



## THE PATTERN OF OUR LIVES

Dear Friends,

Do you ever sit back and reflect on your life - thinking about how you arrived at where you are today? If you do, do you find that the journey so far seems to be viewed as almost discrete 'chunks' of time - seasons if you like? I imagine for many of us our lives are naturally divided by particular life events, or places we called "home", or people we were particularly close to, or work we undertook? These key events provide a pattern to our lives looking back and give us some context for who we are today and how we came to be here. And "here" is, of course, not just about place, it's about feelings and emotions, relationships and networks, attitudes and outlooks, hopes and fears.

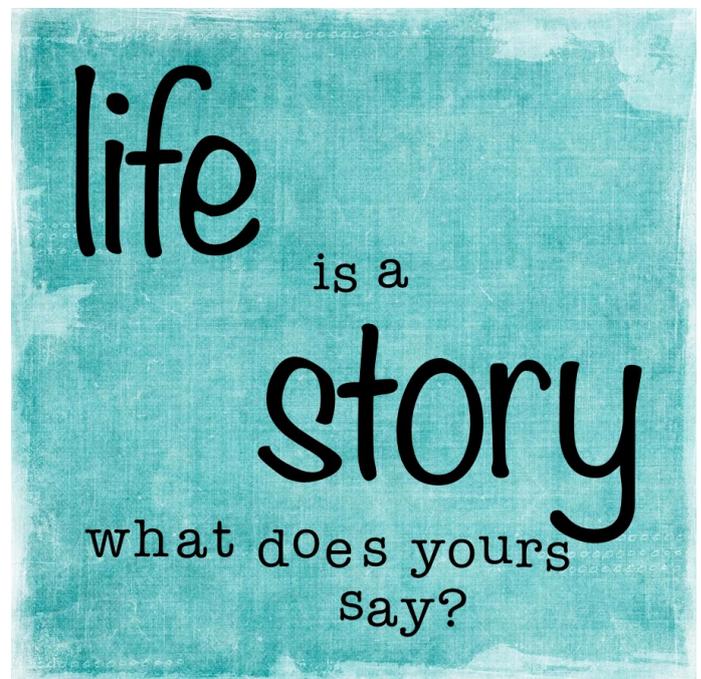
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### OUR STORY IS OUR OWN

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For many of us, 'our stories' cannot be told without reference to God, and our faith in the Lord Jesus. For some this will have been part of us ever since we were raised within a Christian home, went to Christian schools or were taken (willingly or otherwise!!) to church every Sunday as we grew up. For others, there will have been some moment or moments, our own Damascus road experiences, where we experienced God's love in a new way that changed how we believed and lived. For yet others, a combination of the two and maybe more! *Our story is our own*. It is the life that God has given us and the way in which our personal relationship with Him has developed over the years.

If we think about it, in a way *our story is our faith*. We have our creeds and our liturgy which we use to express in words collectively what connects our stories. But *our faith* - the basis upon which we live our lives day to day, express our thankfulness, wrestle with our difficulties - *our personal faith is rooted in our story, our experiences*.



What is incredible is that when we share these stories with each other, we find we are able to understand each other and we see more and more what connects us. And more incredibly, when we share our experiences of God with each other, what it feels like to have faith and what our Lord has done for us, what it feels like to be loved in the way he does... we find even stronger connections. We find that the same Spirit that has been at work in our own lives has been just as busy in others! It is wonderfully encouraging.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

For me, this is one of the wonders of Scripture - how it expresses what it is like to be human and what it is like to be in a relationship with God. It is why our Bible is made up of so many stories of very different people whose own lives, like ours, passed through different times and seasons, different challenges and joys. We see the expression of their faith and feelings un-tempered before God. And when we arrive at the New Testament, we see the new season of the Holy Spirit transforming people's lives from all backgrounds, nations and faiths - drawing them into the new humanity that Jesus made real in His resurrection. Not just individuals moving from one season of their lives to another but humanity itself - all of us - being called to new life, new experiences with God, deepening our capacity for love, integrity and peace.

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## STILL UNFOLDING

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The story of the Kingdom of God is still unfolding... age to age as societies and cultures come and go. Our personal story within that is also still unfolding. God willing, in several years time we look upon today as a particular phase or season of our lives. We're not finished yet!! So what will mark this season? What will be the important characteristic of this phase of our lives?

I would like to hope that for some of us it will be a time when we consciously desire to move closer to our Lord and a time when we feel a renewed desire to deepen our spiritual lives. A time of blessing and growth.

At HTC this Autumn, we are taking some steps to try and consciously take those particular steps of faith. We are hoping to deepen our understanding of our shared faith through a study of Paul's letter to the Romans; We are also planning a course called "Beautiful Lives" which is designed to help us share our stories, our faith with others in a way that feels natural and encourages others to take their next step of faith. And we are going to offer several evenings of exploring through worship how we can know a deeper connection with our Lord and provide space to love and be loved by God - to trust Him more with who we are and invite Him to more fully author the next phase of our journey.

So, if you are reading this far away from Corfu, please pray for HTC as we take these next steps, renewing ourselves as we await the renewal of the building. And if you're reading this on Corfu, I hope you will decide that all this sounds pretty exciting and you will put the dates in your diary as they come up and protect them!!

In the words of [Richard of Chichester](#), resonating through the centuries, I pray that we will all :-

'See Our Lord more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, day by day.'

With every blessing,

*Jules.*

PS For more on Richard's own story, follow the link on his name.





This year Remembrance Day falls on Monday, 11 November and the Poppy Collection Boxes, plus a wide variety of supplies, have now been distributed to many locations around the island: North; South; East; West and Central Corfu. The Wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the British Cemetery on **Sunday, 10 November, commencing at 11.45am** and for those of you who have been unable to obtain your Poppy supplies, I will be present at the cemetery with a full range of all available items.

I do understand the ongoing financial difficulties we continue to live with. Bearing this in mind I, once again, ask you; our regular and reliable supporters of The Royal British Legion; to donate what you can reasonably afford and I assure you that every cent will be put to the best possible use.

If anyone would like to have their own Home Collection Box, or to help with the sale of Poppy supplies to the public, please don't hesitate to contact me on: **6975 833654**

Let us not forget those who gave their all so we could be free and let's stand 'Shoulder-to-shoulder with all who serve'

Lucy Steele, M.B.E.  
Poppy Appeal Honorary Organiser



# The History of Harvest Festival.

The term “harvest’ originates from the Old English word haerfest, meaning ‘Autumn”. It then came to be referred to the season of reaping and gathering grain and other crops from the land.

The tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches as we know it today began in 1843, when Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as ‘We plough the fields and scatter’ helped popularize his idea of harvest festival and the annual custom of decorating churches with home grown produce. His concerns for the poor people of his parish was always uppermost in his mind.

Robert Hawker was an Anglican priest, poet, antiquarian of Cornwall and reputed eccentric. He was ordained in 1829, and priest in 1831. He was overjoyed at being given a remote parish on the rugged North Cornish coast, the Church of St Morwenna at Mowenstow.



Harvest Gifts at HTC - 2019

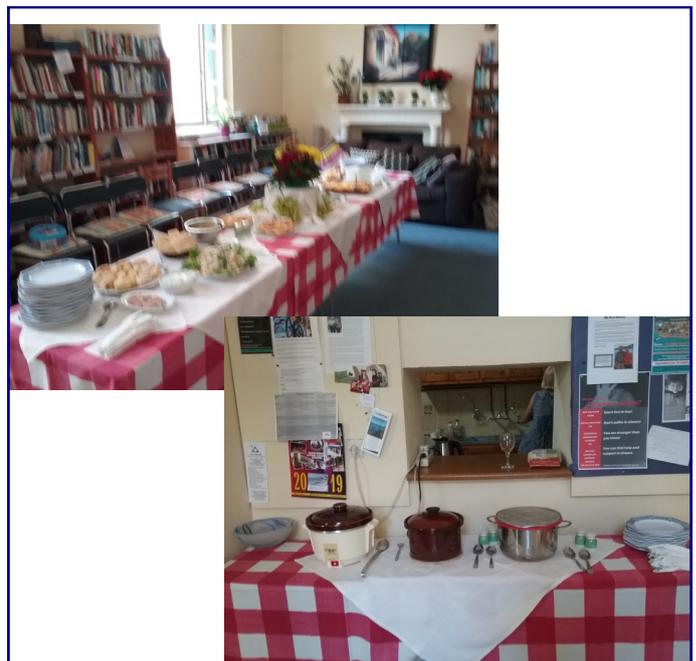
The parish had not had a priest for many years leaving the parishioners to their own devices and the poor to fend for themselves in the best way they could. Consequently the rugged coastline attracted smugglers and wreckers. The new Parson as he was known regarded his task as “the effort to do good against their will to our

fellowmen”. After a shipwreck he would gather up the corpses of the drowned sailors and give them a Christian burial.

Rev. Hawker was one of first Victorian parsons to introduce the practice of holding a weekly of-fertory at the end of his services to collect alms for charitable purposes.

Harvest reminds us of all the good things God gives to us and it is a time of sharing with others who are less fortunate.

The offerings of non perishable goods were given to the Orthodox Church of the Young Mary for the needy families in the area around Holy Trinity and to The Smile of the Child who support families in need on a daily basis in the town .



Harvest Lunch prepared for after the service.

*“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord.”  
Prov19:17*

To:

Church Holly Trinity

Ref.No. 400796 /IT

Dear Friends,

We would like to hereby thank you for your kind contribution of food for the children we host. Every donation is more precious today than ever before, utilized with responsibly and respect.

"The Smile of the Child" belongs to all of you who take an active part in our efforts to ensure that every child has everything it is entitled to have.

"The Smile of the Child" does not belong to any particular or small group of individuals. It addresses all children and belongs to all those who share the same Vision and Values: Care, Dignity and Equality for every child in our country.

Thanks to all of us, "The Smile of the Child", recognized both in Greece and globally, has been standing by thousands of children on an annual basis from 1995 to date.

It stands by children victims of violence, missing children, children with health problems and children living in poverty, in a specialized way. Every child is unique and the scientific team of the Organization offers everything necessary, by ensuring the provision of immediate solutions in cooperation with all competent actors.

We would like to wholeheartedly thank you for your participation and trust!

"If we all unite, we will succeed!" \*

Sincerely,



Costas Yannopoulos  
President of the Board of Directors

\*10-year-old founder Andreas Giannopoulos, from his diary



CARE  
DIGNITY  
EQUALITY



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info@hsmogels.gr  
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# PRAYER - *More than words...*

I am on a journey, learning about prayer and building my relationship with God. I have had some amazing answers to prayer, as I'm sure you all have. I'd like to share one amazing answer in particular.

When my mum died 5 years ago, my biggest prayer was that I would be with her when she died. God allowed that to happen - and I can look back and see how He carried me and my family through it all.

She died in the early hours of a Sunday morning and shortly after I had moments of panic. "What if she hadn't gone to heaven? Should I have prayed more? Should I have said more?" - I cried out to God to give me a sign that she was with Him.

I asked specifically for a rainbow, I don't know why. I usually ask for a sign that is more attainable; like a phone call or a Bible verse! But now I believe it was the Holy Spirit prompting me. - It was very early in the morning and I couldn't tell what kind of weather we were going to have and as the day wore on it was pretty miserable. I had feelings of deep despair that there would be no rainbow. I kept avoiding looking outside, just in case it wasn't there and tried to put the thought to the back of my mind... *'ye of little faith' or 'me of little faith'*

The evening came and I went to mass at my local Catholic Church. Afterwards I went to see the priest in his house to make an appointment to talk about mum's funeral. On entering I saw they had a little gift shop. As I went in the shop the first thing I saw before me was a row of rainbow badges! I knew in my heart that it was the rainbow I had asked for from God to confirm where my mum was.

I bought up all the badges to give to members of my family and told them what I had prayed. We all found a great comfort in this and believed it was a sign from God; an answer to my prayer. Even though I think somewhere deep down inside me I wished I had seen a rainbow

in the sky. God knows all our innermost thoughts.

The following Sunday I went to church again and after the service my dad and I were talking to a friend of mum's (I had only met her a few times in my life). Dad asked her if I had told her about the rainbow? I was a bit taken aback, as it was pretty out of character for my dad and I hardly knew this lady; but I started to tell her about my prayer to God for a sign. She started to cry. In between her tears she explained to me that the previous Sunday at about 6am (the same day my mum had died at 5am) she and her husband had been driving up to Newcastle to visit their daughter at university, they had seen the biggest rainbow ever, so big she was counting the colours in it!

For me it was another confirmation from God. He knew my doubts and lack of faith and so He put someone in my path to re-affirm His answer to my prayer. I don't know what the odds are of me having that conversation with someone who had seen a rainbow on that particular day; but I do think they are very, very slim! I don't believe in co-incidences only in God-incidences and I know through experience that He loves us so much that He would even change the weather to give us what we need!

I thank our Heavenly Father for the comfort & joy He gave to me and my family during that very sad time. God's promises are not just something that we read about in the Bible, but we can experience them in our everyday lives. He truly is the Living God, Praise His Name.

I pray others will take comfort, encouragement and hope from my experiences.

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

*Last month we shared part one.*

# SHARING OUR FAITH

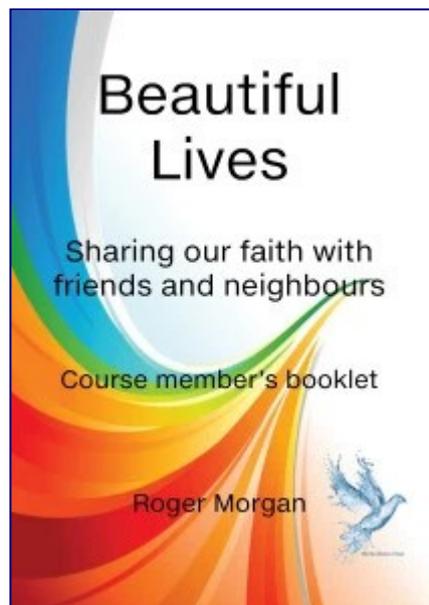
Beautiful Lives is a popular group course which is designed to develop our confidence in sharing our faith naturally and effectively with friends, family, colleagues and neighbours.

What do those who have used Beautiful Lives say about it?

'It changed the way I looked at people and engaged me differently with the world around me. I have become so much more aware of the possibilities of allowing God to be more clearly present in our interactions.'

'Meeting with the others was encouraging, comforting and certainly strengthening for my belief. I found a new courage to stand up and be counted.'

'Much deeper fellowship. Much more willing and able to pray with, and for, each other. Great experience!'



We all own the duty and the joy of sharing our faith with others so that our prayer "Your Kingdom come" may be answered in the lives of those we live among. However, many of us lack the experience and the confidence of doing this successfully.

Beautiful Lives will hopefully be a catalyst which will get us going and help us to see that it is not so difficult after all.

The course will be held on four consecutive Wednesday evenings on :-

13th November  
20th November  
27th November  
4th December.

There is no cost to the course and material and refreshments will be provided.

Should be fun!!

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## 'The Difference'

I got up early one morning,  
and rushed right into the day:  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,  
and heavier came each task.  
Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.  
He answered, "You didn't ask".

I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
but the day toiled on, gray and bleak:  
I wondered why God didn't show me.  
He said, But you didn't seek".



I tried to come into God's presence:  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided.  
"My child, you didn't knock".

I woke up early this morning,  
and paused before entering the day:  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I had to take time to pray.

# FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE!

Jeremiah 17:7-8 "But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

## We pray for:

- The continuation of our Bible Study course on Romans.
- The 'Sharing our Faith' evening course which starts on November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- St Nicholas Day Christmas Market evening on December 6<sup>th</sup>.
- For Jane and Rhona who are leading on the organisation of the Christmas Market.
- Complete recovery for those we know who are ill in body, mind or spirit.
- For those we know by name who are undergoing therapy for cancer (and their families), we ask for a special blessing of peace and healing for them.
- The Café Logos application to continue to move forward quickly.
- Those who can influence the solution to the rubbish problem on Corfu to act swiftly.

## We give thanks for:

- A renewed interest in Sunday School and for Christine's dedication and her heart for the children.
- Our vibrant and Spirit-filled Sunday worship and for our talented worship group led by Steve who helps us realise this...*He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.* (Psalm 40:3).
- For all those people at HTC who have roles of responsibility and work hard behind the scenes (guided by Jules) to keep our little church flourishing. It has been described as 'an oasis of peace and refreshment' in Corfu town.
- For our family, friends and homes and the daily blessings of food and fellowship. May we never take these gifts for granted. Amen.

For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

*Psalm 48:14*



# A REMINDER OF A GOD INCIDENT!

On Sunday 13th October the Gospel reading was about Jesus healing the ten lepers and just one of them came back to say thank you.

*Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"*

*When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he*

*was a Samaritan.*

*Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."*

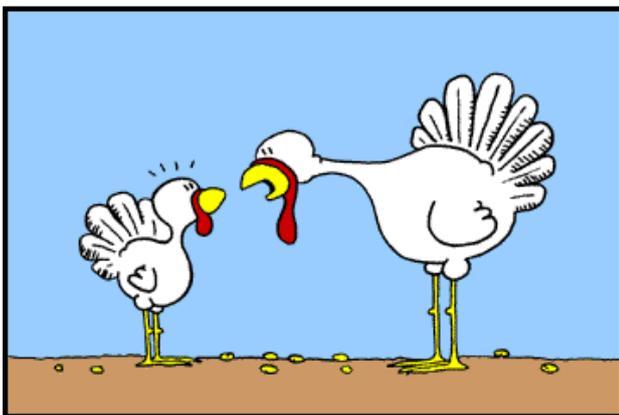
Luke chapter 17. verses 11 -19.

This always reminds me of when a man we had been visiting in hospital and praying for, turned up unexpectedly at church on a Sunday Morning to say thank you. Amazingly the set reading for the day was about Jesus and the ten lepers !

Not a coincidence , but a God incident ,Praise The Lord !!

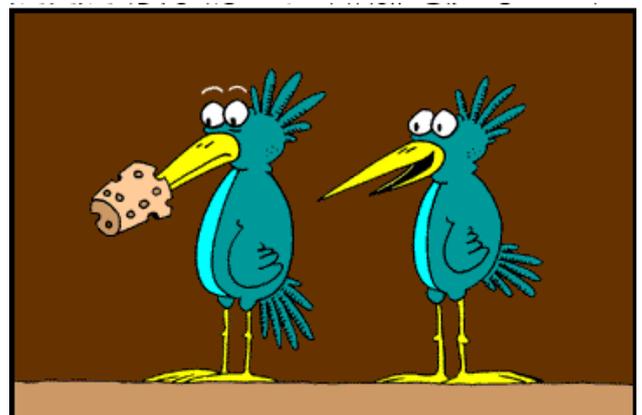


## Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



11-26-1998

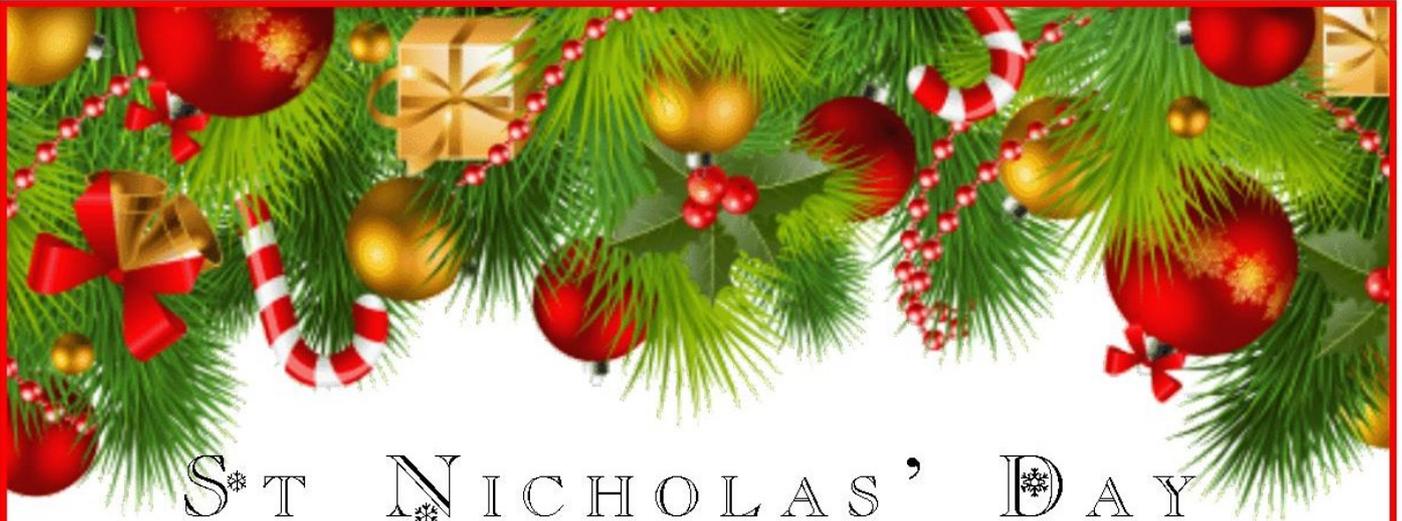
YES, EVEN TURKEYS HAVE SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR ON THANKSGIVING ... PERSONALLY, I'M THANKFUL THAT I LOST SO MUCH WEIGHT WHEN I WAS SICK LAST MONTH



Thanks to Lloyd Vandenbrink

11-17-1998

OH STOP YOUR POUTING ... YOU WERE THERE WHEN NOAH WARNED ALL OF US WOODPECKERS



S<sup>\*</sup>T NICHOLAS' DAY  
CHRISTMAS  
MARKET

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. 6:00pm**

LIVE MUSIC - CAROL SINGING  
FOOD AND DRINKS - STALLS  
CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE.



50% of proceeds support:-

*Greek Red Cross - First Responders*

*Special Needs Vocational School Korakiana*



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

## BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL 2019

### Anglican Communion Fund - Empowering Women

#### **The Role and Work of the Anglican Communion Fund**

My appeal for Advent 2019 is for the Anglican Communion Fund (ACF) – the only Fund I am aware of that specifically supports the mission and work of communities across the Anglican Communion, often in the poorest and most dangerous parts of the world.

In August 2019, Helen and I had the privilege of sharing in a pilgrimage in the Holy Land for bishops and their spouses from across the global Anglican Communion. That experience gave me a renewed vision for the huge potential of the Anglican Communion in a world where so many of our biggest problems, such as climate change, migration and human trafficking involve inter-relationships between people in different countries and continents.

Whilst not a big fund, the ACF tries to deliver maximum impact by working at three levels in the Anglican world:

- Resourcing local projects in line with the 5 marks of mission initiated by churches, and responding to crises;
- Strategic partnerships: working at the level of an Anglican Primate/Archbishop to develop a strategic plan for an Anglican Province;
- Enabling the Anglican Church to be represented in the United Nations, the European Institutions and through the Anglican Centre in Rome.

My appeal focuses on the ACF's work with empowerment of women, because we know that women often both bear the heaviest costs of poverty or conflict and are also those whose empowerment can do the most to bring development that reaches grass roots and bring hope for the future. The appeal covers the first two levels of ACF's interests.

#### **1. Tanzania Strategic Partnership**

The Anglican Church of Tanzania has a vision for spiritual and socio-economic transformation across the country and, with the help of ACF funds, they are rolling out a Church and Community Mobilisation Programme (CCMP) in over 20 dioceses. CCMP uses Mothers Union Bible Study groups to help people bring positive change to their families and communities.

Village and Community Banks enable group members to contribute towards and receive micro-loans to help them create businesses.

Rue Capitaine Crespel 47 box 49, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +3222137480; E-Mail: [bishop.europe@churchofengland.org](mailto:bishop.europe@churchofengland.org).

Diocesan web site: [www.europe.anglican.org/](http://www.europe.anglican.org/)

Charity Commission registration number: 250186

*Safiya Nyirongo CEO of the ACF writes:*

*'Through CCMP women from Central Tanganyika [have not only become self-supporting but] are also helping others to meet their basic needs, providing food and contributing to school fees. Essentially, through participation in this programme, they have become their own group of charitable donors.'* (photos below)

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



## 1. Women on the Frontline

'Women on the Frontline' is a programme designed for senior Christian women, usually wives of bishops, in areas affected by violence, conflict and poverty, bringing them together on retreat and giving practical training in reconciliation. The programme is led by Mrs. Caroline Welby, wife to Archbishop Justin Welby, and by Mrs. Sarah Snyder, the Archbishop's Advisor on Reconciliation.

In many parts of the Communion, bishops' wives are thrust into an important role as the 'Mother' of the diocese and are expected to provide leadership to women in the church. Unlike their husbands, who will have had some training for their roles, these women are very often unskilled and undereducated for the role they find themselves in. They need encouragement and equipping to carry out their role with confidence.

*Safiya Nyirongo:*

- *'Women sometimes come into the training worn down and burdened by the expectations placed on them, as well as their experiences of conflict. They may have been forced to leave their community or may be living alongside deeply traumatised women without knowing how to support them. They may be discouraged. However, they often come out of the programme full of hope and a sense of possibility, and sensing solidarity with other women. They feel they are loved and called into their role and that they can make a positive impact.'*

Every 'Women on the Frontline' programme reaches about 20 women directly. Each of these women take their learning and experience back to their communities. If each reaches a further 10, then 200 women are impacted.

Four programmes have now been run – in South Sudan, Burundi, the Solomon Islands (pictures below), and DRC. Further programmes are planned in the Middle East and Pakistan.



The Lambeth Conference in July 2020 will bring together 500 or so bishops plus spouses from across the Anglican Communion. This is our diocese's opportunity to strengthen mission work across the Communion and to make the Communion real for people (especially women) in other continents. We can make a difference both to senior Anglican women in conflict-stricken areas and to community groups in Tanzania. Advent is the season of hope, and we can share some of this delightful virtue with others.

Please do support my appeal.

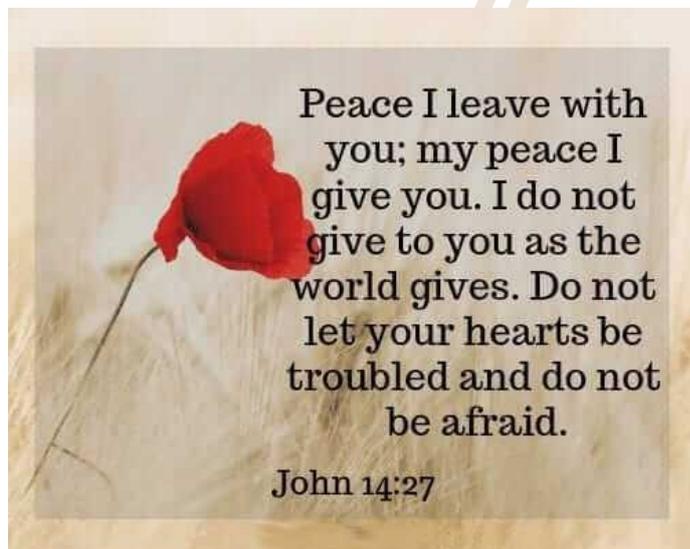
With every blessing,

*+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe*

**+Robert Gibraltar in Europe**

## What's on at Holy Trinity Corfu

|            |           |                                                                                     |
|------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fri        | 1         | 09:30 Prayer Meeting                                                                |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>10:30 Morning Worship &amp; Sunday School</b>                                    |
| Mon        | 4         | 18:00 Home Group                                                                    |
| Tues       | 5         | 10:00 Watercolour Class                                                             |
| Thurs      | 7         | 10:30 Bible Study at HTC<br>17:00 Worship Group<br>18:30 Vision & Strategy Meeting  |
| Fri        | 8         | 09:30 Prayer Meeting<br>18:00 HTC South Communion at Messonghi                      |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>10:30 Remembrance Service at HTC<br/>11:45 Remembrance at British Cemetery</b>   |
| Mon        | 11        | 18:00 Home Group                                                                    |
| Tues       | 12        | 10:00 Watercolour Class                                                             |
| Wed        | 13        | 18:30 Sharing our Faith Course                                                      |
| Thurs      | 14        | 10:30 Bible Study at HTC<br>17:00 Worship Group<br>18:00 Council Meeting            |
| Fri        | 15        | 09:30 Prayer Meeting                                                                |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>10:30 Family Communion</b>                                                       |
| Mon        | 18        | 18:00 Home Group                                                                    |
| Tues       | 19        | 10:00 Watercolour Class                                                             |
| Wed        | 20        | 18:30 Sharing our Faith Course                                                      |
| Thurs      | 21        | 09:15 Pastoral Care Team Meeting<br>10:30 Bible Study at HTC<br>17:00 Worship Group |
| Fri        | 22        | 09:30 Prayer Meeting                                                                |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>10:30 Family Communion</b>                                                       |
| Mon        | 25        | 18:00 Home Group                                                                    |
| Tues       | 26        | 10:00 Watercolour Class                                                             |
| Wed        | 27        | 18:30 Sharing our Faith Course                                                      |
| Thurs      | 28        | 10:30 Bible Study at HTC<br>17:00 Worship Group                                     |
| Fri        | 29        | 09:30 Prayer Meeting                                                                |



*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](mailto:htccorfupulse@gmail.com)



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