

## A DIFFERENT WAY

Dear Friends,

The turning of the year is one of those times when we are caused to take a step back and look at who we've been over the year that has passed and think about who we hope to be in the year ahead on both a personal and collective level. In a way, the collective hopes at the moment are all too clear. We hope and pray for peace in all those places we remember in our prayers and for a turning in the economic situation that is making most of us deeply concerned. At a personal level, we will no doubt be entering the new year with a very familiar set of good intentions that we often return to when thinking of an upgrade for ourselves. At times it may feel that both these sets of collective and personal would-be goals seem equally inaccessible to us. Should we be looking at this in a different way?



During Epiphany, with a sneak preview in the carols, we are encouraged to consider again how in the Magi the "wisdom of the world" kneels before the "wisdom of God". The wise men, seeking a king who will usher in a new age of peace and prosperity, follow the signs only to have their expectations turned upside down. It isn't the power of gold that will bring about the transformation that they are hoping for but the power of prayer (frankincense) and of sacrifice (myrrh). In a way this makes perfect sense - it's hardly wise to expect change to come from continuing to do the same things! And our world has developed a very rehearsed *modus operandi* with many vested interests ensuring the continuation of the status

quo! But as the Magi wrestle with what it could possible mean that the Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counsellor, Almighty God has set aside heavenly glory to be born into the exposure and risk of conflict and poverty, I wonder if they reached the truth, that what was being modelled for them in the most startling way... that our souls deepest desires are only realised when we set aside our own crowns and allow ourselves to be formed through prayer into servant hearts like His?

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### WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Jesus' promise, that if we seek first His Kingdom and lay aside our anxieties over our day-to-day material needs and wants, we firstly take hold of through faith - faith in Him and the picture he paints that this life is but a beginning; that we are spiritual works in progress. But it is also received in wisdom. In a world where the impact of greed, lust and the abuse of power are increasingly transparent on a massive scale, it would be foolish to believe that continuing in that way will bring about any change at all - let alone any spiritual development for the soul of humanity. Kindness, faithfulness and service in this context seem a blindingly obvious alternative! And in moments of reflection and inner hunger, when our spiritual eyes are open and our aspirations are turned towards the deeper parts of ourselves, why would we want anything else?

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### CUSHIONED COMFORT

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And yet as pastries are to the diet and the comfy couch to the resolution of fitness, so the fears and anxieties of the world are to the risk of daring to live trusting in the wisdom we find in prayer with a servant heart. And as with so many aspects of our lives, it's not who we imagine we could be when we sit in the cushioned comfort of our im-

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aginations that counts; it's the choices and decisions we make when we are going about our daily lives with the very real people and situations in which we live. Keeping ourselves constantly mindful of our souls' aspirations and the reality that true wisdom must lie in following the One who came among us to show us a different way, is probably the best resolution we can make. God is with us. His Spirit abides within us and constantly offers an alternative way through this life and the power and wisdom to walk in the footsteps of the

Servant King. Remembering that truth and that the source of true Wisdom is always there within, may well be the only resolution we need to keep. The rest will follow.

Praying for a blessed, peaceful and spiritually fruitful year for us all.

With every blessing,

*Jules.*

## CAROLS IN LEFKADA

We did an 18 song Carol Concert in Lefkas Town main square under the Christmas tree on Dec 22nd and I thought a photo for the Pulse might be in order.

Participants were from all parts of the island but greater majority from the 'live-aboards' in the Marina. A great evening and it got the Christmas holidays off to a good start.

A few of us went into the local centre for the disabled that morning and sang carols for them. Now that was really the start of my Christmas and those who joined me said it was a great way to start the Christmas festivities.

*Jackie Dallos*



# PULSE PRAYERS



Lord, we are full of anxieties and fears. There are so many terrible things happening around us. The wars in so many places, people getting sick, dying before their time, starving, losing their homes, losing their minds. Please, help us not to be helpless. Show us your power that we can trust that everything is in your hands. Make us good people who care for others. Help us be better friends, parents, children, partners. Show us always the right path. Protect our families, our children who are seeking their way in life, and show us and them your love and your presence.

Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, creator of the universe, above all, yet our Saviour and our friend, we have seen your power and glory the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*.

We thank you for your goodness and the excitement of the refurbishment and vision of Logos Café. Protect and guide all the workers. We pray for clear guidance wisdom and discernment in all aspects and practicalities and ask you Lord of the harvest to prepare the labourers for this field, lead us to make it a place of welcome, joy and healing and by your Spirit a sense of your presence and living water. We thank you for the help we have received and for generous hearts, Lord bless them.

Thank you for the inspiration of 'Angels, Prophets and Kings' and for all the hard work put into it. For the opportunities of services and outreach here and Lefkada and Jackie's ministry and faithfulness in online prayers. May your light which shone in all these events remain in the hearts of all who participated and spectated.

In our joy of you coming as our Saviour, bringing new life and hope, our hearts also go out to those who have lost love ones, shine your light of comfort and hope to them and lead us to come alongside them in your love. We lift to you those who are sick and ask you to strengthen them as they wait for healing.

We thank you for researchers, doctors and nurses and the progress made in treatments, please continue to increase their wisdom and knowledge. Make known your power and glory to those who are coming to the end of their lives, that they too will have the hope of what is prepared for those who love you.

We pray for children and young people growing up in these difficult and deceiving times. Help us to make known your grace and truth. Bring alongside them Christian friends. For all those working to aid war torn countries, and places of poverty and oppression, strengthen them, equip and provide for them and give encouragement and rest. For Pavla and her fund raising for Sabina in Yemen, Emily's work for IRISE in UK and Uganda, The Hellenic Red Cross, Mathew and Cindy and those working in social services and community help. Enfold our brothers and sisters persecuted because they do not waver from the truth and grace in you Jesus. 'If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed. For the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.' *1 Peter 4:14*. Increase in us your boldness to witness in love.

Thank you for being part of your glorious kingdom, Lord strengthen your church and all who serve you. Thank you for the friendship, fellowship and encouragement we have with near and far H.T.C. family. Bless and strengthen Jules and keep him in your light and love, grace and truth, vision and good health. Bless and protect Trish and family and all our families as we trust in your provision.

We go forward into this new year with hope and trust in you to complete the purpose you have for us and for the increase your glorious kingdom. Lord lead us, come Holy Spirit.

Amen.







# Merry Christmas

Whatever is beautiful.

Whatever is meaningful.

Whatever brings you happiness.

May it be yours this holiday  
season and throughout the  
coming year with the Lord's  
blessing for you and your loved  
ones

*With much love from  
Pantelios family*



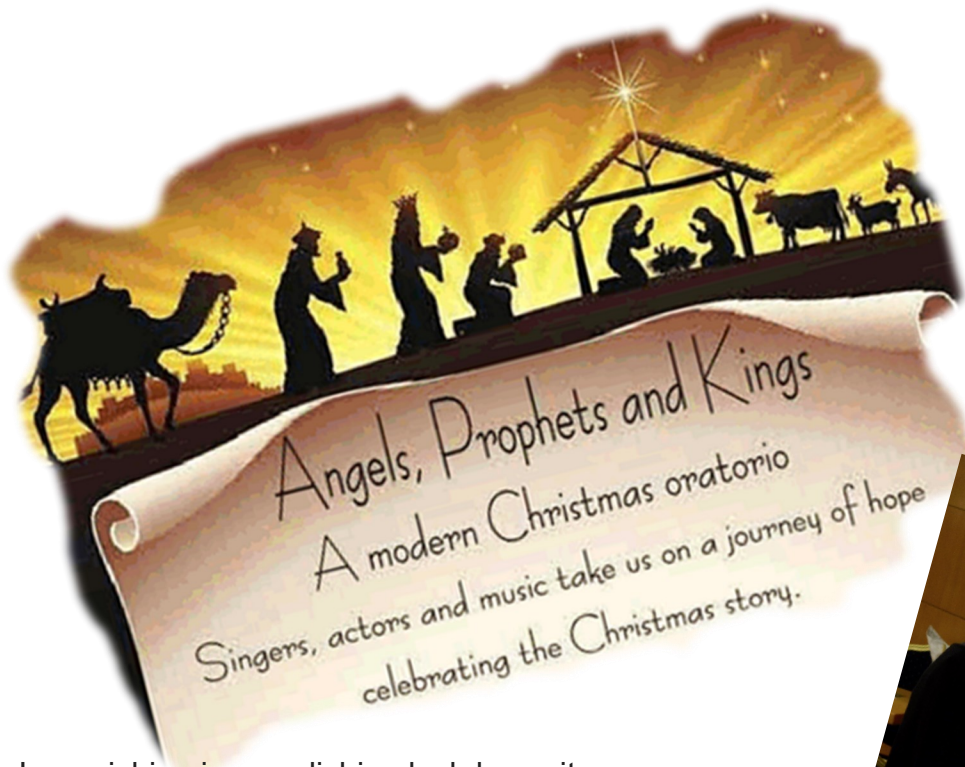
A Happy New Year from The Greek Evangelical Church of Corfu



# CAROLS IN CORFU TOWN







Languishing in, or relishing lockdown, it was a period of reflection. It gave us room to manoeuvre, to play around with our innermost space, to find new expressions of who we really are. Jules had some time on his hands to dig deep and came up with some truly innovative music and lyrics to recreate the Christmas story in the form of an oratorio but no ordinary oratorio, one that incorporated classical music, rock, folk and Latin rhythms.



When he handed over his score to me, a new dynamic was introduced in the form of narrative that linked his songs with the real lives of humble people who came in close contact with apparitions that frightened them witless, who saw visions that they couldn't explain, who questioned themselves and their experiences, just like you or I would in similar circumstances.

Our teams were sourced from within our community. Mignon took on the daunting role of organising the choir which was no easy feat and we have to applaud her for her constant encouragement and commitment. My task was easy by comparison since I had only 2 people to deal with, both of whom are friends. We plied our way through the script and I gave them liberty to work changes and bring in their own creativity to make it come alive. It was such a joyful process with plenty of belly laughter and genuine admiration of talent. The choir were constantly confused by which part when, but they did an admirable job and made it all come together in the end.



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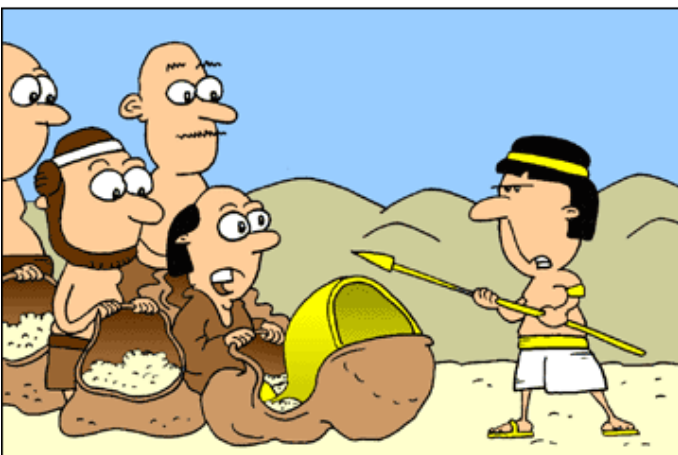
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Our performances at The Lighthouse were well attended with 52 on night one and 38 on night two. Acclamations of appreciation were in abundance and we all had a sense of real satisfaction and blessing from the hours that were put in to make this huge task come together. We thank everyone who was involved and sacrificed their time for rehearsals, everyone who spent their own money to enhance the production and everyone who expended creative energy to bring it to a successful conclusion.

Violetta Teetor



## Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Genesis 42-45)

01-08-2001

HOW DID YOU KNOW I HAD THE PHARAOH'S CUP IN MY BAG?



Thanks to Benoit Paquette

01-10-2001

PRESS 1 FOR TODAY'S SERMON, PRESS 2 FOR HYMN SING, PRESS 3 FOR BIBLE CLASS, PRESS 4 FOR THE SALVATION MESSAGE ...

A foretelling of Zoom Church from 2001? →



## 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>



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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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