



READY AND WAITING

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this letter, sitting in the back of the car... waiting. I've found that waiting is very much part of the Greek pattern of life. Whether it's getting the right piece of paper, picking up the mail or paying a bill. If it's not on-line, you can guarantee that waiting will be built into the process.

On this occasion, we're waiting at the olive press. It's been a bumper year for olives here and given that the country is in lockdown, groves that have been left unharvested for years are being liberated from their brambles, tidied up and the trees are receiving the attention they deserve. It's an upside to this strange time. There aren't too many, so we can be thankful for this!

NO REAL IDEA

The thing that we have experienced about waiting at the olive press is that we have no real idea when our slot will come. But we know it will. We also know that if we're not there when the slot arrives, we'll have missed our chance. So... we wait. It's a strangely peaceful experience. Ready and waiting.



It feels like a parable for what is at the heart of the season of Advent. As we have heard in years past, advent is about the expectation that the Lord will come. We know from the overarching history of the Old Testament that God promised to come to us. We know from the New Testament that He came in our Lord Jesus. And we know from Him and the revelation we have received through Him that He will come again to fulfil all things.

WAITING AND FULFILMENT

This cycle of waiting and fulfilment is at the heart of our faith. And like the waiting at the olive press, we know that the promised time will come and that we have our slot! So Advent is a time of hopeful waiting - it doesn't have to be anxious or tense, it can be a strangely peaceful experience because our Lord has shown, time and again, in our own lives as well as the history of the world, that He can be trusted. Completely.

This waiting in expectation for God's Presence is also central to our daily Christian walk too; after all, one of our names for our Lord is Emmanuel, God with us. Each day is an advent day when we pray, read His scriptures and share our faith together. We find He comes into the details of our lives as they unfold. Inspiration when we struggle, affirmation when we doubt ourselves, comfort when we are fearful, hope when we are anxious. Taking the time to wait on the Lord is never time wasted. There is real value in this waiting - not wasted because we choose not to be "doing" for a while. This inner work with the Holy Spirit is the most valuable time we have. Waiting without frustration, expectant and trusting, is a gift.

So. We're still waiting... for the olives. The very particular smell of the mulched olives in the press, the hum of the machinery, the subdued chatter, the warmth of the sun. God is here in all of that. Just as He will be with us always. Just as He promised.

Praying for a peaceful and blessed Advent and Christmas... in whatever form it takes!

Jules.

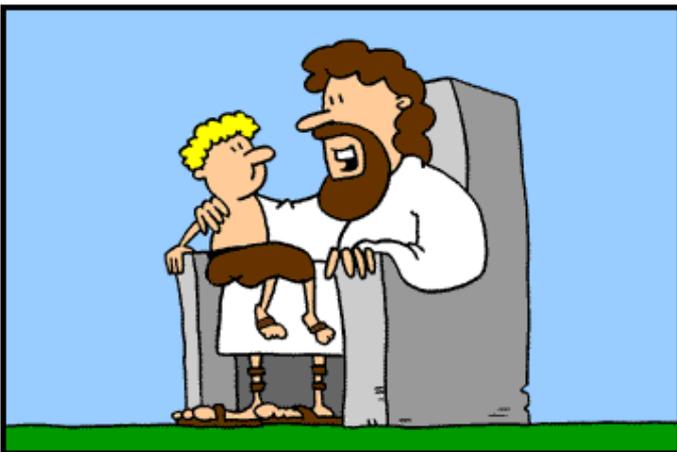


'TOGETHER and APART'

We will continue to provide online 'Together and Apart' services, as well as the live Sunday service. There are also prayer meetings on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please contact us, if you would like details of how to join us.

<https://sites.google.com/view/holytrinitycorfuonline/home>

Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



Thanks to Christopher Huffman

12-24-1998

HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?



(See John 2:1-11)

12-31-1998

HEY JESUS, I HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY ... I'M BRINGIN' LOTS OF WATER

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Bishop in Europe:
The Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Bishop's Advent Appeal 2020

Covid-19 Support to the Anglican Communion

Last week, we witnessed a deeply sobering point in our global struggle against Covid-19: over 1 million people worldwide have now died from the virus. We know and see the impacts of Covid-19 in our own communities here in Europe, and the stresses and strains it brings for us all in our daily lives. We see too, numbers of infections and deaths increasing once more among us, across the Diocese in Europe.

In Morocco (within our own Diocese) there have now been over 140,000 confirmed cases, and nearly 2,500 deaths. In South Africa, despite introducing one of the severest lockdowns in the world, over 685,000 cases have been recorded. In some areas of Africa, Covid-19 is exacerbating both ongoing violence, conflict and bloodshed and existing health crises, like tuberculosis. Lack of testing and data issues mean the real numbers in Africa may actually be far higher than those recorded. John Nkengasong from the Africa Centres for Disease Control told the BBC yesterday: "I don't think we are over the first wave yet, we have not yet hit the bottom at all."

In response to emergency needs right across the Communion, you may have seen that the Archbishop of Canterbury launched a Covid-19 "Together in Unity" Appeal. I am delighted that his Appeal has already raised over £100,000. My Advent Appeal this year is to urge your support for the work the Anglican Communion Fund is doing to alleviate the ravaging impact of Covid-19 in the poorest parts of the world. The Anglican Communion Fund (ACF) is making a difference on the ground to people who are suffering every day, the human cost of this pandemic.

Behind the statistics are human life stories of deprivation from lack of food, access to basic hygiene and sanitation facilities, and worsening economic hardship in the poorest communities for those unable to work. Below and attached are illustrated examples from ACF-supported projects in Sudan and Mexico. Where you have relationships with churches across the Communion, you will know of their situations, with first-hand reasons to support an Appeal to help those who have already lost so much and have least.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)



*People queue for hot meals and food and essential supplies in Mexico City.
Photo (The Anglican Church of Mexico provided by ACF)*

I am delighted that, with your help, the diocese raised nearly £15,500 for my Advent Appeal 2019 to promote the empowerment of women in the Anglican Communion. I should add that ACF also provides key support to our own work representing the Anglican Communion in the European Institutions, on issues such as migration and refugees, human rights, freedom of expression and belief, and domestic violence against women.

I attach some resources you may wish to draw on for your chaplaincy bulletins and newsletters on ACF's Covid-19 projects. Among these you will see that Bishop Moses Zungo from Maridi Diocese in South Sudan expresses his gratitude for ACF's support, saying, "You held our hand during our most trying moments." I hope we in our diocese can help with an outstretched hand to brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion who are suffering so deeply right now from the impact of Covid-19, by supporting the work on the ground by the ACF.

Please give as generously as you can to this Advent Appeal. You can find details of how you can donate attached.

With every blessing,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe



A grant from the ACF supported the provision of food, drinking water, hygiene equipment and medicines in Mexico in the wake of COVID-19. Photos (The Anglican Church of Mexico provided by ACF).

The COVID-19 pandemic has hurt communities throughout the world. Many communities are not equipped with even the most basic of hygiene and sanitation facilities, and lockdown measures have increased economic hardship in the poorest communities with people unable to work. We are raising funds to support virus prevention and emergency relief for vulnerable communities throughout our Anglican family.

The Anglican Communion Fund (ACF) has already begun responding to COVID related needs, allocating over £180,000 across 21 provinces of the Communion. The ACF is supporting the Church in its ministry, providing food relief to the vulnerable, communicating ways of staying safe from the virus, and providing handwashing facilities and PPE. In the South Sudanese Diocese of Maridi, an ACF grant provided food items, soaps and seeds to over 200 pastors and lay-readers and provided bicycles and hand microphones for pastors to carry prevention messages into remote areas. Speaking of the support, Bishop Moses Zungo said, “You held our hand during our most trying moments.”
(Photo: Maridi Diocese, South Sudan, provided by ACF)

This video introduces the “Together in Unity” appeal from Archbishop Justin Welby featuring images of the impact of COVID-19 across the Anglicans Communion and the testimonies of two Anglican primates.

https://youtu.be/5U2i_bMCneM

(Continued on page 6)

How you can donate to the Bishop in Europe's Advent Appeal 2020:

By cheque:

“Advent Appeal 2020”.

Diocese in Europe Board of Finance Office
14, Tufton St
London SW1P 3QZ

By bank transfer:

Sort code: 20-06-13

Account number: 40317039

IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39

Swiftbic: BUKBGB22

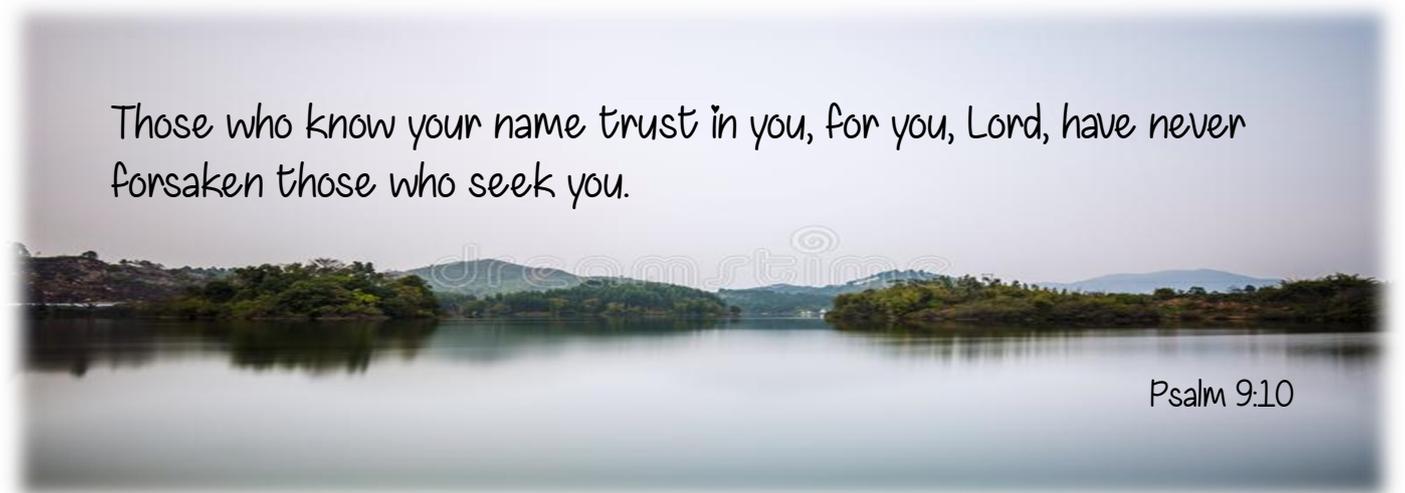
On the Diocese in Europe Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-in-europe>

Rue Capitaine Crespel 47 box49, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Tel +3222137480; E-Mail: bishop.europe@churchofengland.org

Diocesan web site: www.europe.anglican.org



Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

Psalm 9:10

Nigeria meets Corfu via UK

Michael Chizurumoke contacted Jules at HTC by email to ask for a wedding blessing at Holy Trinity, it had always been a dream of his and his fiancée Ngozi (Marion) to be married in Greece.

They are both Nigerian nationals and had a customary marriage in their home country Nigeria. They reside in the UK living in Leeds and attend a church also called Holy Trinity which drew them to Corfu. Michael and his fiancée Marion met at the University of Leeds where Michael, now a qualified scientist was studying and Marion is studying for a PHD.

Michael's first point of contact was with our Wedding coordinator Clare Doig in Scotland who makes sure all the documentation is in order and Jules contacted Michael about the marriage service itself. There was a further request for flowers in the church and a small reception afterwards.

This was the first wedding and reception



to be organized in the church this year. On Friday morning Christine and Jane dressed out the church in white tulle with arrangements on the chairs and Jackie went Saturday morning to arrange the flowers, white lilies, which had been requested.

Saturday 24th October was a beautiful day! Anne, Thelma & Pauline set up the garden for the reception. As a buffet was not currently permitted the food was on individual plates and covered. The couple had arranged a wedding cake





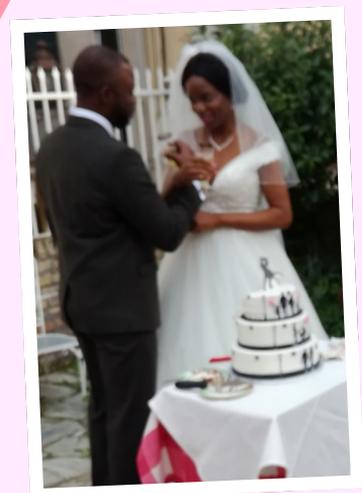
expecting to find a husband.

Delia our cleaner, bless her, came to help us clear away and to clean for the second time that day. She sanitized everywhere, ready for our service the next day in accordance with the regulations. Michael & Marion joined us in our service the next day and thanked us for our warm welcome and for the love and friendship they felt.



to be delivered and a local photographer to record the event. Jules performed a beautiful wedding service and we were all invited to share in their celebration. Two of their guests were fellow Christian Nigerians, amazingly from Michael's own area of the country and speaking the same dialect! They are street sellers whom the couple met in Corfu Town. During the reception there was a speech from the best man who had met Michael in church in Leeds - both scientists. Marion in her speech said that when she went to university in Leeds she was not

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved, a good team effort, and to Lorraine who also contributed.





CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2020

In one of our best-loved carols, Christina Rossetti situates the birth of Jesus ‘in the bleak midwinter’. She paints a severe and freezing manger scene, with howling wind and deep snow. She represents the frosted earth and water with iron and stone.

From the biblical narrative, it seems unlikely that Jesus was born in the bleak mid-winter, as the shepherds would not be putting their sheep out to pasture in freezing conditions. But that does not stop us gladly enjoying Rossetti’s romantic poetic licence and reminding ourselves that the conditions of the first Christmas were hard, extraordinarily hard by modern standards.

Mary was a young girl giving birth a long way from home. The town of Bethlehem was crowded with strangers registering with the tax authorities of the occupying powers. Mary laid her new-born baby in an animal’s stone feeding trough. And the first visitors were not close family but rough men from the fields.

It is extremely difficult to recover this first Christmas. The festival has become overlaid with medieval nativity scenes and Romantic or Dickensian winter scenes. In the twentieth century, Christmas became the setting of the perfect family gathering. Most significantly, the run up to the commercial Christmas – the ‘golden quarter’ – is now a vital part of the retail industry’s overall wellbeing so that vast sums are expended on advertising to persuade us to acquire more goods and more debt.

But not in 2020. This year it will be very different. Travel bans, lockdowns and quarantines mean it will be harder and perhaps impossible to get together with our loved ones. People are poorer. High streets, at least at the time of writing, are closed in many countries. And even when they re-open, shopping isn’t quite the same when you have to physically distance and wear a mask.

Christmas will be simpler this year. And for many it will be sadder. As Covid-19 has progressed, more and more families have been affected by the virus and its frightening and sometimes long-term symptoms. Some of us have a relative who has been in intensive care, struggling to breathe. Many of us know someone who has very sadly lost their life, and some of us face the first Christmas without someone close to us. This year, perhaps we more intuitively sense the harshness of the manger scene, the cruelty of death, the pain of a bleak mid-winter.

Another well-known – and much older – carol speaks to us about ‘tidings of comfort and joy’. In 2020 we need to hear these tidings. For Christmas is at heart the story of a God who draws near to us in Jesus, sharing the sorrows and joys of human experience. In the mystery of the incarnation, the eternal God wonderfully condescends to be born as a human baby, in the roughest conditions. He is ‘Immanuel’ – the God who is with us.

Whatever conditions you face this Christmas, I hope you will be able to reach out and find the God who is with us. I hope you will take comfort from the presence of God with you, and perhaps also find opportunity to comfort others.

‘God rest you merry’ in modern English means ‘may God grant you peace and happiness’. The unknown author continued:

‘Let nothing you dismay
for Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day.
To save us all from Satan’s power
when we had gone astray
Which brings tidings of comfort and joy.’

I wish each of you and your families comfort and joy as we approach this Christmas season.

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe



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Diocesan web site: www.europe.anglican.org

PULSE PRAYERS



“My soul doth magnify The Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour”

Luke 1:46-47

Heavenly Father at this time of such trial and distress in the world, so much suffering and exhaustion, fix our eyes on Jesus fill us more and more with your Holy Spirit's love, compassion, boldness and strength. For those sick, grieving, separated or in need, surround them with your comforting presence make yourself real to them and bring them your hope. This Christmas will be much simpler if we fix our eyes on you, Jesus, the reason for the season. Nothing can stop us from celebrating you in our hearts and souls.

Emmanuel, God with us, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God and Everlasting Father. Our Living hope. Thank you that you are with us and sustain us, you have promised never to leave us. Increase our faith and trust that by your Spirit we will shine your light to others in acts of cheer and kindness and words of your love.

As Mary glorified you in her soul, so do we praise you, our Saviour with much rejoicing in our spirits. This is our joy!

We give thanks for:-

- Our Saviour Jesus who came down from heaven to bring us back to God our Father.
- Your worldwide church, your Spirit which unites us and the skills of technology enabling your work to continue widespread.
- H.T.C., Jules and Trish, and pray continued protection, anointing and vision, strength and enthusiasm for Jules, wardens, The Council, Jackie in Lefkada and all who serve you in many ways.
- For Peter and those offering their skills and time. We pray for continued equipping so we can be together though apart. For our visitors joining Zoom and their encouragement. Lord increase our fellowship and your Kingdom.
- Those who have worked so hard on the Christmas catalogue, that this will go ahead as planned and reach the community with some cheer and the 'Good News'.
- For answered prayer especially the miracles we have seen. Pavla's mum recovering, Gracie hopes of being cured. Ben finishing chemo. We continue to pray for children, Piper, Noah, Harley, and Niall.
- Our families Lord protect them and bring them into your kingdom.
- The privilege of living on this beautiful island. The good weather and olive crops.
- The charities and communities on this island helping others in need. Lord Bless them.
- Scientists working on a vaccine to combat Covid-19
- ICS and their encouragement, and pray for their continued provision.



We pray for:-

- Our online Christmas services to run smoothly and reach the community.
- Continued development in the legalities of Cafe Logos vision.
- Our ears are open to the needs of the community and for The Holy Spirit to lead us in ways to bring Jesus into the centre.
- Patience, help and hope for young people.
- The Elderly, lonely, isolated, homeless, unemployed and so many more suffering from the effects of the pandemic.
- Your protection and safe journeys on all those travelling.
- We lift to you all those ill in body, mind or spirit, those undergoing therapy, touch them with your strength and bring them to recovery.
- Tony's good care, communication and a great sense of loving Godly hugs.
- Those risking their lives in health service and community service.
- All those helping refugees, in war torn places giving aid, supply them Lord and keep them safe. The Red Cross, Sabina's Kitchen Yemen, Irise.
- The turning of all the hearts of governments and leaders to follow your ways.

Mighty God you are always at work, you will see us through and it will pass into new things. May we emerge revived in you, a better, compassionate, generous, sharing, just and giving world, as you would have us be.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST THANK YOU JESUS FOR BRINGING THE LIGHT

"For God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness", made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

(2 Corinthians 4:6)



LOCAL NEED

FOOD COLLECTION

THERE ARE SEVERAL FAMILIES AND PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND FALLING INTO GREAT NEED AT THE MOMENT, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP. ITEMS COLLECTED WILL BE GIVEN TO THE **HELLENIC RED CROSS** TO DISTRIBUTE, AS WELL AS TO THOSE MADE KNOWN TO US

ITEMS NEEDED

Non perishable groceries
Canned food
Pasta
Rice
Beans and pulses
Milk
Tomato juice,
Juice for Children
Any kind of sweet things
Household Cleaning stuff
Toiletries
And most of all **OLIVE OIL**



For locals, items can be brought into the Church on Friday and Sunday Mornings 10am-12pm. If you would like to contribute, but are unable to do so because you are not on Corfu, then any donations offered will go towards a big shop.***

Thank you and Be Blessed.

*** To make a donation please contact HTC Treasurer, Christine Spatoula spatou@otenet.gr

A SNEAK PREVIEW...



Here's an article that Jules has written for the next ICS Newsletter.

We learn a thing or two about ourselves during testing times.

Each week, whether we are in church, live on zoom or using one of the pre-recorded services on-line, I invite everyone to light a candle to symbolise that Jesus is with each one of us and unites us, even though we are together and apart. It helps.

When we were thinking about how to use technology during these strange times, we realised very quickly that we are not a media production company or a new on-line channel. We are a fellowship... a family.

When we think about how to reach out with gracious love of Jesus to those we live among we realise that we are not just an institution or a business or a club. We are a fellowship... a family.

There are some particular characteristics of the HTC family that were there before the pandemic, have been there during and, God-willing, will continue afterwards. Here's a taste.

The first is that we are a surprisingly international lot! At the last count there are 14 or so nationalities in the church family. For example, the little technical team that has been so helpful in facilitating our connections is based in the Netherlands, South Africa, Corfu, and the UK.

A second is that we are a surprisingly spiritually diverse community. All rooted in the love of Jesus but from very different backgrounds. Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, free-church... oh, and Anglican(!) We all seem to find that our spiritual journeys have led us to this spiritual home at this time. This is a beautiful thing and makes unity in diversity tangible.

A third characteristic is that there is a relaxed openness to God, a desire for His gentle rule and work in our lives; an expectation, too, that He will act. I say relaxed because each seems to recognise the expression of the heart to God is made in different ways by different personalities. Each child has their own personal relationship with their Heavenly Father. Each different. Each valued.

And a further trait, common to many of our church communities, is that people come and go - but remain a part of HTC and HTC a part of them. We remain connected. There is genuine joy when friends return; real sadness when it's time for them to leave. It's the family of the 21st century... spread to many parts of the world... but still a family.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Thinking about a “chaplaincy” often means a description of the area, numbers, projects and plans. Here they are: Corfu and most of western Greece north of Preveza when asked; 36 on the electoral and 200 in the wider list; A vision for a town based community -life facilitating cafe and garden next to the chapel and a desire to reach out with the Gospel through this and in partnership with ICS in seasonal ministry.

But what really makes us, “us” is... us.

I do hope and pray that many reading this will come and join in when the chance arises. If you'd like to you can even stay in the flat upstairs, enjoy the town, the island and, most importantly... become part of the family.

Rev Jules Wilson.
Chaplain. Holy Trinity, Corfu



The HTC Christmas Catalogue

Offering A Wide Selection of Home
Produce, Cards, Christmas Trees, Toys,
Crafts, and 'as is' Books

IT'S HERE

Raffle for Christmas Hamper
and other Prizes.

50% of all proceeds support:-
Hellenic Red Cross - First Responders
Special Needs Vocational School, Korakiana

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CLICK HERE



What's on at Holy Trinity Corfu

Wed	2	09:00	Morning Prayer via Zoom
		09:30	FB Online Prayer Group
Fri	3	09:00	Morning Prayer via Zoom
		09:30	FB Online Prayer Group
Sun	6	10:30	Morning Worship via Zoom
Mon	7	18:00	Home Group via Zoom
Wed	9	09:00	Morning Prayer via Zoom
		09:30	FB Online Prayer Group
Fri	11	09:00	Morning Prayer via Zoom
		09:30	FB Online Prayer Group
Sun	13	10:30	Morning Worship via Zoom
Mon	14	18:00	Home Group via Zoom
Wed	16	09:00	Morning Prayer via Zoom
		09:30	FB Online Prayer Group
Fri	18	09:00	Morning Prayer via Zoom
		09:30	FB Online Prayer Group
Sun	20	10:30	Morning Worship via Zoom
Mon	21	18:00	Home Group via Zoom
Wed	23	09:00	Morning Prayer via Zoom
		09:30	FB Online Prayer Group
Thur	24	18:00	Carols & Readings via Zoom
Sun	27	10:30	Morning Worship via Zoom

Links



DIOCESE
IN EUROPE

[https://
europe.anglican.org/
prayer-diary/prayer-
diary](https://europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary)



INTERCONTINENTAL CHURCH SOCIETY

[https://www.ics-
uk.org/Pages/
Category/prayer-diary](https://www.ics-uk.org/Pages/Category/prayer-diary)

The
Agiot

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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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