

The Anglican Church of St Thomas, Kefalas

*Reaching our Community through
the Gospel Message*

Welcome!

today and throughout February and
thank you for sharing in worship with us

Our Chaplain Terry writes:

An honest prayer from a small boy; "Please Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry too much about it because I'm having a pretty good time as it is."

Prayer is probably never so easy as that. Every day we face a whole raft of things that worry us and distract us; family illnesses when we are in Crete and they are in the UK, how the latest strike might upset our travel plans or our petrol supplies, whether the financial situation will make this life on Crete unsustainable and so on. All are important and clamour for our time and attention.

Time with Jesus, to pray and listen easily gets squeezed out. Prayer either becomes a luxury when we do have more time or a desperate cry for help when those difficult circumstances suddenly heave over our horizon.

Remember Martha and Mary?

But Martha was distracted... "Martha, Martha," Jesus answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:40 – 42

Gently confronting Martha with her busyness, Jesus points to a better way, a way that Mary demonstrates by sitting at Jesus' feet listening to his wisdom and being available to do what he asks of her. To us maybe, and certainly to an outsider, Mary seems to have taken the easy if not the lazy option, not of working hard but of just being with Jesus. No doubt because she spends time with Jesus, Mary has less time for the things on that inevitable "to do" list. It is a matter of priorities.

Prayer does take time. When we believe that our prayers matter they are powerful and effective (have a look at James 5:16). This hopefully begins to convince us that we need to make space for prayer. In the busyness of life, yes, even here on Crete perhaps when we are having one of those interminable tangles with local officialdom, only a renewed understanding of the love of God will encourage us to push through our fears and difficulties and carve out some precious time to spend with him.

It is humbling to cry out to God, to know that we do really need him in our life. It is humbling just waiting on God's presence. It is humbling to remember that probably the best thing you can do today is to pray; however long or short a time it takes is up to you and what works for you, we are all different! Don't feel guilty just because you forget for a few days or because you only use an odd word or two. Your prayers are still valid.

In prayer we lose our personal pride. To seriously pray is to recognise that we need most what only God can provide. You will always be able to find good reasons not to pray. It takes courage to choose, like Mary, the better way.

May God bless you all,

Terry

Terry's Working Days

As agreed by a recent meeting of the Church Council I am changing my working days to Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. Whenever possible Ruth and I will continue to enjoy joining in church events which happen on other days. Please, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time during the week (working day or not) if there is a situation which you need to talk about or someone needs an early visit. Terry

Church Home Group

We will meet at Church House, Gavalochori on Monday 13th and Monday 20th February.

You do not have to come to both meetings; just drop in when it is convenient for you. We meet from 6pm for a maximum of one and a half hours. Bring along any questions you may have about Christianity. Depending on time we will also look at our faith and paintings – so you may want to bring along a favourite picture – any picture, it doesn't have to be religious! Following these two sessions we will be in Lent. Details of our Lent Group will be circulated soon.

Fund Raising

We recently had a very positive open meeting about church fundraising. Plenty of good ideas were voiced. Preliminary plans were made for events through to June. We also hope to repeat the successful monthly series of Coffee Mornings and Afternoon Teas that we held last year. If you would like to host one of these events please contact Mary Hurley who is keeping the diary.

A really big thank you to everyone who made last year so successful on the fundraising front, both organisers and those who participated. It has been good to have people from outside the church community helping at some events. We owe our gratitude to Diane who has skilfully masterminded our fundraising but who will be stepping down from this role at our Annual Meeting in May.

Please seriously think and pray about the following two roles which will need filling. If you are interested but are not quite sure what is involved please talk to Diane or to Terry.

- **Our new fundraising co-ordinator** – someone working with the Church Council to plan and ensure delivery of our fundraising programme throughout the year (apart from the annual Autumn/Christmas Fayre). If this person is not already a member of the Church Council the intention will be to co-opt them onto the Church Council.
- **Autumn/Christmas Fayre Co-ordinator(s)** – one or two people to take charge of this our major fundraising event. You do not have to be a member of the Church Council but will need to work closely with the Church Council. There is a suggestion that an Autumn event may have advantages over a Christmas event but the planning, delivery and type of event will be dependent on the ideas and creativity of whoever is willing to take on this work.

CHARITABLE GIVING

At the January Church Council meeting it was agreed that 10% of our income for 2011 be given to our three charities. It was also decided that the Carol Service collection should be donated. The details are as follows:

Agia Sophia	€850
Gift of Love	€850
Touching the Tonga	€850

See the Church Noticeboard for details of our charities

FEBRUARY DIARY

2 February	Coffee Morning At Diane's home 11 am
7 February	Keep Fit Club At The Tabernacle 11 am (Every Tuesday)
14 February	The Music of Romance Valentine Supper At The Tabernacle 6.45 for 7 pm Tickets from Tony & Diana Silk
28 February	Monthly Church Walk

February Church Walk

Jill & Paul Jesper will be organising our next walk which will take place on **Tuesday 28th February**. The walk will be approximately 2.5 - 3 hrs duration and hopefully accommodate a wide range of people.

Further details to follow during February

Jill & Paul can be contacted on Tel: 2825300754

APOKORONAS CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Following the Apokoronas Christmas Appeal in which the Anglican Church of St Thomas was involved, The Municipality have issued a thank you statement which is displayed on the Church Notice Board

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Sunday,	11am	Holy Communion
Monday,	9 am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	9am	Morning Prayer

CHURCH SERVICES INFORMATION FOR JANUARY

Date	Service	Attendance	Collection
Jan 1	Holy Communion	30	€167.30
Jan 8	Holy Communion	29	€191.00
Jan 15	Holy Communion	27	€141.00
Jan 22	Holy Communion	29	€179.00
Jan 29	Holy Communion	24	€144.00
		Total	----- €822.30

Above figures do not include payments made by Bankers Order
(see sterling figures below)

CHURCH FINANCE INFORMATION

As at January 31:

Euro income January 2012	=	€ 862.30
Euro expenditure January 2012	=	€ 4856.61
Sterling income January 2012	=	£ 170.00
Sterling expenditure January 2012	=	£ 720.00

SERVICES AND BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday 5th February
Isaiah 40: 21 to end
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23
Mark 1: 29-39

Sunday 12th February
Colossians 1: 15-20
John 1: 1-14

Sunday 19th February
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6
Mark 9: 2-9

ASH WEDNESDAY

22nd February
Joel 2: 1-2 & 12-17
John 8: 1-11

Sunday 26th February
(1st Sunday in Lent)
Genesis 9: 8-17
Mark 1: 9-15

Ash Wednesday – February 22nd

We will be holding an Ash Wednesday service of Holy Communion at 11am. For those who so wish, there will be the opportunity to have the sign of the cross marked on the forehead in ash to remind us of this Lenten season of penitence in preparation for Easter. This will be entirely optional and you are welcome at the service whether or not you wish to have ashes imposed

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Please could you forward any notices for the March Newsletter to Mary by 25th February
(E-Mail: moonspin@otenet.gr)

The Newsletter can also now be downloaded from the Church Website:
www.theanglicanchurchincrete.co.uk.

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

Leader: Revd Terry Wilcock
(Church House, Gavalohori)
28250 23270; 6988 718931

Assistant Curate: Revd Tony Lane

Churchwardens;
Ann Burke (Kefalas) 28250 22861
Geoff Mannall (Kokkino Chorio) 6981 200476

Deputy Churchwardens:
Diane Linsley (Vamos) 28250 22112
Jan Lovell (Kefalas) 28250 22756,

Church Council Treasurer: Helena Cordy (Kefalas) 28250 22997
Church Council Secretary: Mary Hurley (Kefalas) 6983 275400

Church Council Members:
Helena Cordy, Mary Hurley, Jill Jesper (Gavalohori) 28253 00754, Diane Linsley , Jan Lovell,
Jackie Shone (Litsarda) 6946 998717
David Hurley (Kefalas) 6946 691818,
Paul Middleton (Kefalas) 6982 477967

Readers & Intercessors Co-ordinator:
Julia Bradshaw
28250 22733

Representative for Children, Young people & Vulnerable Adults:
Julia Bradshaw

Church Website: theanglicanchurchincrete.co.uk
Church E-Mail: creteanglicans@yahoo.co.uk