



The Anglican Church of St Thomas, Kefalas

Reaching our Community through the Gospel message

Welcome today and throughout **September**

Thank you for sharing in worship with us.

The Blessing of Animals, Sept 29, 2019 *or* **St Francis, a Saint Without Borders**

On Sunday, September 29, 2019 we will observe the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, transferred from the following Friday, October 4. The reason we are doing this is to provide appropriate readings from scripture as we introduce **The Blessing of Animals**. You are invited to bring one or two of the animals who may live with you, and the clergy will offer blessings and prayers over each of them just before the offertory during the Sunday service. Please invite your friends and their animal companions to come on this special day!

The Blessing of Animals (or *The Blessing of Pets*) is a relatively modern service, but it is now very popular across North America and is starting to make some inroads into The Church of England and other denominations in the British Isles. At the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York City the service started in 1984, and has involved camels, elephants, and horses. It is usually held around the feast of St Francis (1181-1226), largely because of two stories told about him.

- In one story we are told St Francis was preaching in a town, but no one would listen to him, so he went out into the woods just outside to preach to the birds and the animals of the forest.
- In another story Francis was told about a wolf who was terrorizing a village. Francis went outside the village, called to the wolf, who showed up with his teeth showing his ferocity. He called to the wolf and admonished him to behave, and the wolf then came over and meekly placed its head in Francis's lap. Stroking the animal calmly, he then advised the wolf to refrain from attacking villagers and their flocks, and to keep to his natural prey in the woods.

While these two stories are probably apocryphal, what is definitely traceable to Francis is his *Canticle of the Sun*, a long poem in his Umbrian dialect of Italian, one of the first pieces of literature ever written in Italian, predating Dante's *Divine Comedy* by a century or so. In the Canticle we hear the saint urging all creation to praise God, including Brother Sun and Sister Moon, Brother Wind and Sister Water,

Sister Mother Earth and even Sister Bodily Death. In 1919 an English paraphrase of this was published as, "All Creatures of Our God and King". In 1979 Pope John II declared Francis the patron saint of ecology.

In the Canticle to the Sun, and in his turning towards poverty and the dignity of all God's creatures, Francis made a radical effort to become as much as possible like his Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Just prior to his election as Pope in 2013, but when it appeared he would be elected on the next ballot, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina was urged by a Brazilian cardinal, "Don't forget the poor." Inspired by this he chose to take as his papal name that of the founder of the Franciscan Order, and so is known to us as Pope Francis. He named his second encyclical to the world *Laudato Si'* ("Praise be to you"), from the first words of *The Canticle of the Sun*. Condemning what he sees as the world's reckless pursuit of consumption to the detriment of the environment, he notes that the poor will be the ones who suffer the most from climate change and pollution.

Francis is a saint without borders. He was welcomed by Muslims in 1219 to preach in Egypt, despite warfare at the time between Crusaders and the Sultan. He preached to the animals and encouraged all creation to praise God. He is celebrated by Catholics, of course, but also Anglicans and Lutherans. There are revivals of Franciscan orders within the German Protestant Church and parts of the Anglican Communion. Some commentators from Eastern Orthodoxy are, at best, ambivalent about him, and there are a few who denounce him as delusional – but the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew went to Assisi three years ago and joined with Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Pope Francis (and many others) to pray for peace.

Bruce Bryant-Scott

NEWS, REPORTS, FORTHCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION



The winners of the draw on Sunday Aug 25th were:

- 1st prize €25: Brenda O'Gorman
- 2nd prize €15: Jackie Shone
- 3rd prize €10: Bruce Bryant-Scott

The next draw will take place on Sunday Sept 29th.

The Club is so named because it is hoped that 50 "tickets" will be sold! Only 33 have been sold so far this year. "Tickets" for the draw may be purchased on any Sunday, and will cost just €2 per month – i.e. €8 for September to December.

Diana Silk.

The next **Church Council Meeting** will take place on **Wednesday, October 16th** at 10am.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, June 4th are currently displayed on the Information table in the Tabernacle.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Church of St. Thomas, Kefalas, in the Tabernacle.

Harvest Supper on Friday 11th October 7pm for 7.30pm.

Names please to Val.on 2825022815.

Further details will follow.

WINTER FAYRE

Saturday 23rd November.

Further details to follow.

DOCTORS' VISIT

Hopefully in November.

**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.

The 4 CHARITIES which we are supporting at St. Thomas' in 2019 are:

1. "Anamnisi" Chania. 2. Touching the Tonga. 3. Agia Sofia. 4. Splantzias Food Kitchen, Chania.

CHURCH SERVICES INFORMATION FOR AUGUST 2019

July 30	MORNING PRAYER	2	€ 0.00
Aug 04	HOLY COMMUNION	17	€ 135.00
Aug 06	MORNING PRAYER	2	€ 0.00
Aug 11	HOLY COMMUNION	25	€ 147.00
Aug 18	HOLY COMMUNION	21	€ 120.10
Aug 21	MORNING PRAYER	2	€ 0.00
Aug 25	HOLY COMMUNION	21	€ 67.95

TOTAL FOR AUGUST	€ 470.05
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CHURCH FINANCE INFORMATION FOR AUGUST 2019

EURO INCOME	€ 518.94
TRANSFER FROM STERLING CHAPLAINCY ACC	€ 1500.00
EURO EXPENSES	€ 2570.18

FIGURES AS AT 25/08/2019 (28 JUNE – 25 AUGUST)

STERLING INCOME	£ 645.00
STERLING EXPENSES:	£ 0.00
TRANSFER TO EURO CHAPLAINCY ACC	£ 1424.07

FIGURES AS AT 19/08/2019 (28 JULY-19 AUGUST)

CHURCH SERVICES INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday Sept 1st	11th Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	11am	Green
Sunday Sept 8th	12th Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	11am	Green
Sunday Sept 15th	!3th Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion	11am	Green
Sunday Sept 22nd	15th Sunday after Trinity	Holy Communion + Blessing of pets	11am	Green

BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

Sept 1st	Hebrews 13. 1-8, 15-16	Luke 14. 1, 7-14	
Sept 8th	Jeremiah 18. 1-11	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14. 25-43
Sept 15th	1 Timothy 1.12-17	Luke 15. 1-10	
Sept 22nd	1 Timothy 2. 1-7	Luke 16. 1-10	
Sept 29th			

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.

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Please would you send any notices or articles for the **OCTOBER 2019** Newsletter to:
Diana Silk at tonydi@otenet.gr by **SEPTEMBER 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 D. Bruce Bryant-Scott 6985 570353
Email: bbryantscott@gmail.com

Assistant Curate: Reverend Deacon Julia Bradshaw 28250 22733

Church Wardens:
Jan Lovell 6979 164716 Val Holmes 28250 22815

Deputy Church Warden: David Hurley 6946 691818

Church Council Members:
Julia Bradshaw, Jo Cheslyn-Hall, David Hurley, Mary Hurley, Gill Medway,
Diana Silk, Pat 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,

Fundraising Coordinator: Val Holmes

Publicity: David & Mary Hurley

Safeguarding Officer: Jo Cheslyn-Hall