



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

May 2024

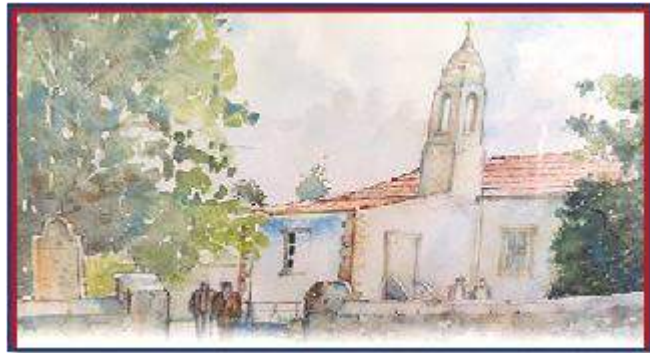


ST ANDREW'S TEAM

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Facebook: St Andrew's Church, Kyrenia



SERVICE TIMES FOR MAY

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

All are welcome

WELCOME



Thoughts From The Hermitage

APRIL 2024



The English word ‘church’, generally accepted as a translation from the Greek ‘ekklesia’, has at least two meanings, and it is always instructive to pay attention to which one of them comes spontaneously into our minds when we hear that particular word being used. Context is everything; but most of us have a kind of knee-jerk reaction to what is being meant, when someone starts talking about church.

The Zimbabwean group ‘The Bhundu Boys’ recorded a great version of the song ‘The Church is on Fire’. The words of that song leave you in no doubt as to what they are singing about:

The church has caught fire, and it's like no one has noticed

The pastor's screaming down the wire, get the ladders, get the hoses!

The church has caught fire, see the flames leap up like roses. Holy smoke!

But ‘The church is on fire’ by ‘Hillsong Worship’ takes a very different approach:

The Holy Spirit is here and his power is real; anything can happen and probably will;

Something very good, something good is going on around here

This is a church on fire, this is the Holy Spirit flame

We have a burning desire to lift up Jesus' name

Let the fire burn in every heart to light the way, defeat the dark

Let the flame of love burn higher; this is a church, this is a church on fire!

The church, as the body or bride of Christ, is the assembly of the people, the religious community as a whole, the body, or organization of Christian believers; in the classical Greek period the ‘ekklesia’ was the official assembly of the citizens. It has a root meaning of being ‘called out’, and the first Christians, Jewish and gentile converts, surely had no doubt that they were being called out, called apart, by God, to be ‘on fire’ with the Holy Spirit, and to bring the good news, the gospel,

of Jesus Christ to the whole world. Buildings or not, they would both find God, and help God, to bring and be the kingdom to earth.

We are always in two 'worlds' when we join the church, in baptism, and attend a church, for worship. We are part of a mystical body, God's universal and worldwide church, and we – hopefully – will be a regular part of a local branch of it, meeting in a particular building, and contributing to its ongoing life.

As priest in charge, or parish priest, or house for duty priest, here at St Andrew's it is my privilege and pleasure to be serving you, and trying, to the best of my abilities, to hold together both meanings of 'church', by reminding you, whenever it might seem necessary, that they are both important, and that we should try to keep them in balance, or creative tension, and not allow one to dominate the other, especially to the exclusion of practical and necessary action and planning. As far as the 'house' part of 'house-for-duty' is concerned, Linda and I want to thank all those who helped to make The Hermitage ready for us to move into last May. We are deeply appreciative of all the hard work that was done, and we are so grateful for all the lovely things that were donated to turn it into a wonderful home; not least the many pairs of scissors, so that we have at least one pair in every room!

As far as the 'duty' part of 'house-for-duty' goes, I could not do my job, my half-time job, or carry out my priestly duties, without the wonderful and sustained support of churchwarden Jacqueline. I have told her, and I am happy to place it on record now, that she is the best warden I have ever had, and I simply could not ask for more. She is hard-working, competent, totally reliable. I pay tribute too to my former warden, the late James Gibbs, who sadly is no longer with us, but I am grateful for all that he did, and shared with me. We did not agree about everything, but that is not the point; I salute his memory and give thanks to God for his service.

Thanks too, to each and every one of the elected church council members, all of whom contribute to the life and smooth-running of St Andrew's. The council meetings are positive and creative occasions, and I think that there is a spirit of willingness to 'let go' of past hurts, hold on to that which is good, and to face the future with hope and expectation. That is not true of every church council of which I have been a part, and again I am thankful to God for the spirit of openness and trust that I have found here. I am especially grateful to Geraldine Grundy for her quiet and efficient skills in recording minutes and preparing all the necessary paperwork. I deeply appreciate the amount of hard work that she does. I am also extremely grateful to Diana Peek who has maintained and revised the Electoral Roll, a necessary and not-so-simple task which she has carried out with grace and sensitivity.

I thank Bill Grundy too, my 'right hand man', as it were, for his support and hard work. He is an exemplary 'practical Christian', and he is uncomplaining (*to me anyway) and ever-dependable. He remembers things that I forget or don't know, and he does what needs to be done, without being asked. Who could ask for more!

In terms of the ongoing worship life of the church, I thank Diane Marriner who provides and arranges the beautiful flowers which enhance the appearance of the sanctuary at St Andrew's. I thank Sandy Oram and Mike Grahame for producing the weekly lectionary readings sheets and distributing them; the readers and pray-ers who take their responsibilities seriously, and read and pray with dignity and clarity; the welcoming and organizing skills of Sunday and Leo, and the efficiency and dedication of Sally and Leo in seeing to the room bookings and all the attendant administrative tasks. Last but by no means, in respect of the weekly worshipping life of the church, my thanks go to Anne Lloyd, who continues to produce the exceptionally helpful Pew Sheet, as well as a superb monthly magazine. Her contribution is all the more impressive, as it continues to come via the internet.

Thank you to all those who help in the kitchen, when we have tea and coffee after the service, and when we have Lent Lunches, which do so much good for others. And thank you to Joan, who keeps the 'shop' going, so providing a source of regular and greatly appreciated extra income for the church.

I thank Earl Moffitt and John Crothers for their contributions to the music and singing here. I am deeply grateful to be blessed with two extremely competent organists, even if there are times when neither is here; and therefore I register also my appreciation for Leo who operates the sequencer, when it is required. Thanks too to the choir, who are loyal, hard-working in rehearsal, and enhance the beauty of our worship: as the great Augustine put it, whoever sings WELL, prays twice!

Finally, in this hopefully fully comprehensive list, I thank Grahame Ash, our 'new' Church Treasurer; a godsend, some of us would say, who has tackled the 'Gordian knot' of St Andrew's finances and turned them into something both intelligible and manageable, even to a financial numbskull such as me. No priest could ask for more; the work that Grahame has done has been 'above and beyond', and he has been, I have no hesitation in saying, the answer to many prayers. Wendy Davies, too, has been unstinting in her support of Grahame, and she works incredibly hard to see that everything financial is in order and that money is banked and bills are paid! We are lucky indeed to have Grahame and Wendy serving in these roles. I place on record too, my thanks to John Worton-Griffiths for all that he has done in regard of Gift-Aid, and maximizing income to the church through the available tax refunds. We have benefitted greatly from his financial acumen and his dedication.

If I have left any out, please forgive me.

Finally, my thoughts about the future. Bishop Michael asked me to focus on three main things if I came here as the parish priest for three years: to encourage the folk here to face the future, to try to sort the finances out (!) and to love you! Simple stuff!

Well, I think a corner has been turned. I think there is far less of an obsession with the past than there was, even eight months ago. I think the future can be faced, with confidence and hope. But it will require some thought, and some planning. That is yet to come.

As far as finance is concerned, it isn't me, it's him! Grahame is working miracles. And they will perhaps continue – but eventually they will stop. That is when we have to start getting a bit more serious about stewardship, planned giving, realistic pledges, tithing and all the rest of it. I will 'flag it up' now; this church will be – as churches are – forced by financial circumstances, to change into the church God wants it to be, if we do not do whatever is necessary to avoid that rather embarrassing fate.

So, third, and finally, I will love you as I attempt, under God, to lead you. It is not always easy to love one another! We all know that. And the love that we are talking about is not always 'easy love' either. It is the Christlike sacrificial love that washes feet, and is genuinely willing to listen before it speaks. I said at interview that I would spend my first year here 'listening', and then I would respond to what I had heard. Now I am coming towards the end of that process and I intend to put some reflections and proposals to the council shortly. We will keep you informed. Let me also say that I am very willing indeed to visit any of you individually and in your own home, at whatever time is convenient, to listen to what you have to say, and, if you wish, to share my thoughts with you.

In the meantime, let us be the church, on fire only with God's love; but at the same time giving thanks for this particular church building, and our spiritual home - for the time being. Thanks be to God!

Fr Alec Mitchell April 2024

The Hermitage

Kyrenia



Lord Jesus Christ,
You were brought low,
yet you have been lifted high.
You were the servant of all,
yet you are above all and beyond all.
You were despised and rejected,
yet your name is exalted above all names.
Fully human, yet divine
taken into heaven, yet here by our sides.
You are higher than our highest thoughts,
greater than our minds could ever grasp.
So with all your people in every age,
we bow before you
and confess you as our risen Saviour,
The King of kings,
The Lord of lords,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen



ST ANDREW'S NEWS

Revd Rob Wardle will be our guest preacher next Sunday, May 5th. Before he retired last summer, Rob was the Team Rector for Ynys Cybi (Holy Island) in Anglesey. Rob and his wife, Carol, now live on their smallholding in Blaenau Ffestiniog in North Wales.



This is Rob, a couple of weeks ago, with one of their newborn lambs.

Dates for your diary -

BIBLE STUDY SERIES 'GENESIS : 'Fact and Truth'

Our next study series will look at the first part of the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Bible.

It will begin on **16 May** and run for four consecutive Thursdays at the Hermitage.

We start with prayers in the Hermitage Chapel at **10.00am** followed by the Bible Study until 12 noon when refreshments will be served.



Our new bishop, The Rt Revd Sean Semple, is to be enthroned in his cathedral in Lefkosa/Nicosia on Saturday 22 June. In recognition that many from the TRNC may not be able to attend, he himself therefore intends to come to St Andrew's on Sunday 23 June instead!

We are honoured that this will be his first official engagement here, and are planning a special welcome service, to be followed by a celebratory lunch together. Please put it in your diaries now! More details to come soon. . .



Fr Alec and Linda were delighted to be able to attend the Installation of Rev Paul Carr at St Stephen's Church in Paphos on April 27th.

We wish Paul every blessing in his ministry in Cyprus.



"The annoying squeak required extreme unction"

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.



TODAY'S WORLD

Primates combine pilgrimage with prayer and debate in Rome *By HATTIE WILLIAMS*

CONFLICT, climate, and poverty are among the topics to be discussed behind closed doors at the Primates' Meeting being held in Rome this week.

The Anglican Communion Office (ACO) described the meeting as “four days of prayer, pilgrimage, discussion, and fellowship” — which includes a meeting with Pope Francis, due to take place on Thursday, shortly before the single press conference that has been scheduled.

“Conceived as a pilgrimage, they will pray and study scripture together, visit holy sites in Rome, and reflect together about the mission and witness of the Church in the world,” the ACO said.



It is the first time that the Primates have gathered in Rome. They were due to meet there in 2020, but the Covid pandemic forced a cancellation. This week, they are being hosted by the director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, Archbishop Ian Ernest.

The agenda, which is not being published, has been developed by the Primates' standing committee. It is reported to include "prayerful conversation" about areas of conflict in the world as well as "regional meetings to discuss issues of local concern".

On Monday, the Primates visited Tre Fontane, believed to be the place of St Paul's martyrdom, and the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, where they attended a service of vespers. The Archbishop of Canterbury later described the pilgrimage as "deeply profound and significant: not only in that they are where St Paul the Apostle was martyred and laid to rest, but that the Primates all journeyed there together, in deep prayer and contemplation."

On Tuesday, a pilgrimage to Santa Maria in Trastevere, and the Community of Sant'Egidio was planned.

Earlier this week, Archbishop Welby described the meeting as "an important time of pilgrimage and fellowship. Together, we will discuss common priorities and challenges in the global mission and shared life of the Anglican Communion.

"The Primates serve churches and communities around the world. Many come from settings where people are directly impacted by the instability of conflict, the challenge of climate crisis, and the injustice of poverty. Together, we will pray for the needs of people and planet, the unity of God's Church, and the witness of the Anglican Communion."

Israel and Iran urged, for the world's sake, not to escalate war By REBECCA PAVELEY



CHURCH leaders have joined others in calling for restraint by Israel and Iran in their use of arms. Further threats after Sunday's drone attack risked broadening the conflict in the Middle East, they said.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, writing on social media on Monday, said that Iran's missile and drone attack on Israel on Sunday had been "wrong".

“They risked civilian lives and they escalated the already dangerous tensions in the region. I pray for the peace and security of Israel’s people at this time and I appeal to all parties both for restraint and to act for peace and mutual security.”

More than 300 missiles and drones were fired from Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, in what Iran described as retaliation for Israel’s attack on the Iranian diplomatic compound in Damascus on 1 April, in which a senior general and at least 12 others were killed. Other countries, including Jordan, a critic of Israel’s Gaza war, helped to destroy the weapons before they reached their target.

Iran said that its attack was legitimate self-defence. Israel vowed to retaliate.

Pope Francis also appealed for a halt to the “spiral of violence”. All nations should “take the side of peace” and help Israelis and Palestinians to live in two states, side by side, in security, he said. “It is their deep and legitimate desire, and it is their right! Two neighbouring states.”

The World Council of Churches (WCC) called on Israel and Iran to “serve the interests of peace, people, and planet instead of pride and retaliation”. It issued a series of calls, to the United States and other governments, to act as “agents of good will”. The WCC repeated its appeal for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and the freeing of detainees and hostages.

Quaker organisations in the UK and US also called for an immediate end to the fighting, and for “unrestrained” humanitarian access in Gaza. To realise peace, past and continuing injustices must be addressed, they said.

SUDAN ‘ONE OF THE GREATEST HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHES OF OUR TIME’ BISHOPS SAY

By HATTIE WILLIAMS

THE civil war in Sudan is “a forgotten conflict with no winners” and “one of the greatest humanitarian catastrophes of our time”, two bishops have said in a joint Anglican-Roman Catholic statement.

The conflict, whose first anniversary fell last month (19 April), continues to have “devastating consequences” for the people of Sudan, the statement, published on Wednesday, says.

It was issued by the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, the C of E’s lead bishop for foreign affairs, and the Catholic Bishops’ Conference’s lead bishop for Africa, the RC Bishop of Lancaster, the Rt Revd Paul Swarbrick. “With attention turned elsewhere, Sudan remains largely overlooked — a forgotten conflict with no winners that is already one of the greatest humanitarian catastrophes of our time,” they write. The Bishops point to the resulting hunger crisis, quoting a report from the World Food Programme which states that 10.5 million people — equivalent to the population of London — have been displaced, and more than 25 million people need humanitarian aid.

“Nearly 15,000 have already been killed, and 26,000 more have been injured, with women and children bearing the brunt of unspeakable violence,” the Bishops say.

In the spirit of messages of peace from both Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury, they write: "We must, however hard it is, not simply shift our attention from one crisis to another. Instead, we should acknowledge, pray, and act in solidarity for all who suffer worldwide. For each crisis is akin to a sick child in our universal family, deserving equal love, care, and attention.

"Sudan, a place with which we have strong connections and with whose people we are deeply engaged, demands our collective attention and focus."

The Bishops conclude with a plea to the UK Government and international community "to do what you can to bring about an immediate ceasefire and to ensure unhindered humanitarian access. It is so desperately needed to avert a further catastrophic humanitarian hunger crisis."

NEWS FROM UK

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN HIGHER WHEN SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES KEEP CLOSE, RESEARCH SAYS

By PAT ASHWORTH



A CLOSER relationship between churches and primary schools results in greater spiritual development in children, research commissioned by the Growing Faith Foundation and carried out in Guildford diocese last year suggests.

Two surveys were conducted for the research: the first of "school leadership" — i.e. head teachers, senior leaders — in 28 church primary schools in the diocese (34 % of all church primary schools in the diocese); and the second of groups of children from 25 schools (30 % of the diocesan total).

The research sought to gather parish experiences with the aim of identifying examples of good practice and successful models of relationship between churches and schools where this had led to an increase in church attendance on Sundays. The survey identified 11

parishes in which the relationship was working particularly well. Representatives from these schools and associated churches formed focus groups to further the research.

The positive effect on children of spending time in church buildings was one finding: “Providing children with time, space and encouragement to be quiet, to reflect and to pray, helps them to feel close to God.” Children were also found to appreciate quiet spaces in school.

The focus groups found that children placed a high value on prayers that they had written themselves. “Finding ways to bring their words into the church and to God is very powerful,” the report says. It assigns value, for example, to moving school prayer-trees to a church service once a term, and for framing joint initiatives, such as raising money for a charity or caring for the environment, as spiritual acts.

Top of the list of the report’s recommendations for churches is to “Give time to cultivating a good relationship with the local school leader or leaders, and be as involved as possible in the life of the local school. Talk with the school, ask where the church can help, and think creatively around what can be offered.”

On the schools’ part, the report says: “Governors should value the good relationship between the church and the school leader and encourage and release the head teacher to invest time in this.”

Collective worship that is welcoming and inclusive, and that gives children a safe space to think deeply and “to grow and challenge themselves in new ways”, is the most effective way of deepening the relationship, the research suggests. “It also helps spiritual development because it encourages the children to think differently and do something new rather than change the way they behave or act.”

In almost all (92 %) of the schools surveyed, all or most of the children reported that they were made to feel welcome and included in collective worship. One respondent said: “Because then, if someone doesn’t be kind to you [sic], you might not feel close to God any more but when they are respecting you, you feel you are closer to God.”

When asked how people from the local church helped them to feel closer to God, most children talked about hearing Bible stories. One child said: “They [visiting church people] tell stories from their own life which helps you make connections.”

Top of the activities rated by schools as contributing most to the spiritual development of children are school services held at the church (96 % of all the schools surveyed rated this highly).

The report also encourages schools to be generous in enabling and inviting other churches, denominations, and Christian organisations to be involved in worship. It recommends engaging with staff as well as with children, and looking for ways in which relationships with the school community can be extended to include parents or carers and households.

The research was conducted by Emma Coy, a mission enabler for children and families, and Jane Whittington, a schools officer, of Guildford diocese. The surveys also raised questions for consideration at diocesan and national level, including the levels of support and training for ordinands and clergy who were seeking to engage with schools in the recommended ways.

FAITH PROGRAMMES SAFE, SAY BBC HEADS OF RELIGION AND ETHICS by ED THORNTON

FAITH programmes on the BBC will not be moved from television and radio to solely digital platforms, the heads of religion and ethics have said, as the Corporation this year marks 100 years of religious broadcasting.

In a joint interview last Friday, the Head of Religion and Ethics for BBC Audio, Tim Pemberton, and his counterpart for television, Daisy Scalchi, addressed concerns that religious output was being marginalised.

Both emphasised that senior managers were enthusiastic about religious programming; but acknowledged that, as the Corporation faced budgetary demands, there was pressure to ensure that content “goes as far as it possibly can”, across traditional and digital platforms.

An online timeline compiled by BBC History selects significant moments of the past century of religious broadcasting: from the first broadcast service in 1924, led by the Revd Dick Sheppard in St Martin-in-the-Fields, in London, to the BBC2 series *Pilgrimage*, in which celebrities with different beliefs “embark on a spiritual journey to broaden minds”.

Other highlights include the broadcast of a Jewish service from Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945; a TV dramatisation of the life of Christ in 1956; the first broadcast of *Songs of Praise* in 1961 and of *Thought for the Day* in 1970; the six-part series *Sea of Faith* in 1984; and the launches of *The Moral Maze* on Radio 4 in 1990, and *Beyond Belief* in 2002.

Mr Pemberton believed that the Covid pandemic showed that religion was as relevant as it was 100 years ago. He is proud of the services that were broadcast into people’s homes when churches were closed, and of the “programmes that dealt with big ethical thought, and deeper themes about life that helped people navigate their way through”.

Neither Mr Pemberton nor Ms Scalchi was concerned by the decline in church attendance and the secularisation of British society. “Whereas formal religion, church attendance, all of those things, may decline over time — and we know in the Census it dipped below 50 per cent for the first time — that’s different to people’s interest in religion and people’s engagement in spirituality,” Mr Pemberton said. “Our programmes are very buoyant: people are still engaging with them and still really like what we do.”

“We’re certainly seeing with our viewer figures that there is definitely no diminishing or reduction in interest in our programmes about faith and belief.”

Mr Pemberton also observed that, while participation in organised religion was declining in the UK, “in the global South, that’s not the story. We need to be conscious that there are parts of the world where religion is burgeoning and doing very well.”

This made the need for religious literacy more important than ever, Ms Scalchi said. “Whether you have a faith or not, it is essential to good social cohesion that we understand different belief systems, different faiths, particularly on the global stage,

where the numbers and that overall picture is quite distinct from what's happening here in the UK.”

Gareth Malone's Easter Passion, broadcast over Easter, marked the 300th anniversary of the performance of Bach's St John Passion in Germany. This was, she said, an example of “a really pan-BBC offering, the licence fee going as far as it could. We teamed up with BBC Wales, the BBC Singers, the National Orchestra of Wales, Radio 4, BBC One and BBC Two, and the programmes went out across all of those platforms.

“It brought the Passion story to a really broad audience, which I think is so important that in our culture, [where] people are perhaps going to church less and may not actually hear some of the basics such as the Passion story at Easter, we're making sure that that stays front and centre of our offering at Easter.”



NEWPORT MINSTER ON ISLE OF WIGHT REOPENS AFTER £2.6M TRANSFORMATION *by MADELEINE DAVIES*



After the reopening service on Wednesday, the chair of the Friends of Newport Minster, Jacque Gazzard, presents Prince Edward with a bowl made from one of the old pews. The Bishop of Portsmouth, Dr Jonathan Frost, looks on

NEWPORT MINSTER, on the Isle of Wight, has reopened, after a £2.6-million refurbishment project (that set out to bring a “sleeping beauty back to life”).

There has been a place of worship on the site for at least 1000 years, with a medieval structure completed in 1175. It has been closed since 2022 while work on internal refurbishment took place. This followed many phases of a project to conserve its exterior, which began in 2006. In 2023, it was removed from the Historic England “At Risk” register after more than a decade. During the closure of the building, worshippers have been meeting for services in the parish centre near by.

The work, carried out by local tradespeople, has included a complete reshaping of the inside of the building; the installation of an underfloor heating system; and improved lavatories, a new kitchen, new seating, and new meeting rooms. The main worship area includes 300 chairs that can be moved to enable community activities to take place. A press release from the diocese spoke of the building becoming “a magnet for community groups, as well as a spiritual hub for the island”. The work has been made possible by grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England, the National Churches Trust, the Benefact Trust, and others, including a private benefactor who donated £100,000.

More than 400 people attended a reopening service on Wednesday evening, led by the Bishop of Portsmouth, Dr Jonathan Frost. The Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Ven. Steve Daughtery, preached on the feeding of the 5000, drawing parallels with the overwhelming need that had presented itself and the underwhelming resources that Jesus had transformed. Students from Christ the King College, the joint C of E and Roman Catholic secondary school, also took part.

A Bible reading was given by the Duke of Edinburgh, the patron of the Friends of Newport Minster. Speaking before his reading, he said: “I want to add my thanks to everyone who has been involved in it, everyone who has supported this, for all the wonderful craftsmen who have been involved in restoring this fantastic minster, and to say what a pleasure it is to be here at this event to see it being fully reopened and restored. It is what we set out to do. We are handing it back to you and please make the best use of it.”

One of the Team Vicars, the Revd Emma Cooksey, said that the new facilities would “enable us to do what we’ve been aspiring to do for years: to be a thriving hub at the centre of our community. We are looking forward to welcoming the community into the building for exhibitions, concerts, meetings, and plays, and to provide excellent facilities for our regular worship services.”

Jacque Gazzard, who chairs the Friends of Newport Minster, last week said: “Our aim all along was to see the church start to come to life again. It is one thing saving important bricks and mortar, but creating community is much tougher, and yet that is what is happening here.”

Newport has undergone significant pastoral reorganisation in recent years, after a diocesan bid for Strategic Development Funding that highlighted the area as a place where, “despite the best efforts of clergy and congregations, relatively few people go to church”. The Commissioners agreed last year that there should be a “reset” of the SDF project in the area. The Minster has struggled financially during the restoration project and the pandemic, but there are hopes that this will be resolved now that it has reopened. Restoration funding has enabled the employment of a community engagement co-ordinator and commercial officer. To date, it has received 30,000 visitors a year. The last annual report put the electoral roll in the parish at 197.



Every single hour of today, MSF surgical teams will perform 13 vital operations.

In the middle of conflicts, crumbling healthcare systems and chronic humanitarian crises, we are there, delivering this life-saving service. Last year alone, we conducted 114,000 major operations.

But now, around the world – in places like Gaza, Sudan and Afghanistan – the urgency is only growing. Tomorrow, we will keep on operating amid insecurity and supply strains. Tomorrow, our expert staff will continue to care.

In December, we launched our 'surgery response' to support MSF's critical surgical teams. The generosity and commitment of supporters like you was astounding. You undoubtedly helped us save lives that could have been lost.

Today, the medical needs have never been higher. Safe surgery remains out of reach for 70 percent of people on Earth, and we must go wherever we are needed most.

SUDAN: COUNTRY FACING COLOSSAL MAN-MADE CATASTROPHE AFTER ONE YEAR OF WAR

“Every day we see patients dying because of violence-related injuries, children perishing due to malnutrition and the lack of vaccines, women with complications after unsafe deliveries, patients who have experienced sexual violence, and people with chronic diseases who cannot access their medicines,” ... Despite all this, there is an extremely disturbing humanitarian void”

“The health system and basic services have largely collapsed or been damaged by the warring parties. Only 20 to 30 % of health facilities remain functional in Sudan, meaning that there is extremely limited availability of healthcare for people across the country.”

In areas close to hostilities, MSF teams have treated women, men and children directly injured in the fighting, including those with shrapnel, blast and gunshot wounds, and injuries from stray bullets. According to the UN, more than eight million people have already been forced to flee their homes and have been displaced multiple times, while 25 million – half of the country’s population – are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

Although MSF works in good cooperation with the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Government of Sudan has persistently and deliberately obstructed access to humanitarian aid, especially to areas outside of its control.

It has systematically denied travel permits for humanitarian staff and supplies to cross the frontlines, restricted the use of border crossings, and established a highly restrictive process for obtaining humanitarian visas.

“Today, our biggest challenge is the scarcity of medical supplies,” says Ibrahim*, an MSF doctor working in the capital Khartoum. “We've run out of surgical equipment, and we are on the brink of stopping all work unless supplies arrive.”

Khartoum has been under a blockade for the past six months, while a similar situation has been impacting the city of Wad Madani since January.

In RSF-controlled areas, where many different militias and armed groups also operate, health facilities and warehouses were frequently looted in the first months of the conflict.

Incidents such as carjackings continue on a regular basis and medical workers, particularly from the Ministry of Health, have been harassed and arrested.

In hard-to-reach areas like Darfur, Khartoum or Al Jazirah, MSF often finds itself the sole or one of the few international humanitarian organisations present, while needs far exceed our capacity to respond.

Even in more accessible areas such as White Nile, Blue Nile, Kassala and Gedaref states, the overall response is negligible: a drop in the ocean.

One example is the catastrophic malnutrition crisis in Zamzam camp in North Darfur, where there have been no food distributions from the World Food Programme since May 2023.

Almost a quarter of the children we screened there in a rapid assessment in January were found to be suffering from acute malnutrition – seven percent were severe cases. At the same time, 40 percent of pregnant and breastfeeding women were suffering from malnutrition, and there was a devastating mortality rate across the camp of 2.5 deaths per 10,000 people per day.

“The situation in Sudan was already very fragile before the war and it has now become catastrophic,” says Ozan Agbas, MSF Emergency Operations Manager for Sudan.

“In many of the areas where MSF has started emergency activities, we have not seen the return of the international humanitarian organisations that initially evacuated in April.”

While these are difficult conditions in which to operate, the response should have increased, not diminished, especially in the areas where access is possible. Increased efforts are urgently needed by all humanitarian actors and organisations to find solutions to these problems and scale up activities across the country.

MSF calls on warring parties to adhere to International Humanitarian Law and the humanitarian resolutions of the Jeddah declaration by putting in place mechanisms to protect civilians and to ensure safe humanitarian access to all areas of Sudan without exception. This includes stopping blockages.

MSF also calls on the UN to show more boldness in the face of this enormous crisis – to focus on clear results related to increasing access so that they actively contribute towards enabling a rapid and massive scale-up of humanitarian assistance.

Mental health: Gaza's medics are enduring the unthinkable

After over six months of relentless war, Gaza's healthcare workers have had to face unprecedented challenges to provide medical assistance to thousands of people, while trying to survive and manage the toll the war has taken on them personally.

According to Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF) mental health staff, the impact of working in such extreme conditions will leave scars for years to come. MSF psychiatrist, Dr Audrey McMahan, who recently returned from the Occupied Palestinian Territories, says medical staff in Gaza are working under profound psychological strain.

"Many times, because of the bombardments or because of the insecurity, medical staff had to leave patients behind. Many of them have a shared feeling of guilt for not being able to do more," says McMahan. "Other times, the guilt is about having made the choice to protect their family first and not go to the hospital to treat patients."

Some 300 Palestinian MSF staff are in Gaza. This includes doctor Ruba Suliman who works at Rafah Indonesian Field Hospital. She has been displaced from her home and is living in a shelter in Rafah, southern Gaza, with her husband and two children.

"There is constant noise from the drones, which never leave us. Sometimes it's really hard to sleep," says Dr Suliman. "I have this moral obligation to help people around me and I have this other obligation to save my kids."

"We are alive, but we are not okay," she continues. "We are tired. Everybody here is devastated."

Healthcare workers in Gaza face the same struggles as the other 2.2 million people living in the Strip. These doctors, nurses and emergency responders have also lost their homes; some are living in tents, and many of their friends and family members have been killed.

"It is not just about the house itself [destroyed in Gaza City], it is about losing all the small things that made you who you are," says another Palestinian MSF doctor. "My favourite coffee cup, my mother's pictures, the shoes I liked so much."

The intensity of and the long exposure to these traumatic events is shattering the psychological state of some Palestinian people in Gaza. This also includes healthcare workers, who say they come to work to not think about the war. But they nevertheless fear that what they see happening to their patients will happen to them or their loved ones.

"Medical workers continue to work despite their emotional state, despite their constant worries about the safety and security of their families," says Gisela Silva González, MSF Mental Health Activity Manager in Gaza. "This increases the level of stress at work, which is already very high in this context. The case of every patient can be an emotional trigger for healthcare workers."

MSF's mental health staff in Gaza say they are seeing symptoms in medical staff linked to this level of continuous psychological stress and exhaustion. Staff experience anxiety,

insomnia, depression, intrusive thoughts, emotional avoidance and nightmares, all of which can heighten the risk of mental health issues.

MSF is trying to urgently provide mental health care to medical staff, although a lot remains to be implemented to scale up this support. An essential element required for psychological support and treatment is safety – and in an environment where not even the caregivers are safe, it is impossible to build resilience and coping mechanisms. No one and nowhere is safe in Gaza.

“When we say that there is no safe place in Gaza today, we are not just talking about the shelling,” says Amparo Villasmil, an MSF psychologist who worked in Gaza in February and March. “There isn’t even a safe place in people’s minds. They live in a state of constant alert. They can’t sleep, they think that at any moment they are going to die; that if they fall asleep, they won’t be able to react quickly and run away, or protect their family.”

Villasmil adds that healthcare workers and civilians alike are haunted and distressed by the prospect of an impending Israeli offensive in Rafah, where an estimated 1.5 million people are crammed and living in dire conditions.

“Once, I found a colleague – a psychologist – on the stairs. He’s usually a very energetic and upbeat person but he was leaning his head on his knees. He was on the verge of tears and told me how exhausted he was,” says Villasmil. Her colleague had just heard the confirmation of an offensive on Rafah.

“He asked me what he was supposed to do, where he should go and when this war would stop. I had no answers to give him.”

MSF reiterates its call for an immediate and sustained ceasefire to prevent more death and destruction for people in Gaza.



“The Bishop loved to see signs of spring in the palace gardens”



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

Diocesan News

Please pray for Bishop-elect Sean

As the Diocesan Cathedrals of St Christopher in Bahrain and St Paul in Nicosia prepare for the Consecration and Enthronements of Bishop-elect Sean Semple, it would bring Sean great joy to know that all parishes were united in prayer for the Diocese, for his family, and for him, as he begins this journey of faith with us all.

The Consecration and Enthronement of Bishop-elect Sean at St Christopher's Cathedral will take place on 24 May 2024 at 6pm. The Enthronement of the new Bishop in St Paul's Cathedral in Nicosia will take place on 22 June 2024 at 5pm. Both of these events will be live-streamed, and it is hoped that parishes may wish to gather together for the service to celebrate and reflect on this historic occasion, with our new Bishop—the sixth of the Diocese, the first to be consecrated in Bahrain, the first African-born.

Please pray for the Diocese, for Bishop-elect Sean, his wife Jenny, and their family.

Heavenly Father,

*in every age you raise up pastors and leaders for your Church
to reflect the light of Christ and to lead us in the way of holiness.*

*We thank you for the election of your servant Sean
who soon will be consecrated as our Bishop.*

*Grant to him and his family every grace of your Spirit
as they prepare to move to the Diocese.*

Bless Sean's future ministry

*that together with the priests, deacons and laypeople of Cyprus and the Gulf
the light of Christ may be seen*

and the love of Christ experienced by the people we serve.

We ask this through the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

GULF CHURCHES THANKED FOR EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

Authorities in the UAE have been working hard to resolve ongoing challenges in areas afflicted by severe flooding. Volunteers from local churches have joined in the effort, distributing food, water, sanitary towels, and other essentials to communities—Christian and non-Christian alike.

Parts of Sharjah have been particularly affected. The entrances to high-rise buildings in some parts remain waterlogged and power cuts mean lifts are out



of order, leaving residents and volunteers to climb numerous flights of stairs to deliver provisions to those in need.

Their gratitude was moving, thanking volunteers for undertaking the difficult journey to reach them, as well as the church, and the Diocese for its support and prayers.

“We are happy to be part of these blessings from your church and her leadership,” said one resident to volunteers from Christ Church Jebel Ali. “We send our vote of thanks and prayers to you all.”

PAPHOS CELEBRATES FR PAUL

A service of Induction and Welcome for the Reverend Paul Carr was held on Saturday (27 April) at St Stephen’s Church in Tala.

A warm and vibrant congregation led by the Venerable Christopher Futchter, Archdeacon in Cyprus, gathered to celebrate their parish priest, who was



licensed by Archbishop Hosam Naoum at Synod in February.

“It was a day of wonderful fellowship,” said Canon Georgia Katsantonis, who attended the service which was followed by a garden party hosted by Fr Paul and his wife, Paula.

REQUEST FOR PRAYER



The Diocesan family is deeply concerned to hear that Julia Lewis, whose health has been deteriorating rapidly in recent weeks, is now in hospital in Limassol, Cyprus.

We send our love and assurance of our prayers to Bishop Michael and their family and ask for God’s healing hands upon Julia, bringing comfort and care during this challenging time.



Compiled by Rev Gill Nisbet of the Barnabas Team

Walking on in faith regardless of the circumstances



The mocking of Christ by Fra Angelico. (1437-1446)

There are many paintings of Christ's betrayal and crucifixion. Here is one where we see the cruelties of Christ's tormentors represented as fragments floating in the space around the white-robed, blindfolded victim Jesus: a disembodied head spits at our Lord, and a floating hand strikes him with a rod. As we reflect, this does indeed provide a grim glimpse into the extent of scorn, abuse, and contempt Jesus bore in the lead-up to His crucifixion. On Good Friday we bring both head and heart to the foot of the cross. We may want to puzzle over the why of it: Why did this

have to happen to Jesus? Why do we keep returning to this bloody act? Why does it matter? Nobody wants to suffer, but it seems to be part of the deal of life. As Julian of Norwich said in the middle of the plague:

'If there be anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe from falling, I know nothing of it — for it was not shown me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again, we are always held close in one love.'

Mysteriously, the real glory of the Christian faith seems to come when Jesus invites us to 'share in his sufferings' as we find when we read for example Philippians 3:10-11, where he invites us to follow him all the way. Not just resurrection life, but death and resurrections. Not just glorious Christian living and abundant blessing, but suffering and glory. Reflect on the sufferings you have had to deal with during the past year?: Physical, Mental, Spiritual. Journal all that has caused you to suffer intolerably. Draw your own picture of the

crucifixion and nail all that you have suffered personally and suffered because of others' pain to the cross.

The desert Father and mothers saw crucifixion (suffering of all kinds) as much more effective than fasting and praying for the purification of the soul. Would you agree with this?

What has been your experience? Pray this Prayer: The Soul of Christ prayer:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O Good Jesus, hear me.

Within your wounds hide me.

Permit me not to be separated from you.

From the wicked foe, defend me.

At the hour of my death, call me

and bid me come to you

That with your saints I may praise you

For ever and ever. Amen.

We can be so familiar with the story of Holy Week that it can often breed unfamiliarity. So, I invite you to read Matthew 26:36-56.

Read. Read the passage slowly.

Listen. Sit silently for one minute and pay attention to the words or phrases stand out to you.

Read. Read the passage a second time and intentionally pause between phrases and sentences.

Listen. Prayerfully ask: To what area of my life does that word or phrase relate? Sit silently for two minutes and listen.

Read. Read the passage a third time, again slowly.

Listen. Prayerfully ask: Is there an invitation or next step for me, related to this word or phrase? Sit silently for two minutes, and without trying to figure out the invitation or next step, just listen.

Diocesan Prayers for May



Sunday, 31 March 2024 EASTER DAY

Anglican Cycle of Prayer - **The Church in the Province of the West Indies**

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer - Pray for Bishop Robert Atwell, his clergy, and people,
and for the three-way link with us and Thika.

The Mission to Seafarers in Cyprus

Sunday, 7 April 2024 EASTER II

Anglican Cycle of Prayer - **The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria**

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer - Pray for ordained clergy, both stipendiary and
self-supporting, with licensed responsibility and
accountability.

Christ Church & Ras Morbat Eye Clinic, Aden, Yemen

Sunday, 5 May 2024 EASTER VI

Anglican Cycle of Prayer - **The Anglican Church of Brazil**

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer - Pray for the staff who conscientiously serve the
administration of the diocese.

St Andrew's, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Sunday, 12 May 2024 ASCENSION SUNDAY

Anglican Cycle of Prayer - **The Anglican Church of Burundi**

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer - Pray for Archdeacon Christopher's ministry, for the
parishes of Cyprus, and for justice and peace across the
island.

St Barnabas, Limassol, Cyprus

Sunday, 19 May 2024 PENTECOST

Anglican Cycle of Prayer - **The Anglican Church of Canada**

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer - Pray for the upcoming Consecration of our Bishop-Elect,
The Revd Sean Semple.

St Paul's, Kuwait

Sunday, 26 May 2024 TRINITY SUNDAY

Anglican Cycle of Prayer - **The Church of the Province of Central Africa**

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer - Pray in thanksgiving for faithful clergy and others
ministering Word and Sacraments in all parts of the
diocese.

St Andrew's, Kyrenia, Cyprus

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:

Julia Lewis, Mary Evans, Sandi Richardson, May McKenzie, Nasim Akhtar, Shane Barnes, Jenny and Bob Hayward, Padmesh Gartaula and Sigi Martin.

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

Pray for the recently departed, their family and friends who mourn their passing.

"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

When you have gone so far that you can't manage one more step, then you've gone just half the distance that you're capable of.

A Greenland proverb

You are the architect of your personal experience.

Shirley Maclaine, born 1934

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

Theodore Roosevelt 1858 - 1919

A CAKE FOR PENTECOST

Pentecost Sunday, also known as Whitsunday, ranks among the great feasts of Christianity. "It commemorates not only the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and Disciples, but also the fruits and effects of that event: the completion of the work of redemption, the fullness of grace for the Church and its children, and the gift of faith for all nations."



Ingredients

- 225g softened butter
- 225g golden caster sugar
- 4 large eggs
- ½ lemon, zested
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 225g self-raising flour
- splash of milk

For the icing

- 100g butter, softened
- 250g soft cheese
- 600g icing sugar
- 400g strawberry jam

Decorations:

100g large strawberries, sliced

Large candle in centre to represent Christ our Light.

12 candles - representing the 12 Apostles.

7 strawberry slices, heart-shaped, placed around the candles, representing the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit

Strawberry slices, placed around the base, representing the tongues of fire

Before cutting the cake, if there are children around let them blow out the candles to represent the "mighty wind."

METHOD

- 1 Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4, butter and line the base of two 20cm spring-form cake tins with baking parchment.
- 2 Using an electric whisk, beat the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Crack the eggs in one at a time and whisk well, scraping down the sides of the bowl after each addition. Add the lemon zest, vanilla, flour, milk and a pinch of salt. Whisk until just combined then divide the mixture between the two tins.
- 3 Bake in the centre of the oven for 25-30 mins until a skewer inserted into the middle of each cake comes out clean. After 10 mins remove the cakes from their tins and leave to cool completely on a wire rack. Fill with a good dollop of strawberry jam and some fresh cream.
- 4 For the icing, blend the butter and half the sugar until smooth and creamy, add the soft cheese and the remaining sugar and blend again. Be careful not to over mix as the icing will become runny. (If you do over-mix, don't worry – keep mixing with an electric whisk and it'll thicken back up).
- 5 Layer the cakes with the jam and half the icing. Invert the top cake, so the base of the cake gives you a flat surface. Pile the rest of the icing on top of the cake, using a palette knife to spread the icing over the top and down the sides. Decorate with the remaining strawberries.

Can be made up to a day ahead of serving, keep somewhere cool or in the fridge. Will keep for three days.



If you would like to contribute any articles or comments
to the magazine please contact
the Editor, Anne Lloyd at graniannie@hotmail.com

*Living God, help us at all times to be Christ to others
and to see Christ in all people.*



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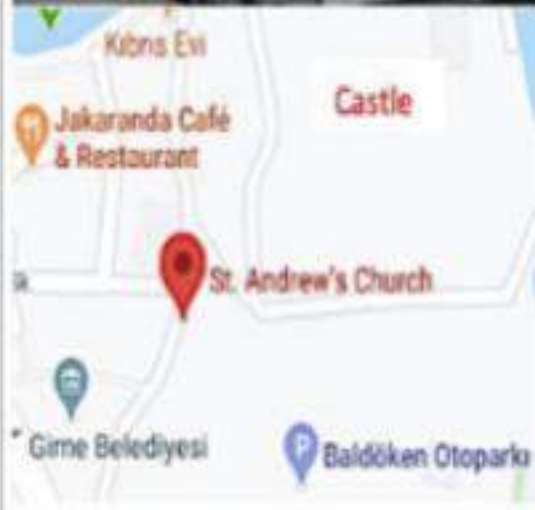
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TÜRK BANKASI

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 pass it on – the more it is read, the wider the message it spreads, which pleases us (and keeps our advertisers happy too). Suggested donation: \$75.

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