



## Welcome...

...to scene@cypgulf, a new initiative from the diocesan communications team. Following the success of scene@synod this year, this 'scene' is way of keeping in touch with diocesan news in between synods. It will be published on line after each meeting of the Bishop's Council / Standing Committee, which continues the work of synod throughout the year. We hope that this will be useful for synod members, council members in chaplaincies, and all who want to follow the development of diocesan work. This edition follows the May meeting of the Council, held in Abu Dhabi. The Council were guests of St Andrews Church and members were able to see the extensive building and development work being carried out there. It is hoped that will be completed by the end of the summer (see picture on Page 5).

### COPING WITH CRISIS

**T**he ongoing financial crisis in Cyprus has cast a shadow over everything the diocese does. But there's light at the end of the tunnel.

Diocesan Finance Director John Banfield told the May meeting of the Bishop's Council/Standing Committee that as a result of the need to recapitalise the banks on the island, a 'haircut' had been imposed on uninsured deposits. In our case this could mean that 150,000 Euros will be converted from cash to equity in the Bank of Cyprus.

#### Casualties

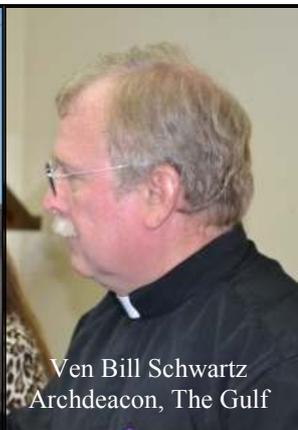
The main casualty from this year's plans will be the employment of a chaplain in Aden. The purchase of a house in Larnaca, for which a deposit was being held, has also been postponed.

#### But the good news...

...is that with these two adjustments it should be possible to maintain the budget without further demands on chaplaincies. New accounts have been opened at the Hellenic Bank, and it is important that deposits are made there now, he said, especially by Cyprus chaplaincies, in order to maintain liquidity. A letter is being sent to all treasurers outlining the situation. **Finance FAQs P2**



Canon John Banfield  
Director of Finance



Ven Bill Schwartz  
Archdeacon, The Gulf

### ADEN: Living in Faith

**T**he archdeacon in the Gulf, Bill Schwartz, told the Council that "there is light in the tunnel" in Aden.

The political situation, he reported, was more stable than for some time and the Aden Council of Reference would be meeting in November to consider future ministry options.

The work of the clinics was going well and the small congregation continued in faith and hope. However, the aim of providing a full time chaplain this year has had to be put on hold.



## **FAQs on the financial situation**

**A digest of the things you are asking us and the answers to the best of our knowledge as we go to print.**

**If you have others, please let us know and we will try to answer those as well.**

- Q Is it safe to send money to Cyprus, or might it be subject to further haircuts?**  
A Yes it is safe. We have new accounts with the Hellenic Bank, and we continue to need deposits in order to pay our normal day-to-day expenses.
- Q Why did you ask Gulf chaplaincies to send money to the B of C London account?**  
A The London account is guaranteed to £85,000 by the British government. Amounts beyond that will be deposited in the HSBC London accounts held by the Endowment Fund, in order to make sure that we have guaranteed reserves.
- Q How much have we lost?**  
A. We may have lost the cash facility of 150,000 Euros.
- Q What does it mean to say that the funds have been converted to equity?**  
A Two large banks have been specially affected: the Laiki bank and the Bank of Cyprus. We bank with the Bank of Cyprus. The terms of the bailout mean that a 'good' bank and a 'bad' bank will be formed from these two. The good bank will be the Bank of Cyprus, and uninsured deposits will be converted to shares in that bank.
- Q Are those shares worth anything?**  
A That remains to be seen. They cannot be traded until September. Experience elsewhere (e.g. Lloyds TSB in the UK) suggests that it takes some time for bailed out banks to recover their share price, and at best this should be regarded as a longer term possibility.
- Q Is there any appeal we can make against the decision to give this haircut?**  
A We are working closely with our lawyers, arguing that these are funds for charitable and merciful purposes and should be exempt. We cannot forecast the outcome at this stage, but remain hopeful.



## **KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON**

**A crisis calls for cool heads and luckily we have Georgia Katsantonis (*left*) and Anetta Stylianou, the diocesan admin team, to keep oiling the wheels. Their only worry? "We just wish we'd had more time for shopping!"**

## **FORTY YEARS ON**

**In 2016 the diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf will be forty years old.**

In anticipation of that landmark, this was noted as an opportune moment for the timely introduction of the new Planning Group that Synod voted into being at the conclusion of the debate on the Final Report of the Crawford Commission in February. The Council stopped short of including the year in the title of the new group on the grounds that people might think its purpose was simply to plan some events for the year. In fact there was a very full discussion of its remit and future agenda. The group will be a resource and support mechanism for the Council, and in general it will be exploring strategies for the sustainable development of the diocese in the coming years.

It will be looking at possible models for staffing, financial management and administration in the light of developments in the areas of ministry, communication, spirituality, mission planning and stewardship.

# MINISTRY MATTERS

Ministry will be a key theme at next year's synod.



**B**ishop Michael has outlined plans that include reflective input from popular synod veteran Canon Robert Jones (pictured left). Robert will continue to oversee the worship side of Synod but this new role, leading the reflective or retreat side of the gathering, will reflect his diocesan job as Director of Ministry in the Diocese of Worcester. In preparation for Synod, a Ministry Forum is to be held in Dubai in December, bringing together a working group, convened by the bishop, of those with interest and expertise in the field to provide a discussion paper for the February meeting. Topics to be covered include: how to encourage a culture of vocation; how to nurture vocation; how to select and train people for a variety of ministries, and how the diocese can have a deployment strategy that enables us to make the most of those in whom we have invested.

## VULNERABLE PEOPLE

**J**ean West has been appointed as Executive Officer and Vice Chair of the Diocesan Group for the Protection of Vulnerable People. Her first task will be to visit Cyprus to aid training. New DVD resources are now available, a valuable step forward in our resolve to have a robust and observed policy.



## WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

A new diocesan publication is aimed at those who might be considering ministry in our region. In what could be described as a kind of diocesan prospectus, the booklet sets out to describe what's different about us, and some of the challenges and opportunities that are specially associated with living and working in the church here. The make-up of congregations is described and the contexts, both ecumenical and interfaith, which are distinctive. The author, archdeacon John Holdsworth, said he hoped that when complete, the booklet would help to give a realistic picture of what families could expect, and perhaps help to ensure that only those people applied for jobs here who were confident that they could embrace the challenges and not be threatened, surprised, or even overwhelmed by them.

To complete the document, a number of people have been invited to contribute personal stories about their experience of moving here. It is hoped that these will be engaging, and contain useful detailed information that has proved helpful.

## ...AND WELCOME TO THE TEAM

**C**ouncil welcomed a new member to its May meeting. Angela Murray, from Bahrain, was elected at Synod by the House of Laity as its new representative for the Gulf, in place of John Willson (Abu Dhabi).

Angela is a member of St Christopher's Cathedral in Bahrain where she sits on the Anglican Church Council. She is also a member of the Communications team and produces our acclaimed diocesan calendar.

Picture: new member Angela Murray gets tips from Canon Derek Smith under the watchful eye of the gospel eagle.

# WHAT CLERGY SHOULD DO (AND HOW THEY SHOULD DO IT)



Time was when clergy professional behaviour was a matter for the pastoral relationship between a bishop and individual clerics, relying largely on interpretation of ordination vows.

However nowadays, many clergy come to us from provinces where secular legislation has deemed that this is not good enough. Also (mercifully infrequently) some clergy rely on that same secular legislation to pursue claims against the diocese for what is claimed to be unfair treatment.

## What the diocese needs

The diocese needs to have descriptions of what the job of a cleric is and how we expect it to be performed in order to counter such claims and demonstrate that behaviour has fallen short of expectation. But on a more positive note, it is good to have something written that describes expectations in an accessible form.

## Documents

Archdeacon John Holdsworth has presented two documents to Council that have been welcomed and accepted in this context. One is a **generic job description** for clergy, and the other is a series of **guidelines about professional conduct**. In order to preserve something of the earlier system, these latter are based on indicative promises made at ordination, and act as a kind of extended commentary on them. Bishop Michael was "hugely grateful" for the production of the new documents and, after further study by him, they will be commended to serving clergy and form part of future clergy agreements. Dean Chris Butt (*pictured above, right*) said he thought that the documents would be welcomed by clergy, and agreed with the bishop that they might have a liberating effect.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

**B**ishop's Council has been thinking again about what we call our congregations. Bishop Michael traced the historical developments that led to the description of our churches as chaplaincies, but suggested the term had outlived its necessity and usefulness. "Chaplaincy suggests something provided by a third party," he said, "rather than something for which we need to take full responsibility as stewards." Council agreed with the introduction of the term 'parish' as being more immediately understandable, and more theologically adequate. Lay members felt it conveyed a better sense of belonging.

## A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW



Katafiyio

**N**ick and Viv Binks will be leaving Katafiyio retreat house in the summer. They have been volunteer caretakers there for two years and are returning to their native Australia to be closer to their family. The contribution of Nick and Viv has been immense and was recorded by the Bishop's Council with grateful thanks and it is hoped to mark their contribution in an appropriate way. In the meantime James and Rosamund MacIntyre are hoping to take over from them, in what will be a very hard act to follow.

## ALL CHANGE IN CYPRUS

Chaplaincies in Cyprus face up to eight clergy changes by the end of next year.

Archdeacon John Holdsworth told Council that vacancies in **Kyrenia** and **Paphos** will be advertised shortly. Bishop Michael has given his enthusiastic blessing to the use of the new experimental appointments procedure in each case. There has also been mention of a full time house for duty post in Paphos.

### Chaplain

A new Mission to Seafarers Chaplain has been appointed for the **Cyprus ports**, and an announcement about that is expected very soon.

Dean John Tyrell and Deacon Carol will be returning to Canada next year from **Nicosia**. There has also been a development in the former Chaplaincy of **South East Cyprus**, which is now to be known as Ammochostos following the pattern that chaplaincy titles reflect civil boundaries in Cyprus.

### Ammochostos

There will be two churches within the chaplaincy area, each with its own clerical leadership. The two clergy will be equal colleagues. **Christ Church Agia Napa** will continue with Simon Holloway as its Chaplain, and in the Bishop's Special Mission area of **Deryneia**, St John's Church will be served part time by the new Diocesan Spirituality Advisor.

The website and prayer calendar are in process of being altered to reflect these changes, which have been welcomed in terms of the evidence they provide of vitality, growth and mission endeavour.



Bishop Michael prepares to board the Mothers' Union bus for a day tour in Thika.

## News from our Link Dioceses

**E**xeter diocese has reported that proceeds of over £2000 have been sent to the diocese as a result of sales from palm crosses this year. Around 15000 crosses were produced and distributed. Concern was expressed that some were unusable because they had not been properly dried, and Council members urged chaplaincies to begin making their crosses earlier if possible to avoid waste.

**T**hika diocese has sent a list of suggested link parishes with individual Cyprus chaplaincies. The idea is that the Thika parishes will then be automatically linked in turn with the Gulf chaplaincies from each of the Cyprus ones.

In the meantime there is demand for places for the three-way meeting in Cyprus later this year, at which it is hoped the new bishop of Thika might be present. Council members heard up to date plans and agreed on a budget for the event.

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The Communications team would like to hear from you. Please send your comments and suggestions to us at

[cygulf@spidernet.com.cy](mailto:cygulf@spidernet.com.cy)

The next scene@cypgulf will follow the Bishop's Council / Standing Committee meeting in Bahrain in September

Construction work at St. Andrews Church Centre in Abu Dhabi is scheduled to be completed this summer

