



THE EUROPEAN ANGLICAN



SIX NEW PRIESTS:
SUMMER
ORDINATIONS
IN PICTURES

IT'S OFFICIAL:
MOTHERS' UNION
IN THE DIOCESE

JAIL, CAMELS AND
DRUMS:
INSPIRATION FROM
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WORDS TURN TO
ACTION:
MAKING
EUROPEAN
ECUMENISM WORK

BY ST GEORGE:
CELEBRATING
ENGLAND'S SAINT
IN BELGIUM

FREE

No. 35

AUTUMN 2007

THE EUROPEAN ANGLICAN

DIOCESE IN EUROPE THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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Cover photo: A precious family moment for the Revd. Haynes Hubbard at his licensing at Praia da Luz as Senior Chaplain of St Vincent's Church in Portugal's Algarve.

SEASON OF MISTS, MEMORIES AND MISSION

In a diocese which covers 9 time zones across Europe the arrival of Autumn brings a range of reactions. Mediterranean countries appreciate cooler evenings and Scandinavians look to long nights and precious little daylight but almost everywhere church life takes on a new vigour.

This edition reflects the renewed challenges of Autumn by recalling news of a busy Summer for our scattered congregations. Six deacons were ordained priest and we pray for them in their enhanced ministry. We formally welcome the Mothers' Union in our diocesan by commissioning its first President and report in pictures the four days of Diocesan Synod in Cologne.

We are also a diocese on the move in Mission. In "Travels with the Bishop" we are inspired by the work of God in Romania, moving on the ecumenical road around Europe and offering a pilgrim's account of her journey to Santiago de Compostella.

A glance at the map of Europe shows our 270 congregations as glowing beacons of Christian witness but the eye is also drawn to the vast gaps where there is no Anglican or English speaking worship available yet. As you read news of what God is doing please pray for the resources and wisdom as we seek to develop as the Church of England's fastest growing diocese.



Above. Amos Manga was priested to serve the growing Sudanese congregation in Northern Finland, in a service shared by Suffragan Bishop David Hamid with the Lutheran bishop of the diocese Samuel Salmi in Oulu Cathedral on 10 June. It was the first time such a service had taken place in Finland, and is a living example of the Porvoo Agreement signed between Anglicans and Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches.

Right. Gillian Strachan, who works in Aquitaine, was priested by Bishop John Flack, in the Abbey Church of St Avit Sénieur, France, on 30 June.



Above. Bishop Frank Sargeant ordained Maree Wilson from Holy Trinity, Geneva and Julia Lynne Chambeyron from Christ Church, La Cote Priests in the Temple de Gingins de l'Église Évangélique Réformée, Canton de Vaud, Switzerland, on 30 June.

Right. June Hutchinson is welcomed by Bishop John Flack, in Cahors, France, on St Peter's Day after her ordination service and serves in the Midi Pyrénées and Aude.

WELCOME TO SIX NEW PRIESTS



Above. Anne Lowen looks at her official "Letters of orders" after her ordination by Bishop Frank Sargeant, in the Old Catholic Predigerkirche, Basel, Switzerland, on 29 June. Anne serves as Assistant Curate of St Nicholas, Basel

A PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO

Denise Ryans from St Vincent's in the Algarve recalls a shared experience of visiting one of the most ancient pilgrim destinations

On a grey, chilly early morning in October last year three English-speaking Pilgrims – my Roman Catholic neighbours from Dingle Bay and I – joined Portuguese pilgrims from around the Algarve under the spiritual guidance of Padre Jose Manuel who extended a warm welcome to “Os Ingleses”. The journey was prayerful and songful (English translations included, thankfully!) and we all took turns to lead the singing, some more reluctantly than others!

En route, we enjoyed 3 hours in pleasant sunshine in the historic town of Fatima with time for visits to the Chapel of the Apparitions and the Basilica where we could light candles for all intentions. Apart from the usual shops in the town, I was relieved to see that it was not as commercialised as I had expected but truly a place of Pilgrimage. I saw a young woman on her knees, her denim jeans in tatters crossing the huge open space, with her rosary. I saw a middle-aged man, his face disfigured by a huge growth, again on his knees, deep in prayer, continually making his way around the perimeter of the area where a mass was being held. I was surprised to see that the mass was led by two ladies, one of them in a nun's habit the other lady dressed as we were.

Another resting stage was Guimaraes, the original capital of Portugal with two night's stay at the excellent Redemptorists' Seminary where I had expected a dormitory of bare boards and a solitary blanket. The en-suite twin rooms were excellent, the floors laminated wood effect, comfortable beds, plenty of blankets and even a T.V. – not essential for a pilgrimage!

At dinner in a local restaurant that evening, the Padre joined us and there was much mirth and raising of glasses. The Portuguese laughed when I made the well-known Portuguese man's toast ‘*A aqui é ao marido mim e da minha esposa e pode ela nunca ser uma viúva!*’ – ‘Here's to me and my wife's husband and may she never be a widow!’

Then came the final stage to Santiago de Compostela, the highlight and the purpose of our pilgrimage, where we joined the queue to view the tomb of St. James. His relics are entombed in a silver urn behind security bars below the high altar, surrounded by amber soft lighting. It was an emotional moment thinking of those of one of three

apostles (Peter, James, and John) who had been closest to Jesus. I found the exterior of the Cathedral disappointing, badly in need of cleaning and even the Bishop's Palace was better maintained.

At the museum nearby, the ancient pilgrim trail was projected – literally – into the twenty first century. The technology and the 3D experience were electrifying and sensational, despite the reactions of some older visitors who declared it “terrifying”! In truth, was wonderful to be fastened into ‘tilt and turn’ chairs and given special 3D spectacles – before soaring over the roof of the Cathedral, diving up and down, swishing between chimney pots, then swooping down almost to the ground – I felt like Harry Potter. It was all over too soon, and we left the room staggering and gasping for breath.

To draw together the many aspects of our pilgrimage, Padre Jose Manuel celebrated a mass for us in a small church in Santiago before our coach took us on to Vigo for a traditional paella dinner. But the journey of faith was not over. The following day found us in Braga and the Cathedral of Bom Jesus where we arrived just in time for 11 a.m. Mass. We were amazed to see our own Padre concelebrating alongside the Bishop. How he managed to arrive with us at 5 minutes to the hour, change, and be at the altar with the Bishop I never discovered. I suddenly realised that I was probably the only Anglican there and as I looked around I felt that I had no right to be there. I tried to retreat further to the back, but one of the priests beckoned us to the very front row where there was just enough space to squeeze in. I took part as best I could in the responses which everyone else knew by heart in Portuguese – a most emotional moment of sharing in this special place surrounded by other pilgrims.

We journeyed home, still singing and praying until our safe arrival around midnight. After a plea for volunteers to recount their memories a chant went up ‘Os Ingleses’ and I was delegated to go to the front of the coach where I explained the full range of emotions of friendship, discipleship and worship. Though pilgrimages may have changed over the centuries their inspiration is our unchanging Lord who leads us assorted individuals on our faith journey towards his heavenly Temple.

PROUDLY WAVED OUR BANNER

Members of Malta and Gozo branch enjoyed a stay at Mary Sumner House in London and enjoyed meeting fellow MU members from far and wide. An outdoor coffee break near St Paul's Cathedral gave a good vantage point to watch others arriving with their Banners. They report; “As we went into the Cathedral the enormity of it was awesome and we were met and greeted by Jean Tarrant who had arranged seats for us right at the front. Valerie and June set up the Banner for what proved to be a really special service, with an excellent sermon given by the Bishop of London. The processing of the Banners was for Valerie a very special experience, especially as the Maltese

Banner came after the London Diocese Banner, and as she stood with all the others, over seventy in all. Our banner attracted great interest as it was so very different from all the others. Margaret, one of the ladies involved in the making of the lace, was on hand to explain how this was done. We came away feeling that we had a very special moment in our lives, enthused and excited at the thought of the way ahead for us all as members of MU within the new Diocese in Europe.



The MU branch in Poitou-Charent also had its new banner dedicated in March this year.

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST PRESIDENT

The Mothers' Union has been formally recognized a new Chapter within the Diocese in Europe and our Bishop commissioned Mrs Barbara Woods as President during the 4 day Diocesan Synod in Cologne in May. Sharing the occasion was the MU Chief Executive Reg Bailey.

Barbara has been involved in Mothers' Union work and a member of the Executive Committee for many years. She welcomed the formal inauguration of branches in Europe. Presently they are in Malta and Gozo, Padua (Italy) Hamburg (Germany) Poitou Charentes (France) and Lanzarote. She says “We have many members who have moved to

live in European countries who are in a remote area or whose chaplaincy does not yet have a branch. I am hoping people will get in touch with me so that we can explore the possibility of further branches being formed.”



Ten Teddies and a Dog share a unique Olympic experience

The first event organised by the MU in the Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd in Poitou Charentes, France was a Teddy Bears' Picnic which developed into an Olympic event in Givray - a large town with several schools and lots of local children. One of the challenges for groups is the vast distances within our chaplaincies which raise questions such as - Do we try to organise large events or have smaller more local ones? Congratulations to Rosemary Hill, their leader and all their MU members.



MU NUGGETS

Padua have just celebrated their first year with 14 members and lots of children at their AGM to commission new officers and enrol 3 new members. The branch has taken on the responsibility of organizing the Sunday School teaching and drawing up a rota for Sunday School duty. A new branch is expected to be commissioned in **Torrevieja** during the Autumn.

The Revd. David Sutch, from the Costa del Sol (East) has been appointed MU Chaplain in Europe and is introducing a prayer chain for emergency situations which need to be placed fervently into the hands of God. “Because of the size of the Diocese” he says “We do this through e mails and telephone calls and are also considering creating a Diocesan Mothers Union Prayer Web.

Hamburg members support "Arche" a children's organisation (connected with the Lutheran church) caring for children in need and regularly provide cakes, chips and other goodies for mega-birthday parties for the children.

Lanzarote's programme of meetings resumes in October. ‘Faith in Action’ is the theme for the branch's first ever Quiet Day planned in November at a Catholic Retreat House in Nazaret, with much help offered by the Catholic church in Puerto del Carmen.

Finland boasts a White Nile Congregation MU with Sudanese refugees meeting together led by Dorothy Angoyou, supported by their Chaplain Amos Manga

WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE

As Diocesan President Barbara is a member of the Worldwide MU Council and attended a Residential Conference in Swanwick in the snow in February.

The Diocese in Europe comes under the Province of Canterbury and Provincial Presidents meet usually at the same time as Worldwide Council, and also have a good prayer support (via email). Pictured at the event are Barbara with Roesmary Kempself, (Worldwide President) and Elizabeth Brown (Provincial President).



NEWS IN BRIEF

IN SHORT

In Vienna the "Long night of the churches" has become an annual mid-Summer event where churches of many denominations open their doors and hold activities well into the night. Over 200 Austrian visitors went to Christ Church on 1st June to sample the delights of Anglican singing in a *hymnathon!* Food and hospitality were laid on at the neighbouring Church Centre.

Canon Edward (Ted) Wetherall, celebrated 50 years as a priest in mid-June and at the age of 78 leads celebrations of the Eucharist on a monthly basis for the congregation in Nafplio and Patras. The following day he was invited to celebrate at St. Paul's Athens before a lunch in his honour. Canon Ted has been in this part of Greece since 1994 and held a number of responsibilities in local Anglican Churches. In the Winter edition of European Anglican, you can read some of his reflections.

A retired RAF Squadron leader, Terry Dennett, recalls taking part in a Victory in Europe Remembrance service in Ambares, north of Bordeaux. The event included raising the Union Flag alongside the EU flag and the French Tricolour to the strains of "God Save the Queen" Four RAF airmen who died when their Handley Page Hampden crashed near the town in 1940. Terry recalls the ceremony reflected the unity, harmony and solidarity currently being shared across Europe and the encouragement of Anglican chaplaincies such as Poitou-Charentes.

WILL YOUR ANCHOR HOLD?



Anglicans from the Costa Blanca and Costa Azahar (from South and North of Valencia) were involved in an Act of Worship in five languages to mark the start of the America's Cup yacht races from the Spanish city.

The service in Spanish, English, Italian, French and German included Bible readings from Job ("from the heart of the tempest"), Philippians and the Gospel of John focusing on facing challenges in unity. The Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Valencia, Monsignor Esteban Escudero spoke of the competitors in the America's racing and the importance of teamwork and high standards. He told the congregation before racing began in June that "With this example of the growing unity of churches we share together the need to work for heartfelt changes of life, in mutual prayer and love".

SINGING THROUGH THE RAIN

Under the overcast skies which dominated much of Northern Europe in June visiting choirs processed through the streets of Leidschendam (a suburb of The Hague in the Netherlands) as part of the North West Europe Archdeaconry Choir Festival. The annual get together started after World War Two in Antwerp. Next year's festival will be in Luxemburg. This picture is by Paulina Robbins van Rijn from Holy Trinity Brussels, one of the choirs taking part.



PORVOO IN PRACTICE

Bishop Erik Vikstrom, the recently retired Bishop of Porvoo and former Lutheran Co-Chair of the Porvoo Contact Group, presided at an Anglican Confirmation Service in April in St Catherine's Church (Swedish Lutheran) in St Petersburg, Russia - where the Anglican congregation normally worships each Sunday. It was a special occasion for all taking part - Bishop Erik has close family connections with the church from before the Russian Revolution and he and the present Anglican Chaplain (Canon Dr Trevor Park) served together for many years on the Porvoo Contact Group. Of the five adult candidates two had been baptized there on Easter Day.



Candidates from Indonesia, Nigeria, the UK and the USA reflected the rich mix of nationalities in the congregation.

QUANTUM LEAP TO FAITH?

Two hundred people attended a seminar in Geneva to hear the Revd. Dr. John Polkinghorne speak about a "Physicist's approach to Christianity". Dr. Polkinghorne had graduated from Cambridge in the 1950's before working for 25 years as a theoretical physicist on elementary particles. In 1979 he had resigned his Professorship of Mathematical Physics

ASK A BUSY PERSON - JOB DONE



Magdeline Imarhiagbe is a typical example of the tried and true saying "If you want a job done, ask a busy person."

Magdeline, her husband Osayi and their children Demi and Maria arrived in Greece in 1989 and immediately started attending St. Paul's in Greater Athens. She was born in Benicity in the then Bendan State of Nigeria (now called Edo State) speaks fluent English, Greek and Edo - one of the 150 tribal languages spoken by the people of Nigeria and recalls being overwhelmed at her first sight of "houses all together and tarmac roads". Magdeline was thrilled to be invited to serve as Churchwarden from this year although her acceptance of the role was not easy. For nearly three years now her husband, Osayi, has been working in England and will continue there to support his family while she remains here in Greece with her children. "I may be even busier now", she says, "but it is an honour to serve God in such a loving supportive congregation."

MAJORCAN RUBIES REVIVE CHURCH MEMORIES



The Mallorca Chaplaincy enjoyed double ruby celebrations with the fortieth birthday of the consecration of St. Philip & St. James' Church in Palma. A huge cake was cut by the Churchwardens and the congregation sang Happy Birthday. Until 1967 the congregation worshipped in a converted soda water factory where a member of the Guardia Civil would stand at the back with his hand on his gun holster pretending he understood every word of the sermon in case anything untoward was said in Franco's Spain. In Cala d'Or celebrated forty years of Roman Catholic church hospitality was celebrated. Chaplain Robert Ellis said "the offer of hospitality forty years ago was the first ever in the whole of Spain and the ripples are still spreading out. The Catholic Bishop gave permission for Anglicans to use any of the ninety churches on the island with the local parish priest's permission, and to date I haven't met one who has refused!"

St Boniface Church in Antwerp

boasts a beautiful new window, donated by Mr A. Vas Nunes whose family were present for its recent dedication, as was the stained glass artist Ingrid Mestdagh from Gent. The window is depicted in their church magazine - but in the best marketing approach - the picture is in black and white and readers are encouraged to come to church in person to appreciate the real window in full glorious colour.

The Chaplain of Holy Trinity, Geneva, **Mike French, is back at work after a wind blown version of an ancient pilgrimage.** His three month sabbatical was aimed at getting a spiritual, physical and mental recharge. In his church magazine Mike says that his plans include two weeks on the water doing offshore sailing. "I know from experience that this is the best way for me to blow off some cobwebs, to refresh the soul and to detect where the Spirit is blowing. As it happens a hankering to do an ocean passage combines with the chance to cross the blue water of the Bay of Biscay, arriving at the ancient pilgrimage centre of Santiago de Compostella.



A big cheque brings out some big smiles from five happy Church Wardens in the Costa Blanca Anglican Chaplaincy. Heather Smith and her team of helpers at the El Cid Restaurant Benidoleig organised a charity auction to raise funds for the churches in the Northern locations of Gandia, Denia, Orbeta, Javea and La Fustera, producing a total of €3,500.



During the busy days of Diocesan Synod (more details of business items on page 14) most delegates and speakers find a little time to enjoy a smile and good company. At Cologne in May, after presenting their reports from the Church of England's Minority Ethnic Anglicans Concerns Dorothy Stewart, Rose Hudson-Wilkin and Sonia Barron relax in Kardinal-Schulte Haus.



Not quite tongues of flame on the heads of worshippers at St. Peter and St. Sigfrid's in Stockholm at Pentecost but the varied headgear is a vibrant reminder of a service in many tongues - English, Swahili, Luganda and Yoruba. The African Eucharistic service included the Chaplain, Nick Howe, chanting in Yoruba. In his sermon he said the church had seen phenomenal growth in Africa and in about 40 years there would be more Christians in Africa than any other part of the world, a fact reflected in the many people in Stockholm with African origins.



St. Olaf's English Church in the Norwegian village of Balestrand must rank as one of the most Tolkeinesque in the diocese. Built in 1897 after the fashion of stave churches, those whimsical all-wooden buildings from the 12th and 13th Centuries whose multiple roofs, shingles carved like a reptile's scales, sprout both dragon heads and crosses. Some of the original stave churches, the oldest wooden buildings in Norway, still stand in the Sognefjord area. However, like most churches and wooden buildings St Olaf's is in need of repair and a restoration fund has been started.

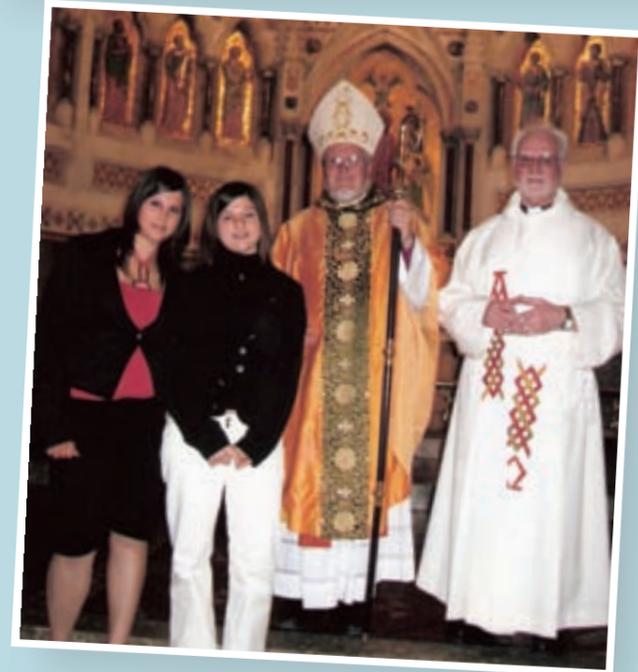


The Last Post Association of Ypres at its annual ceremony in June at the Garden of St George's Memorial Church was presented with 8 new silver bugles by the Royal British Legion. The old bugles date from 1929 and were losing the tonal quality. The new ones have a richer tone and are apparently easier to blow! Every evening since 1927 the bugle has sounded at the Menin Gates to commemorate the thousands of young men who died in the 3 Battles of Ypres during World War One. Among the recipients of the new instruments was 83 year old Anton who has been sounding the Last Post for over 50 years and as awarded the BEM for his services to the Last Association.

A "Holy Picnic" inspired by the summer weather took church members of La Côte in Switzerland into meadows at the foot of the Jura mountains. It was a special day, following weeks of preparation for Emilia, Annabel and William who received communion for the first time. Bread, wine, and a little later some burnt offerings on the barbecue made for an inspiring act of worship and a warm communal glow. Our music group led us in a cry from the heart, 'When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze. Then sings my soul... My God how great thou art!'



Perhaps Nell Gwynne might have done a better job but Chaplain David Sutch from the Costa Del Sol shows he can sell oranges and lemons at the annual Spring Fair. He has also been concentrating on the fruits of the Spirit in working with the Church Council on a new "Vision statement" for the churches currently in Benalmadena in the east and Calahonda noting that "while we continue to Minister . . . in areas where we are situated and have been over the past years, we shall need to explore the possibility of Ministry in a greater geographical area, resourcing this though prayer, sacrificial giving, and sharing ecumenically where possible".



Confirmations are relatively rare events in Palermo, Sicily, the last one had been in March 1988 until a special day for Abby and Vanessa Licciardi when the Bishop in Europe visited Holy Cross church to welcome them girls into full membership of the church. Pries-in-Charge Derek Goddard is pictured with them in May this year.





It is thrilling to be here to ordain Amos. I and he have looked forward to this day. His community has looked forward to this day. Why? Because this deacon, soon to be a priest, is a believer! When I asked him “do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?” His answer was from his heart. His heart is in the priesthood. This day has been a long time coming, and there have been many obstacles put in the way: not least war and strife in his own country. But he has been persistent, and God has been persistent – and that total commitment to God and to his people now shines through on this day.

Together we will lay hands on Amos and say the holy words to ordain him as a priest in Christ’s One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. This is a joint action; a public ceremony not the work of private individuals. Amos is not becoming a priest for himself! He is ordained for YOU. Just as there is a great bond between Christ and his disciples, that bond is mirrored between priest and people. In this ceremony I ask all of you if it is now your will that Amos should be ordained? And at the laying on of hands, that most sacred moment of ordination, the people of God affirm what I am doing, what God is doing, with a loud AMEN. It is a solemn rite in which God

*Edited extracts from
Suffragan Bishop
David’s sermon in
Oulu Cathedral,
Finland at the
Ordination of Amos
Yorobam Manga to
the priesthood*

himself is acting with his people, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Today, dear Finnish and Sudanese Christians a window to the kingdom is being opened up showing us that we all need each other if the kingdom is to be built and God’s reign strengthened in this wonderful land. There is an old African proverb which says “One camel does not make fun of another camel’s neck”. It is a vivid way of expressing the truth that we are all together. When a train of camels is moving across the wilderness of the African desert, every single camel is needed: they are all part of the one camel train. Well we are part of one Body and we need all its members. The Anglican Church is taking a step today to ordain our brother Amos to the sacred priesthood. Thanks to the Porvoo Agreement between our Churches, it is a priesthood which is able to be recognised, used and is at the service of the Church of Finland as well as the Church of England.

Music and dance are among the many gifts that the Sudanese Church gives to us all. Africans dance on all sorts of occasions, not just happy ones. The rhythm of the drumbeat can express joy and sorrow. I have come to understand that the drumbeat is so important to African Christians because it is the beat of the heart. The heart is the centre of our bodies, the centre of our passions and feelings, so it is good to worship God to the beat of the drum as we, the Body of Christ, are to offer all to God: heart, soul, will, passions and strength. Your drums put us in touch with our heart.

DISCOVERING A JOYFUL MINISTRY THROUGH SUFFERING

Another gift you bring is your community life. All your joys and sorrow are expressed in community. You believe that the community is a unit, and acts as one. Its members come together to rejoice at festivals, weddings, baptisms, and at tragic moments, such as funerals and times of mourning. The African concept of community can help us northern Christians who have forgotten this important emphasis, that the Church is a community, not just a bunch of individuals.

Courage is another gift to us. How courageous has been the witness of the Church in Sudan where people have been persecuted, tortured, killed just for confessing Jesus Christ as Lord. In the Church of England we have many forms to fill out, including one making sure that no-one in our leadership has any criminal background that could be a danger to the young, the vulnerable or anyone in the community. So one of the questions on Amos’ application form was whether he has ever been arrested or imprisoned. Amos is an honest man and answered “Yes!” Why was he arrested and imprisoned? For preaching the Gospel! That is the extent and depth of suffering for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The ordination vows call a person to fashion their life after Christ, to be an example to their people. It is not a unique calling for the priest alone. Every disciple of Christ is called to live like him. Christ is the model of all Christian life. But what is it about Christ that the priest should show?

The Bible teaches us that when God wanted to save us he sent his Divine Son to become flesh, to

become human. And not just any human being: In order to save us, God sent his Son to become a suffering human. Therefore for Christians to live as Christ we must be open to being where he has been, open even to the point of suffering for the sake of others.

Amos with his people has known suffering. Their faith in Christ has helped in life’s darkest moments. I like to think that God was preparing Amos for priesthood by bringing him close to Christ who suffers with his people. In the midst of war, violence, suffering, God continued to call. God’s call continued when Amos was placed here in a strange land, with people of a strange speech! What an experience God has given of the ministry of Jesus. The witness of the life of Jesus Christ our great high priest is well known to Amos; it is engraved on his heart. He has been close to Christ on the cross. He has seen him sweating water and blood in the heat of the African sun. He has been close to Jesus with his people who have been beaten, tortured, imprisoned, spat upon, chased like a thief in the night. So we know this Jesus of Nazareth is with us in our darkest times.

But Amos is also called to faithfully minister the doctrine and sacraments of Christ as the Church of England has received them, leading people in the celebration of the sacraments of our redemption. We believe in an incarnate God, who loves us so much that he came among us in our own human form, was crucified for our redemption and was raised for our salvation. Our response as human beings to this undeserved grace is a response of love



Bishop David Hamid’s ministry takes him to the extremes of climate. As well as preaching at the ordination in northern Finland, he confirmed eight people in the warmth of the Costa Blanca Chaplaincy at The Parish Church of Nuestra Senora de la Merced, Calpe.

and joy. Eucharistic worship offers the greatest act of thanksgiving to God that we can offer. The priestly ministry was born in the upper room, together with the Eucharist. The priestly life must have at its heart the Holy Communion. The whole meaning of ministry becomes clear in the celebration of the saving mystery of Christ, where the Good News of God’s reconciliation by the Cross and Resurrection of his Son is presented and the grace of that salvation shared.

This is Amos’ task and the task of all our priests: to lead God’s people to joyful union with Christ by ministering to them the sacraments that bring about that union – Holy Baptism, and the Sacrament of His broken Body and outpoured Blood.

LIVE TODAY THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW



Lady Kate Davson, a direct descendant of William Wilberforce, describes her own pilgrimage towards ecumenical freedom.

On my frequent travels on what friends call 'churchy' activities I am often asked what church I belong to. My constant reply is: 'I belong to the Church of Christ – I am a Christian'. Then, faced with a perplexed look, I explain: 'I am a Christian first and foremost, and happen to have been brought up an Anglican'.

I am a passionate ecumenist – a word derived from Greek and essentially a fancy way of saying that I belong to the universal Church. I believe there is only ONE Church and that is the family of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Any lesser description belittles the Lord whom I seek to follow and serve. But universality does not mean uniformity – we rejoice in the diversity of our unity.

I am also a passionate European! My French and German friends often explode with scornful mockery – 'You, English and a passionate European, you can't be serious – when are your compatriots going to join you?' I do sometimes despair about this, not least within the church, but I also realize that I am powerless over people with closed and negative mindsets. So how did I come to be so involved with Europe and Ecumenism?

I live in the jewel-like small town of Rye, on the extreme eastern edge of Sussex, almost 100 miles from our diocesan cathedral in Chichester, but only 30 from Canterbury and Boulogne-sur-Mer. Our Dean jokes when he visits that it is a pleasure to come to the Far East!

I became Chairman of Churches



A very English looking church scene as the Archdeacon of France welcomes Gareth Randall as the first permanent Chaplain since 1940 in the north coastal town of Dinar, opposite the cross channel ferry port of St Malo.

Together in Rye & District just at the time when the Channel Tunnel was nearing completion and it seemed the right time to look at our faith links over the Channel. Through historical accident from the days of King Ethelred, [always the Unready] Rye already has the curious claim to having belonged for three hundred years to the Benedictine Community of Fécamp in Normandy. Eventually King John, deploring one of his strategic sea ports being in the hands

of the enemy, effected a canny 'swap' giving them land-locked Cheltenham in exchange for Rye.

When we renewed links with Fécamp and invited a group to visit us, the widow of the last Congregational minister in Rye suggested inviting the Sussex/Kent group of the International Ecumenical Fellowship to join us. So we enjoyed a wonderful triangular exchange between the Christians of Fécamp and Rye with about fifteen members of IEF, exchanging church experiences and our different histories. The link with Fécamp is alive and well, with exchange visits and biblical study, and the International Ecumenical Fellowship has become my family.

IEF is 40 years old this year like many ecumenical groups founded in the euphoria after the second Vatican Council, and sprang from the International League for Apostolic Faith and Order inaugurated in 1951. At its conference of 1967 in Fribourg, the decision was made to expand the base of the movement, and IEF was born.

With 'regions' in ten different European countries, IEF now offers great opportunities for Christians living and working in Europe who want to get closer to Christians of other traditions. Our aim is 'To live Today the Church of Tomorrow'. Our annual week's international conference sees a miracle with delegates from many countries and even more different denominations, with the Tower of Babel as our curse, yet meeting as ONE IN CHRIST. After forty years worshipping,

praying, studying, eating and enjoying fellowship together, we have lost the fear of the unknown. Although our joyful ecumenical journey is not without its pain, on account of that which still divides us, by meeting each year in an atmosphere of love and fellowship, united in far more than our baptism, we learn something each time which comes as a surprise and a means of spiritual growth.

Each national region (Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Spain) meets at least once a year, and at different locations within that country. We would rejoice to welcome you to 'Come, taste and see how good the Lord is'.

I recently heard of an inter-denominational meeting of bishops, who each celebrated the Eucharist on alternate days of their conference. After the first Anglican Eucharist, a Catholic bishop exclaimed in astonishment "but our liturgies are identical!" The fact that it has taken until now for him to discover this reminds us to make the effort to become familiar with one another's liturgies.

At a remarkable meeting, Together for Europe, in Stuttgart in May this year Cardinal Kasper told us, "the Church needs the ecumenical groups, and the ecumenical groups need the Church". A powerful force is moving from the grassroots, demanding and challenging churches to take action to further Christian unity. We faithful Christians are no longer satisfied with pussyfooting and picking over small details. While the theologians are hard at work we must urge our churches forward, to realize the scandal of our divisions, then act personally to broaden the base of our ecumenical knowledge. We aim to get alongside Christians of other traditions and lovingly challenge our churches into action. I firmly believe that, once we are all sharing Christ's body and blood at the altar, all other problems will melt away. We think it is up to our church leaders to solve it all – this is to usurp the place of God our creator and saviour. He is just waiting for us to relinquish our control over His work, so the unity for which He yearns and prays may be realized.

MADONNA SMILES ON GIBRALTAR CAMPAIGN

Black madonna added to cathedral treasures

On Trinity Sunday the Dean dedicated a statue of Our Lady which had been exhibited in the Cathedral last October during the Arts/Credo exhibition and then offered permanently by its owner Samantha Golt, a local solicitor, who attends the Roman Catholic Church. The "Black Madonna" now has a new home in the Lady Chapel. The statue originates from Cuba and was purchased by Samantha on a visit there to learn more in her concerns about poverty and injustice on the island.



Since last November's launch more than £225,000 has been raised in gifts and pledges - over 25% of the £850,000 target. Grants have come from livery companies of the City of London and from trusts in Gibraltar and in the UK.

The Church and Community Fund has offered £2,500 towards the cost of enhancing the Cathedral Square entrance, making it more accessible to people with disabilities, wheelchair users and parents with buggies.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will host a reception at Lambeth Palace in October. It is hoped that the Chief Minister of Gibraltar will be among the 75 guests and their companions.

More appeal news from the UK Campaign Office on 020 7836 1346 or email rockofages@gibraltar.gov.uk

THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

Jill Smith, from Christian Aid's Europe Desk writes



September's routine finds me listing Christmas present ideas for friends and family. But whatever I buy, and however much they

love it, it won't change their life fundamentally. I often wonder what Jesus' mother Mary would have wanted as a gift on the first Christmas. Perhaps a simple shelter or a midwife to help her safely through the birth, or a secure income for Joseph, so he could support the family?

Christian Aid's Present Aid catalogue allows you and your church to give to people who don't have everything; people confronting the kind of challenges Mary might have faced - refugees fleeing danger or disaster; people struggling to support their families in difficulty or

giving birth without access to basic medical care.

Whether you choose bicycles, trees, worms or solar panels, Present Aid means that you are giving a future to those who most need hope and generosity this Christmas.

For example, just €3 (£2) could buy a beehive for Wilson Rosel in Bolivia for whom bees are a lifeline. Christian Aid's partner organisation, CIPCA, has given him training, hives and equipment so that with the money he makes from the honey he can buy food and clothes, even if the rice crop fails.

Whatever gift you choose, you receive a card for your family and friends showing where their gift has gone. You can even share together as a church for one of the more expensive gifts.

To order Present Aid catalogues for yourself or your church, call 0207 523 2948 or email jsmith@christian-aid.org You can also see the gifts and online at www.presentaid.org

ON THE MOVE

WELCOME TO

The Reverend Christopher Edwards, Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity, Adelaide, Australia as Chaplain of St Paul's, Tervuren, Belgium.

The Reverend Matthew Harrison, Curate of St James, Paddington (London) becomes Chaplain of St George, Paris, France at the beginning of September.

The Reverend Andrew Ison, Vicar of Bestwood Park with Rise Park in Nottingham is now Chaplain of St James, Voorschoten, The Netherlands.

The Reverend Anthony Roake, Vicar of Fernhurst (Chichester) is due to become Chaplain of the Anglican Church of St John & St Philip, The Hague, The Netherlands in October.

FAREWELL TO

The Reverend Dr Rosemary Dymond, Assistant Chaplain, St John & St Philip, The Hague, Netherlands is moving to the Diocese of Monmouth in Wales.

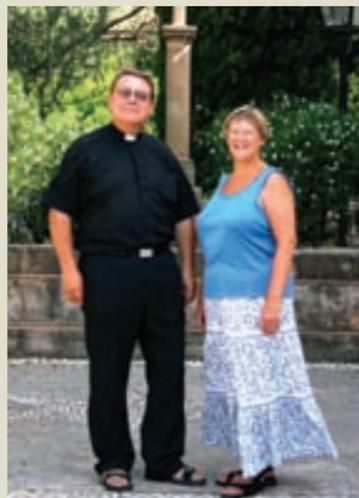
The Reverend Wendy Hough, Assistant Chaplain of St Ursula's Church, Bern, Switzerland is to resign from the end of October.

The Reverend Canon Dr Richard Pamplin, Chaplain of St Ursula, Bern, Switzerland has moved to the Diocese of Chile.

The Reverend Dr Ronald Saunders, Priest-in-Charge of the Anglican Church, Nerja & Almunecar, Spain will resign from the end of December.

MOVING AROUND

The Reverend Joop Albers, Assistant Chaplain of Christ Church, Amsterdam, The Netherlands has taken additional responsibility for the Airport Ministry at Schiphol



NEW SENIOR CHAPLAIN TO COSTA BLANCA

The Reverend Paul Rolfe, has been appointed Senior Chaplain of the 8 church congregations from Alicante to Gandia on the Costa Blanca.

There are three full-time Anglican priests assisted on occasions by others who have retired to live in Spain or who take their holidays on the Costa Blanca specifically to help with the regular Sunday and midweek services and the numerous funerals, wedding blessings and baptisms.

Paul was formerly a parish priest in the Manchester diocese. He has been married to Judith for 40 years has two sons back in the U.K. and a granddaughter just 2 years old. They live on the outskirts of Benissa with their 12 year old Labrador dog, Jessica.

IT'S NOT EASY GOING GREEN

Despite the pessimistic view of Kermit the Frog in the Muppets Diocesan Synod was in an upbeat mood with a vote to join the Church of England's Shrinking the Footprint Campaign to reduce the Church's carbon emissions by 60% of current levels by 2050 (in line with recommendations by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).



Dressed for the part, Diocesan Environmental officer Brian Morgan.

Brian Morgan from the Bern Chaplaincy who is an Industrial Consultant with experience in the field of Environmental Engineering, a member of Green Party of Switzerland and a supporter of the World Wildlife Fund been appointed diocesan Environment Officer.

Brian says "Questionnaires have been sent out during the Summer asking churches and church councils to make an audit of our current footprint. We will be revisiting this debate at our next Synod to share ideas for making a significant difference to the environmental impact of the Anglican Church in Europe."

In a letter supporting the development the Bishop in Europe says "Simply to restore the world's balance we need to cut carbon emissions worldwide by 60% of current levels by 2050. Not only is

this a daunting goal but its end lies at least two generations in the future. For individuals and institutions alike, taking action (however simple and obvious that action may seem) and sustaining it will require considerable effort. But act we must. Shrinking the Footprint is the Church of England's campaign to help its members and institutions to address – in faith, practice, and mission – this vital issue of climate change. It aims to challenge, encourage and support the whole body of the Church to shrink our environmental footprint to create the "The 40% Church".

"I earnestly request that you all help Brian by completing the questionnaire – disappointingly in the UK only 25% of parishes have done so to date – I hope that we can do much better than that!

You will all be aware that inevitably the bishops must often use

flights to cover this vast diocese, but we can still soften the blow by using low energy hybrid cars, high speed rail and off-setting as much as possible. Of course the life of our church is filled with a whole range of urgent priorities and it is easy to be distracted by the most obvious and personal, but the issue of climate change is of such vital importance that in all our activities and initiatives we should constantly seek to lessen the impact that we have on the world we all share. To that end each chaplaincy may wish to follow the lead of Diocesan Synod and appoint its own environment officer who could then liaise with Brian and carry this work forward at a local level."

www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.org

Brian Morgan can be contacted at bmorgan@bcmconsult.ch

THE VIEW FROM COLOGNE

A Diocesan Synod diary by Madeleine Holmes from Aquitaine

In his opening Presidential Address our Bishop told the eighty members and visitors to the four day Synod in Kardinal Schulte Haus in Cologne that we must live by the way of unity. "As this diocese, this particular part of Christ's universal church, we must first and foremost be a praying diocese, a diocese that is content above all to wait upon God. We must seek unity as an imperative given to us by the Lord himself, remembering Paul's question *Is Christ divided?* Take the wonderful opportunities God has given us, to reach out in faith and hope and love to our fellow Christians."

The spiritual atmosphere was greatly helped by some thought provoking daily Bible studies from a celebrated Old Testament scholar Margaret Barker who focussed on viewing the scriptures from a Temple perspective. <http://www.margaretbarker.com/> for further information)

There was a presentation from the

Church of England Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns team who had visited each archdeaconry to assess the integration of people from differing cultures with Anglican backgrounds. This applies to many of our congregations in Europe as many people find new homes within the diocese – few of our congregations are solely congregations of British expatriates. We ended a thought provoking and packed day with a viewing of a video from the Church of Canada 'Listening to the voice of lesbian and gay Christians' which stimulated discussion late into the evening. (A motion from the Diocesan Synod in May 2006 reads "We assure homosexual persons that they are children of God, loved and valued by Him and deserving of the best we can give of pastoral care and friendship.")

The next day saw the final report of the Archdeacon Review Group which led to the establishment of a working

group to work towards a new system of pastoral care to match a fast growing diocese. The plan also aims at a greater sense of cohesion and mutual responsibility.

Other informative Synod sessions focussed on our links with other churches within and beyond Europe and news of the House of Bishops' Europe Panel with its vital links to General Synod keeping European concerns to the fore. Synod also heard a challenging talk from Ron Craigie, Victim Care Co-ordinator at the Sheffield based UK Human Trafficking Centre, with first-hand information on the horrors of human trafficking. In some places churches are caring for woman abandoned when they become pregnant after being trafficked for sexual purposes. Areas of concern also include children and adults in forced labour, sexual exploitation and used for the sale of human organs.



NEWS FROM TUFTON STREET

*Diocesan Secretary
Adrian Mumford reports*

DIOCESAN PUBLICATIONS

Diocesan Calendar and Prayer Diary

The new edition for July to December 2007 was provided with the previous edition of European Anglican. The text is on the website and copies are also freely available from the Diocesan Office.



Diocesan Yearbook 2007

The new Yearbook was published during the February session of General Synod as part of presentation to raise awareness of the diocese. Over 180 pages, the new publication combines, for the first time, both the usual Yearbook information with the annual Development Report that looks back at some of the richly diverse life of the diocese in 2006.

Copies are available from the Diocesan Office @£3, including P&P. Please remember to keep the Diocesan Office updated with changes of address, telephone, email etc.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CLOSURE DATES

The Diocesan Office and Bishop's Office will be closed on Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th December and on Tuesday 1st January.

The answering machine in the Diocesan Office will be on, as at all

times outside normal offices hours, if you need to leave an urgent message. The machine is checked daily, but do not expect a response unless your message is vital.

DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE

The Directors of the DBF will meet in October to set the budget for diocesan finances for 2008. In the context of gross chaplaincy income well over £7 million, the DBF is modest at just over £1/2 million, of which a little more than half will come from Common Fund, representing about 4% of chaplaincy income. Moreover, around half of the DBF budget is returned very

directly to chaplaincies as grants (to Chaplaincies and Archdeacons), or support such as training, publications etc. An early payment discount for Common Fund is offered to all chaplaincies who are also to be thanked for the (virtual) 100% payment during 2006. Copes of full accounts of the DBF for 2006 are available from the Diocesan Office at written request.

AND FINALLY...

HALLO, HALLO!!



Ray Jones, Chaplain at Ypres in Belgium challenged his local restaurant

“De Stoove” to produce a traditional English St George’s Day dinner in April. So Martin, the Chef, and Geert (Maitre D) offered Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, vegetables and horseradish sauce, followed by Apple Pie and Custard. The festivities were enhanced with the help of a more local product – red wine!!

IN THE NEWS

Berlin Chaplain, Christopher Jage-Bowler, made headlines with a rerun of last year’s Imams v. Christians



football match which ended in a 6 – 2 victory for the Christians. The Times reported a “good, fair game” without tensions or flashpoints despite events being “ushered in by a Salvation Army band playing ‘Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so’”! The Imams, of Turkish and Arab origins, wore long trousers to meet the Koranic code of modesty.

VISUAL LINK

Bible studies at Diocesan Synod linked Temple life with faith and understanding. With some surprise delegates visiting the ancient



Christian church of St. Pantaleon in Cologne spotted a historical link with this Menorah prominently displayed.