

# THE EUROPEAN ANGLICAN



ORDINATIONS  
AND VOCATIONS:  
CANDIDATES  
FROM ALL OVER  
EUROPE

AFTER PARISH  
IN THE SUN:  
COUNTING THE  
BLESSINGS

FRIENDS:  
MEET THE NEW  
SECRETARY

DIOCESAN LENT  
APPEAL:  
IN WORDS AND  
PICTURES

FREE



# THE EUROPEAN ANGLICAN

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



## The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe

The Rt Revd Geoffrey Rowell  
Bishop's Lodge, Church Road,  
Worth, Crawley RH19 7RT  
Tel: +44 (0) 1293 883051  
Fax: +44 (0) 1293 884479  
Email: bishop@dioceseineurope.org.uk

## The Suffragan Bishop

The Rt Revd David Hamid  
Postal address: Diocesan Office  
Tel: +44 (0) 207 898 1160  
Email: david.hamid@europe.c-of-e.org.uk

## The Diocesan Office

14 Tufton Street, London,  
SW1P 3QZ  
Tel: +44 (0) 207 898 1155  
Fax: +44 (0) 207 898 1166  
Email: diocesan.office@europe.c-of-e.org.uk

## Diocesan Secretary

Mr Adrian Mumford

## Assistant Diocesan Secretary

Mrs Jeanne French

## Finance Officer

Mr Nick Wraight

## The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Gibraltar

Dean: The Very Revd Alan Woods

## Diocesan Website

www.europe.anglican.org

## Editor and Diocesan Communications Officer

The Revd. Paul Needle  
Postal address: Diocesan office  
Email: paul.needle@europe.c-of-e.org.uk

## Design

Adept Design, Norwich

## Printer

Norwich Colour Print

## Distribution

CoDEStorm plc

**Cover photo:** The Revd. Ann Babb's 2-year old grandson Conrad gets centre stage at the joyful celebration of her ordination to the diaconate.

# CONTENTS

## BISHOP GEOFFREY

- 2 *The challenge and blessings of ordination*

## CALLED TO SERVE

- 4 *Deacon Ann's day to remember Hopes and aims of ordinands*

## NOBEL HONOURS

- 6 *Church members in Vienna and their work for peace*

## TWO BISHOPS AND A PRINCESS

- 7 *A shared confirmation A royal touch to a Swedish church bazaar*

## WAS THAT YOU ON TV?

- 8 *Behind the scenes of a "Parish in the Sun"*

## WHO WORSHIPS HERE?

- 10 *Statistics offer food for thought*

## IN, OUT AND ONWARDS

- 12 *Moves and honours around the diocese Last Post in Aquitaine*

## BOWLED OVER

- 13 *A bit of history returns to Cologne*

## AROUND AND ABOUT

- 14 *Voting for a new Diocesan Synod Friends new man at the helm*

## ADVENT BAPTISM AND FRENCH REMEMBRANCE

- 15 *First baptism at La Cote*

## CHANGING YOUNG LIVES

- 16 *The diocesan Lent Appeal*



*The year 2005 was, as you all know, a special year for the Diocese, keeping its twenty-fifth anniversary, and celebrating in London, Gibraltar, and across the Diocese by many pilgrimages. It was also a special year for the Church more widely with the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of his successor, Benedict XVI, whose first encyclical letter is a powerful recalling of Christians to the fundamental reality of the love of God and the love of our neighbour.*

These are, as Jesus taught us, the two great commandments. Pope Benedict reminds us that 'being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.' When we open ourselves up to the love of God in Jesus Christ, in times of prayer, in reading and meditating upon the Scriptures alone or with others, in joining in the worship of the family of God, and particularly in our sharing in the foretaste of the feast of heaven that we are given in the Eucharist, we learn how to live the love of God in our own lives. As Pope Benedict says,

*Bishop Geoffrey writes*

# MANY ARE CALLED AND ENCOURAGED

'I learn to look on this other person, whom I maybe 'do not like or even know...not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ.' Our calling is to know and love Jesus 'so that we can become capable of true love and be fountains of living water in the midst of a thirsting world.'

This is both Catholic doctrine and mere Christianity. We are challenged to an ever deeper discipleship of love, and we can only go deeper in our discipleship if we give time to prayer, to stillness, to the practice of the presence of God, and every year the six weeks of Lent call us to repentance and renewal, to deeper conversion. And as we embark on that journey we will be challenged as to what our life is about. Each one of us has only one life to live. It is a wonderful and precious gift, and we all need to pause and ask in the light of the love of God 'who am I?'; 'what am I called to become?' The nineteenth-century Danish thinker, Soren Kierkegaard answered this challenge in this way: 'Become that man or woman that you are after the image of Christ Jesus our Lord.' Or as an English writer, the novelist Charles Williams, who was a friend of C.S.Lewis and J.R.R.Tolkien, put it, we are called to be 'diagrams of God's glory.' Because we all have many different talents and personalities the diagrams will be different, but the glory will be the same. For what it is all about is by the grace of God becoming saints of God, the saints whom John Keble said were 'the Saviour in his people crowned.'

The Christian calling to discipleship is for all of us. But within that common call, which begins at our baptism, God calls some to particular ministries. The call to the

ordained ministry is not a better call to be a super Christian, but it is a call to serve Christ and his Church in a particular way. I spoke of this to the exciting 'vocations conference' for the Diocese that took place in London early in January, about which you can read elsewhere in this issue. I was able to share with those who were there not only the new ordination services recently authorised in the Church of England, but also something about the nature of the ordained ministry set out in the introduction to those services. 'The ministry of the Church is the ministry of Christ, its chief shepherd and high priest. The ordained ministry is Christ's gift to his Church, and in their life and ministry, bishops, priests and deacons are called to speak in Christ's name and build up the Church of which he is the head.' 'Holy Orders help shape the Church around Christ's incarnation and work of redemption, handed on in the apostolic charge' and those who are ordained in the historic three-fold ministry are called particularly to serve and express the

four notes of the Church, its unity, holiness, catholicity and apostolic faith and mission.

It was good to see so many from different parts of the Diocese responding to that particular call of Christ. It was good also just before that to have been able to ordain Ann Babb as a permanent deacon to serve in Antwerp. The Church is rediscovering the special ministry of the deacons, who are 'heralds of the kingdom' who 'bring before the servant Church the needs of the world.' I hope we can encourage more vocations to this ministry.

As we begin a new year renewed by our twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations I pray above all that across our scattered diocese we may learn a deeper discipleship in love and prayer and service, and may learn to listen to our Lord's call to follow him, wherever that call may lead.

With every blessing,

*+ Geoffrey Sabatier*



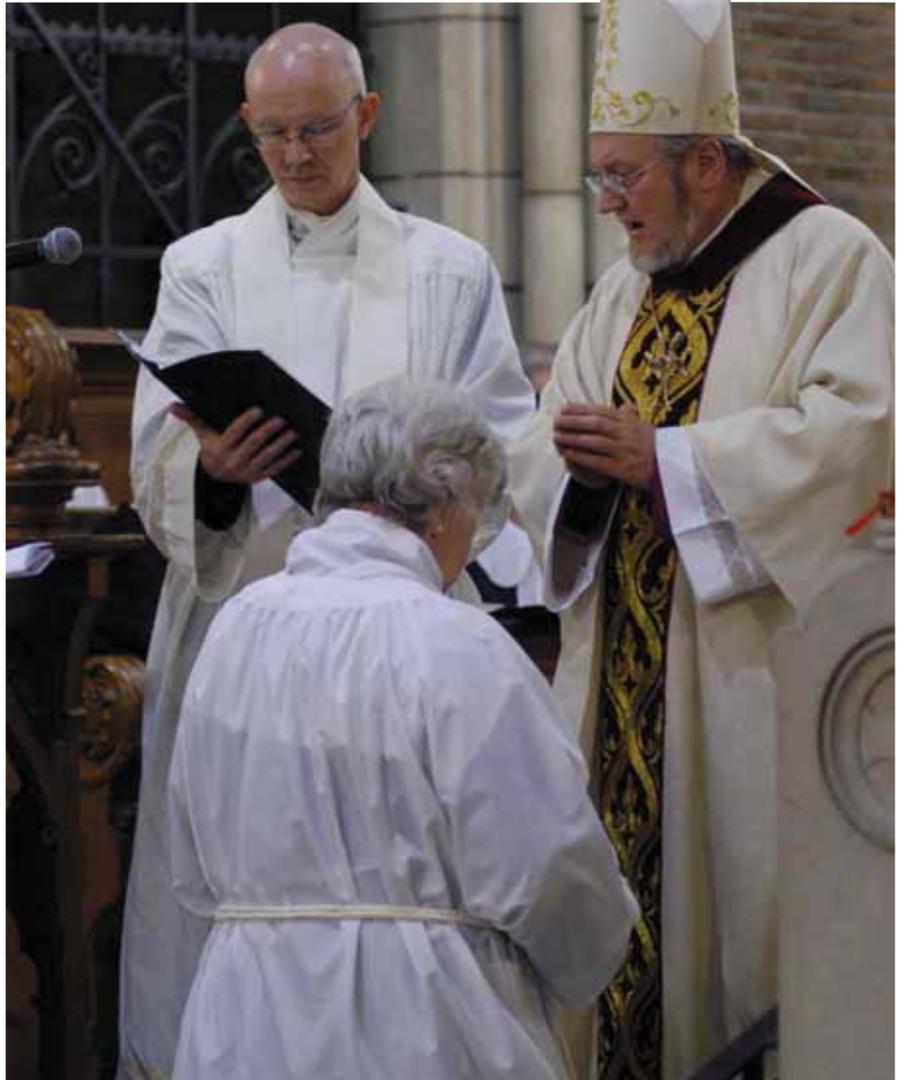
*The Vocations Seminar offers a chance for postulant to meet.*

# ORDAINED AND CALL

*In January Bishop Geoffrey was in Antwerp for the ordination of Ann Babb as a deacon. Surrounded by her family and the Christian family it was a great moment in her life. It may also have been the first time in the Church of England that the new Ordinal had been used. Ann writes about her call to ministry and her thoughts of the ordination.*

“I must admit that I was excited and nervous at the same time, lots of mixed emotions really. It was a day that I had been looking forward to for so long. But during the service I had a strong feeling of intense humility when I realised that so many people had supported me with love, friendship and prayers since my husband died. We had married in St. Boniface when he was Port Chaplain with the Mission to Seafarers. We had worked together as a team in Antwerp and Hull, and after he left the Mission I assisted him in his parish work in Newfoundland. I am deeply indebted to him for his constant devotion and encouragement to me when I went to Queen’s College to study theology. Despite his illness, he was a source of inspiration for me to continue my studies so that I could be Deacon to assist him as Priest. Sadly, he was not there to see me ordained by Bishop Geoffrey but I felt his presence beside me all through the service.

“I was surprised by all the flowers, gifts, cards and e-mails I received prior to my ‘big’ day. I am so grateful to my family in Canada, all the clergy and friends in Newfoundland, the parish of Trinity and my family and friends in Belgium, and especially the



*Ordination prayer – a visual reminder of our clergy’s constant need of prayer.*

congregation at St. Boniface. It was a great privilege to spend the Michaelmas term at St. Stephen’s House, Oxford. The staff and students were exceptionally kind and patient and I appreciated so much that a group of them gave up the last weekend of their Christmas holiday to come to Antwerp to be with me on January 7th. A day I will never, ever forget.

During the service the first line of the Prayer of Humble Access kept going through my mind “Lord, I am not worthy ...” and I was repeating to

myself “Lord, please make me worthy ...” When Bishop Geoffrey laid his hands upon my head, after I had made all my promises, I felt truly blessed to become a servant of God. God has been with me all my life and I am dedicated to serving Him in the best way I can for the years ahead.

“The service itself passed very quickly and the reactions afterwards were very encouraging. At times it was very serious and I felt very close to tears and I can honestly say that, after my wedding day, it was the most wonderful day of my life.”

# ED TO SERVE

*On Friday 13th January they came to London from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland to confirm or further test their vocations to the ordained ministry. Revd. William Gulliford, Diocesan Director of Ordinands, recalls a busy seminar.*

The Diocese continues to generate a considerable number of enquirers for ordination. We have a three-stage process in the diocese. It begins at the local level, continues for a year or so at the Diocesan level and then moves

*Postulants and pastors gathered for the Vocations Seminar in January.*



*“Where are you from?” Discovering the extent of the diocese.*

to the National Church level for the final Bishops’ Advisory Panel (the newly named Selection Conference).

Postulants from the diocese come to a weekend Vocations Seminar based at St Edward’s House in Tufton Street as the final stage of the Diocesan discernment. In 2006 we started inauspiciously perhaps on Friday 13 January by gathering all the Ordinands of the diocese together, those in training and those enquiring for a day’s time of study and prayer together.

The day concluded with a tour

of the Houses of Parliament and a lecture by the Chaplain to the Speaker to the House of Commons on the nature of his work and some of the thorny issues of establishment. Most of our ordinands made their way back to their colleges and courses, though some kindly stayed to assist us in the smooth running of the Seminar. The weekend continued with exercises and trial interviews that candidates can expect to be put through at a Panel.

As well as some relaxation and visiting of different churches there were lectures on Biblical Interpretation in current Ecumenical Dialogue and an Ecumenical Map of Europe. Members of the Ministry Team, under the leadership of both Bishops accompanied the postulants. We were deeply impressed and moved by the stories of faith told by all of those who came to us. They are a living testimony to the vibrancy and variety of life in the Diocese.



# CHRIST CHURCH VIENNA SHARES A NOBEL PRIZE



*Mohamed ElBaradei and Ambassador Yukiya Amano at the Oslo Award Ceremony in December 2005.*

*Ian Biggs – Australian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia writes*

Well, if our church in Vienna did not actually get mentioned in the citation for the Nobel Peace Prize, many members of the congregation have been proud to be linked with the secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency which, with its Director General Mohamed ElBaradei, received the prestigious world award.

ElBaradei's Chiefs of Staff from 1998 to 2004 were both active with their families in the Church, as was the Agency's recent spokesman. Two IAEA Safeguards inspectors also spring to mind, one a former co-ordinator of our Bazaar, and the other a stalwart of our large Nigerian community, as does the former IAEA External Relations Section Head for non-proliferation, who has been a member of the choir for some years. Many of the longer-term Austrian residents, including the Church Secretary, without whom neither the chaplaincy office nor the Sunday School would have thrived at various times, turn out to be veteran IAEA

employees, and a member of the clergy team was employed by the Agency until his family's move to England. The voice of the former chief interpreter in the conference-room headphones joins us for worship whenever in town, and so the list goes on. These are just a few of the IAEA staff for whom Christ Church is their church home: there are also the secretarial and technical, who may not have high profile roles but whose expertise is crucial to the effective running of the Agency.

At one level, this is unremarkable: the IAEA is the largest of the many international organizations headquartered in Vienna, the third UN capital after New York and Geneva, and uses English as its main operating language; and Christ Church has been at the heart of the English-speaking community in Vienna for over 130 years.

At another level, we can be encouraged by the way in which people professionally involved in

some of the great scientific, ethical, and political issues of our age find their spiritual home in the Anglican Communion. Disarmament, sustainable development, the security of massively complex technology, non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, public health, and more – all feature in the IAEA's programme. Christ Church Vienna, like so many of the congregations of the Diocese in Europe, benefits from a membership of more than a score of nationalities; but could it be unique in including quite so many genuine rocket scientists?

The Nobel Committee in Oslo has recognized the importance, for human survival and flourishing, of containing the spread of destructive technology while sharing access to the benefits of related technologies. We also should ensure that in our human arrogance we do not leave God out of the solutions, and maintain our outreach to those entrusted by the international community with meeting the challenges.

# AN ECUMENICAL CONFIRMATION

*This year sees a series of celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of the Bonn Agreement between Anglicans and the Old Catholics.*

And the two churches were well represented in November when candidates from the Utrecht and Zwolle chaplaincy, plus candidates from the Utrecht, Amersfoort and the Hague Catholic Apostolic Congregations, together with

their Archbishop Joris Vercammen head of the Old Catholic Church in the Netherlands, and our own bishop Geoffrey, shared in a confirmation service in the Old Catholic cathedral of St. Gertrudis, Utrecht.



## A RIGHT ROYAL CHURCH BAZAAR



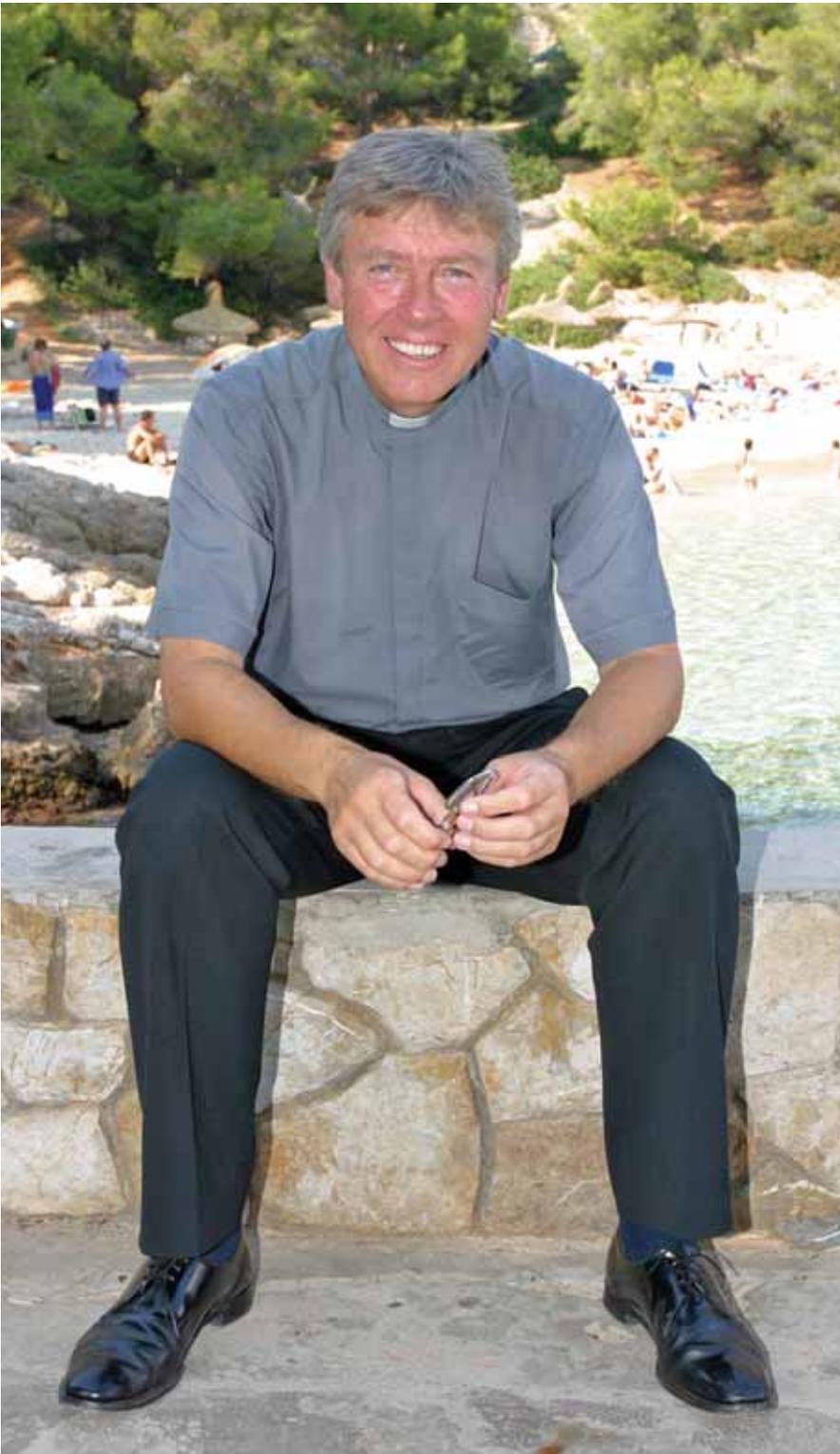
*Princess Lilian is seen here buying some excellent value Christmas wrapping paper from Churchwarden Pamela Henderson.*

*For centuries churches have worked hard to get a “big name” to open the church fete or event.*

But the Christmas Bazaar for the Anglican Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Sigfrid in Stockholm had the honour of welcoming a royal member of their own congregation as a special guest. Princess Lilian of the Swedish royal family celebrated her 90th birthday last August and is a regular member of the congregation.

The Princess was born in Swansea and first met her husband-to-be Prince Bertil, who was uncle to King Carl Gustav, in 1943 when she was working in London at a hospital for wounded soldiers. They married at the Drottningholm Palace Chapel on December 7, 1976. She is Duchess of Halland and lives in Stockholm.

# SUN SEA AND ITV



*Robert Ellis, Anglican Chaplain of Mallorca, takes us behind the TV cameras filming for the ITV series “Parish in the Sun”*

## JOINED AT THE HIP

For six months we had two camera crews watching the Chaplaincy at work. At times it felt as though we were joined at the hip. Don't get me wrong – they were nice guys but wherever I went they followed. Fortunately my wife isn't the suspicious sort and she knew they had to film enough material for eight half hour programmes about the Anglican Church here on Mallorca. The real problem was to try and remember that I had got a microphone on constantly. It was a tiny microphone attached to the front of my shirt with the transmitter in my back pocket. You'd think it would be easy to remember but within five minutes you've completely forgotten about it. So the potentiality for broadcasting to the world is enormous when you're muttering obscenities “sotto voce” under your breath or going for a quiet pee. The problem was that most of the work was fairly routine and humdrum and certainly not the stuff of which blockbusters are made. But the film director and assistant producer had

*“For six months we had two camera crews watching the Chaplaincy at work. At times it felt as though we were joined at the hip. Don't get me wrong – they were nice guys but wherever I went they followed. For six months we had two camera crews watching the Chaplaincy at work.”*

got to be constantly there just in case something exciting, amusing or different happened. If the world should have come to an end in their absence and they were not there to film it I suspect they would have considered it a missed opportunity. In all they filmed over 160 hours and used just 3% of it. It was quite sad seeing so many of my friends lying around unloved on the cutting room floor.

## SECOND HAND CAR DEALER

In one sequence they filmed I began to feel a bit like Arthur Daley – the second hand car dealer on television. I even began to develop his oily, ingratiating manner and the rubbing together of the hands as one is about to close a deal on a car with plenty of sawdust packed into the gearbox. Last year a member of our congregation died and left his old car to the Chaplaincy in a legacy. It only had a low mileage but was over 20 years old and didn't have air conditioning or power steering. We had put the word around that it was up for sale and advertised it every Sunday but there wasn't much interest. I had to put it through a carwash twice because it had been sitting under a tree for six months and it had a certain amount of avian encrustation on it. I hoovered it inside and out but it still sat there unloved and unbought. The camera crew thought it was highly amusing and filmed my endeavours at every opportunity. They could hardly hide their glee when the battery went flat and we had to use jump leads to get it going. They filmed inside, outside, in the carwash and even my attempts at my Arthur Daley impersonations as I tried to sell it to some unsuspecting lady purchaser. The man at the carwash must have thought we were mad. If I washed the windscreen once, I washed it a thousand times so that they could film it from every conceivable angle. Of such world shattering events are the best

*“We could not have bought the exposure it gave us and at least people now know we are here.”*

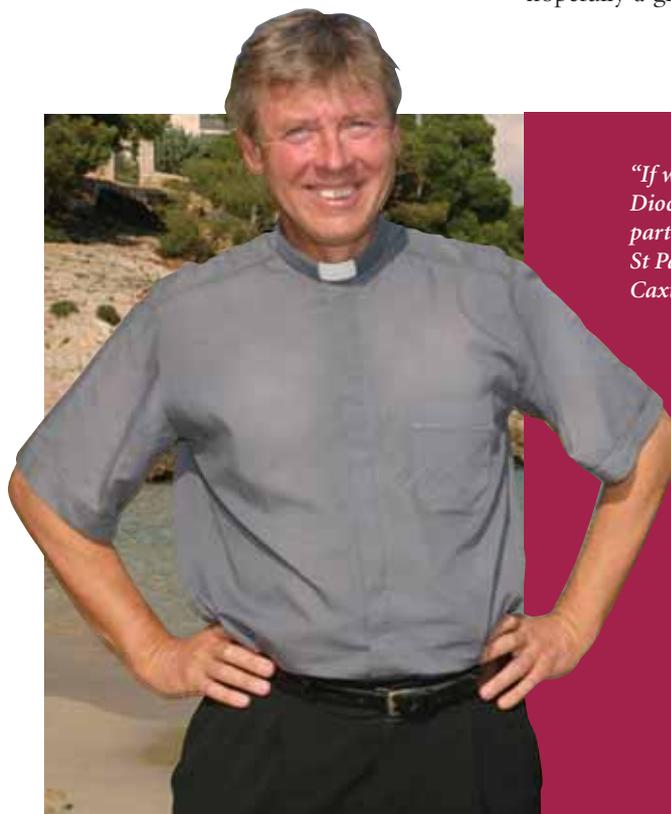
television programmes made. I was just so glad when someone at last made an offer and we snatched his hand off. I'm sure it is giving him many happy hours of motoring and I was able to return to my daytime job. Accompanied by my shadow of course!

## TEARS TO THE EYES

Letters and e-mails have come from around the world. Some afternoons the telephone never stopped ringing. Some correspondence brought tears to the eyes when it was obvious we had touched a raw nerve somewhere and folk wrote in their droves to simply say “thank you” – for what I'm still not quite sure but we replied to everyone without fail. I had been warned about cranky mail so I was quite disappointed to receive only one abusive letter who signed herself “a real Christian!”

## A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

People thought we were mad to agree to the series, and although it was extremely stressful at times the church needs the publicity and profile. If we had refused the Diocese' request to take part it would have been like St Paul ignoring the boat or Caxton the printing press. We could not have bought the exposure it gave us and at least people now know we are here. I am constantly baffled that on an island where there are 30,000 Brits living permanently, with three million Brits on holiday here each year, people are still surprised to discover there has been an Anglican Church here for over 50 years. On reflection I'm glad the Diocese put its trust in us; I'm proud of the people who took part and was pleased that they were prepared to give their time and make themselves vulnerable about themselves. It was worthwhile and ITV were delighted that they were able to get into important issues such as death, loneliness, fear, marriage, being in prison overseas, ex pat communities, old age, sexuality and much more in an accessible way. Every week nearly a million people were able to share a glimpse of this Parish in the Sun and hopefully a glimpse of heaven as well.



*“If we had refused the Diocese' request to take part it would have been like St Paul ignoring the boat or Caxton the printing press.”*

# WHO COMES TO OUR AND WHERE ARE THEY

*In the first of an occasional series Chris Martin, Chaplain in Lyon, reveals the result of a fascinating survey. Coming to France after serving in a parish near Edinburgh he found a rapidly changing pastoral situation offering new challenges in ministry.*

English language services have been held in Lyon since 1843. In 1853 the first chaplain was appointed and in February 1873, Holy Trinity was consecrated for use as a church building. Services were held there until 1969, when the building was sold and later demolished. Since then the congregation has worshipped in a variety of centres but for the past 10 years we have worshipped in a chapel owned by French nuns. The changes in venue have been mirrored in the variety of our congregations through the years.

Although some 60,000 properties in France are bought by Britons each year, they are mainly down the west side and closer to the sea. Relatively few British are buying second homes in the Rhone-Alpes region. Most of our incomers are either employed by multinational organisations or are seconded to work here by their employers. North American families usually stay for 2 or 3 years, British families a little longer. Major employment in the Lyon area includes the pharmaceuticals industry, banking, and medical research. Lyon houses INTERPOL and an International Cancer Research Institute. There is also a constant flow of students, many from South-East



Asia, and from Australia and New Zealand, studying French language and literature.

Some sociologists have seen global mobility as a first world privilege, of global managers and global academics; in stark contrast to the ghettos of the third world, whose citizens lack both the means and the documents for travel. But in our experience globalisation has

*42% of the British members claimed to have grown up in an Anglican family, though not all of them as church-goers.*

increasingly led to rising inequality and social exclusion; and thus to a steady flow of both political and economic refugees into Europe. The Lyon congregation has a growing number of refugees from Nigeria, mainly arriving here without papers and therefore not given the right to work, as well as refugees from Bhutan, Rwanda-Burundi, and the Sudan.

To find more precise data about the make-up of the congregation, a series of questionnaires completed by church members in 2002-2003 revealed that, at that time, some 40% of the congregation were British by nationality and 60% were non-British. After the British, the French were the biggest nationality group, followed by people from the United States, followed at some distance by Nigerians.

The breakdown by continent shows 63% from Europe, 17% from North America, mainly from the United States, 11% from Africa, the majority from Nigeria, 6% from Asia, and 3% from Australia and New Zealand. But these figures change quite rapidly. In 2002-3 some 60% of the population had been in Lyon for less than 5 years. So the church needs a revolving door pattern, as we lose and renew about 25-30% of our membership each year. A glance at our church 2005 Directory shows that the proportion of British in the congregation is declining steadily, as the proportion from North America and Africa is growing.

I was also surprised to discover that 42% of the British members

# CHURCHES FROM?



claimed to have grown up in an Anglican family, though not all of them as church-goers. For all sorts of reasons to do with being away from their own country, British people seem to find it easier to come to church here than they did at home. British members also came from Baptist, Church of Scotland, Elim Pentecostal, Methodist, Plymouth Brethren, and Roman Catholic backgrounds.

The biggest denominational background for our non-British members was Roman Catholic. Many of these would be our French members, several of whom are married to British or North American spouses. Other French members come to us for varied reasons; including a desire to improve their English, or for the children's work.

The 2002-3 survey showed that 66% of our members are native speakers of English. More than half of our people classify themselves as fluent in French, and could easily worship in a French language church if they chose to. It seems recently arrived families from North America and the growing number of refugees

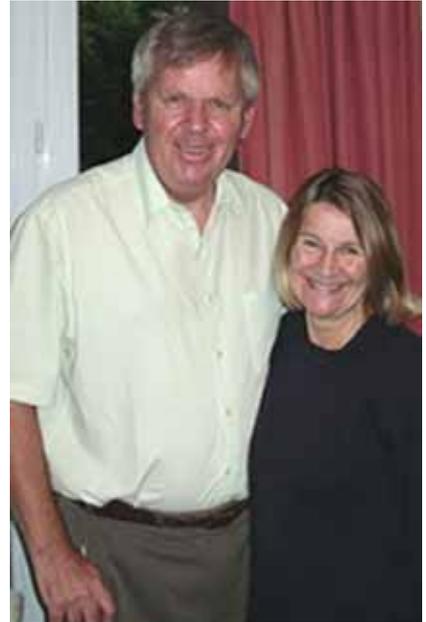
from West Africa are the people most in need of services in English.

Individual stories may be more meaningful than statistics. During our 10 years in Scotland we had just two faithful organists. By contrast, here in Lyon we have enjoyed some 9 pianists and keyboard players in just under 5 years. At first there was David, an Oxford organ scholar, ex-cathedral organist, who played the piano on Sundays, taught people to play piano and clarinet, trained a choir, and organised the annual Winter Concert. When he returned to Leicester, it took 3 people to replace him.

Patrick was a teacher, composer, singer and poet, who had trained for Christian mission in Africa. He returned to London with his family when his wife couldn't find a job. Craig was a rehearsal pianist at the Lyon Opera, married to a Russian economist, who left us to be Conductor with the Northern Ballet. Chris, who plays both piano and violin, is the son of a family in the congregation, and has gone to study Computing in Bristol.

Becky arrived from a Dutch Reformed church in Chicago as an answer to prayer. She was here for a year as a teaching assistant and then as a stagiaire at IARC, before going off to San Diego. Florence was a Hong Kong Chinese pianist from Canada.

Of our three current pianists, Kae arrived from Malaysia after working on the Mercy Ships off the coast of Africa. Michelle, here with her husband and young children, is a new-ish Christian from South Korea, who previously played the piano for the Taiwan International Fellowship. Tim is a British academic, formerly a Lecturer in History, a percussionist, singer, and pianist who gave up his



*Chris and Susie Martin in Lyon*

university job to join the Chemin Neuf, a renewed Catholic/ecumenical community, whose base is in Lyon. Research suggests that congregations with a mix of ethnic backgrounds are more likely to grow numerically than congregations composed of just one ethnic group. We have certainly enjoyed some numerical growth in recent years, although there are other possible reasons for this.

Encounters with diversity that were once the province of missionaries are now an irreversible dimension of daily living; a fact that is as true for us in Lyon, as for other Anglican and International churches across Europe. The challenge is to deal constructively with difference rather than relying on traditional ecclesiastical patterns. We give thanks for the diversity that we enjoy, and pray that we may acknowledge and respect our differences without fear.

## CLERGY MOVEMENTS

### ARCHDEACONRY CHANGES AHEAD

From 1st March The Venerable Dirk van Leeuwen van Leeuwen gave up his post as Chaplain of St Boniface, Antwerp; and Priest-in-Charge of Ostend, Belgium to become Associate Chaplain at St Boniface and allow him more time for his duties as Archdeacon of North-West Europe; and Vicar General; and Chaplain of St George, Knokke.

From 28th February the venerable Anthony Wells resigned as Archdeacon of France to allow him to concentrate on his ministry as Chaplain of St Michael's, Paris.

### DIOCESAN HONOURS

For the Reverend Jonathan Goodall, formerly Bishop Geoffrey's chaplain, now Archbishop of Canterbury's Chaplain and Ecumenical Officer who has been appointed a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter of the Diocese in Europe.

### NEW ADVISER FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Reverend M Adèle Kelham, Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church, Lausanne, Switzerland, was appointed Diocesan Adviser for Women's Ministry in December.

### JOINING THE DIOCESE

The Reverend Canon Nicholas Howe, Canon Chaplain of Sheffield Cathedral and Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Sheffield) will be Chaplain of St Peter & St Sigfrid, Stockholm, Sweden from 1st April.

The Reverend Canon Alan Maude, Head of Chaplaincy, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust (Newcastle) will become Priest-in-Charge of the Chaplaincy of Costa del Sol West (Spain) from 1st May.

### LEAVING THE DIOCESE - RESIGNATIONS

The Reverend Alan Charters, Priest-in-Charge of the Chaplaincy of St Bartholomew, Dinard, France with effect from 30 June 2006.

The Reverend Professor Roy Farrar will cease to be Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church, Lille, France from 31 August 2006.

The Reverend Roger Fray, Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church, Brittany, France resigns from 16 April 2006.

The Reverend John Porter, Priest-in-Charge of the Congregation of Pas de Calais, France from 17 July 2006.

The Reverend Canon Haydn Smart, Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity, Madeira, Portugal from 30 June 2006.

The Reverend Dr Raymond Taylor, Priest-in-Charge of the Chaplaincy of St George, Malaga, Spain from 31 May 2006

The Reverend David Wright will cease to be Priest-in-Charge of Costa del Sol East, Spain from 30 June 2006.

## DISTANT MEMORIES

Remembrance Sunday, often thought of as an English tradition, is commemorated in many parts of the diocese. The Reverend Michael Selman, chaplain of the Chaplaincy of Aquitaine, led the service held at the Allied Military Cemetery in Talence on Sunday, 13 November for the assembly of French, British, American and Canadian military and civilian officials and friends.

The weather was clement (this year!) and the music provided by the piper and The Last Post on the trumpet, along with the standards fluttering added poignance to the ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the last world war.

Her Majesty's Consul General, Tom Kennedy, pronounced the time-honoured words of remembrance before poppy wreaths were laid by the Consul of the United States, the Chairman of the Royal British Legion, the representative of the president of the Bordeaux British Community and the Mayor of Talence.



*The cross in this Allied Forces Cemetery was erected by Anglican parishioners after the war in front of St. Nicholas Church in Bordeaux. When the church was sold, the cross was transferred to the cemetery.*

# A TOUCH OF GLASS

*A crystal bowl that was rescued from the ruins of Cologne Cathedral towards the end of the Second World War has been returned to the city where it will have pride of place in the Anglican Congregation of All Saints.*

Mystery still surrounds some of the bowl's travels, but it is known to have been found among the rubble and debris after sustained bombing raids on the city flattened most business and housing, and left the ancient Cathedral damaged but still standing. When it was found by a British soldier, the crystal bowl contained communion wafers. He took it back to England, where it stayed among his family possessions for some years.

For the past nine years it has been in the possession of St Marks Church, Ocker Hill, Tipton in the West Midlands, after it is presumed to have been handed over by the soldier's relatives.

Then Enid Withers, from South

Lincolnshire, who lived and worshipped in the Anglican church in Cologne for some years heard about the bowl, and arranged for it to be returned to the city. Clergy at the Cathedral declined the offer of its return there, so it was then offered to Ian Wright the Parish priest of All Saints. It was handed over in a formal ceremony at the beginning of Advent.

Father Ian says; "Recently here at All Saints our crystal lavabo bowl was broken and this bowl although quite large will comfortably catch any drips from my hands. It has particular meaning for us as a living part of the city's history and a reminder of the many years of peace which have followed the devastation of war".



# ELECTION TO DIOCESAN SYNOD 2007-2009

Elections for the triennium 2007-2009 take place this summer. The Diocesan Synod is the main policy making body of the diocese and the forum for the discussion of issues important in diocesan life. It meets annually, nowadays in a Central Europe location, over four days each May. All members are also members of the Diocesan Board of Finance which is responsible for the custody and management of diocesan finances.

Candidates for lay membership must be actual communicant members of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with that Church; aged eighteen years and upwards; and on the Electoral Roll of any chaplaincy in the diocese.

Electors are laity who have been elected as Archdeaconry Representatives by their chaplaincies. It is vital that the diocesan database has an up to date record of electors: please ensure that this office receives a note of any changes there may have been to your archdeaconry or deanery representative since election in 2005.

For the election of members of the House of Clergy, any clergy holding a Bishop's Licence may stand: electors are all licensed clergy at a fixed point in time.

Full information will be dispatched under separate cover to the electors in the spring. Further information about duties and responsibilities can be

obtained from the Diocesan Office.

Please *do* consider standing for Synod: it is vital to Synodical Government that the thoughts of members from every chaplaincy are shared.

This year, the Diocesan Synod will be in Rome and closing Eucharist of the triennium held in All Saints Church. Topics to be discussed include Minority Ethnic Concerns, reports on Youth Ministry and Ministerial Review, Anglican Communion and Windsor Report issues, 'listening to the voice of gay people' and a presentation on living the rule of St Benedict in today's world by Dom Peter Kingsley from the Monastery of Valledhiara.

## MORE FRIENDS — MORE BE



*The Reverend Paul Topham, with his late wife, and their grand-daughter.*

### *Paul Topham, newly appointed Secretary of the Friends of the Diocese introduces himself*

Way back in the early 1960's, when I was a teacher, I took my first school parties to Brittany – to St Malo, Dinan and St Brieuc. Although I had visited France and Switzerland a decade earlier this was my first encounter with the Diocese as it then was, covering continental Europe. I discovered the lovely church of St

Bartholomew in Dinard, and as a Lay Reader it was a joy to meet the Reverend Alan Charters who later became Priest-in-Charge there in his retirement.

Bishop John Satterthwaite gave me permission to officiate over Easter one year when no priest was present, and after that I was privileged to serve in chaplaincies during school holidays. This experience led me towards ordination in later life. I was made a deacon in 1985 and priested the following year.

On retirement from teaching I took up the chaplaincy of the vast area of Toulouse, Cahors, Pau and Biarritz for four years, where in my first year I travelled 25,000 miles –

# ADD WATER

## AND IT GROWS OVER THE BORDER



*The new congregation at Divonne celebrates its first baptism*

*Paul Holley, Chaplain of La Cote near Geneva writes about their strategy of building a network of small congregations.*

“After the original congregation at Gingins had grown to about 100 people, we set up a morning service in Divonne a mere 10 minutes away, but over the border in France, so people living there can relate to a church community more attuned to the French context. We started in September with a service twice a month, meeting in the Eglise Reformee church. We have seen more than 30 new adults plus 10 children join us over the weeks since.

## NEFITS

the equivalent of once around the Equator! With an ever shrinking world this would nowadays be a low annual mileage for Bishops Geoffrey and David.

In my travels now I am still amazed at the many who have not yet heard of the diocese, which is why I am delighted to work with the Friends. We exist to give support to those who worship in more than 300 locations in 45 countries from the Arctic Circle to the edge of the Sahara, and from Madeira to Moscow.

Although the “Friends” do not support individual chaplaincies we do arrange to pay for language courses on disc or tape for chaplains who need an introduction to the language of the

country where they are to serve. We also offer help to the Bishop if he knows of special areas of need around the diocese.

As Secretary I am thrilled to follow my two predecessors who worked tirelessly to increase the number of member subscribers. The work of the “Friends” in prayer, practical and financial support is greatly appreciated across the diocese and can only be as effective as our resources can provide. I hope all chaplaincies will promote the work of the “Friends” and encourage people to join us. The more relatives and contacts who can be encouraged to swell our numbers not only raises the funds to allow us to do our work,

but adds a wealth of experience and expertise.

The minimum subscription is only £20 per annum, and UK taxpayers can gain extra advantages with their donations by using Gift Aid.

The benefits of becoming a “Friend of the Diocese” include your own personal copy of the European Anglican each quarter, the Cycle of Prayer and Diocesan Directory. There is also our annual Friends reunion with its unique opportunity to meet bishops, priests and people from the most widespread of the 44 diocese in the Church of England.

(The Reverend Paul Topham can be contacted through the Diocesan Office.)

# THE BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2006

THE PADRE LERCHUNDI  
CHILDREN'S CENTRE



The contrast between European wealth and African poverty is nowhere more starkly visible than at the Straits of Gibraltar, within our own Diocese. On a clear day, you can see Tarifa from Tangier. That is to say, you can see the holiday beaches of Southern Spain from the shanty towns of Northern Morocco. St. Andrew's Tangier, whose centenary was featured recently in these pages, stands at this critical point.

The population of Morocco has quadrupled in the last fifty years. Today, more than half of its thirty-five million people are under the age of twenty-five, and there are many more children who have never been registered at birth and therefore have no legal existence. There are not nearly enough schools. The schools themselves are expensive and overcrowded. The children are taught in shifts, and have to pay for their books, materials and uniforms, including shoes. If a certain level of literacy in classical Arabic and French is not reached by grade three, they must leave school. This means that children as young as seven are back on the streets, in organized gangs of drug addiction, theft and prostitution. Some just disappear.

Shortly before the foundation stone of St. Andrew's was laid, Father

José Lerchundi died in Tangier. He had been Prefect of the first Spanish Catholic (Franciscan) Mission to Morocco since 1862, and had spent the last twenty years of his life working among the poor of Tangier. He was erudite, fluent in Arabic, and deeply committed to the education of the Moroccan People. His legacy, not least in ecumenical and inter-faith relationships, is incalculable. It is therefore entirely fitting that the Children's Centre, in downtown Tangier, which is supported by Christians of several denominations and staffed by both Christian and Muslim volunteers, should bear his name.

The Padre Lerchundi Children's Centre promotes the social and academic education of underprivileged children, and works closely with their families. Because of the stigma attached to illegitimacy, it is often necessary first to arrange for the registration of children of single mothers. The main aim of the Centre is to enable many children as possible to go to school, and to support them there for as long as possible.

The Centre is open from 8am to 5pm from Monday to Saturday, providing homework supervision, transport to and from school (daily bus tickets), extra tuition, regular

meals, medical and dental care and training in social skills. There are seventy places for children from six to ten years of age. After that, the money runs out.

There are presently thirty children being supported in the final three grades of their primary schooling. The current project aims to continue their support for a further three years, until their basic education is complete and the Centre may be able to help them to find work. During this time, the staff will be seeking permanent funding to enable all the children in their care to be assured of an education until they are fifteen.

The Appeal now being made is for funds to achieve this immediate aim. It is an urgent, life-saving, project with no political or religious overtones, and while bank charges are unavoidable no other costs are being charged. It has the active encouragement of the members of St. Andrew's and of a former Chaplain in Tangier and Suffragan Bishop in Europe, the Right Reverend Ambrose Weeks, CB.

Bishop Ambrose and our present Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Rowell, are Patrons of the Appeal which, like the Centre itself, reflects the spirit of Father Lerchundi – at whose funeral, as a visitor wrote at the time, "Jews, Christians, Moors, and other mutually described infidels, turned out in great numbers, and the cross, the crescent, and other symbols of the three jarring faiths went up the main street of Tangier in seeming amity". As a footnote, it may be noted that the beautiful intricately carved woodwork of the Chapel, where Mass is regularly celebrated, was made by Muslim apprentices in the craft workshop attached to the Centre.