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(Don't forget Friday is my day off - most weeks)

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ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS



St. Stephen's
Tala



Ayia Kyriaki
Kato Paphos



St. Luke's
Prodromi

WEEKLY NEWS

Sunday 19th February 2023
(Sunday next before Lent)

WELCOME

It was good to get back to the Parish and home after Synod. Unfortunately many took an extra gift home (Covid), praise God I'm testing negative (twice is enough!). It's nice to settle back into the routines of 'normal' life. Enjoy this week's edition.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Collect:

Almighty Father, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer for the week ahead for our Parish and Ourselves.

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for glorious week ahead of us. Let us greet everyday with a smile. Lets us see the days ahead as opportunities to fulfil our lives, the lives that you want for us. Let it be a week of promise, of love in action, alive and outstretched. A week of unity, mending broken lives, where we build bridges of peace and restoration. A week of celebration, of worship to a living Lord who holds heaven out to us and proclaims life over death. Let us greet this coming week with a smile. Amen.

Encouraging Words:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God."
Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

Our Diocese:

See the downloadable Prayer Calendar here:

<https://www.cypgulf.org/prayer-diary/>

Daily Readings:

For readings and the daily service of morning prayer, evening prayer and compline, please download

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/daily-prayer-app-and-podcast>

A Prayer For The People Of Turkey And Syria

God of mercy, we pray for the people of Turkey and Syria following the recent earthquakes. We mourn the death and destruction and pray for those who have died and those who grieve. We hold in our hearts those who are injured and those who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, and

Please Bear With Me

(Adapted from Lance Landall)

When I look at the Bible, I see a book of love, one that's written for us, Conveying comfort, promises, wisdom, instruction and warnings from Jesus. He is not only the God of love, but the God of truth, hence His warts and all book,

Lest a devil, charlatans, or bad influences in this world put us crook.

And I seeing our Weekly News in a similar way, things written in love too, Conveying comfort, hope, sound advice, warnings and truth — yes, same warts and all too.

I likewise as concerned as God, though there is a difference here, because I, Unlike Him, have indulged in what's wrong, and of the ill of such, can testify.

And so, my Weekly News being *my* book of love, written for all too, A seed sowing exercise, though any sprouting having more to do with you. Those seeds either falling on stony ground or receptive soil, and why I toil, Wanting the best for humanity too, both of us, lest things mar, destroy or spoil.

Oh yes, I'm still learning, but sharing what I've learnt so far, and while I *can* do,

I, not here forever, and should I wait, it might become too late to pursue.

My book of love hardly comparable with God's, but a book nevertheless, Written in love and with the best of intentions too, and why I pray it'll bless.

SERVICES

Sunday 19th February – Next before Lent

8.15am Sung Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki

11.00am Morning Worship St Luke's

11.00am Holy Communion St Stephen's

Readings:

Exodus 24: 12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1: 16-21; Matthew 17: 1-9

Wednesday 22nd February – Ash Wednesday

9.00am Holy Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki

11.00am Holy Communion St Stephen's

5.00pm Holy Communion St Luke's

Readings:

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51: 1-18; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b 6: 10; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Sunday 26th February – Next before Lent

8.15am Sung Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki

11.00am Holy Communion St Luke's

11.00am Morning Worship St Stephen's

Readings:

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11

Mid-week Holy Eucharist every Wednesday at 9.00am at Ayia Kyriaki

homes. Sustain and guide all responding to this disaster. Grant those affected courage and resilience, as they rebuild their lives and communities. Inspire us to unite in solidarity, acting swiftly and generously, so that help may reach all who need it. Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope. Amen.

A Prayer For The Peoples Of Ukraine

Lord God, we ask you to be with all who are suffering as the crisis in Ukraine worsens. Lord for those who are anxious and fearful. For all families. For those who are bereaved, injured or who have lost their lives. And for those who have lost loved ones. For those who are helping in any way they can. Lord hear our prayers. Amen.

GOD SLOT

Here we are a, mid February, (doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself). Round about this time of year with the cold mornings I think the majority of us need something to get us started. To make the effort to peep from under the bedclothes and take that first step into the new day. In Cyprus the majority of homes don't have central heating, and this makes me quite nostalgic, because as kids in the North East, central heating consisted of a fire in the living room and that was it, so bedrooms were always cold. That apart, I love the start of a new day, even one where you are dragged from your dreams by an enthusiastic dog jumping on the bed at 5.45 telling us it's time for 'walkies'. There is just something glorious about that opportunity for a fresh start, a new beginning, what has passed has happened and there's nothing you can do about it. You have the new day where you can make a difference. With Jesus in our life there is always a new beginning. He gives us the opportunity to start again. I grabbed that chance and found such joy and beauty in things that I had just taken for granted – like waking up to a new morning. Now that is one of my simple pleasures.

PS. My wife has pointed out that music must be one of my pleasures as another bill has come in for music downloads on iTunes!

God Bless

Revd Ken

JOKE SPOT

Little Johnny was the Human Resources Officer and reaching the end of a job interview, asks a young engineer fresh out of the Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replies, "In the region of €125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." Little Johnny smiles and says, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks holiday, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a Mercedes?" The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" Little Johnny replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

MY OLD PARISH

(Submitted by Gerry Rock, St Stephen's)

On returning to St Stephen's after a recent trip back to the UK I began wondering where everyone worshipped before they came to Cyprus. I thought it would be an interesting article for the newsletter.

I came to Cyprus 4 years ago and for the previous 30+ years and, whenever I go back to the UK, I worship in the Parish of Warblington with Emsworth, which is part of the Diocese of Portsmouth on the south coast of the UK. We are a Parish of 2 Churches, St James in Emsworth and St Thomas a Beckett in Warblington. St Thomas a Beckett is located in a Conservation area near Havant, the oldest part of the Church was built by the Saxons with various additions made in the 13th and 19th centuries. The Church is Grade 1 listed. The worship here is very traditional and most services follow the 1660 Book of Common Prayer. In the Churchyard there are two Grade II listed grave-watchers huts that were built to stop "body-snatchers".

There is also a grand Yew tree, which is believed to date from 1800s. St Thomas a Beckett is very popular location for weddings although the arrival of the bride does have to be timed to perfection as the local Farmer does like to send his dairy cows across to the field from his farm, which is next to the Church. St James is located in the heart of Emsworth and was built in 1840 by public subscription, to serve a growing population in the village. The Church School was also originally in the Churchyard until a

more modern larger one was needed in the 1960s. St James offers a variety of services to suit all ages. As well as the twice-weekly Holy Communion services there are monthly Breakfast Church, BIBLE2GO & Wild Church which are very popular with the growing number of young families. The Parish Priest is the Reverend Andrew Sheard who came to the Parish in 2018 who has a great team supporting him. More information on the Parish can be found on www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org or on Facebook WarblingtonwithEmsworth.

NOTICES

FUNDRAISING

- 1) **Spring Fayre.** A Spring Fayre is planned for Saturday 22nd April at St Stephen's and we are looking for bric-a-brac items; cakes, jam, marmalade, pickles; jewellery; plants and any new stall ideas that will help raise money for the church. Contact Chris Hoskins on 97753973
- 2) **Variety Show.** Are you, or do you know, a good stage magician? Also we are still looking for someone with a strong Yorkshire or Lancashire accent. If you can help please ring Ann Bailey on 99175785.
- 3) **Sue & Lou's Charity Bottles.** The last date for collection of bottles is 26th March, please have yours ready to hand in by that date. Many thanks.

SAVE THE DATES

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| 21 st February | Beetle Drive |
| 3 rd March | World Day of Prayer Service at St Stephen's at 2pm |
| 25 th March | Barn Dance |
| 28 th March | Nicosia Coach Trip |
| 22 nd April | Spring Fayre |
| 8 th May | Coronation Garden Party |
| 27 th May | Variety Show |
| 3 rd or 10 th June | Mini Golf |