



## **The Anglican Church of St Thomas, Kefalas**

### ***Reaching our Community through the Gospel message***

Welcome today and throughout **May 2020**

Thank you for sharing in worship with us.



The beautiful Easter Floral Cross arranged and photographed by Mary and David Hurley.

### **From the Assistant Chaplain, the Rev'd Canon Bruce Bryant-Scott**

“ . . . you must go on, I can't go on, I'll go on.” Samuel Becket *The Unnameable* (1954)

So how are we all doing?

It has been over a month since the lockdown came here in Greece. We had our last Sunday service in the Tabernacle on March 15, and the last public gathering was a funeral on Monday, March 16. Since then we have been doing church a little differently:

- Our March 29 Annual Meeting has been postponed.
- I have been publishing Sunday sermons on my blog at <https://theislandparson.com/>.
- I have also posted Resources for Worship at Home on <https://theislandparson.com/>.

- While I have not inaugurated Zoom conferences for worship in St Thomas's, I have directed people to places where they are doing it (such as St Paul's, Athens, or Holy Trinity, Geneva), or to pre-recorded services of worship (such as those led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, or St Alban's, Copenhagen).
- Julia Bradshaw and I have been calling through the members of the congregational list; if you have somehow not received a call, or would like more frequent ones, please call me at +30 69855 70353.
- I have got a work permit that allows me to go out for extraordinary reasons, and I have used it once, to meet with a UK citizen who needed some social assistance.

That said, it is not the same as "normal church". We are in a strange space, these days. Since Advent 2019 we have discussed our vision for the Anglican Church of St Thomas the Apostle, Crete, and a Mission Plan has been developed - but we cannot meet to approve it, and so we cannot implement it. As a congregation we are on the threshold of action, but we do not move out, because of the lockdown and the need for social distancing. So we stay home. Most of us here in Crete (and in the United Kingdom) are not in any imminent danger, so there is little for us to do other than the usual chores of eating, cooking, cleaning, and the pleasures of reading and sleeping. Occasionally we go out for carefully planned shopping trips or medical appointments, but unless we have dogs to walk or an intentional practice of outdoor exercise, we are confined to our homes. A few of us are working, and we carry our permits with us waiting for the Greek police to pull us over. We begin to wonder when it will end, when will be able to eat in our local tavernas. It is as though we are trapped in Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot*, a two act play whose plot has been described as, "Nothing happens, twice."

For some of us this is lovely. We may be natural introverts, and spending time on our own is a welcome break. Others find a strange relief from not having to plan a whirlwind of travel. For many of us the first few days were all right, but now we are more than a little squirrely. Some of us have friends and family in "hot spots" in the UK and in the United States, and we know of people who have the virus, and some who have died. We worry about people we know in the health care professions.

The strange thing about all of this is that no one really knows how it will end. Some governments are contemplating opening up, but slowly, in stages, and if the number of contaminated rises significantly we are back to the full lockdown. We hope for a vaccine, but no one really knows if one can be produced soon or how effective it will be. We can dream of going back to the way it was in, say, February, but I suspect there will be some permanent changes – such as less shaking of hands, hugging and kissing, and that sort of thing. Face masks will be a permanent feature of crowds. People will travel less for meetings and use internet conferencing more.

One thing I do know is that the church will survive through all of this. The church has been through traumatic times before, and has always served as a means of comfort and rebirth. The novelty of Zoom conferences has worn off rapidly, and when we have the opportunity to get together again in person, we will welcome it with relish. As well, the good news of Jesus Christ and the power of his resurrection in our lives will speak to the rebirth of our communities. We will cross over the threshold and get on with what God has called us to.

In the meantime, let us be safe. Let us pray for those whose work puts them in some higher state of vulnerability, especially those in the medical professions. Let us be in touch with one another, meeting each other's needs as best we can. Let us be still in this time, and allow God's grace to enter us and perhaps open up to us vistas beyond imagination. As St Patrick's Breastplate puts it:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
 Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
 Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
 Christ to comfort and restore me,  
 Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
 Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
 Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
 Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

**From Vicky Graham and *Touching the Tongas*, in a letter to the Rev'd Tony Lane:**

.....Many thanks for the financial support it is always appreciated, especially in times like now. Please also thank the people from St Thomas' Church for me.

Like UK, Zimbabwe is on lockdown, except for essential service, which has meant I am allowed to continue on with the clinics. This last month has been really busy, it's the season for the coughs, colds, malaria etc and always alert for any cases that may creep in with Covid 19.

The biggest problem is lack of testing and also the plan if we suspect anyone - what do we do??? Some days I just pray and ask our Lord to protect these communities and my patients. We are trying hard to do the social distancing, if can manage 1 metre we are doing well, this a very difficult thing for Africa. We are trying to take whatever precautions we can - wear face masks and gowns. Washing hands as regularly as possible. It's just another disease that is added onto the many others we deal with.

We are living in very interesting times, first time the whole world is focused on one thing. I do pray many will open their hearts to our Lord, but I know many will become hardened with what is happening....

### **A personal note from Diana:**

We cannot pray together at St.Thomas' Church at present – in normal times we would have our Intercessions. I am therefore asking if you would say a prayer on Tuesday morning for the husband of a very dear friend of mine. His bereaved wife, Janet and I trained together as Nightingale nurses at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, and she writes:

HAYDN WARD 18th January 1934 – 17th April 2020

Sadly Haydn died on Friday April 17th at 7.10am. He fought stoically to conquer his failing health but Covid 19 was the final challenge.

I would like to tell you the arrangements for Haydn's funeral.

As a family we have decided we do not want to put ANYONE at risk of catching Covid 19. We are devastated, but we have taken what we believe to be the wise decision to have Haydn cremated without family and friends present at the crematorium.

The cremation will take place on Tuesday 28th of April at 8.30 am.\* (10.30am in Crete).

Myself and our three sons Julian, Timothy, Duncan and their families will be in their individual homes and will be virtually with Haydn's vicar who will lead a service for us from his rectory using Zoom.

To remember Haydn during the ceremony on April 28<sup>th</sup> from your own home, besides saying a prayer, it would be a wonderful gesture to light a candle for him.

A wee nip too! Maybe save that for the evening!!

## **NEWS, REPORTS, FORTHCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION**

### **REGULAR CHURCH GIVING**

Dear Church Members & Friends of St. Thomas

Thank you so much for your generosity in contributing your usual Church Giving during March /April including the Lenten Collection. **During the Suspension of Services at St Thomas, Kefalas, we are still responsible for the expenses of the church including the Chaplain' salary & social security, rent & accommodation expenses, which are mostly payable in Euros.**

The Church of St. Thomas continue to be grateful for your financial support and would ask that your regular giving is continued during these difficult times.

Payments can be made in Euros to the Chaplaincy Euro Account or GBP to our account in the Diocese Office in London with the option of Gift Aid.

During the course of the last month, I have found that most Church Members in Crete prefer to make cash donations .....always acceptable!

I can meet people in Kalyves and issue a Cash Receipt on behalf of the Church

For those of you are unable to return to Crete at the present time, please do contact me if you able to offer to make a donation to assist in the running costs of the church

Many thanks & stay well.

Mary Hurley,

Chaplaincy Treasurer

#### **MESSAGE FROM PAT WORSLEY:**

I would like to thank everyone both here in Crete and in the UK who committed to the Lenten giving appeal. 500 euros was raised towards the continuing work and upkeep at St Thomas'.

Pat Worsley.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

The **Annual General Meeting** scheduled for Sunday, March 29th after the service, will now take place when there is new information available.

The next **Church Council Meeting** will be announced when a new date can be set.

#### **CHURCH WEBSITE**

The Church Website has a link to Revd Bruce's Sermons & Important Messages:

[www.theanglicanchurchincrete.co.uk](http://www.theanglicanchurchincrete.co.uk)

This website is updated on a daily basis as developments unfold.

**Please check the website on a regular basis.**

*Mary & David Hurley*

#### **CHURCH CHARITIES to be supported in 2020:**

1. Touching the Tonga. 2. Anámnsi. 3. ELEPAP.

*Diana Silk.*

**VINTAGE ROSE Second Hand Shop,  
79 Sifaka Street. Chania. A/C 395  
(A map with the location of the shop is on the Church notice board).  
NB. The shop is closed for the time being.**

Please continue to take unwanted clean, **seasonal** clothing in good condition, shoes, accessories especially jewellery, books, DVDs, CDs, furniture and household items, tools, flower pots, pet accessories etc to the shop to raise funds for the Church.

*Gill.*

**Reminder: Please collect all your plastic bottle tops and bring them to the Tabernacle for recycling to fund wheelchairs for the disabled. Until the Church is open again, please continue to save your bottle tops, or you may leave them at the Town Hall in Vrysses or Kalyves.**

**Also please remember the Social Supermarket: There is a large red plastic bowl in the Tabernacle for your donations of non-perishable goods. Again, please continue to save these goods until the Church re-opens.**

### **CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY 2020**

Church closed.

### **BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY 2020**

Church closed, but the readings may be found with Rev. Canon Bruce's weekly sermon which is sent to you on Saturday each week. (See page 1 for details).

### **CHURCH SERVICES INFORMATION FOR APRIL 2020**

**NO SERVICES FROM 22 MARCH TO 26 APRIL DUE TO COVID-19**

W/E APRIL 10	DONATIONS FROM CHURCH MEMBERS	€200.00
W/E APRIL 17	DONATIONS FROM CHURCH MEMBERS	€240.00
W/E APRIL 24	DONATIONS FROM CHURCH MEMBERS	€410.00
<b>TOTAL FOR APRIL</b>		<b>€ 850.00</b>

### **CHURCH FINANCE INFORMATION FOR APRIL 2020**

EURO INCOME	€ 850.00
EURO EXPENSES	€1567.82
MARCH CHAPLAIN SALARY & SOCIAL SECURITY	€ 461.70
MARCH ACCOMODATION EXPENSES	€ 440.94
APRIL RENT	€ 480.00
APRIL STATUTORY CHAPLAIN EASTER BONUS	€ 185.18

### **FIGURES AS AT 26/04/2020 ( 26 MARCH-26 APRIL)**

STERLING INCOME	BANKERS ORDERS & DONATIONS	£ 405.00
STERLING EXPENSES:		£ 0.00

### **FIGURES AS AT 20/04/2020 (20 MARCH- 20 APRIL)**

Thank you so much for your generosity in contributing your usual Church Giving during March /April including the Lenten Collection of which 460 Euros is included in the above figures  
The Church of St. Thomas continue to be grateful for your financial support and would ask that your regular giving is continued during these difficult times.  
Mary Hurley

**Thank you to everyone for your financial support particularly for the cash and bank donations since St. Thomas' were obliged to suspend services.**

## **PRAYERNET**

Are you experiencing a rough patch in your life? We all have times when we are having problems, either healthwise, mentally or emotionally. Or do you know of someone who is in a difficult place at present? The PrayerNet consists of people who pray for others in need, either for a week or two, or sometimes longer. If you would like the support of extra prayers, or would like to join the PrayerNet to pray for others in need, please contact me. All this work is done by email and is confidential to the members of the PrayerNet. The PrayerNet is a vibrant, worldwide community of people who enjoy being able to support people through prayer. Do contact me for help or further information: [suewhitehouse1808@gmail.com](mailto:suewhitehouse1808@gmail.com) or on +3028253 00657

*Sue.*

### **JUNE NEWSLETTER**

Please would you send any notices or articles for the **JUNE 2020** Newsletter to:  
Diana Silk at [tonydi@otenet.gr](mailto:tonydi@otenet.gr) by **MAY 24th**

The Newsletter may be downloaded from the  
**Church website:** [theanglicanchurchincrete.co.uk](http://theanglicanchurchincrete.co.uk)  
**Church email:** [creteanglicans@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:creteanglicans@yahoo.co.uk)

### **THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, KEFALAS LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**Assistant Chaplain: Reverend Canon D. Bruce Bryant-Scott 6985 570353**  
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**Church Wardens:**  
**Jan Lovell 6979 164716 Val Holmes 28250 22815**

**Deputy Church Warden: David Hurley 6946 691818**

**Church Council Members:**  
**Julia Bradshaw, Jo Cheslyn-Hall, David Hurley, Mary Hurley, Gill Medway,**  
**Diana Silk, Pat Worsley,**

**Secretary: Diana Silk 28250 23374 / 6949 102426 Email:** [tonydi@otenet.gr](mailto:tonydi@otenet.gr)

**Treasurer: Mary Hurley 28250 83219**

**Standing Committee: Rev. Canon Bruce Bryant-Scott, Val Holmes, Jan Lovell,**

**Fundraising Coordinator: Val Holmes**

**Publicity: David & Mary Hurley**

**Safeguarding Officer: Jo Cheslyn-Hall**