

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 14 April 2019

11:15

8. OTHER REPORTS



CATHEDRAL GROUPS	2
[1] Assistant Curate	2
[2] Pastoral Care	3
[3] The Bookshop	3
[4] Fabric	4
[5] Fundraising	5
[6] Social Events.....	6
[7] Cathedral Garden	8
[8] Hall	9
[9] Cathedral Choir	10
[10] The Sunday school	11
[11] Vulnerable Persons and Safeguarding	13
GROUPS THAT USE THE CATHEDRAL PREMISES	14
[12] Nicosia Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section	14
OTHER CONGREGATIONS THAT USE THE CATHEDRAL PREMISES	15
[13] The German Protestant Church in Cyprus	15
[14] The Scandinavian Church	16

CATHEDRAL GROUPS

[1] Assistant Curate

As return to the Cathedral was before my ordination, I took the opportunity to be more involved in the Sunday School, while assisting as needed in various services.

Since being made Deacon, amongst other things, one of the adjustments has been to 'work' full time in the church. Starting with keeping regular office hours at the Cathedral (as well as as-needed outside hours) I have been settling into church life. The routine of daily Cathedral worship; keeping the Cathedral suitably dressed; arranging and leading services; and attending various meetings are some of my more outward visible activities. Others less obvious include my studies, which continue, visiting the prison, and becoming more involved in the ministry to civil society.

Going out to the world and being the visible sign of God's love are two of aspects of a Deacon. For me this year that has involved re-establishing regular prison visits. In my discussions with various parishioners I've become aware that this is something that was done more frequently in previous years. I can attest to the need as well as the personal benefits. Another example of this my inclusion groups involved in refugee work. It can sometimes seem an impossible task for a single person to even make a difference, and for us it is. Thankfully I'm not called to make a difference, I'm called to be faithful, proclaim the gospel in word and deed, and make God's love visible. This then allows God to make the difference. I am also serving as bridge between the departure of Christine Goldsmith and the arrival of Anne Fatcher in Larnaca who will have a focus on these issues.

I have also become involved in the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process, taking part in a training session on Human Rights, specifically relating to the Right to Freedom of Religion. This has generated other invitations to events. In addition, I was involved in the final service of the Week for prayer Christian Unity in the Maronite Church. In 2019 it is planned to have it at the Cathedral, so look forward to that.

Other areas that I have been keeping an eye on include the IT infrastructure in the office; our external communications (the Website, Facebook and "The Epistle"); and assisting Helen in the Cathedral office. Thanks go to Talal, Maria and Ian who do most of the updating. While some people or activities might be more visible than others, all are vital. If there is no working computer, very little else would function, some may remember the 'email storm' we experienced due to problems with the office computer.

I look forward to another year at the Cathedral, continuing to serve God and His people in this place.

Justin

[2] Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care continues usually below the surface, with team members looking after their usual contact while reaching out to anyone they may know of. Even when someone does not want their situation made known public, and we respect that, we are always prepared and able to pray for them. The monthly St Raphael Healing service provides such an opportunity for updates and additions to the pray list. Part of this confidentiality is reflected in the use of only first names for some people on our pray list. While the pastoral care team is mostly reactive, more opportunities are being identified where we could reach out in other ways. If anyone is interested, please ask to join the team.

However, you do not have to be part of the team to be involved, as most clearly highlighted by the Monthly Monday Meal that has become firmly established and continues to grow each month. The numbers rise yet we always seem to have just enough food. I have yet to see a banana left over! Another area where this type of pastoral work will be increasing is the imminent arrival of the Mercy Center to our premises. While they are and will continue to remain a separate organization, with their own structure, support and methods of working, having them closer will give us increased opportunities to be involved. Donations of food for those in need that Dean Jeremy assists from his door are appreciated. The Church is a visible location that attracts people regardless of their faith. Our wider contacts with other refugee organizations allows us to refer people that come to us to where they can best get help.

The need is great for us to not only take care of people within our Cathedral family, but also to reach out into the community we are a part of.

Justin

[3] The Bookshop

The running of the Saint Paul's Bookshop was taken over by Maria Evangelou towards the end of the year 2017. The bookshop has an outer and inner part, the better books are placed inside and the less popular books are placed outside. The bookshop opens every Saturday morning from 10am until 12-midday. During these hours people have access to the inside books and can purchase very good books at a low price. Books inside are placed alphabetically and in the second room by category. There are a large number of children books available as well as CDs, DVDs and magazines. The outside books are available on a 24 hour basis, there is an indicative price but people can place a donation, they consider appropriate, through the bookshop letterbox. This money is collected every morning and stored in a safe place. At the end of the month all takings are handed over to Mr. David Hardacre. The bookshop is kept tidy on an

almost daily basis. Books are protected when the weather is bad. On Saturday mornings two people are on duty on a rota basis, cooperation of the team. Mostly English books are sold, although a new goal is an attempt to build up a Greek part, because customers have asked for Greek books ie there is a demand, and also because they are purchased and substantial donations are left. During 2018 the total income for the bookshop was €1,867. The aim is not to fall below €200 per month. An update, on the face book page some were blocked like the watch, all others haven't had any interest.

Maria Evangelou

[4] Fabric

Work Done in 2018

The Church and Deanery are old buildings and therefore there is always work to be done! In addition to the major items listed below, many minor jobs have been carried out during the year.

The main items were...

- Worn-out carpet removed from Sunday school rooms, floor area renovated and new rugs laid
- A new large urn was purchased for the hall/kitchen to replace the old B.E.R. one
- In the grounds, a tall dead tree was cut down, and the well-head water pump area was improved.
- Rats in the Deanery attic were eliminated and entry points were sealed
- Repairs to the Deanery including fixing a new instant hot water heater in the shower
- In the Bookshop, the wall fan was replaced, the water butts were removed (source of mosquito breeding) and the rainwater downpipes were extended. Also the broken PVC drainage grill outside the bookshop was replaced with a metal one.
- New microphones were purchased for the lectern and altar table in the church, and the amplifier for the sound system in the hall was replaced
- A Combination lock was fitted to the kitchen door for security

Work Required in 2019

- Repairs to garage roof and thrift shop shed roof to prevent rainwater ingress (done)
- Replace two floodlights to the grounds by low energy LED ones (done)
- Replace hot water heater element in Deanery roof tank and other Deanery plumbing repairs (done)
- Installation of additional downpipe to Deanery gutter to prevent rainwater ingress (done)
- Wall area behind altar cleaned and painted in original colours (done)
- Sand and gravel laid to church entrance driveway and parking areas to reduce rain pools (done)

- Repairs to water pressure pump system in the Deanery (in progress)
- Repair to church rainwater gutter to prevent water ingress in wall near the organ & bell tower (in progress)
- Repair to well pump in Church Garden
- Repairs to tables in the hall
- Other essential repairs will be carried out as and when required

Help from members of the congregation is much appreciated. In particular I would like to thank Agnete, Colin, David Stevenson and Bill Grundy. In recent months, Sepher and Ben have been a great help, and we welcome Ben as an official member of the fabric team.

Nigel Rambottom
Fabric Committee of St.Pauls

[5] Fundraising

The Thrift Shop keeps plodding on in spite of increased competition from all sorts of charity shops all over Nicosia. There is one on every corner now, it seems. We therefore offer the clothes at a very affordable price to our customers who now mainly constitute refugees and asylum seekers. They enjoy coming every week and have almost become family. Unfortunately, we don't seem to increase our customer base. It seems it is the same 20 or so people who come week after week. We have also provided clothes in bulk to the Kofinou refugee centre and to a few others who are involved with such work. This year there was no need for any major repairs to neither the garages nor the rails. This year we made €4362 and last year €6314 as opposed to €7521 the year before. This is a drop of € 3159 in the course of 3 years. Our helpers are very dedicated and do a great job and we are very thankful to them.

The Book Shop is also seeing a lower turnover. Income was €1867, last year's income was €2217 against €2500 in 2016. . Alexander Mc Cowan, Maria Evangelou and the Dean now keep an eye on it, ably assisted by the book shop angels, as Tim used to call them. The outside area has grown and become an outdoor library for passers -by as well as being a social hub on a Saturday morning with the Dean in attendance handing out coffee and biscuits

The May Faye went off much as usual with good weather and people chatting to friends over a cup of coffee. The Police Band opened the Fayre and set the mood like only bands know how. The food stall has become very popular in recent years. People buy take-away curry or eat it on the spot and it has become one of the most successful stalls. The bottle stall is also very popular and a good money earner. Several groups from various schools entertained us with dancing and singing. We had all the permits from the municipality and complied with all the latest regulations. The designated

charities were: The Mercy Centre and Nicosia Women's Refuge. The sum raised was €6065

The Swimathon usually takes place in early June but this year we missed our slot at the municipal pool due to a technicality and instead the event was held in early September. Probably a bit too soon after the summer, so not very good participation. The sum raised was €622 against €1373 last year and €1606 the previous year. A big drop partly due to the unfortunate timing and partly due to the loss of a number of loyal swimmers we used to have. Here I would like to pay tribute to Susan Grant who despite her advanced years swam more lengths than any other person. An inspiration to all of us not only because she always took part in whatever was called for but also as an inspiration for how to live life, how to stay involved despite old age and not to let illness get in the way or to feel sorry for yourself. Half the amount raised is given to the Dean's discretionary fund and the other half to the Pastoral Care team.

We had two quiz nights in the course of the year with our usual quiz master Bob Miller. He is well liked as his questions give everybody a fighting chance at getting some of the questions right. We are grateful to him for the time and trouble he puts into making the evening a success. Sandra has become a fixture at the bar on the evening itself and often gives her time during the day to making sandwiches and setting up tables. Total income €1126. Almost the same sum as last year.

The Car Boot Sales have become increasingly popular. People who are planning to leave Cyprus find it very useful to book a space to sell off all their unwanted household items. Sylvia Smith is the organizer behind the scene and we are thankful to her for all her hard work both with the quiz nights and the car boot sales. Total sum raised €723 against last year €1071, which is almost the same as the previous year.

A new event has been introduced. As the Women's Friendship group did not want to have their usual Christmas Bazaar, the church decided to have its own Christmas Bazaar and in spite of the heavy rain, it was a big success making around € 2700. It will now become part of the annual events at St Paul's. Sylvia Smith's stall did extremely well making €around €1300

Agnete Cleave

[6] Social Events

We have had a challenging year. Our expenditure has been greater than our income, not the ideal way to run any business, which at the end of the day, like it or not, we are! However, I have enjoyed the challenge and with everyone's support I am sure that we can overcome our present temporary problems!

A year ago we launched our Cake Bake & Produce sales, which are held monthly following morning coffee. Sales were slow to start but have steadily increased. Our last sale making 90 euros!

On Sunday March 25th we organized a celebration for Father Kent's service to the Cathedral. I managed to make a replica of Kent in icing, complete with tiny spectacles, much I hope, to the amusement of all. I perched Father Kent on the top of my chocolate mocha cake surrounded by beautiful edible butterflies!

On April 1st I made a Simnel cake for Easter, so how many marzipan balls did I put on the cake? 11, Father Kent, due to Judas's betrayal! Father Kent seemed much amused when I was speaking of marzipan balls!

We held our Spring Fayre on Saturday April 28th where I managed the Cafe serving teas, coffees and scones, which went down really well. Thank you to all the ladies, and gentlemen, who assisted with the Cafe and the Bar, the latter being a very important stall.

On May 12th. Arch Deacon John held his annual Visitation. This was followed by a reception with cakes from all over the island.

Dean Jeremy celebrated three years of service to St Paul's on Sunday May 20th. We were joined by approx. 40 visitors on a Christian tour of Cyprus led by a former Dean of Winchester Cathedral and a good friend of St Paul's, The Very Reverend James Attwell MA., BD. If you recall, he blessed our disabled loo! We served soups, fresh breads and puddings following our 10am Holy Communion Service. James is due to bring another Christian group to Cyprus in September and they will visit St Paul's.

Early October, St Paul's celebrated its 125th Anniversary. Bishop Michael unveiled and blessed a stained glass window of St Paul, very generously donated by a parishioner. And can you guess what my contribution was? Yes, A cake!

Harvest Festival was celebrated with a meal at the end of September. Sadly, attending numbers were down this year and a member of the congregation underwrote the meal. Some folk signed up for a meal but did not attend. This is something to be watched during our present financial situation.

A gentleman called Iain Causer had been very generous with his time for St Paul's by giving computing lessons and attending events taking lots of photos for the record. He returned to his homeland of Scotland in October. We gave him a 'Thank you' celebration with a Pot Luck supper on the 29th. We look forward to seeing him again, if and when he returns!

St Paul's Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday November 24th. I ran the cake stall and we sold out very quickly! We need more for this years' event especially mince pies and Christmas cakes. I was asked so many times! AND maybe someone could make some hot mulled wine?

In November we started yet another initiative. Winter warmer soups, bread and a simple desert. Served after coffee and the plan is to do this once a month. January we made 60 euros, so it is something to work on. Are there any volunteers out there to be a chef for any month? I will be away for part of the summer months. Perhaps cold meats, jacket potato with salad even if not hot soups?

Can I please also ask that attendees for events sign up as soon as the event is promoted. It takes time to prepare and serve good food. Folk are giving their time for free and do like to feel appreciated with good attendance!

Talal has continued with his monthly suppers which I know are gratefully received by all who attend.

Unfortunately, I was not in Cyprus for the Christmas Dinner celebrations, but I understand that it went very well with plenty of food. I was sailing the 'high seas' with James, but we did think about you all!!

2019 is now gathering speed at an incredible pace. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped with these and many other events not mentioned. Lets keep this momentum going. The more helpers we have the less work there is for each individual.

Many hands make light work!

Carol Blackwell-Gibbs
St Paul's cake lady

[7] Cathedral Garden

This was a year of great satisfaction for us. We lived comfortably within our budget despite accepting responsibility for the whole of the land within the boundary of St Paul's and taking on paid help in the form of Johnny. In our opinion and as supported by many people who have taken the time to look, the garden has never looked better. Engaging Johnny has released us from much of the heavy work associated with the maintenance of the trees and bushes and enabled us to concentrate on the beds and to stand back and take an overall look at the whole site. We were badly shaken when one of the tall Cyprus trees died quite suddenly and we thought we were in for a large bill for its removal. In the event Johnny undertook to take it down, which he did swiftly and professionally for the princely sum of €80, which will come into the 2018

accounts. Most people did not even notice that it had gone. On the matter of trees we had a terrible shock when the large fig tree by the Thrift Shop area suddenly collapsed, fortunately doing no damage to either person or property but had to be removed and at the same time a pine tree just inside the gate together with another large tree close to it were giving problems. The forestry commission removed those at a cost of We are currently, 2018, dealing with the area alongside the road from the traffic lights, which has never had any attention except by our good friends Dorothy and David Stevenson but should soon begin to look as if it belongs to us €1800, half of which was born by the Diocese and half appears in the 2017 accounts but not as a charge against the garden budget. Three more of the large Cyprus trees are a cause for concern in case they too are affected by the virus that killed the other one. It is not possible at present to tell if there is a problem but bearing in mind the speed at which the other one died we must keep a constant watch and these are much bigger trees. The Pet Cemetery is part of our responsibility and needs to be kept looking tidy and presentable to visitors, which it is. However, we feel quite strongly that no further burials take place to avoid extra work. Our big concern is the onset of the dry season. We have an automatic watering system fed from a well in the garden, this is a big help but it has to be monitored and we find ourselves going to the garden two, sometimes three times a week checking that the sprinklers are not blocked with grit and lime and laying out the hose to attend the areas not effectively covered. We need someone to stand up and volunteer to help with this, even one visit a week would be a great relief. We are currently, 2018, dealing with the area alongside the road from the traffic lights, which has never had any attention except by our good friends Dorothy and David Stevenson but should soon begin to look as if it belongs to us.

Pat & Colin Reeves

[8] Hall

2018 has not been the best year for the hall. Our main user Slimming World had to stop due to a reorganization called for by their head office. Income last year came to € 9365 and the income for 2017 was €14796, down from €17455 in 2016. The income for 2015 was € 18350. So, in the course of 4 years we have seen a drop of almost 50%. The difference between actual income and projected income from 2017 to 2018 alone being €5000. It obviously made a big dent in our projected income. We were suddenly looking at a loss of €5000.

Our main users are Slimming World, 7th Day Adventists, Women's Friendship Group, French Classes and the Guides/Brownies/Rainbows. We lost Mothers and Toddlers as many women nowadays return to work. The good old days of the Off-Shore companies with accompanying wives have come to an end.

The first Monday in every month the hall is used to provide a free meal to people in need. It is not completely open to anyone just walking in off the street but by invitation to Caritas and The Mercy Centre. No rental fee is involved nor is there a charge for the food, which is provided by different volunteers and partly funded by the dean's discretionary fund. The number of attendees have doubled in the last year.

We would like to ask you all to do your best to promote the hall as an ideal location to hold children's birthday parties, exercise classes/meetings etc. It is in a central location with parking and fully air-conditioned for both hot and cold weather.

The fees are regularly reviewed but in view of the economic situation they have not been raised since 2011. The main expenses incurred for the hall are for cleaning and electricity - heating/cooling continue to be provided solely by the air conditioners which have helped reduce hall expenses. The hall needs to be checked/cleaned daily as the groups hiring the facilities expect the premises to be kept in a clean condition. The hall cleaning is handled by Doreen and Veronica who do an excellent job but if anyone notices something that has been missed, please speak to Helen in the office.

This past year there has been no need for painting. Just minor repairs. A lock has been fitted to the kitchen door, one that has a code. This avoids having to hand out dozens of keys to various users.

The hall's sound system is now working quite well. It avoids having to set up the very big speakers for smaller events. We keep the big system for events like the May Fayre where the sound has to travel far and be audible. As we are hoping to increase interest in renting out the hall it is important to have good sound.

No inventory was carried out this year.

Agnete Cleave

[9] Cathedral Choir

During 2018 the core choir consisted of 8 members who sang each week for the services. We were joined in the latter part of the year by Sam, a British Army serving officer on posting to Cyprus. He will leave at the end of March 2019.

The regular choir were augmented from time to time with other singers who came to help with special items or days such as the Songs of Praise services, Christmas Lessons and Carols, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Easter services, Remembrance Day etc. The augmented choir numbered up to 16 in 2018.

We practice from 6pm – 7.30pm in the Cathedral every Thursday evening.

During 2018 we carried out an extensive upgrading of the filing system for photocopied music. Hilary Ives is to be thanked for an enormous effort with this. Hilary also keeps the choir and organist's folders up to date for the services - a role carried out in the recent past by Tim Lewis, sadly no longer with us.

We also said 'goodbye' to Sheila Humphreys during the year. Although not an active chorister in recent years due to ill health, Sheila was a long-standing member of the choir and very much loved and missed. I am proud to report that it was mainly choir members who supported Sheila in her last days.

At the close of each choir practice we say together the chorister's prayer:

"Bless, O Lord, us your servants who minister in your temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen".

Valerie Fidelia
Choir director

[10] The Sunday school

Cheryl du Plessis and Michelle Arnott continue to teach sessions and once a month the Sunday School participates in the service by helping with sides person duties, the readings, prayers, collection and bringing up the bread and wine for communion. Two of our young people have begun administering the chalice.

In December the children contributed items to fill shoeboxes for children for the Mercy Centre. They also helped fill, wrap and decorate them.

In January four young people were confirmed.

Last spring our Sunday School rooms got a spring clean. The carpets were taken out, walls painted and each room was equipped with a ceiling fan and heater, making the rooms more comfortable and even more attractive.

A WhatsApp chat group was also formed, currently consisting of 8 families, to keep everyone informed of events or activities involving Sunday School and for families to indicate their attendance which helps us in our planning/coordinating. We have also teamed up to serve tea/coffee after the services on a few occasions.

Location

Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 in the hall and the two Sunday School rooms. The children then attend the latter part of the church service and take part in the Holy Communion.

Attendance

Around 4-10 children regularly attend the Sunday School. The current age range is from 1-13yrs.

Programme

We begin each session with prayer – giving thanks about various things from our week and putting any concerns to prayer, as well as keeping a register.

Following this and depending on numbers, we usually move into two groups:

- 5-9 yr olds
- 10-13 yr olds

During this time we teach a lesson based on material from the www.kidssundayschool.com and www.teensundayschool.com curricula and occasionally other topics.

Future Objectives

Cheryl and Michelle will continue using material from www.kidssundayschool.com curriculum as well as from the www.teensundayschool.com for our older children.

We would like the children to continue being involved in various aspects of serving in church services in order to encourage more familiarity as they transition from Sunday School to attending services.

We are very grateful to the PCC for allocating funds for the Sunday School. These funds help supply resources to make the lessons enjoyable and attractive.

We would like to participate in more community projects, e.g. the Monday Meal, where time and availability allow.

We welcome any assistance and occasionally require someone to be available to cover for when one of us is absent.

Prayer Points

Please,

- praise God for those attending the Sunday School
- praise God that the children seem to enjoy coming
- pray for our teens to receive spiritual nourishment and support from ministry, worship and one another to grow in their faith
- pray for our ‘occasional’ families to feel drawn to become more regular
- pray that new families will start attending

- pray that our leaders and teachers will have wisdom, discernment and opportunities to share our faith with our young people
- pray for sustenance for our leaders and teachers so that every Sunday is a new opportunity for fellowship, fun and learning about Christ.
- pray for more parishioners to volunteer to take a session either occasionally or regularly.

In His Service, Michelle and Cheryl

[11] Vulnerable Persons and Safeguarding

This year we have attended the two Diocesan Safe Guarding meetings.

Rev Christine Goldsmith the Executive Vice Chairwoman resigned as she has relocated back to the UK. The Rev Ian Nicolsan from the Gulf States has been appointed in her place.

We have attended PCC meetings during the course of the year. There are some outstanding issues in our Parish which need to be dealt with.

1) References: some references from the book and thrift shop have not been handed in. Could the managers please encourage the volunteers to hand these in.

2) Training: one 'Safe Guarding' training has been undertaken by the PCC. It is very important that all volunteers attend the training as it's a requirement before anyone can officially be appointed to a position of trust and care. We thank those on the Council who did attend for setting a good example.

The response from all the other groups of volunteers was very poor. Another will be arranged in May which we hope all volunteers will attend. All the congregation are also welcome.

Signs have been posted in the grounds for children to be supervised at all times by their parents and also 'Drive Slowly'.

Other issues that have been brought to our attention during the year have been dealt with or are still on going.

Let's cooperate to keep our church safe and welcoming to all.

Margaret and Winifred.

GROUPS THAT USE THE CATHEDRAL PREMISES

[12] Nicosia Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section

There are four units which currently use St Paul's Cathedral Hall on a Wednesday afternoon for their meetings: Rainbows, for girls aged 5-7, Brownies, for the 7-10 year olds, Guides for 10-14s and Rangers for young women aged 14 and above.

We currently have 13 Brownies and only 0 Rainbows. We would very much like to recruit more 5 year olds! This year the girls have learned about: How to Express Myself, through mediums other than vocal..Baking, painting; have taken part in celebrations for Remembrance Day and World Think Day Activities in hall. Highlights have been a Horse and Unicorn themed Brownie camp at Happy Valley in Episkopi, a fantastic summer trip to the pool and the opportunity to learn about Space and women in astronomy from our very own Starry Owl.

We now have 8 girls in Guides and 4 in Rangers, who also took place in Remembrance Day Recent highlights have been a Dragon themed Guide and Ranger camp in November. Our Rangers along with their Amanda Eliades ran a stall at Christmas Bazaar in order to raise funds for a hopeful Overseas Ranger Trip.

It's been a year of change as Ellie Hart (Guides and Brownies) and Louise Hall (Rainbows) both left the island in July. But all units have remained open and we have been delighted to welcome Natalie Christopher as Starry Owl in Brownies and Ruth Middleton as Unit Helper in Guides. Donna Koulinos, Amanda Eliades and Irina Golovina are continuing to lead the units, but we would welcome more help!

We have also embraced the new programme launched by Girlguiding UK in July 2018 which sets exciting challenges for girls of all ages in the areas of: Be Well; Know Myself; Have Adventures; Express Myself; Skills for my Future and Take Action. We are really excited about this new programme of badges and activities and everything it has to offer to English speaking girls in Nicosia.

Donna Koulinos

OTHER CONGREGATIONS THAT USE THE CATHEDRAL PREMISES

[13] The German Protestant Church in Cyprus

The German Protestant Church of German Language in Cyprus is very grateful that its members can use the church as well as the church hall for its events. It is an oecumenical community, that is, Catholic and Protestant Christians meet to share their belief.

As in past years, there are two regular events every two weeks: A church service on Saturday evenings every first and third Saturday of the month at 18.00 hrs. And a meeting of the church members every second and fourth Thursday at 19.00 hrs. Led by the Pastor of the community.

During the first half of 2018, Pastor Michael Mäuer was in charge of the German Protestant Church of German Language in Cyprus, since September 2018 Pastor Tilman Wilborn (who worked for several years as Pastor of the German Community in Manchester) has been taking care of the German community all over Cyprus.

As a rule, during the Thursday community meetings the Pastor gives a presentation of a topic that might be of interest for the participants.

Some examples for 2018:

January 2018: The Catholic Author Heinrich Böll (1907 – 1985) – His Work and Life

Heinrich Böll was one of the leading writers after the end of the Second World War, committed to non-violence and strictly against the Rearmament of Germany, a political activist throughout his life. He helped Solschenyzin and Lev Kopelev to leave the Soviet Union and was in contact with Ulrike Meinhoff (RAF – Red Army Fraction / in the end a terrorist movement), which led to a search of his house so that he finally left the country to stay in Ireland. In 1976 he gave up his membership of the Catholic Church, staying a Catholic at heart. He wrote a great number of books, some of which were adapted for the screen. In 1972 he was awarded the Literary Nobel Prize.

February 2018: Presentation of Robert Harris' book CONCLAVE, according to critic Ian Samson, The Guardian, "A portrait of power, corruption and deceit" and an "unputdownable" novel, based on reliable research.

March 2018: The Church Councils through the centuries

May 2018: The Importance of Singing Hymns during the Church Service

Old Testament: Ps. 98,1: Sing a new song unto the Lord
Hymns as expression of adoration and trust in God
Great Protestant writers of hymns: Martin Luther and Paul Gerhard/

Melody: Krüger

October 2018: Seven Ways of Explaining Texts from the Bible

November 2018: What does it mean to be a Saint?
Are there Protestant Saints?

December 2018: Advent – The Prophecies of Isaiah
Christmas Customs and Traditions

Ute Wörmann-Stylianou

[14] The Scandinavian Church

The Scandinavian Church celebrated Swedish service in St Paul's three times during 2018: 31 March, 19 May and 15 December. After the service we have coffee and chat in the parish hall. We are pleased that we have the possibility to use the cathedral for our services for Scandinavians residing in Nicosia. It is meaningful for them to have church service in their own language some times during the year and the church and hall works well for our needs. It also strengthen our ecumenical contacts with the Anglican Church in Cyprus. Thanks for that!

Eva Berglund