

## FAITHFUL IN PRAYER

Dear Friends

I am writing this at the airport waiting to catch the flight to Athens then on to the family in England. It's Christmas Eve and the airport is barely recognisable from the summer mayhem! It was a very special morning, as it always is, celebrating the incarnation of Jesus, God among us. It was a worship time full of the hope and the joy He brings and at the same time holding the incredible sadness of the world's war-torn and grieving places in our hearts and prayers.

And we can do that as followers of Jesus. We can know in our hearts the hope and joy that comes from knowing that God, the ultimate reality, is loving and just while feeling the sense of frustrated sadness that people can still act out of greed and violence towards each other, despite the fact that the Prince of Peace has come among us.

All of these conflicting emotions and responses are right there in the birth narratives themselves. The joy of the angels and the shepherds, the awe and humility of the wise men; right alongside the practical discomforts of the Holy Family and the weeping and wailing of the mothers caused by Herod's evil actions.

We are given through God's self-revelation in Jesus the understanding that we travel towards Heaven as His children through the time when the God-gifted freedom is accepted by some as an opportunity to grow in love and by others as a chance to exploit through strength and violence. As it was, so it is... but not as it forever will be! Because we are shown very clearly that the end for the children of God is in a transformed eternity - chosen through this passing age - of peace and fulfilment.

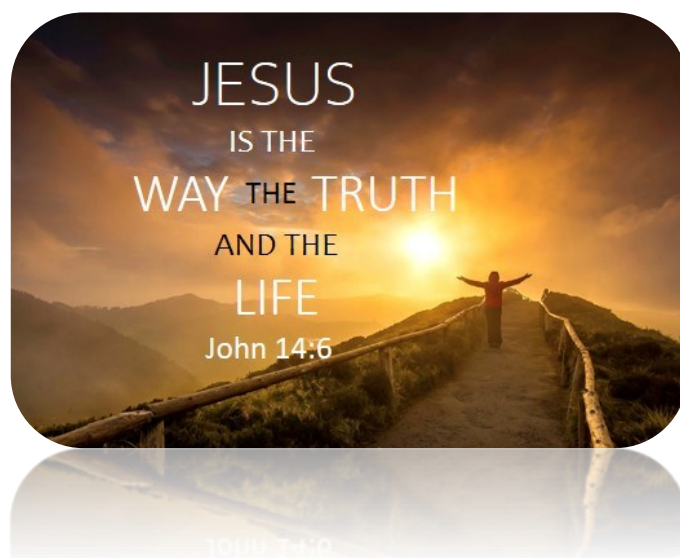
So in this sense the war is already over, evil overcome by good, but the battle remains ours to fight. Not, God-willing, with weapons, but with the decisions of the will and heart to pray for, yearn for and wait for all that is good... His Kingdom way.

So as Christians we understand what we see happening in our world; we see the failed choices where pain and injustice are meted out fuelled by some false ideology or other; and we know that there is only one path that leads to eternity - and He leads us on this and into The Way, The Truth and The Life.

So as we begin a new year, a year written in His book, let's resolve to keep faithful in prayer and perseverance; to hold together the now and the not yet; to spend the time we need to hear His voice above the clamour of confusion in this age and commit ourselves to the Wisdom of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

With every blessing for a peaceful and joyful new year.

Jules.



# The Adventures of Mrs Mop, back in Albania



Off I go again, this time with just one large bag and suitcase full of pasta and chocs, so huge thanks go to all who donated and contributed. On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December I got the 9 am flying dolphin (Hydrofoil) and arrived in Sarande Albanian time 8.30 am. This left me plenty of time to find the church where Richard Walsh had served which had now moved to a new address. It took me a while as it was all uphill, but thanks to an old man who led the way, just as I was about to give up, we found it.

As usual there was a warm welcome and shortly afterwards the service began. Young Pastor Eli put me next to Brigitte who translated for me. Brigitte is a Swiss missionary who had been 20 years in Albania serving at an orphanage in Gironkaster, and is now one year in Saranda. Something rang a bell especially when she told me that she belonged to the Nehemiah Mission. So here is a God incident... About 15 years ago a Swiss missionary belonging to the Nehemiah Mission had been passing through Corfu, and come into HTC. She had asked that we pray for her and her friend Brigitte in Gironkaster and here she was in person. What a lovely surprise.



As well as the reading of the word and teaching, the service included a time of sharing encouragement, thanksgiving and prayer requests. We started with Psalm 133 and unity. The main reading was from John 1, and Jesus being The Light of the world. Strangely enough I had a card in Albanian to give them from HTC with that exact verse on it, wow! There was also communion brought round and times of worship. 2 of the songs I recognized, one being "Lord we lift your name n High" and the other "Jesus be the centre". Afterwards we shared some cake I had taken with me and then Pastor Eli took me to meet Maria. I had wanted to go to the Evangelical church service too, which was later, but I think that was over estimating.



Anyway, Maria and I got the bus to Ksamil which takes 30 minutes and goes through the town of Sarande, along the lakeside and coast. We spent the rest of the day chatting and catching up.

*(Continued on page 3)*



(Continued from page 2)

The next day Maria wanted to visit two friends of hers who were newly bereaved, and take some pasta and chocs. They live in Vrina which is just across from Butrint. It only took 5 minutes on the bus to get to Butrint, and then we went across the short gap of water, the Vivari channel, on what I call a pulley bridge. On the other side we passed the remains of Ali Pasa's castle as we went on our way to Vrina.

We spent time going for walks, overlooking St. Stephanos in Corfu from the nearest point in Albania. Sharing our ups and downs Maria told me of more sad things that had happened in her life as I was thinking, "Lord what do I say now?" Maria spoke first saying that God is holding her hand and carrying her through. Praise The Lord, she is strong in her faith.



Maria now lives by the sea in Ksamil and lets out rooms. She feels very much part of the HTC family and sends greetings and thanks for all our help over the years. She really enjoys our friendship and fellowship and would love to meet others from the HTC. As encouragement to Maria and a break for us



we are in the process of planning a two-day Albanian fellowship experience to Maria's for anyone who would like to join us. Then we can hear the whole story. More details to come. Please remember Maria and family in your prayers and the churches in Sarande.

The next day This verse came my way: -  
**"Because the hand of The Lord my God was on me, I took courage"** Ezra 7:28.  
Now that's encouraging  
Be Blessed  
Lorraine.



# PULSE PRAYERS



Lord, we enter into This New year in gratitude for all you have done in this past year for answered prayer, and for giving us courage through the difficult times. So much going on in the world which saddens us and must be so breaking your heart. We love because you first loved us, and thank you that when we love you, your love is poured into our hearts to flow out to others. Your Holy Spirit brings joy in Jesus and with the increase of joy comes an increase of compassion. Lord, lead us to those who need your love, comfort and joy.

We are excited as we see Café Logos being used and people having fun. Thank you for the success of The Christmas Fair and bless all those who worked so hard to make this possible, and all those who came and supported it. The folk evening was good fun and the art class enjoyed. We pray all these events will be a stepping stone to Jesus. We thank you for your presence and warmth at all the services and events over Christmas here and in Mesonghi and the blessing of having families with us. Lord bless them and bring in a new generation. May this be the start of Café Logos being a place of living waters flowing out in every direction bringing joy and healing and going deeper into God

Lord of Lords and King of Kings, Prince of Peace, we cry out to you to bring an end to war in so many places especially The Holy Land, Ukraine, Russia and Yemen. In the power of your Spirit pour down your wisdom, peace and justice. Change the hearts of leaders to your heart and ways, to seek the best for the people they serve and live in peace with others.

We give thanks for Pavla and the family's safety in Prague, and pray for the help and comfort needed for all those who suffered tragedy and trauma in the recent shootings. Comfort those who mourn and bind up the broken hearted, for all who are troubled sick or struggling in any way.

As we rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who suffer, Jesus please ignite each one of us in your light and power to go through this New Year in expectation, hope and joy, bearing much fruit.

To Your Praise and Glory

Your Kingdom Come, Amen.



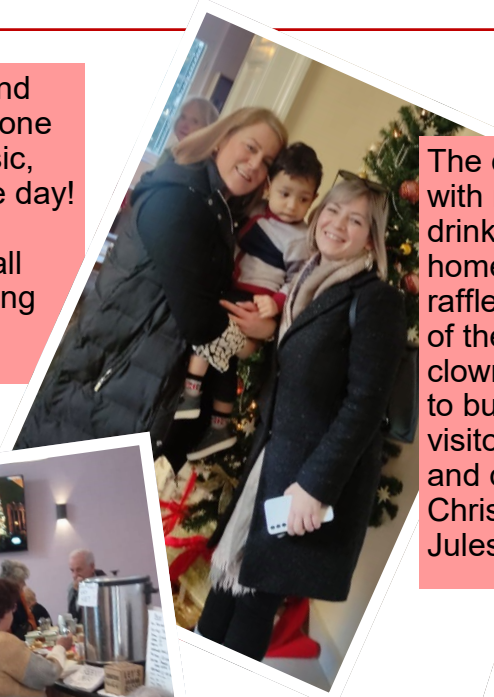


# CHRISTMAS FAIR 2023

Our first Christmas Fair since lockdown and we did ourselves proud! As always, everyone came together with ideas, donations, music, volunteering, baking and lots of fun on the day!

It was great to see so many people from all over Corfu visit the fair and enjoy everything we had to offer.

The cafe was a big hit with mulled wine, hot drinks and delicious homemade cakes. With raffles, guess the weight of the cake, name the clown and lots of goodies to buy for Christmas, our visitors had lots to see and do while enjoying Christmas music from Jules and Steve.



Finally, a special thank you to Santa for making all our young visitors so welcome and to Lorraine for supporting the prayer tree at this special time of year.

An amazing €1,850 was raised!

# The Safe Space

Have you recently lost someone you love? Are you feeling isolated or anxious? Does the world seem overwhelming and scary since the pandemic? Is your mental well-being languishing or your self-esteem low? Then perhaps it would be beneficial to spend an hour in the "Safe Space".

The Safe Space is an informal Christian counselling setting where you can receive one-to-one confidential on-line space to explore your feelings

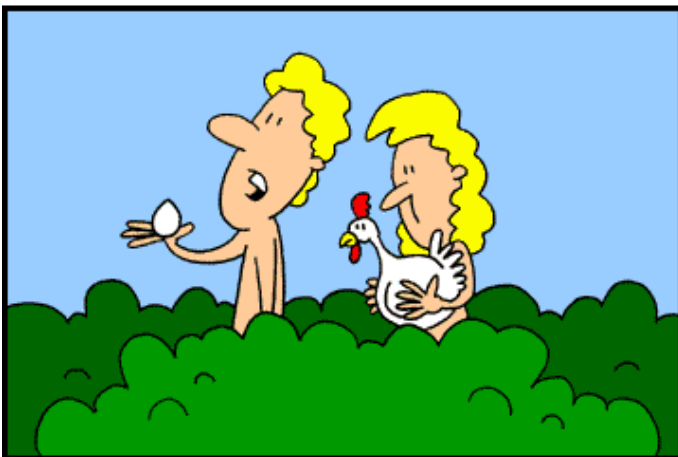


To book an appointment:

email Trish: [trishmariawilson@gmail.com](mailto:trishmariawilson@gmail.com) or phone: 0030 6986644271

<https://sites.google.com/view/trish-wilson-christian-counsel/home>

## Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



HEY GOD ... WHICH CAME FIRST?

01-07-1999



MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL ME A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THIS GOD OF YOURS BEFORE WE GO ON

01-11-1999



## WHAT'S ON at HTC

Keep up to date with what's on at Holy Trinity Corfu by visiting our website calendar.

<http://holytrinitycorfu.bravesites.com/whats-on>

OR



## Links



<https://europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary>



<https://www.ics-uk.org/Pages/Category/prayer-diary>

The Agiot

<http://www.theagiot.com/>



<https://enimerosi.com/en>



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*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.*

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