



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

PULSE

THE NEWSLETTER OF HTC - Dec. 2021



SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Dear Friends,

Well, it looks like we are all heading for a further season of uncertainty around the world and just at the most difficult time of the year. We have come to realise that Christmas is not a moveable feast - it does make a difference where we are and who we are with on this very special day of the year.



Last Christmas Day, for example, was the first Christmas Day in 37 years that Trish and I had not been together. The necessity for Trish to be with her mother in England and the necessity that I be here combined with the restrictions and risks of the pandemic left us with no choice. How did that feel?

ABSESENCE MAKES...

The answer is... very emotional, but not quite in the way I had imagined. Of course, there was a sadness that came from not being able to be together and with the family, but there was a curious deeper joy that came from the truth that the reason it felt so intense was because of how meaningful and special the relationships are. The absence

of Trish and the family's company highlighted the deep love that there is between us. Strangely, the absence on this special day brought into focus just how precious a gift these relationships are. So it was a kind of joyful-sad feeling. Sad that we couldn't be together; joyful because the sadness pointed to the cherished nature of the connections that could not be broken by the distance between us.

The importance of our most special relationships, those we see now and those who have gone before us, are intensified during the Christmas celebrations. I love this prayer from the Carol Service which says, "let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are forever one." It speaks of the unbreakable bonds of love that bind us together in Jesus.

BONDS OF LOVE

The desire for these bonds of love, we have come to understand through Jesus, have their source in the heart of God and they overflow to the people He has given life to. The desire that we know that we are precious to Him and that He cherishes each one of us as His children is behind His act of reaching out to us in such a fragile and exposed manner. To be born into a world precarious with the powerplays of worldly men, where violence is the understood vehicle of office and coercion and force are the only language of persuasion - and to come with a message of peace, with hope for change offered only through grace and forgiveness - this surely is a sign of the nature of the relationship He offers to us. How else could we learn that there is another way to live with each other and our Creator? How else could He teach us to grow those bonds of love

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which form all that is truly meaningful in our lives - with each other and Him?

I guess we will all, at some point, watch those Christmas movies again that will bring a tear to our eye! Tears that do not come from sadness but from those moments of beauty that capture something of the truth of the potential of love to change our lives. Those moments where hearts soften, practised cynicism loosens its grip and we feel that there is just the possibility that our world could be the beautiful place of peace and plenty that it was given to us to be. Confession... I do always cry at the end of Love Actually - I am an incurable romantic!!



But this isn't just sentimentalism or naivety, it is the Good News that Christmas heralds to the world. The angels sing, "Glory to God in the Highest and peace on earth among those whom He favours". Our Saviour has come and He is full of grace and truth, His light enlightens everyone. Mercy has triumphed over judgment and His perfect love drives out all fear! Here is the cause for celebration. The light will always shine in the darkness and no darkness can ever overcome it.

I pray this Christmas, however and wherever we may turn out to be(!), will be a time when we feel that deepest joy that comes from knowing that bonds of love, with Jesus at their source, can never be broken.

With peace and blessings,

Jules.

Other soppy Christmas movies are available! Maybe ask an incurable romantic for their list! Ed.

CHECK OUT - A report on the recent synod, hosted by HTC in Corfu, written by Archdeacon Leslie Nathaniel.

[CLICK HERE](#)





Sunday 3rd October was the Harvest Festival at HTC. Jules had prepared a service with Power Point slides, and it was led by Pauline while Anne gave the address. The service was attended by Captain & Mrs. Alex Bush and, as there was plenty of time before we had to leave for the British Cemetery service, Pauline invited Captain Bush to say a few words about his work as Defence Attaché and the reason for his being in Corfu.

Alex introduced himself by saying he and his wife, Valerie, were from Plymouth where they had attended a Congregational Church but that since covid, they had not been able to attend a service in person. Both were delighted to have had the opportunity to share the day with Holy Trinity's congregation.

As Defence Attaché, he represents the three British Services – Royal Navy, Air force and Army in Greece & Bulgaria, on a 3-years tour of duty. His team is involved in various NATO exercises in the area and also aims to encourage the Greek government to look at purchasing British Armaments. He and his wife were in Corfu to represent the British Ambassador at the ceremonies organized by the Albert Cohen Association for the 75th Anniversary of "The Corfu Channel Incident." After the service Alex and Valerie mingled and chatted with the congregation.

This year's Harvest Festival Service was combined with Gift Day which is a one - off yearly donation to support the Ministry and works of Holy Trinity.

The Harvest Gifts were distributed to Sister Theonymphe who supports seven families around the area of Holy Trinity. As the Sister was unwell Anne & Pauline delivered the gifts to her church nearby with enough dry goods for these families.

We took the rest of the Harvest Gifts of dried foods to the Hellenic Red Cross. Holy Trinity helps them in supporting 20 families in Corfu town with our weekly delivery of fresh vegetables which was delivered at the same time as the Harvest gifts.

Pauline Argyrou-Aspioti



PULSE PRAYERS



**The LORD is my light and my salvation —
whom shall I fear?**

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life —
of whom shall I be afraid?**

Psalm 27:1

Heavenly Father, thank you that you hear our prayers and listen to our hearts. We lay before you now, our hopes, fears, daily joys and sorrows.

Our fears grow stronger as we now face the reality of the destructive weather patterns happening around the world. We pray for all those who are victims of climate change, in places where floods and fires have taken lives, properties and land. We pray for your protection, blessing and comfort on all who grieve their loss and livelihoods.

Protests grow stronger across Europe, against the new restrictions due to the new pandemic wave. Anger and violence between people and the police rage. Dear Lord, help the police and soldiers who are called to stand against the violent riots. Amidst our fears, disappointment, confusion and anger, come to our aid Lord. Give us peace dear Lord, through you all things are possible. May your spirit of peace reign in the hearts of those who rebel against justice, may people begin to understand why restrictions over our lives are necessary to stop Covid from becoming a new plague.

We pray for strong leadership during these uncertain times. May all world leaders make strong resolutions, during the Glasgow summit on climate change, to cooperate with all countries on solutions and actions to help our world. We pray, in this pandemic time, that access to vaccines is a human right for all, and that all leaders attending the COP will agree to the fair distribution of the vaccine. Giving the poorer countries the same rights as the rest of the world. Lord help us to make a better world.

Lord of time and place we ask you to help the thousands of immigrants trapped between the Poland-Belarus borders. We ask for peace to reign between these nations. We ask you to help this humanitarian crisis.

Unite us in prayer with all people praying for our world. Bless activists working to save our environment. Bless disaster relief workers helping in times of fires, floods and storms. Bless those who give their lives to save others. Bless those who feed the poor and homeless, especially Sabina in Yemen. We pray for Afghanistan, Lebanon, Venezuela, Iraq and India and so many other countries in desperate situations. Lord of life and justice hear our prayers.

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PULSE PRAYERS



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We pray for the world church, for the fellowship of Christian community, for all the church leaders who have helped with the online services, especially Jules, our chaplain. Bless this church and our mission and outreach. Bless our families and friends near and far. . Thank you for our prayer warriors, for their wonderful inspiration and blessings with their online prayers. Bless Pauline and Ann, our wardens and council members.

Dear Lord, embrace all those whose hearts overflow with grief. In these few months, so much tragedy has destroyed and killed, their loved ones, their homes and land. Heal their broken lives and restore their hope. Hold them close through the coming years.

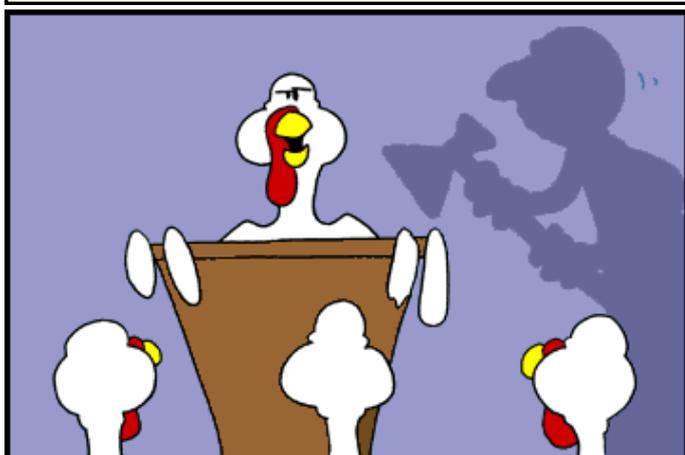
We pray for those we hold in our hearts who need our prayers. We lift to you all those who are facing various illnesses. Piper, Dave, Christine and Gracie. Give them hope, courage they need today, and every day. Bless them with your healing spirit.

We pray for all those who mourn, that in this time of loss, they will feel God's love even more and that they will find comfort in prayer and in the Lord. We pray God pours upon them his amazing Grace and overflows their heart with peace. Especially for dear Thelma, Simon, Nicola and Julie on the loss of Spiros, beloved husband and father. Our sincere condolences to you and your family. May Spiros rest in peace.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

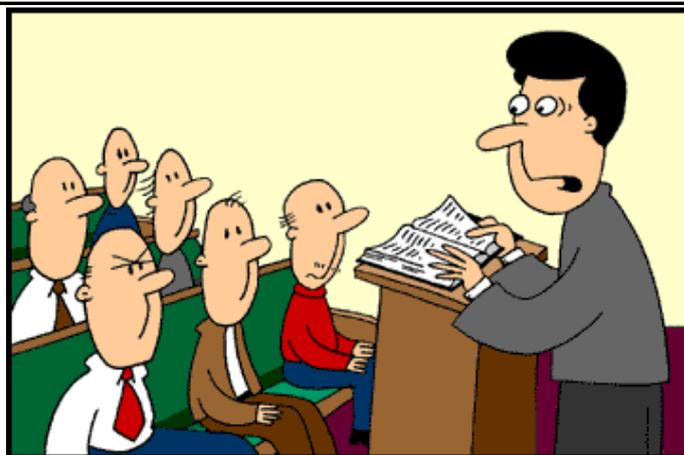


Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



(See 1Thessalonians 5:1-3) 11-25-1999

LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT YOU NEVER
KNOW WHEN YOUR TIME ON THIS EARTH
WILL RUN OUT



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Matthew 10:29-31) 12-02-1999

TODAY'S READING IS MATTHEW 10:30 ...
"BUT THE VERY HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD ARE
ALL ... ER ... NUMBERED"

SPIROS STOYIANNOS

Our dear friend and brother Spiros passed away to be with The Lord on 22nd of November

We give thanks for the life and friendship of Spiros and remember him especially for his love of music, singing, sunshine and sea.

We remember that The Lord is close to the broken hearted and our hearts go out to Thelma, Nicola and Peter, Simon and Julie the grandchildren and Spiros' sister Nitsa and family.

May the loving presence of Jesus surround them and uphold them in comfort and strength.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain." Revelation 21:4



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/>



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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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