A visit to Athens
Church pioneering project

It felt like fire on my head
Ordination experiences

Forty years a reader
Memories from Madrid

Publicity pointers
Getting the message across

A bishop confirms
Grand Prix can be noisy!
People discover the Diocese in Europe in many ways and are surprised at what they find. Some travel on business or holiday and are delighted to find a church in their own language with worship that is familiar to them. Others make a life changing move from Britain or elsewhere for a new life in Europe and are equally pleased to discover a local church where they are welcomed and in which they can become involved.

For others, the European Anglican or other diocesan publications may be a first insight into the Church of England’s fastest growing diocese. We are listed with the 43 other dioceses in England and have many of the privileges and responsibilities which they have. Yet, we are different because of our vast scale of distance – covering one-sixth of the world’s land surface. We operate in 45 European countries – often under very different and variant local laws and across nine time zones – which can make physical communication challenging.

In this issue we report ordinations and news of clergy and church members facing the challenge of spreading the gospel in a disparate diocese linked with a common purpose and supported by mutual love and fervent prayer. You will also find reports of Christians involved in local communities, having fun in their faith fellowships and looking at how we can further spread the news of our ministry and mission.

If your church is not included in these pages that may be that we need to hear more of your news and welcome contributions and ideas for future editions.

Paul Needle
Editor, The European Anglican

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**Faith in Words and Works**

Malcolm Bradshaw, Senior Anglican Chaplain in Athens, writes about a successful delegation visit and a project putting faith into action

Members of the delegation in Athens, (from left) Archimandrite Maximos, Archimandrite Gabriel Papnicolaou, Mr. Ephraim Bons, The Bishop of London, Rev Canon Malcolm Bradshaw, Canon Jonathan Goodall, The Bishop of Birmingham
Mohammed, Nadir, Manuel, Ahmed, Hassid, Wedad, so the names rolled out as did the countries, Somalia, Morocco, Sudan, Eritrea, Nigeria, Iraq, Palestine, Iran, Afghanistan. Over 1,600 migrants in the very heart of Athens signed up to receive a daily meal. They are just the tip of a surge of illegal migrants that have entered Greece over the past two years averaging well over 10,000 per month. Many arrive overland from Turkey and the Balkans, while others take boats from the Turkish coast assisted by human traffickers. An Iraqi spoke of rowing 8 hours from Turkey to Samos. Increasingly the islands of the Aegean are affected. They are ill equipped to receive such huge numbers. On the small island of Agathonisi, between Patmos and Turkey, 400 rather elderly residents found themselves drawing upon their own resources to care for a 1,000 migrants.

It was Monday 13 April (Orthodox Holy Monday) when volunteers gathered to distribute the first meal. 600 recipients benefited but quickly that number moved to the present figure of 1500 per day. Young men in their mid twenties are the main beneficiaries but there are also mothers with children, addicts and the occasional Greek senior citizen. Many young people seem to be qualified and skilled workers, and a few have graduated at universities in their home countries. There is no employment to be found in Athens. Outside the city temporary jobs are available in centres of tourism or on farms picking the Mediterranean crops. Sadly Greece has failed to implement a comprehensive immigration policy. The situation is acute.

The food for the meals is provided by ‘Solidarity’, the humanitarian NGO of the Greek Orthodox Church. The ingredients were originally destined for the Gaza strip but only a small percentage of the total collected was allowed entrance. There is enough food to cover six months. Meanwhile major food manufacturers are donating further resources so that the programme can continue and be enlarged.

The initiative began with Fr Gabriel Papanicolaou, the young Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Athens. The Anglican Chaplaincy in Athens made its own contribution by helping with the vision but also as the link body with the pastors of the African Pentecostal Churches of Athens. Fr Gabriel, after listening to these pastors for ninety minutes, responded by saying, ‘You have the knowledge and experience of working and living among the migrants. We, the Orthodox, don’t have these but we have the resources. Why don’t we put your knowledge and our resources together?’ So there emerged, ‘The Church in the Street’ – a programme jointly delivered by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Athens, the African Pentecostal Churches of Athens and the Anglican Chaplaincy in Athens. It is considered to be the first social action programme, ecumenically delivered, to have happened in Athens. His Beatitude, Hieronymus II, Archbishop of Athens has given his full support and visited the distribution centre twice. There is now talk of expanding the scheme to 3,000 meals each day delivered through churches as well as within some of the major city squares. Later it is hoped that a centre for a change of clothing will be established.

Along with the revelation that some of the recipients have not eaten for at least twenty four hours comes the occasional expression of ‘thanks’. However, the greatest compliment was from a young Somali at his first appearance. He had been in the country 90 days. ‘Thank you for doing this. It is not so much the food that matters. It is the fact that you are here which is so important. We know we are not alone.’
There were celebrations in France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain in a series of Summer ordinations where candidates confirmed their assurance that God had called them to ministry and the ordaining bishop prayed for the Holy Spirit’s power and grace to “make them faithful to serve” in advancing the gospel in the world.

Frances Hiller was ordained deacon at a service in Cologne as part of the Diocesan Synod in June. She will serve as Chaplain to the Suffragan Bishop. It was a double deaconing in Arnhem in July when the Diocesan Bishop Geoffrey ordained Rik Florentinus to serve at Christ Church, Amsterdam and Ankje Robinson-Muller to the East Netherlands Group of churches. Lindy Jordan, an assistant curate of St Andrew’s, Fuengirola on the Spanish Costa del Sol, was ordained deacon in Calahonda.

Rev John Moore, from St Michael’s in Paris, was ordained a priest in that church in July, while Rev Christine Bloomfield was priested in St Albans, Strasbourg where she serves as an assistant curate.

We recapture these happy occasions in words and pictures introducing our new deacons.

A different kind of 4th of July

Rev Sam Van Leer, Chaplain, East Netherlands, recalls a double ordination

Americans associate this day with basking in the sun, enjoying food with friends, and finally gathering for a fireworks display.

July 4th in Arnhem was indeed seasonably warm (30+ C) and friendly, as over 150 folk gathered to support Ankje Robinson-Muller and Rik Florentinus, ordained deacons by Bishop Geoffrey. Alvyn Pettersen, Canon Theologian at Worcester Cathedral, who had led the ordination retreat in Belgium the days before, preached on Mark 10: ‘Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.’ Canon Pettersen stressed that fundamental to servanthood is the question: to whom do you belong? In giving ourselves to the Lord’s service, we also give ourselves to the world, but only because Christ first did so. It is He who belongs to all, first, and we who belong to Him.
Frances Hiller recalls her ordination

Wednesday 3rd June was for me both an end and a beginning. When Diocesan Bishop Geoffrey laid on hands, ordaining me to the Distinctive Diaconate, I was aware that I had, in one sense, reached the end of a long and not always straightforward journey which started back in the early 1990s, when I sensed that God might be calling me to a different sort of ministry. As I heard the words, “Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant Frances” I felt a tremendous sense of joy, but also relief at finally having got there! Throughout all the stages of discernment, selection and training I have had to work hard to convince people that I truly believed I was being called to be a deacon – and to stay as a deacon. The Church of England has little experience of training I have had to work hard to convince people that I truly believed I was being called to be a deacon – and to stay as a deacon. The Church of England has little experience of the Diaconate, and I hope that my particular struggle may have opened some doors for those who will follow.

The service in All Saints, Cologne was a wonderful occasion, absolutely unforgettable. It seemed entirely appropriate that I was being ordained in the presence of Margaret Hall in Oxford.

It’s a big robe to fill! Frances prepares to robe as a deacon

The service in All Saints, Cologne was a wonderful occasion, absolutely unforgettable. It seemed entirely appropriate that I was being ordained in the presence of Margaret Hall in Oxford.

That special moment as Frances is ordained

Mine has been a long journey since I first expressed my wish to be ordained 50 years ago, when I was in my teens. I was, of course, kindly but roundly rebuffed because of my gender and told by my parish priest to set such thoughts aside. So I did and have been blessed with a rich and varied series of opportunities to minister to people in other ways – including teaching in secondary schools and American community colleges, as well as tutoring for various Oxford University colleges after taking my first and second degrees at Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford.

After twelve years as an academic my marriage to composer/pianist Jack Jordan drew me back to my roots (I was the fifth generation of a theatrical family) and together we formed our own company, Lamplight Productions. We worked together in many genres from Music Hall to Shakespeare and ran Theatre in Education. Along the way I was involved professionally in radio and TV, ran a recognised language school, worked on designing “Proficiency in English” examinations for Cambridge, became a tutor for the Open University and taught for some years in Lewes prison.

But I never lost that sense of vocation to ministry, which was out of reach for most of my working life. I have lived on the Costa del Sol since 1987 and it was here that I was at last able to articulate and pursue my heart’s desire and offer for ordination. I am more joyful than I can say to be ordained to the diaconate after a year of formation with the Eastern Region Ministry Course, which was an enriching and positive experience, affirming and focussing my vocation within a dedicated and caring community.

I owe a debt of gratitude to my tutors, fellow ordinands and to the congregations that make up the chaplaincy of St Andrew’s, Costa del Sol East, without whose support in prayer and encouragement I would not have reached this day.

I think that all newly ordained clergy must feel how little they can do in their own strength and how much they must rely on the grace of God to empower them. I am no exception. I look forward with both anticipation and trepidation to the tasks ahead but rejoice in the privilege of being called to serve God’s people in this place, under the wise guidance of Ven David Sutch upon whose counsel and collegial fellowship I have relied throughout the process of diocesan discernment, study and liturgical instruction which have brought me thus far in my Christian pilgrimage.

My family and friends have never failed in their confidence that, with the help of God, I would reach this day. Now with that same help I go forward to face the future. Please pray for me as I take up the responsibilities of my calling.

Lindy Jordan’s journey to ordination

That special moment as Frances is ordained

It’s a big robe to fill! Frances prepares to robe as a deacon

Lindy is given a white stole, part of her official robes as a deacon

Lindy with ordaining Suffragan Bishop David
A FRIENDLY HAND CLASPED IN PRAYER, OPENED IN GIVING

The annual Service and Reception of the Friends of the Diocese in Europe will be held on 21st October 2009. Barry Richardson explain the history of the Friends.

Unlike other dioceses within the Church of England, the work of this diocese and the support of over 270 congregations depends on voluntary giving. The diocese stretches from Morocco across mainland Europe including Scandinavia to Russia through Mongolia and to the far outpost of Vladivostok. Many chaplaincies are self-supporting but not all and there is an ever-increasing need to establish new congregations.

The “Friends” were set up some 14 years ago at the instigation of Canon Gordon Reid, who was, among many other appointments in the diocese, Dean of Gibraltar from 1998 to 2000 and the late Francis Ponsonby. Our first patron was the late Sir Edward Heath and the chairman throughout has been Sir Timothy Daunt to whom we are especially grateful for his unstinting support. Co-ordination of the work of the Friends is undertaken by the Honorary Secretary; the Revd. Philip Warner is the fourth person voluntarily to shoulder the burden “as a hobby”. In addition to organizing the annual Service and Reception, the Friends distribute “The European Anglican” four times a year, the Diocesan Yearbook, a Listing of Chaplaincies and the Diocesan Calendar & Prayer Diary.

An important and valuable contribution to the diocese is through grants made possible by Friends’ membership subscriptions and donations. The Friends committee makes grants available to diocesan-wide causes, rather than individual chaplaincies. In recent times grants have gone to language training for newly-appointed chaplains and their spouses, ordinands’ study books, a new diocesan database, support for the “Rock of Ages” campaign at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Gibraltar and for the Spicer Fund for clergy in special need, such as urgent return to the UK. The Friends very recently met a request for a good quality digital camera for the diocesan communications team to record pictures of some of the wonderful events taking place within our diocese.

In my case, I and my family have found spiritual support at St. Alban’s in Copenhagen, St. John & St. Philip in The Hague where my late parents-in-law also worshipped and still, after some thirty years, at St. John the Evangelist in St. Raphaël. Now retired and living in the Diocese of Chichester, we wish to maintain some contact and give support to the on-going life and work of this diocese.

Do think about joining us at the Friends Service when the preacher will be the Dean of St. Paul’s and the Reception to be held at St. Matthew’s, Westminster on Great Peter Street on Wednesday (NOT Thursday) 21st October 2009 at 6:00 pm. Notification of your plan to attend and donations towards the cost of the event would be much appreciated. There are some 350 Friends listed on the database but unfortunately of these, for about half, no donation or subscription is recorded which is an unsustainable drain on our limited resources.

Annual subscription to the Friends is £25 and it would be much appreciated if everyone paid by standing order/direct debit and, where applicable, completed a Gift Aid declaration. Contact for details of membership should be address to the Hon. Secretary, the Revd. Philip Warner, at Friends of the Diocese in Europe, 14 Tufton Street, LONDON SW1P 3QZ, e-mail at saintmagnus@bulldoghome.com.

We look forward to meeting you as Friends of the Diocese in Europe.
Dropping in on Normandy

June 2009 saw an invasion of Northern France but as Penny Estlin, from the church in Coutances writes, the visitors brought many memories with them.

There were 550 British, American, Canadian, German and Finnish paratroopers, men and women, in 7 planes and 50 high precision paratroopers, who jumped with huge flags which unfurled as they descended, through the clouds and rain!

On a previous occasion a German band had also provided excellent 1940’s music for the smiling crowds. The unity and obvious harmony these young men and women enjoyed was a pleasure to see and a lesson to all of our hopes for the future. That afternoon the crowds followed the band and the refreshed paratroopers walking to the Iron Mike Monument honouring the war dead. Then everyone paraded along the route of Liberation from La Fiere to St Mere Eglise.

Many say this will be the last time such celebrations will take place. However, this is hard to believe when we watched the different nations laughing together as they stood on the sodden grass and ignored the rain showers.

Our hope for the future is to encourage harmony in the love of Our Lord. As each year passes we see more, not fewer, nations joining in this historic event. The veterans children from both sides swap e-mail addresses and photographs – and make arrangements for next year, with maybe a ride on a tank or in a jeep while the boogie-woogie music of Glen Miller still makes everyone want to dance and sing!

Underground Church in Italy

The Early Christians in Italy often met in underground caves so it seems appropriate that the church in Bari, part of the larger chaplaincy of Naples, has found a new home in an underground cantina.

The subterranean location for occasional celebrations of the Eucharist became possible after the cellar was recently cleaned up for Lindsay Renzulli’s daughter’s wedding reception. She and fellow church members thought it looked as good as any cathedral crypt.

The congregation comes from Bari and the surrounding towns. They also have the use of an ecumenical chapel which the Archbishop of Bari has kindly allocated to the ecumenical group who meet there which means the congregation is blessed with a choice of worship venues.
**News in Brief**

“NOT ANGELS BUT ANGLICANS”
The Church Council of St Ursula’s, Berne were challenged at a recent “Awayday” where they considered aspects of church life which are especially unusual in Europe. They included, people constantly coming and going, less sense of any inherited church traditions and living in a country as a “guest church”. Further discussions are planned about the opportunities these findings offer for future ministry and mission.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CALVIN
Holy Trinity Church in Geneva is playing a part on the Swiss city’s big year to mark the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin. Celebrations include an exhibition called “A day in the life of Calvin” and a dramatic presentation of the theologian’s life which involves some English church members in the cast.

OSLO’S 125TH BIRTHDAY
A reception at the British Embassy was one of the highlights of the 125th birthday celebrations of St Edmund’s Church in Oslo. The building has been opened for visitors who may be curious about its long history. A book charting developments through the years has been produced by a local historian, Trond Werner Pettersen, a member of St Edmund’s.

NEVER MIND THE BOOK, READ THE CD
Members of the congregation of St Francis on the island of Tenerife have helped to prepare a recipe book to tempt the taste buds and raise money for the church. Unusually the first publication is on a computer CD so would-be chefs can boot up and select a menu on screen.

**Antwerp Restoration Assured**

Restoration and repair work to St Boniface church in Antwerp has been given a welcome Flemish subsidy of over £1.5 million. This is an extremely generous amount and together with money raised locally and from trusts means that the 100 year old building can now be fully restored. The 100 year old slates are paper thin and the securing pins have corroded away. The result is a very leaky roof! This, in turn, allows water to pour down the walls causing salts to crystallize. The West Window has now been shored up to prevent it collapsing and work will continue on the window rods after expansion and contraction over the years has caused the masonry to break out.

**A noisy Ascension Sunday**

Sometimes a visit from a bishop can compete with other events. When Suffragan Bishop David Hamid went to share Ascension services in Monaco he was invited to stay on for the following Sunday where he got a bird’s eye view of the Grand Prix. He describes it as being somewhat noisier than on the television but was delighted to be joined by sons Michael and Jonathan for the occasion.
Choral Welcome for Swiss Restoration

The first service in the restored Chancel and Choir of St John’s, Montreux at the end of May was a joyful occasion. The choir sang a full Choral Matins including Stanford’s Jubilate, and Martin Shaw’s anthem, ‘With a Voice of Singing’. Parts of the new Communion setting by Grayston Ives were also introduced during the celebration of Communion which followed. The works include a new sound system, including a sound loop system. The project was dedicated by the Diocesan Bishop in June at a service with the Honorary British Consul and other local dignitaries. A further 650,000 Swiss Francs are needed to complete the work.

Visiting Clerk of Works?

Work on restoring the Anglican Cathedral in Gibraltar is underway and Diocesan Bishop Geoffrey Rowell recently visited to see progress for himself. The replacement of the roof began at the end of April and is expected to be in progress until the Autumn. The bishop is seen here with Dean, Dr John Paddock during a visit which included celebrations marking 700 years devotion to Our Lady of Europe.

Australian PM visits Rome Centre

Kevin Rudd (pictured above), the Prime Minister of Australia was welcomed as the first head of government to visit the Anglican Centre in Rome in July. Dean David Richardson, the Director, said Mr Rudd had shown vision in recognizing the strategic importance of relations with the Holy See. Australia has recently appointed its first resident ambassador to the city.

Pot Training?

What happens to clergy after they are ordained? They are not left to cope alone with the challenges of ministry but go to POT – Post Ordination Training. Pictured here is a recent at Annecy in France where participants learned about Conflict Resolution and Making Peace in the Church. It was taught by a member of staff of the Mennonite Organisation, Bridge Builders, who are specialists in teaching conflict resolution.

A Musical Marseillaise

Smaller parishes often find it a struggle to develop and maintain a musical tradition, but in Marseille they are somewhat spoilt for choice. The All Saints Church congregation includes Michael Pon, violinist and director of the International Music School of Marseille, and Aidan Hamilton, language teacher and cellist. A year ago the musical skills were boosted by the arrival of a new chaplain, Fr Gabriel Amat, a former concert pianist who performed throughout Europe for ten years before seeking ordination. The line up was completed by Amanda Haste, a professional flautist currently completing a Ph.D. on music in present-day Anglican monastic communities. The new chamber trio of Amanda, Michael and Aidan has been filmed for a promotional video of the church which can be found on the website or on YouTube. They have already been asked to play for a wedding in nearby Aix-en-Provence and, with other engagements in the pipeline, they are thinking about a suitable name for their outfit – ‘Trio de Belloi’ or maybe ‘Musica Anglicana’?
Diocesan Synod met in Cologne in early June for the final time before a new Synod is elected during the Summer and Autumn. Visiting speakers were of the highest standard and brought insight on the Bible, work with the European Commission and Parliament, the importance of Christian hope and Fresh Expressions of worship.

Synod members agreed to proceed with a strategic review of the way the diocese is organised and operates in view of the vast increase in the English speaking population in mainland Europe and the rapid growth of many of our churches.

There was also a visit to the city of Cologne for the ordination of Frances Hiller, Chaplain to the Suffragan Bishop, an event featured on page 4. The final day included presentations from the Child protection Officer and the Environmental Officer as well as a session focusing on diocesan finances.

"I never knew Tarshish was so far away!"

was just one comment on the Bishop of Stockport’s incisive Bible studies from the Book of Jonah underlining the truth that God is everywhere for us.
Other discussion groups made sure a Bible was on hand to keep on the right track.

Rev Gary Wilton, Church of England Europe Representative in Brussels, destroyed a few myths about the European Union and explained its complexities before challenging Synod members to discuss our mission there.

An afternoon and evening visit into the centre of Cologne included a visit to a church diocesan museum before the ordination service at All Saints Anglican church.

Worship is at the heart of Synod with Morning and Evening Prayers as well as a daily celebration of the Eucharist, in the dramatic and moving setting of the Edith Stein Chapel.

The Bishop of Liverpool, Rt Rev James Jones, was another key note speaker on the topic “Christian Hope in the Modern World”. He is seen here with Diocesan Bishop Geoffrey.

Bishop Graham Cray, from Fresh Expressions, with his laptop computer ready for the presentation on modern church life and worship.
More than thirty years ago the world was described as "One vast global village" and a group of clergy and church members from the Gibraltar Archdeaconry plan to prove the fact later this year.

When Bishop Bill Godfrey from Peru visited the Archdeaconry Synod his presentation, showing the work of his priests in Lima planting new churches in backyards, inspired Fr. Haynes Hubbard, chaplain on the Algarve, to offer to lead a party of volunteers on a working visit to Lima. They hope to labour alongside local Christians to replace one of their makeshift buildings with a solid building block, waterproof roofed place for worship and meetings. Bishop Bill will choose the development location.

The visitors’ group of between 10 and 15 volunteers is still being finalized. They will travel to Lima in mid November. John Cade from Palma in Mallorca, a member of the team, says they always welcome sponsorship in any form but most importantly ask for prayers that this very physical link will prove a blessing to churches on both sides of the Atlantic.

The swinging sixties was the unlikely background to the events that were to shape the essentially traditional life I was to lead for the next forty years. During that prodigious decade I became an Anglican (from a Free Church background), I left school (where I had studied Science for A levels) and went up to University to read Theology, I qualified as a teacher, I moved to Spain and founded a British School (I have subsequently founded several more) and I became a Reader at St George’s Church Madrid. I am still there!

Forty years sounds a long time, but in retrospect it does not seem so to me. Yet looking back, one can see how much has changed both in the world and in our Church over just a few decades. When I was licensed by Bishop Stanley Ely neither the UK nor Spain belonged to the then Common Market, the united Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe had not been formed, and the Church of England did not have Synodical Government (happy days some might say!). But the Iron Curtain was firmly in place and General Franco also (having ruled Spain for about three decades by then). In fact one or two of his plain clothed policeman took an interest in some of my early sermons. You could sometimes see one or two Spanish men wearing dark glasses sitting at the back of the Church, clearly not quite sure what Matins was all about.

As in many Anglican churches in those days, Morning Prayer was the main Sunday service in Madrid. This meant that I could be asked to "hold the fort" (ie take the services) quite regularly on Sundays for the Chaplain, Basil Ney, who was also the Archdeacon of Gibraltar. My arrival in Madrid in 1968 was something of a godsend to him (there was no assistant Chaplain and no other Reader) and he quickly encouraged me to become a Reader. My Theology degree was rapidly judged to be more than adequate preparation (I am not sure whether there was Reader training in those days anyway) and after a brief meeting with the Bishop over a very enjoyable lunch, I was duly licensed in April 1969. The training I got was all practical. The following Sunday I took Matins under the watchful eye of the Chaplain, and the one after that I was left on my own to take the service while he performed his Archdeacon’s duties somewhere else in the peninsula. His regular absence on Archdeaconry business during the week also meant that it was not long before I conducted a burial. On one occasion during the week, while he was away, the British Consul rang me to say that a British citizen had died while changing planes at Madrid airport and the family, who were travelling with him, wanted a cremation the next day. Could I manage that? I was on a steep learning curve!

During my forty years in Madrid I have seen ten British Ambassadors in
post there, but only five Chaplains at St George’s, and only four Diocesan Bishops (Bishops Stanley Ely, John Satterthwaite, John Hind and Geoffrey Rowell). Is there a lesson to be learned from this? I think there might be. In spite of all the change we notice in our Church, it does stand for permanence and permanent values in contrast to the temporal and changing values of the world. When I arrived in Madrid, St George’s was in a fairly hostile environment, albeit under a very pro Roman Catholic political regime. English Protestants were judged to be dangerous heretics (hence the sporadic presence of the regime’s security officers). Forty years later Spain’s politicians of the left have swung dramatically away from traditional Christian teaching, for example by legalising same sex civil marriages, abortions and the like. Forty years later Spain’s politicians of the left have swung dramatically away from traditional Christian teaching, for example by legalising same sex civil marriages, abortions and the like.

This work in cooperation with the then Archdeacon, the late Bishop Daniel (who lived in Portugal and needed someone like me in Madrid to do the work with the Authorities) awakened an interest in me for the wider organisational aspects of our Church. By this time Synodical Government had been established, and since then I have served for different periods on Archdeaconry and Diocesan Synods and now on the General Synod. If reading Theology at University in the sixties proved to be a severe test of one’s faith (I have heard it said that some Oxford College Chaplains dispense you equal measures of sherry and agnosticism!), membership of the General Synod has proved to be an equally exacting experience in relation to the trust one can place in our Church’s organisation. But that is another story. Representing the laity of our Diocese twice on the General Synod has been an immense privilege and has brought me some wonderful rewards. One of these has been the opportunity to attend a number of Archdeaconry Synods and to meet so many interesting people across the Diocese. But there is a downside to this Synodical work for my role as Reader. Attending Synods and some of the committees that result from their membership is extraordinarily time consuming and requires a lot of travel. This detracts from the time available for Readers’ duties. I calculate that it takes about five weeks a year for a member of General Synod to perform his or her duties (which includes attending the Diocesan Synod and one’s Archdeaconry Synod also) if one includes travel time and preparation. And all this is in addition to one’s own professional life.

Now that I am in my own sixties (not exactly swinging though!), I look back on forty years of active service to the Church as a Reader during which time I have also been a Churchwarden twice, and have served on all the Synods for differing periods of time. A Reader’s Ministry is not for life (unlike the ordained Ministry), and our licences expire when we reach seventy. Nevertheless the Bishop can grant “permission to officiate” after that age. So I look forward in a few years to “going back to my roots” when my days on Synods are over, and becoming a very active Reader again. I just hope that not too many British Citizens die at Madrid airport while changing planes!
Greetings to

Rev Christopher Scargill has moved from four parishes in the diocese of Lichfield to become Senior Chaplain of St Peter & St Paul, Torrevieja, in Spain

Farewell to

Rev Peter Anderson, Chaplain of Holy Trinity, Cannes in France is to retire at the end of November

Rev Ann Gillibrand, Assistant Chaplain of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes in France has resigned

Rev Charles Howard, Chaplain of the Anglican Church of Midi-Pyrenees & Aude in France is to resign at the end of September

Rev David Jenkins, Chaplain of All Saints, Puerto de la Cruz on the Spanish island of Tenerife is to retire in October

Rev Dr Michael Perry, Priest-in-Charge of St John, Menton in France has resigned

Rev Sarah Williams, Assistant Chaplain of St Paul, Tervuren in Belgium moved to the Diocese of Canterbury in June

Obituary

Churchgoers in Vienna remember with great affection Canon Jeremy Peake who died in June, aged 79. His active ministry ranged over the UK, South Africa and Zambia before he became Chaplain between 1987 and 2000.

Barcelona joins the Balearics

For the last five years the Balearic Chaplains on the Spanish islands of Mallorca, Menorca and Ibiza have met for an annual study day and get-together. This year they met at the home of Robert Hutton – Menorca’s Lay-Reader. The speaker was 82 year old Sister Fay from the Roman Catholic Franciscan Missionaries. It was the last time the group will meet solely as the Balearic Chaplains as they have now invited Barcelona’s Chaplain to join them so they become The Catalonia Anglican Chaplains instead.

Photo: left to right Sr. Fay, Michael Bunce, Bob Short, Andrew Tweedy and Robert Ellis.

Musical man moves to Malta

After almost twenty years as Rector of Northampton’s main church, All Saints, Rev Simon Godfrey was installed as Chancellor and Senior Chaplain at St Paul’s Pro-Cathedral, Malta in June. In Valletta he will be spearheading the organ restoration project and bringing his expertise in developing a Choral Foundation in Northamptonshire.

Born in London he read Theology at King’s College and was Head Server at Westminster Abbey. Since ordination he has also been a Chaplain to the Territorial Army and Army Cadet Forces, the Royal British Legion, as well as being honoured as a Freeman of the City of London, and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

Archdeacon Arthur’s surprise

There was a pleasant surprise for the Ven Arthur Siddal at the final dinner of Diocesan Synod in June. Bishop Geoffrey presented him with a framed map of Europe to mark his retirement after serving in Naples and the Swiss city of Montreux. Arthur has been Archdeacon of Switzerland, Italy and Malta. Unusually he was briefly stuck for words on receiving the gift.

Algarve arrival

Rev Bob Bates was formally installed as a Chaplain in St Vincent’s Chaplaincy in the Algarve in July. He is pictured here in the Portuguese sunshine with his wife Diana and their son Tom – who clearly has an interest in music!

Bishop’s All Saints Anniversary

Europe and the Church of England have changed somewhat since a young deacon was ordained priest in November 1969. On All Saints’ Day this year Diocesan Bishop Geoffrey will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of his entry to the priesthood. He plans to spend the weekend with the Basle chaplaincy in Switzerland and his visit will include a confirmation service.

Looking ahead to looking back

The year 2011 will mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible and the 2011 Trust, chaired by the Rt Hon Frank Field MP, has been established to commemorate this great work that had such an impact on our history, music and culture. Its aim is to reach as many people as possible, both in this country and around the world, whether in Cathedrals, village churches, universities or schools. Churches and musicians are being encouraged to plan a programme of events around the KJV in 2011? The Trust has a website www.2011trust.org which will carry all the events planned for the celebrations – you can put them on yourself!
Driving through glorious Spanish countryside with an outside temperature in the high 30’s yet still seeing snow patches lying on the Sierra Nevada made the Diocesan President’s visit to Torrevieja a particularly memorable experience.

Barbara Woods was staying in Andalucia in June and so was able to visit the 3 newest Mothers’ Union groups in the diocese – Torrevieja formed 2 years ago, Costa del Sol East last year and Nerja on Mothering Sunday this year. Three very different groups but all sharing a great enthusiasm and joy in belonging to a worldwide organisation and feeling very much linked by prayer. Each group was given a candle in a holder which was a reminder that members are ‘united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.’

Miles away across the Mediterranean it was also hot on the island of Gozo where the MU Group here were able to hold a picnic on May 25th to celebrate with others across the UK, the “Family Picnic”. Valerie Ellis reports that they only have a small Sunday School so they decided to invite some Eritrean Mums and their babies and toddlers to join them. The Mums arrived on Malta as immigrants, having left their country under dreadful circumstances, one lost her very young baby whilst at sea in a very poor boat.

“We were able to sit and talk while the children played and we were very moved when these young Mums told us how much they miss their Mums and how they have very little hope of seeing them again. They now live out in the community and many of the MU Group have supported them with clothes and household goods, as well as nappies and baby buggies.”

Ch u r c h w a r d e n s ’ s t a f f o f l i f e


Having just completed a three-year term as churchwarden of St Andrew’s, Zurich, I was delighted to be invited to review the revised edition of a survival guide for churchwardens, first published in 2003.

First and foremost, it is a well-structured book and easy to read. It is primarily aimed at those who are considering whether to take on the onerous rôle of churchwarden, but will also act as a ready reference for those already on the job. One thing you must remember before you start reading, however, is that we in Europe do not have the same legislation as exists in Britain and that this book is written with the English dioceses in mind (so much so that the authors have sadly forgotten that the Diocese in Europe is part of the Church of England, citing the existence of only 43 dioceses!) So the parliamentary and legal information as well as some of the financial advice, though amply explained, can be left to one side, bearing in mind that your country may have similar legislation of which you must make yourself aware.

Having taken that on board, let us now consider the remainder of the content.

One of the most difficult things about becoming a churchwarden is that you don’t really know what it is about until you have been sworn in. It is rather like the confidentiality issue of medical records. The doctors know what is up, the patient and next of kin also usually know, but nobody else should be in the picture. The patient in this case is the chaplaincy, the medical profession are the clergy, and the nearest and dearest are the retiring churchwardens. So you are taking on what may be a perfectly healthy being or alternatively a chronically sick patient, and until you assume the responsibilities of churchwarden, you are likely to be none the wiser. This is where you need help to survive, and this book will do just that. It outlines your sphere of jurisdiction, your powers of administration, your chains of responsibility and support, and ultimately how to get out if that is the only alternative left open to you when all else fails.

This may sound grim, but it is realistic. Any member of the congregation with a complaint, however trivial, is going to approach the churchwarden and all complaints must be dealt with. So being a churchwarden can involve continual pacifying, problem-solving and damage control. Equally important is the welfare of your clergy and their families. Martin Dudley and Virginia Rounding cite classic problems that face churchwardens and give common-sense advice on how to cope with them. Alongside this they emphasise the immense rewards that can come from knowing that you have served the church to the best of your ability.

I would recommend that every chaplaincy has a copy of this book on their bookshelf and it should be required reading for anyone interested in becoming a churchwarden. Those with a true vocation will not be deterred, but encouraged by having such practical help to hand. Anyone will get a clearer picture of what it means to undertake this venerable office whose roots can be traced back to the 14th century.

C h u r c h w a r d e n s ’ S u r v i v a l g u i d e
Making the Most of Our Message

Christian social studies have revealed that one quarter of churchgoers prefer to keep their faith private and choose not to talk about it. Another quarter actively talk about their faith and promote it but the remainder of worshippers admit that they would talk about their faith – if the subject came up. The topic of faith often becomes a talking point because of events in life or after congregations make sure their life and activities are kept in the public eye.

It is good for churches to have a "Communications Audit" from time to time to check how effectively the story of their work and service is being publicized and avoid their becoming a closely guarded secret. On this page we offer a few communications points to consider.

Church Magazines Still Have a Role

In Britain church magazines have been going since 1860 and there is a refreshing variety to be found around the Diocese in Europe. It can be difficult when a traditional British style of magazine is produced in a country where it looks and feels out of place. Points to ponder here are:-

- Who is your readership – church members, outsiders – or both?
- How relevant is the content – do readers rush to find the rotas for lesson readers?
- Does it reflect the vibrancy of your church activities?
- Is there something to ponder – a thoughtful or informative article someone may cut out and keep?
- Is the language used simple and easy – how many ecclesiastical terms such as Archdeacon, Synod, Chaplain etc. – how many ecclesiastical terms such as Archdeacon, Synod, Chaplain etc. confuses the reader?

p.s. Many thanks to churches who send their magazines to the Diocesan Office who then pass them to the Communications Officer. There is an impressive range of publications and often items from them can be passed to national church news sources and feature in European Anglican.

Is Your Local Publicity Attractive to Visitors?

Every local church is unique in its location, range of services, and appeal. There is no “one size fits all” solution for posters and leaflets to publicize your presence and details of services.

Some churches in the diocese produce detailed brochures, others have postcard or visiting card sized handouts (Illustrated here).

Modern technology means these can be produced relatively inexpensively (What price do you put on publicity?) and a huge initial print run is not necessary while changes can be made before the next edition to keep the information up to date.

- A good source of postcard size publicity can be found through companies such as www.vistaprint.com. Many of our churches are not easy to find and a location map may be important.
- Before producing your publicity you need to plan where they are to be distributed ensuring that you are reaching places where potential visitors go – e.g. camp-sites, community centres, colleges etc.

p.s. When a visitor comes to church do you have a well ordered and presented Visitor Information Pack to tell them everything they need to know – and not too much irrelevant detail!

Does Your Church Have a Communications Officer?

When positions are being filled at Annual Church Meeting time it can be helpful for the new Church Council to consider nominating a Communications or Media Officer. Although it is amazing how many former journalists pop up all over Europe, no previous experience is necessary. You need someone with enthusiasm, an eye for a news story, knowledge of local media and their requirements, and the ability to impart the information clearly and in a way that attracts the attention. Information and guidance is available from the Diocesan Communications Officer on:-

- Identifying a news story
- How to write a news release
- How to cater for visiting journalists

p.s. For Media Officers who want to get more deeply involved the Communications Department at Church House offers a selection of training courses. Alternatively a synod or a group of local churches could arrange their own with a visiting trainer.

Leave Them Smiling

The Christian Gospel is a serious business but even Jesus knew how to tell jokes and spread the word with a touch of humour. Do your leaflets, magazines and other publicity show the joy of Christian living and share some of the fun to be found in our congregations?

The camera sometimes catches us unawares as in the two pictures below (both inviting your suggestions on captions)