

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST. PAUL in ATHENS

CHAPLAINCY MAGAZINE

APRIL ISSUE

“There is a difference between knowing the path and actually walking the path”
Church Warden Trevor Kamuzonde



A Visit to Thessaloniki

On the first Sunday of Lent I arranged to be with our Anglican congregation in Thessaloniki. As Area Dean I am still able to exercise a wide ministry in Greece, and when we can announce the new priest for Athens I will look forward to supporting his ministry. So when it was known I would be in Thessaloniki my good friend, Fr. Eusebios, who is the priest at the Mitropolis, made it possible for a couple of very significant meetings. On the Saturday I had the wonderful opportunity to meet with the Consul General of Ukraine. He had heard that I would be in Thessaloniki and requested a personal meeting to thank me, as the Apokrisiarios of the Archbishop of Canterbury, for the visit Archbishop Justin had made to Kiev. This was his second visit. Later that same afternoon I had been granted an audience with the new Metropolitan of Thessaloniki, Bishop Filotheos. During the years I was in Athens he had been Secretary General of the Holy Synod, so I had met him before.

On the Sunday morning the Eucharist was held in the building (diamerisma) of the German Evangelical Church. This congregation is impressive in how it 'self motivates' itself. There are some very committed lay people, and they are supported by an American pastor, the Revd. Nathan Moser, who has an Ecumenical Licence from Bishop Robert. Over my years as Priest in Athens I always looked forward to my visits to Thessaloniki. The congregation always seemed willing and enthusiastic, and it is thanks to them that three years ago I started to send out printed and pre-recordings of my sermons. On that first Sunday in Lent we had a remarkable Holy Eucharist. There were 33 adults and five children present. We gave thanks for a child of one of the African families.

It was a remarkable couple of days. If only we had sufficient resources to provide a priest to support this work in Thessaloniki. Just a real hope and prayer.

Father Leonard Doolan



She Who Would Valiant Be

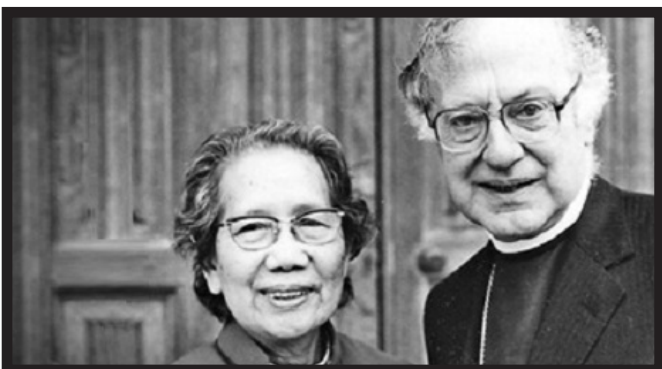
2024 is the thirtieth anniversary of the Ordination of women to the priesthood within the Church of England and the tenth anniversary of the first women bishops. These brave pioneering women had been waiting patiently in the wings as deacons, and priests respectively although they had already been recognized in these roles in other parts of the Anglican Communion. The ancient order of deaconess was an order for lay women before ordination became possible.

Within the Diocese in Europe it is quite a challenge to be an ordained woman but we do have regular online meetings under Reverend Canon Debbie Flach , Dean of Women's ministry and now Bishop Robert has appointed the first female Honorary Bishop to the Diocese - Bishop, Alison White former Bishop of Hull, who also conducted sessions at the first clergy conference in Brussels in 2018. We have just had an introductory online session with her and she will conduct our online Lenten retreat. I don't think I had realized what a lonely path life would take after ordination so I do appreciate every contact and encouragement with other clergy and colleagues across the Diocese and beyond. I wonder how lonely Mary felt as she responded "Yes" to God's call forever setting a pattern before us?

The title of this piece refers to another anniversary in 2024 that of Florence Li Tim-Oi ,the first Anglican ordained female priest in China eighty years ago. Florence was the baptismal name the Chinese woman chose after Florence Nightingale. A special service was held in St Martin's in the Fields in central London on 25th January and in the United States in Grace Cathedral, San Francisco to mark the occasion. You can find the UK service on the church's digital page or follow Sunday Worship BBC Radio 4 for 28th January. Female clergy led and preached in both liturgies one of them Rev. Frances Shoemith, a team rector in Wigan, Manchester, is remarkably the granddaughter of Bishop Raymond Hall of Hong Kong who ordained Li Tim Oi in 1944.

Let us give thanks to all the remarkable women who have answered God's call and continue to do so in every age. As the Rt Rev. Rose Hudson Wilkin, Suffragan Bishop of Dover remarked in her sermon, 'The life of Li Tim Oi teaches us what it means to say yes to God's , despite what the world says.'

Deacon Chris Saccali, Assistant Chaplain



Places far away

Imagine an enchanted forest with high fir trees whispering in the wind. Imagine a monastery which looks like a castle, where white robed Benedictine monks recite the prayers of the hours in Latin, guarding sacred secrets thousands of years old. Imagine an antique pharmacy where herbs, tinctures and other natural remedies are prepared following century old recipes. Imagine a peace which 'passes all understanding' and you have the Hermitage of Camaldoli in Tuscany. About an hour's drive from Florence, close to Arezzo, Camaldoli is not for the faint of heart. Once you have passed the threshold, you start on a soul journey, whether you had planned it or not. I spent two week-ends on retreat there, waking at 3.30 to attend the Vigils with the monks. The rest of the day was spent following the liturgies, reading, meditating, praying, feeling the invisible presence of the Divine. Words cannot suffice to describe the experience. Words seem almost sacrilegious. Encountering one's soul in the absolute silence, having a glimpse of eternity, the awe inspiring, endless light and love of God, is a once In a lifetime experience, which makes everything else seem insignificant. Like all experiences however it has to end and cannot be repeated. Only the memory lives on, forever inscribed In one's heart. And the certainty that the monks will continue praying.

Nelly Paraskevopoulou





Memory Lane

John Day and Mary Taylor enjoying a chat in the church garden. They were both veterans who served in Greece during WW2 and together proudly laid the poppy wreath on the altar during our Remembrance Sunday service. John was a Church warden and Council member for many years and passed away in his 90s. Mary was a long-serving member of our Sacristan's Guild and contributed to our social events. She passed away just before her 101st birthday. We are grateful for their love of St. Paul's and the pleasure we had from sharing in their lives. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Jean Mertzanakis

Places to visit in Athens

You are window shopping on Ermou and suddenly you feel hungry. A koulouri seems boring, a tyropita too greasy, lunch too expensive. The answer is 'Harry's Kitchen' a miniscule shop on Axarlian street, (a pedestrian street between Voulis and Lekka) which is famous for the delicious homemade pies. Made with the original grandmother's recipes, (from Asia Minor) always fresh, always tasty, they provide the ideal snack to be eaten while walking or to take home and share with the rest of the family. The only problem is choosing. My favorites are the two types of cheese pie and the meat pie (not the spicy one). But you may prefer the spinach pie, the chicken pie or the mushroom. Apple pie with cinnamon is also quite delicious. They are open from 7 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon, closed on Saturdays.

Nelly Paraskevopoulou



Book reviews

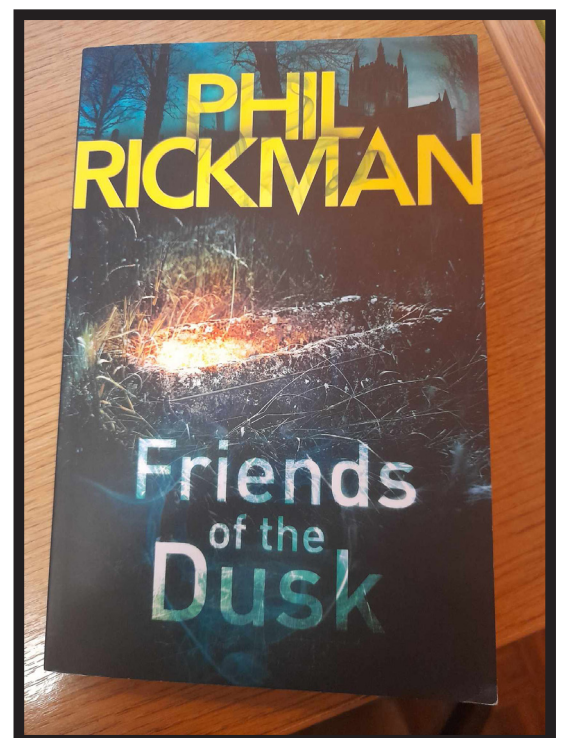
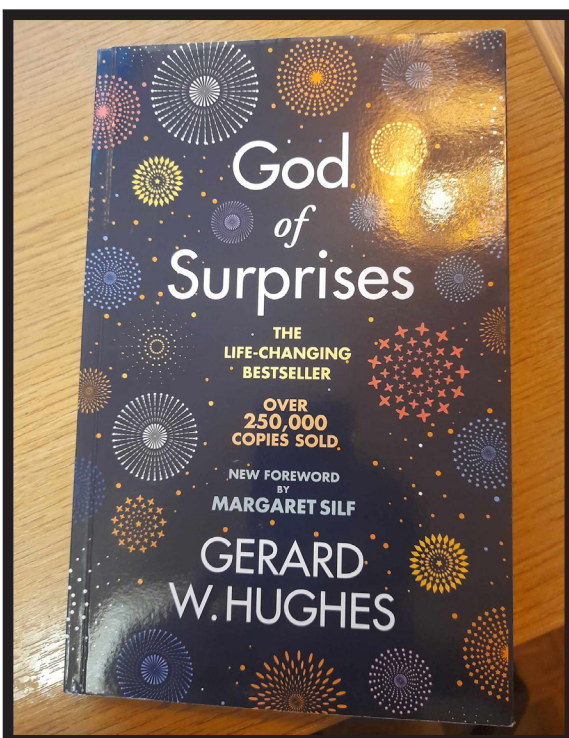
Detective story with a Metaphysical twist

Are you an aficionado of detective stories? Are you fascinated by the world of the unseen? Then you will become addicted to Phil Rickman's books, better known as the Merrily series. Merrily Watkins is the diocesan exorcist at the small village of Ledwardine in Herefordshire. She has a black cat, Ethel, and a daughter, Jane, who delves in paganism and folklore. Book after book, Merrily is called to deal with mysterious crimes, which always combine with haunted places, old feuds, spirits which have not found peace in the afterworld. Knights Templar, Morris dancers, members of the SAS reviving the ancient cult of Mithras and many more enthralling cases, will keep you hooked for a long time. Merrily, her boyfriend Lol, the village character Gomer Parry, the cynical cop Francis Bliss and many more interesting people will keep you company for hours. At the moment I am reading 'Friends of the Dusk' in which a storm unearths a medieval corpse in the old city of Hereford and the past returns to menace Merrily. You can look up all the books on Phil Rickman's website www.philrickman.co.uk

Serious reading

This book was suggested to me by my spiritual director when I was going through a crisis of faith. I have to confess it helped me to see a different approach to God and religion. "God of surprises" by Gerard Hughes, has been recognized as a classic book of spiritual guidance, since its first publication in 1985. It is a guidebook to the inner journey in which we are all engaged, helping to discover a new direction within our own selves.

Nelly Paraskevopoulou



News from the Swedish Church in Athens

Mobile priest in Africa, Middle East and eastern Mediterranean. New priest based in Athens.

My name is Henrik Selin. I recently moved to Athens together with my wife Suzanne. We also have lovely dog, Iris(h) which originates from Ireland. We have now settled in Athens. Very much thanks to a big and warm welcoming from you, the Anglican congregation and the Swedish community, living in Greece. Not that we are surprised! We have heard so much good about Greece and its warm and friendly people living there. I love it when rumors are true.

I feel very excited about the new posting but I am also very humble. I am looking forward to meet citizens that live or and work in Africa, Middle East and eastern Mediterranean. People that are from all walks of life. Experienced or young people who just ended up somewhere on the world map to look for an adventure, or that just happened to fall in love with someone living somewhere else in the world.

My parents worked as missionaries in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Liberia and Uganda. I was born in Ethiopia. The short story is that I simply fell in love with the African continent and my upbringing gave me at taste for meeting people and together share our life experiences. After finishing my Master of theology 1996 in Lund, Sweden, I went back to Africa, and I worked mostly in the private sector and at the Swedish Embassy in Uganda. Finally, being ordained as a priest in the Swedish church I have come to peace with myself. I am so grateful to be able to work and serve for the Swedish church in Greece, Africa Middle East and eastern Mediterranean.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all. Let 2024 be a blessed year for all of us.



Henrik Selin

The Evil Eye (Mati)

Many Greeks believe that someone can catch the evil eye, or matiasma, from someone else's jealous compliment or envy. A person who has caught the evil eye usually feels bad physically and psychologically. In this case, an expert in xematiasma must say a special prayer to release the person from the bad effects of the evil eye. The special prayer is handed down from woman to woman or man to man, preferably in the same family. The effects of the evil eye can be headache, dizziness, nausea or lethargy. If a situation or a relationship is the target of the evil eye everything will go wrong.

The Orthodox church believes in the evil eye (vaskania) and a special prayer can be recited by a priest. There is a church in Polydrosos – Halandri, Agios Athanasios, where the priest says a special prayer to protect a new car from the evil eye and accidents.

To avoid the matiasma, those who believe in it wear a charm, a little blue bead with an eye painted on it. You may notice that horses often wear a small blue bead to protect them. Blue is believed to be the color that wards off the evil eye, but it is also believed that people with blue eyes are most possible givers of the matiasma. The symbol which wards off the evil eye can be found on bracelets, key rings, necklaces, printed on t-shirts or hung on the wall.

A shop called 'Mati' can be found on Miaouli street, close to central Athinas street, and sells all sizes and shapes of charms, and also other artefacts made of crystal or ceramic, many of which are inspired by Byzantine art. Definitely worth visiting for a special gift. Or browse the e-shop <https://matishop.gr/product-category/matia>

Nelly Paraskevopoulou



Pancakes with Deacon Christine and her Granddaughter Elisabeth

The traditional topping from my childhood was lemon from a squeeze plastic lemon full of ‘juice’ and a sprinkle of sugar which I still like. But my husband puts honey, crushed walnuts and cinnamon Greek style.

Elisabeth, our granddaughter loves chocolate spread with walnuts, or nut butter with maple syrup. Of course, you can use any leftover crepes to stuff with spinach and cheese or any savoury filling of your choice.

Enjoy and not only on Shrove Tuesday, it is a lovely activity and easy recipe for children who enjoy tossing pancakes and making the batter. The frying is best left to the adults who are supervising.

Deacon Christine



The Birds of the Garden

Afraid for their survival in the extremely cold and wet weather we have experienced so far this winter, I recently began to feed the extended family of sparrows that live above my balcony and whose pitter patter of tiny footsteps on the awning I enjoy listening to. Mixed seed was approved apart from the tiny round black poppy seeds that rolled away whenever they were pecked at. Crumbs from vanilla cake went down very well and, after an attempt with marble cake (chocolate and vanilla) that left a multitude of brown crumbs to be swept up, plain vanilla is top of the menu. It's good to see that there is no prioritising of who has 'first dabs' at the meal and adults and young ones feed together, though they are shy little creatures who fly away at the slightest hint of disturbance, so there is no chance of hand-feeding as with a dove on a previous balcony.

I was fortunate to have a father who, although living in a city, was a country man at heart and taught his two daughters the names of birds, butterflies and flowers on our weekend visits to a farm in the Yorkshire Dales. And so I asked our gardener, Oliver, which birds visit the church garden. I expected a few to be named but was surprised and delighted to receive the following list: blue tits, great tits, black redstarts, house sparrows, robins, chaffinches, pied wagtails, a chiffchaff, a song thrush, feral pigeons, magpies and hooded crows.

Our garden is a small oasis of greenery between two busy public roads and the more we can do to encourage our feathered friends to visit us, the better. We have a good record of being ecologically aware and our aim is to be registered as an Eco-church within the Diocese of Europe, assisted by our Local Environmental Officer (LEO), James Papageorgiu. This means not only using less energy by decreasing our "carbon footprint" but providing an environment where plant, bird and insect life can flourish. The recent planting of a new mulberry tree and donations of bags of topsoil, perennials and annual plants will help us to achieve this aim. If you wish to contribute plants please speak to Oliver about which ones are most suitable.

Jean Mertzanakis



Ascension (Anapipsis) from The Festivals of Greek Easter

The Ascension of Christ comes forty days after Easter, so this day is usually a May Festival. People believe that at midnight on Ascension Day, which is always a Thursday, the heavens burst asunder and the faithful often stay up throughout the night to see a light ascend to heaven, which is Christ being drawn upwards.

For the forty days until Ascension, some people make a few red eggs and continue to eat Easter lamb. They burn the laurel and other flowers kept from Easter. The light from the resurrection candles brought home from the church is kept alight in the family icon for at least these forty days and the people greet one another with the words *Christos Anesti*, thus completing the circle of Easter.

By the sea people of all ages have their first swim of the season.

In the country, a huge meal is eaten. First the priest blesses the sheep, then the party begins and continues until late at night.

The village women gather curative herbs as they believe the nature of the day will cause diseases to withdraw, especially skin diseases.

Food

In the country, mainly milk and cheese dishes. Other people may eat the last of the Easter food.

Church Services and Customs

(10:00 a.m. - 1:00p.m) The last resurrection hymns are sung. According to the Bible, the belief is that on Easter the souls of the dead, including sinners, are released amongst us and on Ascension Day these souls return to their resting places. However, the most common belief is that the souls keep circulating for the most common fifty days until Pentecost. At the cemetery *Kolyva* is offered for the souls of the dead to calm them.

Old Regional Customs

Costal areas: People of all ages have their first swim. They sprinkle their houses with sea-water taken from forty waves, to make all sickness and the evil eye *kako mati* rise from their houses as Christ rose to heaven.

Samos Island: Sea-water is kept for the year and sprinkled on the house at times of sickness. Unmarried girls put a sea-weed covered stones under their beds, after making the sign of the cross with it. Jesus Christ will then reveal the names of their husbands in their dreams.

Lesbos Island: Left-over milk from the day is thrown away.

Sinope, Turkey: Around noon *kolyva* is offered for the souls of the dead.

Carole Papoutsis



The new mulberry tree is planted (above and right) and blessed (below) [February]



Embracing Faith, Community, and History: My memories of St Paul's Anglican Church, Athens

My Anglican faith serves as a cornerstone of my life; it provides me with guidance and solace amidst life's twists, turns, triumphs and trials. On 9th June 2021, I arrived in Athens to assume my role as Nigeria's Ambassador to Greece. Months before my arrival, upon learning about my assignment to Athens, i embarked on a virtual quest to find a church that would be an anchor during my stay in Athens. My search led me to St Paul's Anglican Church, Athens, even before I could secure a suitable residence. On my first visit, i was warmly received by Father Leonard, and other church leaders, as well as members of the congregation. I soon felt sense of belonging, reminiscent of the cherished ambiance at my home church Our Saviour's Church TBS, Lagos, Nigeria where I have had the honour of serving as 'Honorary Assistant Organist,' for several years. Indeed, the allure of its historic pipe organ, the oldest in all of Greece, installed in 1901 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, heightened my eagerness to be part of this church family.

On occasion, i enjoyed the privilege of standing in for our gifted organist, Christina. Ahead of the service, I would visit the church to rehearse and shared pleasant moments with the support of Virginia. Playing the organ at St Paul's, presented me with an opportunity to contribute to the congregation's musical experience and deepened my connection to the church. I was also invited to take a bible reading from time to time.

In addition to fostering a strong sense of community, the church provided a platform for spiritual and personal growth, offering solace and guidance through its regular services of music and reflection. The melodies and words of the uplifting hymns, along with the wonderful anthems sung by the choir and the majestic tones of the pipe organ, for me elevate the worship experience of the Anglican Communion.

It was particularly special to attend service in a land that holds such prominence in the New Testament. The significance of Greece as a historic place in the Bible added a profound layer of depth to the message. I enjoyed Father Leonard's and subsequently Deacon Christine's sermons, as well as those shared by visiting priests and members of our own congregation. The references to biblical locations literally a few miles from where we sat in church, particularly those linked to St. Paul's teachings, enriched the spiritual journey enormously and deepened my understanding of the sacred texts in a most poignant way.

The stunning stained-glass windows of St. Paul's Anglican Church, some of the most beautiful I have seen in any church, the warmth of friendships cultivated

within its walls, and the delightful after-service refreshments in the Church's charming garden, especially Matilda's decadent chocolate cake, all contributed to my cherished memories of St Paul's Anglican Church.

Beyond being a place of worship, St Paul's Anglican Church will always be for me a sanctuary and a source of enduring friendships, a home away from home in the heart of the city of Athens. Being part of the church family made my time in Athens truly memorable and contributed to my very successful tour of duty. It underscored for me the profound impact of faith, community, and history.

*Ambassador Nimi Akinkugbe, Nigerian Ambassador to Greece (2021 – 2023)
8th March 2024*



World Day of Prayer 2024

The World Day of Prayer on 1st March 2024, was celebrated this year at the 2nd Evangelical Church, Athens and organised by the Christian Palestinian women's committee. All Christian denominations were represented and there were contributions in seven languages, so that much planning was necessary to make the event the success that it was, with a full church and multiple participation.

The theme of Love and Unity was taken from Ephesians 4:1-3: 'I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love' and all prayers, bible readings, hymns and presentations revolved around this theme. Central to the service were three moving personal testimonies, written and given by Palestinian women in traditional dress, as well as a video of a children's' choir singing for peace. Olive sprigs were given to all on arrival and we exchanged these with one another as a sign of peace during the service.

Contributions from St. Paul's included a hymn by Oliver Knight, a prayer by Judy Triantafillou and a final blessing by Father Marcus Ronchetti, followed by a hospitable buffet and warm socialising between all those attending. We would like to thank the Greek Women's committee and especially the 2nd Evangelical Church for organising and hosting this important event.



Myrtillo café

Situated just behind the Girokomeio in Ambelokipi, surrounded by a lovely park, Myrtillo café is a pleasant surprise. Myrtillo has been operating since 2013 as an innovative self-supporting business and training entity and its special purpose is to integrate vulnerable groups. In other words the people working there have some kind of disability. This fact makes Myrtillo an even more welcoming place in all respects. Georgia is the life and soul of the café and her enthusiasm and commitment are inspiring. Myrtillo is one of the partners of St. Paul's and have received financial support in the past, as a worthy charity cause. The food is great and so is the service, the atmosphere is friendly and civilized, the décor is intriguing as it includes machinery from the fifties, when the same place was a center for the training of people who had been seriously injured in the Second World War, initiated by the Norwegian government. At the cutting of the vasilopita recently, an elderly man stood up and thanked the initial organizers for helping him live a normal life and forget that he had only one leg. Soon the evenings will be warm and parks like the one surrounding Myrtillo are an ideal place to go. Check their website www.myrtillocafe.gr for opening hours and more information.

Nelly Paraskevopoulou

Enjoyable and educational.

The Visual Commentary on Scripture is a freely accessible online publication that provides theological commentary on the Bible in dialogue with works of art. It helps users to discover the Bible in new ways through the interaction of artworks, scriptural texts and commentaries.

The VCS combines three disciplines: theology, art history and biblical scholarship. Each section is a virtual exhibition comprising a biblical passage, three art works and their associated commentaries, which explain and interpret the relationships between the works of art and the scriptural text.

The virtual exhibitions of the VCS facilitate new possibilities of seeing and reading so that the biblical text and the selected works of art come alive in new and vivid ways.

<https://thevcs.org>

Nelly Paraskevopoulou

Report on 388th meeting of Chaplaincy Council held on Sunday 19th November in church at 12 noon

Father Terry Hemming, as *locum tenens*, had been invited to attend the meeting, which proceeded as follows:

Matters arising from the previous minutes

Following a presentation by Cosmo Murray, organiser of the Mazi hostel for homeless immigrants, Council agreed to donate the remaining 2,000 Euros of the 2023 refugee fund to pay for 3 months rent and prevent closure (the Refugee Fund is financed only by donations towards specific causes). Representatives of the organisations “Melissa” and “Creative Hands” would be invited to give a presentation in 2024. Any member of the congregation can put forward the name of an organisation that needs support and it will be considered by Council.

Standing Committee Report on 8th October meeting

As part of our Safeguarding duty of care, members of this Committee (Assistant Chaplain, Wardens, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary) had met with the organiser of a small group currently caring for a member of the congregation. The care programme, assistance from Council members and other issues were discussed and lines of communication would be kept open, with further meetings arranged if necessary.

Financial Report

Members had received copies of the accounts and Nelly distributed “Funding our Future”, a Diocesan leaflet. St. Paul’s current income of 1,345 Euros per week did not cover costs and a further 233 per week were needed. There were 50 regular contributors and an increase to 70 would be extremely useful. Council agreed that a “Giving Day” should take place once a year, with a presentation and a sermon on “the grace of giving” (St. Paul, Corinthians 2).

Safeguarding Report

Lynn had attended a Diocesan Zoom conference and in comparison with some other congregations we were doing well / safeguarding Certificates needed renewing every 3 years (online) and there was a waiting list / First Aid training was recommended and the Hellenic Red Cross offered a 6-hour course in theory, practice and defibrillation over one or two sessions at a cost of 30 Euros per person at their premises or elsewhere e.g. the Swedish Centre

Churchwardens’ Report

Trevor reported that a quote for repair of a leak in the vestry roof was awaited from our architect / a set of drums stored there would be removed and dusted and a decision on how to dispose of them would then be made / space had been cleared in the Crypt for concert performers to change / due to lack of storage space he would price a collapsible waterproof tent for storing books and other items that needed protection and report back to Council.

Security

Notices would be posted on the board and service sheet reminding the congregation to take care of their personal items, to turn off or silence their mobile phones during the service and only take photos after the service / The Athens Fire Department would be contacted to arrange a session on fire and earthquake procedures – Wardens, Verger and Events Organiser would attend this.

Distribution of Communion

Bishop Robert and Diocesan Synod had agreed on the basis of theological conviction and good practice that intinction of the Host into the Communion Wine should not continue. Wine should be taken from the Chalice but Communion in one kind only (the bread/wafer) was permitted. A return to the practice of receiving Communion at the Altar was discussed and deferred until our new Senior Chaplain was with us.

Synod Report

Assistant Chaplain Deacon Chris had circulated a report that would be presented at the Annual Meeting in April.

Work of Ministry Team during the Vacancy

Deacon Chris thanked Licensed Reader Nelly and Father Bjorn for their help.

Pastoral Care

Father Terry was taking part in house meetings and giving Communion to those who could not attend church.

World Day of Prayer – 1st March every year

Judy Triantafillou was welcomed as our representative, following Nelly's several years of service in this role. The Day was organised by the Evangelical church, supported by the Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican churches.

Local Environmental Report (LEO)

James had followed a Diocesan Webinar and distributed a handout about becoming an Eco-Church. He would find out to what extent we already met the necessary criteria and report back to Council.

Fundraising

Harvest Festival: 120 people present and 733 Euros raised / Community Connect: popular and well-attended / Quiz Evening: next one December 8th / Book Sales: Over 2,000 Euros raised per annum and 3,700 over the last 18 months with 125 raised at the previous Community Connect / Christmas Bazaar: new banners ordered, heaters hired, food donations for the cafeteria were needed and someone had been found to run the Gift Stall / Church Window pamphlet: Oliver and Jean were collaborating on this and the Nigerian Ambassador had offered to sponsor its production.

Any other Business

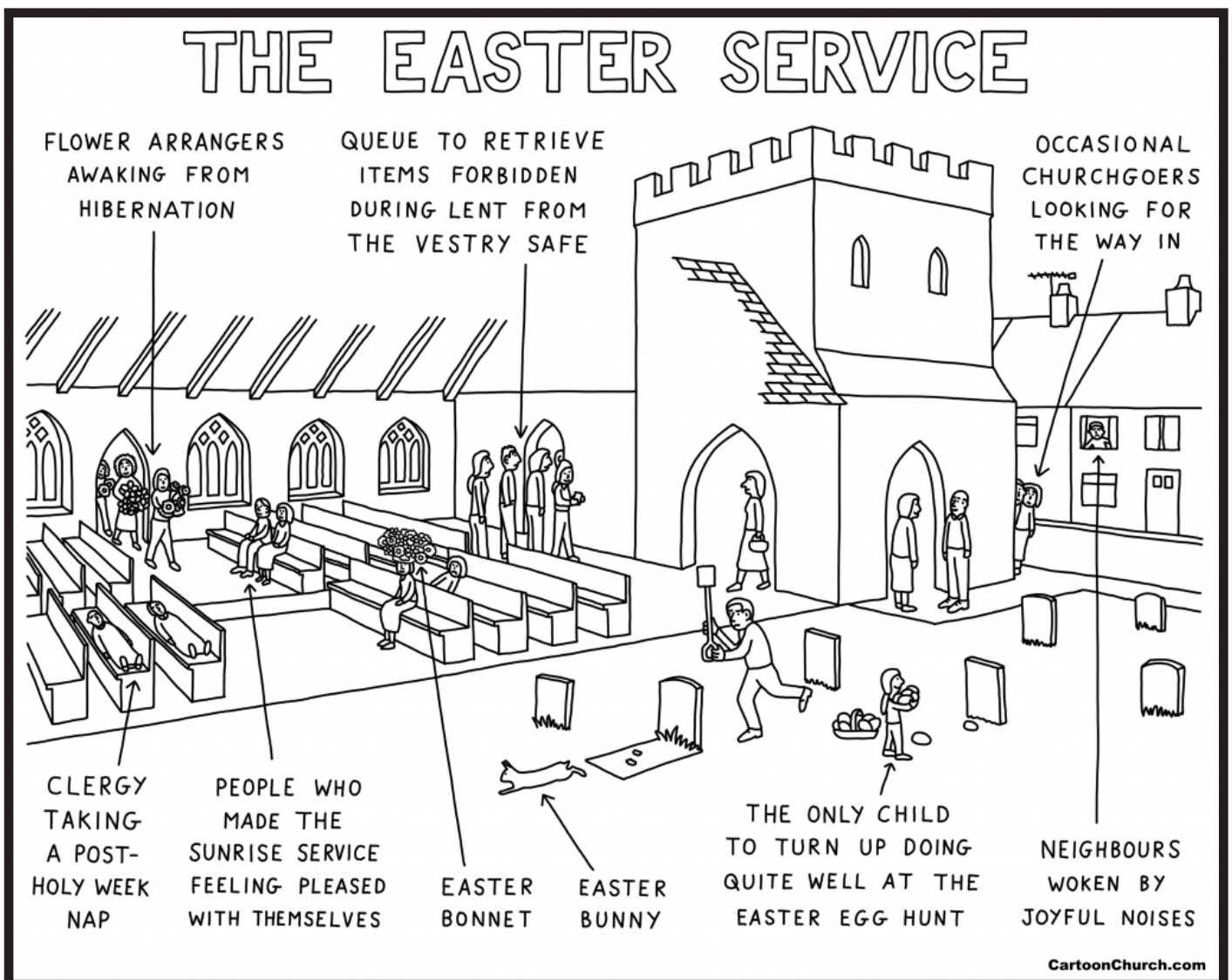
A replacement mulberry tree had been sourced and Deacon Chris would look at prices in her local area outside Athens / Franca had joined us and become a Sidesperson – she would need to obtain Level 1 Safeguarding certification.

Dates of 2024 meetings

4th February / 14th April – Annual meeting with reports and voting if there were vacancies / 30th June / 15th September / 3rd November

Father Terry led Council in saying the Grace at 2.25 p.m.

Jean Mertzanakis (Hon. Secretary)



Comic by Dave Walker, illustrator for the *Church Times*.