



The Anglican Church of St Thomas, Kefalas

Reaching our Community through the Gospel message

Welcome today and throughout **February 2020**

Thank you for sharing in worship with us.

What Does It Mean To Be An Anglican?

We call ourselves “The Anglican Church of St Thomas the Apostle, Kefalas”, which seems obvious enough. But what does it mean to call ourselves “Anglican”?

A hundred years ago it was relatively easy to answer this question. It was the Church of England and churches that descended from it and remained in communion with it through the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was very English, hardly to be found outside of the British Empire or its former colonies (such as the United States). The majority of its members were English, in England or elsewhere in the colonies and dominions. Anglicans used the English of the Book of Common Prayer (1662) with some local variations outside of England. The standard type of worship was Morning Prayer on Sunday mornings, with Evensong in the evening. The various churches had bishops, priests, and deacons, and they were all men. While there were Anglo-Catholic and Evangelical wings to the Communion, the really extreme members tended to peel off and form their own denominations or join others. The churches adhered to the creeds and some of the ancient councils, but were more reformed than Catholics, less radical than Calvinists, less tied to a foundational theology than Lutherans, and utterly unlike the Eastern Orthodox.

In 2020 it is not so easy to establish what being an Anglican is. There are more Anglicans outside of England than within it, and while it remains the established church in England, on any given Sunday only 1.6% of the population of the kingdom is actually in a Church of England worship service. It claims a membership of 25 million, although fewer than ten million darken the doors of the church in any year. So while the Church of England is very English, to be English and to be Anglican are no longer the same even in England.

Arguably the most famous Anglican today is the retired Archbishop of Capetown, the Most Rev. Desmond Tutu. There are Anglican churches in Rwanda, Cuba, the Philippines, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Japan – none of which were ever colonized by the British, and where English is not used in worship. In the Anglican Church of Canada the worship is predominantly in English, but also in two varieties of Cree, French, and in Inuktitut. Even in Great Britain and Ireland there are non-Church of England versions of Anglicanism, in the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Church in Wales, and the Church of Ireland, with liturgies in Gaelic, Welsh, and Irish, as well as English. Some of the churches do not even use the term Anglican – such as the Episcopal Church in the USA, the Church of the Province of Myanmar. Some are uniting churches, such as the Church of South India, incorporating former missionary churches of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians. Almost all the churches have developed service books that incorporate liturgical renewal and are centered on weekly Holy Communion.

There is no overall hierarchy. While the Archbishop of Canterbury is considered first in dignity, he has no power over any other part of the Communion – and his power is somewhat restricted even in the Church of England. He convenes a meeting of the Primates (heads of ecclesiastical provinces) from time to time (they just recently met in Jordan), but while they issue communiques, they have no authority. The Lambeth Conference, to which all bishops in the Communion are invited, meets in Canterbury and London every decade or so, and will meet again this summer – but, again, it has no official power. It's a conference, not a legislative body. There is an organization called the Anglican Consultative Council, made up of clergy and laity from the different provinces, and which meets every two or three years in places around the world, but it is also not legislative. Basically, the Anglican Communion is more like a family, related by history and custom, although wildly diverse. Some members of the family cannot stand to be in the same room as others, so many bishops will absent themselves from Lambeth on account of some others being present; perhaps you know of some families like that. But most of them do come together, and they break bread and drink wine at the table of the Lord, share their experiences in proclaiming and living the gospel, and pray for one another.

That, then, is perhaps the essential definition of being an Anglican: being in relationship with other Anglicans, not just because of a common faith but in spite of our real differences. We have bishops, we have creeds, we have the scriptures, and we have our sacraments, but so do many other denominations. What we Anglicans have is a kind of family resemblance, so that we are at home in an Anglican church whether it is the Minster in York for Evensong, around a low table for communion in the Kachin language in Myitkyina, northern Myanmar, or a Gospel Jamboree with Cree songs in northern Manitoba. It is a welcome that is offered and shared as we celebrate Christ among us.

The Rev'd Canon Bruce Bryant-Scott
Assistant Chaplain

NEWS, REPORTS, FORTHCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. On Thursday, 6th February at 5pm there will be a service in the Catholic Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 46 Chalidon Street, Chania.

The next **Church Council Meeting** will take place on **Wednesday, February 12th 2020** at 10am. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, October 16th are currently displayed on the Information table in the Tabernacle.

CHURCH CHARITIES:

Many thanks to those of you who have sent me their preferences for the Charities which they would like to support in 2020. The result will be announced in next month's Newsletter.

Diana Silk.

PANCAKES will be sizzling in KEFALAS on SHROVE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, at 11AM!

Come and join the fun at St. Thomas' Tabernacle and eat as many pancakes as you like (within reason)!!

These will be served with a choice of lemon juice, maple syrup, or Nutella plus Tea/Coffee. €5 per person.



DOCTORS' VISIT:

This will take place on Wednesday, March 4th. Further details to follow.

**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).

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.

Also please remember the Social Supermarket: There is a large red plastic bowl in the Tabernacle for your donations of non-perishable goods.

CHURCH SERVICES INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 2020

Jan 6	HOLY COMMUNION	19	€117.90
Jan 7	MORNING PRAYER	2	-
Jan 12	HOLY COMMUNION	17	€ 80.00
Jan 14	MORNING PRAYER	2	-
Jan 19	HOLY COMMUNION	17	€ 95.00
Jan 21	MORNING PRAYER	2	-
Jan 26	HOLY COMMUNION	16	€ 109.00

TOTAL FOR JANUARY

€ 401.90

CHURCH FINANCE INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 2020

EURO INCOME € 416.90
EURO EXPENSES € 560.00
FIGURES AS AT 29/01/2019 (31 DECEMBER -29 JANUARY)

STERLING INCOME £40.00
STERLING EXPENSES £50.00 (DONATION TO BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL)
FIGURES AS AT 31/12/2019 (24 DECEMBER -31 DECEMBER)...
Latest figures available from Diocesan Office

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday February 2nd Holy Communion 11am White
Sunday February 9th Holy Communion 11am Green
Sunday February 16th Holy Communion 11am Green
Sunday February 23rd Holy Communion 11am Green
Ash Wednesday Feb 26th Holy Communion 11am Purple

BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday February 2nd Malachi 3. 1-4 Psalm 24. 7-10 Hebrews 2. 4-18 Luke 2. 22-40
Sunday February 9th 1 Corinthians 2. 1-12 Psalm 112. 1-9 Matthew 5. 13-20
Sunday February 16th Romans 8. 18-25 Psalm 136.1-9, 23-26 Matthew 6. 25-34
Sunday February 23rd Exodus 24. 12-18 Psalm 99. 2 Peter 1. 16-21 Matthew 17. 1-9
Ash Wednesday February 26th Isaiah 58. 1-12 2 Corinthians 5. 20b - 6.10 Psalm 51.1-18
John 8. 1-11

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 or on +3028253 00657

Sue.

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Please would you send any notices or articles for the **MARCH 2020** Newsletter to:
Diana Silk at tonydi@otenet.gr by **FEBRUARY 24th**

The Newsletter may be downloaded from the
Church website: theanglicanchurchincrete.co.uk
Church email: creteanglicans@yahoo.co.uk

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, KEFALAS LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Fundraising Coordinator: Val Holmes

Publicity: David & Mary Hurley

Safeguarding Officer: Jo Cheslyn-Hall