



A message from the Acting Chaplain, Reverend Michael Graham

Unlike God, the Church founded by Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is not immutable (unchanging) as we have discovered and will continue to discover in our faith journey together here in St. Andrew's, Kyrenia. Following the absence of our Chaplain, the Revd Wendy Hough, for over a month after Easter 2018, her sudden and unexpected resignation in May of that year left the parish reeling and wondering what God had in store for us. Normally following the departure of an Incumbent, the first task is to begin the search for a replacement. The Council began this task, drawing up a parish profile and the specification for a new Chaplain based on past experiences. This was completed relatively quickly following a period of consultation, but was delayed by two things: 1. The decision by the Council and the Diocese as to whether St. Andrew's needed, or indeed can afford, a full-time stipendiary Chaplain again. This has been resolved and a relevant remuneration package agreed. 2. The refusal of the previous Chaplain to leave the Hermitage and to continue an unauthorised and illegal occupation of the same. Obviously, this means that there would be no accommodation for a new Chaplain should one be appointed, other than at a cost to the parish of providing a temporary residence. It is to be hoped that good Christian values on all sides will see this resolved sooner rather than later. However, the Lord is mighty indeed and, following an initial period of uncertainty, life in St. Andrew's has not only continued but, dare we say it, has positively flourished. From a clerical perspective our retired clergy, two full-time residents on the Island and others as "swallows", have continued to ensure that worship and pastoral care in St. Andrew's has continued uninterrupted, and will continue for as long as is necessary. God's work cannot be held up by human frailty and the Lord will, and has, provided the means for us to carry on. I have been formally appointed as Locum during the interregnum, ably supported by the Revd Roy Symons on occasion and, when they are available and on the Island, by Fr Edward Jervis and the Revd Brian McHugh. Sadly, illness has meant that the Revd Colin Backhouse has been unable to assist but we continue to pray for Colin and Ingrid at this time. More importantly the Church Wardens, Sandy Oram and Stuart Hillard, the Church Council and many, many others have stepped up to the plate and ensured that the life and witness of St. Andrew's continues unabated. Highlights of the year can be found on the St. Andrew's website <https://www.standrewskyrenia.org/> by clicking on the "News" link on the menu at the top of the page. In this, the second edition of scene@standrews, we highlight several which warrant a special mention.

Daniel and Helen's Wedding

On Thursday 31st May, in spite of thunderstorms and torrential rain, Helen Lukey and Daniel Stickley were married in St. Andrew's. In the absence of a Chaplain (who would normally be a registrar licenced in the Republic of Cyprus) the ceremony was conducted by the Revd Christine Goldsmith from Paphos. Judy and Mike, Helen's parents who are swallows to the Island, who organised the wedding in North Cyprus said, "We'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated members of St. Andrew's Church who have shown the utmost professionalism and care in organising the wedding service of Helen and Dan."



Bible Study



Richard and Christine Dobbs graciously continued to host and lead the Lapta Home Study group which last year studied *Isaiah*, **'Prophet of Restoration'**, focussing on Chapters 40 – 66 and seeing how they interact with the New Testament and the fulfilment of prophecy. For 2019 the initial topic chosen for study was *The Lord's Prayer*, leading on to study of prayer in general.

Over the past few months at the regular Thursday morning Eucharist instead of a sermon being preached several interesting topics have been chosen and introduced by a member of the ministry team. Lively and thought-provoking discussion has then followed. For our Lent Study 2019 this was replaced by a nine-week course after the Thursday morning Eucharist to study the book of James following the Bible Study Guide written by Tom Wright.

The Ozankoy Home Group meets in the home of Steve and Sally Bishop. The study has been 2 Timothy and Titus based, like the Lent Discussion Group, on the study guide by retired Bishop Tom Wright.

Confirmations & Baptism

Sunday 21st October 2018 saw St. Andrew's Church full once again for a very special day in the life of the Chaplaincy. On that day Bishop Michael celebrated the Eucharist and also the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Bishop Michael baptised Kimberley Sharawakanda followed by the Confirmation of Kimberley,

Sharon Gechure and Lynda Hillard. The candidates were warmly welcomed by the packed church and not a few tears were shed for our friends on this very special day for them.



Several baptisms were held throughout the year culminating in that of Elsie Chimfumnaya Onochie, daughter of Kenechi and Nneka, who was welcomed into the family of the Church on All Saints' Sunday, 4th November 2018.

A last highlight for this year occurred on Christmas Day when Denise Umpleby, who had been prepared at the same time as the other confirmation candidates mentioned earlier, but who was unable to be present on 21st October, was confirmed by Bishop Michael who had graciously offered to conduct services in St. Andrew's over Christmas.



Father Edward Jervis

Sunday 1st July marked a day of celebration. On that day Fr. Edward Jervis, one of the retired priests in St. Andrew's, celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The guest preacher for this special service was Mr. Justin Arnott who himself was ordained Deacon on 7th July to serve in the Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia.



Following the celebratory Eucharist, the congregation were invited to St. Andrew's Hall for some delicious anniversary cake made by Linda Smith, where they were joined by other members of the Diocese to congratulate Fr Edward.

Music Week

For the third year in succession, the second week in June saw St. Andrew's hold a 'Music Week', intended to introduce fresh expressions of worship to our people, to allow for the flourishing of local talents and to attract newcomers to the church.

The Director of Music, Earl Moffitt, assisted by the regular choir together with Organist, John Crothers, were joined by a former cathedral organist and his musician wife, who acted as special 'facilitators' for the Week. Martin and Noreen White. The singers provided the music at the regular Thursday morning Eucharist and, that evening, went on to give a relaxed but thoughtful presentation of 'favourite hymns', chosen by members of the congregation.

On the Friday evening, a Concert of Choral and Organ Music attracted a capacity audience to the church. The Concert raised a substantial sum of money for a local cancer charity and the Women's Refuge in North Nicosia.



A buffet reception in the lovely precincts of the church under the stars provided a fitting end to two intense days of music-making.

The week ended with a Sung Festal Eucharist on the Sunday.

We have just enjoyed St. Andrew's Music Week 2019 on the 6th - 12th May with Dr. Joe McKee as our Guest Facilitator. Dr McKee has spent most of his professional career in education and music, at different times being Head of Music at the Royal School Armagh, a Radio Producer with BBC NI, Director of Music at Methodist College Belfast, and Principal of the City of Belfast School of Music. Photos of this recent event can be found on the website.

Harvest Festival

At our Harvest Thanksgiving service on 7th October we were delighted to welcome the Revd Steve Ward, a Methodist Minister and former Army Chaplain now living in the Republic of Cyprus, who joined us with his wife Louise and many other visitors and guests. In a challenging sermon Steve looked to us to be filled with joy at all the blessings which we receive from God, and reminded us that though we may sow in tears yet we shall reap with

joy. Following the service all were invited to join us in the front of the church for the traditional "bunfight". In previous years this would have taken the form of a "bring and share" lunch in the grounds of



the Hermitage, but sadly, because of the continued occupation of the Hermitage these are currently not available to us.

Instead the suggestion was made and approved by the Church Council that we would offer a buffet lunch in the grounds of St. Andrew's to those who wished to join us. This proved to be a great success and was a wonderful witness to many passers-by who wondered what was going on. Two ladies even joined us and shared in the lunch! A model may now have been set for future Harvest Thanksgivings!

Mission to Seafarers

The second Sunday of July (which fell this year on 8th July 2018) is traditionally marked as Sea Sunday when we remember and pray for seafarers and their families.

St. Andrew's was privileged to welcome Mr. Ken Wiseman, Director of the Mission to Seafarers in Cyprus as guest preacher at the 10:30am Holy Communion Service on that Sunday.



St. Andrew's has, for the past few years, traditionally supported the Mission to Seafarers at Christmas with "shoebox" collections of small items which are then distributed by the Mission to those who are in port at that time. Ken presented a certificate to St. Andrew's to thank the congregation for their support in 2017. That support continued, and the 2018 collection was delivered to Ken in Paphos.

Kurban Bayram

Kurban Bayram, the Feast of Sacrifice (Eid al-Adha) in the calendar of our Muslim sisters and brothers here in North Cyprus and throughout the world, ran from 21st to 24th August 2018. Traditionally at this time offerings are given for the poor and needy. A lamb or goat will be sacrificed and one third shared with neighbours and friends, one third kept for the family's use, and one third given to the poor.

Following a suggestion by a parishioner, St. Andrew's Church in Kyrenia decided to join with the wider community in observing this tradition, though not in the sacrifice of a poor sheep! Consequently, a collection was taken in the church after services over several weeks and members of the church who were away from the Island were contacted to see if they would like to contribute. At the end of the collection £500 had been raised.

It was decided by the Church Council that this sum should be given to the Special Needs Centre in Karakum, Girne. Churchwarden Sandy Oram and Acting Chaplain, the Revd Michael Graham, visited the Centre and were graciously received by the Principal, Ms Layla Usta. Layla was humbled and delighted with the offer of funding and, when asked if there was any specific project to which the funds could contribute, indicated a partition wall in the Centre which was in a dangerous condition. There was a real fear that glass in the partition could be broken due to rotten woodwork and that this could potentially cause serious injury. She had recently received a quotation for the work from a local contractor, Mehmet Gdkboy who had himself generously offered to do the work for half-price but following the recent economic problems in the TRNC the balance was unavailable. The St. Andrew's collection would allow this work to be completed and make the area safe for the young people who use the Centre.

On Wednesday 5th December the cheque, provided by the church's bankers TrkBank, was presented to the Centre.



In an additional very welcome move Mr. Erhan Raif, General Manager of TrkBank in Lefkoa, announced that the bank would offer an additional £250 to the fund. Consequently, a cheque for £750 was presented to Ms. Usta. The extremely generous donation from TrkBank will be used to fund a New Year's Party for those who use the Centre.

This initiative of St. Andrew's was featured in the 2019 Diocesan Synod video "Rooted and Grounded" which showed how parishes are indeed Rooted and Grounded in their communities by such initiatives.

Ras Morbat Eye Clinic

Sadly, most of us are aware of the awful plight of the poor people of Yemen which is one of the world's least developed countries and remains the poorest and most rural country in the Middle East. The political unrest and continuing conflict there has made the situation worse for the population with diminishing food and fuel supplies. There is also inadequate health provision for the people of Yemen.

Although there are Government hospitals, these often have a reputation for being dirty and patients are charged for all services beyond the absolute basics. There are also private clinics, but these are prohibitively expensive for the average Yemeni.

The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf supports the work of the Ras Morbat Clinic which addresses these issues through the work of its two departments, the general department and the eye department.

Twice this year Pat Etherington has organised a Coffee Morning in her home to raise funds for the clinic, which is close to her heart. At the event held on 28th April TL1700 was raised and at that held on 13th October a total of £335 was given (which was late increased by subsequent donations).



Our sincere thanks go to Pat and all who helped and supported her in this outreach by a member of the St. Andrew's congregation to those most in need.

Ruth Smith

Sadly, we lost a good and faithful parishioner of many years when Ruth Smith passed away on 10th February 2018. Her service to the whole community in Kyrenia was reflected in the number of people who attended her interment in the Old British Cemetery on 20th February, where the ceremony was conducted by the Revd Roy Symons. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life was held in St. Andrew's on 14th April, led by the Revd Michael Graham, where again Ruth's family and friends were able to pay their respects to her memory.



*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon her.*

World Day of Prayer

A small group gathered at St Andrew's on Friday 1st March 2019 for this year's World Day of Prayer service, "Come - Everything is Ready", created by the women of Slovenia. It was most beautiful in its simple message and included delightful songs of worship. The feedback has been very good, people commenting on the calmness. "The best WDP service I have attended to date" was a comment repeated by many.



Menmeet

The newly re-formed St. Andrew's MenMeet men's group gathered in the Hall on Wednesday 16th February 2019 to hear a fascinating account of the terrible scourge of Ebola which affected Sierra Leone in 2013.

Bob Cowan, the guest speaker at this first meeting, was working in the country as a Cocoa Plantation Manager when the epidemic struck. He described vividly the effects of the disease as it rampaged through the country and his own efforts to help.

Illustrated by some of the photographs he took while there, Bob gave the meeting a new insight into the appalling tragedy which hit this and surrounding countries. All came away with a new appreciation of the effect of Ebola in sub-saharan West Africa during that time.



Menmeet will continue to meet in the Hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00am followed by lunch in George's for those who would like to come.

Carols by Candlelight

A full St. Andrew's began our Christmas celebrations by being led by a superb choir featuring the church's own singers and friends from the Kyrenia Chamber Choir who joined us for our annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 23rd December 2018.



Led by our Director of Music, Earl Moffitt, and accompanied by Organist, John Crothers, those present sang old favourites and listened to new pieces sung by the choir.

Following the service mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed in the Hall.