



## The Anglican Church of St Thomas, Kefalas

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

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

### **Χρόνια Πολλά 2019!**

New Year is traditionally a time to make resolutions and to try and make some changes in one's life, or so the advertisers and social media tell us. We are told to lose weight, quit this bad habit, exercise more, buy this, sell that, stop spending so much time on social media, get into the newest and latest social media platform.

As a church congregation we have gone through a long period of change and transition, so I suggest that we hold off on any corporate resolutions. Rather than do something new we are now called, once again, to reflect and work on what it means to be a church in this part of the world. In a world full of secular mission statements, God is calling us to consider our particular spiritual mission. *Mission* comes from a Latin word for "being sent", so the question is, "What is God sending us into the world to do?"

Now that Frances and I are more or less settled in the house and I am finding my way around Apokoronas and Crete, I intend to try and visit as many of the people in the congregation as possible, in your homes or at the *kafenes*. I will ask that question and a few others and take some notes, and then by the end of winter present some thoughts to the Church Council and perhaps the Annual General Meeting for some reflection.

I have a few assumptions (which may be quite wrong!). First, so far the history of the congregation has been focused on starting-up, erecting the church buildings in Kefalas, and transitioning to having regular Church of England clergy come to lead us. It is probably the case now that we need to shift from looking inward to facing out, to be inviting to the various English-speaking constituencies that are present around us, and to serve the wider community. Second, this will be the work of the whole people of God, not just me as the paid worker or the church council; ministry belongs to all the people, not a small group. Third, we will focus on things that only the church can do – such as prayer and the study of scripture, not so much for our own edification but so that we might grow and be prepared for mission. Fourth, this will inevitably involve change – not change for change's sake but to empower us and others. Fifth, we (and I) will make mistakes along the way, and some of the things we try will not work out; we will need to work on patience and be forgiving of each other. Finally, this will only work if it is grounded in prayer, scripture, the principles of our traditions, and the guiding of the Holy Spirit. Oh, and one more thing – let's have fun as we do all of this!

My hope and prayer is that 2019 will be a blessed year for all of us, even in the midst of Brexit in the United Kingdom, continued economic challenges in Greece, and the ordinary bumps on our personal journeys caused by age and health. I look forward to meeting all of you, and seeing how God in Christ is being manifested among us.

Bruce +

## NEWS, REPORTS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS



The result of the monthly draw which took place on Sunday, 2nd December is as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize €25 Derek Whitehouse
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize €15 Jan Lovell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize €10 David Hurley

In 2019 I am proposing to hold the draw on the last Sunday of each month. Therefore the first draw in 2019 will take place on Sunday, January 27th.

“Tickets” for the draw may be purchased on any Sunday, and will cost just €2 per month (€24 for the whole year).

*Diana Silk.*



### **HOUSE BLESSING & CAROL SINGING**

On the evening of Monday, December 17th, all at St. Thomas' plus a number of local Greeks were invited by Bruce and Frances to the new Church House in Gavalochori for a house blessing and light refreshments. It was a truly happy occasion and we were amazed at how Bruce and Frances have made the house so warm and welcoming in such a short time. Rev. Ian Brothwood performed the “Blessing” ceremony with his usual good humour!

A few days later on the evening of Friday, 21st December, a group of us from St. Thomas' joined the local Greek children to sing carols in Gavalochori Village Hall. The highlight of the evening was when Bruce and Frances sang a traditional Canadian carol! Once again the Rev Ian Brothwood helped us out by playing the music for us. In addition to the Mayor and deputy Mayor of Apokoronas, the local Greek Orthodox priest, Pater Kostantinos attended, and he and Bruce spent some time chatting together. (We are very impressed with the speed at which Bruce is learning to speak Greek). After the carol singing, we enjoyed an assortment of Greek and European snacks, washed down with the local wine! This was a wonderful example of how different nationalities and faiths can live together. I think that we all went home with a real “feel good feeling”.

*Diana Silk.*



€€€€€€€€€€ **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. He specialises in advice for Ex-Pats. Do come along and bring your friends.  
*€5 for Coffee, tea and cakes etc.*

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



**CHURCH GARDEN**

At the beginning of 2018 Dennis volunteered to take responsibility for the small olive grove and garden below the Tabernacle which should have only involved keeping the weeds under control. Within a couple of weeks he had seen the potential during a “senior moment” to turn the garden into something to enjoy, with raised seating to view the mountains and lots of flowers. It was at this point I was encouraged to help and agreed in another “senior moment” to build shuttering for a new piece of path and lay concrete. At this point cement, crazy paving, sand and gravel were ordered and delivered to the Church yard. Monies for this part of the process were provided by Peter and Pat Worsley and ourselves. The Worsleys have also helped with removing an unsightly tree, and plenty of weeding by hand.

The wall around the plot has been repaired, one area has been gravelled and planted with shrubs, and the raised area near the gate has been gravelled and a wooden bench seat installed. Some geraniums, ground cover and daisies have already been planted, as these will not spoil the view. Another seat will be provided on the other side of the garden.

We are now looking for help with plants to complete the project in the Spring, and hope some of you will be willing to donate monies or purchase any of the following (please confirm choice):-

White Jasmine x 3, Lantana (burnt orange) x 2, Lavender x 3, Rosemary x 2, Bush Roses (scented) x 5, Carissa x 1, Hibiscus x 5 and Cistus x 3. We are sure that your favourite plant may not be on this list, but please feel you can provide it if you wish.

We do hope to show who donated each plant later in the year.

*Dennis and Val Holmes.*

**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.*

**CHARITIES supported by St. Thomas's in 2018:**

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

**CHURCH SERVICES INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER 2018**

Dec 2	HOLY COMMUNION	20	€ 93.00
Dec 9	HOLY COMMUNION	20	€ 110.00
Dec 16	HOLY COMMUNION	16	€ 70.50
Dec 23	HOLY COMMUNION	16	€ 80.00
Dec 24	CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS	16	€ 75.00
Dec 25	CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE	17	€ 90.00
Dec 30	HOLY COMMUNION	TBA	€ 110.00

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TOTAL FOR DECEMBER	€ 628.50
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**CHURCH FINANCE INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER 2018**

EURO INCOME	€ 1048.50
EURO EXPENSES	€ 2998.60

**FIGURES AS AT 30/12/2018 (26 NOVEMBER – 30 DECEMBER)**

STERLING INCOME	£ TBA
STERLING EXPENSES	£ TBA

**BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY 2019**

Jan 6th Epiphany Isaiah 60. 1-6 Ephesians 3. 1-12 Matthew 2. 1-12  
Jan 13th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany The Baptism of Christ  
Isaiah 43. 1-7 Acts 8. 14-17 Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22  
Jan 20th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 1Corinthians 12. 1-11 John 2. 1-11  
Jan 27th 4th Sunday of Epiphany Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Luke 4. 14-21

## **CHURCH SERVICES INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 2019**

Sunday Jan 6th	Holy Communion	11am	White
Sunday Jan 13th	Holy Communion	11am	White
Sunday Jan 20th	Holy Communion	11am	Green
Sunday Jan 27th	Holy Communion	11am	Green

## **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](mailto:suewhitehouse1808@gmail.com) or on +3028253 00657

*Sue.*

### **FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER**

Please would you send any notices or articles for the **FEBRUARY 2019** Newsletter to:

Diana Silk at [tonydi@otenet.gr](mailto:tonydi@otenet.gr) by **JANUARY24th**

Thank you.

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 Bruce Bryant-Scott 6985 570353  
Email: [bbryantscott@gmail.com](mailto:bbryantscott@gmail.com)**

**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](mailto: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**