



Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf *scene@synod*

7-10 February 2022

Presidential Address

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it



**THE MOST REVEREND MICHAEL LEWIS
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF CYPRUS AND THE GULF
ARCHBISHOP PRIMATE OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN JERUSALEM AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

Here we are again in synod-by-zoom, and zoom is curiously both more and less intimate than real presence. It's more intimate because on zoom faces, and our looking at one another, are close, concentrated, and continuous (provided we don't turn off our video). It's less intimate, much less intimate, because human beings need full, real presence to have a chance of reading one another really and fully. These aren't novel observations but they matter, not least when there's mourning to be done, or concerns to be shared, or a celebration to be had, or a transition marked.

I said just now that there would be more about Bill Schwartz in a minute, and this is that minute. Bill—the Very Reverend and

Venerable Dr Bill Schwartz OBE—will retire at the end of April. I venture to say that there's been no one quite like him in the history of this Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, and I'm talking both quantity and quality. He's

There's been no one quite like the Very Reverend and Venerable Dr Bill Schwartz OBE in the history of this Diocese

been in the Eastern Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Middle East in the service of Christianity for fifty years, give or take. For the diocese he's functioned as layman, as deacon, and as

priest, in roles ranging from Diocesan Secretary to curate in Kyrenia to leading our presence in Saudi Arabia to spearheading the building of the Anglican Centre as parish priest in Qatar to becoming a canon to taking on the burdens that come with being Archdeacon in the Gulf to finally combining that task with

Words from Psalm 24 provided the theme for this year's Synod, held via Zoom on 7-10 February 2022.

It was the second consecutive Diocesan Synod to be held on Zoom, reflecting ongoing financial constraints faced by parishes and the uncertainties of international travel in the midst of covid.

Over 70 participants gathered for the event from across the Diocese and beyond, celebrating as full a sense of fellowship as possible—through worship, discussion, evening social events, and meetings of Houses of Clergy and Laity, as well as spiritual addresses by Synod Speaker the Revd Canon Dr Rachel Mash.

Canon Mash is Environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, Secretary to the Anglican Communion Environmental Network and a member of the Season of Creation steering group. Her thought-provoking addresses are reproduced on pages 4-5, 12-13 and 22-23.



**MONASTERY OF THE HOLY CROSS, ANOYIRA, CYPRUS
WATERCOLOUR BY ANETTA STYLIANO
BANNER IMAGE, SYNOD 2022 WEBSITE**

the Deanery of St Christopher's Cathedral in Bahrain. His wife Edith has been alongside him for all but the very last part of that half-century, when she committed herself to helping with the care of her grandchildren in California, and to Edie as well as Bill we mark our love.

So, if this were an in-person synod, imagine the fulness of our mixture of celebration and sadness at this, the most representative gathering of the totality and spread of the diocese. As it is, I know that in his parish of Bahrain his ministry will be marked in a heartfelt way when Julia and I are there in mid-March, and on this island a meeting soon after that will allow some of the people who have worked with him over the years to tell him face to face what they think of him (I haven't written my script, yet).

But I said I had in mind not just quantity of years but quality: and what I mean is quality of perspective and vision; and this is where this Address moves from the personal to the corporate, the communal. Bill looks forward. Back in the early 80s he was a pioneer in using computers, not just because he's one of nature's practical techies but for the good of the whole Church. Most of all, a mantra of his that I endorse and now repeat is that, when the Church, the diocese, a parish, considers a proposal or scheme either for a building project, or for congregational or vocational development, or for appointments of staff including clergy, we must be asking ourselves, How will this serve the Anglican Church and the cause of Christianity in this place and these places ten, twenty, fifty years in the future?

The tendency of much of the world to short-termism has been added to by the ravages of the pandemic. It's understandable that people say, Let's batten down the hatches or take the most defensive or cautious position we can, about what we have at the moment and about thinking ahead. Yet the undoubted fact that in many ways life feels pretty fragile at the moment shouldn't blind us to the fact that the life of human beings has felt, and been, fragile for much of past history; indeed, stability, comfort, and predictability have been the exception rather than the rule for our forebears, in all centuries. That's certainly true of this diocese and of the configuration of Anglican Christian presence that preceded it.

I think these times call for a dialogue between prudence and ambition, and at all levels. By ambition I mean something like trust in action: trust, faith (for Christians they're the same word) that God is

working the divine purpose out as year succeeds to year, even as 2019 to our consternation succeeded to the events of 2020 and 2021, even as they've now succeeded to this year of 2022; trust and Christian faith that God wants, and will with our cooperation if we use our God-given intelligence and resourcefulness ensure, our presence, worship, witness, ministry, mission, service, and corporate life in this region and diocese for 2032, 2042, and 2072 every bit as much as now, even if in evolving shape.

I said corporate life. It's wonderful that those who find our churches, and stay, come from so many varieties and traditions of the one Christian faith. It's a given of Anglicanism that our doors are open to anyone, and our altars to anyone baptized, and that our clergy and people are encouraged to engage with any enquirer of any background about the unique revelation of God in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and his Body the Church. Even though we usually keep any number of lists (subject to GDPR or whatever the initials are) we're essentially not a membership Church but a place and a society of free attendance by anyone who wants to come in and be either alongside us or of us.

Now, there are other expressions of Christianity, other Churches, congregations, and fellowships, that sincerely take a different line. But we don't, by definition. Anglicanism is to be firmly orthodox at its core, but our orthodoxy, expressed in the sacraments, the universal Creeds of the Church, the liturgy, and respectful, imaginative engagement with the Tradition of which we are simply the current manifestation, is to be inviting and generous.

The Anglican Communion is just that: a Communion, of Provinces that are either contiguous with a nation or even part of a nation, for instance Kenya, York and Canterbury, Hong Kong, or with a whole region, for instance Southern Africa, Central Africa, Alexandria, and ourselves in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Within each Province, which is headed by a Primate (me in our Province at the moment), are several dioceses each headed by a diocesan bishop (me in Cyprus and the Gulf for the last fourteen years). The bishop's core calling is to be the focus of unity, even when there are disagreements. The bishop is the president of diocesan synod. Synod consists of three Houses, seen especially when formal voting is needed: the House of Laity, elected to represent their particular parish in the wider counsels of the diocese (though not to be mandated delegates

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Vacancy-in-See Committee

Archdeacon Christopher addressed Synod regarding the Vacancy-in-See Committee, which is elected annually at Synod, noting that Archbishop Michael, Bishop of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, would be 70 in 2023.

The new committee would therefore be responsible for preparing a Statement of Need for the Autumn meeting of the Standing and Finance Committee, to be presented for approval at Synod in 2023.

It was further noted that when the Bishop was to announce the date of his retirement, the Committee would be further tasked with managing the search for the appointment of a new Bishop.

Preparation of a Statement of Need entails a process of consultation and discernment to draw up a document that reflects the hopes and challenges for the ministry of the next Bishop—and therefore the experience and skills required—as well as offering an introduction to the Diocese, including its distinctive characteristics and priorities.

It was noted that a period in which an episcopal vacancy was anticipated was not the appropriate time to propose any alteration to the shape and configuration of the Diocese or to the ministry of the Bishop. Rather, it would be for the new Bishop, alongside Synod, to develop the vision for the Diocese and for the Bishop's ministry.

Following a vote of Houses, Archdeacon Christopher was elected as Convenor of the Vacancy-in-See Committee.

Vacancy-in-See Committee Members

HOUSE OF CLERGY

THE VENERABLE CHRISTOPHER FUTCHER (CONVENOR)
THE REVEREND MICHAEL MBONA
THE REVEREND IAN NICHOLSON
THE VERY REVEREND JEREMY CROCKER (CYPRUS ALTERNATE)
THE REVEREND KENT MIDDLETON (GULF ALTERNATE)

HOUSE OF LAITY

MRS EDNA GREGORY
MR MARTYN HENRY
MR DAVID AXTELL
MRS LOUISE BOUGOURD
MR JAMES GIBBS
MRS SUE MANTOVANI
(CYPRUS ALTERNATE) MRS LYNETTE ORUC
(GULF ALTERNATE) DR ANGEL AFOLABI

(SEE PAGE 21 FOR HOUSE ELECTION RESULTS IN FULL)

Report Bishop's Council

The Venerable Christopher Futchter presented the Report from Bishop's Council/Standing Committee, which met three times during 2021 (by Zoom in February and May and in Cyprus in November), followed by its first meeting in 2022, held by Zoom on 26 January. Each meeting heard reports from the Director of Finance and the Director of Ministry, as well as updates relating to administrative aspects of the life of the Diocese. Correspondence received by the secretary was also discussed at the discretion of the Chair (Archbishop Michael), and responses considered.

The Archdeacons reported on activities in their respective archdeaconries, and the pandemic and its consequences played a very significant part in almost every item under discussion. Restrictions and lockdowns in all the nations of the Diocese, and the effects of this on people, worship and church life, were shared concerns. Restrictions on international travel have also impacted the life and work of the Diocese, especially the ministry of Archbishop Michael. The impact on parochial and diocesan finances has shaped the financial reporting for 2020 and 2021, and planning for future years.

The Archbishop kept the Council informed of his work as Primate and developments in the wider Province.

At the November meeting the Review of Ministry in the Diocese by the Ministry Team and the draft of a new Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and Code of Practice were discussed before being presented to Synod.

Bishop's Council also heard reports on personnel matters.



(L-R) ARCHDEACON IN THE GULF THE VEN BILL SCHWARTZ, ARCHDEACON IN CYPRUS THE VEN CHRISTOPHER FUTCHER, CYPRUS LAY REPRESENTATIVE MRS DEB GRAHAM, GULF LAY REPRESENTATIVE MR DAVID AXTELL, GULF CLERGY REPRESENTATIVE THE REVD KENT MIDDLETON, CYPRUS CLERGY REPRESENTATIVE THE VERY REVD JEREMY CROCKER, FINANCE DIRECTOR CANON JOHN BANFIELD AND BISHOP'S COUNCIL SECRETARY MRS GEORGIA KATSANTONIS

Reflection Scripture and Caring for Creation



Synod Speaker the Reverend Canon Dr Rachel Mash is Environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

She works with the Green Anglicans youth movement, and is Secretary to the Anglican Communion Environmental Network and a member of the Season of Creation steering group.

*The first of three Reflections Canon Mash delivered to Synod (see also pages 12-13 and 22-23) was on the theme of **Scripture and Caring for Creation**.*

These are just a few of her thought-provoking talking points

In the beginning,
God created.....

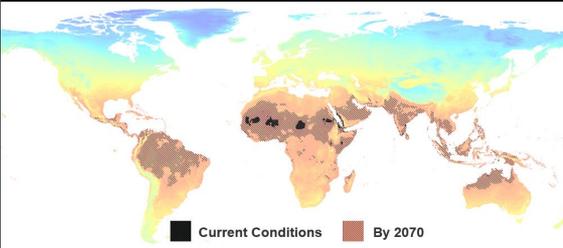


Genesis 2:15
15 The LORD God put humans in the Garden of Eden to work the soil and take care of the garden.

The First commandment

“Look after my earth”

Earth's “Uninhabitable” Zones



The 2006 – 2010 drought turned **60%** of Syria's fertile land into desert

...and drove **1.5 million people** into Syria's already crowded cities

Globally, floods and extreme rainfall events now occur **four times more often** than in 1980.

Data: Munich by via The Guardian

Drought



Rising temperatures affect crops, increase pests

On June 26 – 27, 2018, Quriyat, Oman set a world record for the hottest overnight low temperature ever recorded:

42.6° C (108.7° F)

The town remained above 41.6° C for 51 hours.



Major Groundwater Aquifers Losing Water



The UAE has the highest per capita consumption of water in the world. Additionally, for the past thirty years the water table of this region has dropped about one meter per year. At this current rate, the UAE will deplete its natural freshwater resources in about fifty years



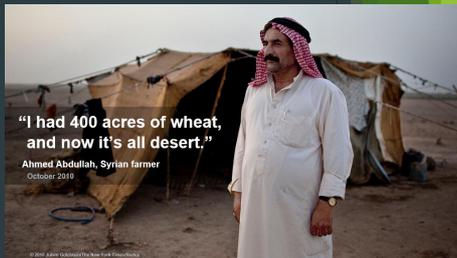


EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

With each additional 1° of temperature, the atmosphere's capacity to hold water vapor increases by 7%. Warmer air can hold more water



(UNHCR) released data showing that the number of people displaced by climate change-related disasters since 2010 has risen to 21.5 million, pointing out that "in addition to sudden disasters, climate change is a complex cause of food and water shortages, as well as difficulties in accessing natural resources."



I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable. Jer 2:7

of that parish), the House of Clergy, gathered as the expression of all the ordained ministers who hold the bishop's licence, and the House of Bishops, to be the expression at synod of all those within the geography of the diocese who actively share the Holy Order of the episcopate (in this diocese, with no assistant bishops, that's a House of one).

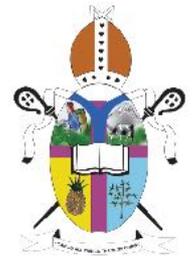
Synod is to model the way the wider diocese must be, and the parishes within it: solidarity around and overseen by the bishop, whose particular calling is to know, guard, and promote the faith once delivered to the Apostles, and people and priests, who share their cure of souls with the bishop who can't be there all the time but is the chief pastor of each parish as well as of the diocese as a whole, working together in their complementary roles, so that the Body, though made up of individual parts, may be a single organic whole. Autocracy by either bishops or clergy or councils is as foreign to authentic Anglicanism as congregationalism, and always must be.

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This way of Anglican identity as well as governance, which is also called our polity, is intended, I hope I don't need to say, for the glory of God, the flourishing of his Body the Church, and the good of all humanity. It means that we can never be content to define ourselves by locality alone, even while honouring place and particularity as blessed by the incarnate Son of God. It also means that we are eagerly to seek the good of the whole world. In these times, when the pandemic has reminded us that all borders on the planet are relative but when the temptation could easily be to circle the wagons, we who are Christians, let alone we as this Anglican diocese, know that won't do, precisely because *the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof*. In that spirit let's now go forward into all the sessions and days of this synod with both prudence and ambition, and relish the chance to consider together how best to love and care for Creation, whose Creator has always loved and will always love and care for us, way beyond even fifty years, into life eternal.

+ Michael Cyprus & the Gulf

Report from Companion Diocese Thika



The Venerable Joseph Kuria Wanyoike, Archdeacon of Ruiru, greeted Synod on behalf of the Right Reverend Dr Julius Wanyoike, Bishop of Thika, presenting news from the Companion Diocese

The second and third wave of the covid-19 pandemic continued to pose a challenge to churches in the Anglican Diocese of Thika, with a phased reopening of churches, limited numbers of people congregating, social distance and other health protocols affecting the ministry of the church. The church was considered a non-essential service provider, roadblocks were mounted, and clergy denied access to their churches. In May, however, citing a drop in infections in the country, the President eased some restrictions, including opening churches for worship.

Alongside the challenges, covid-19 presented opportunities to explore the more effective use of technology. Clergy switched to online services and social media, sharing the word of God and offering prayers to Christians at home. However, poor internet connectivity in rural areas and limited ownership of smart phones, particularly among the elderly, remained a constraint.

Archdeacon Joseph referred to “*Pools of Siloam*”, with pastoral staff offering care online where face-to-face visits were not possible, supporting the sick and bereaved. The Diocese also maintained a focus on the mental health and wellbeing of its clergy and staff, offering them support to help cope with the challenges of ministry in a pandemic.

Decade Ministry Strategy

The Diocese of Thika has embarked on planning for the future, developing a 10-year strategic plan. As part of efforts to streamline the administration of parishes, Bishop Julius has appointed four full-time archdeacons, to Gatanga, Gatundu, Cathedral and Ruiru Archdeaconries.

Archdeacon Joseph reported that Bishop Julius had confirmed 2,296 candidates in the course of the year, and licensed 55 lay readers. A series of forums for lay ministers addressed the role of the lay reader as a worship leader, preaching, and self-awareness in

ministry. Departmental Days (for the Diocesan departments of Children, Youth, Women and Men) were marked across the Diocese, culminating in a Diocesan Thanksgiving Day in appreciation for their work, and an archdeacons’ mentoring programme set up for clergy and outreach staff.

The work of the Namrata Shah Children’s home continues, providing care to more than 30 of Thika’s most vulnerable children. The home also acts as guardian to nine young people who have finished their secondary education and have now entered university or technical training. The home is supported by donations of food as well as funds for children’s school fees and care. “We are grateful to God and our partners that even in the midst of covid 19-pandemic, the home was sustained.”

Bishop Julius also carried out school visits, officiating Education Awards Day for Diocesan and church-sponsored schools.

We pray that God will continue to bless our tripartite link with the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf and the Diocese of Exeter.

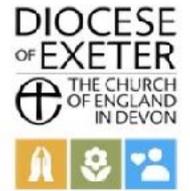
We pray that soon the covid-19 pandemic will be over so that the lives of people around the globe will go back to normal.

We pray that as a church we will continue offering the necessary support to our Christians, especially as they recover from the impact of covid-19.

May the church here in Kenya and in Cyprus and the Gulf remain the “Pool of Siloam” and the voice of hope.

THE RIGHT REVEREND DR JULIUS WANYOIKE AND
MAMA ESTHER NJUGUNA

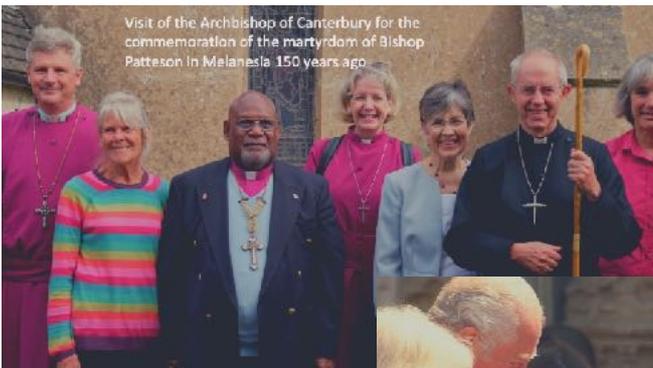
Report from Companion Diocese Exeter



Archdeacon of Plymouth the Venerable Nick Shutt looked back at a year of achievements and challenges in the Companion Diocese of Exeter — meeting the needs of the faithful in creative ways; growing congregations with a focus on particular age groups and those “on the edge of faith”; and tackling modern slavery, holiday hunger, social isolation, and personal debt.



We pray that 2022 will be the time when the pandemic recedes, and we can restore our face-to-face engagement with all our friends both near and far.



Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury for the commemoration of the martyrdom of Bishop Patteson in Melanesia 150 years ago

Modern Slavery Holiday hunger Social Isolation



Dealing with debt



The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall visited Exeter Cathedral for their first public event after the lifting of coronavirus restrictions in July 2021



BISHOP ROBERT ATWELL

Most of our parishes and mission communities have revealed their extraordinary resilience during the past year, but in truth even our largest churches feel a measure of apprehension about the future.

With our fellow citizens, we are learning to co-exist with this virus without being paralysed by fear or anxiety. With St Paul, we are walking by faith, not by sight.

Our 4 areas of focus:

Those on the edge of faith

MISSION TO 16 – 25 YEAR OLDS



MISSION TO OVER 60s

MISSION TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Reports

Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

Archbishop Michael briefed Synod members on the two meetings of Provincial Standing Committee held in 2021—the first in-person, in Larnaca in May and the second by Zoom in December.

Newly elected officers to Provincial Synod were Canon Fuad Dagher, succeeding Georgia Katsantonis as Provincial Secretary, and Archdeacon Christopher Futcher, succeeding Archdeacon Bill Schwartz as Provincial Treasurer.

The development of a Provincial Canon Law was again on the agenda, and the complexities of its rigid application across the Province noted. Members of the Provincial Standing Committee were vocal in their desire not to ignore the latter, committing to an investigation of the issue going forward, with a view to ensuring that a degree of flexibility was agreed upon and built in to the document, such that it would be widely accepted across the Province. The Provincial Constitution, approved by the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf at its 2021 Synod, was in the process of being approved by the Majma of the Diocese of Jerusalem and would then be referred back to Provincial Synod for its final reading.

Reports from the dioceses were circulated, and Archbishop Michael reported on his programme as Primate of the Province. Also on the agenda were reports by Joel Kelling on the Anglican Alliance, Mission to Seafarers and his work as Provincial Administrator. Archdeacon Bill presented a summary of Provincial assets and proposed a formula for their fair division between the reconfigured Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East and the newly formed Province of Alexandria.

Middle East Council of Churches

Archbishop Michael briefly reported on the Middle East Council of Churches, noting the appointment of its new head, Dr Michel Abs, and expressing the hope that his leadership would be an active and productive one.

Archbishop Michael added there had been no further progress towards the Anglican Church becoming a separate and independent family within the MECC, despite the fact that the Anglican Church are not in ministerial or sacramental communion with the MECC's other constituent parts.



Friends of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

The Reverend Canon Ian Calder, chair of the Friends of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, greeted Synod with news of two forthcoming events in 2022—an Exeter Day on 12 March, organised by the Venerable Nick Shutt, Archdeacon of Plymouth, and the annual retreat to Launde Abbey on 4-6 May. Both events had been postponed due to covid.

“Everyone who joins the Launde Abbey retreat finds it a joyful and rather wonderful occasion,” said Canon Ian—“a real opportunity to pray together for the ongoing work of the diocese. It will be so good to re-establish that link once again.”

The Exeter Day will include a Cathedral Eucharist and tour, and talks by Reader and former Abu Dhabi

head teacher Wendy Roderick and the Reverend Patrick Parkes.

In August the Friends celebrated the Eucharist at All-Hallows-by-the-Tower, followed by a well-attended annual meeting that Archbishop Michael addressed by Zoom. The Reverend Sophia Acland was particularly thanked for her hospitality. The Friends also met in York in October, including a “very wet” trip

to Bishops court.

Canon Ian also thanked Ron and Bernice Maitland for their ongoing work producing the Olive Branch—a Friends publication providing news from around the Diocese, and noted the Friends’ support for the Diocesan Foundation and its fundraising efforts.



Reports

Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf Foundation



Unlike most dioceses in the UK and indeed across the Anglican Communion, the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf has no endowment or capital sum from which to draw income or to serve as a cushion in times of financial stress. And the pandemic has left the Diocese—like its constituent parishes—in an exceptionally difficult situation, lending fresh impetus to an ambitious fundraising drive by the Cyprus and the Gulf Foundation, to raise £1 million (USD1.35

Particularly heartening was a donation from HRH The Prince of Wales

million) in support of the central organisation of the Diocese—more formally referred to as the Office of the Bishop.

The campaign has got off to an encouraging start. Foundation trustees Sibella Laing and Susan Cooper reported that a number of donations had been received, including from regular donors. Indeed, the importance of regular giving by smaller donors was emphasised, as well as legacies.

Particularly heartening was a donation from HRH The Prince of Wales—whom Sibella described as “extremely committed” to the region—along with a public statement of his support, and encouragement to others to donate.

A second, substantial donation from the Charitable Trust of the Sisters of the Love of God, for whom Archbishop Michael is Episcopal Visitor, has helped take the total raised to date to 100k euros (USD126k).

The Foundation working group has asked trustees to identify possible supporters, “stretching their nets as widely as possible”. Susan noted the role chaplaincies could play in notifying the Foundation of individuals whom it might approach—not just members of their congregations but also people who have perhaps appreciated the work of the church in the Diocese.

It was noted that while larger donations would help the Foundation reach its target more quickly, smaller donations were greatly appreciated—and indeed some donors preferred to give to an appeal with a wider base of support. “We still have people to approach and obstacles to iron out when trying to collect from people in a variety of lands,” said Susan. “But we have made a start—and all ideas are very gratefully received.”

Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association



Bishop Anthony Ball, chair of the Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association (JMECA—pictured left), reported that the new-version JMECA Council (trustees and Archbishop Michael) met in November 2021, the first such meeting since the approval in 2020 of constitutional changes bringing JMECA fully under the control of the Jerusalem and the East Mission Trust (JEMT) and merging the positions of JMECA and JEMT chairs. The Directors considered key areas of focus for the next few years, and the resulting document was circulated to Synod members.

It was agreed that Council members should have access to the accounts of JEMT and all charities managed by it. JEMT manages investments of over £10m, following the signing in 2021 of new Memoranda of Understanding with the Province of Alexandria, the Diocese of Iran, and the Overseas Bishops Fund (Egypt). Grants totalling £680.5k were paid across all charities managed by JEMT in 2021 (up from £547.8k in 2020): Diocese of Jerusalem £221.4k (£86.3k), Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf £188.4k (£38k), Diocese of Iran £0 (£25.3k) and the Province of Alexandria £270.7k (£398.2k—reflecting a £300k draw-down for a particular capital investment).

JEMT hosted appeals/special collections for Archbishop Hosam’s installation, for Al Ahli hospital in Gaza and (still current) for the building of the Good Shepherd Cathedral in Gambella, and for the re-opening of St Peter’s Church in Jaffa. An MoU signed with the St Andrew’s Society was expected to help ensure land and properties in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus continue to benefit the church.

Safeguarding remained a key area of focus, under Lead Director Dr Clare Amos (pictured right), who noted the high standard of the Diocese’s new policy. Dr Amos also referred to the potential for the wider dissemination of the biannual Bible Lands publication, edited by Dr Stephen Need.

Financial Report

2021 Diocesan Accounts



Diocesan Director of Finance Canon John Banfield presented the 2021 Diocesan accounts and 2022/23 Diocesan budget (next page), describing the straitened circumstances faced by parishes, the challenges posed to Diocesan programmes – and efforts to shore up Diocesan finances for the longer term



Accounts 2021 Income

Thousand Euros	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021
Parish Contributions	376	330	291
JEMT	48	50	63
TEC Good Friday Offering	110	35	13
Christ Church Aden	36	45	48
Foundation	28	30	28
Other Contributions	18	22	23
	616	512	466
JEMT/Province	40	113	155
	656	625	621



Accounts 2021 Expense

Thousand Euros	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021
Central Organisation	414	375	415
Meetings/Travel	42	40	38
Programmes	195	160	146
	651	575	599



Accounts 2021 Central Organisation

Thousand Euros	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021
Bishop	105	95	96
Archdeacons	108	100	134
Directors	9	5	11
Office Staff	161	145	144
Office Expenses	31	30	30
	414	375	415



Accounts 2021 Programmes

Thousand Euros	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021
Christ Church Aden	87	80	78
Ministry Training	66	35	39
Student Chaplaincy	23	20	14
Other	19	25	15
	195	160	146



Accounts 2021 Summary

Thousand Euros	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Actual 2021
Income	656	625	621
Expense	651	575	599
Operating Balance	5	50	22



Accounts 2021 Cash Balance

Thousand Euros		Actual 2021
Cash/Receivables		370
Designated Funds		-40
Payables	Province	-126
	Other	-114
Uncommitted Cash		90

Financial Report

2022/23 Diocesan Budget

Outlining the financial plan for 2022 and 2023, the Director of Finance emphasised that the Diocese was the sum of its parishes, clergy, laity and the central organisation, under the leadership of the Bishop.

The central organisation in Nicosia alone was not, he stressed, the Diocese; rather, it was the body responsible for overseeing and implementing those programmes ratified by Synod



Diocesan Objectives

- Support parishioners and clergy
- Serve people of all backgrounds in traditional sacramental worship
- Offer space and hospitality to Christian groups of other traditions
- Support the disadvantaged
- Encourage and develop vocations
- Promote ecumenism and interfaith movements
- Work for peace and justice



Plan Focus

- Enhancing relationships beyond the Diocese
- Providing education, ministry training and discipleship resources
- Supporting mission in Baghdad, Aden and Famagusta
- Working with Mission to Seafarers
- Maintaining high standards of governance
- Promoting effective communications
- Providing admin resources necessary to support the Diocese



Planning Process

Prior to 2020 -
 Total budget to support Synod approved activities
 Deduct estimate of income from outside donors
 Allocate balance to parishes in proportion to income

Since 2020 -
 Significantly reduced income
 Reduce programmes and expense to match

Principle -
 Contributions 10 percent of income less depreciation



Plan 2022 and 2023 Central Organisation

Thousand Euros	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Budget 2023
Bishop	105	96	100	100
Archdeacons	108	134	85	90
Directors	9	11	0	0
Office Staff	161	144	145	145
Office Expenses	31	30	30	30
	414	415	360	365



Plan 2022 and 2023 Programmes

Thousand Euros	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Budget 2023
Christ Church Aden	87	78	80	80
Ministry Training	66	39	20	20
Student Chaplaincy	23	14	10	10
Other	19	15	15	15
	195	146	125	125



Plan 2022 and 2023 Summary

Thousand Euros	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Budget 2022	Budget 2023
Income	656	621	435	470
Expense	651	599	525	550
Operating Balance	5	22	-90	-80

Reflection

Discipleship and Caring for Creation



The second Reflection delivered by Synod Speaker the Reverend Canon Dr Rachel Mash was on the theme of **Discipleship and Caring for Creation**.

A few of her insights, and a prayer

As people of faith, we don't just state our beliefs—we live them out. One belief is that we find purpose and joy in loving our neighbours. Another is that we are charged by our creator with taking good care of his creation.

(Archbishop Justin Welby)

A JESUS SHAPED MINISTRY

Jesus declared the kingship of God—'Thy kingdom come on this Earth.' The relationship between God, humans and creation was broken with Adam. Christ as the new Adam declares that God is king over creation.

The nature miracles are a foretaste of the renewal of creation, which will gradually be fulfilled as God intends.

FIFTH MARK OF ANGLICAN MISSION

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and re-new the life of the earth



► BIODIVERSITY

Jesus loved nature. His parables are full of stories.

► Fall in love with God's creation. Whether it is a small veggie garden in your house, or a patch of the street in front of your home, adopt a part of God's earth to fulfil God's mandate to 'till and work it' (Gen 2.15).

► Remember to consider biodiversity when you are doing your gardening or cleaning—choose environmentally friendly products that will not harm other creatures.

► As churches, adopt an area which is degraded and partner with others to restore it to life.

► Get your Sunday School involved in looking after the church garden and take your young people on hikes. *They will not protect what they have not learned to love.*



A SIMPLER LIFESTYLE

Jesus rejected consumerism and materialism. He asserted the value of people over money, relationships over profit.

He entered Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey not a stallion

He also recognized the power of money and the distancing effect of consumerism and profit from the values of community and creation. He compared the love of money to 'thorns, which grew up and choked the plants so that they did not bear grain' (Mark 4.19).

Jesus enjoyed life. He turned the water into wine, he ate sumptuous meals in the houses of rich people. He received support from Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and others, He was happy to borrow what he needed—boats, donkeys, rooms.

'Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants.' This is abundant life.



Compared with the amount of resources Earth can regenerate every year, we are now using the resources equivalent to 1.7 planets.

Every year we mark 'Earth Overshoot Day'—the day when we have consumed as much as the planet is able to restore in one year. In 2020 Earth Overshoot Day took place on 29th July. In 2022 it is projected for 1st of July

The sin of Adam and Eve was simple - they "ate beyond the limits"



SAVE WATER

Yet today, over half of the global population, or 4.2 billion people, lack safe sanitation, and two out of five people lack basic hand-washing facilities at home.

Starting with mending dripping taps and toilets, we can switch to low flow showerheads, dual flush toilet cisterns, grey water systems or install water tanks.

We can change to water-wise gardens instead of exotic water-guzzling plants, and make sure that we water when the sun is not high. We also need to make sure that we are recharging groundwater when it rains.



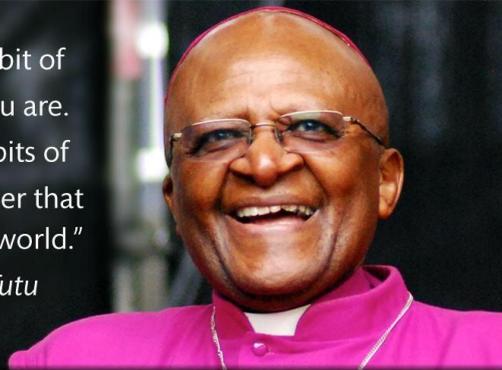
LET THERE BE NO WASTE

A basic starting point for reducing our consumerism is to get rid of waste. After the feeding of the 5,000 Jesus said, 'Gather up the leftovers, let there be no waste' (John 6.12).

It is estimated globally that almost a third of food is wasted, while almost a billion people go hungry. It is a sin to let food go to waste.



"Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."
- Desmond Tutu



greenanglicans

if we wait for the government it will be too late...

...if we act as individuals it will be too little...

...if we act as communities it might just be enough...



May we always walk gently upon the Earth, in right relationship, nurtured by your love, open to the wind of the Spirit, taking only what we need, always open to the needs of others, making choices that bring wellbeing, living with generosity, striving for justice, honouring all with reverence, reconciling and peace-making, mindful of those who will come after, recognising our proper place as part of your creation. Grant us the strength and courage, Lord, for such a radical transformation into your Kingdom. Amen.

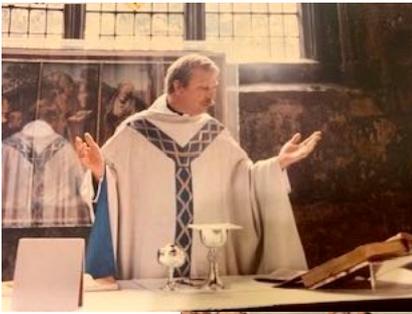


From Christian Aid and Christian Ecology Link)

The Very Reverend and Venerable Dr Bill Schwartz, OBE

The Very Reverend and Venerable Dr Bill Schwartz, OBE, Dean of St Christopher's Cathedral and Archdeacon in the Gulf, is retiring in 2022 after 40 years with the Diocese

(Photos: Edith Schwartz)



In 1976, newlyweds Bill—a young graduate of Tarkio College, Missouri—and Edith Schwartz arrived in Egypt, where Bill was to oversee the College semester-abroad programme. The plan was to return to the US at the end of a one-year contract—Bill to take up an academic post in Pre-Shakespearean Literature, and Edith to finish her degree in nursing.

But a change in direction followed a trip to Cyprus, where friends had set up a Youth With A Mission base for the Middle East. One year became three... and then Bill was asked to join Project Pearl—an Open Doors initiative to take one million Bibles into China.

Based in Limassol, the couple attended St Barnabas church, where Bill became a lay reader and a member of the church council (“With four young children, we significantly reduced the average age of the congregation,” Edith recalls), while helping to establish a new organisation, Ministry to Middle East Christians. In 1986, Bill was elected co-chair of the House of Laity, and Lay representative to the Diocesan Standing Committee and Provincial Synod. Thus began Bill’s many years of attending Synod—

“Each of the Cyprus parishes holds a special place in our hearts”

and his close association with the Diocesan Office, where he was responsible for introducing its first computer, an Apple Macintosh, in 1987.

“Each of the Cyprus parishes holds a special place in our hearts,” says Edith. “We began in Limassol, where some of our children were baptised. Bill helped out in Paphos, our children were confirmed in Nicosia, and Bill was involved in the first service in Famagusta, served as a deacon in Kyrenia, and travelled to Ayia Napa and the bases beyond.” St George-in-the-Forest in Troodos was a special place, too. As a lay reader, Edith often helped take services “when there were not enough clergy to go around”.

In August 1989 Bill was priested at All Hallows-by-the-Tower in London, after being deaconed by Bishop John at St Helena’s Larnaca the previous February.

Bill grew up a Catholic, and attended junior seminary. “But he was requested to leave because he asked too many questions,” says Edith. Indeed, his appreciation of all faiths and backgrounds, and love of the Middle East, are well known—and reciprocated. The Catholic Church in the Middle East

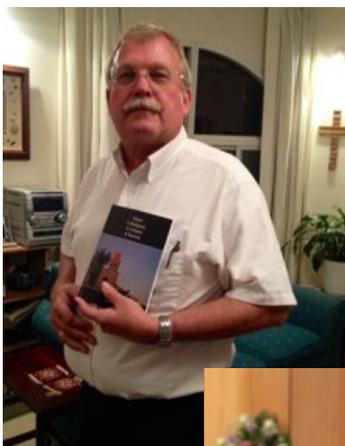
CAPTIONS

(OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT)

- BILL'S FIRST EUCHARIST AS PRESIDENT, AT ALL HALLOWS-BY-THE-TOWER, THE DAY AFTER ORDINATION (1993)
- EDITH AND BILL MARRIED ON 21 AUGUST 1976, SINGING FROM PSALM 90, TEACH US, DEAR LORD, TO NUMBER OUR DAYS
- BILL WAS ORDAINED AT ALL HALLOWS-BY-THE-TOWER WITH KATIE, LUKE, TOBY, ANNIE AND EDITH AT THE TOP OF THE BIG PYRAMID, WHICH BILL HAS CLIMBED SEVEN TIMES
- BILL DID HIS SUMMER RESIDENTIAL TERM AT ST DEINIOL'S IN WALES. "THE KIDS LOVED TAKING DADDY TO SCHOOL ON SUNDAYS AND PICKING HIM UP ON FRIDAYS" (1993)
- WITH EDITH IN SKOURIOTISSA, CYPRUS

(BELOW, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT)

- HOLDING A COPY OF HIS BOOK, UNDERSTANDING ISLAM
- PROVINCIAL SYNOD, LARNACA, JANUARY 1989
- INTERFAITH WORK WITH THE CHRISTIANS AWARE GROUP
- ON HIS FIRST DAY IN ETHIOPIA, BILL HELPED PULL A CROCODILE FROM THE RIVER, TO BE EATEN. VILLAGERS GAVE HIM A HIPPO-HIDE WHIP AS A WEDDING GIFT (1976)
- PROJECT PEARL—HELPING THE ORGANISATION OPEN DOORS TAKE ONE MILLION BIBLES INTO CHINA (1981)
- BILL RECEIVED HIS OBE FROM THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA SIR SHERARD COWPER-COLE, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FAMILY
- WITH HRH PRINCE CHARLES, IN DOHA



played a considerable part in the publication of his book, *Understanding Islam*.

In 2006, Bill was made an Honorary Canon of St Christopher's Cathedral in Bahrain. He was installed as chaplain in Qatar the following year, after serving the Canterbury Group for over seven years. During his time in Doha, he oversaw the construction of the Church of the Epiphany and the Anglican Centre. Then, in 2009, he became Archdeacon in the Gulf.

"Yemen and Iraq will always have a hold on Bill's heart," says Edith. "As Archdeacon in the Gulf, he has had the privilege of seeing those ministries through incredible times."

Edith recalls a conversation she and Bill had before joining the Canterbury Group, "about God leading us—the same day that Bishop Clive asked Bill to consider Saudi Arabia. It seemed right."

When a series of terrorist attacks hit the country, the Episcopal Church in the US called to ask details of their flight out. "Bill explained we were there to help and wouldn't leave," Edith recalls. "Of course, he had

to sign a waiver. He comforted the grieving, held memorial services, and I watched him stand in front of a machine gun one night, asking how to reach a victim in hospital. His OBE is from that time."

Bill chose to receive his OBE in Saudi Arabia rather than at Buckingham Palace, alongside the people who had suffered and served through that difficult time. Ambassador Sherard Cowper-Cole did the honours.

"Bill's vocation and call to service have existed in his life always," says Edith. "When he worked, he said we are building churches for those who are to come—always looking towards the future."

In the Spring of 2022, Bill will retire as Dean of St Christopher's Cathedral—a position he was appointed to in 2019. On the other side of the world in San Diego, California, a home and garden evoking more than 40 years in Cyprus and the Gulf await—citrus trees, pomegranate and Bill's hand-welded grape arbour. The Diocese wish Bill and Edith the happiest of days there, and celebrate all that they have achieved together.



CAPTIONS

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT)

- CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, DOHA, WITH ARCHDEACON EMERITUS IAN YOUNG, BISHOP CLIVE HANDFORD AND BISHOP MICHAEL LEWIS (2013)
- WITH MICHAEL COLE AND FR IAN NICHOLSON—“WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THEM AND THEIR LOVELY WIVES, ANNE AND CAROL”
- “AN ANGEL WITH A HISTORY OF WATCHING OVER US DURING TROUBLED TIMES”, WITH FR DANNY BORKOWSKI
- NABATEAN SITES, SAUDI ARABIA
- BABYLON, IRAQ—135°F. “THE ICE UNDER OUR HATS EVAPORATED BEFORE IT MELTED”

Reports

Ministry

*The Venerable Christopher Futcher, DDO
and Vocations Officer for Cyprus, reported to Synod on
Ministry (above) and Safeguarding (below)*



The three-yearly Theological Educators Meeting was held by Zoom in April 2021. The meeting provides an opportunity for external scrutiny of theological and ministerial education in the Diocese, including the Exploring Faith programme run in partnership with Queen's College, Newfoundland, in Canada.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Near East School of Theology (NEST—Beirut, Lebanon), the United Theological College (Bengaluru, India), and St Padarn's Institute (Llandaff) and St Mary's Centre (Bangor)—both in Wales—as well as the Anglican Communion's Director for Theological Education, alongside members of the Diocesan Ministry Team and representatives from Queen's. Outcomes from the meeting informed parts of the Ministry Team Review.

Two Discernment Conferences followed, in Cyprus in May and in Beirut in August—the first to be held since 2019. A total of seven candidates took part, and all were accepted by the Bishop as candidates for training.

A Summer School on the theme of Theological Reflection was held at NEST immediately after the

Beirut Discernment Conference. Held every two years, Diocesan Summer Schools add enormous value to the training of those preparing for ordained and lay ministry.

Other key events included the licensing of the Reverend George Vidiakin at St Helena Larnaca; the Admission and Licensing of Reader Clive Lawford at St John Deryneia; and the graduation of four students with BTh degrees from Queen's—all in October. A degree ceremony was held at St Paul's, Nicosia, for graduands Ray Elliott, Charlie Lloyd-Evans, Kevin Moore and Ian Nicholson (Hons).

A morning for Readers with Archbishop Michael was held in February 2022, with a Zoom meeting and service for the renewal of promises and licences.

The Reverend Canon Dr John Holdsworth concluded his two-year term as Honorary Director of Ministry in September 2021. We owe John enormous gratitude for his expertise and persistence in developing the ministry project in this Diocese. He will continue to facilitate Exploring Faith modules and to serve as a marker, as a member of Queen's College, Newfoundland.

*We owe the Reverend
Canon Dr John Holdsworth
enormous gratitude
for his expertise and persistence
in developing the ministry project
in this Diocese*

Safeguarding

Diocesan Safeguarding Officers met twice in 2021, with a focus on updating the 2017 Diocesan Safeguarding Policy to incorporate guidelines issued by the Anglican Communion's Safe Church Commission. The revised policy was considered by Bishop's Council in November 2021, to be approved by Synod before it can be implemented by the Diocese. Ensuring regular training of new and existing Parish Safeguarding Officers, as well as the induction of additional Officers, will be areas of focus going forward.

Safeguarding training for those holding the Bishop's Licence or Permission to Officiate was organised in Cyprus in November 2021. The majority of licensed and PtO clergy and all Readers in Cyprus have now attended such training, which will be delivered by Zoom throughout the Diocese and which all clergy must attend once every three years. All those involved in ministry with children and young people, pastoral care among vulnerable adults, and in leadership roles should also attend a training session. The Diocesan Office will maintain a record of attendance, and safeguarding training resources will be regularly updated. Diocesan training in safeguarding continues to be available for use in all parishes in Cyprus and in the Gulf. The disability resource pack is also available for use in parishes. Speaking as Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, the Venerable Christopher Futcher thanked Parish Safeguarding Officers for their work in ensuring that the Diocese observes high standards in safeguarding, and for addressing matters that arise.

Reports

Mission to Seafarers

إرسالة البحارة - دبي



The Reverend Canon Andy Bowerman, Regional Director of Mission to Seafarers (Middle East and South Asia), discussed the organisation's work and plans for the future

The Mission to Seafarers has been in the Middle East since 1885, with early posts in Port Said, Larnaca, Basra and Aden. Its 2022-26 Draft Strategic Plan for the Middle East and South Asia, shared with Synod, outlines MtS work in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Prioritising port-based ministry, MESA currently has access to around 20 ports, with a planned increase to 30 over the next five years.

The plan highlights focal areas of action in the Middle East, including a review of Bahrain; reduced staffing in Jordan and the UAE; and possible new Chaplaincies in Egypt, Israel and one other during (KSA, Iraq or Yemen); exploring further potential in Kuwait, Oman, Iran, Lebanon; reviewing the position of Cyprus within Europe; and exploring potential to improve anchorage support through provision of speed boat based in UAE.

An ongoing programme aims to train and equip team members to advocate in an appropriate and more effective manner within the context they find themselves. A planned review will assess the impact of media coverage on abandonment and in securing improved lives and repatriation for seafarers—“ensuring that during the next phase of our strategy we have a co-ordinated regional response and that we are wise and courageous about when we speak out and speak up for seafarers”.

MtS will continue to explore ministry models that use a Chaplain already located in or near a port. There will also be efforts to explore, with key people on the ground and in the region, the appropriate model of ministry in more conservative Muslim settings such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq. This will include considering introducing a Muslim Chaplain.

The Plan highlights the fact that at least half of the current Mission family is expected to move on in the

coming five years—posing the most significant area of risk to MtS in the region. It was therefore essential to ensure smooth transitions across the team, with the process of succession planning well underway.

The Mission has good connections with the regional

maritime sector, which often results in gifts in kind. The goal is to seek an appropriate level of local support in all new port provision—both in kind as well as direct financial support. MtS will also continue to build connections with local churches to encourage them to

support Mission activities across all areas but especially within the UAE.

All Archbishops of the Provinces within MESA's jurisdiction (Alexandria, Jerusalem and The Middle East, Church of North India (CNI), Church of South India (CSI) and the Diocese of Ceylon) will nominate, on a rotation basis, representatives to the new MESA regional governance committee. We have listened to the views of the Provinces in seeking to determine our priority areas for the coming years recognising that the presence of the Mission to Seafarers in some countries in our region will be a significant encouragement to the local church, not just to seafarers—for example in Basra in Iraq, where the UK FCDO is investing in the port and surrounding areas, while the national church is also trying to re-establish its presence in the church founded by MtS in the 1930s.

The Chat to a Chaplain service was also referred to, with Team members describing it “as a source of life and hope themselves during the past nine months”. The MESA region MtS has said it is “committed to building on the virtual work we do”, including giving “more consistency to the messaging and support we are giving”.

*MtS exists to
share God's love and grace
with all seafarers and their families
by caring for them
inclusively and holistically
in often
challenging circumstances*

Anglican Alliance

*Joel Kelling, Anglican Alliance Facilitator
for the Middle East, reported on work
including Synod-related themes of
Creation Care and Climate Justice*



In preparation for the COP26 UN climate change conference held in Glasgow in November 2021, the Anglican Alliance hosted a series of webinars for church leaders, aimed at increasing knowledge and understanding of the science, theological responses and practical opportunities to engage with national governments and to advocate for greater ambition. The Anglican Alliance co-developed the Anglican Communion COP Position Papers on Climate Justice, with a focus on the need for just climate financing (grants, not loans) and capacity building in for more resilient communities.

Joel reported on his role as Climate coordinator for the ACT Alliance's Climate Justice Community of Practice, working alongside churches and church-based NGOs in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq (Kurdistan), Jordan, Palestine and Egypt. The MECC, which is a member of the ACT Alliance, helped to ensure the translation into Arabic of Season of Creation resources. The Reverend Dr Rima Nasrallah, who addressed Synod in 2020, is now engaged in MECC's environmental work is also on the global board of the ACT Alliance.

The Anglican Alliance has begun to plan for COP27, due to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt, and COP28, to be hosted by the UAE in Dubai. The Province of Alexandria is beginning a Green Anglican movement in Egypt (in partnership with CAPA), and a pre-COP27 workshop to develop the knowledge and capacity of Middle Eastern Christians to engage in issues of Climate Justice is due to be held, probably in Cairo. Prior to COP27, the UAE is hosting the first MENA Climate week, where issues of ambition, climate financing and proposals for change will be discussed. Joel will be presenting a position paper on behalf of the Anglican Alliance, and he invited anyone from parishes in the UAE who would be interested in participating to contact him.

Social Concern

*Diocesan Social Concern Officer
the Reverend Anne Fatcher updated Synod
and invited feedback on her role and remit*



The Reverend Anne Fatcher reported that the primary focus of the Social Concern Officer in the Cyprus context was to coordinate Diocesan responses to asylum-seekers (around 4% of the population), refugees and victims or those at risk of modern slavery. This role had now been extended to the Gulf, where the focus was more on the needs of working-age migrants, and where churches were not allowed to act as social services agencies.

Work in Cyprus could be categorised under the four broad themes of prevention, protection, partnership and prayer. And while an adjusted framework could to be more appropriate to the Gulf context, key aspects of prevention—increasing awareness, knowledge and engagement within church communities, through briefings, preaching and teaching, and participating in acts of solidarity—were useful in a wide range of settings. It was also important to increase the resilience of vulnerable individuals by building greater awareness and understanding of risk.

Prayer was central to social concern: the ministry of prayerful pastoral accompaniment, sharing in worship and Bible study as fellow Christians, and gathering to serve as a 'hothouse of prayer'.

Next Steps in Cyprus

Social Concern Co-ordinators in each parish; further develop relationships through networking meetings; initiatives in all four thematic areas

Next Steps in the Gulf

Seek conversation with each parish priest to reflect on their social concerns and contextual constraints, and church responses; aspirations—and possibilities; learning and support across the Diocese; how a Diocesan Social Concern Officer can best serve as a useful point of contact, in the Gulf as well as Cyprus.

Reports

Barnabas Team



Diocesan Discipleship Adviser and St Barnabas Limassol parish priest the Reverend Ian Nicholson outlined the work of the Barnabas Team—a network of clergy and lay members from across the Diocese, working to encourage spiritual development and enrich discipleship, leading to effective witness and mission.

The Barnabas Team acts as a resource, facilitating spiritual direction and retreats, and sharing ideas for prayer growth, youth ministry and discipleship.

Material developed by the Team includes a newsletter, Lenten studies, pastoral-care team training, parish Quiet Days and Growing Discipleship courses. The Team also worked on upgrading the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy, and developing resources for the training and accrediting of worship leaders.



“We are here to bring a mix of ideas, experiences and working knowledge to grow and develop both personal and corporate faith and capacity within the Diocese. Use us, we are here to help!”

Retreats



The Barnabas Team update included a report from Retreats Facilitator Maggie Le-Roy, who described her work as a Spiritual Director, running individual and group guided retreats, both in-person and online, reaching people around the Diocese and the wider world. A particular highlight of 2021 was a weekend retreat for a group of 30 Armenian church youth leaders staying at a mountain retreat in Lebanon, with Maggie leading sessions via Zoom.

An especially important part of the Diocesan Retreats offering is Katafiyio—a self-contained, simple, yet well-resourced facility in the mountains of Cyprus, providing exceptionally beautiful surroundings for walks, bike trails and peaceful contemplation. Katafiyio is available for retreats—or a holiday—at affordable rates, year-round.

Maggie also circulates a monthly Retreats newsletter, as well as caring for the garden Labyrinth at St Paul’s Cathedral, Nicosia.

If you would value speaking confidentially with a Spiritual Director, or if you or your group would benefit from a guided retreat or would like to book a retreat or holiday at Katafiyio, please contact Maggie:

email retreats@cypgulf.org

tel +357 9915 5092

Or visit www.cypgulf.org/retreats

House Elections

House of Laity

House of Clergy



GULF CHAIR
DR ANGEL AFOLABI



CHAIR
THE REVD IAN
NICHOLSON

*The House of Laity and House of Clergy held
elections to a number of positions
(newly/re-appointed members noted in bold; for
Vacancy-in-See Committee, see page 3)*

BISHOP'S COUNCIL/STANDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

HOUSE OF LAITY

Elected Members

Cyprus: Mrs Deborah Graham 2020 – 2023
Gulf: Mr David Axtell 2022 – 2025 *(re-elected)*

Elected Alternates

Cyprus: Mr William Grundy 2020 – 2023
Gulf: Ms Lucy Makina 2022 – 2025

HOUSE OF CLERGY

The Ven Christopher Futchter

The Very Revd and Ven Dr Bill Schwartz

Elected Members

Cyprus: The Very Revd Jeremy Crocker 2022 – 2025 *(re-elected)*
Gulf: The Revd Kent Middleton 2022 – 2025 *(re-elected)*

Elected Alternates

Cyprus: The Revd Ken Waters 2021 – 2024
Gulf: The Revd Canon Andy Bowerman 2021 – 2024

CHAIRMEN OF THE HOUSE OF LAITY

Cyprus: Mrs Deborah Graham 2022 – 2025
Gulf: Dr Angel Afolabi 2022 – 2023 *(re-elected – Acting Gulf Chair for one year)*

Alternates

Cyprus: Mrs Christine Hoskins 2020 – 2023
Gulf: Mrs Lucy Holland 2021 – 2024

CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF CLERGY

The Revd Ian Nicholson 2022 – 2025 *(re-elected after serving one-year term)*

PROVINCIAL SYNOD

HOUSE OF LAITY

Cyprus: Mrs Deborah Graham 2021 – 2026
Gulf: Mr David Axtell 2021 – 2026

Elected Alternates

Cyprus: Mrs Sue Mantovani 2022 – 2027
Gulf: Mr Max Heineck 2018 – 2023

HOUSE OF CLERGY

The Ven Christopher Futchter 2021 – 2026

Elected Alternates

The Revd Faiz Jerjes 2022 – 2027

Reflection

Action and Advocacy



*The third and final Reflection delivered by Synod Speaker the Reverend Canon Dr Rachel Mash was on the theme of **Action and Advocacy**—opening with the stark observation that for young people today, climate change is a source of intense anxiety, the depth of which older generations do not always understand*

Is Care for Creation not a side track from more important spiritual issues?

What about the new earth? Rev 21:1

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

“New” earth . there are two words in greek. Neos and Kainos. If I smash my car completely and I get a brand new car NEOS. Panel beating is KAINOS . Not brand new, but renewed and restored, redeemed, upcycled. Let us talk about renewed creation not new creation



This we know: the earth does not belong to us.
The earth is the Lord’s and so are all its people

This we know: we did not weave the web of life.
The earth is the Lord’s and so is all that breathes on it

This we know: we are called to till and work the earth.
The earth is the Lord’s and so are all who work the land.

This we know: that we are called to take care of creation.
The earth is the Lord’s yet we have polluted and abused it.

This we know; that whatever befalls the earth
Befalls the sons and daughters of the earth
This we know: that the earth is the Lord’s
And so we will serve God in it

(Bishop Eric Pike)

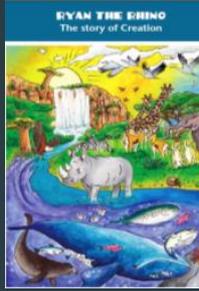
STUBBORN OPTIMISM

‘When it comes to climate change, the vast majority of us have a learned reaction of helplessness, we see the direction the world is headed and we throw up our hands. Yes it is terrible, but it is so complex and so big and so overwhelming. We can’t do anything to stop it.

This learned response it not only untrue, it is fundamentally irresponsible. Know that you are incredibly lucky to be alive at a time when you can make a transformative difference to the future of all life on earth” You are not powerless. Your every action is suffused with meaning and you are part of the greatest chapter of human achievement in history” Christiana Figueres “The future we choose”



CHURCH ACTIONS START WITH SPIRITUALITY



- ▶ Season of Creation
- ▶ Sunday School and youth
- ▶ Find indigenous liturgies
- ▶ Get out in nature
- ▶ Celebrate Environmental Days
- ▶ Ecumenical acts/worship



CHURCH LOCAL ACTIONS

- ▶ Key learnings
- ▶ Get leaders involved
- ▶ Make it fun
- ▶ Use Social media to spread the movement
- ▶ Link tree planting with spiritual moments
- ▶ Change the Canons.



SO MANY ISSUES!

Follow your heartbreak
Make Sacrifices

Individual action - and join a network/campaign

ADVOCACY

Prov 31: 8 speak up for those who have no voice

Amplify the voices of young people

- Let them take the lead in comms
- 2 min slots, video clips, whatsapp messages
- Use #hashtags so they can find each other
- Make activities fun - 'holy hikes', 'water disciples'
- Sunday school kids LOVE this stuff
- Teenagers/consumerism



Parish reports

St George Baghdad



A video report from the parish of St George Baghdad shared joyful images of worship, as well as snapshots of life at St George's Anglican School of the Redeemer (Al Fadi) and clinic.

The video also reported on significant events, including the Reverend Canon Faiz Jerjes's meeting with the Prime Minister of Iraq, His Excellency Mustafa al Qadhimi, and the end of 2021. Earlier in the year Fr Faiz (top right) joined Archbishop Michael in a meeting with Ayatollah Hussein al Sadr, the most respected Shi'a authority in Baghdad. A second meeting was held with senior Iranian diplomats. Fr Faiz also travelled with Archbishop Michael and Archdeacon Bill Schwartz to Erbil, capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, to meet His Excellency Pshtiwan Sadq Abdullah, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, to discuss the possibility of establishing a ministry serving foreign expatriates in the north of Iraq. The group were also received by His Holiness George III, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East. The video, compiled by Lay representative Sinan Kakarash (top left), closed with Fr Faiz offering his greetings to Synod.

St Barnabas Limassol



The parish of St Barnabas Limassol provided a video report to Synod on the theme of Reusing in a Pandemic, by two young members of the congregation—Harriet Rich and Dimitar Uzunov. The film followed Ruth Welford, a prolific maker of jam using homegrown fruit, and Nora Ananiades, who collects olives from the grove she tends with her husband to be processed in a local press.

These handmade products are a hit at church fairs, and a wonderful reminder of the pleasure that comes from raising funds in simple, fulfilling ways: getting busy tending a garden—and making delicious jam and olive oil in the process.

UNEP

Faith for Earth Initiative

Dr Iyad Abu Moghli



The Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Faith for Earth Initiative, Dr Iyad Abu Moghli, made a video address to Synod on the role of religion in tackling environmental disaster. Describing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, degradation and pollution, Dr Abu Moghli referred to the disappointing outcomes of the recent COP26 conference and the indisputable reality of a catastrophe caused by human activity: of policies that put health before wealth and short-term gain before long-term sustainability.

Arguing that religions can offer the ontological vision and metaphysical connection between humans and the rest of creation, he described environmental ethics as moral obligations for humans—“inscribed for us in our holy scripts and commandments of God. Religions command humans to condemn greed and corruption. Religions urge humans to walk gently on Earth.”

Under the Faith for Earth Initiative three multi-faith working groups and four councils have been established—of faith leaders, of young people, and of chief executives of faith-based organisations, as well as a consortium of representatives from scientific and religious groups. The Initiative also works with religious organisations to harness their massive resources to deliver on spiritual responsibilities, including green investment, the careful management of the land, and education. “Faith organisations are the fourth-largest economic power on Earth,” said Dr Abu Moghli. “Religious institutions own 8% of habitable land—64 times the size of the UK.”

Faith for Earth has called on religious institutions to be “beacons of global change”, highlighting their central role in education, as owners of half the world’s schools and more radio stations than the European Union. But Dr Abu Moghli ended with a call to individuals who, he said, had a moral and spiritual responsibility to reduce their footprint on Earth.



**QUIZ
MASTER
KELLY SPENCE**



**COFFEESHOP HOST
GEORGIA
KATSANTONIS**



**MONICA LAMBROU
LED GET-UP-AND-
STRETCH**

Synod gets social

A virtual Synod poses a number of challenges—especially when it comes to opportunities for participants to interact socially. But the rapid growth in online events has prompted a similar surge in creativity, which a Zoom Synod was able to make the most of. An evening Coffeeshop, hosted by Georgia Katsantonis on the first night of Synod, offered a chance to catch up with old friends and meet new arrivals. Many participants particularly value the unique sense of community Synod provides, and Georgia—the Archbishop’s personal assistant and the longest-standing member of Diocesan staff—was, as always, the perfect person to bring the warmth and togetherness of Synod to the fore.

For those anxious to counter a day in front of the computer with a little (gentle) exercise, Monica Lambrou led Get Up and Stretch—a half-hour routine for all abilities, requiring nothing more than a chair, while quiz master Kelly Spence tested minds with a series of challenging queries. Team players Jacquie Hammond, Sarah Sait and Carolyn Hart triumphed as Diocesan masters of general knowledge, beating last year’s champion mother-and-daughter team Sue and Laura Mantovani by half a point—44.5 to 44—to win an all-inclusive stay at the Diocesan Retreats facility, Katafiyio. The winners generously decided to gift their prize to Paphos parish priest the Reverend Ken Waters and his wife, Wendy.

Synod Motions

Motion 1

Synod approves the holding of this virtual meeting of the 2022 Diocesan Synod. Lay and ordained Synod members, who have joined a virtual Synod session, shall be deemed present. The usual meeting rules, including the chairing and minuting of proceedings, will be observed. Voting by 'a show of hands' (Standing Order 63) is accepted as including its electronic equivalent.

The motion was approved: Yes 40; No 0; Abstentions 0

Motion 2

Synod receives and approves Synod 2021 minutes

The motion was approved: Yes 37; No 0; Abstentions 1

Motion 3

On behalf of the Synod, the Vacancy-in-See Committee during 2022 shall write a Statement of Need in preparation for the appointment of a Bishop of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. The Statement of Need will be presented to the Standing and Finance Committee in October 2022 in preparation for approval at Synod 2023.

The motion was approved: Yes 39; No 0; Abstentions 1

Motion 4

Standing Orders refer to 'Three members elected by the House of Clergy, one of whom shall be appointed as convener' [72(a)(i)]. However, it is not made clear how the appointment of the convener shall be made. It is therefore for Synod to decide whether:

- a. The House of Clergy electing its three members to serve on the Vacancy-in-See Committee shall appoint one to serve as convener; or
- b. The Synod shall appoint one of the three members elected by the House of Clergy to serve as convener; or
- c. The Vacancy-in-See Committee shall appoint one of the three members elected by the House of Clergy to serve as convener.

The motion (option b) was approved: (a) 8; (b) 26; (c) 3

Motion 5

Synod receives and approves the Diocesan financial statements for 2021

The motion was approved: Yes 41; No 0; Abstentions 1

Motion 6

Synod receives and approves the proposed Diocesan budget for 2022/23

The motion was approved: Yes 38; No 2; Abstentions 2

Motion 7

Synod authorises Standing Committee to sign loan agreements up to €100,000 during 2022 if required

The motion was approved: Yes 38; No 4; Abstentions 2

Motion 8

Synod receives and approves the Report of the Ministry Review

The motion was approved: Yes 41; No 0; Abstentions 0

Motion 9

Synod receives and adopts the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy (2022) and the Code of Practice

The motion was approved: Yes 38; No 1; Abstentions 1

Motion 10

All parishes within the Diocese are required to pay to the Diocese 10% of their gross income, minus depreciation, in respect of their annual parish contribution. Those parishes who are unable to meet this requirement must apply, to the Standing and Finance Committee, for exemption or part-thereof.

The motion was not approved: Yes 8; No 31; Abstentions 6

Motion 11

This Synod expects each parish of the Diocese to make a brief annual report to the Diocesan Synod, the format and requirements of which can be decided annually by its Bishop, and that parishes (churches) be an item on the Synod Agenda with ample time for discussion and sharing.

The motion was approved: Yes 37; No 1; Abstentions 2

Vote 1

Synod approves appointment of new JEMT Trustee

Approved: Yes 38; No 0; Abstentions 2

Vote 2

This Synod elects one of the following to be the convener of the Vacancy-in-See Committee:

The Venerable Christopher Fatcher	(21 / 41)
The Reverend Ian Nicholson	(20 / 41)