

THE NEXT PHASE

Dear Friends,

I have found that this time when we emerge from the summer heat and the busyness of peak season here on Corfu, is often a time of looking ahead and praying for the next “phase” of life. This “internal stock take” is probably an old habit that comes from having so many children and life being punctuated by academic terms... a habit reinforced here by the uniqueness of August on a busy holiday island leading into the Autumn.

On any journey, knowing where we have been is a

church’s year and the patterns of worship that help us to stay rooted in our faith and sanctify time so that our year is shaped by the salvation that God has secured for us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It seems to me that it is our shared lives, our person to person relationships, our collective celebrations that really are crucial in providing shape and meaning to the flow of our lives. Without these critical contacts, maybe almost without realising, our lives seem to... blur. Our view of life easily slips and becomes inward.

If we think about our Gospel message, relationships, being present and with each other, are at the heart of it. “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son”... not from a distance but in person. He came to us. Jesus says as he prays with and for His disciples in John 17, ““Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am”; our ultimate destination is in His Presence - together. The ultimate gift of the Holy Spirit... the *presence of God in which we abide*. As I have mentioned recently, the birth of the church in the coming of the Holy Spirit recorded in Acts 2 begins and ends with the followers of Jesus “all together in one place” and ends with “every day they continued to meet together”.

HIGHLIGHTS - LOWLIGHTS

good start in looking where we might be heading. So I was reflecting on my last 6 years here. And all was very clear in my mind until... somewhere around early 2020. From then until now feels like a bit of a blur. It’s quite difficult to distinguish months from months, except for the occasional highlight (and lowlight) and although I can definitely remember living it all(!) - it does feel a little unreal.

Well done to us all for keeping connected in the way we could and the innovations we have made but... maybe so much time connected in cyberspace and the digital world creates its own strange kind of disconnectedness?

People that we are used to seeing regularly or fam-

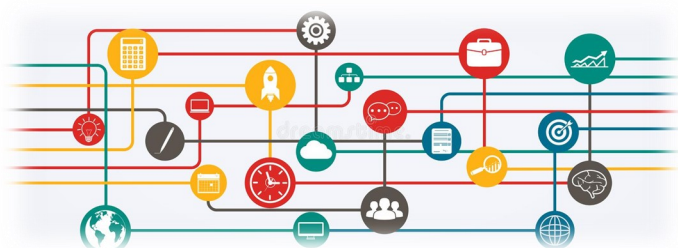
HARDER...AT A DISTANCE

We know the good news of Jesus is the message of God’s grace and our response to Jesus’ love and sacrifice is to love and offer service back; our key guide being to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Harder to do this at a distance.

ily celebrations that punctuate our lives, these give the weeks, months and years a shape and a pattern we can connect with. The same is true of the

I wonder if, as we learned through the time of being “together and apart” that it meant so much to

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us that we could be connected in a new way, now is the time to remember that it was an emergency measure! Always a substitute for being together in the same place at the same time where God can inhabit the praises of His people as they are gathered... And the word for church... "ecclesia". The gathering of those who are called or summoned. We are called to be together... to be a living witness to the Kingdom and a sign of its fulfilment in due course. Hard to do that on our own. I recognise that in John 14 Jesus says that "in my Father's house there are many rooms" but I do doubt that this vision extends to us all sitting in those rooms on our own connecting over some heavenly equivalent of zoom!

It has, of course, been a huge blessing to be able to worship, pray and learn together with those of us who are remote and not able to come in person. This is a fantastic gift and I hope and pray that this aspect of our "together and apart" will continue. And I also equally hope and pray that in the weeks and months ahead, those of us who can be will simply be... together.

As I mentioned at the start of this letter, it's time to look forward to the return of the milder craziness that passes for normality here on Corfu after the summer season! I hope and pray that as part of that, we will all begin to move ourselves back into thinking that being together again on Sundays is the norm; being involved in person and encouraging each other is returned. I hope and pray that our church's mission and ministry can grow as a sign of the gracious Kingdom we are called to lead others into; keeping what we have gained through this time and enriching our community life into the future.

I hope to see you soon!

With every blessing,

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>

Vocational High School for Young People with Special Needs

Mr George Amoiridis Headmaster from the Vocational High School for Young People with Special Needs came and joined us on 11th July in our Sunday Morning Worship. After the service Jules invited him to talk to the congregation about the school.

The school has been relocated by the local Demos to Kefolo Mandouki to a building known locally as the Catholic School. George thanked the church for their help and especially their prayers in finding a more suitable building.

The teachers would have liked to have joined him at the church but unable to due to Covid regulations. He referred to a visit we made to the school in May when he invited Jules and a group from HTC to go on a tour of the school meeting the pupils and teachers. An Open Day had been planned for June when pupils, parents, teachers could meet the congregation to thank the personally but this unfortunately had to be cancelled.

He thanked the congregation for their financial support and the donation that was given from the Easter Catalogue which would be spent on a green-house in the grounds of the school.



THE LISTENING PLACE AT HTC

Fridays 10:00 -12:00

It's 'ok not to be ok'

The Listening Place is all about you, the client. We are here to help others to the best of our ability, by listening and demonstrating care and attention. Confidentiality and integrity are our primary values.

If you have issues or concerns, sometimes it helps to talk about them, to be heard and understood on a 'one to one' basis in a confidential, quiet, and safe space.

We are here to listen in a non-judgemental, non-confrontational encouraging way. However, we are not here to tell you what to do or instruct you with our thoughts and ideas but to help you feel empowered. Creating a greater sense of understanding and wellbeing for you to live in a more satisfying and resourceful way.

Sadly, we live in a broken world we all face trials of various kinds, the Lord never said life would be easy or plain sailing.

God is with you today, he has an incredible plan, purpose and destiny for your life. What God thinks about you matters more than what anyone else says or thinks, be defined by God and not by the world.

It is no mere accident or coincidence that you are reading this right now. If you think that, the 'Listening Place' is for you and could help your situation improve please email to book a time and we will get back to you with details.

anne.scotland.wwjd@gmail.com or trishmariawilson@gmail.com



THINKING ABOUT OUR FINANCES!

At the last council meeting, we thought it would be a good idea to talk about the finances of the church, what they are used for and what the current situation is. As you will know, it's been an unusual couple of years(!) and we have mentioned on a number of occasions that we have been very blessed by the Lord's provision and the generosity and faithfulness of his people. As a result, the deficits that we have seen have been able to be covered by the reserves of the church and we have been able to carry on the best we can under the situation.



As a rule of thumb, the following are the headlines of the church...

- The “baseline” mission and ministry of the church costs around 40,000 euros a year.
- We hold in reserves approximately 6 months running costs, where possible.
- The income to the church comes from several sources: Regular giving in church (50%), one-off donations (including the Retreat Flat) (30%), fees (10%) and fundraising (10%).
- In addition, from 2016 - 2019 HTC received a reducing grant from the Diocese of Europe to assist with the cost of becoming a legal church in Greece.
- We give away half we fund-raise (which approximated to a tithe on our regular giving) as well as running regular donation campaigns to support particular projects

This income is spent on the mission and ministry of the church in 6 key areas:

Worship and Prayer (30%):

This includes the worship and prayer services we hold on a regular basis. In 2019, this included services at HTC and online every week, and in 2019, Messonghi chapel, Lefkada, Paxos and special occasions such as Remembrance

Pastoral Care and Support (22%):

In 2019, this included the Pastoral Care Team, visiting and home communions, hospital work, support with visitors and working with the Vice consulate with problems as they arise, including helping people get back home!

Outreach and fun(d) raising (13%):

In 2019, this covered work and support of the work with ICS, outreach events, fun(d) raising events such as fayres, the library and coffee mornings, involvement with Agiofest etc..

Teaching and Nurture (11%):

In 2019, this included courses we ran, communications and the Pulse, Sunday school and Bible studies.

Ecumenical Representation: (13%)

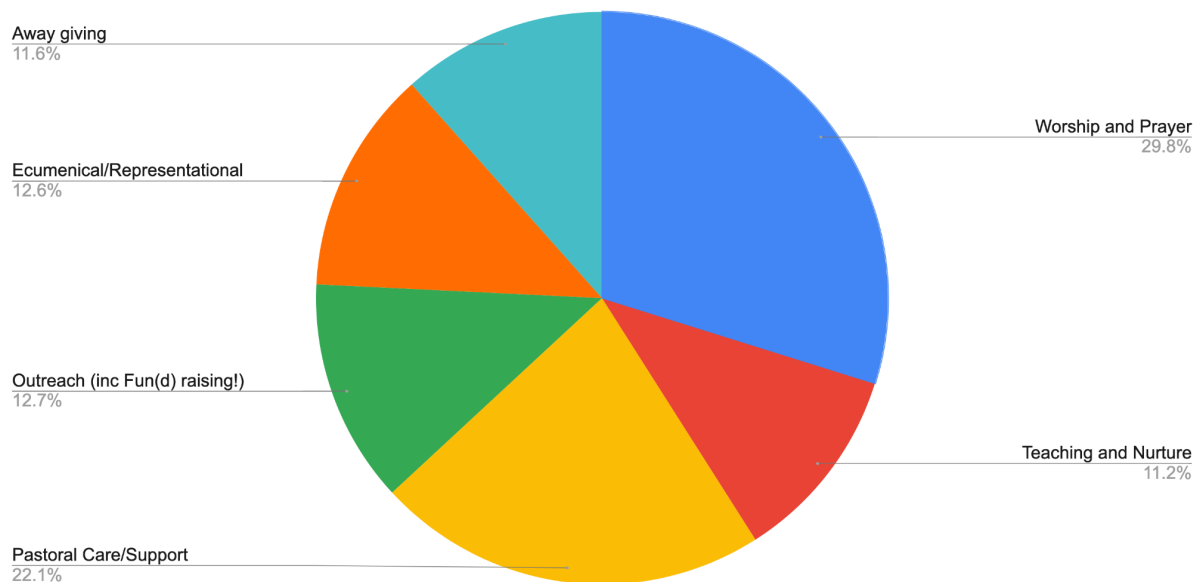
In 2019, this included the work done with other churches, our diocesan contribution and attending special events and services to represent our church at civic and ecumenical events.

Away Giving (12%):

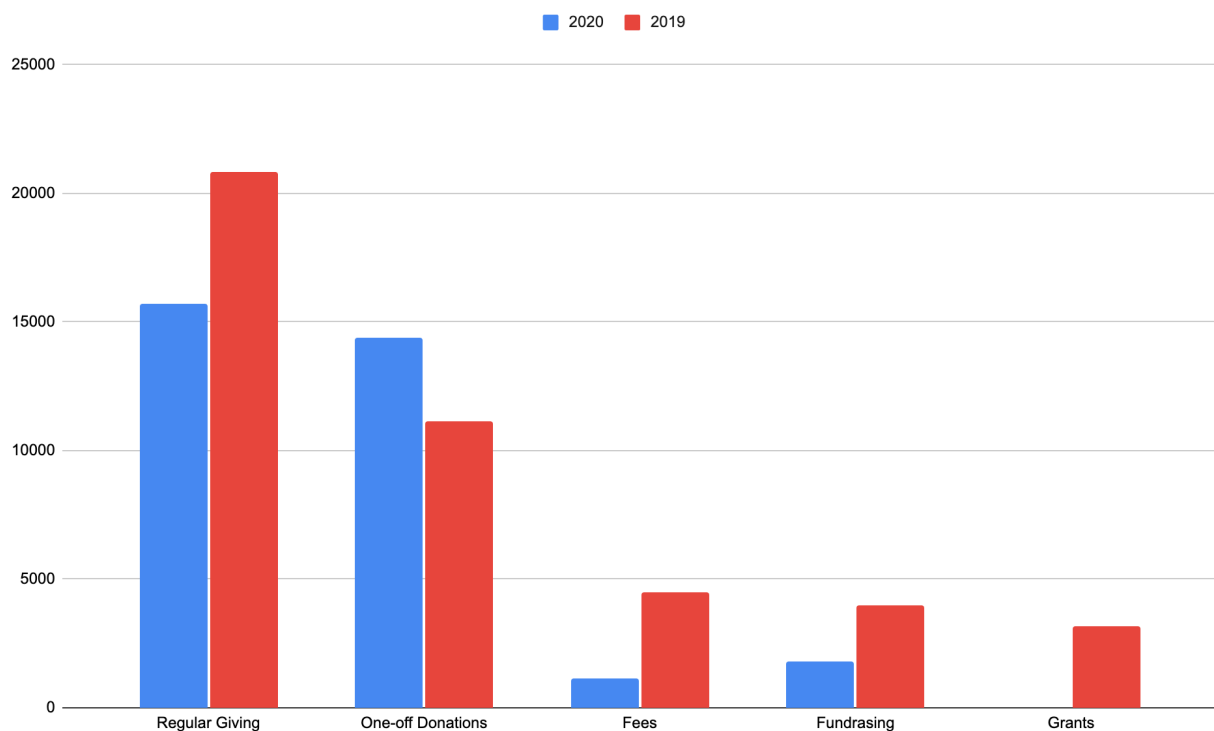
In 2019, this included support for the Hellenic Red Cross on Corfu, The Vocational School on Corfu, Kayak for Cancer, Sabina and her Yemen Project and Irise international in addition to the Bishop of Europe's charities during Lent and Advent.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)



This is a useful, top level way of seeing what we do. It has been calculated by taking our costs and estimating the proportions used for these various activities. So... we make the resources we have count and make it go a long way.



So what happened during 2020 and is still happening now? This is a comparison of 2019 with 2020 income.

The blue bars are 2020... the red bars are 2019. It's very clear to see the impact of being locked down:

- Giving at church was lower - mainly due to fewer visitors in the summer.
- Fees were drastically reduced mainly due to cancelled wedding blessings
- Fundraising was limited due to the church being closed (well done again the Catalogue Team!!)
- The transition grant came to an end in 2019.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

But as Christine has said so often, thanks be to God for His blessing and His people! One-off donations increased due to a small number of very generous gifts that helped to close the gap significantly.

So what now?

From September onwards and into 2022, we are hopeful that we will be returning, enriched and ready, to build on the activities of 2019 and renew and refresh our ministry.

We are hopeful that the approval for the Logos Cafe refurbishment will be given soon and we can start that in earnest. (It is worth mentioning that all the above numbers exclude the Logos Cafe donations as they are kept separately. We are ready as soon as we are given permission).

In terms of income, this year is painting a similar picture with regard to the impact on Sunday giving, fees and fundraising. So we would ask you to consider, taking these factors into account when planning your giving.

At the last council meeting, we were unanimous in our decision to communicate this situation clearly to everyone AND that we trust our Lord for His gracious provision.

Unless the Lord builds **this** house, we labour in vain! So we celebrate and give thanks for all He does for us and His people here and we write this with a grateful and joyful heart.



PULSE PRAYERS



The 'toe' of Italy, Corfu & the other Ionian islands, Greece and the International Space Station seen from space.

The Heavens declare
the glory of God the
skies proclaim the
work of his hands. The
Earth is His and Every-
thing in it. *Psalms 19:1
& 24:1*

Lord thank you for the beauty of creation, we come to you and ask your mercy on us for the mess we have made of it. Thank you for those who have a passion for the environment and climate change for the better. May we follow their lead .

We thank you that you created us all equally ,and pray for all those oppressed and abused and rejected to know how precious and loved they are in your sight. Bring your justice to aggressors and oppressors. Even so Lord we ask that you change hearts to your ways.

We give thanks that Jules and Trish were able to visit family and thank you for their safe return. Lord bless and protect Jules, Trish and family and keep them renewed in your love and energy. We thank you for Nigel and Anne's ministry and fellowship .

We welcome ICS summer mission chaplains; Richard Fothergill and Frances Houghton and pray for safe journeys and the Holy Spirit to lead them to opportunities.

We thank you for our wardens and church council and pray for inspiration, wisdom and direction on upcoming activities and planning for the synod and Alpha course.

Keep safe those who travel, and work to help others.

We give thanks for the new premises of the Special Needs High School, the headmaster's visit and pray all that is needed will be provided.

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

We thank you for the Hellenic Red Cross, charities and good hearts of people giving to the support of those who have lost so much in the recent fires, Lord bless them . Bring provision, restoration and healing from the trauma

We thank you for the tourism we have had on the islands and pray for a safe and good economic winter and for teachers and pupils safe return to school this month.

We thank you for your healings and pray that you keep your hand upon all those who are sick in body, mind or spirit and strengthen those who care for others. For the terminally ill ,may they know the hope of Jesus and that wonderful things are prepared for them. For the newly bereaved to receive your comfort.

We thank you for our families and pray that all those who are separated be brought together again.

We rejoice with those rejoicing and weep with those who weep.

In this hope we pray for the Holy Spirit to refresh us all with a new adoration of Jesus , the infilling of His love with insight to bringing in a new generation for your good Kingdom. To His praise and glory. Amen.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL – 2021



I was recently notified by the Royal British Legion that they intend to relaunch their annual Poppy Appeal this year in an attempt to resume their ongoing efforts to raise much-needed funds for our serving troops at home and abroad, for the ongoing welfare and care of their families and all those in need.

As we are all aware of the current Covid-19 situation and the possibility of a further lockdown (not confirmed but always a possibility) there is the worry that a full Poppy Appeal may/or may not take place. All we can do is our best and I propose the following:

I will place a limited number of Poppy Appeal collection boxes and supplies (including the Poppy Badge for 2021) at various points around the island and I will publicise their whereabouts in due course. Your contribution will be much appreciated and put to the best possible use.

For those of you who have the small red Poppy Home Collection unit, I will contact you direct and make arrangements for the contents of the boxes for 2020 and 2021 to be collected/handed to me. I will also contact those who make a regular annual donation and arrange for these amounts to be collected/handed to me.

A possible alternative to those who wish to make a contribution is to make a donation direct to the Royal British Legion. There is a Facebook page: <https://www.BritishLegion.org.uk> which gives detailed advice on donations and purchases, Payment by Visa Credit card, PayPal etc.

I thank you all in advance for your wonderful support in past years and hope we can have a successful Poppy Appeal for 2021.

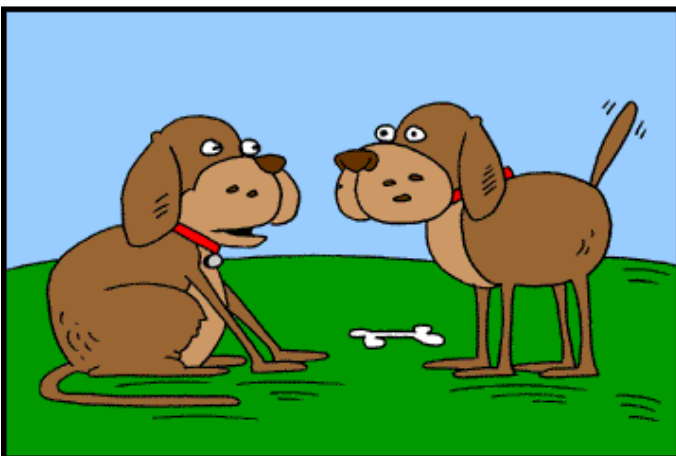
Lucy STEELE, M.B.E.

Poppy Appeal Honorary Organiser



Spectators at "The Hundred" women's cricket match know all the best places!

Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



09-16-1999

MY OWNER JUST INFORMED ME THAT I AM NO LONGER HIS BEST FRIEND ... SEEMS HE'S MET SOME CHAP BY THE NAME OF "GOD"



09-15-1999

BACK WHEN MOSES WAS STILL FREELANCING, HE MANAGED TO HELP MANY NATURE PROGRAMS TO GET THOSE SPECTACULAR "UNDERWATER" PHOTOS

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>



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



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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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