



THE EUROPEAN ANGLICAN



FOND FAREWELLS
IN GIBRALTAR
AND ROME

LENT COURSE IN
LIÈGE
TALKING THE
FAITH

TWELVE MONTHS
OF GREEN
AWARD IN THE
HAGUE

VIRTUAL DIOCESE
FELLOWSHIP
ONLINE

CAPITAL SHARE
AMSTERDAM TO
PARIS LINKS

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 RH10 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

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
Tel: 0034 662 482 944

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Cover photo: Christians on the Costa Del Sol were encouraged to see this gospel truth illustrated in a jumble of road signs near Estepona. "Heaven" is the name of a local bar which decided to advertise itself after road works left locals wondering whether "Heaven" had been cut off during the improvement project.

CROATIAN CON FOR TODD

Members of the Anglican church in Zagreb are celebrating an award to their Reader, Todd Becker, who has been honoured with a human rights recognition from the Croatian Helsinki Human Rights Organization (HHO), the oldest and largest human rights organization in Croatia.

It is the first time the HHO has presented any of its awards to a non-Croatian citizen. It was presented by the Prime Minister of Croatia, Dr. Ivo Sanader, in recognition of Todd's seven years as Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Croatia promoting and protecting human rights in Croatia. (OSCE is the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the 56 nation security organization based in Vienna).

The work involved furthering and supporting the development of governmental and non-governmental offices, institutions and organizations to ensure human rights development as well as working with the government, parliament, NGO's, political parties and minority groups to strengthen the legal framework for human rights, particularly minority rights, in Croatia. Todd says "The award, given to me for my personal work

EASTER PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Campaigners for a permanently fixed date for Easter are much encouraged this year because of the quirks of the lunar calendar. No sooner had churches around Europe celebrated the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (or Candlemas) on February 2nd when three days later we marked Ash Wednesday and Lent was underway.

Apparently Easter this year is the earliest date it can possibly be – at least until the year 2160 when many of us may not be taking a great interest in it! This edition of the European Anglican has an Easter feel about it with stories about a church on the move. The Dean of Gibraltar and the Head of the Anglican Centre in Rome have both moved on – one new appointment has been announced and another is awaited.

But the life of the church does not stop because of changes in personnel and leadership. The future of the Diocese in Europe is much changed from when it was formed in 1980 and

migration patterns are very different. There are challenges about establishing new congregations and providing more intensive support for Archdeacons. But with attendance and membership figures which buck the general trend within the Church of England we are still moving forward – as our front page cover picture reminds us – even if the road ahead is sometimes a little uncertain.

The calendar may be rushing us into Easter this year but – whether early or late – there will be many processions around Europe during Holy Week offering visible reminders that God's people are on the move. In these pages you will find news of God's Easter People fired and inspired by the good news of the risen Christ.



GRATULATIONS



also reflects the extensive successful work of the OSCE Mission as a whole in all of these areas. The guiding principle for all my work is the life and teachings of Jesus.”

Todd was born in Washington D.C. but has lived in Europe for most of his adult life, working for a total of 43 years in the United States diplomatic service and the OSCE. His participation in the Diocese in Europe includes

ministry as Reader in St. Boniface Anglican Church at Bonn, Germany, the Anglican Church in Athens, Greece where he was Reader in charge of Kifissia chapel. For the past eight years he has served as reader in St. Joseph’s Chapel, Zagreb, Croatia (part of the Chaplaincy of Vienna).

The Zagreb congregation is primarily made up of English speaking ex-patriots, diplomats and businesspeople. Weekly worship at St. Joseph’s Chapel in the Jesuit Training Academy in Zagreb includes Morning Prayer 3 or 4 times monthly and Eucharist about once a month celebrated by the Vienna based Chaplain, Patrick Curran, or a locum priest from England.

Todd adds; “We are blessed with numerous younger families with children. We have a Sunday School, led by volunteers from the congregation, for school aged children up to their early teens. The congregation is transient, with most members staying in Zagreb from 1 to 2 years. Consequently we must

constantly reach out to find new members, as well as be present for tourists and others. We have a small number of resident Croatians and British citizens, mostly married to Croatians, who provide a strong backbone to the congregation.

“Normal attendance is about 18-20, with a “record” of 35. We are present each week (with a summer break of about 6 weeks) even when only “two or three are gathered together,” which happily happens only occasionally. The congregation is self sustaining spiritually and financially, including the payment of an organist, cost of travel by the Chaplain and locum to celebrate Eucharist, and other diocesan related travel.”

He says that as he leaves after seven years, “the Spirit has called forth several members of the congregation to take over leadership duties on the Parish Council, as worship leaders and teaching Sunday School. The future for Zagreb is a challenge, but it appears exciting and viable.”

HOW THE GOOD NEWS CAME FROM YORK TO LIÈGE

Rev Paul Yiend from Liège on how an English based Lent course works in Belgium

The “York Courses” of study which we used in Lent offer a surprising link between the beautiful ancient walled city with its Minster and post-industrial Liège, where the English Church is a bit of a Melchisedek church: nobody really knows quite where it came from, it just appeared when it was needed and blessed people – as bishops also do! It is very much an ecumenical church. Most come because it is English speaking rather than because it is Anglican. Many find the ordered pattern and liturgy of Anglican worship “not quite what they would do at home”. Add to that the fact that English is second or third language for many and an Oxford (or in my case Plymouth) accent is not what they are used to; and you have a teaching challenge on your hands.

Does the standard “sermon” really communicate effectively in this context?

I ordered the Lent Course material forgetting that midweek courses were not possible in our church as people were not free to attend then – so things needed to happen on Sunday. The whole series is based around listening to an indexed CD and answering and discussing questions. You can instantly skip to the part of the CD you want with a stimulating variety of 1 or 2 minute answers to the questions everybody wants to ask from people whose answer everybody would like to hear.

“Dare we use it in the main morning service?” I thought “Why not? Let’s give it a go!” We did, and the result surpassed expectations. I had

never found people so involved in the service, with everyone engaging with the teaching.

The format we used was a 2 minute introduction, where we picked two or three questions to be discussed and “answered” by the big-names. We fired them at the congregation to discuss in twos and threes where they sat, then shared our thoughts in plenary after 2 or 3 minutes, then played an answer (or two) from one of the experts on the CD. With a short 2 minutes summary conclusion that would be the sermon.

Of course it can feel as if *you* haven’t done any theological teaching. Possibly true, but I often had the impression that far more theological *learning* was going on than was often the case with the traditional style sermon. And although the course affords more time for discussion than our church setting allowed it worked for us and proved to be a course that fitted the church rather than the alternative.

NEW SECRETARY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE



We welcome Rev Philip Warner, who has succeeded Rev Paul Topham as

Honorary Secretary to the Friends of the Diocese in Europe. Philip is a native of the Sussex coast, who has spent much of his ministry in London, and now has charge over the parish of St Magnus the Martyr by London Bridge. For three years he was chaplain in Belgrade (covering in addition Sarajevo and Skopje) and Apokrisiarios to the Serbian Patriarch. This was a time of rapid political and economic change within the Balkans with various challenges and opportunities.

“Having had a parish of three countries,” he says, “I now have one of three streets, and although I knew some of the warlords in the Balkans, they were nothing compared with those in the City of London.” However, he is pleased that in serving the Friends in this capacity he will stay in touch with the Diocese and all those who have a concern for its mission and ministry.

Fr Philip’s interests include travel, which last year saw him in India, Sardinia, Spain, Morocco, China, Tibet and Nepal; the last three as a member of a group led by Bishop Geoffrey.

Although on a steep learning curve when it comes to computerised technology, as good a way of getting hold of him is through email: jphilipwarner@aol.com

The Friends of the Diocese in Europe were formed in 1995 to support the Diocese and share in its life and work.

BY THEIR INTEREST

- in discovering something of its history and its work
- in visiting its chaplaincies whenever possible
- in talking about it to others and introducing new Friends
- in coming to the annual reunion and other activities
- in reading **The European Anglican**

BY THEIR PRAYERS

God bless our Diocese
Inspire its worship
Sanctify its people and
Make each of its churches and chaplaincies
A home for all who need or seek You.
Amen

BY THEIR GIFTS

Friends pay an annual subscription (minimum £20, but most pay rather more). The proceeds are used to support a wide range of diocesan projects for which funds are short or are not available from other sources.

IN RETURN

- Friends receive a regular mailing from the Diocesan Office, including THE EUROPEAN ANGLICAN four times a year, the Diocesan Yearbook and other information as it becomes available.
- There is an annual reunion, usually in London, consisting of a service followed by a reception: this is an opportunity for the Friends to meet each other, the Bishops and other clergy and lay people from around the Diocese and the Diocesan staff.

HOW CAN I BECOME A FRIEND?

There is an online application form with more details at http://www.europe.anglican.org/links/links_friends.htm
Or write to:-
The Friends of the Diocese in Europe, 14 Tufton Street, London SW1 3QZ

75% of blindness globally is avoidable

SIGHTSAVERS SUNDAY
12th October
A chance for churches to help save sight

For your special Sightsavers Sunday resources pack please contact Russell Richards
Tel/Fax +44 (0) 1275 349881
Email richards@sightsavers.org

sightsavers
INTERNATIONAL

GREEN CHURCH IN THE HAGUE AND HAMBURG

As education and concerns about the environment grow around the diocese church members in The Hague are proud winners of an award and in Hamburg principles were turned to practice with an innovative double glazing scheme.

Tsunamis, carbon footprints, fair trade shopping – nearly a decade into the new millennium, environmental concerns have become everyone's business. What was once assumed to be an interest of activists and the odd, Birkenstock-clad vegetarian has finally attracted international political and social acclaim. From Oscar approbation for *An Inconvenient Truth* to LiveEarth and your universal choice of organic macchiato latté, hopping on the environmental bandwagon has never been trendier.

The Anglican Church of St. John & St. Philip in The Hague, The Netherlands, has responded by taking environmental awareness a step further. It, too, has put 'creation consciousness' on the map. But we didn't adopt the issue to attract popularity or members who ride bikes and wear flowers in their hair rather than recognizing our responsibility as a community of faith to work towards ecological and social sustainability.

We began in January 2007 with a year long campaign for green living. "Twelve Months of Green" produced

a calendar of twelve ecologically conscious initiatives revealed to the congregation on a monthly basis. Every project was given a catchy title, like "Print it Once!" or "Ban the Bag!" and launched to the congregation as a lifestyle challenge. We addressed everyday issues of paper consumption, carbon-conscious travel, water conservation, power conservation, green ways of heating, and shopping for recycled and fair trade products. Halfway through the year, we collected money for an anti-malaria water sanitation project in Uganda, then closed the year with the congregational purchase of a Water Buffalo through Christian Aid.

In November the Church was recognized for its campaign at the Church Times Green Church Awards ceremony in London, tying for first prize in the category of "Changing Lifestyles." Short listed for the awards with fourteen other churches in an interdenominational, international competition, we served as the singular representative from continental Europe.

In 2008, we will continue to promote environmentally conscious living following the close of its "Green Year." While encouraging members to continue practicing the green habits adopted throughout last year's campaign, our next initiative involves participation in the international Lenten "Carbon Fast" led by the Christian organization, Tearfund.

Anastasia Hacopian



The Bishop of Ely, Dr. Anthony Russell, presents the award to Hague representatives Mark Jones, Anastasia Hacopian, and Carola de Muralt



Church Wardens (from left) Ellen Ziesmann and Heidi Thomas, with Chaplain Roger White, admire the new double-glazing in the galleries of St. Thomas à Becket Hamburg.

We decided last year to really try and do something to reduce our energy consumption as a church community. So we insulated the 300 square metre roof space with mineral wool to the required 15mm and then turned to the attractive but single-glazed windows. Our Architect Peter Wilkens obtained a generous grant for both contracts from the Hamburg Heritage Authority, the *Denkmalschutzbehörde*. They wouldn't let us go the whole way with modern sealed units but we came away with a 50% grant for secondary glazing in new frames.

First signs are that energy demand is going down. The Church is considerably warmer, with the help of a mild winter to date, meaning that our gas boiler isn't on for as long before creating an adequate warmth, especially for Sundays.

The Church Roof looks well suited to a solar panel system, with its south-facing aspect. It would be wonderful to combine that with the heating system. However, more urgent items demand our attention fabric-wise. We musn't forget what we are really here for either! At present, we are studying the 'Fresh Expressions' material to see what we might do to reach out to the unchurched in this cosmopolitan City with world-wide connections and a kaleidoscope of peoples.

Roger White, Chaplain in Hamburg

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

It all started over a leisurely lunch at the ICS conference last year. Mark Collinson, Chaplain in Amsterdam, and Philip Mounstephen, from St. Michael's Paris were comparing notes - and then decided that if they really wanted to know how each other's church ticked, they needed to arrange an exchange. So one weekend in November Mark, along with Assistant Chaplain Alastair MacDonald and Churchwarden Matthijs van Engelen, arrived at the Gare du Nord in Paris. And a week later Philip, together with Council member Sarah Hardenberg and Churchwarden Janet Maybank, arrived in Amsterdam.

Philip reflects on their time in Amsterdam, and Mark on what they found in Paris.

Philip Mounstephen:

The first surprise was being taken from Amsterdam's Central Station into the heart of the red light district! But we went there to visit a Christian community who live and work there - a real oasis of calm and peace amidst some terrible exploitation. In an extreme way, it highlighted the issue I wanted to reflect on, and the reason for the exchange itself: how do we, as the people of God, proclaim the Kingdom of God at the heart of these great international cities?

For Amsterdam part of the answer is

church planting, and I remain very impressed by Mark's vision for establishing churches in strategic places across the Amsterdam area and beyond. And he's led the way in that by going out from Christ Church, the old church in the city centre where Alastair now ministers, to lead the Amsterdam South plant himself. There are all sorts of prices to be paid in doing that - no doubt it's easier to remain together and expect people to come to you (which I fear is what we may do in Paris), but it's a price he and they are willing to pay.

Amsterdam South uses the

Mark Collinson:

We visited Paris on the weekend of Remembrance Sunday when Philip was leading a service in the afternoon in Notre Dame, with distinguished ecumenical, civic and governmental representatives. St Michael's has a long historic relationship with the British Embassy, just a stone's throw away from the church building. It was impressive to see how the Chaplain continues to play such a significant role in Anglo/French relationships.

We were surprised to hear that very few church members live close to the church, given that Paris is such a residential city.... but then few people would live close to the Elysée Palace! The question we wanted answering, therefore, was how does St Michael's attract so many people to three English speaking services, and one French speaking service on a Sunday?

The answer, we found, was in investing in a church staff team who can minister to different people groups, in different worship styles. We counted at least six full-time staff positions, consisting of a team of people with complementary gifts. We were extremely jealous of the quality of music produced by the organist and 3 different music groups. Seeing young people using their musical gifts was particularly encouraging.

This investment in staff meant that they could 'work' the building with maximum effectiveness, without relying on a 'one man ministry'. Anyone with spiritual gifts is encouraged to use them. The administration and office staff release the clergy to devote more of their time to supporting leaders in lay ministry.

Jesus advised his disciples, 'Ask the

premises of the British School, and I had the privilege of preaching there on the Sunday. Much was familiar - people of all ages gathered from across the world to be there, newcomers just popping in for the first time, the music rehearsal beforehand ('how does this song go?'). What was really impressive however was to remember that this church simply hadn't existed a year ago. Some were there from Christ Church in the city centre, but others wouldn't be going anywhere were it not for this new Church.

Much else was impressive - the boat trip round the city, the precipitately steep stairs Dutch houses have (to make up for the lack of hills?), the warmth of the hospitality we received, and the obvious warmth between members of the church there. There's a very strong and impressive sense of common commitment to one another - and to the work of the gospel in Amsterdam.

When he was down with us the weekend before Mark gave St. Michael's a lovely print of Christ Church. As I pass it I often pray not only for Christ Church in the city centre but for Amsterdam South too - and indeed for those other churches, not yet planted, that in the goodness of God we trust will spring from them in the future.

Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' Like all of us, St Michael's lives each year, by faith, trusting that the Lord will supply the needs of those he calls to work his fields. We Amsterdammers were encouraged by the faith and ministry of our Parisian friends.



Exchanging the canals for the Seine. Amsterdammers in Paris.

FOCUS ON GOTHENBURG

St Andrew's in Gothenburg celebrated the 150th anniversary of their church building on 30 November, the culmination of a week of activity. Some of the highlights included:

- our two bishops, David and Carl Axel, on St Andrew's Sunday, when Carl Axel presented us with a beautiful ikon of St Birgitta, painted in Porvoo, and told an excellent anecdote in his "thank you for the lunch" speech;
- Eva Palmgren, who led us from church to lunch with a virtuoso bagpipe solo of Scottish melodies;
- the farmhouse Wensleydale cheese, specially imported by friends of a member of our committee for wine and cheese after a poetry reading;
- and finally, receiving our new hymn books (*Common Praise*) just in time for the last event of the week, *Come and Sing with St Andrew's Choir*.

The church was open every weekday afternoon during the week, with refreshments and a Christmas mini-market selling, among other things, Christmas pudding, mincemeat and stuffing from the English Shop; Fair Trade chocolates and wooden puzzles; home-made Christmas cards featuring our stained glass windows, and a Books stall with four books on the history of the church, two CDs, fridge magnets, and our special souvenir programme leaflets.

There were two special services during our open afternoons: one

bilingual meditation on texts from Dag Hammarskjöld's *Vägmärken* (*Markings*) illustrated by photographs from the Dag Hammarskjöld pilgrim trail in Lappland; and a St Andrewside service of hymns and prayers for the mission of the church. We also had an evening of African song and drumming, and two talks on the history of St Andrew's – one from nonagenarian and former committee member John Ashton, who has devoted much of his retirement to writing about the British community in Gothenburg, and one based on my own research among registers and minute books on the relationship of St Andrew's to the wider church, with especial reference to visiting bishops.

Chaplain Barbara Moss



Above: A bevy of bishops with the new Ikon.



Above: Scots bagpipes in Sweden herald poems, wine and Wensleydale.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

Archdeacon Mark Oakley travelled into the north of his archdeaconry, to Trondheim, on the Feast of Candlemas to licence Mary Strømmen (pictured right) as Assistant Chaplain and to give a priest from the Church of Norway, Ragnhild Jespson, permission to officiate in the chaplaincy.

The service took place in the magnificent Nidaros Cathedral, the

ancient cathedral where Norway's royalty used to be crowned. As Archdeacon Oakley pointed out in his sermon, the relationship between Trondheim and English clergy goes back further than the Porvoo Agreement. The diocese used to include the Isle of Man, the Orkneys and the Shetlands and English clergy served the cathedral when it was first built as priests and bishops.





Although it takes 45 minutes by air from Corfu to Athens, Rev Clifford Owen covered the 280 miles on his bike – sponsored by his former churches in the UK – to draw attention to and support the Anglican churches along his route. After posing with his wife Avis he began the journey by ferry! The Books of Acts may have ended differently if St Paul had gone by bike!

Whilst taking part in a pilgrimage

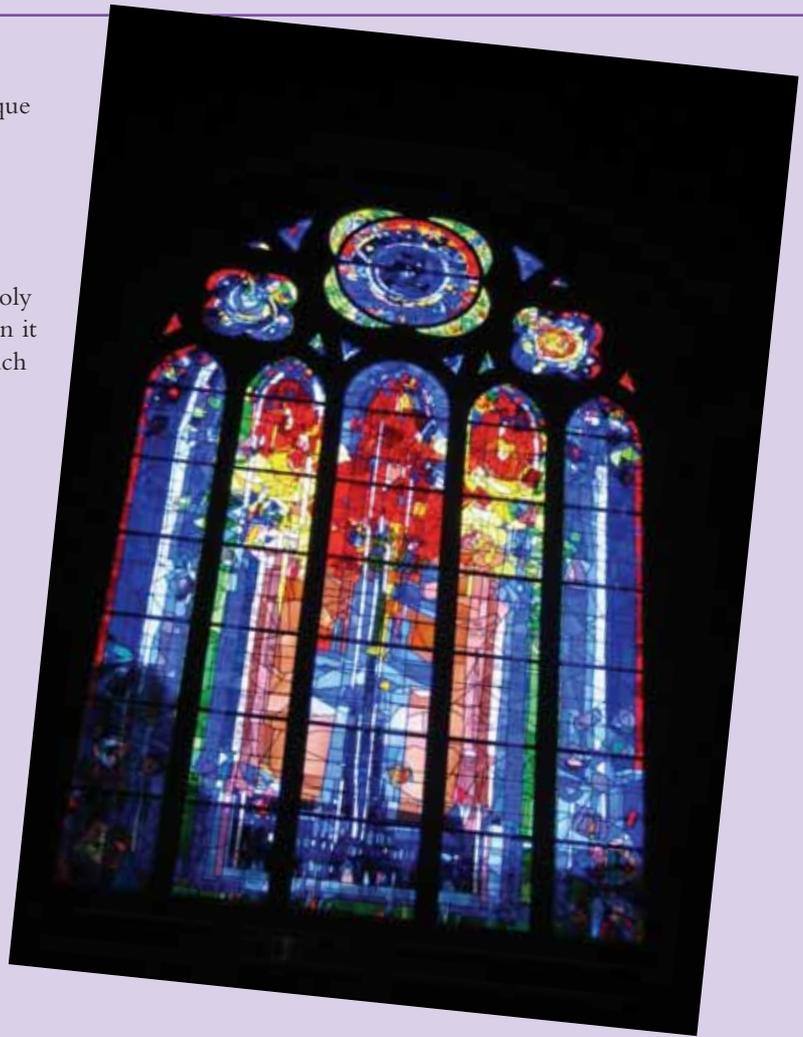
'Walking in the Footsteps of St Paul' Lesley Berridge, a Reader at Costa del Sol (East) in Spain, met Rev Walter Earl Mullins from Sykesville, Maryland who was undertaking the same pilgrimage as part of a four month sabbatical. As a result of this meeting Mr Mullins spent five days touring the Costa del Sol and shared a service with the chaplain Rev David Sutch.



When Rev Ian Falconer went as locum chaplain to St. George's Taormina, Sicily he did not know his duties would include re-dedicating a refurbished war memorial to the Durham Light Infantry in Catania. He was joined by 87 year old Harry Lidster, Major Chris Lawton of the DLI Association and 87 year old Dick Atkinson.



The “Great East Window” in Holy Trinity Brussels has the unique location at the West end of the church. The Diocesan Bishop dedicated the work of art which depicts in abstract form the three persons of the Trinity above Brussels’ Grand Place, with the Holy Spirit descending. Inscribed within it is “Go into all the world and preach the good news to every nation”.



Canon John Newsome, chaplain in Zurich, was photographed on his knees for something other than prayer. The church’s Child Safety Committee organised a First Aid Course including dealing with children choking, epileptic fits, burns, cardiopulmonary resuscitation CPR and how to use everything in our First Aid boxes. John was an enthusiastic volunteer – and perhaps prayer had its part to play.

Pentecost comes in many churches in the Diocese in Europe with a multiplicity of tongues and languages to be heard in worship. The congregation of St. Peter and St. Sigfrid’s in Stockholm enjoy an occasional special African Eucharistic service, encouraged by the Chaplain Rev Nick Howe who has also been heard chanting in Yoruba!



Church leaders in Zurich assure us no children were harmed in the making of their away weekend project when youngsters recreated the fiery furnace where Daniel and his friends are beginning to feel the heat!



A FAREWELL TO ROME



IN THE SUMMER OF 2000 I had a telephone call from the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey. I was shelling peas at the

time, so the call came as something of a shock. "Do you speak Italian?" he asked. "Well" I replied, "I can order a cappuchino in Pizza Express". "I'm sending you a cheque" he said "to go and get some Italian lessons". The line went dead and I was left standing puzzled in the kitchen of my house in Ely.

A few months later all became clear. The Archbishop wanted me to be his representative in Rome, and Director of Rome's Anglican Centre, in the impressive Palazzo Doria Pamphilj. I arrived in Rome early in 2003, still trying to sort out my "da's" from my "della's". On my first day in Rome I visited the Roman Forum for the first time and revived cogs in my brain which had lain dormant since my university classical studies 40 years earlier. And my first evening – sitting outside on a street pavement eating supper - was simply amazing – so far from Ely, shelling peas and Pizza Express.

I have had an unforgettable five years. My term of office has included being present at the Funeral of Pope John Paul II and the Inauguration of Pope Benedict XVI. I have had the opportunity to engage with popes and cardinals and archbishops, with ambassadors and senior politicians – and even more importantly with ordinary Roman people, at all levels.

With Monsignor Don Bolen, my opposite number in the Vatican, I have masterminded four visits to the Vatican by the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, the current head of the world-wide Anglican Communion. I have watched

with hope as the friendship between Pope Benedict and Archbishop Rowan Williams has grown warmer with each visit. They speak personally and gently with one another in both German and English. It is a revelation. Reunion between Anglicans and Catholics may still be a long way off, but over the years we have made deep friendships with one another, even at the top of the pyramid.

The city of Rome has weaved its enchanting spell as I visited and revisited the viewpoint on top of the Janiculum, with its fabulous view of the city. I climbed to the top of the dome of St Peter's, and descended into the depths of the Scavi. I have been on several breathtaking rooftops, including taking supper in the loggia of the Palazzo Pallavicini, where the British Ambassador to the Holy See currently resides. I have woken in the mornings to the soft siren sound of church bells ringing for early Mass, mingled with the screeching siren sound of Roman ambulances. I have even visited the Villa Doria Pamphilj in the hope of watching some cricket, to no avail (in earlier days I was a Yorkshire League cricketer for over 30 years).

One of the great delights for me has been learning to speak Italian - a beautiful language, with its stresses and rhythms and sheer poetry. Italians have the ability to make the most mundane conversation into a dramatic interlude, with the body doing much of the talking. A mobile phone conversation can be as dramatic as a Shakespeare speech, with hands, eyes and shaking of heads all being part of it. Listening to the radio, watching the news and sport on Italian television and finally trying to answer the telephone with understanding are all challenges I have had to face. And several interviews on Vatican Radio

have tested my linguistic resources to the limit. The existing tensions in the Anglican Communion meant that I had to learn the phrases "ordinazione delle donne" and "sessualita umana" very quickly indeed.

I have received strong support from the two Anglican churches and parishes in Rome, All Saint's Anglican in the Via del Babuino and St Paul's-within-the-walls Episcopal in the Via Napoli. I am grateful to them for their care and affection. And I have made wonderful friends in the Roman Catholic church and among all the English-speaking churches in Rome. Non-church friends and acquaintances have been important, and helped me to keep my feet on the ground.

What next for me? I am going home to my wife and family in the city of Peterborough. I shall become an assistant Bishop in the stunning medieval Cathedral there, as well as the parish priest of four villages just outside the city. So I shall be returning to my first calling, that of an ordinary parish priest - a most fulfilling task for me, although I also know the memories of Rome will never fade.

Bishop John Flack
Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome 2003 – 2008

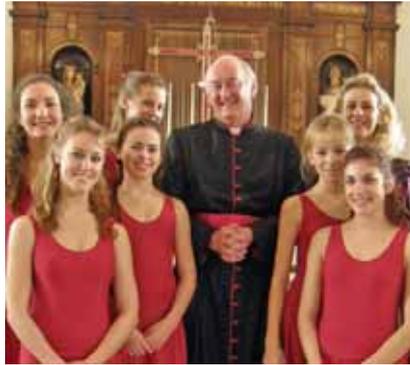
NEW REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HOLY SEE

The Very Rev David Richardson, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne Australia, previously Dean of St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide will follow Bishop John Flack and takes up his appointment after Easter. A more detailed feature on him will follow in a future edition of the European Anglican.



DEAN SENT OFF IN STYLE

Sunday 6th January marked the final services for the Very Reverend Alan Woods as Dean of Gibraltar. As the pictures show it was an event marked in the best Cathedral traditions and afterwards Alan recalled his time in the Diocese in Europe.



It seems a little strange to return to England to live after spending the last twelve years working in the Diocese in Europe but retirement has called.

It has been a great joy to have spent these years within not only the largest but perhaps the most diverse and interesting diocese certainly in the Church of England if not worldwide.

We spent eight years living in Malta in an island situation which in itself was fascinating – everyone seemed to know what everyone else was doing and the Anglican Church was held in high esteem by the majority Roman Catholic community. Opportunities were there for working not only with the

Anglican community but ecumenically and within diplomatic circles. A truly fulfilling ministry.

The opportunity of staying in the wonderful Mediterranean climate followed with the privilege of being the Dean of Gibraltar, with all the opportunities that gave. The people of Gibraltar were so welcoming and made one feel at home straight away.

Then the additional responsibility of the Archdeaconry with its many joys but at times its sorrows. It was so good to be able to go to the chaplaincies to licence new clergy, to try to give some pastoral care to ones' colleagues in far flung places as well as dealing with the various problems which arise from time to time.

Amongst some of the highlights of the time in Gibraltar were the thrill of the Gibraltar Tercentenary celebrations, the Diocesan Silver Jubilee and the centenary of the creation of the Deanery, and the setting up and launching of the Rock of Ages Campaign.

The final service on the feast of the Epiphany will be long remembered as we welcomed visitors from some other chaplaincies, members of the King's Chapel as well as our own Gibraltar congregation who all gave us a very generous farewell. We are now back in England coping with the weather and all the problems of a move but looking forward to less travelling and a quieter life.



VISIT FROM MOTHERS' UNION WORLDWIDE PRESIDENT

Rosemary Kempself, the Mothers' Union Worldwide President made her first official visit to the Diocese from November 29 to December 2 when accepted the invitation of the Malta & Gozo branch to join their 10th anniversary celebrations. Rosemary was accompanied by the Diocesan President, Barbara Woods, who started the branch.

Although Barbara has now moved back to England (following her husband's retirement as Dean of Gibraltar) she is continuing as Diocesan President and looks forward to the continued development of Mothers' Union work within Europe. She is particularly delighted with the prospect of new branches being formed during this year and would encourage anyone who is interested to contact her on barbaramueurope@mix360.co.uk



SRI LANKAN SABBATICAL

Rev Michael Selman, Chaplain of Aquitaine in France, is also the Bishop's Adviser on Healing Ministry. He and his wife Jo found a Sabbatical trip to Sri Lanka became a busman's holiday with spiritual rewards.

It started in 2006 with discussions about a planned sabbatical/study leave, which we eventually took in Singapore last autumn. Contact was made, through the Bishop of Europe, Geoffrey Rowell, with his friend Bishop Duleep de Chickera, the Bishop of Colombo. He expressed an interest in our sharing some teaching on Christian healing ministry with clergy in his diocese. That eventually led to a formal invitation for us to conduct the clergy retreat for the diocese of Colombo and for its sister diocese Kurunagala. Our Chaplaincy Council generously agreed to release us for a month, as an expression of inter-responsibility within the Anglican Communion; this generosity was compounded by generous gifts from individuals and the Chaplaincy itself which covered a good proportion of our travel and other costs.

So at the end of July, we went. After four days in Western comfort in a hotel to get oriented, we were into work. The first assignment initially caused us some anxiety as it involved a short visit to the northern city of Jaffna, which has borne the brunt of the 25 year old conflict between the Tamil Tigers and the (Sinhalese dominated) Government. This civil war has caused 100,000 deaths and the large scale displacements of Tamils: many thousands live in refugee camps, and others (often the most able) have left the country in a world-wide *diaspora*. Getting to Jaffna took hours, with check-ins and delays and long waits before and after

the one-hour flight. But it was worth it; Jaffna has a large Christian population and many feel isolated and forgotten, as so few visitors go there. We spent one night with the Archdeacon and his wife, met a number of Anglican priests and saw just a little of the life of the church there. Providentially we were there for the monthly healing service at St John the Baptist church, which Michael was invited to share in, administering anointing to around 30 of the congregation. We briefly visited the two Anglican schools in the city – at one of which we were invited to plant a mahogany tree beside the cricket pitch (certainly the first and probably the only time we will be so honoured!)

The main purpose of our visit was the two retreats, which were effectively compulsory, which meant we had access to virtually all the Anglican clergy of the country. The first retreat, at a Catholic conference centre in the forested hills above the ancient capital of Kandy, was for the smaller diocese, Kurunagala. We gave 6 addresses, conducted a service of prayer with laying-on of hands for healing, and met about 15 priests for half-hour listening/counselling sessions. The second, at the (former CMS) Ladies' College in Colombo, was for a larger number of priests. This involved 2 more addresses (which we gave as Bible studies); again we saw around 15 priests. We tried to cover some of the essentials of Christian Healing, and also spent time on the issues of forgiveness and

reconciliation, which will be so important whenever the country achieves peace and stability. (We worked together on preparing the talks, and also shared the presentation, as well as all the times of ministry. People seemed to appreciate our 'team work', as a model for shared ministry.)

In addition to these activities, Michael preached three times – at the English service at Colombo Cathedral and at two predominantly Tamil churches, Christ Church Kandy and All Saint's Pettah, a district of the capital. At both the latter churches we offered prayer ministry after the Communion, and we busy for nearly an hour and a half each time, praying with many people, of all ages, for a great variety of needs (to grasp which we needed the help of interpreters.) It was a wonderful privilege to be trusted in this way by people we had never met before – and it highlighted the importance and relevance of our belief that Christ stills brings his healing touch to his wounded and burdened people. (How often do we short-change our congregations by keeping this truth a closely guarded secret?)

We prayed with a number of other people (including one young Hindu woman, who longed to get pregnant). We visited the only convent in the country, run by sisters of the Society of St Margaret (whose mother house is in Sussex), and prayed with the 'elders' whom they look after. Michael also gave a talk on Healing of Memories under the auspices of the Cathedral Institute for Education and Formation.

It was exhausting and exhilarating, and gave us both a real insight into some of the problems and opportunities in this beautiful country. We heard stories of oppression and discrimination, of threats and actual violence. By the end of our visit we had got used to the security checks and road blocks – but they can be quite threatening for many Tamils, especially as almost all the military are Sinhalese. We met and prayed with many who suffered from stress and the effects of poverty (mostly unnecessary in this well-resourced land, with its mostly well-educated people.) Others shared their



Above: The best fellowship is almost always at a meal table.

Right: The worldwide Anglican church in practice. Michael pauses for a blessing prayer during the Eucharist.



concern and pain for the divisions within the country that cause so much suffering and unhappiness.

We have a great store of memories, mostly enjoyable, though we both agree that we never want fish curry and rice for breakfast again! (However, our hosts' provision of early morning 'bed-tea' was much appreciated.) Being driven around was an experience in itself – the rule of the road appears to be, sound your horn and take avoiding action at all times. Taking a motorised trishaw (a *tuk-tuk*) was a little nerve-racking, as they weaved in and out between larger vehicles. Sri Lanka is a beautiful country, and the people we met, particularly the Christians, were delightful and welcoming. Even the soldiers who from time to time frisked us always did so with courtesy, smiles – and some embarrassment.

We saw something of the efforts to reconstruct after the 2004 tsunami, for which our Chaplaincy like others within this Diocese had raised money

at Bishop Geoffrey's request, to help the Diocese of Colombo. They received considerable funding from all over the world, and they achieved a remarkable amount. More important, they seem to have avoided the dangers of corruption and misuse that can arise in relief work. But there have been frustrations and disappointments, with continued fighting in some of the worst affected coastal areas.

Most of the church leaders we met impressed us, with their commitment and courage. Bishop Duleep especially is not afraid to speak out in criticism of the some of the activities shown by both sides of the conflict – and this does not make him popular with either. And when peace is finally achieved, the church will have an important role to play, as the only faith community that truly transcends the ethnic and linguistic divisions.

Christians are only 8% of the total population, most of whom are Buddhists. And the Anglican Church

of Ceylon is the third largest denomination with around 60,000 affiliates. However, the Anglicans have the advantage of avoiding ethnic polarisations better than some of the other denominations. They will face real challenges, if there is not to be a legacy of bitterness and hatred. So healing and reconciliation in all its forms will be called for. We hope that our small contribution may bear some fruit.

The Church often feels ignored by the wider Anglican Communion: the conflict has lasted so long that it gets little attention, and on the scale of things this small, two-diocese church, is not given much support. But they deserve our concern and encouragement. Pray for them, the bishops, priests and people – especially those ministering in the worst affected areas of the north and east, those trying to speak of forgiveness and reconciliation in the face of ongoing divisions.

ON THE MOVE

WELCOME TO

Rev Jan van Handenhoven, Rector of the Old Catholic Congregation in the Province of Zeeland (Old Catholic Church of The Netherlands, Archdiocese of Utrecht) is now also Mission to Seafarers' Chaplain in Vlissingen, The Netherlands.

Rev Simon Hobbs, Priest-in-Charge, Grosvenor Chapel, Mayfair, London will become Chaplain of St Boniface, Bonn and All Saint's, Cologne, Germany in April.

Very Rev Walter Raymond OGS, Dean of Quebec and Rector of the Parish of Quebec, Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Quebec City, Canada (Church of Canada) is now Chaplain of St Paul, Monte Carlo, Monaco.

MOVING AROUND

Rev Gabriel Amat Torregrosa, Assistant Chaplain of the Anglican Church of St Andrew, Zürich, Switzerland (Europe) is to be Priest-in-Charge of All Saints', Marseille, France from March.

ORDINATION

Rev Engin Yildirim was ordained priest by the Diocesan Bishop on 12 January 2008 in the Chapel of the Dutch Consulate General, Istanbul, Turkey to serve as Bishop's Chaplain to the Turkish-speaking Congregation in Beyoğlu, Istanbul.

FAREWELL TO

The Rt Rev John Flack, Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Peterborough retired as Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, is to be Priest in Charge of Nassington, Apethorpe, Woodnewton and Yarwell from April, while remaining Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Peterborough.

Rev Canon John Philpott, Priest-in-Charge of St Clement, Prague, Czech Republic is to retire from 15 April.

The Very Rev Alan Woods, Dean of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, Gibraltar; Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry of Gibraltar; and, Pastor of the Cathedral Parish has retired.

HONOURED

Rev Canon Dirk van Leeuwen, retired, is now a Canon Emeritus of the Cathedral Chapter of the Diocese.

The Venerable Ian Watson, Archdeacon of Coventry is now Canon Emeritus of the Cathedral Chapter of the Diocese.

The Very Reverend Alan Woods, (see above) is now Dean Emeritus of the Cathedral Chapter.



Rev Paul Yiend in Liège relaxes with members of the congregation after one of their unusual Lent services, using material from York courses on CD, rather than the more traditional sermon. For story – see page 3



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January was celebrated in a variety of ways around Europe where many of our congregations enjoy the hospitality of other church buildings and close fellowship with other Christian groups. In the English Church in Oostende a service was presided over by the Orthodox Bishop Athanagorus. His brother Fr Bernard Peckstadt Orthodox Priest of Oostende and Brugge is on the left of the picture. Also present are the Protestant "Dominee" and Anglican priest Fr Howie Adan seen here offering the blessed cake bread to the congregation.

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The Rev Canon Debbie Flach in joined by a fellow General Synod representative Ann Turner as the Diocesan Bishop officially welcomes her as Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church, Lille, France in a service of Collation".

NEW APPOINTMENT AT THE HEART OF THE EU

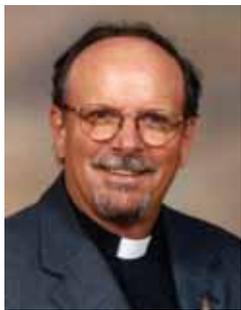
The Diocese in Europe is at the heart of a new initiative to ensure the voice of the church is heard in EU corridors of power. The Rev Dr Gary Wilton has been appointed to the newly created post of Church of England's Representative to the EU Institutions and will take up his post in Brussels in April this year.

Since 2005 Gary has been a member of the Theology Department at York St John University where he is currently Head of the Postgraduate Programme in Theology and Religious Studies. He has a long-standing interest in the relationship between the Church and contemporary society and teaches Christian Ethics and Christian

Mission and Ministry. Ordained deacon in 1988 and priest in 1989 in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, he was Director of Studies and then Associate Principal at the Church Army's Wilson Carlile College from 1998-2005.

As the Church of England's Representative to the EU, Gary Wilton will be responsible to the Europe Bishops' Panel for promoting the Church of England's engagement on European social, political and environment issues. Gary will be an Associate Staff Member of the Conference of European Churches' Church and Society Commission and a Canon to the Pro-Cathedral Church of Holy Trinity Brussels.

NEW MAN IN MONACO



Father Walter Raymond is a native of California who has lived in Canada since 1969. He was ordained in the

Anglican Diocese of Toronto and served as a parish priest and as a school chaplain before his appointment as the Dean of the Cathedral in Quebec City, in 1999.

Walter first settled in Quebec City in the 1970's and completed an undergraduate degree in Linguistics at Université Laval in 1979. He moved to Toronto in 1983 to work as a teacher in French Immersion for the Toronto Board of Education before beginning work on the Master's degree in Divinity in 1988 and seeking ordination to the priesthood.

He greatly enjoyed his ministry at the Cathedral where he worked in the context of a particularly welcoming and engaged community of Anglicans. He is perhaps proudest of the development of a strong

refugee sponsorship programme during his tenure as dean; and his greatest delights were the acquisition of a 1790 Chamber Organ (a sister of the one in Kenwood House) for the Cathedral's bicentennial in 2004 and the full refurbishment of the Cathedral's ring of eight bells – which involved shipping the bells back to the Whitechapel Foundry where they were first cast in 1830.

Father Walter is a member of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd, an international community of Anglican men who share a common spiritual "Rule of Life", and he has served as Secretary-General of the Oratory since 2002. He is fond of golf; and loves travel and the arts. He says he is looking forward to the challenge of adjusting to life in continental Europe and most particularly to becoming a member of the community at St. Paul's, contributing to the life of the English speaking community in Monaco.

He was particularly moved (and surprised) by a "leaving present" when the Archbishop of Quebec honoured him with the title of "Dean Emeritus of the Cathedral and the Diocese."

CHARLES VANE TEMPEST

On 5 January, Charles Vane Tempest MBE a reader in St Nicholas Helsinki, died, aged 86. Charles was a steadfast, faithful and much loved servant of the chaplaincy. His ministry and presence will be missed by the members of the congregation.

Fr Rupert Moreton, the Chaplain of St Nicholas, included the following tribute to Charles in his Epiphany sermon:

It is entirely in character that our dear brother Charles should depart this earthly life on the eve of the feast of the Epiphany. For Charles was surely our very own *magus*, a wise seeker after truth, who devoted his life to the worship of the Christ he loved with the same extravagant simplicity of those first Magi. Like Charles, they journeyed; and like Charles they laid their treasures at the feet of the Christ-child. For Charles had his own treasure to give: his simplicity and wisdom, already mentioned; but also his deep faith; his gentle, patient humour; his at times reckless generosity; his stoic forbearance as old age advanced and illness began to take its hold; his almost childlike, always infectious joy; his deep love for his remarkable wife Liisa, their children and for Christ. His long association with this community and his years of service as reader, treasurer and church warden were his great gift to us; and his greater gift to God. Let us leave it there for the moment: there will be time to say more in due course, today and later. But let us rejoice and give thanks, for we have been truly blessed in God's gift of Charles to us.



SAUCEPAN, SPOON AND MITRE



Enterprising members of St Bartholemew's Anglican church in Dinard, France have enlisted the help of a hundred bishops, including our own Bishop Geoffrey, in compiling the Bishop's Cookbook. With a foreword by the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe the

book is entertaining as well as informative and imaginative. Early copies have been well received and are available (cash with order, please) from Julian Thompson, Red Hall, Redhall Lane, Chandlers Cross, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 4LS. Cost – £10 including post and packing in the UK, 15 Euros within Europe. More details by email THOMP77805@aol.com

EVENSONG IN ESTERGOM

Sam Keyes from a group called Covenant writes . . .

It's not every day that you get to hear Hungarians singing from the Book of Common Prayer, much less praying for the Queen. So I encourage you to seize the day and listen to this lovely little recording from December 29 – the feast of St. Thomas Becket – at the Primatial Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Assumption and St. Adalbert (a.k.a. the Basilica at Esztergom, the seat of the Roman Catholic Church in Hungary). In attendance: Bishop László Kiss-Rigó of the Roman Catholic diocese of Szeged-Csanád, Bishop Geoffrey Rowell of the Church of England's Diocese in Europe, and Canon Denis Moss, chaplain of St. Margaret's, Budapest (my former church).

Why, you ask, would such a service happen? Well, the Basilica at Esztergom houses relics of St. Thomas

Becket. I hear (though I am finding this hard to confirm) that these are the only *known* relics of the saint since his shrine at Canterbury Cathedral was destroyed in 1538.

Unfortunately, you'll have to skip past a minute and a half of Hungarian ads to get to the music – and the radio announcer interrupts and edits out the lessons. But you still get most of the music – sung by the Gabrieli and Magnificat choirs – and the prayers (including the one for the Queen, which is interesting).

<http://covenant-communion.com/?p=378>



VIRTUAL CHAPTERS AND COMMITTEES

With our concern to reduce our carbon footprint experiments in "Virtual Chapters" where groups of clergy meet on a conference call using webcams and computer based



voice systems are showing that time consuming, costly and environmentally damaging travel is not always needed. The system currently being used is based on Skype which can be downloaded over a broadband connection and offers cheap telephone calls, or free conference facilities with others on the same system.

For more information contact Fr. Kevin O'Brien, Bishop's Chaplain or email bishops.chaplain@dioceseineurope.org.uk and he will be pleased to offer advice.

YOUR CHURCH NOT MENTIONED?

If you are not reading about events in the life of your church in the diocese – or of churches near you, are you sending stories and pictures and ideas for articles to us?

Please email paul.needle@europe.c-of-e.org.uk with your contribution and make sure your story is published in our next issue – copy deadline 20th April for publication 1st June.

ARE YOU READING US?

Apologies to readers of the European Anglican in some churches in Spain where copies of the December issue arrived extremely late or not at all. We are trying to correct an apparent distribution problem and if you are reading this it will have been remedied. If it is of consolation the church on the Costa Azahar did not get copies either – somewhat embarrassing as their Priest-in-Charge is the magazine editor!

MISSED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

In our Winter issue of European Anglican, published in December, we included a humorous look at the continent with reminders about how the diocese has a limited income and aims to manage it wisely.

Churchgoers on the Canary Islands and Morocco in North Africa pointed out that they did not feature in the map which was limited in its scope. We assure these church members that they are not forgotten and recommend a copy of the full colour diocesan map produced 2 years ago by the Friends of the Diocese in Europe – but which is itself slightly outdated with the development of a few new congregations.