



European Anglicans

News and stories from the Diocese in Europe

Autumn 2024



**SEASON OF
CREATION**



European Anglicans Autumn 2024



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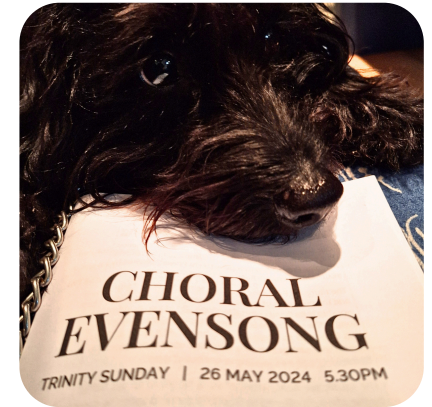
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European Anglicans Autumn 2024 edition

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Daily Prayer Diary

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There's a distinct feeling of 'new term' in the air and on the streets. Every morning a trickle of small children submerged by big backpacks and overlong uniforms shuffles past the front door. They will not look like that for long. It is new term in the diocese too with a succession of joyful and excited Archdeaconry Synods for me to visit. In this edition of the magazine it is new term time as well as we welcome a new Bishop's Chaplain, Revd Evelyn Sweerts and a new Head of Children and Youth Ministry Revd Iain Bendrey. Iain will drive the work that is essential to the future of our Church. We have far more Children and Young People than some might imagine and we have potential to work with even more.

It is good to look to the future at this time – Not just the disciples of the future but also the future of our fragile planet prayed for at Creationtide and reported here. Even in the rubble of war we are building up life at Christchurch Kyiv as Rev'd Kasta Dip tells of his new work travelling there from his chaplaincy in Warsaw. The congregation doubled between his first and second visit. I am delighted that the wider diocese is giving so much support to this ministry. Our ministry in Moscow is also resilient and growing as Ven Leslie Nathaniel reports.

I believe this magazine tells of the richness and diversity and fun (marvel at the chaplaincy pets feature) of this diocese. So please share the link with others both in your chaplaincy and beyond and do let us know what you think of the magazine and what you would like to read in the next edition.

Andrew Caspari

Diocesan Secretary and Chief Operating Officer



Revd Evelyn Sweerts Vermeulen: New Chaplain to Bishop Robert

Revd Evelyn Sweerts Vermeulen begins her role as Chaplain to the Bishop in Europe this month.

"I'm an adult third culture kid, a mother of four and a former secondary school history teacher. I was ordained in 2019 and did my curacy in Luxembourg under Revd Geoff Read. That was followed by a brief time as Assistant Chaplain there, including covering his sabbatical. I moved to Brussels a year ago and have been attached to Holy Trinity Brussels in a locum capacity. I am (very slowly) doing research for the PhD at an intersection of literary theory and biblical studies.



I'm humbled, daunted, and excited to be Bishop Robert's Chaplain for the next 12 months. There's going to be a steep learning curve, and I am grateful for the kindness with which I have been welcomed, and people's patience with me as I get a handle on it all. It is an honour and a joy to serve Bishop Robert in this way. As I grow into this new and multi-faceted role, it is a source of encouragement to know that people are praying for me."

Revd Iain Bendrey: New Head of Children and Youth ministry in the Diocese in Europe

As part of our Youth strategy across the diocese, and with funding from the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, we are delighted to welcome Iain into his new part time role. He will continue to be based in Lisbon. Iain writes:

"We can all name one person, when we were young, who encouraged us in our faith and built up our confidence to share the love of Christ with those around us. I particularly valued the opportunity to lead worship and the young people in my church. This set me up for exploring my vocation and eventually becoming an ordained, self-supporting minister, currently Assistant Chaplain, in Lisbon.


And just as we were built up in our younger days, so the responsibility falls to us to build up the faith of our young people in our communities today, helping them to grow spiritually, feel comfortable in the culture in which they live, become faith champions amongst their peers, and inspire them to engage with the church and have a passion to explore their own vocation to lead the church in Europe into the future.



Since arriving in Europe nearly 4 years ago, I have had the pleasure of meeting many faithful and talented volunteers and workers who support our young people. I have also worked on developing a 5-year strategy to grow our ministry to children and youth ministry across the Diocese. This is the number one priority for the Church of England, and they are investing in it with grants to diocese to support strategies that seek to double the number of young, active disciples.

At the more local level, the aim is that every chaplaincy that has children and young people in their communities can offer some form of ministry. Whether this is through expanding Godly Play or through the employment of a regional children and youth champion for each Archdeaconry. These champions will offer youth work remotely to chaplaincies that are seeking to develop a ministry but do not have the resources or volunteers to do so. We will also develop training hubs where there is excellent practice in children and youth ministry from which others can learn.



 Iain (far left) at an ecumenical event for young people with the French Catholic community Chemin Neuf in August 2023.

For our amazing, dedicated volunteers and workers in this ministry I recognise that it can be a lonely, difficult job. So, the aim is to develop networks that will link workers together to share ideas and resources, to offer regular training in all aspects of youthwork and to provide an annual retreat for all those who work with young people to gather and be refreshed.

And not forgetting the young people themselves. The strategy seeks to involve them in all aspects of the Diocese. Initially through the development of a Youth Synod and feeding into Diocesan Synod. Also to ensure, where appropriate, that they have a voice on those groups in the Diocese that decide policy. It seeks to develop a leadership programme to encourage young people to begin to explore leadership in the church context, a pretext to MES and vocation. We hope to offer work placements and that there will be an annual retreat that enables young leaders to network, encourage and inspire each other in their discipleship.

And all this, most importantly, must happen in a safe environment where attention to safeguarding our young people and those who work and volunteer with them is a priority.

It is an exciting time ahead for our children and youth ministry. Beginning to develop out future leaders who, I pray, can transcend the divisions that distract the Church from its mission, and lead our churches and build God's kingdom here in the amazing Diocese in Europe."

New President in Europe of MULOA (Mother's Union)

If you think you know what the Mother's Union is, then read on as you may be surprised. New president in Europe, Kiki Marriott shares why she is so passionate about the organisation, and looks forward to a revival in Europe, encouraging all chaplaincies to consider joining this global movement.



Kiki Marriott (3rd on the right) after her commissioning service with Bishop Alison and members of the Mothers Union.



Mothers' Union or what we like to call MULOA (Mothers' Union : listens, observes and acts) is a truly global body with over 4 million members in 83 countries. We've been supporting families worldwide for nearly 150 years. Our work is all about ending poverty, ending inequality and ending injustice. There have been thousands of projects around the world affecting millions of lives, in programmes like parenting, literacy, and community development. We campaign about gender equality and MULOA is a feminist organisation.

I have been based in Barcelona for almost 30 years now and it is genuinely home to me. I'm a sociolinguist by training and I maintain a fascination with languages and their significance to society, but I work as an English language coach to students who are mainly lawyers and business people.

I was born in the UK to Jamaican parents and moved to Jamaica as a young child so I've had a sense of having feet in different cultures since I can remember myself. I love being around people from different cultures, so MULOA brings me a lot of joy, as it is a truly global organisation.

MULOA is Mothers' Union and I am a mother. (Though you don't have to be a mother to be a member!) I have been married for 30 years and I'm a proud mum of 24 year old boy/girl twins. I was asked to take on the role and I took my time to make the decision. I prayed about it and God showed me in a dream that I was ready for this job. I've had moments of doubt, but I have had such an incredible show of support from so many women in this organisation that I feel blessed to be here.

I will try to continue the work of our last President, Tonie Chandler, who gave dedicated service to supporting the branches of the Union around Europe. As a global body, the lead is definitely being taken by the Third World, where MULOA has its biggest numbers of members and most vigorous activity. So we look to them for inspiration and we'll try to grow our numbers and find new activities to put our faith into action and touch lives.

We'd love to hear from chaplaincies who want to get involved with our work – please **contact Kiki kikimarriott@me.com**

There are many ways to join MULOA and we are looking forward to a revival in Europe. We will give you as much help and support as you need if you have 2 or 3 people willing to start a branch. But even an individual can join, there is much work to be done and the fellowship is wonderful.



Walking Together in Faith: Celebrations

Over 50 people gathered together online on 4th September to celebrate those who have completed the Walking Together in Faith course. Bishop Robert awarded the 'Bishop's certificate' to the 16 people from the course who chose to work towards this award.

Canon Dr Clare Amos said;

"I congratulate the brave group of 16 souls here this evening who have persevered and are now receiving the just recognition for their commitment and their work.

Walking Together in Faith is a very good name for the course. It draws on the same words used in our diocesan strategy. They are words that are apposite for all Christian people, we are all called to be part of the pilgrim people of God journeying together towards the hope of the city of God, at the end of the road. Yet they feel especially appropriate in our Diocese in Europe, criss-crossed with great pilgrim routes and in which journeying is inevitably so much of our common life. For me, and I think for many of us who have been present as the course has been delivered online, a very special aspect has been the way that it has brought together lay Anglican people from across the diocese – including some countries going through great difficulties – and helped us in a real way to feel part of one diocese, part of each other. It wasn't something that we had necessarily expected or factored in as we were working to create the course, but it has become a valued aspect of its reality. "

People joined the service from all across the diocese – from the Canary Islands to Moscow, and movingly we heard the Lord's Prayer in Syriac, a dialect of Aramaic which was the language of Jesus himself, to remind us that whenever we pray the Lord's prayer – in whatever tongue we use – we are standing close to and alongside Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Tom Nolan, who received his certificate at the event, recounted; "It was a lovely and memorable occasion - 16 people from all four corners of the diocese were in attendance to collect their Bishop's certificate from Bishop Robert. Many thanks go to Clare Amos for her leadership and delivery of the course."

**The next course has begun,
but it's not too late to join!**



Details here:

www.europe.anglican.org/lay-learning-course

Ministry Experience Scheme

We welcome a new cohort on our Ministry Experience Scheme this September. They are based across our diocese, including:

Eleanor Catterakk (Geneva)
Lauren George-Wood (Vienna)
Katie Jickling (Brussels)
Eliza Spakman (Groningen)



Pictured: 4 of the MES new cohort

Two of the cohort from last year reflect back on their time: Tristan Kamberbeek from Amersfoort in the Netherlands and Jiye (Jen) Shin alongside her chaplain Revd Nathaniel at St Clement's chaplaincy in Prague.

Tristan Kamberbeek

"I am based in All Saints Amersfoort in The Netherlands. I have also spent three months in Leipzig English Church in Germany. The highlight of my year was probably the Diocesan Synod, although the induction meeting in Geneva is high on the list as well.

I will take away from this year, that the Ministry Experience Scheme is something which is very good to do. It broadened my understanding of the Church of England and has affirmed my sense of calling towards the priesthood. Also, I am very grateful for all the different people I have met with different views and traditions. This has helped me to see the broadness of the Church of England.

My plans after this MES year are not certain. First I hope to have some weeks off and maybe go on vacation. After that I either start working, but there is also a change that I might end up in London as a pastoral assistant. I will continue in my discernment process and will see where the Lord leads me. I hope that will lead me to the ordination to the priesthood in a few years."

Ministry Experience Scheme

**Jiye (Jen)
Shin**

“There were several highlights during my MES year. One would be visiting the tomb of St Peter at the Holy See during our pilgrimage to Rome & Ravenna. Praying together at such a tranquil yet sacred place left a powerful impression on me. Another highlight was preaching, where I felt my entire life journey was falling into place, summed up in those just over ten minutes, and then taking it into the next step. Finally, attending the diocesan synod as well as sharing time with others in the wider church community has profoundly influenced my perception of Christian fellowship, reminding me of 1 Kings 19: where Elijah learns he is not alone but among 7,000 other faithful Israelites. All the shared experiences helped alleviate my own sense of isolation and rejuvenated my sense of community.

I will take away a greater confidence in my being as a creation of God. The scheme helped me gain a better grasp of my gifts and how they might be used in a range of contexts and communities, as well as deepening my spirituality and connection with God; altogether resulting in a much stronger sense of my identity and purpose.

My next steps include becoming more involved in the youth ministry across the diocese.”

**Revd
Nathanial**

“Prague Chaplaincy hosted a MES intern for the first time. We now know how to collaborate with a young intern, incorporate her talents, and make use of her expertise for our church.

Jen was a part of our church before she signed up for the MES course. One highlight of the year was when people cheered her on as she got ready to deliver her sermon because it was the first time the congregation had heard her speak; it was heartwarming to see the love and support she received.”

Diocese in Europe Ordinations 2024

This year, 6 deacons were ordained in the Pro-Cathedral in Brussels:

Reverend Daleen Bakker (Lisbon)

Reverend Dan Culbertson (Budapest)

Reverend Alison Heal (Luxembourg)

Reverend James Morgan (Bern)

Reverend Massimo Radice (Barcelona)

Reverend Betty Talbot (La Côte, Switzerland).

and Reverend Florence Lorrain was ordained as deacon at Pitou-Charentes

3 deacons were ordained as priest:

Reverend Craig Taylor in Lyon

Reverend Vivian Sockett in Maisons Lafitte

Reverend John Wilson in Budapest

All of them were kind enough to take time out from their final studies and open up to us to share something of their faith, why they felt called to take this step into ordination, and their hopes for working in the Diocese in Europe. You can watch these wonderful testimonials on our You Tube channel.

We have managed to catch up with some of them recently, to find out how things have been going:

“When I was ordained a deacon, I was charged to bring the ministry of the good news out to the people. That calling is central to both my work on a Sunday morning and the rest of my week. On Sundays (among other things) I read the gospel, I invite our community to “offer one another a sign of peace” and I dismiss the congregation with the words “go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” Those three actions are symbolic of the rest of my ministry. I bring God’s good news to the community outside the church, I invite the church to get along with one another in peace and I encourage all of us to go out and bring God’s blessing to the world. What a job!”


Revd Dan Culbertson

Our You Tube channel can be found at:
www.youtube.com/@dioceseineurope_cofe



 Ordinands at Holy Trinity, Brussels with Revd Canon William Gulliford and Bishop Robert



 Reverend Florence Lorrain and Bishop Trevor, Poitou-Charentes

Diocese in Europe Ordinations 2024

"I am delighted to say that my journey as Curate at St George's Chaplaincy in beautiful Barcelona is off to an incredible start! I feel so blessed to be part of such a warm and welcoming congregation, with an incredible training incumbent like Revd. John Chapman. Every day brings new opportunities to connect with this wonderful community and I am filled with gratitude for the chance to serve in such a vibrant, inspiring city! I truly feel at home here already!"

Revd Massimo Radice

"Life as assistant curate at La Côte Anglican Church is a blend of joy, creativity and lots of work. Besides preparing and leading services and preaching, I help out with Sunday Club, participate in a Bible study group, help organise special projects, and above all, spend time with people on a one-to-one basis. Each day I thank the Lord for blessing me with this opportunity to fruitfully serve and minister to others at this season in my life."

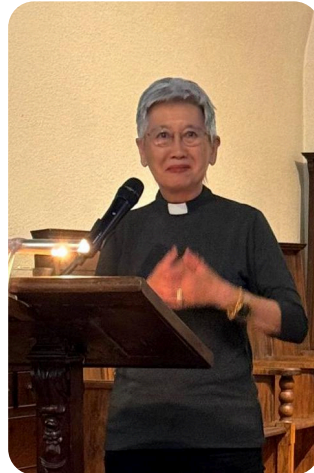
Revd Betty Talbot


"Ten weeks have zipped by since ordination at Petertide. And now, we are in Creationtide encouraging our congregation to gaze at our world, to appreciate and care for it because it is God's cherished creation."

Revd Alison Heal

"Greetings from Lisbon! I'm starting to settle into my curacy and have really enjoyed getting to know people, being part of the ministry team and seeing how God is at work here. There is a lot of vibrancy and diversity in our two Anglican churches here which is a real gift. Do keep us in your prayers!"

Revd Daleen Bakker



 *Revd Betty Talbot
at La Cote*

"Trinity Church has rapidly felt like home for me and my family, we miss it when we are away. I can confidently say Ben and I work well together and have found a complementarity to our gifts as we serve together. I am excited for the year ahead now that I have found my feet and we (the council) have hopes and plans to help us as a church draw closer to Jesus."

Revd Craig Taylor

"I have started my curacy in the chaplaincy where I have been living for the last ten years, so not any big surprises. We are looking forward to welcoming a new chaplain in the coming months: it's an exciting time in the life of our church. I'm looking forward to catching up with the other newly ordained deacons and priests at the next IME2 session in November!"

Revd Florence Lorrain

"I am thankful to our friends at St Ursula's who are so supportive of my vocation in academia and church. To give a few examples, my activities range from research and teaching at the University of Freiburg, helping in worship and co-leading the teens group at St Ursula's, to helping in a day centre for the needy. This gives me the opportunity to make a contribution and share my faith in diverse contexts."

Revd James Morgan

Please watch their video stories, share them with your chaplaincies and continue to hold them in prayer.

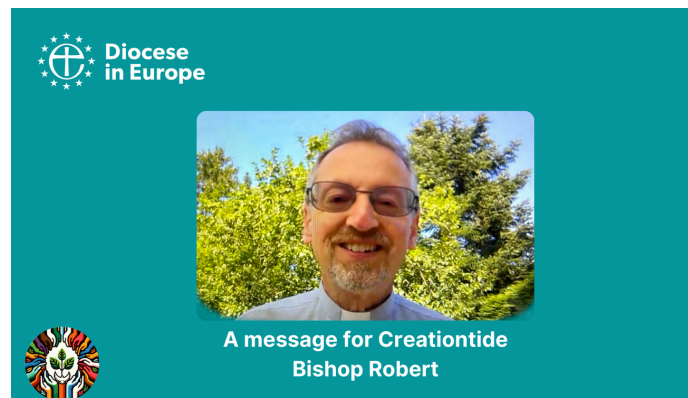
The Season of Creation 2024: To Hope and Act with Creation

Creationtide is the time in our church calendar dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. “The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. We join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.”

This year's theme is ‘to hope and act with creation’. We asked our young people what they love about our planet and what their hopes for the future are. Hear what inspires them to take care of our planet and how they challenge us all to consider what inspires us, and how we can act to protect creation. Those videos can be found on our You Tube channel where you can also listen to a message of hope from Bishop Robert about the season.



Our You Tube channel can be found at:
www.youtube.com/@dioceseineurope_cofe



Chaplaincies across our diocese have marked Creationtide. Many have held special services and events that give thanks to God for the wonder of the gift of creation, and shared practical steps they are taking. In Helsinki they have used herbs for inspiration and in Budapest small changes such as swapping paper cups for teacups can have an impact (in more ways than one!).



Young people at St Margaret's Budapest on wash up duty!



Members of the congregation with their teacups at St Margaret's, Budapest



These stories can be found on the news section of our website:
www.europe.anglican.org/latest-news



An update from the congregation at Christ Church, Kyiv

Breaking Together the Bread of Life in Christ Church Kyiv

September Holy Communion

“Air raid alerts were activated twice on Saturday night in Kyiv sending residents to bomb shelters for most of the night but they couldn’t deter faithful Anglicans of Christ Church to gather and to break the Bread of Life together on Sunday afternoon at the St. Catherine Lutheran Church. They were happy and hopeful as they entered the church and found the Table of the Holy Communion set. Revd Kasta Dip, Chaplain for the Anglican Church in Poland, whose role includes oversight of Kyiv Chaplaincy led the Holy Communion service and preached about Jesus

offering himself as the Bread of Life. Thanks to Christina Laschenko, our Churchwarden, for setting things up for the service. Those in attendance included foreign diplomats and expats besides local parishioners. Feeding on the heavenly bread, the body of Jesus Christ, and wine, his blood, nourishes and sustains the faith, affirms the parishioners. The social media page of the church reveals the joy of having received sacraments at a time when its country is going through a painful time of war and destruction.

The congregation had paused in-person services following the escalation of war in Ukraine which made expats leave the country but restored the fellowship in September 2023 to witness God’s love and peace against the fear and fatality caused by the war. Christina our Churchwarden held the fort during this period and kept the spiritual flame of the chaplaincy burning. Presently the congregation meets twice a month, on 2nd and 4th Sundays often for Ministry of the Word. However, Holy Communion remains central to the spiritual life of this small faithful Anglican community as this hospitality of God had become rare during the war. It gathers together for fellowship and prayers interceding fervently for lasting peace in the region. We praise God for this spiritually hungry congregation and request your continued support and solidarity as I strive to build this worshipping community as a beacon of hope and healing through my regular visits and officiating Holy Communion services there.”

The Revd Kasta Dip
Chaplain, Anglican Church in Poland with oversight of Kyiv Chaplaincy



 Christ Church, Kyiv

An update on St Andrew's Moscow by Archdeacon Leslie Nathaniel

Our chaplaincy in Moscow, St Andrews

The Archdeacons of our Diocese spend a lot of time visiting our chaplaincies and the churches within them, offering pastoral support. This is especially important for those chaplaincies which are currently in vacancy and awaiting their next chaplain, as in St Andrew's.

In many ways St Andrew's Church resembles a cathedral: it is large, situated in a major city, has a diverse congregation, and can be an active cultural venue for music and theatre. It is a major landmark right in the centre of Moscow - a place that draws in the regular worshipper, the keen concertgoer and the curious passer-by, as well as charity workers, teachers and many others.

St Andrew's is unique and there are opportunities, struggles and challenges in this troubled city. It is therefore helpful to first reflect back very briefly on its history.

The history of St Andrew's really begins in 1825. British merchants, living in what was firmly established as the commercial capital, built a chapel and community complex where English speakers could gather. They purchased a small estate at 8, Voznesensky Lane.

Fifty years on, in 1882, a new generation of merchants – predominantly Scottish, but also English cotton manufacturers from Lancashire – replaced the fire-damaged chapel with the distinctive English Neo-Gothic church that we see today. The church was consecrated in honour of St Andrew, patron saint of Scotland. The design came from one Robert Knill Freeman of Bolton. In 1894, construction work was completed on the three-storey, red-brick Victorian-style Parsonage, which was funded by Jane McGill, a wealthy widow in the congregation.



The youth group at St Andrew's, Moscow

There followed a long period of uncertainty and fragility during which the property was used for a variety of secular purposes, and it was not until 14th July, 1991 that St Andrew's would again be the scene of a church service. In 1991, permission was granted for one service a month by a visiting priest from Helsinki. As the then medical officer at the British Embassy was also a licensed lay reader, services were soon conducted on a fortnightly basis, and by 1994, weekly services were presided over by a full-time chaplain.

St Andrew's has struggled for a long time to clarify its status and secure its permanency. In 2016 St Andrew's was finally able to register title rights for 49 years under a formal usage agreement from the Ministry of State Property.

A part of our St Andrew's community is comprised of the foreign diplomatic and business community, as well as students, teachers and others whose time in Moscow comes with a fixed term, resulting in a turnover in membership.

Reflection on Moscow

The congregation is not only very diverse but also changing. In the past, 'typical' expats formed the majority. Today however, we see fewer of the business set and more 'local-pats' – people who have chosen to make Russia their home for an extended length of time from different parts of the world. There are a number of young families today. This affects the range of services that the Chaplain is asked to prepare for and preside over: baptisms, confirmations and marriage blessings are a regular occurrences. Most of the people in the congregation do consider St. Andrew's to be their spiritual home.

My visit to St Andrew's Moscow during Holy Week and Easter this year was first and foremost to strengthen and build Christian confidence, spend time in prayer for the different needs and challenges, praying also for God's mercies that we may all be strengthened; that the helplessness we are experiencing will give way to Christian confidence in our churches; that, as Christians, we can be sure of the presence in our midst of Jesus the living Christ, who lifted up on the cross, has conquered death and will draw all of us to himself; and that our Lord makes himself known to us in our very particular circumstances offering us comfort, wisdom, encouragement and hope.

This pastoral visit was also an opportunity to gain first-hand insight into the wide range of current ground realities of this chaplaincy, such as, its mission, its growth in faith, its struggles, its structural and financial needs, and the current ecumenical context, all demanding attention and healing. We have through the grace of God, been able to openly address and deal with most of these issues, including the appointment of a new Chaplain who will join the chaplaincy in December this year.


There are clear signs of church development, and we are all grateful for God's mercies to St Andrew's. I found a lively, multinational community that is full of potential for growing in faith, community engagement, and on the move, looking ahead to a future of peace and reconciliation. It is also one where reciprocal care for one another is a key focus. The development of the youth group has indeed been an amazing achievement. On Easter Sunday, the building was filled to capacity with 160 communicants echoing: Christ is risen! He is risen from the dead. In death he conquered death and to those departed he gave life. Hallelujah!

The aim is for St. Andrew's to fulfill its role in building up the Body of Christ and being present and engaged in the mission and witness even in uneasy and difficult times. We are pleased that the new chaplain, the Revd Canon Dr Arun John, will join St Andrew's from December 2024.

The Ven Dr Leslie Nathaniel Archdeacon of Eastern Europe and Germany and Northern Europe

(Background taken from old reports)



 The Easter Service at St Andrew's, Moscow

Friends Reunion

Around 40 of the [Friends of the Diocese](#) once again joined the congregation of Southwark Cathedral for their annual reunion on 21st October at 5:30 pm.

The evening of fellowship was a wonderful opportunity to meet in person, pray together and exchange news. Bishop Robert gave the address at the very special Evensong service, and the voices of the guest choir from St Paul's Covent Garden filled the cathedral.

Following the service, the Friends convened in the Garry Weston Library for light refreshments. The Chair of the Friends, Mr Mark Pellew CVO and Bishop Robert both extended their gratitude to the ongoing commitment of the Friends for their work in supporting the diocese.



Bishop Robert just before the event.



Members of the Friends Committee. Left to right: Mr Mark Pellew (Chair), Mrs Margaret Gibson, Revd John-Henry Bowden, Revd Canon Jonathan Boardman



The inspirational installation '[Gaia](#)' greeted the Friends on arrival at the Cathedral.




The Friends of the Diocese is a committed group of people who have been supporting the Diocese in Europe since 1996 and share in its life through their interest, prayers and financial support. More information about them can be found on our website here:

<https://www.europe.anglican.org/TheFriendsoftheDiocese>

Racial Justice Conference 2024



 *Group photo of Racial Justice conference attendees, 2023*

Following the inspiring Racial Justice conference in 2023, the Racial Justice working group for the diocese are very excited to be holding a follow-up conference. Building on the momentum from last year's conference, the theme is:

**'ALL of us or NONE of us;
Redesigning the ecumenical and inter-faith landscape for a racially just,
wholistically healthy and radically inclusive community.'**

4-7 December 2024, Evangelische Akademie Bad Boll, Germany.

We hope that people from very many of our chaplaincies and partner churches as well as representatives of all faith communities will send representatives. Young people are particularly encouraged to attend.

Demand for places at the conference has been high, so the event is now **fully booked**. Further information about speakers, and the programme will be published in due course on our website, as well as any available resources.

A Christian reflection on refugees in our diocese

The following reflection was written by the Revd Canon Carolyn Cooke, Chaplain at La Côte:

I find writing about migration both difficult and necessary. It is difficult because migration has so many faces and layers of complexity. There are multiple reasons why people choose to uproot in search for something more secure and hopeful. The impact of their arrival on communities will be just as varied.

Writing about migration is necessary to move the discourse away from polarised, sound bite narratives and harmful labels to a more nuanced and open-minded discourse about creative integration that will benefit both hosts and refugees.


As Christians, seeking to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God, we cannot simply turn a blind eye. The whole of our Scriptures is woven through with stories of migration and journeying, right from Adam and Eve's departure from Eden. So, the issue of migration prompts us to pray continually, and to wrestle with these difficult questions wherever we find ourselves, from corridors and panels of power, such as the European Parliament to encountering refugees on our doorsteps.

Behind the swathes of migration statistics lie human stories and human encounters. This is where I have had the privilege of exploring what it means to be a refugee or asylum seeker, hearing individual stories first hand.

So where can we as English – speaking chaplaincies in the Diocese in Europe pitch in to these debates and actions in a way that honours the God we serve?

In June 2022 I took a month to investigate the activities of some of our chaplaincies in Europe, to see what they were doing on the ground, and to glean lessons that could help us all in ways we might accompany and welcome refugees and asylum seekers.



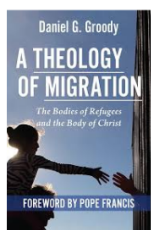
 Ukrainian refugees on Lviv railway station waiting for train

From these discussions, I offer here four overlapping steps for chaplaincies to consider. They happen to begin with “c” which may help us remember them!

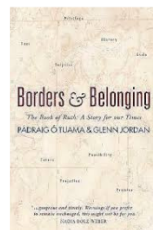
1. We **Celebrate** that our chaplaincies can offer a readymade community of migrants. Unlike asylum seekers we have the privilege of choice, permits, passports and permission to stay or move on. Yet, we can share our experiences of adjusting to a new culture, language and bureaucracy, with refugees seeking to navigate the new system.
2. We can build **Connections** with others involved in refugee support. Over more than ten years we have developed fruitful partnerships with local churches, as well as government agencies and local charities. Together we have discovered far more resources and wisdom to welcome refugees, offer language classes, share friendship meals and be involved in advocacy. Our latest initiative has been a joint food bank, run by volunteers from across the churches and from our local town. We currently serve approximately 200 households.
3. We have begun to **Communicate** with chaplaincies across the Diocese in Europe, who are involved in any way with local refugees. I would love to keep building a strong and supportive network of chaplaincies who can share good practice and offer wisdom and counsel. We look forward to developing this further with assistance from Bradon Muilenburg, the Anglican Refugee Support Lead for the Diocese in Europe, working with USPG and Canterbury Diocese. As we communicate stories and share ideas and challenges, we will help to change the narrative of misunderstanding and closing rank, to a more open and compassionate stance.
4. Every encounter with a refugee is a potential for **Change** in us, confronting and unsettling our categories and certainties. In “A Theology of Migration” by Father Daniel Groody, he asks: “what if the struggles surrounding migration are not something to fear but are in fact the beginning of a birth process leading to new relationships with God, others, and even our very selves?”

In every encounter with a refugee, I encourage you to stay curious and compassionate, open to receive as well as give, and to trust that our God of grace will start by changing you.

Inspiring reads:



A Theology of Migration
Daniel G. Groody, 2022



Borders and Belonging, The Book of
Ruth, a Story for our Times
Padraig O'Tuama and Glen Jordan, 2021

Safeguarding Sunday: 'Let's talk about it'

This important initiative is a chance for congregations to use their regular Sunday service to listen and talk together about how spaces can be created that are safer for everyone and thank those working behind the scenes to make our churches safer for all.

The theme and focus for this year is – 'Let's talk about it'- to encourage churches to talk about how communities can work together to prevent abuse and create a world where every child and adult can feel and be safe.

The ecumenical initiative from specialist safeguarding charity [thirtyone:eight](#) provides bespoke resources including films and animations, prayers, preaching notes, children's activity sheets, hymns and songs and a safeguarding pledge.

"Protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message. Safeguarding Sunday is about every person in the church knowing why we do what we do and knowing what part they can contribute to that.

It is a chance to recognise the role of the chaplaincy as the front line of safeguarding and for chaplaincies to show their communities the support they can offer to those who attend church and those who don't."

Bishop Joanne Grenfell, the Church of England's Lead Safeguarding Bishop.

The Diocesan Safeguarding team are hosting some events in November over [Safeguarding Sunday](#) weekend. More details will be available on the [Safeguarding page](#) on our website: www.europe.anglican.org/resources/conferences-workshops-and-clinics-csos

Friday 15th November 2024

Start time: 17:00pm GMT

Diocesan Online Safeguarding Service

All are welcome to join us for this Service, which will be led by The Ven Dr. Leslie Nathaniel, Archdeacon for Germany & Northern Europe and Eastern. Bishop Robert will be a part of this service as he will be providing the sermon.

Saturday 16th November 2024

Start time: 9.30am GMT

Safeguarding Conference for Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officers

This event is by invitation only.


Sunday 17th November 2024

Safeguarding Sunday

This diocese will be participating in this event alongside all the other diocese in the Church of England.

Across the diocese in 2025, there will be a number of events celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea from which the Nicene Creed emerged. Revd James Buxton (Chaplain at Izmir) and Revd Ben Druru (Chaplain in Athens) are organising this incredible pilgrimage. For more information, visit the [AECA Pilgrimage 2025](https://tutku.travel/tour/aeca-pilgrimage-2025-1700th-anniversary-of-the-council-of-nicaea) site: <https://tutku.travel/tour/aeca-pilgrimage-2025-1700th-anniversary-of-the-council-of-nicaea>

Anglican and Eastern Churches Association
AECA Pilgrimage 2025: 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea
Monday 28 April – Wednesday 7 May, 2025
Ancient Cities and Landscapes of the Ecumenical Councils at
Constantinople, Chalcedon, Nicaea and Ephesus,
with visits to
Assos, Pergamum, Izmir (Smyrna), Urla and Çesme
The Pilgrimage will be led by
His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas Loulias
Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain
and
The Rt Revd, the Lord Chartres
Assistant Bishop in The Diocese of Europe



organized by
TUTKU
— EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —

The image is a promotional poster for a pilgrimage. The top half is a light brown background with text in red and black. The bottom half is a mosaic depicting the Council of Nicaea, with a central figure (likely a bishop) seated on a throne, surrounded by other bishops. A cross is visible in the background. The mosaic is framed by a gold border. The text 'organized by TUTKU — EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —' is at the bottom right of the mosaic.

Many chaplaincies have animals that frequent their churches, whether wild or congregational pets. Some of our churches even have animals that are more like church pets arriving for services and being cared for by the whole church community. With such a diverse diocese, there is a huge variety of pets of course! Here are some examples:



St Paul's Anglican Church, Athens

Leila aka Guinevere, assumed to be a stray, has been in the garden at St Pauls for about 4 years. We are told that she is very friendly and sometimes wanders into church. One of the ladies who feeds her named her Leila and then a little boy called Arthur in the congregation added Guinevere! The congregation have taken care of her health too, for example, some time ago she had a problem with her teeth and was taken to the vet. They also plan to provide her with a closed nest in a sheltered place for the cold months.

St Francis, South Tenerife

The church is really living up to their namesake. Over many years, there have been owners bringing their pet dogs to the services and chaplaincy events. Here is Maxi with her mum JoAnne and Dad Paul, regular attendees at San Blas church.



As Marisha mentions, "For some people, their pet is as precious as a child and it wouldn't be contemplated for them to be left at home. Recently, we have had a new lady start to worship with us, she says that it is often difficult to leave her dog behind. Seeing that we already had Maxi there encouraged her to bring hers along rather than miss church. That is very positive.

As a church we try to be welcoming to everyone and not to be too stuffy; somehow having a dog there makes it friendly. Maxi always goes up for a blessing which John our priest is happy to do."

The Anglican Church in Poland

Here are the pets of two parishioners in Warsaw that are often seen in the church services, Miso (left) and Mitzi (right, with parishioner Ron)





Holy Cross Anglican church, Palermo

Mother Johanna Crescenti, on placement from the Diocese of Winchester, with Flower. Flower actually belongs to Althea Clark the PCC secretary, who is a new member from South Africa. Flower came to Palermo with Althea when she got married at Holy Cross church and attends church practically every Sunday – which is apparently more than some of the regulars! Flower also enjoys joining in the hymns!

Diocese in Europe, London Office

Bilbo belongs to Polly, and often accompanies her to work at in the Diocesan Offices at Church House. He loves to watch everyone at work and particularly enjoys his lunchtime strolls.

Here are Polly and Bilbo on the steps at Church House.



St Saviours, Riga

Grācija lives at St. Saviour's and is here pictured with the Assistant Organist. She has her own page on their website! [Our Cat – St. Saviour's Anglican Church in Riga \(anglicanriga.lv\)](http://anglicanriga.lv)

La Fustera, Costa Blanca Anglican Chaplaincy of the Holy Spirit

Congregation members with their pets, pictured after church recently with Fr. Rodney. Apparently all were beautifully behaved, not a single 'woof' to be heard!

L to R: Oscar, Chico, Gex, Tia, Luna, McKenzie, Boyra.



St Andrew's Zurich

The Chaplain at St Andrew's Zurich, Revd Jackie Sellin, has a well-travelled pet dog, Pippin. Not only does he enjoy travelling by all sorts of public transport (he has his own GA Travelcard) - aircraft, train, tram, trolleybus, bus, funicular, cable car, ferry etc, but he also attends church services on a regular basis!



The chaplaincy in Izmir

Here are the beloved Church cats at Izmir, Cleopatra and Henrietta.



The Revd James Buxton talks about how important cats are to them; "In Turkey there is a category of cat that is looked after by the local community. They are not really strays, but they don't have owners either. In Izmir they can be recognized because the city vets take a clip out of their ear when they are spayed. Turks love cats, so these street cats often have a number of human friends. When I arrived at St John's nearly 7 years ago, I noticed that the churchyard had a very friendly cat, whom I immediately named Cleopatra, because of her dark eyelids, her penetrating gaze and her regal mannerisms. She patrols the churchyard, keeps out other 'not so friendly' cats and keeps down the local vermin. Cleopatra loves coming to church. She sits on the Sidespersons bench, on the bishops throne during the service, or chooses an unsuspecting congregation member to provide a comfortable lap. Occasionally, she takes a wander during the sermon, up the nave and into the sanctuary. The only place she isn't allowed is on the altar, and she usually abides by this.

Henrietta appeared about five years ago when she had kittens in a church store room. She was a very good mother, and produced lovely babies, who were all taken by members of the public as pets. Since then she has become a firm favourite with many members of the congregation. She is very sweet natured, but not really attuned to church worship, as she gets over-excited and causes too many distractions. So these days she stays outside and joins in with others at coffee time. I can't remember why I called her Henrietta (Henny-Penny is her nick name). It just seemed right. The police who occupy the sentry box at the entrance to the British Consulate (next to the church), who also love her and call her Kanila (which means Calico).



Thank you for reading.

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Please get in touch with ideas for articles and stories for future editions.

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