



“A GREAT RELIEF” - Dubai cash calms financial fears

A substantial portion of outstanding money owed by the Chaplaincy of Dubai and the Northern Emirates has been received, with the promise of a further full payment before the end of the year.

The money is a significant part of the contribution from the Chaplaincies in total, and the delay in receiving it has led to cash flow problems.

It was revealed that emergency measures had been agreed by the Finance Director, Bishop and archdeacons in the event of non-payment that would have severely curtailed the functioning of the diocese, whilst stopping short of redundancies. The payments had therefore come, in the Bishop's words, as, “a great relief.”

Plan

Canon John Banfield presented a financial plan for 2016 and 2017. The approved version will be sent to parishes with the hope that it will be circulated widely. It was also presented to the Community of Cyprus Treasurers and the Cyprus Forum, each of which met just after the Standing Committee.

Healthy

The plan, which was welcomed by Standing Committee, describes a healthy and functioning diocese, in which support will continue to be given to Baghdad and Aden, Ministry training will be maintained and developed, and the Student Chaplaincy in Famagusta will be encouraged, alongside other programmes and priorities.

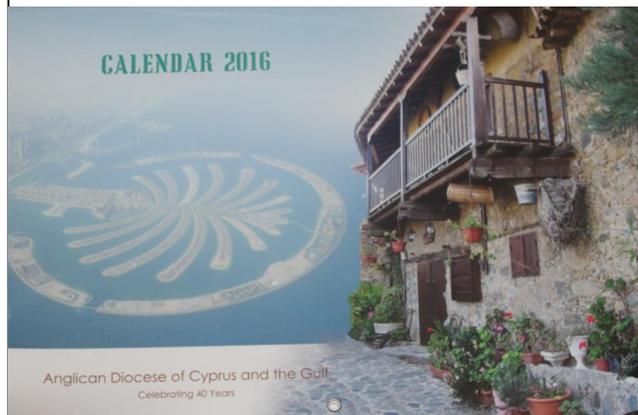
BACK IN BUSINESS

The eye clinic in Aden is now fully functioning and surgery is continuing. It is hoped to appoint a priest early in 2017.



HYMNS & HISTORY

Celebrating 40 years



In 2016 the diocese will be forty years old in its present configuration and members of Standing Committee were keen to celebrate that landmark.

Whilst not as auspicious as a fifty-year jubilee, it is nevertheless an achievement to be proud of.

A special commemorative calendar has been produced, and it is hoped that a new history of the diocese will be published.

It was felt that, in addition, something was needed that would help the diocese to celebrate together as part of our understanding of having a common life.

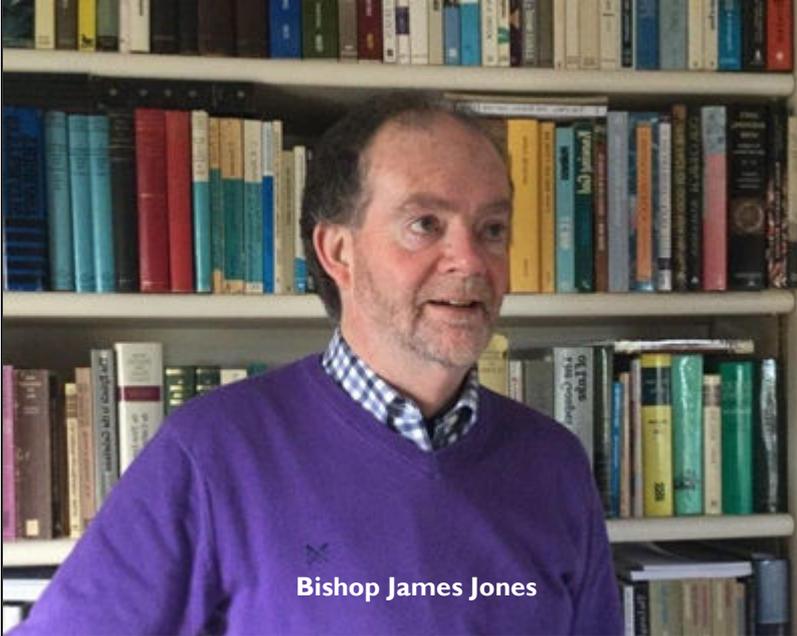
And so a special liturgy is to be devised by Bishop Michael to be celebrated throughout the diocese at All Saints tide next year.

Hymn Competition

To accompany that, there is to be a diocesan hymn competition. Further details will be made available at Synod, but it is hoped that the winning hymn will feature in the service.

SYNOD PREVIEW: What is Our Common Mission?

The theme of *Our Common Mission* for next year's Synod was agreed at the Standing Committee Meeting in May, as a result of consideration of the responses to the Discussion groups at the last Synod.



Bishop James Jones

The keynote speaker will be Bishop James Jones, formerly of Liverpool, and the structure of the meeting will be broadly that of the 2015 event with an emphasis on discussion groups reporting to a final plenary session. The Groups will be asked to consider whether they recognise the five marks of mission of the Anglican Communion as a useful tool for defining our mission; what they believe this commits us to, personally, and what they think the diocese's role should be. There will be one diocesan DVD, as last year, concentrating on places that were not featured last time. A theme of new growth and outreach has emerged.

There will be observers present from the Anglican Alliance and the Episcopal Church in the US, who want to find out more about us.

Responding to the feedback forms, Wednesday afternoon has been restored as free time. The Synod service will be at the cathedral, with the dinner at the Lordos Beach Hotel.

A letter will shortly be sent by Archdeacon John outlining the preparation necessary for Synod, and including the text of the five marks of mission for initial perusal.



Our Common Responsibility

Synod 2015 concluded with a plenary session and a motion calling for a diocesan initiative on stewardship as an urgent priority, and time has been allowed in Synod next year for a fuller discussion of this subject. A document has been drawn up as a basis for future work setting out some practical ideas, resources, and especially the theological bases on which any stewardship campaign or strategy must be based. A motion is to be placed before Synod, asking that the discussion continue in the parishes and that they report back to Synod via the Standing Committee.

COMMON CAUSE



Dean Chris Butt reported on a recent successful visit from Cyprus to Bahrain by representatives from the Freedom Dolls initiative. Both cathedrals in the diocese have been very involved in this scheme. There is proposed development on the Manama site, and an exciting developing life in the African community. A recent vocations weekend had led to the establishment of a new Exploring Faith group as well as an additional Christian Foundation Course. A group of young people had also come forward seeking confirmation.

NEW ERA FOR BAGHDAD

Standing Committee heard that Canon Andrew White's move from Baghdad had not adversely affected the good work there.

Archdeacon Bill Schwartz reported to Standing Committee that St George's partnership with other historic churches in the relief programme was having considerable impact. Work was being done with displaced people to provide not only food and clothing, but also opportunities for re-skilling and new employment.

In the last year Revd Faiz Jerjes had bought over a hundred sewing machines to help re-tool people who had skills but were unable to practise them for want of basic equipment.



The kindergarten is doing well and looking at ways in which it could develop to provide good education for a wider age range of children, whilst giving opportunities for more women to find work, and indeed providing work itself.

The relationship with Canon White's Foundation, (FFRME) was likely to change as a result of its new focus on Andrew's work in Jordan, he said. That would have some financial implications for the diocese. This was also an opportunity, though, to present the Anglican Church's stake in Baghdad ministry in a more definite and distinctive way.

NEW EXPLORERS

Exploring Faith
Theology for Life

The Diocesan learning course, *Exploring Faith*, is being taken up by more centres than ever, according to Archdeacon John who presented a Ministry report to Standing Committee.

The headline, he said, was that there are signs that the

Culture of Vocation is beginning to take hold and that large parts of the aspirations expressed by Synod in 2014 have been achieved, though much remains to be done. The new Church Learning Groups which now exist in Limassol, Nicosia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Canterbury and Jebel Ali are part of the evidence of that.

The Diocese has nine people in various stages of ordination training: from those just starting to those who are well settled into Curacies.

There was a warning, however, that the success in discerning vocations comes at a financial cost, and that there is a limit to what the diocese can afford in terms of training. Training has to be related to the diocese's needs and to its resources. That is not to discourage vocations but rather to think about new ways of attracting funds to augment those affordable to the diocese. There was a strong sense that the diocese could certainly use more ministers. The problem was, and remains, affording them.

UPDATES: Communications & Spirituality

Communications: A review of strategy had led to some new thinking, reported the Chair, Archdeacon John. New communications coordinators had been appointed for each of the archdeaconries, Revd Chris Mann for the Gulf, and Mrs Deb Graham for Cyprus, whose remit would include soliciting new material and choosing the right communication vehicles for stories that emerge.

The website is changing its management, following Nick Truscott's move from the diocese. Concern was expressed about the archiving of digital material, and a new initiative for young people in the diocese, using social media, *#fridayclub*, was unveiled.



The Spirituality Team has also been reviewing its initial strategy and purpose documents. A meeting in Jebel Ali in the summer had put forward a number of proposals for future work, which were under discussion between the Spirituality Coordinator and the Bishop. The Group specifically asked about the shape of the diocese's commitment to the current programme after 2016 when Canon Paul Maybury's current contract ends. The Standing Committee agreed that the Bishop would draw a small group together to review this part of the church's activity.



St Barnabas' Church, Limassol

PUTTING DISABILITY FIRST

JEMT is to embark on a disability audit of the buildings it is responsible for in Cyprus.

Archdeacon John, the Chair of the Cyprus Trustees reported that most of the church buildings have some problems with regard to disabled access, and JEMT want to assess and repair that situation.

A start has been made with the Nicosia campus where plans for a disabled toilet are proceeding, but this is not just about people with mobility problems. There is a range of disabilities that can make participation at church activities difficult, and it is important to address all of them. The JEMT Grant process will be available to help with some of the costs, and it is hoped that the extent of the problems can be identified soon and priorities established.

JEMT are also concerned about St George's Church in Troodos This architecturally interesting building is nominally administered and cared for by the cathedral, for historic reasons that no longer obtain. There is no reason why this church with its increasing demands should be a burden for the cathedral congregation alone. It is hoped that a larger body, representative of more of the island churches, can look at both the responsibilities of upkeep, and the wider use of its facilities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- New security regulations have led to difficulties in Doha, as parking is no longer allowed within any of the church compounds
- Congratulations were extended to Abu Dhabi on the completion of their reordered church at St Andrews and the ongoing development at Mussafah.
- The appointments process in Paphos continues, after a candidate who had been offered the senior priest post, withdrew
- Limassol church has been celebrating its centenary.
- Work continues to bring the three churches in the east of Cyprus into one Ammochostos parish. The student Chaplaincy is attracting funds from as far afield as the Anglican Church in Australia.