

# Cathedral News

the newsletter of St Christopher's Cathedral and Awali Church

## Welcome

After the long summer, September, with the start of a new academic year, always feels like a new beginning and we want especially to welcome all



who are new to Bahrain and to the Cathedral and Awali communities and to say that we hope that you will be very happy here.

Expatriate communities are always on the move and so, if you are new, please get involved in the life of the church as soon as you feel able and don't feel you have to wait too long to settle in. I often say "if you've been coming to church for two weeks running, count yourself as a regular."

## Friday Club

An All-age Family Service will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 9.30am and Friday Club will restart on the following Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> September. We gather together in church at the beginning of the service and during the first hymn leaders and young people leave for their various groups and a crèche is held in the Cathedral office. *Tricia Butt Tel: 36418997*

## Building project

You will be hearing much more about the new Building Project in the coming months, an exciting project to build a two-storey block behind the Cathedral, where the current rather dilapidated portacabins are at present. This will provide



purpose-built rooms for Friday Club: our children deserve much better than we currently give them; children's and toilets; space for the Charity

Centre; and an interfaith room with library facilities to encourage greater understanding and dialogue between faith communities.

## World Harvest Supper and Barn Dance

One of the fun events of our church calendar is the World Harvest Supper and Barn Dance which this year will be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 5.00pm in the Alun Morris Hall the Cathedral compound. It is very much a family event for people of all ages



and will finish by 8pm as we know school follows the next day. Please bring a favourite dish to share. Water and soft drinks will be provided; you are welcome to bring stronger alternatives! And Please take the opportunity to invite friends. The 30<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> October will be our Harvest Festival w/e and we take the opportunity to bring non-perishable gifts (rice, lentils are



especially useful) which can be distributed through the ECC and Mission to Seafarers to those who are needy. We use the opportunity as we thank God for the many blessings that we have to direct our monetary

collections to Aden.

## Regular Services

**Monday- Thursday 8.00am** Morning Prayer.

**Friday 9.30am** Holy Communion with Friday Club (All-age Family Service on 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month).

**Friday 6.00pm** Tamil Service.

**Saturday 10.00am (Awali Church)** Holy Communion (All- age Family Service 1st Saturday of the month).

**Sunday 10.30am** Holy Communion.

**Sunday 6.15pm** Holy Communion (Evensong 2nd Sunday)

## Living Room Dialogues

On Sunday evenings at 7.30pm (following the 6.15pm Evening Service) we hold a Living Room dialogue in The Deanery on the cathedral compound. We have bring-and-share food to begin, then listen to our speaker and have the opportunity to ask questions and have discussion.

On **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October** we have invited the Deputy British Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, **Mockbul Ali** to speak on the subject *Understanding Islamic Extremism*. As policy adviser on Islamic Issues and the Muslim World for the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office he is highly qualified to do this.



Our speaker on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November** is **Dr Vickie Hudson** whose PhD thesis was *A Study of the Civilisational Aspect of Russian Soft Power in Contemporary Ukraine*, which she completed at The Centre for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham. In early November she is speaking at a conference in Canada on the role of the Orthodox Church in the conflict in Ukraine and will be sharing her insights at our Living Room Dialogue.

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## Songs of Praise

As part of the Bahrain United Kingdom 200 year celebrations St Christopher's Cathedral is hosting a **Songs of Praise** on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 6.15pm**. We have invited members of the British community to choose a hymn and say why they have chosen it.

### For more information on life at St Christopher's

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## Concert Programme

**Cathedral Concerts** on a **Thursday evening at 6pm** have become a significant part of the Cultural life of Bahrain. Musicians who have played in the Cathedral appreciate its wonderful acoustic and the warm appreciative audiences. And audiences appreciate the quality of the concerts, the very reasonable price (BD5) and the encouragement of children, who are able to come for free! It makes a wonderful start to the weekend: a concert followed by a meal out.

Two performers are already lined up:

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November Eleonora Stanevich**, a graduate of the prestigious Belarusian Academy of Music in Minsk, who will be giving a piano recital.



**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November** The



distinguished violinist **Lavinia Balasu** played as first violinist with the National Opera House Orchestra, and the

National Radio Symphonic Orchestra in Bucharest returns to the Cathedral.

We hope to see **the return** of the St Chris Community Big Band and several other musicians are in the pipeline.

## Remembrance

There are two services of Remembrance in Bahrain: the first is held on **Friday 11th November** and begins at **10.55am** in the Old Christian Cemetery, though you should be at the venue by 10.40am as security is thorough for this event. The Friday morning service will be shorter that day and there will be space in cars heading to the Cemetery.



The second is on Remembrance **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 6.15pm** in the Cathedral.

As usual we will expect to have representatives of those serving in Armed services present, visiting Chelsea Pensioners, and Ambassadors and Consuls from several countries.