



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS



St. Stephen's
Tala



Ayia Kyriaki
Kato Paphos



St. Luke's
Prodromi

WEEKLY NEWS

Sunday 12th December 2021 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

WELCOME

Does anyone else suffer from the 'Time Slip' syndrome? This is where you wake up on Monday morning, blink a couple of times and it's already the following Monday! The weeks are flying by, Christmas will be here in milliseconds at this current speed. That apart, I love being busy and it's busy that I have – great. The weather is changing; but we can't complain, as I write this it's 21C outside, a bit windy; but still beautiful. This week ahead is the real start of the Christmas services with Christingle at St Stephen's, Carols at St Luke's on Saturday (11th) and Carols at St Stephen's on Sunday. Start practicing for those long 'Glorias and Fa la la la, la la la la'! I can't sing for love nor money, but I do like belting out a Carol or two ☺. I received a lovely letter (yes, I do mean a handwritten letter) from Helen & Keith Smith, who were long serving members of our church and they send their best regards to everyone.

Revd Ken

COLLECT and PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Collect:

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

A Prayer for this week.

Lord, you walk beside us. You are always there. Come in our waking, go with us everywhere. Lord your hand will lead us, your light will show the way. Come be with us and be our guide in the week ahead. Amen.

Our Diocese:

Lord, we give you thanks for those who have ministered amongst the lost and lonely during Covid. We pray that we will continue to minister to those who are lonely, questioning, hurting and lost in our community. God of mercy, help us to listen to your voice and fill us all with hope. Renew our faith as we seek to build your Kingdom on earth. We pray for the Christmas-themed services within our Diocese in the weeks ahead, for lives to be touched and renewed by you, Our Lord and Saviour. Amen

See the downloadable Prayer Calendar here: www.cypgulf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Diocesan-Prayer-Guide-Nov21-May22.pdf

In our own Parish of Paphos:

God of hope we cling to you. We pray that our community of faithful people in the Anglican Church of Paphos will be built up and encouraged to continue walking the way of faith and of 'doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with you, our God. Amen

God Slot

ADDICTIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

I arrived at a group training session late and sat down as a member was talking about their addiction. My eyebrows rose and I thought I would never have taken you for a drug user. By the time I had got my books from my bag and I had settled down to listen I realised they were talking about being addicted to a TV programme. I had just automatically assumed that addiction meant drugs. What was more annoying to me was that I had not received all the papers for the session, the vital sheet missing was the one asking us to come prepared to discuss an addiction we had. So, there I was; late, unprepared and because of where I was sat there was only one more person to go before it was my time. I thought to myself, should I make an excuse and leave, should I just hope that a hole would open up and swallow me or pray really, really hard? All too soon it was my turn. I was just about to tell everyone that I hadn't received all the papers and to pass on the next person, when my pile of books fell from my lap and there attached to another paper was my 'missing' paperwork. What do I do now? Deep breath; God is good. I looked around the room and decided to talk about my very strong addiction that not only has me hooked but it is one that I will never give up – it is my addiction to Jesus Christ. I spoke for my allotted 5 minutes and only got out about 10% of what I wanted to talk about. It was a very pleasant surprise to find that two people wanted to hear more after the meeting. I look on it that, although I hadn't prepared anything for that evening, God had. I bet that if we all look at our lives we can see the things we're addicted to. Not all addictions are bad or harmful and you should never listen to only part of a conversation and judge the person. It was a shock to hear that Joe Soap (name made up to protect the innocent) was an addict when I first joined the meeting; but it was really good to find out that it was only to a TV programme!

God Bless,

Revd Ken

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Starting to get a few more forms from people. Come on folks, get those forms filled out and back to me.

A CHRISTMAS POEM

The Christmas Story

(Juliet Burton)

Can you imagine the enormous surprise
When the scholarly men who studied the skies
Looked up to the heavens one cloudless night
And saw a new star - glowing and bright
Those three sober men started dancing a jig
Something was up and it had to be big!

Then Mary was given a huge surprise too
An angel appeared right out of the blue
His name was Gabriel and what he told Mary
Many young girls would have found a bit scary
God had chosen her to give birth to His Son
The Everlasting King, the Most Holy One

Mary loved Joseph - he was good and so kind
But surely he'd think she was out of her mind
And sadly poor Joseph thought she was dreaming
Or else he said she was terribly scheming
Then Joseph dreamt she should still be his wife
How together they could treasure this special new life

Those scholarly men consulted their scrolls
They read of a king - a saviour of souls
The Christ who was promised to the Jews of old
So frankincense and myrrh and gold
Seemed fitting gifts to bring from afar
As they travelled beneath the twinkling new star

Then Caesar declared that people be counted
So pregnant Mary on a donkey was mounted
For the journey to Bethlehem had to be done
Mary so aware she was carrying God's son
But Bethlehem had no room at the inn
And the baby's birth was about to begin!

Some shepherds were quietly minding their sheep
Some were awake and some falling asleep
When an angel appeared in a glorious light
He instantly told them not to take fright
For he had wonderful news - the birth of a boy
A saviour for all - the cause of great joy

The shepherds, excited hurried off to see
For they knew the place where a lamb might be
The angel had said they'd find the babe in a manger
Then more angels came - it couldn't have been
stranger
Could this be the Messiah with parents so poor?
The saviour king they had all waited for?

The answer was Yes as soon as they saw him
Though the light in the stable was terribly dim
There was nothing of darkness in that holy place
They fell to their knees as they gazed at his face
And Mary and Joseph smiled at each other
Mary's heart bursting with love as his mother

The star-gazing kings were still on their way
They'd called in on Herod that had caused a delay
Now they were hurrying to Bethlehem town
And were thrilled that their star was still shining down
They knelt to worship the babe they had sought
Then gave him the gifts for a king they had brought

And the star in the sky
Heaved a satisfied sigh
He'd led the kings well
But had much more to tell
About a heavenly birth
On this planet of Earth

UPCOMING SERVICES

Saturday 11th December

3.00pm Christingle – St Stephen's
5.30pm Carols for Christmas – St Luke's

Sunday 12th December

8.15am Sung Eucharist - Ayia Kyriaki
11.00am Holy Communion – St Luke's
11.00am Carol Service – St Stephen's

Readings:

Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Canticle: Isaiah 12: 2-6; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7-18

Sunday 19th December

8.15am Sung Eucharist - Ayia Kyriaki
11.00am Morning Worship – St Luke's
11.00am Holy Communion – St Stephen's
6.00pm Lessons & Carols - Ayia Kyriaki

Readings:

Micah 5: 2-5a; Canticle: Magnificent; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45

For the full December services see separate sheet issued previously.

LATEST NEWS

Website/Facebook

Have you checked our Parish website. There are photographs of the latest events, information about our services and forthcoming events. Check out Facebook too.

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Website:

www.paphosanglicanchurch.org
www.facebook.com/Anglican Church of Paphos

Weddings:

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