

# The Olive Branch

Association of Friends of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf



Winter 2019-2020

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Editorial Team wishes our readers a Very Happy 2020



*Friends seated for the AGM - August*



*Baghdad visits Lambeth Palace*



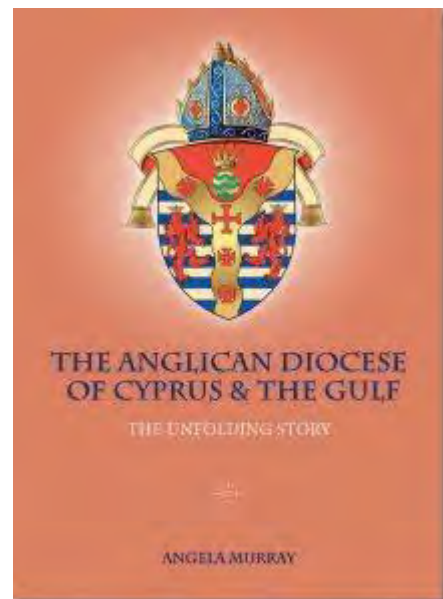
*Friends gathering in York – October*



*Four new Canons*



*Archbishop Michael with ecumenical clergy*



*History of our diocese - Scheduled for release in February 2020*

**From the Chair Ian Calder:**

Dear Friends,

The Annual Meeting at All Hallows by the Tower, was again a very good occasion. A big thank you to the Revd Katherine Hadderley and her team who gave us such a warm welcome and looked after us so well. There was plenty chatter over coffee and tea before the meeting and Eucharist. It was a good opportunity to thank Sally Milner for all she has done for the "Friends" as secretary and to welcome Anne Lloyd who has agreed to take over from Sally.



*Sally Milner accept a gift of thanks*

I also presented a cheque from the "Friends" to Bishop Michael.



*Presenting a cheque to Bishop Michael*

Bishop Michael provided a report on the state of the chaplaincies throughout the diocese.

After the Eucharist there was more chat over lunch and thank you to All Hallows for putting on an excellent lunch for us to enjoy before returning from whence we came.



*Attendees enjoying lunch*

In October we had another excellent day in York where 26 of us enjoyed meeting up with coffee, worship, lunch and a fascinating visit to the Minster. Many thanks to Ron and Bernice Maitland for organising another great day, their report follows later in this magazine.

So far, I have been unable to organise a day in the South West, but I hope we may still come up with some ideas and be able to put on a day sometime in 2020.

I am looking forward to attending Synod in Abu Dhabi which I am sure will be another uplifting occasion, but in the meantime, I hope you all had a blessed Christmas, despite the political machinations of the U.K. and beyond, and that 2020 will be a year of peace and blessing for us all.

Ian Calder

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**Report on the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf**

On a rather wet morning on the 5th August 2019 members from around the country converged on All Hallows by the Tower for the Annual meeting and were greeted with a warming cup of tea or coffee along with a very warm welcome from the good people of All Hallows and from their new parish Priest, the Revd Katherine Hedderly.



*Revd Katherine Hedderly*

After a good time of catching up and chatting with friends, we had our Annual Meeting, it was good to welcome the Venerable Nick Shutt from the Exeter Diocese and also to hand over a cheque from the "Friends" to Bishop Michael for his work around the diocese. We had a short break for quiet reflection which was followed by the Eucharist with Bishop Michael presiding and the Revd Katherine Hedderly preaching.

As I mentioned previously the team at All Hallows put on an excellent lunch. I am sure everyone who came would like to thank all the people who helped to provide the lunch for us as well as making us so welcome throughout the day. This gave us another opportunity to meet new people as well as renew old acquaintances before dispersing once more into the somewhat wet and gloomy afternoon.



*Friends group check-in*

The Annual meeting is a good occasion for worship, fellowship, finding out about what's happening across the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf and having the opportunity to support the work of the diocese in prayer. 3rd August 2020 and I do encourage you to attend if you can.

**Bishop Michael's address at the Friends AGM and Diocesan Eucharist on 5th August 2019 at All Hallows**



*+Michael Lewis*

We call the Eucharist on this occasion each year a Celebration Eucharist, and so it is, doubly: a celebration of the Friends and a celebration of the diocese itself. Thank you, Friends, for

everything you do and are. Thank you most of all for your prayerful and imaginative support of the continuing life of the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf.

This year we're privileged not only to be hosted by the Reverend Katherine Hedderly, All Hallows' new vicar, along with colleagues from the congregation of this remarkable church, but also to have her as our preacher. The sooner I sit down, the sooner – after a short interlude – she can stand up.

Meanwhile, it has become almost traditional for me to note the past twelve months' alarms and excursions. Politically the region has become dangerously hot, with President Trump's sabotaging of the nuclear deal that was painstakingly crafted between major western powers and Iran. You don't have to be an admirer of the regime in Tehran to understand its exasperation and fury. And needless tough-guy posturing across the Atlantic has resulted in the dashing of the hopes of ordinary people in Iran that sanctions might be progressively eased as a quid pro quo for moderation of the nuclear development programme.

Ecclesiastically it would be wrong not to mention the enormous disappointment (and more) that was expressed at diocesan synod in February after it was learned that the council of the Epiphany Qatar had apparently persuaded an official in the government to replace my nominated and trusted representatives in the running of the Anglican Centre there with names not sanctioned by me. We became aware of that immediately after the departure of Fr Paul Davies as incumbent. The result has been the denial to the wider work of the diocese of a tithe from the Centre, and the takeover by the council of day-to-day management and administration of the Centre's complex life. In Bahrain, I decided to ask Archdeacon Bill Schwartz, hitherto living in Qatar, whether he would agree to be considered for the impending vacant post of Dean, and thus take on a second full responsibility. I hope I may say that the council in Bahrain, whose consent I sought, welcomed my suggestion with open arms. After due process and an opportune handover by Chris Butt, the outgoing dean, Bill was installed in St Christopher's Cathedral. He is at present on a richly deserved summer break in his native America.

In Iraq St George Baghdad has never been busier. I've been there three times in the last year, including my now

customary Holy Week stay with Julia alongside me. On another occasion we were accompanied by Canon Derek and Mrs Sue Smith, late of Limassol. If you haven't seen on the diocesan website the photographs of that and various other happening at St George's, do look. Faiz Jerjes carries on energetically developing the Anglican School of the Redeemer, which after this summer will see a further influx of children sent by parents, mostly Muslim, eager for what it provides. It is set to become as respected a local institution as the clinic and the kindergarten. The neatly uniformed children are often in demand for publicity shots with government ministers. The present Iraqi prime minister, HE Adil Abdul-Mahdi, visited the compound and was duly impressed. I hope to take Faiz to Lambeth Palace to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury and others on 5th November.

Elsewhere in the archdeaconry of the Gulf, Kuwait has seen the opening of a branch of the Mothers' Union led by Mama Christine Mbona, and the Urdu-language congregation there is in the process of having its governance and oversight improved. Abu Dhabi parish continues to include St Thomas Al 'Ain and a dedicated church building, on land already granted, is a real prospect, though work at All Saints Musaffah is presently stalled. What was the Chaplaincy of Dubai and Sharjah with the Northern Emirates has now been disaggregated into four parishes: St Martin Sharjah, Holy Trinity Dubai, Christ Church Jebel Ali, and St Luke Ras al Khaimah with St Nicholas Fujairah, with the hope that energies and talent will now be devoted to appropriate local needs and opportunities. In Oman Bill Schwartz and I have cautiously seen a small improvement in relations and conversation between us and the council, and I was pleased over a recent weekend to preach at all four services in Ghala and Ruwi. In the Yemen there is always hope that the misery of war will cease and some sort of accommodation will be found between the Hadi government, the Houthis, and other

factions and groupings; meanwhile the work of Christ Church and the clinic at Ras Morbat quietly goes on. Finally, in the kingdom that occupies so much of the Arabian Peninsula, nothing, despite fanfare and promises, seems truly to have altered.

Cyprus has just seen a change of archdeacon: John Holdsworth has in the last few days retired and will move to Wales after nine years' service in Cyprus and the Gulf in several major roles. In the last few years he with others has steered the revision and updating of the diocesan constitution, a process that should be formally completed at the forthcoming synod. I am delighted that John will be to some extent back and forth in the diocese as honorary Director of Ministry for two further, transitional, years to ensure continuity in discerning and fostering vocations and in placing, guiding, and training ordinands, Readers, and others. His successor is Christopher Futcher, who travels to the island with Anne almost straight after today to take up the principal responsibilities of territorial archdeacon and parish priest of Larnaca and also to imbibe some of John's wisdom in ministry and training matters. Anne Futcher, after priestly ministry in Devon where Christopher was Archdeacon of Exeter, will serve in a non-stipendiary capacity at St Helena's but also more widely, in particular as our social concern officer.

In Nicosia St Paul's Cathedral celebrated 125 years of the building on its present site; a new window of the patron saint was dedicated. Paphos still sees, at least by British standards, many weddings, though fewer than in earlier years, and the parish maintains three centres of worship across the civil district. St Barnabas Limassol also serves St Lazarus Pissouri. Ammochostos, formerly South-East Cyprus, includes St Mark Famagusta, where both lay and ordained chaplains have offered short periods looking after the mainly student congregation. Finally Kyrenia, well attended and looking

forwards, is soon to advertise for a new incumbent.

In the last twelve-month period I have ordained two priests, Charlotte Lloyd-Evans for Al 'Ain and Abu Dhabi and Navina Thompson for Famagusta and Ammochostos, though Navina is currently back in Abu Dhabi while the next phase of her ministry is pondered. Deacons Justin Arnott and Peter Day, both in Cyprus, will be priested this St Matthew's Day. Reader ministry is steadily increasing across the diocese. A few weeks ago a remarkably successful and intensive summer school was held, by way of in-service and pre-service training, at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, and was attended by invited participants – on the path to public ministry lay and ordained or in its early years - from many parts of the diocese. John Holdsworth as Director of Ministry was responsible for all aspects of planning and delivery.

Ecumenical relations with other Christian Churches and traditions flourish in most places. A particular friend of mine, Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Kition in Cyprus, has just retired after 46 years as diocesan bishop. I confidently predict I shan't make that, though this year is my twentieth as a bishop and fortieth as a priest – and our fortieth wedding anniversary. On the wider front I continue to be a member of the international Anglican-Orthodox Theological Commission. In the Gulf, church leaders across a wide range of varieties of Christianity meet residentially once a year for a valuable exchange of news and views, and the sense of common enterprise is palpable.

The Al Amana Centre in Oman, where I am now the longest-serving board member, is a fine example of Christian interfaith engagement with Islam, and tribute should be paid to the Reformed Church in America for their vision in establishing it. In Cyprus, Imam Shakir Alemdar of Hala Sultan Tekke near

Larnaca is a gracious and energetic promoter of good Christian-Muslim relations.

Our diocesan companionship links within the Anglican Communion, with Thika in Kenya and Exeter in the Province of Canterbury, are in good shape. We are the partner next due to host a three-way gathering and I hope it may be in the Gulf this time rather than Cyprus, to show our friends the breadth of who and where we are. I myself visited Thika during the year to give talks on interfaith encounter and on liturgy.

Our Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East looks as though it will at some point not too far off be reconfigured. A commission established by the Anglican Communion Office will in early autumn consider proposals and details already much debated, though not conclusively, in provincial standing committee in Cairo, in provincial synod in Amman and at a prior meeting of provincial diocesan bishops in Ras al Khaimah. It will especially consider Egypt's strong desire to leave and itself become a Province of several dioceses. Clarity will be needed on how the rest of Jerusalem and the Middle East will and should be, if Egypt goes.

I am to become Primate of the Province on 17th November and we shall mark it, at St Andrew Abu Dhabi as a convenient central location, with a eucharist of prayer and thanksgiving for the Province past, present, and future. There will be plenty of room: all are welcome; and all prayers are needed, wherever you will be.

As a Primate I will continue to be a consultant to one of the finest acronyms in the business, IASCUFO: nothing to do, I have found, with visitors from outer space but rather the Inter-Anglican Standing Committee on Unity, Faith, and Order, where matters both smooth and thorny from outside and inside the Communion are reviewed, debated, and sometimes progressed. Or was I right first guess?

In an inevitably selective report I might also mention a visit by Bill Schwartz and me to Virginia Theological Seminary and the Center for Anglican Communion Studies in the United States, where we set out to convey to fellow Anglicans our unique make-up and our opportunities for witness. We also called on State Department officials and on the staff of politicians, both Democrats and Republicans, on Capitol Hill in Washington DC.

Thanks again to this Association of Friends, to office-holders, committee, and everyone here; and, again and finally, to All Hallows, our host.

+ Michael Cyprus & the Gulf

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### **The Friends Northern Gathering 16th October 2019**

The 2019 Northern Gathering of the Friends was held at what has become our regular venue, the Bar Convent in York. The day's activity began with meet and greet and coffee, followed by a Eucharist Service, then lunch and finishing with a visit to York Minster to see the Mason's Yard and Stone Restoration Workshop.

Our numbers continue to grow with 26 attending, it was a joy to welcome Friends old and new. For the Eucharist, our thanks go to Canon Alan Hayday for leading, to Canon Ian Young for preaching and leading the unaccompanied singing. The singing was wonderful, and would suggest that Gareth Malone needs to watch out for us in next years Choir of the Year.

A retiring collection was taken in aid of the work of the Convent, this year you most generously donated £110.

The following 2 pictures are of the attendees taken in the Bar Convent Chapel, and our heartfelt thanks to the

Bar Convent for their continued support for our gathering.



*Not hard to spot who took the picture*



*Who is it?*

Following the service we enjoyed a most delicious lunch, and a lovely time of fellowship and chatter together before proceeding on our afternoon outing to the Mason's Loft and Stone Restoration Yard at York Minster.



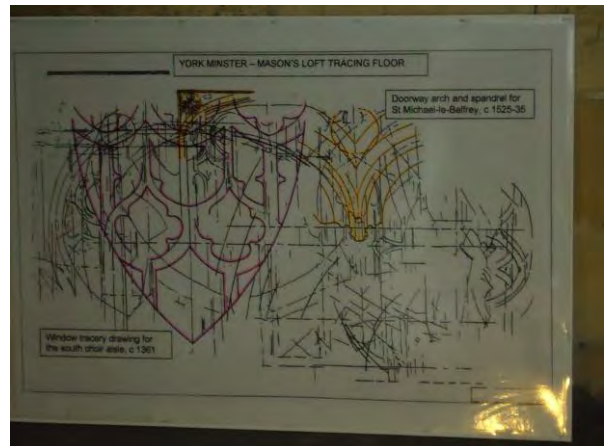
*The Friends at Lunch enjoying chatter*



*The lunchtime chatter continues*

At the Minster our group was divided, with half going to Mason's Loft and the other group to the Restoration Workshop. After the first hour, the groups swapped so everyone had the chance to see both areas of the Minster.

The old Mason's Loft, reached by climbing a long circular stairway, had years of history and left us in awe of how the masons of old managed to design and impliment their design onto actual stone.



*The mason's design*



*The mason's tracing floor*

In the present day Stone Restoration Workshop we were able to see the actual activity of creating pieces primarily

intended to replace time worn stonework on the Minster.



*The Stone Restoration Workshop*



*A young mason with her creation*

The events of the day concluded with coffee/tea in the same little café just across from the main entrance to the Minster. Delightful cakes were enjoyed. Our thanks to all attendees and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2020.

God's Blessings to you all  
Ron & Bernice Maitland

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### **A new Primate for Jerusalem and the Middle East**

The new President Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East took up his duties on Sunday 17th November 2019.



*Provincial Clergy attending installation*

**Michael Augustine Owen Lewis** will continue to serve as diocesan Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, a post he has held for the past twelve years. Prior to that he served for eight years Bishop of Middleton in the Province of York in the United Kingdom.

He succeeds in the primacy the Most Reverend Suheil Dawani, Bishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem.



*Celebrating the Eucharist*



*Attendees at the ceremony*



Please pray for Archbishop Michael in his new role which began on 17th November 2019, and along with representatives of the Province, he celebrated the life of the Anglican Churches of the region at a Eucharist in St Andrew Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, to which all were invited.

Georgia Katsantonis  
Provincial Secretary

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### News from St Christopher's, Bahrain:

#### Bahrain: Once Dean, now Canon



*+Michael with the Canon Chris*

The **Revd Chris Butt** was installed as the newest Canon of St Christopher's Cathedral on Friday, 25th October 2019. The ceremony and celebration was very well attended as Chris's former parishioners happily congratulated him. Tricia Butt reprised her role as organist for the ceremony, adding much to the worshipful celebration of the Eucharist.



*Installation Ceremony*

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### Christmas in Bahrain



*Shaikh Mohammad visits St Christophers*

Shaikh Mohammad bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, grandson of King Hamad al Khalifa of Bahrain visited St Christophers Cathedral on Boxing Day and gave greetings to members of the congregation. He affirmed Bahrain's attitude of Religious Freedom and welcome to people of all faiths and congratulated us as we celebrated Christmas.

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### News from Aden

#### A Concert for Aden

A concert was held at St Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia on 20th September 2019.

Bishop Michael gave a presentation on the work of Christ Church Aden and Ras Morbat Clinic.

A retiring collection was taken to support the work of the Clinic.



*View over Aden*

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**News from Kuwait**

On Friday 20th December 2019 Archbishop Michael blessed and dedicated a new Chapel of the Resurrection adjacent to the main body of the church of St Paul, Ahmadi, Kuwait.



*Opening of the new Chapel*

Guest of honour from the Amiri Diwan was His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah al Mubarak al Sabah, representing His Highness the Amir. Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah unlocked the new external gate and cut a ceremonial ribbon at the doors.

Once inside, Archbishop Michael then baptised two adult candidates and an infant in the freshly constructed building.



*Baptism ceremony*

The ceremonies immediately followed with the principal Eucharist at St Paul's, which was attended by Mr Michael Davenport, British ambassador, together with other ambassadors and diplomats from the embassies of India, Zimbabwe, South Africa, the Netherlands, and the United States of America.

At the Peace the archbishop admitted new members of the Mothers Union, including the Revd Zhu Peijin, assistant priest.

**News from Iraq**

**New British ambassador visits St George's, Baghdad**



*British Ambassador with Fr Faiz*

Mr Stephen Hickey, recently appointed British ambassador to Iraq, attended the eucharist at St George's on Sunday 8th December 2019.

In discussions with Fr Faiz Jerjes, the parish priest, he referred to the current large-scale popular demonstrations against corruption, which were taking place very close to the church and in other places too, and affirmed the UK's support for religious freedom.



*The Ambassador addresses church*

Fr Faiz and others shared news of the church's work of reconciliation, ecumenical cooperation, and interfaith encounter.

**Baghdad meets Lambeth**

Fr Faiz Jerjes, parish priest of St George Baghdad, called on the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace on Tuesday 6th November 2019. Accompanied by Mr Sinan Kakarash, his administrator, and Bishop Michael, diocesan bishop.



*Visiting Lambeth Palace*

Fr Faiz told the archbishop of daily life in a city currently restless for change and for an end to inertia and corruption. At the midday eucharist the archbishop invited Fr Faiz to lead intercessions in Arabic.

In the afternoon a group of specialist staff sat with the visitors and asked searching questions.

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**Women in the Old Testament**

Dawlat Abouna, one of the churchwardens of St George Baghdad, gave a talk and led a discussion on *Women in the Old Testament* on 14 September 2019. The audience included Muslims and well as Christians of various denominations, the St George's branch of the Mothers Union among them, alongside Fr Faiz Jerjes, parish priest.



*Lead discussion and talk*

This event took place in the Hope Cultural Centre, now located within the Anglican compound. It houses books and audio-visual resources and is an ecumenical project supported by most of the mainline Churches represented in Iraq's capital city.



*Attendees in the Resource Centre*

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**An Ordinand visits Baghdad**



*Visiting Ordinand addresses church*

Calum Burke, who is preparing for ordination at Ridley Hall Theological College in Cambridge, UK travelled to Baghdad for an adventurous placement

with Fr Faiz Jerjes and the people of St George's.



*Calum participates in the worship*

## Pastoral Changes in the Diocese

### Revd Navina Thompson

June 2019 saw the congregation at St Marks Famagusta saying a fond farewell to Revd Navina Thompson. Navina left home, husband, family and friends to take up the position of chaplain to the students who study at the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), located in the Turkish Cypriot city of Famagusta, and who worship at St Marks. The majority are from Africa particularly Nigeria. She joined the team working across the Parish of Ammochostos of which St Marks is a part.

The other two churches in the parish are St. Johns, Derynia and Christ Church, Ayia Napa situated in Southern Cyprus. Navina took on the responsibility for the day to day running of St Marks living as she did alone in the Turkish Cypriot city, Famagusta.



*Revd Navina Thompson*

As Chaplain she followed in the footsteps of St Paul who began his first missionary journey only 5 miles up the road from St Marks. The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf is privileged to maintain a Christian presence in Famagusta.

Thanks go to Navina for her outstanding contribution and best wishes for her future. Revd Peter Day is all set to continue this ministry as the next Chaplain of St Marks.

*Editor's Note: Unfortunately this news item was received after the Olive Branch Summer Editor had gone to print.*

## Good news for Doha, Qatar

The Epiphany Qatar: new Senior Priest.

In September 2019 Bishop Michael announced the appointment of Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler as the new senior priest of the Epiphany Qatar.

Fr Paul-Gordon and his wife Lynne arrived in Doha during the autumn.



*Fr Paul-Gordon*

Fr Paul-Gordon is currently an Appointed Mission Partner of the US Episcopal Church with a focus on the Middle East and North Africa Region and also President and CEO of *Caravan*, an NGO using the arts in the service of peace, which he founded while Rector for ten

years of St John Maadi, Cairo, in the Diocese of Egypt.

Please pray for Fr Paul-Gordon and his wife Lynne, for Canon Jebaraj Devasagayam and the other clergy of Qatar, and all who meet there in the various congregations of the church of the Epiphany.

Archbishop Michael

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**Four New Canons**



*Faiz, John, Harrison and Chris*

Bishop Michael announced that in the autumn he would preside at the installation of four new honorary canons of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf's twin cathedrals, two for St Paul Nicosia and two for St Christopher Bahrain.

**Fr Faiz Jerjes** has over the course of the years been layman, Reader, deacon, and priest at St George's Baghdad. As well as overseeing the worship and pastoral care of the church and the smooth functioning of the clinic he has masterminded the establishment of a large kindergarten and recently the building of the Al Fadi Anglican primary school. Faiz has been honoured in Iraq for his imaginative initiatives in promoting peace and human flourishing across religions.

**The Revd Dr John Holdsworth** is a much-published scholar whose substantial service as territorial archdeacon in Cyprus and executive archdeacon for the whole diocese as well as parish priest of St Helena Larnaca and Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Ministry culminates in the summer. He will then serve for two transitional years as Honorary Director of Ministry with a

brief to ensure, with others, the continuity of the vocation, discernment, and ministry project that he has done so much to foster. John previously served with distinction in the Church in Wales including a period as Principal of its theological college. He will be known as Canon Theologian.

**The Revd Harrison Chinnakumar** currently ministers as parish priest of Holy Trinity Dubai, tirelessly pastoring a large multi-ethnic congregation and watching over one of the busiest compounds in the diocese, hosting huge numbers of guest churches and fellowships. He came to the Gulf from the Church of South India. Before taking on Dubai he was incumbent of the parish of St Paul Kuwait, where Anglican worship is offered in Mandarin and Urdu as well as English and support is often given to Tamil congregations of our sister-Church the CSI.

**The Revd Chris Butt** was until his recent retirement the highly appreciated Dean of St Christopher's Cathedral in Bahrain, another place with worshippers from many ethnic and national backgrounds. Under Chris's imaginative leadership, frequent Living Room Dialogues brought to the deanery a fascinating range of distinguished and thought-provoking speakers from all walks of life, by no means all Christians, and showed wider society in the Kingdom of Bahrain the openness and welcome that must characterise Anglicanism. Chris brought to Bahrain the fruits of earlier discipleship and ministry in Kenya and Hong Kong as well as England.

Canon Jerjes and Canon Holdsworth were installed in Nicosia on Sunday 3rd November 2019. Canon Butt was installed in Bahrain on Friday 25th October 2019, and Canon Chinnakumar is to be installed there on Saturday 7th March 2020.

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**New Priests in Cyprus**



*Ordination at St Pauls, Nicosia*

Deacons Justin Arnott and Peter Day were ordained to the priesthood on the Feast of St Matthew, Saturday 21st September 2019, at St Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia. Fr Justin serves at the cathedral while Fr Peter has recently taken on particular responsibility for St Mark Famagusta in the wider parish of Ammochostos.



*Following the ordinations*

On the previous evening Peter, on piano, joined Worcester's Trevor Tipple MBE, on organ, in a fundraising recital that ranged from fugues to rags, in aid of Christ Church Aden and the Ras Morbat eye clinic.

Referring to the short article in the section entitled News from Aden, the concert was prefaced by a talk from Bishop Michael about the Yemen, Aden, and the history of Christian and Anglican presence there. The evening raised around 700 euros.



Trevor Tipple, MBE, at the concert in aid of Christ Church Aden and the Ras Morbat eye clinic.



*Trevor Tipple MBE*

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**Archdeacon Christopher and the Revd Anne Futcher**

On Saturday 7th September 2019 Bishop Michael collated and instituted the Venerable Christopher Futcher as the new Archdeacon in Cyprus and parish priest of St Helena Larnaca, and in the same liturgy licensed his wife, the Revd Anne Futcher, as Archdeaconry Social Concern Officer and an associate priest at St Helena's.



*Archdeacon Christopher*



Revd Anne

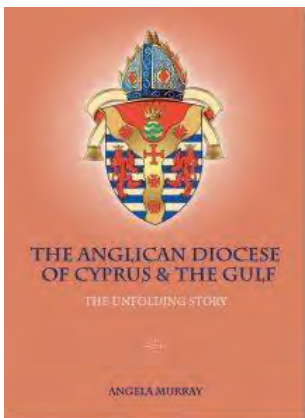
**Father Jim for Jebel Ali**

The next parish priest of Christ Church Jebel Ali in the Emirate of Dubai is the Revd James Young.

Fr Jim served at St Thomas Chesapeake in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. He has previously ministered across the USA in Louisiana, Texas, California and Oregon as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia, together with a period as Episcopal chaplain of Stanford University.

Pray for Jim and his wife Sheryl, who arrived in the Gulf in the autumn. Bishop Michael formally licensed him at Christ Church on Friday 15th November 2019.

**The Unfolding Story - A History of the Diocese**



The long-awaited book describing the history of our diocese will be launched at our upcoming synod in Abu Dhabi in February 2020. It is a fascinating and detailed presentation of the background

and events which formed the diocese as well as a wonderful description of the work of the diocese since its formation. It

will be more than 450 pages, including an index to make referencing easy, and many illustrations and chronicles of clergy in the different chaplaincies as well as canons, ordinations, and of course bishops!

Also a book signing by the author is planned on 14th February 2020 at All Hallows by the Tower, London. The event is currently planned to commence at midday.

Friends of the Diocese are welcome to attend the signing, at which light refreshments will be available. The book will be available for Friends to purchase at the discounted price of £20.

*Editor's Note: In order to assist with planning for the All Hallows event, any member of Friends wishing to attend, would you please confirm to myself at [olivebranch@cypgulf.org](mailto:olivebranch@cypgulf.org) or Canon Ian Calder at [canonian@virginmedia.com](mailto:canonian@virginmedia.com)*

**Kyrenia - Priest retires**

Sunday 29th December 2019 was a day of mixed emotions at St Andrews Kyrenia. The Choral Eucharist and Infant Baptism was to be the last service where Revd Michael Graham would be celebrant also assisted by Revd Edward Jervis.



Revd Mike's final Eucharist

Fr Mike has been the acting Chaplain stepping into the breach when the parish

found itself without a Chaplain during April 2018. He took the role at short notice and has continued to do so until this day. Parishioners will miss his spiritual guidance and pastoral care giving his time and empathy without reserve.

Fr Mike is well known to parishioners in Kyrenia, having retired to the island four years ago, and stepping into the breach on numerous occasions in the life of St Andrews.

Fr Mike feels unable to continue as it is encroaching upon his retirement to the detriment of his family. Therefore he is returning to Ireland to pick up on what should be a well earned retirement.

The Parish of St Andrews Kyrenia will always be in his debt for his unfailing service to them. God bless him and his family.

**Launde Abbey 900 Year Celebration**



*Launde Abbey*

**A Brief History of Launde Abbey**

Launde Abbey was founded as an Augustinian priory in 1119 by Richard Basset, a royal official of Henry I. During the first century of its life the community buildings, cloister and garth were built, including an imposing church of which one side chapel still survives, now used as the Chapel at the present-day Abbey.

Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII’s chief minister responsible for the dissolution of the monasteries, found Launde’s location very desirable.

After visiting the priory in April 1540 he wrote in his *Remembrances* (a kind of personal journal) “Myself for Launde,”

although he never occupied the house as he was executed just three months later for treason. His son Gregory, however, had kept royal favour – no doubt helped by his marriage to Elizabeth Seymour, sister to Henry VIII’s beloved wife Jane – and lived at Launde Abbey with Elizabeth for ten years; during this time he had some of the dilapidated monastic buildings restored or rebuilt. Gregory was buried at Launde and a monument erected by his wife remains in the Chapel to this day.

**The 900th Celebration Weekend attended by Ron and Bernice Maitland**

This beautiful setting is the location for the Friends annual retreat, a special time and place for us to pray, worship, learn and fellowship together. In June 2019, Bernice and I attended the 900th Anniversary celebration held over the weekend 21st to 23rd June. It was a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and immerse ourselves in the worship services, talks and tours.

On the Saturday it was lovely sunshine and a chance of some free time to peruse the Craft Stalls or partake of some food from the outdoor vendors.



*The Craft Stalls behind and the food vendors in the foreground*

Being regulars, as it were, to Launde Abbey we were accommodated in the main house and the above picture was taken from our room.



During the afternoon we signed up for a walking tour through the local woodland area surrounding Launde, this was lead by a member of the Leistershire Forestry Commission. The walk wound its way through the woods where we learned about the history of the forests of the area during centuries.



*Tour of woodland around Launde*

Saturday evening we were seated for a formal dinner, in a huge marquee erected on the lawn between the house and stables.

The entertainment for the evening was a look the life of Thomas Cromwell, as follows:

**Life of Thomas Cromwell**

As part of the 900 year celebrations, attendees were treated to a fascinating talk held by historian Diarmaid MacCulloch, and Booker Prize winning novelist, Hilary Mantel. Both speakers enthralled an audience of 320 people as they opened a window on the life of Thomas Cromwell, with his huge significance for Henry VIII’s England and particular connection with Launde Abbey.

The event was introduced and moderated by the Bishop of Brixworth, the Rt Revd John Holbrook.



*Historian Diarmaid MacCulloch and novelist Hilary Mantel*

The Historian and Novelist brought contrasting but complementary perspectives, and it was fascinating to hear extracts relating to Launde from Hilary’s as yet unpublished third novel, *The Mirror and the Light*. Without creating any spoilers, in her imagination, Launde had clearly worked its way into Cromwell’s mind, just as it continues to do for many visitors today.

The Cromwell family lived at Launde until the end of the 16th century and then, for the next three centuries, the house passed through the hands of various owners: the Smiths (who probably began the process of dismantling the original monastery and building the present manor house), followed by the Halfords, Clarkes, Simpsons and Dawsons. This latter family engaged Thomas Rickman to embark on an extensive restoration of the house in the mid nineteenth century.

In 1957 the prominent Leicestershire businessman Cecil Coleman, together with his wife Lilian, purchased the abbey and presented it to the Diocese of Leicester. They also paid for the conversion works to make it into a retreat house.

*Editor's Note: Please do consider joining us at Launde on the weekend 1st to 3rd May 2020. The details to register to attend are at the end of the magazine under "Dates for your Diary".*

**Celebration for former Dean of St Christopher's, Bahrain**

This year (2019), as some of you will be aware, Canon Revd Alan and Pam Hayday are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the start of Alan's ministry.

In order to mark this special year they have been on 'pilgrimage', visiting some of the significant places and people who have been part of their lives during those 50 years. This has proved far more demanding and time consuming than they had originally anticipated, but nonetheless rewarding as they reconnected with many of the wonderful people who have featured in their lives.

Their pilgrimage will continue on into 2020 sure in the knowledge that over those 50+ years they have been very blessed with so many good friends and family who have shared and supported them through the good times as well as the more challenging. They have had the opportunity to share in many of their pilgrimages of life, and they appreciate that very much and continue to hold you all in their thoughts and prayers.

Over the 50 years, family and travel have gradually grown in importance in their lives, as well as the people and places they have served. They appreciate the contribution by so many by just being there, and they pray that the years to come will be as blessed and rewarding for all those people they have come to know and love.

*Editor's Note: Congratulations to you both and may God bless you with many more years together.*

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**Obituaries****Trevor Sait 1936 – 2019**

*Trev Sait*

Trev (not Trevor please) was born on 5th March 1936 in Sutton, Surrey, after he left school he did a five year apprenticeship as a jig and tool maker before being called up, National Service, into the RAF where he served, having signed on as a regular, for 30 years and 131 days.

During his service career he spent 14 years overseas in Cyprus, Hong Kong, Singapore, Germany and Malaysia. While in Malaysia he took up road running and completed the Penang International Marathon in 4 hours, 21 minutes and 24 seconds having taken 3 months going from no running at all to completing the marathon; his other most notable sporting achievement, while in Malaysia, was climbing Mount Kinabalu at 4,095m the highest mountain in Malaysia. On return to the UK he was posted to RAF Prestwick where he stayed until he retired from the RAF. He then did various jobs until he got a job as a MOD civil servant

which he did until he finished work at age 60.

During his time in Scotland he started attending the Church of Scotland although, as he would have said as a 'churchgoer' without getting particularly involved in church life.

On retiring to Cyprus on 6th September 1995, he attended Ayia Kyriaki church in Paphos and gradually started getting involved in church life, his first 'job' was one of the team of pallbearers, he then went on to being a Sacristan and from there (after much soul searching and persuasion from others) to studying for the Reader Ministry; he was admitted to the Office of Reader on 2nd May 2004 by Bishop Clive Handford then, on 1st April 2010, he was given, by Bishop Michael Lewis, Permission to Officiate as a Reader within the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf.

He first attended Diocesan Synod in 1996, having been persuaded by friends in Paphos that it was an event well worth going to, then attended every year except for the year that Synod was held in the Gulf, in 2006 he was asked by Steve Collis, then Provost of the Cathedral, if he would be Sacristan at the Synod he said yes and from then on was Sacristan every year until 2018 when he felt he was getting to the point where he wasn't sure he could do things properly and well and decided it was time to hand over to someone younger.

He enjoyed his time as a Reader and his involvement with the Diocese all of which he considered an honour and a privilege. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Sarah Sait

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### **Selvarani Augusta Harrison 1967 – 2019**



*Selvarani Harrison*

Selvarani was born on 24th August 1967 in Megnanapuram, Tamil Nadu, India to a CSI family.

Her father, a devout Christian, was a businessman, dealing in clothes. The family consisted of four daughters and a son. From her early years, Selvarani was involved in running Sunday School, arranging Vacation Bible School and various other church activities. Her youth was dedicated to the Lord and she grew up in a missionary environment. She married Harrison Chinnakumar in 1996 and was blessed with 2 children - a son and a daughter.

She was a silent worker, strong, never publicized her work or took centre stage. She led the women's prayer group and took part in various other women's church activities. A non-political person, non-assuming and hospitable. Though Dubai life is a rat-race for many, she found time to meet and entertain people. She stood for the rights of the vulnerable, weak and poor and made it a point to see that they were treated well in community.

She went to be with the Lord on 9th November 2019, after a short span of ill-health.

During her life, she touched the lives of many and will always be remembered as a cheerful person, full of smiles.

Revd Harrison Chinnakumar

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### Mrs Sue Holdsworth



Archbishop Michael Lewis is very sad to announce the death, in Wales, on Sunday 8th December 2019 of Mrs Sue Holdsworth.

The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf and very many beyond it extend their love and offer their prayers to Canon John Holdsworth and to Ben and Zoe, son and daughter of Sue and John, and their families.

The funeral took place on Saturday 14th December 2019 at 1.30pm at St John the Baptist Church, Callwen, Glyntawe (Swansea Valley), followed by interment in the churchyard.

Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her; may she rest in peace and rise in glory, alleluia.

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### Support the Diocese

Please consider supporting the Diocese by leaving a legacy to the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf Foundation, or perhaps consider giving a one off gift when you leave the Diocese, or making a regular continuing donation. If you are a UK tax payer, the Foundation may be able to claim Gift Aid on your donations.

For further information, see the Diocesan website <http://cypgulf.org/donate/> or email: [foundation.treasurer@cypgulf.org](mailto:foundation.treasurer@cypgulf.org)

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### Dates for your diary in 2020

- Launde Abbey retreat will be on the weekend of 1st – 3rd May 2020.
- The Annual Meeting at All Hallows, London on Monday 3rd August 2020.
- The history of the diocese book entitled "The Unfolding Story" will be released at Synod 2020 in February. Also planned is a book signing event at All Hallows by the Tower, London on 14th February 2020, commencing at midday.
- The Northern Gathering in York on Wednesday 21st October 2020.

Watch this space for a date for another day in Exeter.

*Editor's Note: If you wish to attend the Launde Abbey retreat, the details and application form are available on the Diocesan website at;*

<http://cypgulf.org/association-friends-spring-gathering>

*Alternatively you may email the Friends Secretary, Ann Lloyd, at [friends@cypgulf.org](mailto:friends@cypgulf.org) for a copy of the application form.*

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