



## HUNGARIAN REFLECTION

Dear Friends,

As ever, it was fascinating to meet the leaders of the other Anglican churches in Eastern Europe at our synod in Hungary last week. It is encouraging to hear how the different churches are responding to their mission and ministry contexts in different ways. It's amazing to hear that the Alpha course has become a vehicle for teaching our faith in many denominations, supplemented of course with teaching about particular traditions and spiritual practices.

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### EAST & WEST

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One comment that particularly struck me from Bishop Robert was his observation that the churches in the East often undertake their work with only a fraction of the resources of the larger western churches. He observed that we are alive and well and active in our calling in situations which necessitate doing so with far fewer resources. This made me think...

Firstly, about how many of the attitudes and actions that really make our church communities bloom don't actually cost that much money at all!! Think about it. That welcoming smile when someone enters the church for worship; the genuine desire of a ministry team to see those in the community blessed and healed by our Lord; the faithfulness of the community to pray day in and day out, week in and week out; our love expressed in our worship; the visit that shows that someone is loved and valued; all these aspects of our community life are virtually free. So. maybe... the best things in life *are* free!! (There I said it!)

Just maybe, to quote the Matt Redman song:

"When the music fades  
All is stripped away  
I simply come  
Longing just to bring  
Something that's of worth  
That will bless your heart"

This simplicity of heart before God is something beyond value that money cannot buy and maybe when the financial distractions have run their course, the initiatives have petered away and we're left with each other and God (as often happens when financial times are tough)... maybe then we *are* drawn to the heart of our community life to love each other and our Lord.

Whatever we do, we must never lose this simplicity of faith.



Secondly, it made me think how this "living faith" is the means by which we find ourselves blessed with the resources we do *need* to keep our collective "body and soul" together and develop what we have here to for the Gospel. It is always the generosity of God's people that ensure that the gifts and finances of the church are offered and put to good use for His Kingdom. I am humbled and thankful when I think of how we, as a church family, operate so much on grace and faith! When we think of all our church gets done in a year, the

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number of people we share our lives with and the support we give and receive, and all this for less than the cost of a single average employee in the UK today! It *is* like the seed sown on fertile ground; it seems to multiply way beyond our expectations.

I am aware that over the last few months we have all been supporting the work of God's Kingdom on so many different fronts... our regular giving to the church community, supporting Yemen, the local Kayak4cancer and the Hospital, the refugee project, the Logos cafe project, etc... and on the 13th October, this year, we will have our gift day to help fill the gap for this year's running expenses. This is a lot of fronts! But which one do we drop? None, I think.

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## GENUINELY JOYFUL

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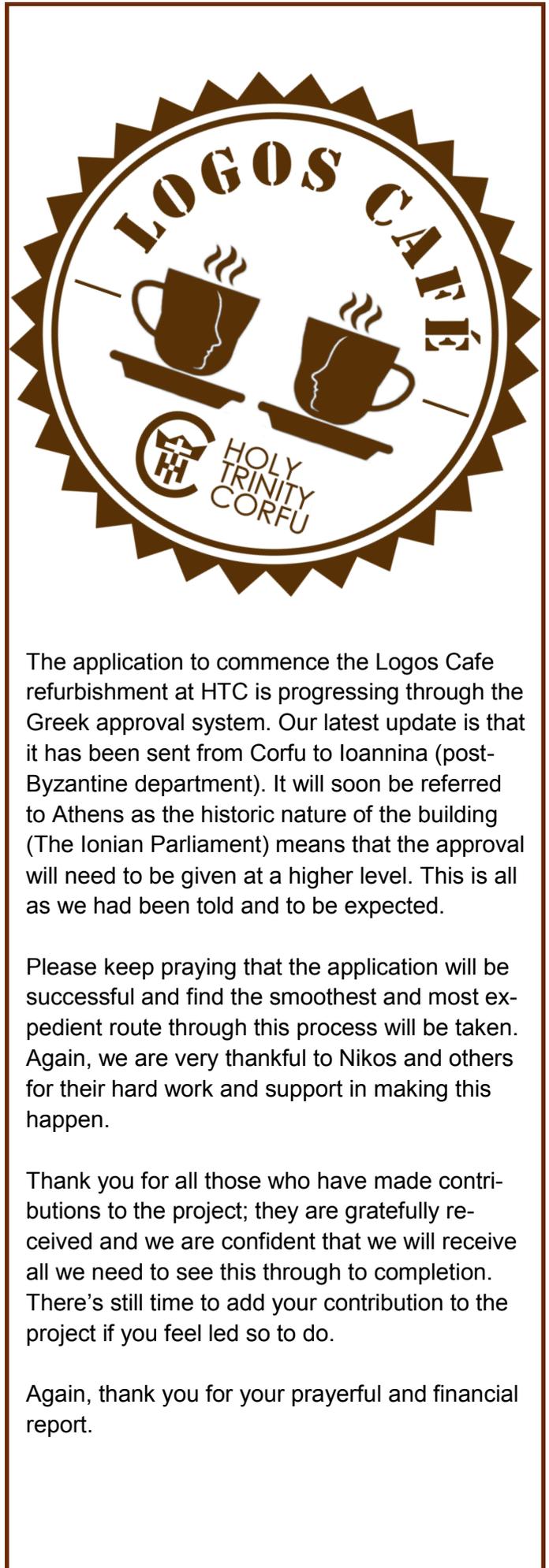
When we look at the work that all this giving supports, I think we can be genuinely joyful that it has all supported what *needed* to be supported.

And maybe this is another feature of the churches in the East of Europe; because we are still living in times of austerity and comparative poverty to the north and west of Europe, we have to prioritise and pray very carefully that the time and resources we commit are, indeed, needed. Which itself means that there is a confidence and a joy that what we are giving is making a real difference and without it... the world would be less.

So, as so often I find myself writing, thank you for everything! For all those who pray, worship and support our mission and ministry here in whatever way and let's keep praying that we will have clarity of vision for our ministry and the means to see that realised - all by the grace of God and his people!

With thanks and blessings,

Jules



The application to commence the Logos Cafe refurbishment at HTC is progressing through the Greek approval system. Our latest update is that it has been sent from Corfu to Ioannina (post-Byzantine department). It will soon be referred to Athens as the historic nature of the building (The Ionian Parliament) means that the approval will need to be given at a higher level. This is all as we had been told and to be expected.

Please keep praying that the application will be successful and find the smoothest and most expedient route through this process will be taken. Again, we are very thankful to Nikos and others for their hard work and support in making this happen.

Thank you for all those who have made contributions to the project; they are gratefully received and we are confident that we will receive all we need to see this through to completion. There's still time to add your contribution to the project if you feel led so to do.

Again, thank you for your prayerful and financial report.

# C<sub>4</sub>ayak Cancer



As I was aware that an increasing number of people, including some of my family and friends, are suffering from cancer, I decided at the end of July to kayak around the island (Corfu) to raise money for this cause. I really wanted to go on holiday off the island but with certain commitments here that wasn't possible and it certainly wasn't possible to visit family and friends in U.K. and Belgium. Kayaking was an idea that just kept coming back into my mind again and again and from past experience that is something that is being put there by God.

One Sunday I put the idea to Jules who was enthusiastic about the idea and said that the church bank account could be used for donations and the final confirmation was when I found that Lorraine would be visiting the cancer ward in the hospital the next day and said I could go along.

I wondered if I would physically be able to do the trip, but as there wasn't enough time to train I figured I would get fit as I went along. The trip was approximately 201.6kms and was carried out in sections that could be covered in a day, I did several days in a row and these were dependant on the weather conditions, my other commitments and finding a safe place to leave the kayak when I need to return home.



The church has previously donated to the Cancer Day Clinic at Corfu General Hospital and so it seemed to be a good idea to carry on the good work there. This unit has been set up to enable patients to have their chemotherapy here without having to travel to the mainland, which is an arduous trip if you are already suffering and expensive too.

The distance planning for each day was fairly basic but with almost 40 years of experience of the sea around Corfu I felt confident that I would succeed. So with a set of spare paddles, life jacket, smoke signal and flare and some other necessities I set off. Paddling clockwise around the island seemed the best idea to take advantage of any wind which would most likely come from the NW and staying close to the shore for safety reasons I would be out of any currents, which usually go in the opposite direction.

It was a wonderful experience, very peaceful at times and the scenery was beautiful. I was supported by my husband in the south of the island

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and friends in the north who picked me up at the end of the day and then took me back to the same place to start again the next time and also by the diving centre in Paleocastritsa who helped with transport. The most I did was 4 days in one go and the longest distance in one day was 25kms. The shortest 8kms because the wind was against me and threatening to get stronger. It took a total of 13 days in all.



On my way around the island I met up with friends in various places and was accompanied for a few hours by Jules and Trish in their kayak, George from the Rescue team, my son Hari and his girlfriend Christina and my husband on 4 different days.



I posted a write up about each day on my Facebook page and a friend Sarah Jane set up and kept going another Facebook page "Cayak for Cancer Corfu", also helping me with the technical side of things and doing lots of sharing every where on the web.

This effort has been very successful and a lot of money has been raised. The donations have come in to both the English and UK church accounts, to the church in envelopes, to the Navigators bar and to me in person. It has been a bit overwhelming at

times and I am VERY grateful to everyone who has supported me in this.



I have been meeting with Kostas Moustairas who is in charge of the ward at the hospital to discuss how the money might be used and he and the hospital management would like to use the money to improve the well-being of the patients being treated. So we are looking into providing a smart TV for each bed, with headphones, internet access and memory stick with films and music.



The ward itself is in desperate need of an uplift. Although it is in good condition it is very drab. So I am still looking for donations to help with that. A big effort has been made in other parts of the hospital to create a much better atmosphere with murals and artwork.

I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has supported me so far and if anyone would still like to donate the details are as follows:

Holy Trinity Anglican Church bank accounts:

**Greece:** PIRAEUS BANK  
Account No: 5050086327568  
**IBAN:** GR0701720500005050086327568  
**BIC:** PIRBGRAA

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**U.K:** Barclays Bank, Portman Square Group  
Sort Code: 20-69-17  
Account Number: 40494887  
Account Name:  
Holy Trinity Anglican Church Corfu

**Important:** Please state that your donation is for  
“Cayak 4 Cancer”

So far, over 2,000€ has been raised and the effort will continue until the end of October. Although I have finished with the kayaking I still need to meet people and ask for their support.

Anastasi, the manager at Imabari lounge bar at Faliraki has created a delicious cocktail called “C4C” with a donation from each sale going to the fund.

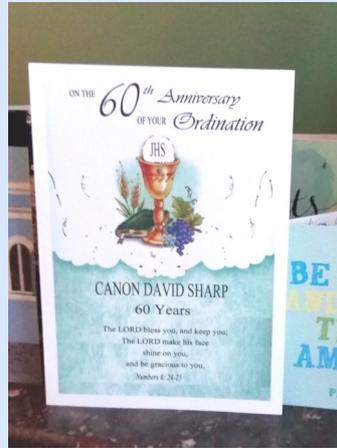


Lindsay Tel: (0030) 6944 741 133



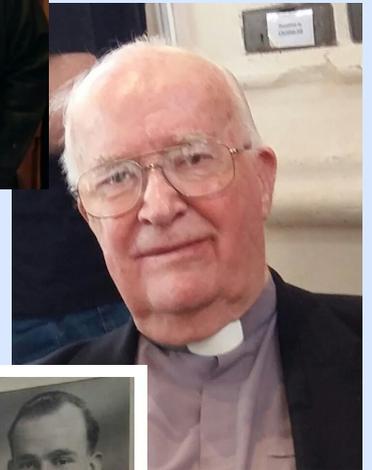
## 60 YEARS IN MINISTRY

Recently HTC was able to send a card signed by the long standing members of our congregation to Revd. Canon David Sharps.



David was celebrating 60 years since he was ordained in 1959! David was on the Board of ICS and was responsible for sending out locums from 1978 - 1983. Whenever he was on holiday he would preach at HTC, with his last visit to us in 2005.

A celebration was held at his local church in Fakenham, Norfolk on 20th September.



*David at the time of his ordination as a priest, which took place at Bristol Cathedral on 20th September 1959. He served as a Curate at St Mary Redcliffe.*



Unfortunately we have since heard that David is currently in hospital suffering angina and pneumonia.

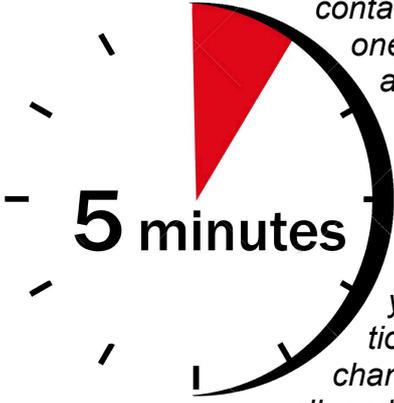
Please remember David and his wife Audrey in your prayers at this difficult time.

# PRAYER - More than words...

As Christians we know how important prayer is, it is how we build our relationship with God. And like all relationships the more time we spend with someone the more we get to know them. So do we have an intimate or casual relationship with God? How much time do we spend in prayer? Do we believe that God will answer those prayers? Have we got the faith James talks about?

I read this in 'Word for Today':-

*"Do you pray even 5 minutes a day? That's less than one half percent of your waking hours. During prohibition [in the USA] Congress ruled that anything that contained less than one half percent alcohol was "non-intoxicating". That means, you can't feel the effects it doesn't change your perceptions, it doesn't change the way you walk and talk!"*



*You say, 'How long should I pray?' The answer is, until you feel the effect, until it changes your perception, until you walk and talk differently.'*

Mark's gospel records, (chapter 1) 'Very early in the morning...Jesus got up...and...prayed' Jesus made deposits each morning - so that He could make withdrawals throughout the day. Many of us don't, and it shows!

Martin Luther said, 'I have often learned more in one prayer - than I have been able to glean from much reading and reflection.' Do you want to know God better? Start praying!

I was brought up a pretty strict Catholic and went to church every Sunday (I had no choice really!) I went to a secondary school run by nuns and so prayer was a pretty big part of

my life from very young. Even so, I didn't have an intimate relationship with God. I hadn't understood that prayer was about a relationship. It was just something I was taught to do.

I remember during Lent, in my teens - I would vow to say a decade of the rosary every night - (for those non-Catholics, it's one 'Our Father'; ten 'Hail Mary' and one 'Glory be to the Father'). Now those of you that know me, know that I can talk pretty fast; but if you'd have heard me say that rosary you'd have been amazed. I thought the quicker I could do it, the better it was! It was just words!

I used to think that God was much too busy with world affairs to listen to me and my petty problems; but that is exactly what He wants to do. 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew Chapter 11).

14 years ago I asked Jesus into my life. And my life changed, along with my prayer life. I slowly started to realize that prayer wasn't about eloquent words, kneeling in church, or-reeling of the rosary as quickly as possible. It is about spending time with our heavenly Father; about a relationship with the living God. Talking to Him, listening to Him, being still in His presence and reading His Word. He isn't concerned where we pray, He isn't impressed by our manner of Worship. He is only concerned with our feelings, He hears the cry of our souls & looks deep into our hearts.

*"For your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." Matthew 6.*

*To be continued next month...*

*This article is part of a talk given at HTC by Christine Spatoula on 30 September 2012.*

*Next month we hear from Chris as she gives testimony about the power of prayer at a difficult time in her life.*

# Spotted on Facebook - not HTC's notice board!

## Church bulletin board

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Compiled by Max Bowen

# And now, introducing....

Hello all.

I'm Sebastian, I am 26 years old and an ordinand (someone who is training for ordination) on placement at HTC for 3 weeks. I have just finished the first year of my three year theological course at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and am here to get some pastoral experience before starting my second year. I'm engaged to be married to Scarlett, who's following a vocation as an actress.



As part of my studies, I have to do certain summer placements and it's a great privilege for me to be able to spend a few weeks on placement here at Holy Trinity, Corfu. Aside from learning lots about chaplaincy and getting pastoral experience it's an amazing opportunity to be able to enjoy being on this beautiful island, a place to which I have a deep family connection.

At Wycliffe, I am one of about 70 young men and women in the college 'reading for Holy Orders' (i.e. training for ordination) in the Church of England. The other 80 or so at the college are normal students at the University, which helps to normal-

ise us a bit!! How I ended up here is a bit of a surprise to my family but not to me, as I feel I am truly following the path which the Spirit has led me on from an early age. I was born and raised on the Wirral peninsula in Cheshire (but my family originally come from just across the border in North Wales!) and while both of my parents are baptised members of the Church of England, I wasn't raised as a Christian – except for both of my grandmothers telling me about the importance of 'saying your prayers', a concept completely alien to me. My journey is one of very gradually and steadily coming to faith. From a very young age I remember praying the Lord's Prayer with my Granny but not really understanding it. I remember at the age of 11 hearing a morning assembly at school on the importance of Christian hospitality and care for the homeless, which is something I was privileged to do during my ministry experience year in Tottenham. Throughout my teenage years I felt the call to enter into a closer relationship with Christ.

When I was 17, I began reading in chapel at school. At 18, I felt called to baptism and the formal and covenantal commitment to a faith I had always professed but never understood. I therefore began worshipping at my parish church, which was of the 'High Church' tradition. The traditional worship and language, and the focus on eucharistic worship was something that drew me deeper into faith. I was then baptised and confirmed the next day just after my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.



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Throughout university (Classics at Liverpool) I began to read more scripture and grow in my faith. I felt called to a life of service, and initially thought this might be in the Armed Forces. While still at university, in 2014, my vicar asked if I had ever thought God might be calling me to ordained ministry. I was shocked by the question. I had only been a baptised Christian for a few years, and besides the church needed clergy – this was just a recruitment pitch, surely! And yet the call to serve God’s people was within me, and these words were possibly the seeds of a vocation.



I began reading a few books on vocation and thought and prayed about this. A few weeks later, my university chaplain asked the same question of me: had I considered if God might be calling me to serve in his church. I finished my studies at Liverpool and began teaching Classics at my old school for a year while I decided what to do with my life. Throughout this time, people in unexpected situations began to see this vocation in me, before I did.

At my Granny’s funeral, I saw a great aunt of mine I had only met once before, and she said she thought I should be a priest! And so I thought that I should give my full attention to discerning whether all these people might be right. I spent two years in North London (first in Tottenham, then in Camden) to explore and discern this vocation. These years were very challenging at times but really crystalized God’s call through experience, learning and the affirmation of others. I feel hugely blessed and humbled by the position God has put me in, and hope to serve God’s people well in the future. As I continue with my training, I become more fully myself - I become more and more the person I am called to be. God willing I will be ordained as a deacon in June 2021 and then

as a priest in June 2022 – but aside from that, the future is uncertain.

I mentioned that I have connections to Corfu. Most recently I was on holiday here last year – but my Greek connection is as follows. My grandmother, Vavara-Sophia Arvanitaki (1922-2014) was Greek and born in Argostoli, Kefallinia. She met my grandfather, William Jones (1919-1976), during WWII in Athens and they were married at St. Paul’s (Anglican church), in Athens in 1946.



St Paul's Athens

Both of my grandparents though had connections to Corfu. William’s great-great-great-grandfather, a Welshman called Thomas Jones, was a soldier in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot, who after Waterloo, was part of the garrison at the Fort in Corfu town from 1817-19. A well-deserved ‘holiday’ after years of fighting in the Peninsula Wars!



Some of the British built buildings in the Old Fort.

Vavara-Sophia’s great-great-great-uncle was Dimitrios Arvanitakis (a doctor from Zante) who

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signed the 1817 British Constitution and was a Member of the Ionian Parliament (the building where Holy Trinity, Corfu is now based) As a minor claim to fame: Dimitrios' daughter, Elena, was married to Count Dimitrios Solomos, G.C.M.G., President of the Ionian Islands, and the elder brother of the national poet of Greece, Dionysios Solomos – about whom there is a museum here in Corfu!



The Ionian Parliament building (with HTC now occupying the rear of the building).

It is said that Dimitrios Arvanitakis (or Demetrio Arvanitachi, as he called himself – since like many of the Venetian Patrician class of the day he spoke better Italian than Greek, particularly as a graduate of Padua University!) was a great Anglophile and a friend of the British Governor, Sir Thomas Maitland. It is amazing to think that Dimitrios Ar-

vanitakis and Thomas Jones may have met here in Corfu, and almost 130 years later their descendants met and married in Athens. Another 73 years later, and I am here on placement, staying in a flat in the old Parliament building! In Corfu town there is a street called 'Spyros Arvanitakis street' (the 'Old Times' café is there and a number of other cafes and shops) – named after an eminent 19<sup>th</sup> century doctor and a member of the Corfiot branch of the family (also descended from Liaros Arvanitakis who, like many Ionian families, left Heraklion, Crete when it fell to the Turks in 1669 and settled on Zante. His descendants in Corfu and Zante were all prominent in the Venetian administration!) As you might tell - genealogy is an interest of mine!

As I continue with my studies (which are quite difficult at times!) and formation, and prepare to marry my fiancé Scarlett, I ask for your prayers for what is a time of great change and challenge for me – and yet also immense privilege and blessing in every way! Thank you to all those I have got to know over my few weeks here (and in Hungary!), particularly to Jules for all his help to make this placement possible!

Sebastian Jones

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## FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE!

*"Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom: you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name"*

*1 Chronicles 29.10-13.*

### **We give thanks for:-**

- Jules' recovery, a year now since his triple bypass surgery. Back on form, full of energy and inspiration Hallelujah!!!
- each member of our congregation, being encouraged, and using their gifts, time, talents and worship for the benefit of others and the community .

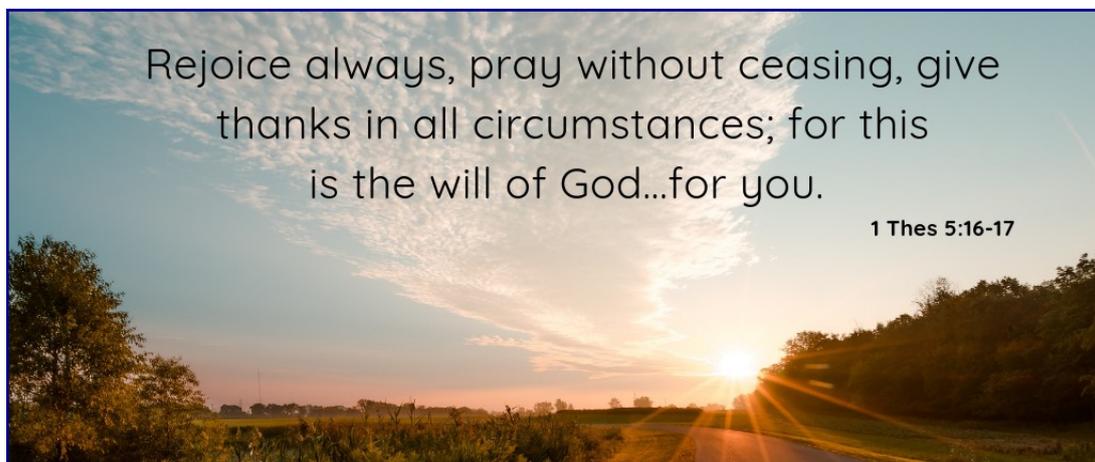
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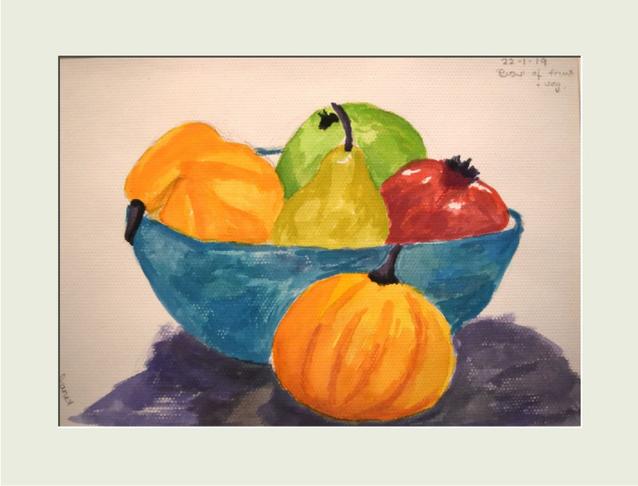
- that our Cafe Logos application is moving forward and pray for quick next steps.
- for the Sunday School, finding new ways to make it known and to attract more children and parents to come along to have fun as they hear about Jesus.
- for the privilege of living on such beautiful island. For the community work of recycling and the rubbish now being cleared.
- for those working in agriculture providing us with food and pray for good crops.
- Most of all we give thanks to you Lord for who you are and being in our lives.

***We pray for:***

- the many who rely on tourism for a living, For peace, wisdom and provision, especially for those affected by a poor season and the recent collapse of the Thomas Cook company.
- for those bereaved. Mathew and his family on the loss of his father, and especially those who have lost children. Through the darkness of grief may they know peace in pain, joy in memories and hope in God's love.
- complete recovery for those who are ill, Mark, Margaret, Bill Elliot, Geoff, Rev. Canon David Sharps, Marie's husband Roger on Paxox and all those on our hearts to receive the love and care needed and may the presence of Jesus be sensed.
- Our 'Gift day' on 13 Oct. We give thanks for the Lord's provision so far, and for the future through generous hearts.
- the start of our Bible study course on Romans, which will be used on Sundays and followed in weekly bible study and home groups. We pray that all will be able to participate in some way.
- Inspiration for Christmas social and outreach events. Rhona and Jane are heading a new fund-raising team.
- Young people first time away from home, and those moving into new ventures. We ask for peace of mind, excitement, new friends and especially Christian fellowship. May '*His perfect love drive out all fear*' (1 John 4:18)

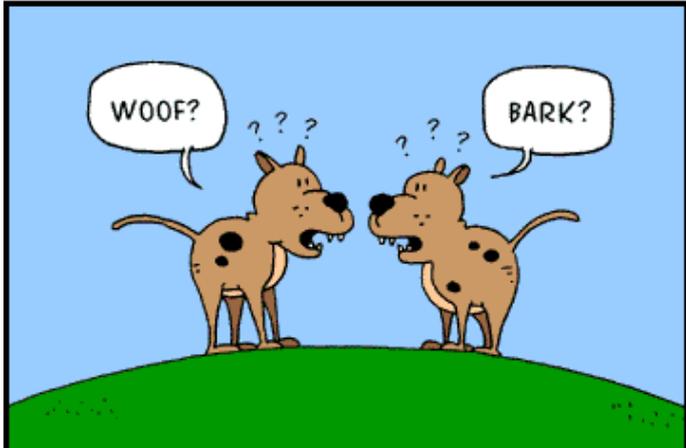


# Water Colour Class Gallery

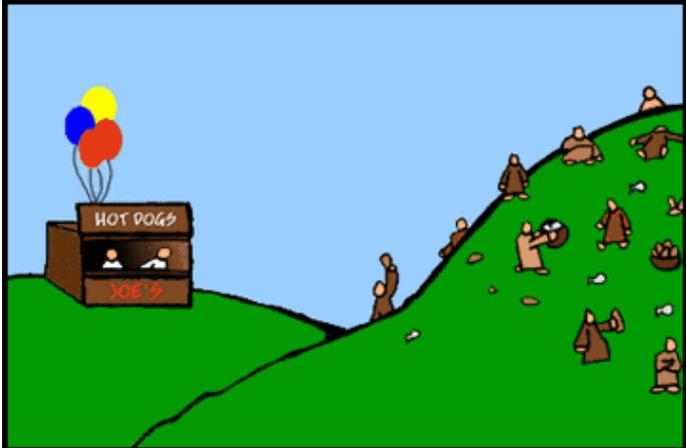


Classes start again on 8th October.  
 Contact Rita if you would like to join.  
[alamanourita81@gmail.com](mailto:alamanourita81@gmail.com)

## Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



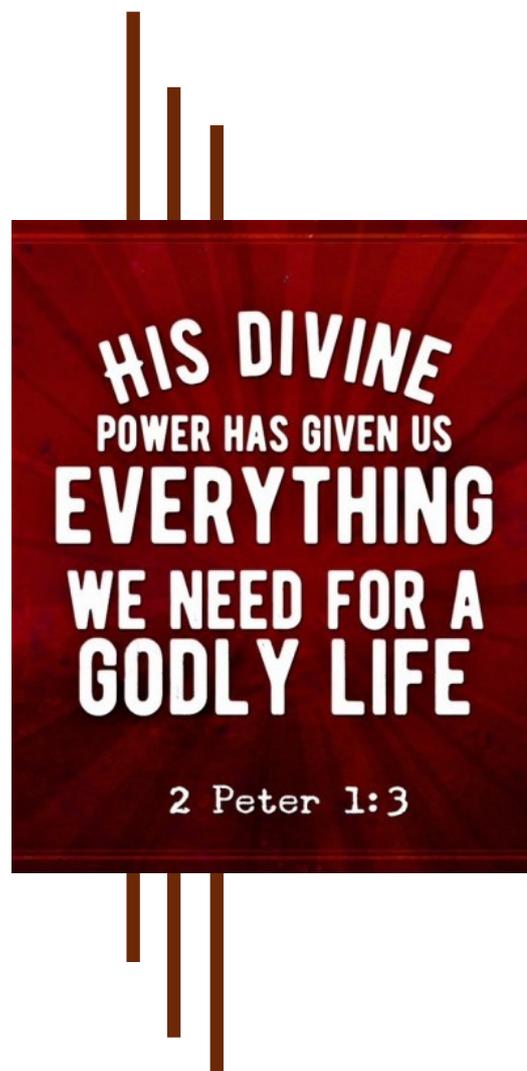
(See Genesis 11:1-9) 11-24-1998  
 AFTER THE TOWER OF BABEL INCIDENT



Thanks to Nick Hengeveld (See Matthew 14:14-21) 10-19-1998  
 NOT EVERYONE APPRECIATED THE FEEDING OF THE 5,000

## What's on at Holy Trinity Corfu

Thurs	3	10:30 Bible Study at HTC 17:00 Worship Group
Fri	4	09:30 Prayer Meeting
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10:30 Morning Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>
Mon	7	18:00 Home Group
Tues	8	10:00 Watercolour Class
Thurs	10	10:30 Bible Study at HTC 17:00 Worship Group 18:00 Ministry Team Meeting
Fri	11	09:30 Prayer Meeting 18:00 HTC South Communion at Messonghi
<b>Sun</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10:30 Family Communion &amp; Gift Day</b>
	14	18:00 Home Group
Thurs	17	09:15 Pastoral Care Group 10:30 Bible Study at HTC 17:00 Worship Group
Fri	18	09:30 Prayer Meeting
<b>Sun</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10:30 Family Communion</b>
Mon	21	18:00 Home Group
Thurs	24	10:30 Bible Study at HTC 17:00 Worship Group
Fri	25	09:30 Prayer Meeting
<b>Sun</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10:30 Family Communion</b>
Mon	28	18:00 Home Group
Thurs	31	10:30 Bible Study at HTC 17:00 Worship Group



*We always welcome contributions to our publications; however, we will not publish any material which infringes copyright. When sending in items for inclusion please state your source and the name of the author.*

*We are happy to accept prayer requests for inclusion in Pulse or in the morning service. If you are requesting prayer for someone other than yourself please make sure you have their permission to be mentioned publicly.*

*Please remember the submission **deadline for PULSE is 25th of each month.** Articles, news, information etc. received after this time may not be included and will be carried over to the next edition if appropriate. Thank you.*

**Editorial:** htccorfupulse@gmail.com



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