THE EUROPEAN ANGLICAN

ACROSS THE STRAITS
WE'RE MOROCCO BOUND

REMEMBERING 1914
THE WAY WE WERE

WORSHIP, WALKS
AND ELEPHANTS
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR UNITY

BRUSSELS BRIEFING
A BIG YEAR FOR THE E.U.

LEARNING ON THE JOB
TRAINING IN THE DIOCESE

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No. 61
SPRING 2014
This first edition of The European Anglican in 2014 looks ahead to an exciting future for the Diocese. We expect the announcement of a new Diocesan Bishop, we are still seeing signs of new growth and encouragement and churches are preparing to celebrate the Easter news of our risen Lord and His power over death.

But as the saying goes, “God looks at our plans and laughs”. Everything we do is in faith and built on the firm foundation of the past. This year we are in good company as we look back a century to 1914. Christians will be joining in prayers and commemorations to mark the outbreak of the “Great War” in 1914. It will not be easy to set the tone for such events and we shall try to reflect the aspects of prayers and pledges of peace and humble acknowledgement of the tragic cost of battles.

What was our Diocese like in 1914? The Diocese of Gibraltar covered the Southern half of our present terrain, and the Bishop of Fulham was responsible for our Northern parts. But many locations feature in the Gibraltar Diocesan Gazette for March 1914 and we reproduce a flavour of some here. Others will be available for more detailed browsing when they are published on our website.

Trying to catch the mood a century ago recalls the introduction to Charles Dickens’ novel “A Tale of Two Cities”

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, a tale of two Dioceses.

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it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the Spring of hope, it was the Winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way."

We pray God’s blessing on our diverse Diocese as we bring new means of communications to spread the news of our shared Christian life.

**Rev Paul Needle**
**Editor, The European Anglican**

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**The Diocesan Office and Registry**

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**COVENTRY AND HERTFORD, JANUARY 29-31.**

Mr. Back and Mr. Crowe provided me with a full programme of their brief visits to their neighboring churches. A service will begin at the Cathedral on January 29, to be attended by a large congregation of clergy and laity. The programme includes readings from the New Testament, and a couple of selections from the book of Common Prayer. The evening service will be followed by a social gathering in the cathedral nave.

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**REALM: JANUARY 31.**

I spent Wednesday, January 30, at St. Paul's, where I attended a service in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. They were both well known for their philanthropy and their dedication to the church. The service was attended by a large congregation, and included a reading from the book of Proverbs, with a message from the Rev. Dr. Johnson. The evening service was followed by a social gathering in the cathedral nave.

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**NICE, JANUARY 29-30.**

Bringing the short journey by a call at Menton, I reached Nice on the evening of January 29, and was soon encompassed in the customary parade of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson. They had prepared a noble and和完善 programme for me, for their congregation is such that most of the ordination work of an English priest goes on with them in the spirit of love and the English rectorcy. And amidst their "pahdi" there is the little church of St. Simeon, Savonb, under the charge of the Rev. S. G. Smith. When we add to these the Conside chapel, surely English churchpeople at Nice are well served.
The parliamentary elections give Europeans the opportunity to express a view on what sort of Europe they want, or indeed whether they want their country to continue to be part of the EU at all. The European Parliament is an indispensable partner of Member States’ governments in the adoption of legislation at the European level. It now also has a crucial role in the choice of the Commission President. So though, unlike Westminster, the EP is not the basis for constituting a government, it still matters. The choice of President of the European Council is also important. Responsibility for this lies entirely with the EU’s 28 national leaders, who will be looking to choose someone who can help them in setting the EU’s political agenda. Top of that agenda this year will be the adoption of further measures needed to complete the banking union to avoid a recurrence of the 2009 financial crisis, and to stimulate economic development across the EU to consolidate the first tentative signs of recovery. Of course the UK is only indirectly affected since many of these measures concern only the countries of the Eurozone, but the size of the UK financial services sector means that the British government has a particular interest in the negotiations. The financial crisis has prompted some
deep questioning about some of the fundamentals of the system in which our economies function. It has also prompted some criticism, and even hostility, to the EU as an organization. Nowhere is this more the case than in the UK. One consequence could be that eurosceptic and far-right parties secure a much higher percentage of seats in the EP elections in May than has ever been the case before. The issue of migration – or more accurately, the free movement of persons (since it concerns migration within the EU) – resonates with many of those who feel let down by the EU. It has in particular been seized upon by those who are opposed to continued EU membership. Seen from here, the debate looks to have strayed a long way from an objective and measured reading of the facts.

Where does the Church of England – and more specifically its representative here in Brussels – come into all this? We are of course not a political party. We do not push a particular policy line. Instead we try through both a formal dialogue between the EU institutions and the churches (with the next high-level meeting taking place in June) as well as through regular contacts, to ensure that the churches are part of the policy debate. This is similar to the process of engagement by the churches in the UK itself. We can and should have a voice both at national and European level on issues like the social impact of the economic crisis, the human cost of unemployment and the protection of minorities. Our presence in Brussels also means that we can alert the church if we think that proposals are being put forward at the European level which could be unhelpful to the church as an institution. More often these happen by accident rather than design, and early warning enables us to raise our concerns both with the British government and the EU institutions before it is too late.

There is no doubt that the ongoing debate in the UK on EU membership makes it the focus of particular attention of the other 27 Member States. The Scottish referendum campaign is also being followed very closely. There are many different views here about what it would mean for Scotland’s relationship with the EU if the outcome were to lead to independence. And it has very real consequences for a number of other Member States, not least Spain, which is facing its own calls for independence from Catalonia in particular.

With the UK in the spotlight, and with domestic criticism of the EU on the rise, we have an opportunity to remind ourselves that European integration, whilst far from perfect, has been driven by a desire for reconciliation, stability, mutual accountability, compassion and solidarity (both within Member States and between them). Part of the role of the Archbishop’s Representative in Brussels is to encourage a debate where these values are not completely set aside.

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In our present larger Diocese the Cathedral retains its prime position. Bishop Geoffrey was enthroned there and appropriately held his final farewell service there before his retirement. The empty Cathedra, the carved wooden bishop’s chair, is waiting in the sanctuary for a new occupant. On the opposite page we get a glimpse of life across the narrow Straits of Gibraltar where ministry to Christians is very different. But on the Northern side of the water daily worship underpins life in a territory which ranks as one of the smallest in Europe.

All Church of England clergy promise to say Morning and Evening Prayer daily and in Gibraltar Cathedral at 9.30am and 6pm each weekday the “Daily Offices” are said by the Dean, The Very Rev Dr John Paddock with his colleagues and anyone who happens to be visiting at the time. The Dean has been here since 2008 and says that this routine underpins life in a territory which ranks as one of the smallest in Europe.

The role of the Cathedral is perhaps better understood as the main parish church in an English county town, except that in Gibraltar most residents are Roman Catholic and Holy Trinity is an outpost of the Church of England. The Dean says that inter church relations are good and there is great courtesy between them. The Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation is no stranger in its hallowed walls with regular broadcasts of services and news reports of special events. As well as the usual festivals of the Church year which draw in a wider congregation there are special opportunities. The itinerary of the huge cruise ships which call several times a week may include a special service for Easter, harvest or Christmas and a memorable setting for the visitors.

The Cathedral Charity Shop offers another link with visitors and the local community with its range of bargains. Funds raised by the shop and its volunteer staff also help the upkeep of the building. A high profile fund raising campaign launched in 2007 helped to pay for major repairs to the roof and the provision of a new access with facilities for disabled visitors. The Gibraltar Heritage Trust and other groups have also helped provide improvements although there is much that the Dean and his team would like to see done in the future.

Inside the building history is all around, with lists of Bishops and Deans who have passed through its doors. In an alcove beneath the coat of arms, a model sailing ship reminds visitors of the Missions to Seafarers, of Gibraltar’s location almost entirely surrounded by the sea and of its history – a graveyard with memorials of the Battle of Trafalgar is a short distance away. The daily worship commits the Cathedral to pray for our churches and their members with the hope that those churches will support the Cathedral in their prayers.
The English-speaking foreign community in Morocco is growing. Our established historic parishes are in Casablanca and Tangiers but there are now communities of English-speakers from the UK, USA and other countries in Marrakech and Rabat. 60% of all flights to Morocco from the UK are destined for Marrakech, where there is a large expatriate resident community as well as seasonal holiday-makers and business-folk. Rabat, the capital city, has in addition many staff from English-speaking embassies.

Canon Medhat Sabry, the priest-in-charge of St John the Evangelist parish in Casablanca, accompanied me recently on visits to these two cities to explore how these Anglophone foreign nationals might receive pastoral care and attention and be able to participate in worship on a regular basis. Conversations were held in each place with British diplomats, and members of the foreign communities. The British Ambassador is very supportive of this development. We are ensuring that the appropriate officials of the Moroccan government are kept fully informed of this pastoral initiative to serve our foreign communities, and their response has been very gracious and warm.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Rabat, Monseigneur Vincent Landry, has kindly offered the use of Roman Catholic Church buildings in Rabat and Marrakech, for these Anglican services. Ecumenical cooperation is very good in Morocco, among the 4 recognised Christian Churches – the Roman Catholic, the Orthodox, the French Protestant and the Church of England.

Among the signs of new life and vitality in the parish of St John the Evangelist in Casablanca, are some possible vocations to licensed lay ministry (Readers). Two enquirers come from the USA, one from Liberia and one from Nigeria. Over the next months, Canon Medhat Sabry will be carrying forward these vocational explorations. Licensed lay ministers, theologically trained and episcopally authorised, would be a great help in this multicultural parish, to relate pastorally and spiritually to members of the many nationalities who are members of St John’s.

There are two Sunday services in St John’s, one largely with members from North America, the other largely with members from Sub-Saharan African countries. The Anglican liturgy is lively and uplifting, supported by an enthusiastic and talented group of musicians. There is also a burgeoning Sunday School.

In the ancient city of Tangier the first English Church in the city was founded during the period of Charles II’s reign when Tangier came into English possession as part of the dowry of Queen Catherine of Braganza. The present St Andrew’s Church stands on a site given by Sultan Hassan I in 1883. The building was consecrated in 1905.

For many years there has been no resident priest. Sacramental services have been provided by visiting locum clergy. St Andrew’s is looking towards welcoming a resident priest-in-charge, who can lead them forward in outreach to the foreign Anglophone community and to many other foreign residents in the city. There is already a flourishing presence of African Anglicans from a variety of Sub-Saharan countries, who also would value the presence of a resident priest to provide pastoral care and spiritual guidance. On my recent visit, I was able to confirm several members from Liberia, UK and Nigeria.
At the end of January many churches took part in events to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In Europe there are already many practical examples of ecumenism with shared buildings and strong links with other Christian groups. We report on a few activities and Canon Barbara Moss from Gothenburg adds a reflection on the week itself.
In the Armenian capital, Yerevan, members invited other groups to their Sunday evening worship. Five other denominations shared the service.

Orthodox Vespers in Brussels was part of a renewed commitment to Ecumenism.

Every year, a different country has the task of providing worship material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year Christians in Canada chose the theme “Has Christ been divided?” and the text 1 Corinthians 1:1-17. We are more familiar with the second half of this passage, where Paul reacts to disturbing reports about different factions developing within the church in Corinth; but the Canadians draw our attention to the friendly and encouraging words with which Paul begins the letter. The Corinthian Christians are “called to be saints”, and, by the grace of God, are “not lacking in any spiritual gift.”

So, in their order of service, they suggested an Ecumenical Exchange of Spiritual Gifts, representing “the various gifts of the churches in the community – either local gifts or gifts of their wider tradition.” In my own church in Gothenburg, I reflect on an ikon depicting St Birgitta presented to us by the Lutheran Bishop of Gothenburg to mark our 150th anniversary. Ikon painting comes from the Orthodox tradition; Birgitta was a Roman Catholic visionary, abbess and pilgrim, now one of the patron saints of Europe; and we are Anglicans. Many gifts shared, in one small ikon.

The language of offered and shared was expressed in the licensing of Brian Russell as Senior Chaplain for the Anglican Church in Norway on 25 January, the last day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. At the presentation of symbolic offerings, from water for baptism to a symbol of ecumenism, to the new Chaplain, the congregation responded with words beginning “Together, by God’s grace.” For example, the response for ecumenism was “Together, by God’s grace, we will proclaim Christ crucified to our local community.”

Sadly, even by the grace of God, you, or I cannot boast that we are “not lacking in any spiritual gift.” We know that all too well. Only by working together can we share and enjoy the gifts granted to one another.

Canon Barbara Moss
In Sure and Certain Hope

As Europe is the Church of England’s largest diocese our clergy are scattered thinly over many thousands of square miles. Our Readers play an important part in pastoral care and worship, not least in conducting funerals. In some parts of the diocese, especially in the Southern countries, a speedy response may be needed as funerals are expected to be arranged and held within 72 hours of death. A Readers’ seminar in Funeral Ministry attracted 20 participants – with others on a waiting list for a future course. The weekend was led by Director of Training, Canon Ulla Monberg with Rev Elaine Labourel, Senior Tutor and Adviser for Reader Ministry. The training included guidance on pastoral care before and after a funeral. The Reader is expected to understand the demands and requirements of Funeral Directors and help to plan practical aspects. Participants were shown the rich resources of Common Worship and guidance was given on officiating at a funeral rite itself. A demonstration Requiem Mass was held to explain some of the required skills and sensitivities.

Doing and Learning

Experts tell us that we learn by doing in practice and in the few years after their ordination all our clergy continue training to underpin and support their ministry. Two recent Post Ordination Training events featured ‘Issues in Public and Personal Ministry’ and involved Rev Dr. Mark Godson, Psychotherapist and Director of the London Centre for Spirituality and a “Safeguarding Training” module by Chris Lees, Safeguarding Adviser for the Diocese.

The second gathering brought together curates and training incumbents and focused on the use of music in worship. It was led by the Canon John Wilkinson, who explored the use of the wide range of music in Anglican services.

These seminars are organised by Canon Monberg, and the Director of Ordinands, Canon William Gulliford.
There are some 300 congregations in the Diocese, with 170 licensed clergy and many more who serve as locums and assistants. Our Readers, youth and children’s group leaders are among some of the many people identified for support and training in Safeguarding.

An interactive online Child Protection course, pioneered by the Diocese of Chelmsford with Essex Police is being adapted for European use and should be circulated in the next few months. Every chaplaincy will be asked to nominate people who need this training – because of their church roles or involvement with children or vulnerable adults and further details will be given.

Look out for news of this and other developments on the website.

Safeguarding training events have informed recently ordained clergy (see page 10) as well as most of the Swiss clergy. A one day general course was held in Versailles and another one is planned during March in The Hague.

In Versailles more than 35 people from churches around the Paris area, with a longer distance participant who travelled from Bruges, met to learn more about our Diocesan protection policy. Group discussion allowed serious thinking about practical scenarios and what to do if problems appear in a local church. Video stories helped to explain why safe recruitment of volunteers and paid staff in churches has to be done properly. Feedback from the course indicated that the “Safe churches” message is being spread by delegates on their return to their own congregations.

News reports in Britain about the dangers of social media have inspired a new aspect to our safeguarding training. Other dioceses within the church have been sharing guidelines with some excellent practical advice. These 3 tips from Bath and Wells are worth passing on

1. **Don’t rush in**
   - Is this my story to share?
   - Would I want my mum to read this?
   - Would I want God to read this?
   - Would I want this on the front page of a newspaper?

2. **Safeguarding**
   Social media’s informality can mean that it might be harder to maintain a professional distance that is required when working with children, young people and the vulnerable. Communicating directly online with someone, for example with private messaging, is like meeting them in private. You’re advised to send messages to groups, rather than individuals, or share them publicly.

   Refer to the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for further guidance and information.

3. **Be mindful of your own security**
   Don’t over-share personal information. Never publish detailed personal information such as your address or telephone number, unless in a private message to someone you know.
Practical Christianity in Istanbul

The Church of the Resurrection, Pera, is our Turkish-speaking Anglican parish located in the centre of Istanbul.

For many years this unique Church of England parish has been organising a party for refugee children and their families during the Christmas season. It is a priority for the Church’s programme of “Mercy Ministry” to help the refugees in the city as much as they can. Of course, helping the refugees consists merely of “sticking a band-aid” on the wound, since finding a solution for the root of the problems is near impossible. The need is exceedingly great and complicated.

The Church of the Resurrection, Pera, began this accompaniment for refugees in the city to provide an experience for the children and their families where they would feel special, wanted, valued and where they could truly have some fun. Every year more people join this event that has been on-going for many years now.

Although an Anglican initiative, the Church of the Resurrection members are joined by other Christians in the city. The hall for the event is generously offered by the (Roman Catholic) Caritas Ministry.

The Priest-in-Charge, Rev Engin Yildirim says, “In the midst of uncertainty and hardship in the region, we must live the truth of the Gospel, helping the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

Every child who comes to the party is given a unique “shoe box” wrapped in cheerful seasonal paper, prepared individually for them. Many children from Iraq, Afghanistan, Cameroon and Syria, leave the party with colourful presents and smiles. “Thank you for everything!” they say.

From Bishop David’s blog

Strasbourg Life Begins at Forty

Frederick William-Smith reports on a joyful celebration.

As the most senior member of the St Alban’s Anglican Chaplaincy in Strasbourg I had the privilege of carrying the wine for the Eucharist at the 40th Anniversary Service of our chaplaincy on Sunday last October. Anita Emerie, who is 9 and one of our youngest members, carried the wafers. She was thrilled at being asked!

Our principal guests were some former chaplains including the first one, Rev David Stonebanks in 1973 and more recently The Very Rev. Alexander Gordon, now Provost of Inverness Cathedral in Scotland. He and his wife Geraldine recalled happy times and the many friends they had made.

We are fortunate in having the use of the Chapel of the Dominicans for our services so we were delighted to welcome the Prior and one of the Brothers. Rt Rev Vénuste Mutiganda, originally from Rwanda, had been due to attend but was in hospital so our locum priest Rev John Murray read a message from him.

In the best church traditions we then enjoyed a splendid buffet in Strasbourg city centre. Diane Murray gave a brief history of the Chaplaincy, followed by David Stonebanks with some of his reminiscences of the early years.

During the lunch a hymn was sung by the Malagasy Community (who are closely associated with St Alban’s), in their own language. As we look in faith to the future we hope this joyous occasion bodes well for the future of our church here.
Stuttgart Plans a “Homecoming”

Fr Ken Dimmick from St. Catherine’s Church in downtown Stuttgart in Germany is pictured on the front cover of this edition. He writes about a novel and ambitious plan to celebrate the church’s history and share in a vision for its future.

Like so many Anglican churches scattered across the face of Europe ours is a congregation that is constantly on the move. Composed largely of ex-pats, American military, and students from Africa and Asia, the congregation is a place where pilgrims land for a short while before moving on to their next destination.

Over the nearly 170 years of its existence the chaplaincy must have provided spiritual nurture to tens of thousands of worshipers, many of whom would not have been able to cross the language barrier to worship in the German-language churches of the city.

Before World War Two, Brits flocked here for the healthy effects of the mineral baths. After the war, the makeup of the congregation included far more military members, as Stuttgart became the headquarters of the American Zone of occupation. More recently, there have been large numbers of foreign students and people working in the new industries which, along with Daimler Benz and Porche automotive factories make Stuttgart an industrial powerhouse. They have come to Stuttgart from all over the world. During the last few decades alone, there must be thousands who came, joined in, prayed, sang, and served as part of what has become a diverse multi-cultural chaplaincy. Current membership alone has members from nearly 30 different nations.

Where are they now? Where are all those pilgrims now? What great things have they done since departing Stuttgart for parts unknown? The current members of St. Catherine’s have called for a festive “Homecoming” during the early summer where we invite back all who have been part of the St. Catherine’s community in the past.

2014 is the 170th Year of Anglicanism in Stuttgart, a milestone worth celebrating.

Wherever they are scattered in the diaspora, everyone who has been associated with St. Catherine’s Church in any capacity is invited to ‘come home to Stuttgart’ sometime during a planned 10-day-long celebration from 22nd June to 2nd July.

For more information and registration check the website www.stcatherines-stuttgart.de

Masked Merriment Encourages Athens Church

Canon Malcolm Bradshaw writes.

“In the face of austerity, the Chaplaincy in Athens dared to defy the trends and organized a ‘Masked Ball’. Through the kindness of His Excellency Mr. John Kittmer the occasion took place in the fine setting of the British Ambassador’s Residence. The demand for tickets overran those available. Masks were very much to the fore.

“The money raised (€3,500) will support the Chaplaincy and ‘Kokkori’, an excellent residential centre, sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Church, for those living with Downs’ Syndrome. In the context of the economic crisis all ‘special needs’ residential centres in Greece are facing financial difficulties.”

HOMECOMING IN GERMANY, MASQUERADE IN GREECE
CLERGY ON THE MOVE

WELCOME TO
Rev David Alan Hart became Priest-in-Charge of St John, Menton, in France on 5th January.
Rev Caroline Sackley has been welcomed as Priest-in-Charge of All Saints in the Vendée in France at the end of December 2013.

MOVING AWAY
Ven Jonathan Lloyd from St Alban’s, Copenhagen and Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe left in February to take up a post in two benefices in rural Kent.
Rev Andrew Tweedy, Chaplain of St George’s, Barcelona in Spain is to be Rector of the Lower Windrush Benefice (Diocese of Oxford) from 21st April.

MOVING AROUND
Rev Christine Bloomfield, Assistant Curate of St Alban’s, Strasbourg in France has become Assistant House-for-Duty Priest for Christ Church, Lausanne, with special responsibility for the Anglican Church of Neuchâtel, in Switzerland.

RETIREMENTS
Rev Neil Dawson, Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity on the Portuguese island of Madeira is to resign from 20th April.

Barcelona football team’s motto “More than a Club” offered an illustration for Archdeacon Geoff Johnston when Billie Tweedy was licensed as a Reader. Now Billie has joined the team at St George’s she will be using her gifts for sharing in mission and ministry.

The church in Menton in the South of France welcomed Rev David Hart as their Priest-in-Charge at an induction in January. Three years ago St John’s church was seriously damaged by work on a nearby development and had to be closed for a time. We pray they have another firm foundation in their newly welcomed Priest.

Carolyn Jay has been welcomed as a Reader, affiliated to St Andrew’s, Zurich serving the community at Zug in Switzerland. Before being moved to Switzerland by her husband’s employer, Carolyn had served as a reader in the Winchester Diocese.

Clergy from around the South of France gathered in Lorgues in the Provence Region to welcome Rev Peter Massey in his new role as Priest-in-Charge of the Congregation of The Lorgues with Sayence in the Var.

The answers to our Christmas Quiz in the December edition of The European Anglican are:

1. Henry Fielding, author of Tom Jones is buried in the Lisbon church cemetery.
2. Ultravox had a hit with Vienna.
3. Malta has an annual commemoration of St Paul’s shipwreck.
4. SVO is the code for Sheremetyevo airport near St Andrew’s Moscow.
5. Justin Hayward of the Moody Blues is a Churchwarden in Beaulieu-Sur-Mer.
6. STA provides mobile phone coverage in Andorra.
7. Barcelona was a hit for Freddie Mercury and Montserrat Caballé.
8. Ian McEwan and Len Deighton wrote about Berlin.
9. Dirk Bogarde etc. starred in films with titles including Venice.
10. Daniel Kaminsky (Danny Kaye) sang about Copenhagen.
11. Andorra La Vella sits at 1,023 metres (3,356 feet) above sea level.
12. Smallest worshippers to be found in Zurich (The gnomes).
13. Turkish church of Izmir (Smyrna) features in Revelation 2.
14. Oslo in Norway is an anagram of Solo, hence alone!
15. “Play it again Sam” featured in Casablanca.
16. The reference is from the letter to Thessalonica.
17. MEA CULPA Editor who was misinformed that it was Helsinki. It wasn’t!
18. The Canary Islands are named not after the birds but from Latin canaris (meaning dog) so the link is the Isle of Dogs.
19. The Good news in the poem was brought from Ghent to Aix.
20. Brussels from Belgium, Hamburger from Germany, Spaghetti Bolognese from Italy and Madeira cake.

The winner is Edward Godfrey from St George’s Lisbon who will be receiving some books for his valiant efforts. Edward also correctly noted that the Winter and Summer Olympics have never been held in the same location.
One Greek Word Packed with Meaning

By Madeleine Holmes, Diocesan Environmental Officer

Have you seen?

This chart for use in our churches to discover how much you are working towards your Environment (and Diakonia) goals!!

The Anglican-Lutheran Society is holding an international conference at Lake Balaton in Hungary in September entitled “Fear not little flock: the vocation of minority churches today” It will be in THE English language although one Greek word will get a lot of attention. The focus is on Diakonia (διακονία), a Christian theological term from the Greek. It encompasses the call to serve the poor and oppressed. As we work to care for our Environment, it includes Diakonia! Many people would argue that the consumerism and greed in parts of the world reduces the lives and existence of people in other parts. So our stewardship of the earth and its people are involved in Diakonia – it is integral in our ministry. You can find more information on the Anglican-Lutheran Society homepage www.anglican-lutheran-society.org

Also on offer before and after the event is a tour of Budapest and Transylvania.

I recently spent two days with a lady who started caring for the plight of Afghan women way back in 2004. Her work in promoting their embroidery skills and teaching them tailoring has helped to give them independence and a trade. I have enjoyed incorporating them in my own work. The latest is a banner based on ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’. Around the central square is ‘Who is my neighbour?’ with the names of the embroiderers on the banner. Pieces of artwork incorporating scripture, produced from across the world help us to focus on who is our neighbour. They can be used in our church groups or during personal reflection and prayer times. These paintings, pictures, tapestries and collages work well with Sunday Schools to spread the message of our concern for others.

Please keep checking the Environment section of the diocesan website where news and prayer points are regularly updated. I welcome material you can send that you think would be good to share – a prayer, an idea or something that church is involved in.

Mention of websites prompts me about a recent social media web story about an area in Geneva where all the residents shared vegetables and garden produce. They even checked who was growing what so there would not be a glut of one particular thing. Some people suggest the story is a hoax – but true or false it offers a wonderful environmental example we would welcome on a global scale.

Being human means: feeling responsibility, being ashamed when observing misery, even if it is not one’s own fault, being proud of the success of others, contributing one’s own stone knowing that it will build the world.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
Afghan Focus for Bishop’s Lent Appeal

This year’s appeal, launched by Bishop David, has some unique aspects – it aims to raise money for a longer term project, it will be helped by grant funding from the European Union and it has a specific target. As before it is hoped that congregations will organise sponsored events, Lent lunches, collections or other fund raising activities to meet the challenge.

Bishop David says: This year the Bishop’s Lent Appeal is in partnership with Christian Aid, to support the education and empowerment of over 1,000 women in Afghanistan. Afghan women and girls, already at a disadvantage in a country devastated by years of conflict, have also been excluded from education and participation in community life under the oppressive rule of the Taliban. This project will help to set women free, through providing literacy and education, training in their rights, and providing funds in communities for small grassroots projects to benefit marginalised women and youth. The empowering of women in this ancient land is key to building the future of this country, which actually borders with our own Diocese in Europe.

Christian Aid has given over this project uniquely to us in this Diocese, and has secured 3:1 matching funding from the EU. So our own gifts will be partnered with European international development money to provide substantial support to this work. I would like to challenge the faithful of our congregations to raise at least £15,000, which with EU matching funding will mean that a total of £60,000 will benefit this important project.

More detailed information is on the Diocesan Website

Go on, Tweet Yourself

Our new style diocesan website has been in operation for two years and continues to post regular news stories. The site is now linked to Twitter with regular messages and information. If you use Twitter or want to discover more, sign up to become a follower and keep in touch with the latest updates.

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