

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 14 April 2019

11:15

5. DEAN'S REPORT



Our monthly Monday 'refugee' meals continue to surprise, from few to plenty. In January we saw 120+ pass through, and April 90+ people yet we always seem to have enough food, even if it's just enough. Thank you to those who help and bring food month on month. Other outreach has included Greek and computer lessons where those less confident were encouraged and supported to do things they needed to do, as well as be more secure in the online world; and a lecture on architecture was very well attended. We were also the location for two Brexit briefings by the British High Commissioner to discuss with people what is happening and what people should be doing in Cyprus. What is happening?

We hosted various guests from different parts of the community during our 125th celebration at the beginning of October 2018. The weekend included a very good piano recital, reception, Songs of Praise on the Saturday, a combined service with the Nicosia International Church who usually worship after us, an Evensong during which the Bishop unveiled a new stain glass window (very kindly donated), followed by more drinks and cake in the Deanery. Musical contributions by the choir were not limited to the weekend, but extended throughout the year, with a reception, and solo performances in many a service, including Nine Lessons and Carols, thank you very much.

Our relations with the UN continues, with two UN Padre's preaching and being involved in the life of the Cathedral. Remembrance Sunday particularly moving, being the 100th anniversary of the First World War armistice, which was commemorated by recalling some of the major battles of that war. The 1st Battalion Scottish Guards, who have been with us, had their Carol Service hosted in the Cathedral, with a sing off between the officers - raising the roof.

The Cathedral expressed its role within the Archdeaconry of Cyprus though hosting a range of Diocesan events, from a Graduation Ceremony of the first group of graduates that have completed their training through the Diocesan Ministry Training program, the Archdeacon's Gathering/ Visitation, the installation of three new Canons (including our honorary assistant Canon Brian Elliot), and the making of two new Deacons. We also hosted the delegates from the International Commission for Anglican/Orthodox Theological Dialogue of which our Bishop Michael is a part.

Our usual major fundraising event of the Spring Fayre successfully focused more on foods, this was very successful. Many more folk got involved and with fewer people attending it raised the same monies. We are very near to another Fayre, May 11th from 11-3pm - please come and support this. For the first time, we took over the Christmas Fayre from the Women's Fellowship Group. Other events included Quiz nights, Car boot sales, a Pie and Pea with Bingo evening with the Dean's youngest helping to call the numbers! While our Thrift shop experienced a decline in income, it, as well as our Bookshop, continues to prove not just a source of income, but a way of engaging with the community. I enjoy spending many Saturday morning's serving coffee and cakes/biscuits and meeting many at the bookshop. Thank you for all you do.

Easter Sunday was Fr. Kent's final service as Assistant Curate at the Cathedral, with him laying down his chasuble on the altar. His departure made place for a new Assistant Curate Fr. Justin who has returned with his family to the Cathedral after serving as Lay Student Chaplain in Famagusta.

The redoing of our Sunday School rooms is an indication of the importance children play in the life and congregation of St Paul's. It is not just our hosting of Brownies and Guides, or the Christingle Service, but rather the report back from the Sunday School each Sunday that we value. We have also been blessed to have various clergy and lay people be involved and preach at our services, including Gaby and Alice who are involved in student ministry in Cyprus, the Very Reverend James Atwell, UN Padre Graham Collingwood, UN Padre Ken Adolphe, the Reverend Wilf Gowing, Adrian Walters, Ven Trevor Jones, Fr Drew, Dr Paul Burt and Maggie Le-Roy! The sanctuary has just been cleaned and repainted and looks lovely.

We have said goodbye to many, including George and Chris Ward, Adrian and Stella Walters, Marilu Soria. We have sadly lost some members, including Tim Lewis, Jean Kallonas and Susan Grant. We hold many in our prayers daily.

Justin and I have been able to support and visit some of the local schools and to develop a ministry to Nicosia Prison.

We continue to hold our Annual Lenten Studies and have just completed a 5 week course in January on "Being Anglican". Funds continue to be a big challenge after losing some users i.e. slimming world. In March we launched a new monthly "Friends @ St Paul's" Group, with various speakers aimed at reaching out to both men and women to explore socially and educationally together. It has started well and is another new income stream.

During the year we have supported many refugees with clothes, foods and I am very grateful for the support you continue to give to the Deanery FoodBank. We also help and support Caritas and the Nicosia Mercy Centre. The Spring Fair also gave some monies to Pasykaf. The occasional collection continues to 'save the children' caught up in the terrible situation in the Yemen.

My thanks go to the maintenance support, admin and technical support and ministerial support. To the support of the Cathedral Council and the generosity and friendship of members of the congregation you show me – thank you.

For the Future:

1. To commission the new sponsored hymn books. After 25 years Bishop Michael will bless and commission them on Sunday 5th May.
2. To accommodate the Nicosia Mercy Centre who will be a new user of the Hall from June 2019 as they continue their ministry to the needy of Nicosia - feeding and supporting them twice a week.
3. To continue to support Nicosia International Church as they go through a big transition and prepare for a new pastor at the beginning of 2020.
4. To accommodate the Head of the RSCM UK to facilitate training across the Diocese in late May.
5. To accommodate two ordinations in May and September.
6. To sponsor and re-decorate the whole Cathedral.
7. To sponsor a children's After School Club in the Hall majoring in maths and perm culture.
8. To enable the Friends @ St Paul's just started to flourish and grow.
9. To create a team of volunteers to care for the grounds. With many thanks to Pat and Colin who are stepping down.
10. To balance the books - so creating a sustainable Cathedral for many years to come.
11. To develop and care for the current and new members of the congregation as we give thanks for the good and encouraging numbers Sunday by Sunday.
12. To continually deepen our worship and faith in Almighty God. We have so much to give thanks for. His continual blessings as we celebrate another year and look forward to the future.

Finally my thanks go to so many within and outside of the Cathedral congregation who give so much of their time. To name each one would be very difficult and I would miss some. Thank you. Jeremy Crocker
April 2019