

Anglican Chaplaincy of Bonn and Cologne

Newsletter

February 2019

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Editorial: A new régime

We have been thinking about how to solve the chronic problem of getting the Newsletter out regularly and on time. This has, of course, not been the case in the past, partly perhaps because we were too ambitious. It is therefore planned to slim down the Newsletter (remember that French *régime* also means 'diet') so that it becomes more manageable. Several ideas are currently being floated and we'll be trying them out. The plan is to publish in January (sometimes known as February), April, July and October, so although we didn't manage it this January, we'll be aiming for April as the next publication date. No, not on April 1. Hm, watch this space, I think is the operative word. So that we get this issue out now, I've had to hold back a couple of interviews I haven't yet finished, which means they'll be in the April edition.

Geoff Sammon

BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2019

Mental Health and Livelihoods Support for the Vulnerable in Greece

I send you this appeal as we begin to prepare our hearts and minds for the beginning of Lent in three weeks' time.

Natural as well as man-made disasters in our world bring hurt and heartbreak to all those affected. They remind us of the fragility of our human existence, wherever we live. Where natural disaster has occurred, there is physical suffering: the tragedy of lives lost, or the pain of families, homes and livelihoods devastated. But the wounds are also psychological. And they frequently do not manifest themselves immediately, but later on. This is especially true for the vulnerable and applies particularly to children.

In July 2018, the resort village of Mati witnessed Greece's worst ever forest fires. The death toll reached 100, over 200 people injured, and over 700 evacuated from their homes. To these numbers, we should add the number suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other psychological after-effects.

An Athens-based organisation called Hestia Hellas is providing a vulnerable community with sustainable tools and a skill set necessary to participate in daily life and thrive in times of difficulties. Greece is facing multiple challenges including an economic crisis, an influx of refugees and migrants and the devastating fires that have deprived many families from housing and jobs. Hestia Hellas is dedicated to offering psycho-social support services, Child Friendly Space, jobs and life skills support, and food distribution to those in need.

In a video, our chaplain in Athens, Fr. Leonard Doolan and Lauraine Velez, Co-Founder and Director of Hestia Hellas speak about the project. This can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amsICtNva1s&feature=youtu.be>

There will be an Appeal launch on the Diocesan website at

<https://europe.anglican.org/bishops-appeals/bishops-appeals>, followed by regular

updates on the website, and our social media. Do keep an eye out for these. And please do consider how you can support my appeal. As usual, you can give money to this appeal through your church treasurer, who will forward money to the diocesan office.

Hestia Hellas express in their own words why this cause is so important and how we can help:

“The Greeks, who were recent refugees themselves, know what it’s like to be forced from their homes. They have a special word in their culture, Filoxenia, which the literal translation means “friend to the foreigner”. Greeks, like the many refugees and migrants we see today need our help to regain parts of themselves that they’ve lost through devastating experiences. With the continued support of the Anglican Church, and their generosity, we can serve the Greek and refugee populations side by side.”

I wish you a holy and spiritually fulfilling Lent.

With every blessing,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

Community Appeal - Additional information

Hestia Hellas serves vulnerable Greek and refugee populations in Athens in their path to independence and participation in society. We focus on integration, autonomy, and sustainability by providing psychosocial support, job and life skills, therapeutic interventions for special needs children, and community advocacy. Hestia Hellas uses a holistic approach in order to support the social and economic integration of vulnerable communities into Greek society. We are providing a vulnerable community with sustainable tools and a skill set necessary to participate in daily life and thrive in times of difficulties. Greece is facing multiple challenges including an economic crisis, an influx of refugees and migrants and recently devastating fires that have deprived many families of housing and jobs. At Hestia Hellas they have safe access to multiple programmes that will help them cope with the situation and strengthen their position in society. Many have experienced traumatic events, including abuse, violence and natural disasters, which can have long-term effects on their mental health and their position in society.

Psychosocial Support (PSS) services

Our 8-person PSS team provides group and 1:1 therapy to children, adolescents and adults. Modalities used among the team include, CBT, Gestalt and Psychodynamic therapies. In addition to therapeutic sessions, our PSS team also holds about 3-8 workshops per month, including places like Mati. We also tailor workshops for other NGOs, beneficiaries, schools and other local stakeholders.

Child-Friendly Space

Our CFS is run by volunteers who have background in psychology, education and mental health. Modalities used are ABA, (Applied Behaviour Analysis), TEACCH model (Treatment and Education of Autistic and Communication related to handicapped Children), PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) and MAKATON with a focus in on therapeutic interventions for children with special needs. The CFS is open to all children ages 2-17 years old. Some of our educational activities include an IT program, English, Maths, Science Activities, emotional learning and health and nutrition among others. Our CFS also provides the ideal location to identify children who have been Victims of Torture (VoTs), sexual violence, PTSD and other forms of trauma to be referred internally to our PSS team.

Livelihoods (job and life skills support)

Our Livelihoods programme currently offers computer classes such as typing, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. We also have a job wall where we advertise any local openings for which our beneficiaries may qualify. We offer CV preparation, interviewing skills and assistance in applying for universities here in Greece. We will also be expanding our current services to include life skills and focusing more on on-line learning, with certificates from American and British universities. In addition, we provide a 12-week Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Empowerment and Development (SEED) Business Course the next of which will start in February. Currently, our Livelihoods is solely run by volunteers.

Food Distribution

We offer a hot lunch every weekday, from 12-15:00 hours and serve up to 3,000 persons per month.

Our appeal covers the cost of our PSS Coordinator, who is a Greek national with over a decade of experience and holds a Master's degree in Psychology. She not only supervises the 8-person PSS team, but also creates leading workshops for practitioners, beneficiaries, and leads any further support provided to Mati wildfire survivors. Additional funds would cover the cost of our Child/Adolescent Psychologist, a Greek national who also holds a Master's degree in Psychology and has over 4 years of experience working for vulnerable groups. Both paid professionals adhere to the strict codes within their field and will comply with the UK's safeguarding procedures.

Psychologist Supervisor £2,000 month (actual salary €1,200)	£24,000
Child/Adolescent Psychologist £1200 (actual salary €900)	£14,400
	Total / year: £38,400

We pray the Bishop's Lent Appeal will allow us to continue these much-needed services. Any surplus funding will go directly towards the salary of our Child/Adolescent Psychologist as outlined above.

Our video lent appeal, found on Hestia Hellas's youtube page, further outlines the work we do and our valued and esteemed partnership with the Anglican Church.

Please feel free to contact me at lauraine@hestiahellas.org for any additional information.

Co-Founder and Director
Hestia Hellas

Work and worship in Winchester with the AOCICC



Left to right: Jenny Knudsen, The Revd Jennifer Adams-Massmann, Bishop David Hamid, The Revd Prof Angela Berlis, Bishop Tim Dakin (guest), Bishop Michael Burrows, Bishop Dirk Jan Schoon, The Revd Lars Simpson, The Revd Tony Litwinski

“It doesn’t get more English than this,” I thought to myself as I strolled around Winchester early one late-May morning. The magnificent cathedral, the beautifully tended gardens, the roses in full bloom, the schoolchildren rushing to morning assembly – Winchester ticks all the boxes.

So it was a real pleasure to spend five days there from 22–26 May for this year’s meeting of the Anglican-Old Catholic International Coordinating Council (AOCICC), which I joined in 2013. The AOCICC is the official body which serves the communion between the Churches of the Anglican Communion and the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht.

Each year our work includes:

- reflecting on the nature and meaning of our communion;
- updating each other about developments within each Communion (Anglican and Old Catholic);
- briefing each other about developments in the bilateral and multilateral ecumenical relationships in which both Communion are engaged.

In Winchester we also reflected on the outcomes of the work we’ve done during our current mandate (2013–2019) with a view to preparing a report for the Anglican Consultative Council and the International Bishops’ Conference. We aim to finalise the report at our next meeting in Prague in

January 2019.

One of the highlights for me was the opportunity to worship in Winchester Cathedral for Morning Prayer, Choral Evensong and the daily Eucharist. The Bishop of Winchester, Tim Dakin, came to tell us about his diocese and to discuss the mission and renewal of the Church. And we all greatly enjoyed the cheerful hospitality of the Dean and Cathedral Chapter for afternoon tea at the Deanery. The slices of cake were enormous. Rumour has it that some people even managed two.



You can find more information about the AOCICC in the Anglican Communion Document Library: <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/document-library>

The parable of the Prodigal Son – what’s it really about?

Or rather, *who* is it about? The question might seem to answer itself, but when I came across Timothy Keller’s exposition* of the parable in Luke’s gospel, I knew I had to think again. In Keller’s view, the top billing given to the prodigal or wayward son has obscured the point of the story. He has a closer look at the obedient son (who as we recall is also the *angry* son).

Keller looks first of all at the people listening to the parable in Luke’s gospel: the “tax collectors** and sinners” on the one hand, and the scribes and the Pharisees on the other. The riffraff versus the better element, the rule-keepers. The Pharisees had been complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them”. Jesus’ parable put them on the spot. The identity of the self-righteous elder brother was very clear.

But after all – one might wonder – didn’t the elder brother have every reason to be angry? Did all his filial obedience count for nothing? Keller says: “That was his way to get control.” Elder brothers “are being moral for their own benefit”.

If, like the elder brother, you believe that God ought to bless you and help you because you have worked so hard to obey him and be a good person, then Jesus may be your helper, your example, even your inspiration, but he is not your Saviour. You are serving as your own Saviour.

What kind of people were drawn to our Lord? And what kind of people fill our churches today? Keller, the founding pastor of a large inner-city church in New York, offers a disturbing finding:

The kind of outsiders Jesus attracted are not attracted to contemporary churches....If our churches aren't appealing to younger brothers, they must be more full of elder brothers than we'd like to think.

So is the parable of the Prodigal Son really about us, or a lot of us? Keller, who does not make blanket judgements, distinguishes between "an elder brother and a real, gospel believing Christian". But lest we get too complacent he points to the "many genuine Christians who are elder-brotherish" – perhaps without recognizing themselves. "O God," such people might pray, "I thank thee that I am not like those Pharisees".

At the end we see the father reaching out to both sons, each estranged in different ways. The younger one can't even finish his prepared speech of penitence before his rejoicing father interrupts him. The father then reaches out to his sulking elder son, pleading with him to come to the feast. "This picture...shows that even the most religious and moral people need the initiating grace of God, that they are just as lost; and it shows there is hope, yes, even for Pharisees."

George Williams

**The Prodigal God.* New York: Dutton, 2008; London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2009. *Newsweek* called the author a "C.S. Lewis for the twenty-first century".

** Despised as tools of the Roman overlords.

Eulogy for Tony Taylor

As many of you will know, Tony Taylor, a long-standing member of the Bonn congregation, died last December. This eulogy was written by his son Christopher.

Tony Taylor was born on 11th September 1932 . He was brought up during the Second World War in Cambridge. He was the eldest child of a large family and had two younger brothers and three younger sisters.

As a boy he did a paper round before cycling off to school, which was a three-mile ride in all weathers. Tony had a difficult childhood. Being the eldest child, he was expected to help with the errands, which included fetching the firewood from the local builder's yard (the cheap off-cuts) every Saturday morning, then chopping it into suitably sized pieces as well as collecting straw for the rabbits, which were kept in the back yard for food. This was all wheeled back in an old pram. Food was rationed and money was very tight when Tony was a young boy. Despite all the hard work and poverty Tony never complained and always helped his mum as much as he could

because his dad worked long hours on the railway but spent the majority of his earnings on Woodbines and beer.

He was a very clever boy, who worked hard at school and passed all of his 11+ exams. He was consequently awarded a place in The Perse School Cambridge, but unfortunately for Tony, his family were poor and despite his successes they weren't able to afford the posh school uniform that was required for that school. The majority of pupils who went there came from wealthy families, so in the end Tony had to go to the County Grammar School. This was also a very good school and whilst he was there, he organised a day trip to London by train for his middle brother Roy and some of his school friends. Tony was the eldest of the group, so he took charge, and the other boys were very excited about the day. It was the first time all the boys had been to London, the first time they had been on a train and the underground too. Tony had organised the schedule for the day and pre-planned the under-ground routes, so the boys had an amazing day. They stood outside Buckingham Palace in their shorts and long socks, then headed off for Downing Street to glimpse at No. 10. In those days there was no security and nobody ever gave a thought about dangers, and they got right to the front door of No. 10 Downing Street. Then they went to Trafalgar Square, followed by London Zoo, before catching the train back home again.

Tony's middle brother Roy was diagnosed with a congenital heart disorder at the age of 7 and sent to an open-air school, as this school provided better food, malt and vitamins (malt was given out on a spoon to the children), fresh air and extra rest for pupils who suffered from a range of illnesses. The education wasn't very good there, as the ages of the pupils ranged from 5 to 15 and there was a mix of ages all within the same class. Because Tony's mum was at home with 3 younger children it fell to Tony to ensure that his younger brother Roy got there safely on the first day and knew where to catch the bus from in future. It was a special bus that picked them up and it then went around Cambridge collecting other pupils before arriving at the school. When they got to the school on Roy's first day Tony registered his brother before going back home and reporting to his mother.

Tony left the County Grammar School at the age of 15 and joined the army as a full-time cadet at Catterick in Yorkshire. When Tony joined the army, it took some pressure off his mother, as there was one less mouth to feed. Tony was posted to Germany in 1951 in the Royal Signals, where he met Evi, whom he later married. She was a telephonist and worked in the exchange in the same building that Tony lived and worked. Their first "Rendezvous" in 1953 was to see the film of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth. In 1954, he was posted to Fallingbostal and in July of the same year, he was sent to Hong Kong. Before going to Hong Kong, he proposed to Evi and they decided to get married upon his return from there. In September of 1955, Tony returned from Hong Kong and went on a long advanced Technical Course. As soon as this ended, Tony and Evi were married in December 1956, before he was posted to Catterick in January 1957. Evi followed in August 1957. They managed to stay there for 3 years before being posted again back to Germany, this time to Essen and then to Krefeld in 1961, where their son Christopher was born in December of that year. His army unit was later disbanded and they moved to Herford for the next 3 years until 1964, when he was posted back to Catterick, in order for him to participate in a course for Satellite Communications. At the end of the course in May of 1965, they moved to Singapore, where satellite communications were being tested. In fact, he was part of the team when the first

signal was ever received via satellite from Blandford in Dorset. In 1967, they moved back to Boscombe in Hampshire, where Tony continued working on satellite communications in Christchurch.

In September 1968, Tony was commissioned as an Officer and was posted to Herford to 7 Signals Regiment. Family life consisted of living first in a hotel, followed by a flat and eventually a house. They were here until 1971, when they returned to the UK, where he was posted in short order to Wilton, Upavon, the Ministry of Defence in London and then to Blandford in Dorset. They finally bought a house near Blandford to try to bring some stability to their lives, having moved 16 times in their 15 years of marriage!

In 1977, he was posted to AFCENT in Brunssum, Netherlands for what would be his final posting in the Army. He was offered a position at Elekluft in Bonn in 1982, where he would remain until his retirement in 1996. He had promised Evi a house, a garden and a cat. They lived in Breslauerstraße in Meckenheim for more than 25 years.

In 2012, Tony had a second battle with cancer, which he survived, but the year ended with Evi falling and subsequently suffering a stroke in 2013. He moved into a flat in the same home that she was located in. The staff always commented on the fact that he visited her 2 to 3 times a day. After her death in 2014, health issues took their toll on Tony and eventually led to him having dialysis treatment 3 times a week. This process was taxing on both his physical and mental health and he moved into managed care in April 2017. A gradual decline followed and he died in hospital on 5th December 2018, after a short illness. He was surrounded by his son, his priest of 30 plus years and close friends, for which all of his family are eternally grateful.

Tony was always very loyal to his old school friends and army colleagues and when he visited England, he would go out of his way.....sometimes hundreds of miles, to make sure that he visited family, friends and ex-army colleagues. He also enjoyed his Annual Reunions with his ex-colleagues from the Royal Signals. He would go out of his way to help others, especially the Church here in Bonn and the British Players, where he was awarded honorary Lifetime Membership. He was a keen offshore yachtsman and often sailed in the Baltic, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. Some of the best family holidays were spent on boats on the Norfolk Broads and the Fens. He will be buried next to Evi in Bad Münstereifel under an oak tree for all eternity. He chose that place for them and though he remained staunchly English, his final home will be here in Germany, where he spent most of his life.

Chris Taylor

Profile: Michael Bullock

This is a slightly updated version of the original Profile published in the Newsletter when Michael came over as a locum.

Michael was born just after the war in Shrewsbury. He studied Arabic in Durham, graduating from Hatfield College in 1971. He completed his ordination training at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, one year later. He was ordained as deacon in 1975 and as priest the following year. After serving as a curate at St. John the Baptist in Peterborough from 1975-1979, he went to Zambia, where he worked as a priest in the Copperbelt at Luanshya and Mufulira, and also at a rural mission station at Fiwila

from 1979 to 1986. After a stint as vicar of St. Botolph's, Peterborough between 1986 and 1991, he worked at Christ Church, Naples from 1991 to 1999. While he was there he became a member of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd (from 1993) and was appointed Canon of Malta Cathedral in 1998, which he remained until 2012 (thereafter Emeritus). He was priest in charge of Liguria in Northern Italy from 1999 to 2000, then moving to Lisbon with Estoril, where he worked until his retirement as full-time priest in 2012. He has had permission to officiate as priest in Europe since 2012, and in Lincoln since 2013. He came as a locum to the Chaplaincy in March 2016. In November 2017 he was appointed Priest to the Chaplaincy. He divides his time between Spalding, Lincolnshire, and Bonn & Cologne.

Dates for your diary

4 May 7.30 p.m. Concert given by the Cantamus Chamber Choir of St. Paul's Girls' School, London at All Saints.

29 June 12-4 p.m. Cologne Summer Fete, All Saints

27 July 7.30 p.m. Concert by Ripon Cathedral Choir, All Saints

Comments:

Wot? No Garden Party in Bonn?

Yes, dinna fash yersel. We'll be discussing a date for it at our next PCC meeting on 11 March. Similarly, it may well be advisable to have another Book Fair to try to slim down our piles of books (a kind of régime change, remember?).