



Christmas News

*The Newsletter of St Christopher's Cathedral
and Awali Church*

On Christmas Eve we have established a tradition of gathering in the Alun Morris Hall for the Christingle Service as the Cathedral is too small to squeeze everyone in in safety and when the Christingles are lit it adds a further hazard. So we have a cross-shaped central table on which are placed Nativity sets from around the world: the one from Peru are dressed in traditional ponchos and Peruvian hats; in the set from the Philippines the wisemen are riding water buffalo; and in a set from Uganda Joseph and Mary shelter under a thatched hut. It reminds me of a Nativity Play we used for the children in Hong Kong *No Room in the Mandarin*, the Mandarin Hotel was then regarded as the best hotel in Hong Kong, if not in the world.

But it is a reminder that the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus is one that speaks powerfully to peoples of every nation in the world: an extraordinary story that God, the creator of the universe has entered into our world in all the vulnerability of a tiny baby. What amazing good news this is for all; born to bring love and hope and a new way of living.



Christmas Services

Friday 12th December

9.30am Nativity Play Family Service

Sunday 14th December

7.30pm in Deanery: Christmas carols, stories, poems, readings – bring and share

Sunday 21st December

6.15pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December

4.30pm Crib Service (*Awali*)

4.30pm Christingle Service

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December

10.00am Family Communion (*Awali*)

10.30am Family Communion

**Please note there will be no English-speaking services on Friday 26th (Cathedral) or Saturday 27th Dec(Awali). Normal service resumes on Sunday 28th.*

Love Life Live Advent



One of the joys of Christmas is the eager expectation that goes with it and many of us have been using a little booklet *Love Life Live Advent* which has encouraged a little more thoughtfulness in our preparations for Christmas. We need to prepare as a church community too... Here are a few ways you could

help:

- Provide a stocking of gifts for seafarers (list provided);
- Make some mince pies for refreshments after *The Nine Lessons and Carols*;
- Come and help at the Christingle workshop on Tuesday 23rd December, 10am at the Deanery.

*For unto us is born
This night no longer silent
The Son of God and Son of Man
Come! See and praise him.* *Lesley Steel*

Cathedral Concerts

Concerts, held on **Thursdays at 6pm**, are a wonderful way to begin a weekend. A few outstanding performers will be performing in the Cathedral in the coming months:

18th December Organ recital by **Alistair Auld**, former Music Director of the Manama Singers

22nd January Soprano **Erika Nottingham Rawles** accompanied by **Michelle Miles**.

19th February Piano recital of music from JS Bach's *Wohltemperierte Klavier* by **Mina Iwahashi**, trained at the St Petersburg Conservatory.

Living Room Dialogues

Living Room Dialogues are held following the 6.15 Sunday evening service at The Deanery on the Cathedral compound at 7.30pm. We begin with bring and share food.

11th January: Melanie Scarlett
Reflections on the Elections



Melanie is the Head of the Political Internal and Press & Public Affairs Team at the British Embassy.

Sunday 15th February: Eskedar (Esky) Girmay
Changing the image of Ethiopia in Bahrain.



Esky is a wife and mother of two, a model, designer, event organizer, film producer, actress and involved with the Migrant Workers Protection Society

Sunday 15th March: H.E. Hatun Demirer
A Turkish perspective on the Syria-Iraq Crisis



Hatun is Turkish Ambassador to Bahrain and has a wealth of experience in political, economic and consular affairs.

We very much welcome all who would like to attend our Living Room Dialogues and invite you to bring a dish of food to share in the simple meal before our invited guest speaks.

Joseph

The most recent production by young people from our Friday Club and adults was Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat presented at an Advent Family Service on Friday 28th November.

Friday Club meets regularly, parallel to the Friday morning service in three groups to explore the Christian faith and the message of the Bible through song, drama, craft activity, stories and prayers. A new crèche has also recently started.

Once a month, usually on the first Friday of the month, we come together for an all age Family Service, which is an opportunity to explore Friday Club's theme for the preceding month.

Regular Services at St Christopher's and Awali

Friday 9.30am Holy Communion with Friday Club for children

All age Family Service on the first Friday of month.

Friday 6pm Tamil Service

Saturday 10.00am at Awali Church

Holy Communion (Family Service 1st Saturday)

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 6.15pm Holy Communion

Evensong (1st Sunday) Songs of Praise (5th Sunday)



Bishop Michael visited Bahrain recently and was invited to call on His Majesty King Hamad.

*To know more about the life of
St Christopher's Cathedral and Awali
Church please look at our website:
www.stchcathedral.org*