



BIGGER PICTURE

Dear Friends,

“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

This is message of the angel in the empty tomb to the three women in the account in Mark’s Gospel.

The depth of these words has struck home several times in the last few weeks... they were part of the “Come and See” course and were in yesterday’s Easter Celebration in church. Each phrase of this message, although spoken in a very particular place at a very particular time, points beyond its immediate situation to the very nature of the Good News we who believe it have to share today.



It starts with words of comfort spoken into a situation that seems hopeless and lost... “Don’t be alarmed”. It is part of our human experience that we encounter situations in our lives and in the world around us that cause us to be overcome with confusion and fear. What is going on? It seems almost unavoidable that we can feel so overcome by what we are feeling... whether in our personal lives, our working lives or in response to some new tragedy of violence or abuse of power that unfolds in the world. All of these aspects are present for those women... loss of a loved one, loss of

purpose, dealing with a massive violent injustice... and yet the angel says... Don’t be alarmed. There is a bigger picture here. Things are so much more than they seem - the One behind all things is working His purposes out... divine love working within human brokenness to bring all things to fulfilment... do not be alarmed.

The angel then assures the women that they are known - their reason for being there, their sadness, how they are feeling, what they are trying to do... all known. “You are looking...”, he says. This makes all the difference in the world, to know that we are not alone. Nothing passes unseen or unloved. There is a deep peace that comes from being able to realise that whatever is consuming us, overpowering us, driving us... we are understood. We can afford to pause... and listen... and receive from the God who is Love. We are not left to our own devices but have His Love and Wisdom to help us through.

And then the three words that change everything... “He has risen”.



HE IS RISEN

The message that they could have expected... if they had listened to Jesus... but which comes as a fresh revelation, even though they had been told. And how often is this the case with us and those we live among. Rushing around trying to figure out what we are going to do about everything, when the still, small voice of revelation gives us the true picture, an insight we could not work out on our own. Jesus’ way through the situation. Not our own best or frantic efforts... but the unexpected,

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surprising transformation of whatever comes our way. And we are assured of this time and time again, and time and time again we forget it... for a time... until we remember and realise that if only we had listened to start with...

And a new purpose emerges, "But go..." No longer were the women about their profoundly sad task of dealing with some last remains of a dying dream, now they are offered a mission full of hope and joy. They have the best news possible to share with their closest friends and then who knows where things will lead! This is what happens when we realise that the resurrection of Jesus is true, that he has overcome sin and death, he has overcome the world and he has begun a new creation.

And here the angel's message ends with the words "...just as he said". His message ends and ours begins - sharing the good news - sharing Jesus. And yet... it took the women some time to work that through - and hardly surprising given the enormity of the shift in their understanding. But unlike their loss, where they were having to adjust their world

view to accommodate the absence of someone they loved, now they are adjusting their world view to allow hope and life and love to flood back in. The reverse of so many of our normal experiences. Dealing with Good News appears to have its own challenges for us!

But Good News it is, in every aspect! We need not fear; we are known and understood; we do not have to battle things through on our own; there is a love and wisdom which we can receive that is not from ourselves; there is a new creation unfolding of which we are called to be part and we have a purpose and a call which gives us direction and hope into eternity. In every situation.

So... most definitely a divine message from a divine messenger. And the beginning of a beautiful future of which we are a part.

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!!

With every blessing for an Easter season filled with hope and risen life,

Jules.

STOP PRESS—Easter at HTC



Seder Meal—Maundy Thursday



Stations of the Cross—Good Friday



Sprinkling of Water—Easter Sunday

PULSE PRAYERS



A time of prayerful reflection, praise and awe to the King of Creation for Eastertide,

O Lord; our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the Earth! Your glory reaches higher than the heavens. (Psalm 8)

Come, creator Spirit source of life; sustain us when our hearts are heavy and when our wells have run dry, for you are the Father's gift, with him who is our living water Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our thoughts of you, O Lord, have been too small, too few...for seldom have we considered how specific is the exercising of your authority, extending as it does into the myriad particulars of creation.

There is no quarter for which you are not king.

And as creation hurtles towards its liberation and redemption, the full implications of your deep Lordship are yet to be revealed in countless facets unconsidered.

Christ, you are the Snow King.
You are the Maker of All Weathers.
You are The King of Sunlight and Storms,
The King of Grey Skies and Rain.
You are The Rain King,
The Sun King,
the Hurricane King.
You are the King of Autumn
and King Of Spring.

Our thoughts of you, O Lord, have been too small, too few

The old and impotent gods our ancestors once believed in were, at their best, but imperfect pictures of you, whose strength and goodness and creative majesty and wonderful mystery and love exceed those old rumours as sunlight exceeds the tiny dimness of stars reflected in a dark wavering pool.

You are the Lord of the Harvest.
The Grain King,
The Wine King,
The God of Plenty,
The God of Hearth and Home.
You are the Hill King,
The Wildflower King,
King of the Great Bears,
King of Canyons.

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You are The Monarch of Meadows,
The Lord of the Lava Fields,
Ruler of the Desert Wastes,
The Polar King,
The Rainbow King,
The King of the Southern Cross,
and The King of the Northern Lights.

¹⁵ *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.* ¹⁶ *For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.* ¹⁷ *He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* ¹⁸ *And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.* ¹⁹ *For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,* ²⁰ *and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Colossians 1:15 -20)*

You are The Horse Lord,
The Crag King,
Lord of the Bees,
King of the Walruses,
Commander of Rhinos,
Lord of the Butterflies
Cave Lord,
Mountain King,
Ruler of the Grassy Plains,
God of the Valleys.
You are the Captain of the Clouds,
The Wolf King.

And..

Our thoughts of you, O Lord, have been too small, too few.

For your claim over creation is vast. You are
The Lord of Antarctica,
the King of California,
the King of the Scottish Hills,
and the King of the Nile.

You are the weaver of the unseen fabrics of the world.
You are Lord of the Atoms,
The Ruler of Electrons,
The Lord of Gravity,
and The King of Quarks.

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Your dominion enfolds the earth and rises beyond it to the furthest extremes of the stars.
You are Lord of the Vast Empty Spaces.
You are The King of the Constellations,
The Black Hole King,
Lord of Novas Exploding,
Lord of Speeding Light,
High King of Galaxies,
King of Orion,
King of the Moon.

And still, even still, our thoughts of you, O Lord, have been too small, too few.

You are the God of Justice,
The God of Wisdom,
The God of Mercy,
The God of Redemption.

You are The Lord of Love.

All of this is true.

But our thoughts of you are still too few, for our minds are too small to conceive of them all, let alone to contain them.

You were before all things, you created all things, and in you all things are held together. There is no corner of creation you will fail to redeem.

**You are Lord of Lords
and King of Kings,
O Jesus Christ,
our King of Everything.**

Amen.

Extracts taken from "Every *moment* Holy" Vol 1. Douglas Kaine McKelvey.



Mid-March and already some visitors
have been arriving at HTC.
A comment made by a couple from Ger-
many showed their appreciation with the
comment:-
"Awesome service, we love the people."



Gallery



The art class is held in our church library every Thursday from 10 until 12 noon. At the moment we are eleven ladies who attend every week. Our watercolour teacher, Georgina has studied art for many years and she also teaches at the local art school in Corfu town. We are fortunate to be given her expert advice on a one to one basis.

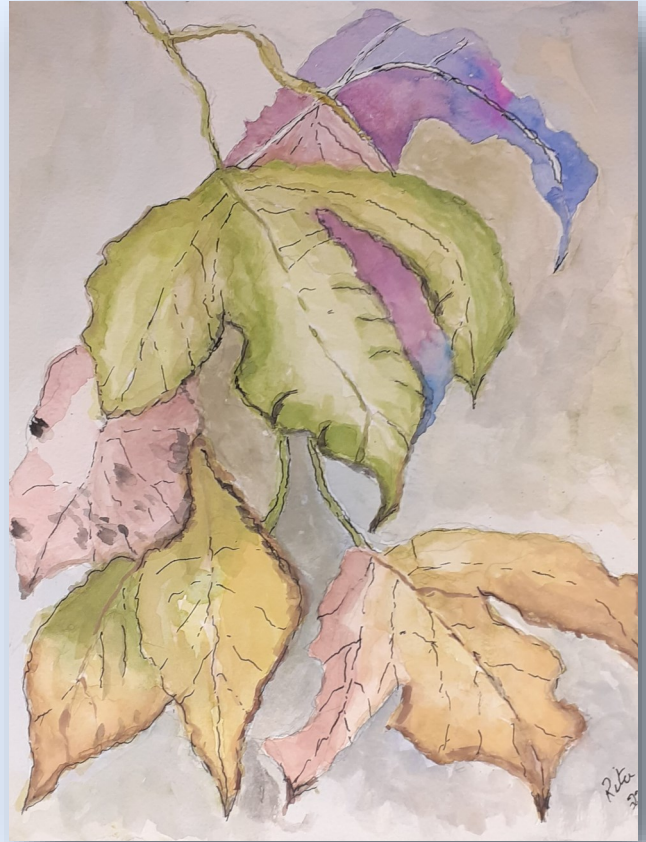


Like all hobbies, painting takes time and patience but if you have the will there is always a way.

I'd like to thank, Carol, Kim, Maria, Jane, Rhona, Nina Jules, Debbie, Carol's friend Jane, Julia, and Elaine

Never think you can't paint! Happy Easter to you all.

Rita.





World Day of Prayer

I beg you, bear with one another in love

2024 - Palestine

Holy Land – God’s Chosen Land - a unique factor is its special location in the World, situated as it is, straddling the divide between Africa and Asia. The area has always been a battlefield. Wave after wave of conquerors have poured into it, anxious to control the strategic trade routes linking the centres of the ancient world.

It is not by accident that God in His master plan of creation, decided to place it in the centre of His creation. Located on the tiny land bridge between the continents of Africa, Europe and Asia, there was no other way to get between them, except through the Holy Land. Whoever wanted to trade between these continents, or control the known world, had to control The Holy Land. In this narrow strip of land lies the source of religious belief of much of mankind. Here amongst the barren hills and fertile plains, man’s spirit learnt to soar and from here a new message went out to all the world.

The Christian women of Bethlehem chose the theme “I Beg you, Bear with one another in Love” for this year’s World Day of Prayer. The land where Jesus was born, lived, ministered and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted. Despite living in an area where there is ongoing conflict and the future is uncertain, the women of Bethlehem are sharing their Christian love as a reminder that they are there and want to share their hope with everybody.

The World Day of Prayer was held in Holy Trinity Church on the Friday 1st March at 18.00. This was the first official service held since the refurbishment and leaders of our local Christian sisters and brothers in Christ were invited. We were delighted that Archbishop George of the Catholic Church

joined us, along with many of his congregation and helpers. Pastor Miltiades of the Greek Evangelical Church attended and Veta, his lovely wife stood alongside us as leader on the evening. The Evangelical Church has been involved with Holy Trinity since our first Women’s World Day of Prayer in 1996 and Veta has helped with every aspect of the preparation and translation of the Service since then.



On the altar was a white candle and a Bible open at Ephesians chapter 4. Under the altar Trish created a biblical garden with the Mediterranean symbols and using olive branches, a sign of everlasting and abundant life because the olive tree can live for thousands of years; a basket of citrus fruits, which grow abundantly and are exported all over the world; cactus plants which represent the desert and are a symbol of resilience and survival. In the Holy Land the cactus forms a natural boundary between the villages as the plants can survive in fields where nothing else will. Their flower and fruit are emblems of beauty and sustenance amidst suffering and pain. Wild flowers grow in the fields profusely, anemones, buttercups, violets, lily of the valley and poppies are abundant and mean-

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ingful as a reminder of loved ones departed. The old keys used represent the homes left behind when the inhabitants are relocated.



A reminder of how the (Women’s) World Day of Prayer started back in 1887 by a pastor’s wife Mary James who called the women of her church together with the theme: ‘Where there shall be confession of individual and national sin’. She was reacting to the many problems women faced around her in the awful slums, in poverty, unemployment, lack of health and educational facilities. From this humble beginning, the World Day of Prayer has become an International Ecumenical Prayer Movement celebrated worldwide.

It was a very sensitive service with prayers beautifully written - a very prayerful service. The Call to Worship was based on Psalm 85, a communal plea to God for renewal of his mercies to his people as they once more suffer distress. Recalling also how He has forgiven and restored them in the past and to turn from His displeasure and make the land fruitful once more.



We heard stories from three Arab Christian women from three different generations illuminating difficulties and difference but witnessing to the power of love when united in prayer for just and harmonious solutions which would bring an end to human suffering and committing to a journey to achieve security and peace to all people.

Eleonor, an older generation member of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Holy Land, who comes from a deeply rooted Jerusalem family. Her great grandfather established St George’s Orthodox Church in the 19th century which enabled people from outside the city walls to have a place of worship. Throughout her life she chose to be fully engaged with all members of the local community, learning from her parents to co-exist with others even when life is harsh and difficult. She has implemented humanitarian and development programmes as well as social and community projects. These programmes and projects serve all people regardless of religion, ethnic status or need, also helping hundreds of women to sustain their families as breadwinners. She has always known that life is fragile and peace is not guaranteed but believes that when we are strong and stand together ‘we can bear with one another in love.’

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Lina, tells the story of her late Aunt Shireen who for 25 years was a famous journalist and TV presenter who entered every home in the Arab world through the TV screen. Shireen used her position to tell stories of truth in love and was a voice of truth. She campaigned for both Christians and Muslims to work towards reconciliation. Lina's aunt was her godmother at baptism, her best friend and role model, as she was to many young Arab women. Many people did not know that Shireen was a Christian until the day of her funeral when 500 people attended the service - proof that she had entered their hearts. Shireen's faith led her to 'bear with one another in love' despite differences in faith and traditions.



Sara, who was born and raised in Jerusalem as a Lutheran Christian, finds that as an Arab woman life is always challenging. She shares a story of her grandparents who used to live in Jaffa, where they grew up living alongside other Christians, Muslims and Jews. When the state of Israel was created in 1948, they were displaced becoming refugees in Jordan. Many years later, her grandparents came to visit her parents in Jerusalem and were taken on a visit to Jaffa, they were excited to show where they used to live. Her grandpa told them stories about his childhood and how he used to plant trees with his father, and this is how they identified the house! Everything had changed except the trees and sadly they were not able to go inside. When Sara was visiting her grandparents in Jordan, they showed her the keys her great grandparents had kept on leaving their house. They like others, had kept their keys in the hope to return. Sara is nourished by the love shown by her ancestors and she can 'bear in love with others' because they did.'

In all three stories they liken themselves to the olive tree as a symbol of three generations - through its trunk, branches and leaves. Having seen many years of war and violence, yet resisting these 'strong winds' they can be strong together IF they 'bear with one another in love.'

During the service as the Peace was shared olive twigs, distributed at the beginning of the service, were exchanged. The service ended with "The Blessing" given in Greek by the Archbishop George and then in English by Jules our chaplain. We added a closing prayer 'God of Unity' by John Ellerton read by Pastor Miltiades in Greek and Jules in English.

Eleven women took part from the three churches, Anglican, Catholic and Greek Evangelical. As is our tradition it was a multilingual service and parts were read in English, Greek, Italian and Spanish. Mignon taught us the two songs included in the order of service: 'God of Peace', a traditional Arab song and "I Urge You" which was especially composed for the day. Mignon enjoys playing for these services but was ill on the day and Jules stepped in to play.

It was truly an amazing service.

After the service everybody stayed and joined us in the Café Logos for a 'Finger Food Buffet' which the ladies of the congregation had prepared and Brian had beautifully presented. It was also St David's Day, Patron Saint of Wales, and Brian made cakes including 'Welsh Cakes' which we all enjoyed.

Pauline Agyrou-Aspioti
WDP Co-ordinator



ALBANIAN FELLOWSHIP OUTING 2024



Though Maria and Beka live in Albania they feel very much part of HTC family and would love to meet more of us.

How it started...

In 2006 Maria was to start helping me clean the apartments in Kassipi and I went to see her to tell her the starting date, I found her in tears. She was crying about her sister Beka in Albania who was very poor, had 5 children, and one of whom was paralysed. The youngest one Suardi was now in hospital and she was afraid the same would happen to him. We prayed, Suardi recovered, and HTC collected clothes and food, and money for Beka to buy a fridge. Maria and I took many bags of stuff over to Saranda. Beka came from her village to meet us and cried at the love shown by total strangers.

So that's how it started. The relationship has continued and Lorraine visits Maria who has now been back in Albania several years. Maria's husband, Agora, has since died and Maria lets out rooms close to the sea in pretty Ksamil which is directly opposite the coast of Corfu and the nearest point of Saint Stephanos..

Maria always asks about HTC, sends her love and greetings and would love to meet more of us. So there you have it. The idea of this outing is to give Maria some encouragement have fellowship and for us to have a couple of days wind down in a pretty relaxing place to get the feel of Albania.

Dates Monday 6th May – Wednesday 8th May 2024. Approx cost for travel and accommodation €85.00. Passport or ID card required.

For more details and the proposed itinerary please contact Lorraine at HTC.



The Safe Space

Have you recently lost someone you love? Are you feeling isolated or anxious? Does the world seem overwhelming and scary since the pandemic? Is your mental well-being languishing or your self-esteem low? Then perhaps it would be beneficial to spend an hour in the "Safe Space".



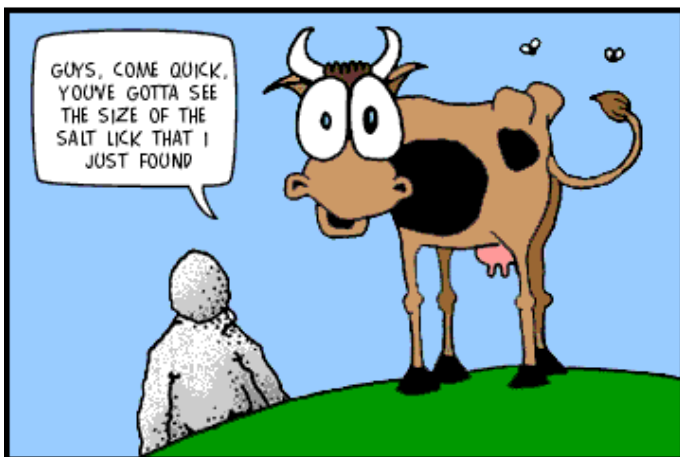
The Safe Space is an informal Christian counseling setting where you can receive one-to-one confidential on-line space to explore your feelings

To book an appointment:

email Trish: trishmariawilson@gmail.com or phone: 0030 6986644271

<https://sites.google.com/view/trish-wilson-christian-counsel/home>

Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



(See Genesis 19:1-29)
LOT'S WIFE IS DISCOVERED

03-08-1999



Thanks to Nick Hengeveld
SEDGWICK THE ANT DID NOT REALLY APPRECIATE THE ALPHABETICAL SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS ON THE ARK

03-11-1999


Links





<https://europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary>


<https://www.ics-uk.org/Pages/Category/prayer-diary>


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


<https://enimerosi.com/en>


https://www.facebook.com/groups/CorfuForum/?ref=group_header




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



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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.*

Editorial: htccorfupulse@gmail.com



HOLY TRINITY CORFU

21 L.Mavili Street, Corfu 49100

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN GREECE



 www.holytrinitycorfu.net

 htccorfugmail.com

 (0030) 6976 196 322

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