

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



THE FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE *Winter - 2022*

Dear Friends

The comment I hear about Christmas 2022 most often is 'it had its moments', so I expect it is much the same for you. I hope some of the moments were joyful and peaceful to compensate for the not so good ones such as searching, as I was, for marzipan, and shallots both of which were found eventually in a local supermarket I do not use very often that has amongst its staff a Chaplain. I suspect they were busy in December soothing fevered brows or helping to settle a dispute over the last pack of whatever.

One of the surprise joys came on Christmas Eve when a neighbour came to deliver a gift and stayed for a glass of wine. I then saw a face at the window and his father joined us. I suspect they were both kitchen chore escapees. The father visiting from Italy spoke no English, I speak no Italian, so his son did rapid translation and somehow or other an interesting conversation took place. After some time, it was suggested that returning home might be a clever idea otherwise their dinner might be 'in the dog'. Now that took some explanation, and I am not sure how well it translated. This brought home the importance of the language tuition for clergy in the Diocese, which the Friends have supported for many years. It is not just the translation but finding the equivalent understandable expressions. There will be two applications for language tuition grants on the Agenda for the February Committee Meeting so it is to be hoped there will be sufficient funds to offer some support.

Thank you to those of you who generously transferred from the postal mailing list to the electronic mailing list. It is helpful. The total amount will add a little bonus to the Friends' funds but, as important, it will reduce expenditure on postage in the future.

It remains for me to wish you all a happy and healthy 2023,

Jeanne

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