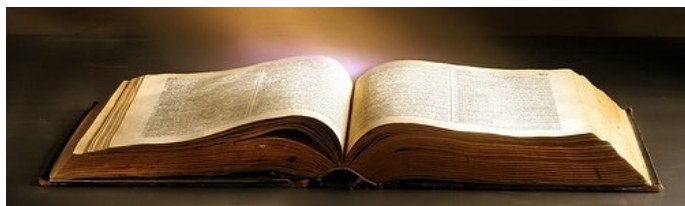


## THE WORD

Dear Friends,

As you may be aware, we have started to study the Lectio course as part of our Advent devotions and I was struck by the advice given in that course by Sister Mary Magdalene when preparing to read the Bible. She spoke of having a “disposition”... a way in which we are to approach our time with God through the Bible. She listed three helpful characteristics... faith - in the revealed word of God, expectation - that the word is living and active, and love - that God’s word to us is a word of love. When our preparation to read the Bible, having asked the Holy Spirit to be our Helper and Guide, is as she describes, it is the Word of God we meet, our Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh. The true Word behind the written word.



And she is right! It does make all the difference in the world to our Bible reading to approach it in this way.

But why stop at how we read the Bible?

Surely we can “read” creation in this way too? Faith... in the wonder, beauty and sheer majesty and intricate diversity of creation reflects the incredible mind and heart of God; expectation - that every day is a gift of life from our God whose heart is to bless us and shape us for eternal life; love - that behind this gift that is our world, is the God of love who sees us as His children and wants us to know that whatever happens, we are not on our own and we are loved.

But why stop there?

Can we experience each other in this way too? Faith - that each of us bears and carries the image of God... we are called to an inheritance with the saints in light, how does that change how we look at each other, how we listen to each other? Expectation - that in each of us the Holy Spirit is living and active, working with us (or trying to!) to bring life in its fullness. Love - each of us worthy of being loved because we *are* loved by the One who gave us life; each of us capable of growing in the way we love each other.

And the more I reflect on this, the more that second word - “expectation” - can be seen as a particular kind of “hope”... Faith, expectation and love. Faith, *hope* and love. I say a particular kind because expectation is a hope that anticipates, makes tangible in the present that which is promised. It’s not a hope based on best intentions or daydreams, or simply a preferred outcome - not wishful thinking. It’s a hope that anticipates and expects what is to come because the One who has promised it is grace and truth, power and wisdom... and will make it so. It’s a hope we can *live* in, make our decisions on, form our relationships through.

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### A CERTAIN HOPE

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The Advent season encourages us to dispose ourselves towards embracing more fully the hope that lies before us founded on the actions of God in the history of humanity. It lays out before us the pattern of God’s saving work with us... from the promise, the certain hope, given to Abraham that the world would be blessed through him, through the prophets who began to give shape to what was to come, to John the Baptist and Mary the God-bearer who through their obedience and humility welcomed the Incarnate Son and bore witness to His arrival, His advent.

As followers of Jesus, we live in a time of expectation. We have in His word all that He has done for us, taught us, promised us. We have in our lives the Presence of the Spirit to help us understand this, understand the world around us through it and to learn to see in each other the treasure He sees.

So let’s use this season well. As we busy ourselves preparing for the celebrations to come around Christmas, maybe we can approach the events behind them with fresh expectancy... that we *do expect* to experience the beautiful truth that God emptied Himself to come among us out of love - that He did this for us; that when we look upon the power and beauty of creation, we *do expect* to be moved to value it as His gift; that when we share time with each other, that we *do expect* to see our Lord Presence in each other... that what is true of His love for us is true of His love for each other.

With every blessing for a meaningful advent and a joyful Christmas.

Jules.

# The Lectio Course during Advent

Learning to hear God's voice – his word and his whisper – is the single most important thing you will ever learn to do." – Pete Greig.

This is a beautiful course which helps us go deeper into the ancient practice of Lectio Divina - "Divine Reading" and through the word of God draws us deeper into the life and presence of the Word of God.

There will be three opportunities to be part of this four week course:

**Mondays at 18:30**, in the cafe (Contact Anne G)

2nd, 9th, 16th Dec

**Wednesdays at 16:45** in chapel (Contact Jules)

4th, 11th, 18th Dec

**Thursdays at 19:00, on-line** (Contact Jules)

5th, 12th, 19th Dec





**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**

**CORFU TOWN**

# **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Lots of Christmas gifts, bric-a-brac,  
jewellery, home produce,  
refreshments, raffles and of course  
Father Christmas will be visiting!

Saturday 7th Decmeber

11:00-14:00

Cafe Logos

21 L Mavili Street

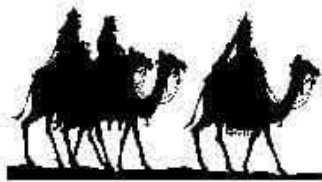
Corfu Town





# Christmas at JHTC

SUNDAY 22 Dec. 18:00  
Christmas Carol Service  
*Mince Pies & Mulled wine after the Service*



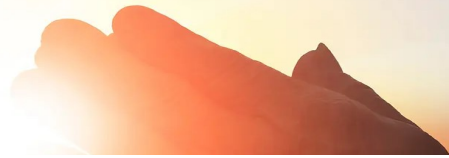
TUESDAY 24 Dec. 18:00  
Christmas Eve Communion



25 Dec. 9:00  
Christmas Day Service

FOR UNTO US  
*a child is born*  
— ISAIAH 9:6 —

# PULSE PRAYERS



Our Heavenly Father,

We are so grateful for your love and grace in our lives. We thank you for the countless blessings you have given us. We have the wonderful privilege of being adopted into your family as sons and daughters of the most high God, a title we do not deserve and could never earn, but through your gift of faith, we have become heirs to your kingdom. Hallelujah

We thank you for the wonders of your creation, the beauty of our surroundings, the lovely island of Corfu. Help us, and those in authority here, to be good stewards of all you have given us and to take none of it for granted.

Please give wisdom and guidance to those in leadership, both in Greece and around the world. May their hearts be turned to the peace and well-being of those people for whom they are responsible. May they turn away from greed and self interest and not succumb to the desire for power and control. We pray for an end to war between nations...Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine and all other areas of the globe that are being devastated by conflict and unrest at this time.

Protect and uphold your church throughout the world. We thank you for our chaplain, Jules and his wife, Trish. Please continue to bless them in their ministry here at Holy Trinity and keep your hand of protection upon them and their family. Thank you for the dedication of Jackie in Lefkada, our church wardens, Anne and Pauline, the church council and all who willingly serve the body of Christ here in Corfu.

We lift to you those we know who need healing. We thank you for the steady recovery of our sister, Rita. We ask you to comfort those who mourn and minister to any who are going through troubling times.

Lord, you are faithful in all things and your mercies are new every morning. Help us to put you first in all we do with the knowledge that you loved us first, and you love us best.

In Jesus's Name,  
Amen

**Ask and it will be given  
to you;  
seek and you will find;  
knock and the  
door will be opened to  
you.**



# New Suffragan Bishop in Europe

Andrew has previously worked and lived in the Diocese in Europe. Prior to ordination he worked in Malta in a banknote-printing factory. His curacy was at St Michael's Paris. Andrew remembers his time at St Michael's very fondly and is looking forward to returning to explore more of the Diocese in Europe.

Andrew was ordained priest in 1996. Following his curacy in Paris he became Associate Vicar at Christ Church, Clifton in the Diocese of Bristol. He worked with Archbishop Rowan Williams as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for International, Ecumenical and Anglican Communion Affairs. He was then Principal of Ridley Hall theological college from 2008 to 2016 before moving to the newly-formed Diocese of Leeds. He is author of 'A Church Observed: being Anglican as times change'. Andrew is married to Amanda, who works for the Leprosy Mission and is a Licensed Lay Minister. They have two adult daughters.

Andrew said:

'I'm delighted to be returning to the diocese where I served my curacy. Being Suffragan Bishop in this vast and fascinating diocese is an exciting as well as a daunting prospect. In partnership with other churches in Europe, there's wonderful potential for nurturing Christian faith and witness. I'm really looking forward to coming alongside our chaplaincies in all their glorious diversity, so we can rise together to the challenges and opportunities ahead, in faith-filled and imaginative ways.'



Bishop Robert said:

"I am very excited about Andrew's appointment. Andrew has a great variety of experience and gifts in theology, ecumenical work and strategic development that are highly relevant to our diocese. I'm sure he will be a wise senior colleague and an encouraging pastor to our clergy and congregations. I am very much looking forward to working with him. Please do join me in praying for Andrew and Amanda as they face this major time of transition."

The Suffragan Bishop in Europe will be based in Brussels where he will work with the Diocesan Bishop Right Revd Dr. Robert Innes.

As Suffragan Bishop, Andrew will Chair the Ministry Team of the diocese and will be the Lead Bishop for Safeguarding alongside his other responsibilities.

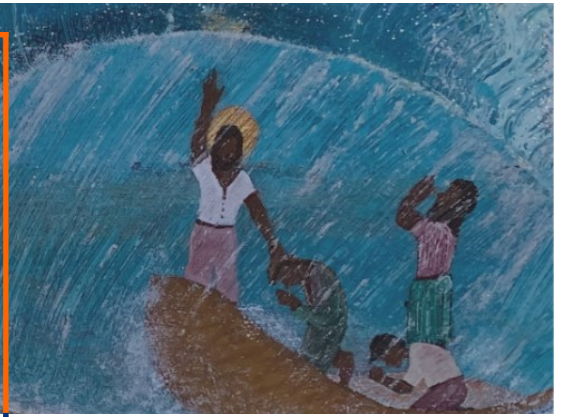
The plans for Andrew's consecration in England and then installation at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Gibraltar are being finalised at present. These events are likely to be at the very end of February and the first weekend of March.



# 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](mailto:trishmariawilson@gmail.com) or phone: 0030 6986644271

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

# Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



12-19-1997

I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN



12-24-1997

I HATE TO ASK YOU NICE FOLKS TO MOVE, BUT THE INN'S MARKETING DEPARTMENT FIGURES THAT IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THIS TREE GETS BETTER RECOGNITION THAN YOUR SON


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](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



*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



HOLY TRINITY CORFU

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DIOCESE IN EUROPE  
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN GREECE



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