



The Anglican Church of St Thomas, Kefalas

Reaching our Community through the Gospel message

Welcome today and throughout **December**.
Thank you for sharing in worship with us.

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Preparing for Christmas.

One thing that is different about living in Crete as compared to the UK (or Canada) is that Christmas is a quieter affair. My experience “back home” is that Christmas seems to arrive in the stores and shopping centres earlier and earlier each year. By the time December 25th arrives most everybody is heartily sick and tired of muzaked Christmas carols, snow (both fake and real), blinking artificial stars, the melt-downs of over-stimulated children, angels, Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim, and red-suited, large, old men with beards (both fake and real). Christmas is so often a time for families to gather around the table for a special meal, but many are just as glad to have them promptly dispersed. It’s enough to make one say, “Bah, humbug.”

As Christians, though, we peel back the layers of 20th Century marketing and 19th century traditions to find at the core of it all a very simple story, so often told, but whose import is ignored by a larger society that marks Christmas in its externals but not its essence. It is the story of a desperate God who so loves the world that the Divine enters into it to share in the blessings and sufferings of humanity. The Word becomes Flesh and we behold its glory, and Christ Jesus does not grasp onto the form of divinity but he empties himself out into the form of a servant, even when it leads to death on a cross. It is a love that death cannot overcome, for while the world imposes death upon the child born in Bethlehem, Jesus rises from that death. In Christmas is Easter, and in the incarnation is our destiny.

Advent is, above all, a time of preparation. I invite you to join in a time of preparation by joining in “INTERRUPTED BY HOPE: Turning Towards Advent” which is a programme I will lead at the home of Mary and David Hurley in Kefalas. The dates and times are:

Wednesday	Nov 28	10:30 am
Tuesday	Dec 5	10:30 am
Tuesday	Dec 12	10:30 am
Tuesday	Dec 19	10:30 am

We will watch a series of short videos, each around two to five minutes long. Each features a noted Christian thinker and speaker. Then, we discuss what we thought, and try to enter into the spirit of preparation. We’ll spend around an hour together each time. Each session stands on its own, so come for one, two, three, or all four.

Christmas is not the season before Christmas Day, but the Twelve Days which follow, although society now has it reversed. The Church of England has produced a series of daily reflections for the Twelve Days of Christmas, “Follow the Star”. We’ll be handing them out leading up to and at the Christmas services – and I hope that you will take the opportunity to take one and use it to focus on the essence of Christmas.

I am looking forward to a less commercialized, less secularized Christmas this year of our Lord 2018. I am pleased and blessed to be able to spend it among you. In these seasons of Advent and Christmas may God bless you and all whom you love.

Bruce +

NEWS, REPORTS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

RIP

It is with great sadness that I have to report the sudden death on October 25th of Chris O’Gorman. The funeral took place on November 19th at St. Teresa’s R.C. Church, Darlington. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife Brenda, and his children, Richard and Ruth.



The result of the monthly draw which took place on Sunday 30th September is as follows:

- 1st prize €25 Dennis Holmes
- 2nd prize €15 Val Holmes
- 3rd prize €10 Jackie Shone

The next and final draw for this year will take place on Sunday, December 2nd.

Diana Silk.

WINTER FAYRE

On Saturday, 17th November, St Thomas’ held its Winter Fayre at the Gavalochori Village Hall. The event was an absolute success with lots of visitors from the Apokoronas coming to show their support.

Thankfully, the weather was on our side. It was raining heavily in the morning, but just shortly before the Fayre was due to start, the rain stopped and clear sky appeared. Visitors flowed in and out of the hall throughout the whole morning which was an encouraging sign.

There was a variety of stalls, attracting people of all ages, and with various interests. It was an amazing fun Fayre for families.

I must also mention the gorgeous prizes for the winners of the Tombola and Raffle etc. who went home feeling extremely lucky. One very fortunate local Greek gentleman won several prizes, including 2 bottles of wine and a large Christmas cake. That is going to set him up well for Christmas!

The result was that **€1524** was raised for Church funds.

A big thank you to those who helped before, during and after the Fayre. We well and truly had a wonderful hardworking team of helpers, who gave their time and effort of all kinds to make this annual event a huge success. WELL DONE everyone!

I thoroughly enjoyed myself and I hope the rest of my friends shared my experience. Now I am looking forward to our St Thomas annual Winter Fayre 2019!

Grace Lever.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday, 4th, 11th, 18th at 10.30am: Advent meetings with Rev Canon Bruce at the home of David & Mary Hurley.

Friday, December 7th at 10am: Coffee Morning at Maddie's Taverna, Kefalas in aid of the Social Supermarket. Please invite your friends.

Saturday, December 15th from 10 am:
Decoration of Church for Christmas, and tidying up of Church garden. *Please come and help for just 1 hour.*

Sunday, December 16th at 7pm: Traditional Carol Service at St. Thomas' Church, Kefalas. *Please bring your friends.*

Friday, December 21st at 6.30pm: Carols with the locals in Gavalochori Village Hall! Please take a plate of food (mince pies, sausage rolls, canapés etc.)

Monday, December 24th: Midnight Mass starting at 11.30pm.

Tuesday, December 25th: Holy Communion at 11am.

2019

€€€€€€€€€€ **COFFEE MORNING** ££££££££££

Wednesday, January 16th at 11am in the Tabernacle, **Coffee Morning** with speaker, Gerald Bartholomew, who is an Independent Financial Adviser from Pembridge International. *€5 for Coffee, tea and cakes etc.*

The next **Church Council Meeting** will take place on **Monday, 21st January 2019.**

**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 & Jo.

CHURCH FINANCE INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER 2018

Nov 04	HOLY COMMUNION	34	€ 163.00
Nov 11	EVENING PRAYER	8	€ 0.00
Nov 18	HOLY COMMUNION	25	€ 172.60
Nov 25	HOLY COMMUNION	23	€ 154.00

TOTAL FOR NOVEMBER	€ 489.60
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EURO INCOME	€ 2043.60
EURO EXPENSES	€ 1159.37

FIGURES AS AT 26/11/2018 (29 OCTOBER – 25 NOVEMBER)

STERLING INCOME	£ 500.00
STERLING EXPENSES	£ 0.00

FIGURES AS AT 26/11/2018 (30 OCTOBER – 26 NOVEMBER)

BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2018

Dec 2nd	1st Sunday of Advent	Jeremiah 33. 14-16	Luke 21. 25-36	
Dec 9th	2nd Sunday of Advent	Malachi 3. 1- 4	Luke 3. 1-6	
Dec 16th	3rd Sunday of Advent	Zephaniah 3. 14-20	Philippians 4. 4-7 Luke 3. 7-18	
Dec 23rd	4th Sunday of Advent	Micah 5. 2-5a	Luke 1. 39-55	
Dec 24th	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9. 2-7	Titus 2. 11-14	Luke 2. 1-20
Dec 25th	Christmas Day	Isaiah 52. 7-10	John 1. 1-14	
Dec 30th	1st Sunday after Christmas	1 Samuel 2. 18-20,26	Colossians 3. 12-17	Luke 2. 41-52

CHURCH SERVICES INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER 2018

Sunday Dec 2nd	Holy Communion	11am	Purple
Sunday Dec 9th	Holy Communion	11am	Purple
Sunday Dec 16th	Holy Communion	11am	Purple
Sunday Dec 23rd	Holy Communion	11am	Purple
Monday Dec 24th	Midnight Mass	11.30pm	White
Tuesday Dec 25th	Holy Communion	11am	White
Sunday Dec 30th	Holy Communion	11am	White

CHARITIES supported by St. Thomas's in 2018:

1. Touching the Tonga.
2. Splantzias Food Kitchen, Chania.
3. ELEPAP (Hellenic Society for Disabled Children).

Pat and Peter Worsley recently told me about a Christian Outreach centre in Chania which we might consider adding to our list of local Charities for 2019. It is called "Anamnisi Chania" and is situated at 13 Ionias Street (near the bus station). It functions as a "drop-in centre" on weekday mornings between 10am and 2pm for visitors to Chania and people living in the local community. Coffee is served by Christian volunteers free of charge, and it attracts a wide variety of people, especially economic migrants and refugees living in Chania. On one day a week showers and laundry facilities are available free of charge, and second-hand clothes and other items are collected and redistributed to those in need.

"Anamnisi Chania" supports the poor and needy in other ways. Greek and English language classes are held to help migrants and refugees to find work, and advice is given and application forms filled in for those needing assistance.

There is a small playroom for parents with young children, and the downstairs meeting room is used for small Christian gatherings for prayer and for teaching. A Sunday service is held every week and this attracts an international congregation.

"Anamnisi Chania" is a Christian ministry initially supported by Hellenic Ministries, an international outreach charity, but now it is required to be self-supporting financially through gifts and donations. It is run by Ilias and Nellie Tsartsampalidis.

Perhaps we might arrange a visit in the near future.

PASTORAL CARE

Are you struggling with a difficulty, needing support and would like to chat to someone? If so, please contact our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator at St Thomas:

Pat Worsley 28257 71001 or 6992 653784

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.

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Please would you send any notices or articles for the **JANUARY 2019** Newsletter to:
Diana Silk at tonydi@otenet.gr by **DECEMBER 24th**

Thank you.

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

Assistant Chaplain: Reverend Canon Bruce Bryant-Scott

Ordinand: Julia Bradshaw

Church Wardens:

Jan Lovell 6979 164716

Val Holmes 28250 22815

Deputy Church Wardens:

David Hurley 6946 691818 Peter Worsley 28257 71001

Church Council Members:

**Julia Bradshaw, Jo Cheslyn-Hall, David Hurley, Gill Medway,
Diana Silk, Sue Whitehouse, Pat Worsley, Peter Worsley**

Secretary: Diana Silk 28250 23374 / 6949 102426

Email: tonydi@otenet.gr

Treasurer: Mary Hurley 28250 83219

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

Fundraising Committee:

Jo Cheslyn-Hall, Gill Medway

Safeguarding ID Checker: Julia Bradshaw 28250 22733

Safeguarding Officer: Jo Cheslyn-Hall