



Celebrating 40 Years

During the weekend of 28th/30th October the Diocese will be joined in thanksgiving for the fortieth anniversary of its life in its present configuration.

Bishop Michael has produced a special prayer (reproduced below) and other special additions to the Eucharistic liturgy as it is celebrated over that weekend.

At its meeting in Larnaca Cyprus in October the Standing Committee heard that there had been twelve entries for the hymn competition, and the judges were about to declare their preference in what had been a very strong field. The hope is that the hymn will be available for use at those diocesan services.

A new history of the diocese is being produced. The final work is being edited by Angela Murray from Bahrain, a Standing Committee and Communications Team member, working with some detailed research carried out on the diocese's behalf last year. It is hoped that the work will be available in time for Synod next year. An arrangement has been made for it to be available on Amazon.

Prayer

*Almighty and ever-living God,
for forty years as a diocese, and for long years before,
we have listened to your voice
and sung your praises in these lands.*

*Give us thankful hearts,
shape us to your love,
and bless us on our way.*

*Through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end.*

Amen.

Finance: back to “normal”

Finance Director John Banfield has outlined his plans for the diocesan finances for the next two years, a final version of which will be presented to Synod.

An encouraging new vocabulary is emerging: words like “steady”, “calm” and “quiet” were notable. Perhaps the most telling word of all was ‘normal.’

John’s dream has been to reach a stage where most of what he has to say at Synod will simply be taken as the normal, acceptable (and of course, prudent) outworking of generally accepted diocesan tasks and priorities. One example of how we are getting there is the way that the Ministry budget for training has been met, with some successful attempts to secure extra-Diocesan funding.



Also in this issue:
Synod Planning + Intentional Discipleship
News from the Archdeaconries

Synod 2017: Intentional Discipleship

Next year's Synod theme picks up from the meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council earlier this year which commended it as a theme for the Communion. That in turn is related to the Five Marks of Mission, which featured in our last Synod.

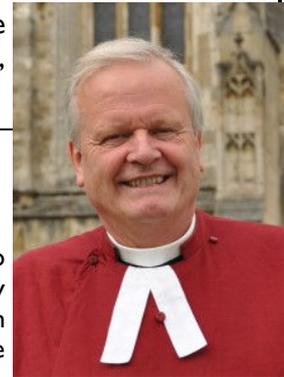
Intentional Discipleship is different from Evangelism. Evangelism is about going out to make new disciples. Intentional Discipleship is about how we can all be better disciples and live up to our calling. So the kinds of question that arise in relation to it are about Christian maturing and nurturing.

What are the marks of an intentional Christian community as opposed to a church with casual and superficial attitudes towards faith? What is the good news we have to offer and what is special about that in a diocese as unusual as ours? Those are the kinds of question Groups will be looking at in February.

Standing Committee has responded to the requests made on the feedback forms from last Synod. Although 98% of respondents thought it either good or excellent, Standing Committee is always keen to try to make it a better experience still. Among the changes this year will be:

- An additional meeting of the House of Laity on the first day
- Buffet style evening meals on two days to enable full participation in evening activities
- A full list of workshops according to suggestions made
- A traditional Compline service in at least one Night Prayer slot
- An opportunity to request a prayer partner

There will be a revised Safeguarding policy and a new Disciplinary Code for Clergy and Public Representative Ministers, to consider; along with a resource pack on disability with a new model policy for churches to adopt. The Synod Service will be held in Limassol, and the Guest Speaker will be the Very Revd James Atwell, formerly Dean of Winchester (*pictured*).



CYPRUS FORUM PICKS UP THE SYNOD BATON

At the February Synod Meeting, there was a request that consideration be given to giving opportunity for lay people to meet and discuss issues of concern in the way that has developed over the last few years in Synod itself. The Cyprus Forum was an existing model for that, and this year it adopted a new way of working to include discussion groups.

Meeting the day before Standing Committee and chaired by the Bishop it addressed Stewardship, the current Synod-inspired subject of concern and Intentional Discipleship – the theme of next year's Synod.

It also pondered the implications of recent meetings on the Island dealing with social outreach, and Communication. In a plenary session there were contributions on the subjects of data protection and security in churches.

Questions were also raised about a Diocesan Constitution.

The seventy participants (reflecting a scriptural original)

went home with plenty to think about, including what it means to be an Ambassador for Christ, the theme of a short initial Bible study.



GOOD NEWS IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Archdeacon Bill Schwartz reports from the Gulf

Archdeacon Bill's report to Standing Committee was made against a background of demographic change, partly due to the fall in oil prices, partly also because of global economic trends more generally.

There was good news from **Iraq** where, contrary to some reports, congregations at St George's are as strong as ever, ministry is thriving there and the work of the clinics continues to respond to a strong demand.

Plans to expand the school adjacent to the church are at an advanced stage, and there is a determination to press ahead with an aspiration to establish a second centre in Erbil.



Good news is also the order of the day in **Dubai**.

New appointments there have resulted in a talented and enthusiastic clergy team, soon to be joined by Revd Harry Ching (*pictured*) as a stipendiary curate – a first for the Chaplaincy. Harry has been the Student Chaplain in Famagusta for the last two years and was ordained Deacon in June.

In **Bahrain** the living room conversations initiative has entered a new season with a very good response. In Doha the Anglican Centre continues to thrive, and there is a demand to start a new Church Learning Group.

In **Abu Dhabi** the new church building project is back on track and in the **Yemen** the war damage has been largely repaired and staff are in good heart. It is hoped to finalise an appointment to Kuwait in the early part of next year.

MINISTRY MATTERS

The Director of Ministry's report to Standing Committee was warmly received. The Diocese is now completely responsible for selecting, training and deploying clergy whose vocations have come to light whilst they have been worshipping here.

Four people were ordained in the Summer, two or three more will be ordained in 2017. Our first Stipendiary Curate has moved on to a post of responsibility in our own diocese and new stipendiary posts are being created. A Selection Conference will be held in Bahrain in November with four potential candidates.

Archdeacon John pointed out the need to identify new selectors, as some of the original team of twelve were no longer available. He also reminded Standing Committee of the aspiration expressed two years ago that there be the opportunity for some short term residential study within the Diocese. He was able to report that the new administration at Queens College Newfoundland is happy to embrace our ever growing cohort of Exploring Faith participants.

CYPRUS TREASURERS ON TARGET

The Community of Cyprus Treasurers had an opportunity to hear John Banfield's Finance presentation at their quarterly meeting, and were confident that targets could be met.

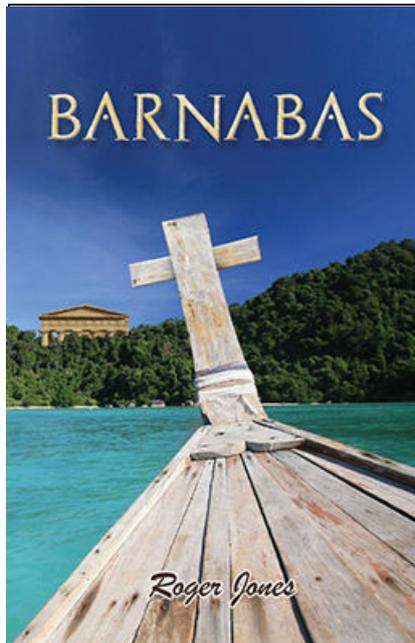
Exchange rate volatility poses some problems in the short term but it is hoped that that will right itself over a period.

Looking ahead

Also the Diocese needs to be putting some intentional thinking into succession planning. Several members of the Diocesan team will be retiring within the next few years and between them they hold a fantastic amount of expertise and diocesan memory.

The timescale for handovers will necessarily mean some costs, but this is believed to be the sensible course to take.

The Cyprus Treasurers were pleased to take advantage of a Financial Code of Practice that had been prepared by Paphos parish. It was warmly commended by John Banfield and Gulf parishes may also find it useful.



PARISHES PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF BARNABAS

A new Roger Jones musical about the role of Cyprus, and Barnabas in particular, in the growth of the early Church will be touring Cyprus in November.

There will be some local performances before the joint performance, at which the composer will be present, on November 20th in the Municipal Theatre, Strovolos, Nicosia.

Other venues and dates are planned as follows:

- November 11, Colony Hotel, Kyrenia
- November 12, Dee European Hotel, Famagusta
- November 14, Sun Hall Hotel, Larnaca
- November 16, UKCA, Paphos
- November 18, ICF, Limassol

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE ON THE ISLAND...

Among other items in Archdeacon John's Report to Standing Committee were:

- an update of the formation of the new parish of Ammochostos. The post of senior priest is currently being advertised.
- There is a new clergy team in Paphos and new initiatives in Kyrenia.
- An island wide Social Outreach Forum had had a good response. Opportunities for church members to get together, as in the Cyprus Forum, were being taken up with enthusiasm.
- There were hopes that there could be some developments of the life at St George's in the Troodos, which might make better use of a charming facility

Bits and Bobs



- The Anglican Alliance held a Regional Consultation in Larnaca, Cyprus in September (*pictured*). A Report is available on their [website](#). The occasion was a great success and the Alliance is considering having an office in our Province. A regional Steering Group has been set up.
- Responses to the Stewardship motion at Synod are continuing to arrive. It would be good to have them all before the end of the year so that they can be published for Synod members.
- Synod members will be provided with an updated and clear memorandum on the subject of Synod Representatives from the House of Laity on other bodies (Standing Committee and Provincial Committees).
- Members of the Barnabas Team met with Standing Committee and had a useful conversation about the future of Spirituality work. The theme of the Diocesan DVD at Synod will be Looking Forward.
- JEMT Cyprus is advertising for a new Trustee.