



The Anglican Church of St Thomas, Kefalas

Reaching our Community through the Gospel message

Welcome today and throughout **July 2020**

Thank you for sharing in worship with us.

From the Assistant Chaplain Rev. Canon Bruce Bryant-Scott
The Christian Faith in Crete: The First Thousand Years

An Anglican church has been on Crete since the early 2000s, and we know it well! Before that there would have been occasional Church of England services by military and naval chaplains when the British Occupation Forces were in Crete in 1898 to 1909, and when they participated in the Battle of Crete in 1942. As well, there have been American Episcopalian Armed Forces Chaplains over at the Souda NATO base.

Before this, of course, there were twenty centuries of Christianity, of the Orthodox and Catholic varieties.

We read in Acts 2 that there were Cretans in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, and it is possible that some of them carried the good news of Jesus back to Crete. These would have been Jewish Cretans, of course. Later in Acts we hear of Paul journeying to Rome by a ship that stopped at Fair Havens, on the south side of the island. It is not clear from the text if he got off the ship, but he did warn the master of the ship that if he proceeded west in wintertime there would be a disaster; ultimately the ship ran aground and sank off of Malta, although the crew survived. The lesson seems to be, "Don't leave Crete!"

The Letter to Titus purports to be from Paul, and assumes that Titus is on the island of Crete. Biblical scholars argue about whether it is actually by Paul (the opinion of conservative Evangelicals and Orthodox) or whether it was someone a couple of generations later adopting Paul's name and authority to address contemporary concerns (the mainstream of historical-critical scholarship in Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant churches). In any case, it suggests a situation in Crete where Titus is establishing elders (presbyters, or priests) and bishops (overseers, or episkopoi) in every town, and that there is opposition to the good order of the church from those who teach "for sordid gain what it is not right to teach."

The history of Christianity in Crete after that is surprisingly murky. The next mention of Crete in historical documents is the mention of two bishops from central Crete – Gortyn and Knossos - by Eusebius in his historical writings (c. 325 CE). What was happening in the two hundred and fifty years since the Apostolic and immediate Post-Apostolic times? There is no indication that there was a Christian community in

Roman Aptera, for example. Chris Mooney notes in his *A History of Crete* (London: Haus Publishing Ltd, 2019), “there is no evidence of any general spread of Christianity in the east of Crete of the island” by the end of the second century.

It is probably the case that the Christian faith moved slowly, as in the Roman provinces in Britannia, and co-existing alongside old religions and newer imports. We can assume that after the legalisation of Christianity and its promotion from the Fourth Century that the faith slowly made its way out of the cities and towns into the countryside, but the archaeological and written history is meagre. A recent study by Rebecca Sweetman of the expansion of churches in the Peloponnese suggests that a few churches were built in the Fourth Century, and more over the next two decades, so that by the end of the Seventh Century (i.e. 700 CE) the greatest distance between any two church buildings was fifty km; something similar was undoubtedly happening here on Crete.

One of the oldest church foundations in Crete is that on the western outskirts of Almyrida. It dates to sometime between 550 – 600. Older than that are a fifth-century church at Panormos, near Rethymno, and the Sixth Century Church of St Titus in Gortyn, the old Roman capital. Historical records suggest that there were ten or twelve dioceses, and the bishops appear to have been involved in all the theological arguments of the day, missing the first Ecumenical Council of Nicea, but participating in the Second through Seventh (i.e. 381 – 787). By a quirk of geography Crete was associated with Illyricum, the Roman province in what is now Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia, and so fell under the ecclesiastical control of Rome. This was changed in the Eighth Century by the Late Roman Emperor in what we now call the Byzantine Empire, so that Crete fell under Constantinople.

From 824 to 961 Crete fell under the control of Arab Muslims from Al-Andalus (i.e. Spain). The conquerors were exiles from a failed revolt in Hispania, and about half of them – some 12,000 men women and children – set sail to the East. Having landed in Crete, they destroyed Gortyn and moved north to establish a capital on an old harbour, a place they named *Rabdh el Khandaq* (“Castle of the Moat”), which in Greek was Chandax and in Latin was rendered as Candia, and is now known as Heraklion. It is unclear how much of the island they actually controlled, and whether the population stayed Christian, or converted. In 960 the Roman Byzantine general Nikephoros Phokas invaded with 700 (or 2000) ships, conquered Chandax, and expelled the Arabs; three years later he became the Emperor in Constantinople. The second period of Roman Byzantine rule began, and what was beginning to look like Orthodox Christianity re-established itself.

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 continues 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 donationsalways 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, treasurer.*

NEWS, REPORTS, FORTHCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

The **Annual General Meeting** scheduled for Sunday, March 29th, was held on Sunday, June 14th after the service.

You may remember that in the April edition of the Newsletter there was a report from James Lorimer on his pilgrimage from England to the Holy Land. Sadly, he was unable to complete his journey due to the Covid19 outbreak, but here is his final report sent in an email to me.

From James Lorimer:

I am now safely back in the UK, still in lockdown at my parents home in Leicestershire. I am sorry for being so slow in replying - it is odd trying to stay motivated sitting at home after so much walking every day! I'm just looking through all my emails now.

Unfortunately I didn't quite reach Jerusalem. I did a small loop of western Turkey past lots of Biblical sites - Miletus, Ephesus, Hierapolis, Laodicea, Collosae, Perga - then reached the coast again and walked east of Antalya for about a week. So I was very close to reaching Jerusalem, probably only about two weeks away, but then all the borders started to close and the British embassy told me to take the next repatriation flight home. I wanted to stay and wait it out - the idea of being able to take a flight and just escape when it got too tough didn't sit well with the idea of pilgrimage - but I went and sat by the sea and prayed about it for a bit, and it was fairly clear that I should go home now. I was disappointed and it felt very odd, after walking 4000 miles, to have to suddenly go home when I was so close. But I suppose I am learning we just trust God's plans and timings, even when things don't seem to work, or even when it seems like God tells us to do exactly the opposite of what it seems like he had been saying. I suppose the important thing is to listen and trust and try to obey God. Over Easter I was reading a lot about the story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22, and how that must have seemed to Abraham like a reversal of everything God had told him. So now I am just waiting at home, trying to keep occupied. It's really nice to see my family again of course. I made an Easter garden on their front lawn over holy week and Easter - I will attach a photo for you! (*see below*). And maybe one day I can still visit Jerusalem!

The UK government is starting to talk about easing restrictions, but we are essentially still in lockdown. Is it still the same in Greece? I read a bit about it in Bruce's article in the newsletter. Is that relaxing now? And also on that subject, is there anything I can do to help? I suppose I really just mean financially - I still have some savings left if the church knows of people that are in need of support while things are in lockdown - but otherwise anything else I can do to help too. I will keep you in my prayers of course.

It was nice to see the bit I wrote in the previous newsletter. I hope people found it interesting.

Best wishes and prayers,
James.



SOMETHING TO EXERCISE YOUR BRAINS?! QUIZ SET BY VAL HOLMES:

- 1) What is the name of the car used by Dick Dastardly and Muttley in 'Wacky Races'?
- 2) Who is missing from the following list of names?---Brian, Ermintrude, Dylan, Florence.
- 3) Sherlock Holmes has an arch enemy--what is his full name?
- 4) The full name of the Archbishop of Canterbury who performed the crowning of Queen Elizabeth 2.
- 5) Where would you use a 'Waggler'?"?

Make the most of this easy quiz. The next will be more difficult. Answers next month.

PAT WORSLEY HAS CONTRIBUTED THE FOLLOWING:

1. CHURCH NOTICES WHICH ARE SUPPOSED TO BE GENUINE:

Miss Charlene Mason sang ' I will not pass this way again' giving obvious delight to the congregation.

The Ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon,

Pot-Luck Supper Sunday at 5pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

2. An Easy Recipe

CHEESEJACKS

150g Porridge Oats
175g Grated Cheddar Cheese
1 Egg- Beaten
50g Melted Butter
Half Teaspoon Dried Rosemary.

Combine all the ingredients together and mix well. Press into a tin approx 18cm square. Bake for about 40 mins. until golden at 180c or 350f. Cut into slices and serve hot or cold.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

The next **Church Council Meeting** will take place on Tuesday, July 21st. Time to be announced.

CHURCH WEBSITE

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

A Note on Charity Distribution

At the Annual Meeting we reviewed the charitable distribution from the Church. Given the decrease in givings due to the pandemic, it was agreed that "that charitable giving for this year should be changed from 10% to 5% to the three already nominated charities." The already nominated charities are:

1) Touching the Tonga. 2) Anámnisi - drop-in centre for homeless and refugees. 3) ELEPAP – Hellenic Society for handicapped children.

**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 now open again, but only 1 bag per week will be accepted.

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 FINANCE INFORMATION FOR MAY 2020

NO SERVICES FROM 22 MARCH TO 17 MAY DUE TO COVID-19

03 MAY	ONLINE ZOOM SERVICE OF THE WORD	16	€ 0.00
10 MAY	ONLINE ZOOM SERVICE OF THE WORD	17	€ 0.00
17 MAY	HOLY COMMUNION (WITH RESTRICTIONS) 15 + 8 ONLINE		€ 340.00
18 MAY	GRAVESIDE BURIAL, FILLIPOS, Raymond Adams	60	FEE € 250.00
24 MAY	HOLY COMMUNION (WITH RESTRICTIONS)	16 + 9 ONLINE	€ 145.00
31 MAY	HOLY COMMUNION (WITH RESTRICTIONS)	17 + 6 ONLINE	€ 60.00
TOTAL FOR APRIL			€ 795.00

CHURCH FINANCE INFORMATION FOR MAY 2020

EURO INCOME	€ 995.00
DIOCESE OF EUROPE COVID.19 HARDSHIP GRANT	€ 3876.36
TOTAL EURO INCOME	€ 4871.36
EURO EXPENSES:	
APRIL CHAPLAIN SALARY & SOCIAL SECURITY	€ 461.00
APRIL ACCOMODATION EXPENSES	€ 123.91
MAY RENT	€ 480.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE & CLEANING	€ 135.50
CHURCH SERVICE COSTS & ADMIN	€ 143.00
MAY CHAPLAIN SALARY & SOCIAL SECURITY	€ 461.70
TOTAL EURO EXPENSES	€1805.81
FIGURES AS AT 31/05/2020 (27 APRIL – 31 MAY)	
STERLING INCOME BANKERS ORDERS & DONATIONS	£ 405.00
STERLING EXPENSES:	£ 0.00
FIGURES AS AT 26/05/2020 (21 APRIL – 26 MAY)	

CHURCH FINANCE INFORMATION FOR MAY 2020

EURO INCOME	€ 532.60	
TOTAL EURO INCOME		€ 532.60
EURO EXPENSES:		
MAY ACCOMODATION EXPENSES	€ 323.70	
MAY RENT	€ 480.00	
SUNDRY PAYMENTS	€ 20.00	
TOTAL EURO EXPENSES		€ 823.70
FIGURES AS AT 24/06/2020 (01 JUNE – 24 JUNE)		
STERLING EXPENSES: COMMON FUND 2020 INSTALMENT 1		£ 750

CHURCH SERVICES INFORMATION FOR JUNE 2020

07 JUNE	HOLY COMMUNION (WITH RESTRICTIONS) 17 + 8 ONLINE	€ 142.60
14 JUNE	HOLY COMMUNION (WITH RESTRICTIONS)18 + 10 ONLINE	€ 90.00
21 JUNE	HOLY COMMUNION (WITH RESTRICTIONS) 14	€ 200.00
TOTAL FOR JUNE		€ 432.60

FIGURES AS AT 17/06/2020 (27 MAY-17 JUNE)

Thank you so much for your generosity in contributing your usual Church Giving

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.

We have been fortunate to receive a small grant from the Diocese of Europe Covid-19 Hardship Fund to assist towards Clergy Costs (including accommodation expenses) as our anticipated visitors and particularly fundraising and social events are not possible at the present time

Mary Hurley, 24 June 2020

CHURCH SERVICES IN JULY 2020

Holy communion every Sunday at 11am

Readings for July 5th to August 30, 2020
Anglican Church of St Thomas the Apostle, Kefalas, Crete

July 5, 2020 Habakkuk 2:1-4 Psalm 31:1-6 Ephesians 2:19-22 John 20:24-29	St Thomas (Patronal Festival, from July 3)	(Red)
July 12, 2020 Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112 Matthew 13:1-9,18-23	Fifth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 10)	(Green)
July 19, 2020 Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23 Matthew 13:24-30,36-43	Sixth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 11)	(Green)
July 26, 2020 Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 128 Matthew 13:31-33,44-52	Seventh Sunday after Trinity (Proper 12)	(Green)
August 2, 2020 Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7,16 Matthew 14:13-21	Eighth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 13)	(Green)
August 9, 2020 Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Matthew 14:22-33	Ninth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 14)	(Green)
August 16, 2020 Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133 Matthew 15:10-28	Tenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 15)	(Green)
August 23, 2020 Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 Matthew 16:13-20	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity (Proper 16)	(Green)
August 30, 2020 Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c Matthew 16:21-28	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 17)	(Green)

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.

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Please would you send any notices or articles for the **AUGUST 2020** Newsletter to:
Diana Silk at tonydi@otenet.gr by **JULY 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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Julia Bradshaw, Jo Cheslyn-Hall, David Hurley, Mary Hurley, Gill Medway,
Diana Silk, Pat Worsley,

Secretary:
Pat Worsley

Treasurer: Mary Hurley 28250 83219

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Fundraising Coordinator: Val Holmes

Publicity: David & Mary Hurley

Safeguarding Officer: Jo Cheslyn-Hall