

An e-bulletin of news, information and notes for clergy and lay leaders sharing in the ministry within the Diocese.

POST EPIPHANY AND PRE-LENT



(Pictured are the Magi arriving at the crib scene in Christ Church, Lille)

Welcome to the first edition in 2016 of this occasional newsletter from the Communications Committee, keeping clergy, Readers and lay leaders, churchwardens, secretaries and treasurers updated about news and developments in our diocese. You will find here some items which may have been featured in The European Anglican or on our website new pages but also matters of more domestic interest to our churches and chaplaincies.

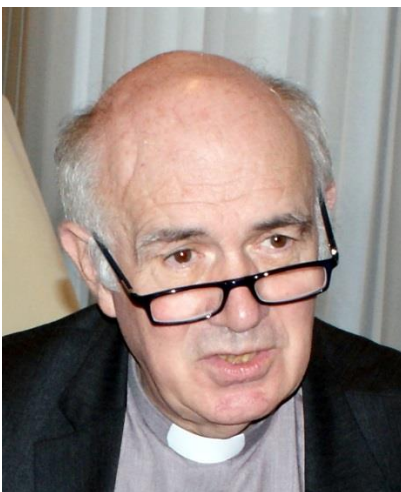
The benefits of this electronic newsletter are that it can be read on screen and need not be printed out (saving resources) and we can include links to other sources with more detailed information. You can even adjust the print size to make for easier reading!

If you are aware of courses, events or information which could usefully be shared please contact paul.needle@churchofengland.org so we can include it in our next edition. If other church officers in your locality might benefit from this resource please share a copy with them by email.

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MBE FOR MALCOLM IN ATHENS



Canon Malcolm Bradshaw, Chaplain of Greater Athens, who has worked tirelessly for the Anglican church in Greece has been awarded the MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list published on the last day of December 2015.

The Bishop's Advent Appeal highlighted a project linked with the Anglican Church in Greece and the Mission Agency Us. The formal citation reads:- Rev Can Malcolm McNeille Bradshaw. Senior chaplain, Anglican church (Greece). For services to interfaith understanding and community charities.

Bishop David says; "It is a most fitting award recognising Fr Malcolm's outstanding achievements and extraordinary service particularly during this time of financial hardship facing the Greek people and the huge numbers of refugees arriving in Greece and transiting through the country.

Fr Malcolm has been instrumental in bringing together Churches and other groups to work together to address these challenges." He adds; "When I spoke to him on the telephone to congratulate him, Fr Malcolm said, humbly, "but none of this could have been achieved without the collaboration and cooperation of others". But it was Malcolm's drive, passion and vision that harnessed this collaboration and this honour is most fitting."

NEW ARCHDEACON FOR ITALY AND MALTA

The Reverend Vickie Sims, Chaplain of All Saints Milan, is to be the Archdeacon of Italy and Malta from the beginning of February 2016. Vickie knows Italy well having lived in Milan where she played the organ and was churchwarden during her 20 years in Italy teaching English to Italian business people.



She studied at Cuddesdon Theological College (near Oxford) before being ordained deacon in 2002 and priested the following year. She served in parishes in the Dioceses of Lincoln and Southwark in Britain and returned to Milan as Chaplain in 2014.

Bishop Robert says; "I am personally delighted that Vickie is willing to take on these major responsibilities. She will be the first female Archdeacon in our diocese, so her appointment is of historic significance for us."

Her appointment follows the resignation of Archdeacon Jonathan Boardman who has held the post for the past six years. Jonathan formally resigns from the end of January 2016 and has been commended by Bishop Robert for his work and achievements in the role.

Vickie will be publicly commissioned and licensed for her new role at a meeting of diocesan senior staff at the end of January.

CHRISM EUCHARISTS IN HOLY WEEK

This year there are two celebrations of Chrism Eucharists planned for Holy Week when the oils that are used throughout the following year for ministry to the sick, for Christian initiation, and for ordination are solemnly blessed in an episcopal service. It is also the occasion at which the clergy and Readers of the diocese are invited to reaffirm the promises and commitments they have made in their ministry, before the bishop.

The locations this year are in

BRUSSELS - Tuesday 22 March, 12.00 noon at The Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Bishop Robert presiding and preaching. A simple lunch will follow the service.

NICE - Tuesday 22 March, 12.00 noon at Holy Trinity Church, Bishop David presiding and preaching. A simple lunch will follow the service.

Our bishops add, "The laity play an important role in representing the whole body of the faithful of the diocese in praying for God's gifts of faithfulness, zeal and commitment for all ministers, lay and ordained. Please encourage your laity to attend these services where this is logistically possible."

Oils will be available for distribution after the services. Clergy who cannot attend but who wish to receive supplies of oil should contact Mrs Bron Panter at the diocesan office on + 44 020 7898 1155 (or bron.panter@churchofengland.org), who will keep a list of requests.

The full details can be found here <http://europe.anglican.org/downloads/experimental-downloads/2016--chrism-eucharists-letter.pdf>

SAFEGUARDING

In early December the revised Diocesan Safeguarding information was published on our website. The document is referred to as a Safeguarding Protocol rather than a Policy – but however it is termed the contents are designed to answer any question and give a definitive view of the requirements of senior diocesan staff and people in our churches.

The protocol is intended to be an online resource and is a "living document" which will be regularly amended to take account of changes in legal requirements and practical procedures.

If you have not seen you are urged to check it out and encourage others in your church to make themselves aware of it. Go to <http://europe.anglican.org/what-we-do/safeguarding>

TRAINING In late 2015 we were also pleased to include easy links and full instructions for the online training courses which are proving popular and instructive. If you are unsure about whether the diocese requires you to complete this course you will find the answer in the Safeguarding Protocol (above).

You can access the training course links on the same page as Safeguarding information. Many thanks to David Coulston for coordinating the project and to Ian Carter and Katherine Harris, our Safeguarding team in Diocesan Office, for spending many hours in getting this information into its present form.

SAFEGUARDING POSITION VACANT The Diocese is also looking to recruit an Assistant Safeguarding Manager to work in the Diocesan Office in London, to support and be responsible to the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager in ensuring the delivery of high standards of safeguarding practice in all the Chaplaincies throughout Europe. This will involve regular communication with clergy and laity from all parts of the diocese and occasional foreign travel in the management and direct operation of safeguarding policy, training and casework. More details at <http://europe.anglican.org/news/news/post/1013-helping-to-keep-our-diocese-safe-a-job-opportunity>

NEW JOB AND NEW NAME!

Lucy Dollman who has been working as half-time Administrative Secretary to Bishop Robert in Brussels, after Vela Palim left the post in December, has been appointed as full-time Personal Assistant from mid January.

Lucy was married over the Christmas break. So, having been Miss Lucy Dollman, she is now Mrs Lucy Paton. She may be contacted by email at lucy.Paton@europe.anglican.org. Bishop Robert is now recruiting a new half-time Administrative Secretary as soon as possible.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS, MOVES AND RETIREMENTS

In DIET we are able to include the full formal announcement and keep more up to date details of these moves than is possible in The European Anglican magazine.

WELCOME TO

The Reverend Mark Anthony John Wilson, currently Senior Church of Ireland Chaplain, Tallaght Hospital, Dublin (Dublin and Glendalough) to be Chaplain of the Anglican Church of St Vincent, the Algarve, Portugal with effect from 31 January 2016.

LEAVING US

The Reverend Keith Bretel, currently Priest-in-Charge of the Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist, St Raphaël, France to resign with effect from 3rd April 2016

The Reverend Hazel Door, Chaplain of the Anglican Church of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes, France resigned with effect from 31 December 2015.

The Reverend Mary Natasha Strømmen, currently Assistant Chaplain of the Anglican Church of St Edmund, Oslo, Norway and especially the Congregation of Trondheim, Norway to resign with effect from 1st January 2016

CHANGE OF STATUS/TITLE

The Reverend Paul James Joseph Knight, who currently holds a Permission to Officiate in the Anglican Church of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes, France (Europe) to be Assistant Chaplain of the Anglican Church of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes, France (Europe) with effect from 1st January 2016.

BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL

Look out for information coming soon online and elsewhere about this year's Lent Appeal which will be linked with a project in conjunction with the Friends of the Holy Land.

The new Diocesan Co-ordinator for Friends of the Holy Land is The Revd Canon John K.

Newsome, jknewsome49@gmail.com +49 162 2155404

He is also keen to hear from anyone who is interested in joining a diocesan support group. Please contact him for further information.

NOTES, NEWS AND HELPFUL LINKS

2016 - A BIG YEAR FOR THE QUEEN

In the mainland dioceses in England, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York with the Church Buildings Council are encouraging every parish church in England to organise a festival on the weekend of 10-12 June 2016 to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and her role as head of the Church of England. This will coincide with official celebrations taking place in London.

The variety of potential forms for the celebrations is huge, from flower festivals to organ, bell-ringing or choir festivals, food or even beer festivals! – and it is hoped that, wherever possible, every church will take part.

They say; "In addition, to coincide with the Queen's birthday we hope that every church will be able to organise an exhibition of the life of its parish over the previous 90 years. Such exhibitions should, by charting the changes in the lives of our communities since 1926, highlight the ways in which parish churches have been and remain the focus of those communities, and be a celebration both of our churches and of the people that they serve. We hope that most parishes will be able to find photographs, artworks and oral history connected with their church and the local area."

The initiative may prove helpful to our churches in Europe, too.

IMPORTANT READERS' ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR

2016 is looking like being a big year for anniversaries and celebrations – including our Readers. It is hoped that some Readers from the Diocese in Europe will be present at one of the major landmark events. <http://europe.anglican.org/downloads/experimental-downloads/readers-event-link.pdf>

LENT COURSE

The ever popular York Courses Lent offering for 2016 looks interesting – with a focus on the Psalms. More information:- <http://europe.anglican.org/downloads/website-news-oct-2015-onwards/information-about-the-psalms---prayers-for-todays-church.pdf>

MOTHERS' UNION ANNIVERSARY

The following was sent by the Mothers' Union central office and may be of interest in local church magazines and newsletters

Happy Birthday to Mothers' Union!

This year will see Mothers' Union mark 140 years of faithful Christian outreach to families of all faiths and none. Since 1876, when Mary Sumner first brought together parents in her own parish to build their confidence in bringing up their children, we have grown to an organisation of over four million women – and men – in over 80 countries of the world.

Why celebrate 140th, rather than wait for 150th? In the Old Testament of the Bible, in the first book of Samuel, there is the story of Samuel marking an unlooked for victory against the mighty Philistines by erecting a stone between Mizpah and Shen, naming it "Ebenezer" meaning "stone of help" as a permanent reminder of the leading and guidance of God "Thus far has the Lord helped us".

Over the past 140 years, Mothers' Union has faced, and will continue to face, many challenges. Family life is under increasing pressure and the call on our resources is higher than ever. But we can look at how we are meeting these challenges and say, like Samuel, "Thus far has the Lord helped us."

This year over 500,000 people will benefit from Mothers' Union's support for family life. Many more will know the support of our membership without any tally being taken – because not only our programme work but in their daily lives our members support families in prayer, in voicing their support for policy changes and in their practical support.

There has never been a more challenging, or more exciting time to be part of Mothers' Union. Our hope is to train more members to help more families; to encourage greater outreach across those countries and communities where family life is under greatest threat. To do this we need your help. Please support Mothers' Union in bringing positive change to family life through its work worldwide. To find out how you can help Mothers' Union mark 140 years of faith in action contact our Supporter Care line on 020 7227 0620 or email communications@mothersunion.org

FACTS AND FIGURES

Although the Diocese in Europe is one of the 42 dioceses in the Church of England our unique composition sometimes means that we do not always appear in the annual statistics but, sometimes, when we do our facts and figures make interesting reading. If you suffer from sleepless nights or enjoy studying lists you may be interested in the final figures for 2014 at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2432327/2014statisticsformission.pdf>

FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE

Lost for Words? Are you a licensed priest or deacon serving in the Diocese in Europe (or soon to be), who needs help with acquiring or improving language skills in your country of residence? The Friends can offer modest grants to assist. Applications in writing giving details of tuition course and cost to: The Friends' Committee, c/o The Honorary Secretary, Diocese in Europe, 14 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QZ. Date of next meeting when requests will be discussed is 7 July 2016

THE EUROPEAN ANGLICAN

The Spring 2016 edition of The European Anglican is due out on 1st March and is about to go to press. We welcome news items which can be included in the magazine and on the news section of the Diocesan Website.

The copy deadline for the June (Summer) edition is 20th April 2016. If you have ideas for features or items of interest we are always looking for new contributors. Please send ideas, pictures and copy to paul.needle@churchofengland.org

Reflecting the size and diversity of our diocese we are aware that in some churches copies of the magazine are handed out personally, some are taken out to places where visitors might pick them up and others are just left in church for collection. Please use your allocation to make the best use of this valuable resource for sharing news and events and helping to promote our work.

NEXT EDITION OF DIET – is scheduled for mid-March.

If you have any diary dates, information you would like to share or other material please contact paul.needle@churchofengland.org