were also severely injured. MSF has regularly shared information about Al-Awda as a functioning hospital and the presence of its staff in Al-Awda to warring parties. GPS coordinates were also shared with Israeli authorities yesterday.

We condemn this strike in the strongest terms and yet again call for the respect and protection of medical facilities, staff and patients. At time of writing, more than 200 patients are still in Al-Awda and are unable to receive the level of care they need. These patients must be urgently and safely evacuated to other hospitals that are still functioning although all hospitals in Gaza have been working beyond their capacities since October due to ongoing shortages, attacks and extremely high caseload.

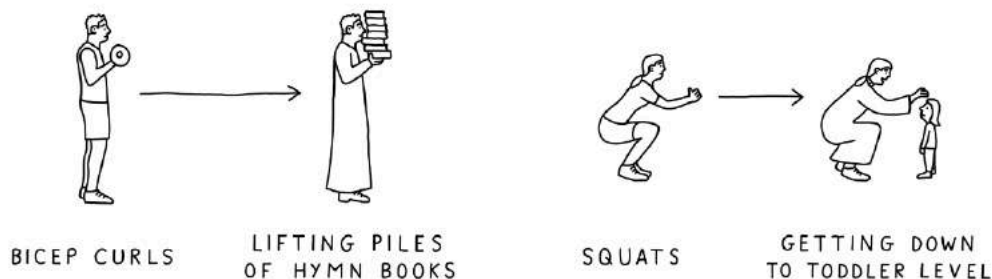
This is yet another incident that MSF staff have been subject to in the last few days. Our colleagues who are assisting hundreds of patients in Gaza are facing extremely difficult times in providing the little medical care they can.

Seeing doctors killed next to hospital beds is beyond tragic, and this must stop now. Attacks on medical facilities are a serious violation of International Humanitarian Law, and this has become systematic in the past weeks.



EXERCISES

HOW THEY PREPARE CLERGY FOR MINISTRY



Dave Walker



THE DIOCESE OF
CYPRUS AND THE GULF
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN
JERUSALEM AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Diocesan News

Bringing a Christmas smile to children at Kofinou

Co-ordinated this year by Deborah Graham (Secretary of St Helena's Church, Larnaca and Chair of House of Laity of Diocesan Synod), a total of 83 personalised Christmas 'stockings' were filled to the brim with wrapped gifts, and distributed to every child at Kofinou First Reception Centre in Larnaca District. This is one of the camps in Cyprus where newly arrived families seeking asylum are accommodated.

As in the past two years, the congregations of St Paul's, Nicosia; St Barnabas, Limassol; Ayia Kyriaki, Paphos; and St Helena's, Larnaca each filled the 'stockings', which were again beautifully made by members of the St John's Deryneia Community Knit 'N' Natter Group.



Our grateful thanks go too, to Mike Bradshaw and colleagues from FLEET Cyprus, FML Ship Management Ltd, who joined us in this initiative via their connections with Mission to Seafarers, and provided personalised gifts for 26 of the children.

Thank you to everyone who joined across parishes to bring Christmas joy to these children and their families, who have so little.

The Reverend Anne Fitcher, Diocesan Social Concern Officer

To human view displayed: from the Canon Theologian

Reflection—Canon Theologian John Holdsworth



I have been very struck by this unusual Christmas crib this year. It was assembled at the Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. Bethlehem is a largely Palestinian town situated in the occupied West Bank, and the crib is referencing the situation faced by fellow Palestinians in Gaza. The Pastor at the church writes: "In Gaza today, God is under the rubble. If Christ were to be born today, he would be born under the rubble. We see his image in every child killed and pulled from under the rubble." I am reminded by this picture of how sanitised our Christmas cribs often appear. The original Christmas accounts in Matthew's and Luke's gospels are far from the sentimental representations we sometimes adopt.

But there have always been attempts to draw us back to those accounts and to attempt to relate them to present experience in our society. Some concentrate on the line in Luke (2:7) that there was no room at the inn, and so focus on today's homeless and more widely on those who are excluded today from facilities that we might consider to be a human right, and necessities for human dignity. There are many people in our society for whom there is still no room at the inn: the poor who cannot afford it, those who are excluded because of their disabilities, and those whom we simply regard as too 'other' to be worth considering for a place at the inn. The implication is that most of us who attend churches are effectively the innkeepers, or perhaps the other guests who do not want our privilege disturbed. A carol written in the 1960s by Sydney Carter (who also wrote *When I needed a Neighbour*, and *Lord of the Dance*), *No Use Knocking on the Window*, was so savage in its accusation that it has been excluded from most modern hymn books.

*No use knocking on the window/some are lucky some are not sir
We are Christian men and women/but we're keeping what we've got sir.*

*Jesus Christ has gone to heaven/one day he'll be coming back sir
In this house he will be welcome/but we hope he won't be black sir.*

Others concentrate on the squalor of giving birth in a stable amongst the straw and the manure and reflect on the irony that God chose to be present in our world in this way. Carols speak of a birth 'away in a manger, with no crib for a bed' or 'in lowly cattle shed'. So often when we hear these sung by small children or accomplished choirs in College Chapels, we fail to be struck by the enormity of what they describe. The Welsh hymn sung at the traditional dawn service on Christmas morning *O deued pob Cristion I Fethlem yr awrhon* (*Let every Christian now come to Bethlehem*) goes out of its way to describe the 'coldness' of the event. *Heb le yn y llety, heb aelwyd heb wely, Nadolig fel hynny gadd hwn.* (*With no place at the inn, without a hearth and without a bed – that was the sort of Christmas birth he had*). *Hearth*, in Welsh culture, summons up so much more than 'fireplace'. It describes

the warm focus of family life, the place of friendly gathering, a place of belonging, the area around which a home is built. Indeed the expression 'hearth and home' is sometimes heard in English as well.

The Bethlehem Lutheran crib introduces a further element: the incredible contrasts that it suggests. We see the gentleness and vulnerability of a small child surrounded by violence and destruction. We imagine the great joy of bringing new life into the world contrasted with the danger that a small vulnerable child faces in the midst of a war zone. We see the world of adults contrasted with the simple and innocent world of children.

Matthew's account references these kinds of ironies and contrasts in two ways: one intentional and one less so. The intentional one is the story of Herod who decrees that all children in Bethlehem should be killed lest anyone grow to be a threat to his power. The more inadvertent one is the reference back to Isaiah 7:14, "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and he shall be called Emmanuel which means God is with us," (1:23). Matthew's chief concern is with the status of the mother, who in the Greek version of the Old Testament that he quotes is described as a virgin. In the original Hebrew it would be truer to describe her simply as a young woman but that is not the point for Isaiah in any case. He is writing for people under siege in Jerusalem from foreign armies. There is little food, and disease is rife, people are dying and everything looks hopeless. The prophet's message is one of encouragement. He points to a new birth in the city and says this is evidence that God is present with his people, and so they should have hope. That bears an uncanny resemblance to the situation in Gaza.

We are used to the events of Holy Week being given contemporary reference. Bishop Timothy Rees's famous hymn, *O Crucified Redeemer*, is a good example.

Wherever love is outraged/wherever hope is killed
where man still wrongs his brother man/thy Passion is fulfilled.
We see thy tortured body/we see the wounds that bleed
where brotherhood hangs crucified/nailed to the cross of greed.

The Iona Community founder George Macleod is often quoted in similar vein.

"I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the centre of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town garbage heap; at a crossroad so cosmopolitan that they had to write His title in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek; at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where He died. And that is what He died about."

The Gaza crib reminds us that Jesus was not born in a church Christmas crib, but was born to helpless parents, in squalor and danger, to a world that from the outset was hostile and that forced him and his family to be refugees; and that offered little prospect of worthwhile life. Yet he was recognised by ordinary folk, tending their sheep as well as by astrologers who saw his destiny in the stars. And he changed our world. And the Gospel writer, Matthew, wrote to convince us, even us, that God is still with us, is still our source of hope and life, is still the standard by which we judge the affairs of humankind, and is with us till the end of time.

John Holdsworth, Canon Theologian

Reflecting on faith at COP28

Post author: Helen Perry

The recent UN Climate Change Conference—COP28, held in Dubai—was the first such event to have an on-site Faith Pavilion, and members of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf played a significant role in the gathering.

The Pavilion was hosted by the Muslim Council of Elders, in collaboration with the COP28 Presidency, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and a diverse coalition of global partners including the Interfaith Centre for Sustainable Development, the Episcopal Diocese of California, the Peace Department, the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD), and over 50 faith organizations. Pope Francis delivered an inaugural video address on 3 December.

The Faith Pavilion represented global and multifaith collaboration in addressing the human-made climate emergency. Situated at the heart of COP28 next to the World Climate Action Summit and negotiation zones, the Faith Pavilion hosted more than 60 sessions, bringing together religious and other civil society representatives, Indigenous Peoples, scientists, youth, and political leaders.

Christ Church Jebel Ali also hosted a number of events in cooperation with the Anglican Alliance, including an Ecumenical Service and Talanoa Dialogue about the impact of climate change and proposals for addressing this critical issue. Two webinars, hosted by the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East under the theme “The Middle East, Climate Change, and COP28”, were attended by David Axtel of St Christopher’s Cathedral in Bahrain, Samer Najm of Christ Church Jebel Ali, Father Prem Mitra of Holy Trinity Dubai, and Father Jim Young of Christ Church, while Mother Christine Trainor of St Andrew Abu Dhabi served as an official representative of The Episcopal Church, USA, participating in a number of events.

The Reverend Jim Young, Christ Church Jebel Ali

Archbishop Hosam at COP28

Archbishop Hosam addressed COP28 participants meeting in the UAE, saying that the summit’s efforts to tackle climate change can “contribute to the conversation about reconciliation”, as the war in Gaza continues.

“I believe all people of faith and goodwill are watching with grief and devastation at the killing of innocents on every side,” said Archbishop Hosam. “But it’s also important for me to be here to advocate for peace, for a ceasefire, for the end of war, and for both Palestinians and Israelis to be able to live a decent and secure life.



"I believe that, as much as we have to keep advocating for human rights, we have to keep advocating for the well-being of our climate, of our earth, of our environment, because that is home for us. I believe talking about climate change, even in the midst of conflict, will contribute to the conversation about reconciliation, about coming together, about common ground.

"That is why I think being here at COP28 will add to the conversation that conflict and violence are not an end in themselves. We need to bring all the positive, hope-filled factors to the conversation, so that we can bring transformation to our troubled world and region."

A new priest for Limassol

Archbishop Hosam, acting Bishop of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, and the churchwardens of the parish of Limassol are pleased to announce the appointment of the Reverend Deborah Lee Moorgas, following the retirement of the Reverend Ian Nicholson in October 2023.



Currently priest-in-charge of two congregations in the Diocese of Natal in South Africa, Deborah also works as a marine insurance broker for an international company. She will take up her new post as parish priest of St Barnabas Limassol and St Lazarus Pissouri in April. A licensing service will be held at a date to be arranged.

Please pray for Deborah as she prepares for this new adventure in ministry, and for the people of the parish of Limassol.





Now compiled by Rev Gill Nisbet and the Barnabas Team
Epiphany: The Light in the Darkness



The Adoration of the Magi by Peter Brueghel the Younger (1595)

Epiphany celebrates the revelation and manifestation of Christ the King to the Magi, and, ultimately to the gentile world.

In his autobiography, John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, shares his Emmaus Road (Epiphany) experience like this: 'In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where someone was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before midnight, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death' (John Wesley 1738).

Epiphanies are those 'Aha' moments that simply turn our lives around. Those times when we see and experience something in God's world that turn our lives around full circle. Watching those celebrated Christmas movies such as 'A Christmas Carol' and 'The Grinch', we see peoples lives turned around by something that happens to them. Lives that come to see things in a new way.

When you reflect on your life, what have been the God filled moments where you have experienced something that has changed your life of faith around completely?

The painting above is not your usual Epiphany painting. We are more used to the splendour of the 3 wise men arriving to offer their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the newborn Jesus. There is a lot going on in this painting. If you look carefully, you can just about spot the wise men offering their gifts to Jesus in the left of the painting. Otherwise, people are gathering wood, a child is tobogganing on the frozen river, and everyone is trying to keep warm.

Jesus was not born in luxury; he experienced poverty. He experienced life with all its ups and downs. Exceptions were not made for the Son of God. For the artist, Jesus' birth is part of village life. The extraordinary takes place within the ordinary; it is just a matter of recognizing it. Can we sometimes be so busy looking for the supernatural that we do not see God in our everyday lives: at work, at home, and with our families? Reflect on where God has been abundantly present in the ordinary experiences of your daily life this past year.

Further reflection during the epiphany season:

- What is the star you are following in life?
- Are you following the light that leads you to Christ?
- What makes you radiant with joy and hope?

May God Bless you with 'Aha' moments during this Epiphany Season.

Diocesan Prayers for January/February



Sunday, 7 January 2024 THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Pray for thoughtful, courteous, and stimulating communication across the diocese.

St Mark Student Chaplaincy, Famagusta, Cyprus

Sunday, 14 January 2024 THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Pray for St Christopher's and St Paul's, our twin cathedrals, their deans, their canons, and their people.

St Martin's, Sharjah, UAE

Sunday, 21 January 2024 EPIPHANY III

Pray for generosity, responsibility, and imagination in the use of money and resources.

St Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia, Cyprus

Sunday, 28 January 2024 THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

Pray for those currently in formation and training for ordained ministry as deacons and priests.

The Church of the Epiphany, Qatar Sunday,

4 February 2024 ORDINARY TIME

Pray for those who are currently taking part in diocesan synod, and for wisdom and vision in all that is planned and done.

St John's, Derynia, Cyprus

Sunday, 11 February 2024 ORDINARY TIME

Pray for the Holy Spirit to keep leading the People of God, and for all who teach and illuminate the Spirit's ways both old and new.

St Christopher's Cathedral, Bahrain

Sunday, 18 February 2024 LENT I

Pray for the licensed public lay ministers of the diocese.

Christ Church, Ayia Napa, Cyprus

Sunday, 25 February 2024 LENT II

Pray for our fellow dioceses of Jerusalem and Iran, and for our Primate Archbishop Hosam.

Holy Trinity Church, Dubai, UAE



Pray for Sudan



Living God, you bring us together in community
And teach us to love one another as you have loved us.
May we be beacons of your light in the communities in which we are set,
That through truth, justice and action
We may see your kingdom come upon earth,
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



For our brothers and sisters at St Andrew's

We remember the needs within our church family of those that particularly need our prayers. These include:

Duncan Hadfield, Sandi Richardson, May McKenzie, Anne Fatcher, Nasim Akhtar, Garry Allcock, Shane Barnes, Jenny and Bob Hayward, Barbara and Roy Symons, and Padmesh Gartaula.

We pray also for strength and grace for those who carry the burden of care.

We remember those who have died and those who mourn their loss. Pray for the family and friends of **James Gibbs**, and other recently departed.

"The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well ... pray for each other so that you may be healed" James 5: 15-16



QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Churches do not only exist for those who are pious or those who know themselves to be saved. Churches exist for those who do not go to them at all, or who do not go very often. And this is what is surely so beautiful about the Midnight Mass, or the Christmas morning service in which the pews are filled by those who would not necessarily know how to define their religious position

A. N. Wilson, The Times, 23 December

If you would like to contribute any articles or comments

to this magazine please contact

the Editor, Anne Lloyd at graniannie@hotmail.com



Creamy salmon, leek & potato traybake

A great midweek meal

Serves 2 Cook: 35 mins

Ingredients:

- 250g baby potatoes, thickly sliced
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 leek, halved, washed and sliced
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 70ml double cream
- 1 tbsp capers, plus extra to serve
- 1 tbsp chives, plus extra to serve
- 2 skinless salmon fillets



mixed rocket salad, to serve (optional)

Method

STEP 1

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Bring a medium pan of water to the boil. Add the potatoes and cook for 8 mins. Drain and leave to steam-dry for a few minutes. Toss the potatoes with $\frac{1}{2}$ of the oil and plenty of seasoning, put in a baking tray. Put in the oven for 20 mins, tossing halfway through the cooking time.

STEP 2

Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the leek and fry for 5 mins, or until beginning to soften. Stir through the garlic for 1 min, then add the cream, capers and 75ml hot water, bring to the boil. Stir through the chives.

STEP 3

Heat the grill to high. Pour the creamy leek mixture over the potatoes, then sit the salmon fillets on top. Grill for 7-8 mins, or until just cooked through. Serve topped with extra chives and capers and a salad on the side, if you like.





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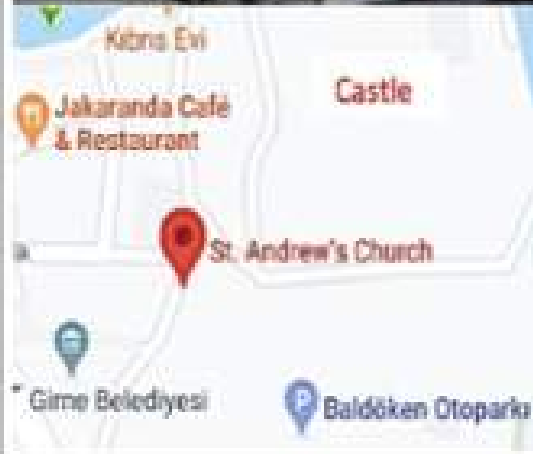
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TÜRK BANKASI

Donations towards the cost of this magazine may be placed in a box at the entrance to the Church or in the Church Hall. When you have read it, please take it or – the more it is read, the wider the message is spread, which pleases us (and keeps our advertisers happy too). Suggested donation: £10.

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SERVICES – Every Sunday at 11.00a.m. & 5.30p.m.
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