

Bible Lands

Advent 2008

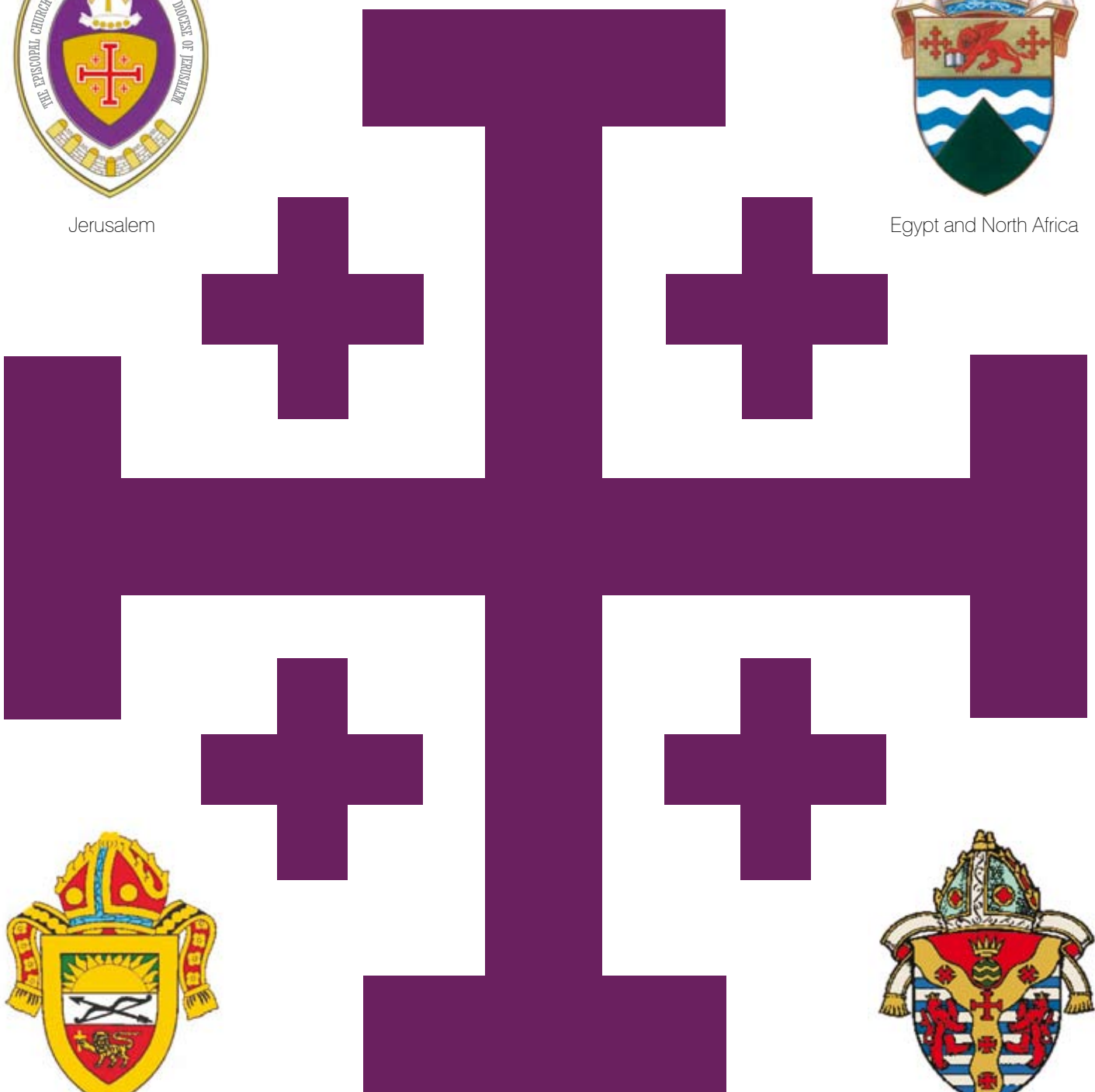
Magazine of the Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association



Jerusalem



Egypt and North Africa



Iran



Cyprus and the Gulf

THE JERUSALEM AND THE MIDDLE EAST CHURCH ASSOCIATION

(JMECA)

Founded in 1887

'To encourage support in prayer, money and personal service for the religious and other charitable work of the Episcopal church in Jerusalem and the Middle East'.

Reg. Charity no. 248799

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The Archbishop of Canterbury

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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Association therefore only signed articles will be published.

JMECA Website

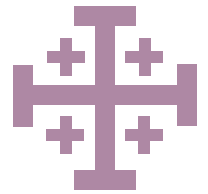
The site has an information page for each of the four Dioceses with links to the websites of each one.

**The JMECA website can be found at:
www.jmeca.org.uk**



John Clark

Chair of JMECA



This issue of Bible Lands marks the passing of two notable servants of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Bishop Hassan Dehqani-Tafti of Iran was the first President-Bishop of the Province when it was formed in 1976. He was a man of many gifts and it is to his untiring work during those first ten years of the Province, when he himself faced exile and the death of his son during the Iranian Revolution, that the foundations for today's Province were laid.

Professor Nancy Lambton was one of the most distinguished scholars of the language and history of Iran that this country has produced. Among her many contributions to the Church in the Middle East was her long service and wise advice on the Council of JMECA. Shortly after her death Rear-Admiral Michael Kyrle-Pope, a distinguished naval man and former Director of this Association, also passed away at the age of 91.

It is due to the commitment of Christians such as these that the work and witness of the Province continues today and as usual there is news from each of the four dioceses in this issue. Christians of the Anglican Church often serve in the midst of very fraught situations and the articles on the work of the Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza and of Sabeel are reminders of ministry at the front line of Christian witness. Bishop Suheil also gives his views on this summer's Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops.

JMECA was founded in the nineteenth century by Bishop Blyth of Jerusalem to support the presence and witness of the Anglican Church. That ministry has developed remarkably as the Church has taken root in the countries of the region. JMECA itself has changed but its core task remains to support the Churches and Christians of the Province with the sharing of information, prayer and financial grants.

We are extremely grateful for the gifts sent in by those who receive Bible Lands and trust that the new donation form on the back of your address sheet will help you as you consider your support for the Church in the Middle East.

Treasurer's notes....

Mr. John Pringle, the Hon. Treasurer, adds:

I am writing this at a time of unprecedented uncertainty and volatility in the world's financial markets. It is difficult to see when any sense of normality will return. But fortunately, JMECA is long-established and plans for the long-term future, so we should be able to ride out the storms. Yes, our investment portfolio has seen a large fall in book value since the beginning of the year, but, as our policy is to make grants from the income we earn, we will not have to sell investments at these low market levels.

At their June meeting your Directors authorized grants of £230,000 for the year to 30th June. This is almost exactly the same sum as in the previous year. This was possible because income from our investments rose 19%, offsetting a fall in donations. A generous legacy of £10,500 was a significant contribution for which we are most grateful.

It is always a pleasure to report when we are able to respond quickly to special requests from our Dioceses. During 2008 we have so far helped fund a 3 year research project studying the effects of the displacement of Christians from Iraq, we have funded a degree course for one of our Clergy, and we have paid relocation expenses for a Locum at St Matthew's Church, Addis Ababa.

Special Thanks...

Some of you may not know that a number of Parishes in the UK and also in Hong Kong, give their Good Friday offerings to JMECA. This year Hong Kong gave us £4161. What a wonderful boost for our funds - thank-you!

Could your Parish make a similar gesture? It would make a real difference.

Editorial



Dr. Stephen Need Ordained Priest

A Ministry of Reconciliation



There is a spirit of joining together in the Jerusalem Church and Diocese. Earlier in the year the cathedral hosted a gathering of senior clergy from the historic churches of Jerusalem, which have so often been in conflict with each other. Before the Lambeth conference the bishop hosted the Presiding Bishop of the American church and later he invited to the cathedral the 250 GAFCON bishops who refused to attend Lambeth because of the presence of the American church. Jerusalem is setting an inclusive model in a spirit of reconciliation. And so it was no surprise, when on September 28th. the academic head of St. George's College was ordained priest by the bishop to hear the chosen Scripture "Christ...gave us the ministry of reconciliation, He reconciled the world to Himself, entrusting to us the ministry of reconciliation..." Stephen, a New Testament scholar who has served the College for many years and as Dean for the last three, will now be added to the team of clergy ministering the cathedral and its many-sided worship. In the past the College and the Cathedral, though sharing the same campus, have led separate lives. The Cathedral ministers to Arabic speaking locals and international pilgrims, the College runs academic Biblical courses with students from around the globe. Now, they will be joined together in the person of Stephen Need, a clear expression of the binding together, the ministry of reconciliation. **This is the spirit which the church in Jerusalem seeks to bring to the conflicts of the tragically divided Middle East.**

SECOND WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"Being Together Makes a Difference"

The Conference, held in Amman, was attended by 50 women and was run in partnership with the Diocese of Tokyo. Mrs. Shafeeqa Dawani, the bishop's wife, initiated and inspired the event and was thankful to those who hosted the members at a refugee camp and on visits to local churches and at Mt. Nebo. Her vision for future conferences includes more international participation. She says "As the wife of a priest for the past 30 years I have often dreamed about a role for women in the church, now it is taking form and becoming a reality". She hopes future Conferences will face these issues ecumenically.

The Conference was greatly honoured and encouraged to receive a visit from HRH Princess Basma.

DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMPS

Fun and Faith for the Future.

The 'Life of Prayer' was the theme for three consecutive camps, each based at St. Margaret's Guest House in Nazareth, which catered for young people of three different age groups in their quest to understand the place of prayer in the Christian life. All the camps were led by diocesan priests, supported by large numbers of lay volunteers. There was relaxation by the pool and fun preparing sketches and dances for the last night entertainment, but all the time there were also lessons of living in community. The prayer theme was developed with visits to meet nuns in a convent to learn about the value of silence and to see icons being painted and to hear of their place as aids to worship.

In addition to the diocesan camps almost every Diocesan Institution had its own camp, among them there was one in Ramallah run by the Episcopal Technological & Vocational Training Centre (ETVTC). Only established in 2001 it has already grown to provide quality technological education for 380 students, both Christian and Moslem. Communication technology skills are the core of the programme but it also includes a Hotel Services Department, provision for music and ballet and ceramic arts. The annual technological and cultural Summer Camp is a way of reaching out to the community and providing Palestinian youth with self-confidence, a positive hope for the future and the skills to make that hope come true.

PRINCESS BASMA CENTRE

New Roles

Under the direction of **Mrs. Betty Majaj** the Centre on the Mount of Olives which serves those with special needs has always been a progressive centre of excellence. Two new ministries are now developing there. One is to add diagnosis and therapy for autistic children, a work which will be unique in the region and demands special skills, for which staff are receiving special training. The other is that the Centre is now the base for **The Jerusalem Resesarch Centre** of **Dr. Hisham Nassar** who is the Bishop's Consultant/Adviser for the Healthcare Institutions of the Diocese. This work is housed by the Princess Basma Centre but is independent of it. Dr. Hisham's expertise will serve the whole diocese.

DAMASCUS

Sudanese and Iraqi Refugee centre

Sudanese refugees have been flowing into Jordan and on to Syria in recent years in large numbers. An African congregation called the All Saints' Fellowship was sponsored by All Saints' Church in Damascus and met on Friday evenings. As this initiative developed its numbers grew and in 1997, Stephen Khamis (before he was ordained) began leadership of the Sudanese Fellowship which became a sister church to All Saints and an official part of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. After Stephen migrated to the USA his place was taken by the Reverend Butrus Satimon and under his stewardship, the congregation has acquired and renovated a church in the Jaramana area. The building was consecrated by Bishop Suheil on Sept 19th. Its appearance and usefulness as a centre of ministry is a tribute to Butrus and his hard working church members. This Arabic-speaking, mainly Sudanese congregation, now finds itself host to more refugees, this time Iraqi Christians fleeing the consequences of war.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, NABLUS

A Time of Renewal

For many reasons, the hospital in Nablus has faced frequent challenges in recent years. We are happy to report that St. Luke's is now experiencing a rebirth and a renewal that promise to ensure its continuing ministry for many years to come!

Earlier this year, **Dr. Waliid Quirreh** was appointed to be the new General Director at St. Luke's and he set out immediately to address many of the issues facing the hospital. Among his first actions was to bring about the opening of the beautiful new Emergency Room and Trauma Centre which will provide a much needed service to the community as well as guarantee a new source of revenue for the hospital. In addition, the new Neurosurgery program continues to thrive. The results of these and other initiatives have already been impressive. Hospital occupancy rate, patient days, outpatient visits, and laboratory and x-ray tests have increased three-fold just in the past few months.

It is so heartening to know that every visitor to St. Luke's now sees a reborn energy and spirit in the faces of the many loyal employees of the hospital who continue to care for their patients with dedicated professionalism.

Gratitude and congratulations are due to the staff and to all who have responded to the leadership of Bishop Suheil, Dr. Hisham Nassar, (the Bishop's Consultant for Healthcare Institutions) and Dr. Quirreh, the Director which has brought about a renewal that is serving the people of Nablus.



Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

STATEMENT FROM THE BISHOP OF CYPRUS AND THE GULF

CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

The bishop recently visited Baghdad, where he met religious and political leaders, including senior Shi'a and Sunni figures, as well as diplomats. Speaking from Nicosia, Cyprus, he said:

"I am in close touch, as always, with our priest in Baghdad, Canon Andrew White, and with leaders of our congregations, especially at St George's church in the north-western suburbs. The threats, injuries, and deaths in the Mosul area are a deep grief to all Christians in the nation of Iraq and throughout the world, and fly in the face of centuries-long coexistence and toleration in the land, where Christian families have lived and prospered from near the very beginnings of our faith.

"I am glad to hear that key figures in both the Christian and the main Muslim communities are united in condemnation of the violence and are soon to meet.

"It is a comfort, too, to know that Muslim and Christian clerics and scholars meeting in the UK to discuss interfaith encounter, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury and by the Grand Mufti of Egypt, have joined in unequivocally declaring that no one should be persecuted or threatened on account of their religious faith.

"My prayers are for the whole nation of Iraq, and especially with the Christian Churches and their leaders, such as the deeply respected Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Cardinal Emmanuel III Delly, and believers of all traditions, as well as our Muslim brothers and sisters."

Bishop Michael Lewis, 17th October 2008

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, DOHA, QATAR

New Building and new needs

Canon Bill Schwartz writes, "we are excited with the way things are moving...it has been a whirlwind and there is much potential to develop in this place..." When he arrived in October 2007 he found a financial crisis, with no funds to begin building the new church complex. This was a major set back as the land had been granted on condition that building started by May 2008. Fortunately, Bill has got agreement from the government to have an extension of the time before the building needs to commence. Planning permission has been granted for the revision of the original design, which will allow for phasing the project and increase the potential for accommodating more Christian groups. The revised plan will also include provision for a Chaplain's house.

Money has been raised to enable to building work to commence and the congregation have given almost £50,000 with a further £150,000 from other sources; and a further £300,000 promised, it is enough for the work to begin and on September 1st, the foundations were dug. It is anticipated that some of the fellowships who hope to have a secure, legal place for regular worship in the new complex will also provide capital sums. A total figure in the region of £5million will be required. In August Canon Bill met with the UK fund raising group and was very encouraged. No outside appeals are envisaged until after building work is well started, as

there has been criticism about the earlier delays and nothing to show for the money given.

Canon Bill also reports that the congregations are growing visibly week by week and there has been an increase in requests for Confirmation preparation and for Marriages. He is also encouraged because he has found people in the congregation with initiative and ability to take responsibility for things which need to be done.

CHRIST CHURCH, JEBEL ALI. (U.A.E.)

Big building, big ideas.

Canon Stephen Wright the Chaplain, reports from the newest and largest church building in the Diocese, only completed in 2001 with room for 1500 worshippers in the main church; a vast underground car park, and many other halls and rooms with accommodation to meet the needs of other Christian Fellowships. Congregations and communicants are showing a steady increase.

The importance of this ministry, twenty miles from the centre of Dubai, is indicated by the figure of almost two hundred marriages in 2007; forty four baptisms; and marriage seminars which are held every two months and which attract 25-30 couples on each occasion. They joined other congregations to organise a Christmas Shoe Box campaign and filled 2,100 boxes. Stephen highlights the importance of working as a team and he is well supported with an administrator, secretary, office assistant and a Co-ordinator who has oversight of the

five groups in Friday School and who organises the music groups. Three members of the congregation have been on a Course to train them for children's ministry and as a result the Family Services have benefited with occasional puppet shows. Stephen is concerned that the new labour camps now stretch South from Dubai almost to Abu Dhabi border while the building of houses apartments and offices continues at an incredible pace all around Dubai.

ST. MARTIN'S, SHARJAH. (U.A.E.)

Church, labour camps and prisons

Ernest Victor, the chaplain, writes to say that the regular congregation increased by 25% last year and so they normally have about two hundred worshippers at main Services. The trend has been for an increase in those coming from the African continent. There has been a significant increase in numbers at Junior Church and in the Youth Fellowship and many more Home Bible Study Groups have been established. In addition, there is a very active ministry in the local labour camps and they are currently in touch with over four hundred of these men, with about two hundred regularly coming to worship held in the camps. The Prison ministry has also grown and last year thirty eight women were provided with flight tickets to enable them to return to their home countries after completing their prison sentences.

CHRIST CHURCH, ADEN

Bishop Michaels visit

Peter and Nancy Crooks were encouraged that twenty people came for a recent two day Retreat led by Maggie le-Roy. They rejoiced in the visit of Bishop Michael and his wife Julia, when they made their first visit. Bishop Michael was able to meet with the deputy Governor of Aden, and had a meeting with fifty Somali fishermen in an effort to obtain their long overdue wages. He encouraged people to visit Aden and it has worked, Peter and Nancy have welcomed a flood of visitors ever since! Peter reports that the visitors included a delegation of Canadian Embassy Officials from Abu Dhabi, and they have formally appointed the Clinics as the medical processing centre for all refugees they approve from Yemen for resettlement in Canada.

HOLY TRINITY RESOURCE CENTRE, DUBAI

Prize Winners!

Timothy and Anthea Fawdry have managed this Centre since 2001. Every year has seen an increase in the turnover of these strategic Christian materials - up 35% in 2006 and a further 20% in 2007. Long hours of patient negotiation with customs and government departments have paid off and Timothy has made many friends and helpful contacts. Dennis Gurney comments that it seems a far cry from 1984 when he began this part of the ministry

in his old Chaplaincy House. In 1995 when the new Chaplaincy House was built that ministry took a great leap forward. With the purpose-built Resource Centre and the appointment of Timothy and Anthea as full-time Managers the ministry grew from strength to strength. They have given complete dedication to making this venture an ever increasing success, and above all providing materials to support and encourage Christians from every persuasion in their discipleship. Last year the Resource Centre received a framed "Award of Excellence" for the Best Customer of the Year from Operation Mobilisation books in India.

ST. PAUL'S, KUWAIT

Singapore Responds...

Andy Thompson, the Chaplain, wrote the day after the death of the former Emir of Kuwait, which plunged the nation into three days mourning. He had just returned from the Palace where he had offered condolences on behalf of St. Paul's Church; shaking hands with the King; Prime Minister and other members of the cabinet.

The English lessons continue for other language groups but primarily for the Chinese. Andy is thrilled by the news that the Diocese of Singapore has seconded the Archdeacon Siow Chai Pin to lead the Chinese ministry in Kuwait. They have also agreed to fund him for the first two years. He was formerly the Archdeacon of Singapore.

Andy is the Warden of Readers in the Gulf and will be visiting the Canterbury Group to assist in the training programme. He is continuing to build a platform for Christian-Muslim relations, seeking to help church members understand Islam and respond to Muslims from a Christian framework. The ministry of Advocacy for the Poor continues but is most difficult, being politically sensitive.

LIMASSOL MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Rev Martin Bamforth says...

Food, fuel and countless raw and manufactured goods arrive every day in Cyprus by merchant ship, in fact 90% of global trade travels by sea. None of us can manage without the people who crew the world's merchant ships. As well as providing a haven for seafarers there are many young foreign crew who work very hard for nine months of the year who visit the Centre to have a time away from their ship. Now our facilities are re-organised with three new computers, webcam and SKYPE we have a bright and welcoming place for them to relax. Thanks to the great team of volunteers who staff the Mission Centre we are able to offer friendship and a sense of care and concern for our visiting seafarers. Please pray for all who work at sea and for the many others who, through the shipping industry, provide for our daily needs.

Diocese of Egypt & N. Africa



Bishop Muneer and Lambeth

We welcome this opportunity to publish Bishop Muneer's conclusions....

"**The Lambeth Conference 2008** was an opportunity for all Anglican bishops to come together to discuss, learn and face the challenges in front of us.

Unfortunately many of my brother bishops from the Global South were not there and their absence was sorely missed. Archbishop Rowan Williams described the Communion as "wounded."

It was very clear that we are not divided over issues like social justice, environment, interfaith relations, etc..., but the real division was around the issues of interpretation of Scripture, human sexuality, the Anglican Covenant and the Windsor Process. North American bishops continuously stressed the importance of accepting diversity and differences within the Anglican family. I agree as long as diversity involves the nonessentials of faith. But it is obvious that we have major differences on the essentials of faith. The churches in North America allow the culture to shape the faith, rather than allow the Gospel to transform the culture. I would say yes to diversity, but no to unlimited diversity.

We, as a church, are called to be "light and salt" in this world. In other words, we have a role to shine on and to preserve the society where we live. We would not be able to achieve this role unless we preserve our own distinctiveness as "light and salt." This does not mean that we isolate ourselves from the community where we live, becoming exclusive. We need to be inclusive and welcoming to everyone, but not at the expense of our distinctiveness. We live in this world, but we should not be conformed by the world.

On the contrary, the Scripture teaches us we are to transform the world (Romans 12)".

125 Years of Community Service

"The Diocese is committed to serve our society through its education, health and community development institutions" wrote Bishop Muneer in his July Report and these years of service were recognized at a celebration attended by the British and Irish Ambassadors and the vice-Minister of Social Affairs. Among the achievements was the opening of a rehabilitation centre for drug addiction to be known as the 'Way of Life Project'.

The Way of Life Project

The centre is 44 km to the west of Alexandria and it is run by Dr. Emil Zaky, a Christian psychiatrist, in premises provided by Revd Emad Azmy. "I was in tears" said the bishop "listening to the testimonies of people who came completely broken and were being restored during their stay".

"We held the first graduation of drug addicts after they fully gave up addiction".

Each one of the former addicts stood up to tell his testimony of healing. One of them said "I never dreamed that I would quit taking drugs, but I did not only quit drugs, but I also accepted Jesus as my saviour – that is much more important!" Another one said, "It is the love of the people in the 'Way of Life' as well as in St. Mark's Church who changed my life. They accepted me as I am".

Fighting Illiteracy Programme

"The diocese has signed an agreement with the Government Department of Adult Education to start literacy classes in their social centres. The government is going to contribute financially towards this programme. The Diocese has six classes up and running, five of them are for women and girls. There are an additional two classes which are about to start.

It is a very important way of empowering women in society. "I am very grateful" says the bishop "to Mrs. Mariam Awad, the Executive Director's Assistant for Community Development, for her relentless work".



Alexandria School of Theology

The Bishop writes:

It was a real joy to start the academic year with a reception and dinner for the faculty and their family of AST at All Saints Cathedral. It was great to pray for the new year and to have fellowship with each other. Ms. Helen Fraser, the AST Development Officer, organized the event and the opening ceremonies. She wrote, "We thank and praise God that He has blessed us with forty five new students, eight new faculty members, predominantly Arabic speaking, and granted us permission to use four air-conditioned furnished classrooms in the building previously occupied by the British International School in Cairo"

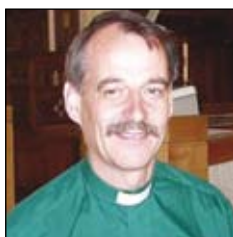
The Deaf Unit Graduation

The month of August saw the completion of the teachers training in Sign Languages. The teachers came from all over Egypt. Many churches sent them to be trained so that they could open classes for the deaf children or help in interpretation for the deaf in the churches. It is always a great ecumenical event: Coptic Orthodox, Coptic Catholic, Protestant and Anglican Churches send teachers to this training. 50 teachers graduated. It was a very moving moment when several of them mentioned how much they appreciated the oneness in Christ! Orthodox priests joined us in the event. We thank God for the growing work among the deaf in our church as well as others.

A New Bishop

The Bishop of Egypt, Most Revd Mouner Anis has announced

"It is with great joy that we announce the formation of a new Episcopal Area in North Africa. We have decided to appoint Rev Canon Dr. Bill Musk (currently Vicar in Tulse Hill London) to be Area Bishop of N Africa and Rector of St. George's Tunis." Bishop Muneer goes on to explain that Dr. Bill Musk and his wife Hilary lived in the region for over ten years. He is 59 years old, a well-known Islamist and author of several books: *The Unseen Face of Islam*, *Touching the Soul of Islam*, *Holy War*, and others. He previously served at All Saints Cathedral Cairo for several years in the '80s. Bishop Muneer concludes "We warmly welcome Bill and Hilary back to the Diocesan family". The consecration is scheduled to take place in Tunisia on November 22nd at the Roman Catholic cathedral.



The Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Egypt

Harpur Memorial Hospital, Menouf, Egypt

Help Us to Save Lives

The Hospital after the Extension and Renovations Project

Report regarding Subsidising Hospital Fees

Many of our patients cannot afford the cost of medical care, especially with high rate of inflation. For this reason we do our best to make the hospital fees affordable to everyone. We do this by subsidising the examination fees as well as inpatient fees. We care for **40,000-50,000** patients every year. In 2007, 44,088 patients came to the hospital. Out of this, the inpatients stayed in the hospital 4,855 days. We try our best to treat the patients the same day they arrive (day cases) this helps them not to be away from their home and work and also cuts the expense of treatment. Many other hospitals like to keep the patients with no consideration to their financial and social situation.

Out-Patients Subsidisation (2007)

The average cost for examination is 13.6 LE (\$2.50 USD / £1.25 GBP).

The average patient pays 7 LE (\$1.30 USD / £0.65 GBP).

The subsidy is 6.6 LE (\$1.20 USD / £0.60 GBP).

**Total Out-Patient Subsidy: 290,974.20 LE
(54,900 USD / £27,450 GBP).**

**You Can Help One Out-Patient
for only \$ 1.20 USD or £ 0.60 GBP**

In-Patients Subsidisation (2007)

The average cost per day (including 3 meals)
is 85 LE (\$16 USD / £8 GBP).

The average payment a patient pays per day
is 35 LE (\$6.60 USD / £3.30 GBP).

The subsidisation per patient per day
is 50 LE (\$9.4 USD / £4.70 GBP).

**The Total In-Patient Subsidy:
242,750 LE (\$45,801 USD / £22,900 GBP).**

**You Can Help One Inpatient
for only \$ 9.40 USD or £ 4.70 GBP!**

**Total In-Patient Subsidy:
-242,750 LE (\$45,801 USD / £22,900 GBP)**

**Total Out-Patient Subsidy:
-290,974 LE (\$54,900 USD / £27,450 GBP)**

**Total Subsidisation in 2007:
-533,724 LE (\$100,701 USD / £50,350 GBP)**

**BibleLands UK Annual Grant
+194,488 LE (\$36,696 USD / £18,348 GBP)**

**TOTAL FUNDS NEEDED
339,236 LE
(\$64,005 USD / £32,002 GBP)**

For More Information, please contact:
Dr. Samir Risk Allah, Hospital Director
Email: samir_harpur@yahoo.com Mobile: +0123379458

Obituary



The Rt. Revd. Hassan Dehqani-Tafti

First Persian Anglican bishop.

The Rt.Revd. Hassan Dehqani-Tafti died on 29th April at the age of 87. He was the Anglican bishop in Iran for 29 years.

His life and ministry were dramatically affected by the Iranian Revolution of 1979. Life had been difficult under the Shah and the bishop had written to Ayatollah Khomeini pledging support for the building of a just and free Iranian society. He could not have foreseen the response. The consequences of the Revolution were devastating for the Anglican Church. The priest in Shiraz was murdered, other clergy were arrested. Its hospitals, schools and welfare centres for the blind were confiscated with their financial assets. An attempt was made on the bishop's life, his secretary was shot and abducted and his son Bahram was ambushed and murdered. The prayer he wrote and the words he offered for his son's funeral (which he could not attend) were quoted around the world. He was eventually persuaded to go into exile where he began to exercise a valuable ministry for Iranians in this country while for ten years he continued to inspire his small Iranian flock from afar. He also became an Assistant bishop in the diocese of his exile, Winchester.

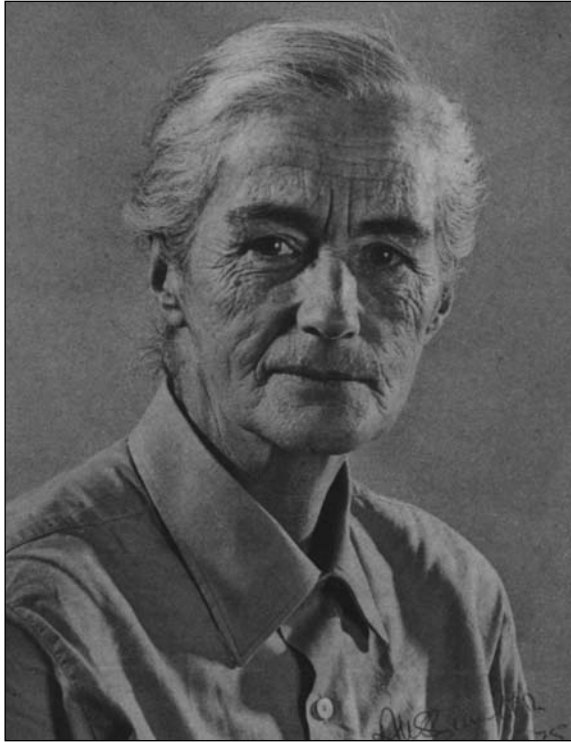
Hassan was born in Central Iran, in the small village of Taft, to a modest Moslem family of traditional cloth shoemakers. His mother, who died when he was five, had wanted Hassan to have a Christian education. This was fulfilled at Yadz, Isfahan and at the Stuart Memorial College where the Principal was William J Thompson who later became bishop in Iran. Among the many influences of his education was a friendship with a convert from Sunni Islam who taught Hassan the love of poetry and Persian culture which never left him and characterised his writing and teaching ministry. It was a Persian expression of Christianity which he sought to build when he became bishop. He was baptised at the age of 18 taking the name of Barnabas (son of consolation) and he offered himself to train for the Christian ministry. He was ordained deacon in 1949 after training at Ridley Hall Cambridge and served for ten years at St. Luke's Isfahan. When Bishop Thompson resigned in 1959 Hassan was elected bishop and consecrated in the cathedral at Jerusalem the following year. When the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East was established in 1976 he became the first Presiding bishop, a post to which he was elected for a second term even though he was by then in exile.

Hassan's life and ministry was distinctive not only because of the political turmoil of his homeland but because he brought to the conflicts a calm wisdom with a love of poetry, painting and traditional Persian culture. He wrote a number of books in English and in Persian including his reflective and moving autobiography 'The Unfolding Design of my world' published in 2000. He was a gentle and compassionate man who lived in violent times, his speech was frank and entirely without guile in times of spin and deception.

The bishop's passing was peaceful and he is laid to rest in the grounds of Winchester cathedral. He is survived by Margaret, the daughter of Bishop Thompson, who he married in 1952 and by his three daughters, one of whom is ordained.

Edited from the national press.

Obituary



Professor Ann Lambton

Scholar and Persianist of highest order.

Ann Lambton died in Northumberland on 19th July at the age of 96.

Born in 1912, she was the eldest daughter of the Hon. George Lambton, the grand daughter of the second Earl of Durham. She trained at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and became the most reliable and erudite source of reference for all things Persian.

Not only was Ann Lambton ('Nancy' to her friends) a prolific author, she was an adviser to successive British Governments, a lecturer of international standing and a 'Reader' in the Anglican church who led worship until very recently. The Archbishop of Canterbury awarded her the 'Cross of St. Augustine' for her lifetime commitment to the cause of Inter Faith understanding.

In the war years she was the Press attaché to the British Legation to Tehran and in peace time became Professor of Persian Studies at the University of London, a post she held for 26 years. In that time she taught all the diplomats who were to hold senior Government posts and became the unrivalled authority on matters of language and culture. In recent years she has been appalled by the failure of diplomats and others to learn the language, without which she believed the culture and the people could not be understood or appreciated. She published works on Persian grammar and dialects, on medieval and modern Islamic political thought, on tribal and local history and on Seljuq Mongol Safavid Qajar and Pahlavi Administrations which remain authoritative to this day. Her greatest works were probably her studies of Persian land tenure 'Landlord and Peasant in Persia' followed by 'The Persian Land Reform of 1962-66'. Others might say her 'Cambridge History of Islam' and her 'Cambridge History of Iran' have been more widely known and read. Academic honours were poured upon her: Fellowship of the British Academy; Honorary doctorates from Durham, London and Cambridge; Vice Presidency of SOAS, of British Institute of Persian Studies and others.

Ann Lambton was austere in life and manner and a forbidding opponent, not least on the squash court where she defeated successive generations of students. She was happy to spend her later years back in the fell district of her Northumbrian childhood, helping with the sheep. A friend recalls her late in life in boiler suit, fell boots and with strong gauntlets after an altercation with a ram. Some would sympathise with the ram. Another friend recalls her days as an adviser to the chairman of BP 'she would arrive on her bike which she chained to the railings in front of the chairman's car, she was always dressed in a severe tailored costume of north country tweed with heavy shoes for cycling. The commissioner received her with great deference and put her in the lift for the 31st floor. She was unique, a great favourite with everyone in reception'.

It is often said with the death of a prominent person that an era has passed. With the death of Professor Ann Lambton that is unquestionably true.

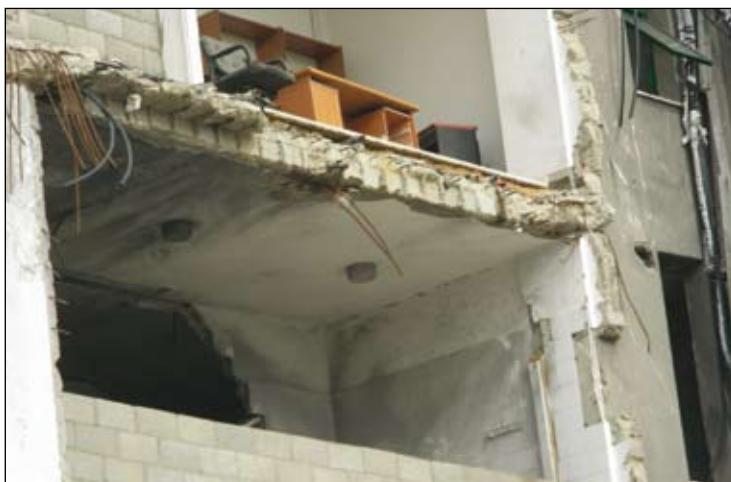
Editor

GAZA is the most densely populated place on earth.

One and a half million inhabitants are trapped in a strip 28 miles long and varying between 3 and 8 miles wide.

The Israeli border control bars them from leaving for medical treatment or to study abroad or for work or to visit their family in other parts. Their life has become an imprisonment. In the midst of this multitude is a tiny minority of Christians, about 3000 or 0.2% of the whole.

The Destruction



This is the story of the most notable Anglican presence in Gaza, the Ahli Arab hospital.



The Ahli Arab Hospital

The oldest hospital in Gaza was built in 1892 by the Church Missionary Society, but has been the responsibility of the Diocese of Jerusalem for the past 25 years. In the present crisis it averages 15 in-patients and 100 out-patients a day. There are 20 doctors (10 full and 10 part time), 45 nurses and 20 paramedics, technicians and therapists. Almost 50% of the staff are women. The hospital specialises in feeding programmes for malnourished children and in trauma treatment. Recently it has developed special programmes in urology, burns treatment, physical therapy and has built a mammography centre and OB/GYN services with health care for elderly women. It has two ambulances which are allowed free movement in Gaza to collect the sick from outlying villages. These patients receive diagnosis, treatment and food supplements as the outlying areas have no medical care.

The real cost for an in-patient is \$110 per day and \$15 for an out-patient. In fact the in-patients are asked for \$9 and the out-patients for \$4 but with unemployment in Gaza at 60% and with 80% below the UN poverty line, few can pay but all are treated. UNWRA contributes \$68 a day toward each in-patient, but the hospital's deficit in 2007 was \$400,000 to be found by the diocese.

All this work depends on the medicines and supplies getting through. The Israeli blockade of Gaza has resulted in chronic shortages and many deaths which could have been prevented, which is a cause of great stress to the hospital staff and anger to the bereaved families.



Suhaila Tarazi, the Hospital Director, says....

"Ahli Arab hospital is a profound illustration of the mission of the Anglican church, and a visible expression of our concern for the community. We play an enormous role in the provision of medical and surgical care, in the prevention of illness and disability to all the people of the Gaza Strip, both residents and refugees, regardless of race, gender, ethnic background or political affiliation".



Suhaila was appointed Director fifteen years ago and was the first woman to hold such a post, in a highly patriarchal society. She was born in Gaza to a Christian family and she received her Higher education in Egypt, England (Leeds) and USA. When she accepted the post, she never imagined the scale of deprivation which Gaza would suffer. "Israel's inhumane border blockade continues and the situation has deteriorated beyond imagination. Medical and food resources are scarce, clean water in short supply, electricity is rarely available, waste and sewage has spilled on to the streets. We are suffering tremendously but we have not lost hope. Our spirits are down but our souls are intact"

Bob and Maurine Tobin say....

Two recent Anglican visitors, Revd Bob Tobin and his wife Maurine, describe the hospital as 'a modern miracle'. "They have erratic electricity and depend on generators most of the time, but fuel for that is limited. There are no bulbs for surgical lamps, no mops for cleaning and only recently could they get any detergents for washing bed-sheets and blankets...yet there is no recorded incidence of infection within the hospital, which many US and European hospitals can not claim". They noted a huge number of post-surgical patients who had kidney stones removed, caused by the impure water and they noticed a large number of children's burns caused by heating homes and cooking food with an open flame in the absence of fuel. Bob and Maurine were impressed that the hospital's rule of 'no guns' was accepted. It is common in other centres to see armed guards around a patient's bed, a symbol of Gaza's many fears and conflicts. The absolute neutrality of the Ahli Arab Hospital is respected. Even so, it has not prevented the Israelis bombing the chapel (compensation is still being sought) and in one month alone 96 Gazans were killed in bombing raids and an unknown number made homeless. They concluded "What is ultimately striking about Gaza is the sheer disproportionality of it all – the collective punishment inflicted on 1.5 million people is against every measure of international and humanitarian law..." And the miracle is that the spirit remains so positively strong, in spite of it all, or possibly because of it all.

Ahli Arab Hospital



Thank God for our Anglican presence and for the staff, Christian and Moslem, working together.

The Horn of Africa

Area Bishop Andrew Proud explains...

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world. Everyday survival is a huge challenge here, yet our churches are growing. We are privileged to be here in Ethiopia as co-workers with our brothers and sisters for the sake of the Gospel. As such, our aim is to create missionary structures to equip, send and resource others in their own missionary tasks. As Mission companions we can never be a Church on behalf of others. We can, however, seek to support and enable them to be their own church. God's plan for mission is always greater than we can imagine and always exceeds the results of our human plans and actions. It is His harvest we are working for. Our fundamental task is to build churches. Through this, we seek to serve God's mission and fulfil our own: **Living, acting, missional churches in every country of the Horn**



Thanks to CMS-Ireland..... But a big challenge remains!

Bishop Muneer writes:

Bishop Andrew Proud shared with us the good news of receiving a generous grant from CMS-Ireland and Irish Aid. Bishop Andrew writes the following: "During the Lambeth Conference, we learnt that we have been awarded a substantial grant of \$725,266, over three years, from Irish Aid (through CMS Ireland) to develop the new land in Gambella (as shown on map) and run the programmes there. Under the terms of the grant, we have an obligation to raise 15% of the total amount, which is \$145,053 over 3 years. CMS Ireland are obligated to raise 10% of the total project cost." Do pray for all our efforts to raise this amount from different organizations. CMS-Ireland also donated £29,273 for the development work of the Diocese in Egypt. I thank God for the partnership of CMS Ireland and Irish Aid for their great support in the Horn of Africa

Bishop Andrew adds:

I'm afraid the Irish Aid grant does not mean that our financial problems are solved. The grant is indeed very good news. The money, whilst carefully ear-marked for development work, means that we can press on with developing the two hectares of land we were given in Gambella town, by the President of the Regional State eighteen months ago. Work on the land is to start fairly soon: an office, community library, seminar rooms, priest's house (no church, I'm afraid, under the terms of this grant), dormitories and canteen. During the first phase of the build, we shall engage a local Project Director, to oversee the work, equip the library and set up the systems and procedures necessary to employ two programme staff. This project will focus on Education (libraries and literacy) and Peace Development in the region. The Irish Aid grant will cover 75% of the overall project cost (buildings, equipment and staff).

We are required, under the terms of the grant, to find 15% and CMS Ireland 10% of the overall cost. Please pray for us as we seek to raise £30,000 this year; the same next year and £10,000 in the final year.





From Cyprus

Katafiyio Retreat House

This beautiful and peaceful house in the hills has provided a time of withdrawal and prayerful reflection for individuals and for groups from many places. It is not only for residents of Cyprus, there have been visitors from Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, UAE and the States. The house is set in the midst of excellent walking country with spectacular views. For a Parish Day with a group or for a private time of renewal contact Maggie Le-Roy, the Retreat Facilitator PO Box 22075 Nicosia or email retreats@spidernet.com.cy

From Jerusalem

Property Restored

For some time the Diocese has been involved in a painful dispute concerning the ownership of the land and School in Nazareth. The Israeli courts have found in favour of the diocese and the school and land are confirmed as diocesan property. The school has reverted to its earlier name "Christ School Nazareth" A celebratory meeting took place in September at the school, attended by Bishop Suheil and diocesan officers with parents, governors and staff.

From St. George's College

Next year's courses

Several of next year's courses are fully booked but among those with vacancies are:

April 14-23 Risen With Christ (Orthodox Easter) £900.

May 16-29 Bible Lands (begins in Egypt, ends in Jerusalem) £1750

June 5-16 St. Paul in Greece. (Entire course in Greece) £2000

July 7-16 Youth course. £600

August 7-18 Praying with Music. £1000

September 5-18 St. Paul and the Early Church. (Entire course in Turkey) £1750

Sept 30-Oct 9 Abraham Yesterday and Today. (The three faiths)

For more information visit St George's College Jerusalem at www.sgcjerusalem.org

From Syria

A Study of Iraqi Refugees

An important research by Joshua Kassanis, partly funded by JMECA, is investigating the effect of the invasion of Iraq on the Christian churches. An unknown number of Christians fled from the chaos and crossed the border into Syria. The investigation will reveal 'what happened next'.

Have the exiled Christians settled in Syria? How have they been received? And at what cost to the Syrian churches? The first findings reveal shocking suffering among the Iraqis and great compassion from the Syrians. Watch this space in a future issue for a fuller report.

From Aden

Maintenance and modernisation have gone ahead apace at Christ Church. The operating theatre has been remodelled, termites have been banished, the wiring throughout the compound has been renewed, an up to date fire alarm system has been installed in the clinics and church, and by the time this magazine is circulated the guest rooms should have been remodelled and refurbished.

The funding for these very significant projects has come largely from the Dutch Reformed Church and been overseen most diligently by Stefan Poldervaart, head of maintenance.

Meanwhile, Dr Yousef Fahim Gergis, the Medical Director, has continued updating protocols in the clinics and looking at new ways to improve patient care, and ongoing training for the medical staff.

OBITUARY

Michael Kyrle-Pope. R.I.P.

Rear-Admiral Michael Kyrle-Pope CB MBE DL, who was a Director of the Jerusalem & the East Mission Trust from 1978 to 1992, died on 14 September at the age of 91.

The son of a naval officer, Michael Kyrle-Pope was educated at Wellington College and entered the Royal Navy in 1934; he joined the Submarine Service in 1938. In World War II he was a prisoner-of-war. His distinguished post-war career included an important post in the Middle East: from 1962 to 1964 he was SNOGP - Senior Naval Officer Persian Gulf. In retirement he was General Manager of the Middle East Navigation Aids Service, Bahrain, from 1971 to 1977. From 1977 to 1980 he was Dean's Administrator at St Alban's Abbey. Michael's wife Suzanne was the daughter of an admiral. In 1988 she wrote a highly entertaining book about being a naval daughter and wife called "The Same Wife in Every Port". A thanksgiving service was held at St Peter's Church, Tiverton.

Sir Harold Walker

Introducing: **SABEEL**

In each issue of 'Bible Lands' we hope to introduce one of the organizations serving the people of the Anglican Province of the Middle East. In the last issue it was USPG, this time: Sabeel...

Purpose Statement for Sabeel

Sabeel is an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement among Palestinian Christians. Inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, this liberation theology seeks to deepen the faith of Palestinian Christians, promote unity among them, and lead them to act for justice and love. Sabeel strives to develop a spirituality based on justice, peace, non-violence, liberation, and reconciliation for the different national and faith communities. The word 'Sabeel' is Arabic for 'the way' and also a 'channel' or 'spring' of life-giving water.

Sabeel also works to promote a more accurate international awareness regarding the identity, presence, and witness of Palestinian Christians as well as their contemporary concerns. It encourages individuals and groups from around the world to work for a just, comprehensive, and enduring peace informed by truth and empowered by prayer and action.

ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE: 60 YEARS ON

Canon Naim Ateek, Director of Sabeel, delivered this address to mark the 60th anniversary of Israeli Independence, which we reprint with permission

"The Palestinians commemorated their Nakba while the Israelis celebrated their Independence. The two sides are miles apart from reconciling their divergent history. It was obvious that the Israelis were proud to celebrate 60 years of the establishment of their state while the Palestinians were mourning 60 years of tragedy. This is the enigma of history in the Middle East - the presence of tragedy and triumph, commemoration and celebration, Nakba (Arabic for catastrophe) and Atzmaoot (Hebrew for independence). Those who celebrated paid no attention to those who mourned, and those who mourned are powerless to turn their lamentation into celebration. What exacerbated the pain of the mourners was that those who celebrated totally ignored and denied their Nakba.



We have been living in this paradox for the last 60 years. Let us stop for a moment and ask ourselves a theological question: how does God see the Palestinian Nakba and Israel's Atzmaoot?

Liberation theology emphasizes that God takes a stand on the side of the poor and oppressed and against the powerful oppressors. In this theology, the only labels that matter are those of oppressor and oppressed. The labels cross over racial and national borders. Does it, therefore, matter to God whether one is a Jew, a Muslim, or a Christian? Does it matter whether one is Israeli and another is a Palestinian? Are such human made labels important to God?

I am sure there are believers in the various religions of the world who would argue vociferously that God started these labels and sees us through them. "This one is special and chosen and that one is not." Although God is aware of the many labels we wear, I do not believe that these labels are important to God.

Let me illustrate the absurdity of labels. Here in the Middle East each religious group has its own cemetery. There is one cemetery for Jews, another for Muslims, and another for Christians. In addition, we have one cemetery for each Christian denomination. It is considered scandalous when a person is buried in a different cemetery than his/her own denomination, let alone when the religious boundaries have been crossed. How ridiculous to think that God worries about such petty things? Does it really matter to God?

I believe that God sees us all as human beings who are God's creation. We are all God's children. God sees us as members of one human family. God looks at Iraq and says, "I am grieved because my children are at war." God looks at Palestine and Israel and says, "I am grieved because my children refuse to share the land and cannot live in peace with each other."

I believe what matters to God is not the labels that we have invented be they the national, ethnic, racial, religious, social, etc. as much as the way we violate our own God-given humanity and the humanity of our fellow brothers and sisters. Labels are useful when they are meant to make a reference to simple facts such as ones nationality or racial origin. But when they are used to denigrate, separate, and classify people's worth and discriminate among them, they become a curse and a crime.

It is hard to believe theologically that it really matters to God whether one is Israeli or Palestinian. What matters is

whether both live justly and mercifully together. It matters to God when one oppresses the other and fabricates schemes to kill and eliminate them. It matters to God when one side wants to celebrate its independence while forcing the other to live in poverty and deprivation. It matters to God when one side enjoys freedom and then denies it to the other.

What we must aspire for as humans is, therefore, to shed the residual waste of our tribal theology and culture and discover the true potential of our own humanity. When we reach that level, we realize that true celebration takes place whenever good has triumphed over evil in all of us and justice over injustice and truth over falsehood and love over hate. When this happens our theology of God and our theology of human beings has come of age.

So long as the Palestinians cannot share in the celebration,

To celebrate ones independence on the ashes of another people becomes a blasphemy and a sacrilege against God the creator of both and a profanity against our fellow human beings. It is an insult to God and it belittles the worth of man/woman.

it is a shame for Israel to celebrate. We are still enslaved by a theology of a tribal warrior god and a humanity that is limited to vengeance. Such a tribal theology must be rejected and abandoned. The God who attracts our loyalty and love is the God who breaks the labels that separate God's children from one another, meeting us in the face of the other, even the so-called enemy, and presenting us with the possibility of living in peace together and in freedom and reconciliation.

As we move into the next decade and in anticipation of possible worse scenarios for our region, there are important points to keep in mind:

In the past, some Israeli leaders said regarding the Palestinian Nakba, *"the older Palestinians will die and the new generation will forget."* The Nakba memory is deeply imbedded in the psyche of the Palestinians, in conscientious Jews, and in the hearts of many friends abroad. Public opinion in the world is growing against Israeli intransigence. Oppressed people will ultimately gain their freedom. Sooner or later, Israel will have to grant liberation to the Palestinians. It is wiser if the Israelis initiate it themselves rather than being compelled to concede it. Nonviolence movements in Palestine are beginning to take hold. An increasing number of Palestinians are abandoning the armed struggle and showing a commitment to nonviolent resistance. Israel's violence has helped create not only the violence in Palestinians but equally nonviolence. Israel has pushed the Palestinians into nonviolence. This trend is growing in spite of Israel's harsh reprisals. What is happening in the West Bank will also happen in the Gaza Strip. It is only a matter of time. The movement towards nonviolence is inevitable. It seems that training in nonviolence which many groups throughout Palestine have had is bearing fruit and it will gain global

support. This is a hopeful sign and it will contribute to the emergence of potential leaders.

Exile and return are two phenomena this part of the world is used to. No matter what Israel does, it cannot prevent the return. It can drag it out, it can slow it down, but it cannot prevent it. Israel needs to learn from its own Jewish history. If Jews waited for 2000 years and did not forget the land; who would bet that the Palestinians will forget Palestine?

The day will come when a Palestinian "Herzl" will rise and the Palestinians will find a way to return. It is better if Israel works with the international community to find how to achieve a resolution of this issue rather than to plot ominous schemes to expel the Palestinians.

Justice remains the issue. For many years, Israel has created policies that would displace the Palestinians, deny them their rights, humiliate them, and force them to leave. It has invested billions of dollars to make life miserable for them so that they would emigrate. Israel has taken the shortest way to make itself insecure. The shortest way for the resolution of the conflict is the doing of Justice in accordance with international law. All other schemes will not work in the long run. Justice is the only true foundation for peace.

Israel needs to listen to its modern-day prophets. They are Jews from Israel, as well as from abroad. They care about Israel, its security, and its survival. But they are in agreement that Israel today is on a self-destructive course. It must change. They are asking Israel to stop its injustice against the Palestinians. They are calling for a true sharing of the land with the Palestinians. It is sad to observe that the voices of these prophets are not heard. The true prophets are those who know that true peace can only be built on the foundation of truth and justice.

Israel needs to confront the internal forces that continue the process of the Nakba. The Association for Civil Rights in Israel's report *"The State of Human Rights in Israel 2007"* documents tragic statements and legislation by Jewish Knesset members against Arab Israelis including proposals for population transfer of the Arab citizens of Israel. Israel's obsession with maintaining a Jewish majority and its fear of its Arab population together are breeding a culture of racism. Many fear that these incitements will lead to additional actions against citizens who already suffered in 1948. This racism and discrimination only perpetuates the sin of the Nakba of 1948.

With other courageous people, we continue to commit ourselves to speak truth to the powerful leaders. Israel must change if it wants peace. I hope we do not have to wait for another decade to see that transformation happen.

**For more information visit the Sabeel website:
www.sabeel.org**

**Friends of Sabeel UK:
www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk**



GAFCON at St George's Jerusalem

The following address, delivered by Bishop Suheil Dawani of Jerusalem to the Gafcon bishops refers to the history of the diocese. We publish it in full as many readers may not know the background he outlines. He also speaks of the tradition of the Lambeth Conference, which many of the Gafcon bishops refused to attend.

John 17 w22-23 *'that they may be one, even as we are one'*
A warm welcome to our beautiful Cathedral built in 1898 and dedicated to St. George the Martyr, whom Palestinian Christians consider to be their Patron Saint - his mother was from Lydda and his body was buried in the sacred soil of the Holy Land.

The Anglican Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East sees our Lord's high priestly prayer for the mission of the Church *"that the world may know that thou hast sent me"* as the very essence of our life and mission. As a biblically rooted people—a people of the Book—this passage from scripture has been the hallmark of our life and mission as an Anglican family here since 1841 as we have faithfully borne witness to the gospel in this Holy Land, having been given the mantle to represent and speak for the Anglican Communion in the Holy City as partners and conciliators with the historic Oriental and Armenian Churches of the East, with our sister Lutheran Church, as the Custodian of the Holy Places in the Franciscan Order since the 1840s,

and through our warm and active relationship with the Latin Patriarchate that returned to the Holy City in the 1890s.

The greatest gift that Anglicanism has offered to the Middle East in the last one hundred and sixty seven years and indeed today is a ministry of reconciliation, the same mission given to the disciples in the Johannine imperative *"that they may be one even as we are one"* As a Christian community, we are a voice of moderation in a region of turmoil. We work with humility and in a spirit of servanthood to Him who died on the Cross to build and strengthen relationships among Christians, Moslems, and Jews and to work together with other Christian bodies here. We do so, as our Lord reminds us in St. John's gospel, that *"we may have life and have it abundantly"*.

We are a people who know what it is to live faithfully and with humility in a pluralistic society, facing many challenges, without losing our hold on the biblical faith *"once delivered to the Saints."* In a region marked by

division and conflict we work for peace and unity. We do so not for the sake of appearance but so that the image of the one God, the God of peace, may be revealed to the world.

From the dawn of Christianity with the first Pentecost, our indigenous Arab Christian community has been rooted here in this Holy Land and in this, the "City of Peace." We remain a living, vibrant and serving Christian community. The witness and mission of the Church here is carried out through the ministry of our thirty-seven institutions in the fields of health, education, and rehabilitation in which we serve the community at large. Our work here is the very presence of Christ among the needy, offered without differentiation based on religion, gender, or nationality.

In this diocese, we regard our relationships across the Anglican Communion as a crucial network of bridges on the international scene that bring together Anglicans of 164 countries and 38 provinces worldwide, all of which support and strengthen our witness and mission. We are grateful for our relationships across the breadth of the Anglican Communion, and we have the utmost respect for the Archbishop of Canterbury in his role as our spiritual leader.

I look forward to the Lambeth Conference which is so important to our ongoing life together and for the mission of the Church. Since its inception in 1867, the Lambeth Conference has been the setting for invaluable dialogue about many aspects of our Church's life, particularly in relation to the changes in the world around us. Together, we have dialogued at Lambeth about war and peace, about industrialization and ecumenism, about poverty and disease, about the faith and order of the Church, and about how together we can overcome the injustices of our world. Throughout its history, the Lambeth Conference has dealt with many difficult issues. At times these issues looked as if they might divide us, but they did not because we persevered in prayer and fellowship, together, with respect and patience.

It is in that same spirit that I welcome you here to this Cathedral Church.

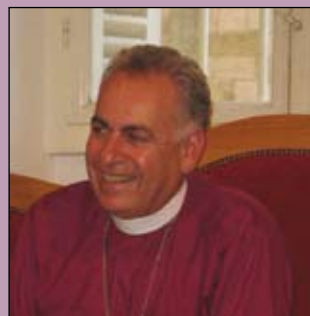
The very stones of this holy city of Jerusalem teach us patience and humility. This city has seen tragic events throughout the centuries, at times leveled to the ground, at times raised again to new life. We are on holy ground.

So all Christians must come here first and foremost as pilgrims – and I note that you say your coming here to Jerusalem is a "pilgrimage." Pilgrims here do not bring decisions with them. They come here to seek prayerfully the decisions God wants them to make. And God will always surprise us. God has not finished with us or with our Church yet. God the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth, and we who come here as pilgrims must be open to the Spirit's leading, open to God's surprising revelation to us.

I pray that as you meet in this holy place, you will all be open, in real humility, to the Spirit's guidance and that

you will continue here in a spirit of peace, reconciliation and goodwill. It is crucial to the Anglican witness here in Jerusalem and to the wider world that this is so. It is my fervent prayer that you will actively work for the peace of Jerusalem and for the peace of all the world. We must all seek God's peace, which is beyond all understanding. I pray God's blessing on you, on the Archbishop of Canterbury and on our Anglican Communion."

Following the Lambeth Conference



Bishop Suheil returned from Lambeth in optimistic mood. He felt that the new style, concentrating on worship and Bible Study in small indaba groups

helped bishops of different culture and different background to grow together. He felt the growth was Bible-centred and affirmed in worship. "We began with a three day retreat conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and that set the tone of prayer, fellowship and reflection." He also felt that the presence of bishops from other churches added an Ecumenical dimension which was a blessing.

The Conference theme of 'Equipping Bishops for Mission and Strengthening Anglican Identity' was achieved. There was a strong sense of learning together and sharing our experiences and problems together. This was excellent. We didn't need voting sessions. "After all, we are a not a political institution, we are a church" he said. He thought the Archbishop of Canterbury's final address was a fitting summary. The Anglican Communion is stronger and will endure.



Jordan's King Abdullah II donates land to Jerusalem diocese

Church, retreat center planned 'for Anglican Communion' at Jesus' baptismal place

King Abdullah II of Jordan has given a plot of land to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem for construction of a church and retreat center at the Jordan River location traditionally believed to be the baptismal place of Jesus.

"It's a privilege for us to have this gift from His Majesty King Abdullah and at the same time we look at this as a project to build a medium-sized Gothic Church with a retreat center," said Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem Suheil Dawani, who has officially accepted and dedicated the land. The land is important "from a religious point of view because of its location and because it will be a center for the entire Anglican Communion all over the world to visit and to connect with what's going on here," he said.

King Abdullah II, the eldest son of the late King Hussein, in a statement on his official website, cited Jordan as an example of tolerance and coexistence between Islam and Christianity. He also commended the bishop's commitment to interfaith collegiality and said Jordan will continue assuming its historical role in supporting and protecting Jerusalem churches.

Bishop Suheil Dawani addressed the dedication ceremony in Arabic and welcomed about 550 enthusiastic clergy and laity from Jordan churches, as well as Prince Ghazi bin Mohammed, the king's advisor on Christian Churches in Jordan.

"We stand in a region that had witnessed a great happening in Christian life and history as recorded in the Holy Scriptures," he told the gathering. He thanked the Jordanian monarch for the generous gift and praised his protection of holy sites, and Islamic and Christian institutions that call for loving understanding of each other.

The prince, representing King Abdullah, spoke of the importance the royal family places on mutuality in Jordan and of the king's desire to strengthen ties both within the country and the broader religious community. "It is for that purpose this baptismal site becomes an important part of Jordan's Invitation to the Christian religious community to participate in collegiality and Interfaith dialogue," he said. "We are all one family in Jordan."

Nichola Akel, diocesan office manager and assistant to the bishop, said the gift amounts to about nine dunums, or approximately two-and-a-half acres of land, located at what was once the town of Bethany Beyond the Jordan, the traditional biblical location where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. The land is conservatively valued at about \$50,000 per acre. Additional space will be provided for public parking, he added.

Edited from an article by Canon Samir Habiby.



Qatar's Emir Donates land to Church in the Gulf

Gift of Sheik Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani to Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf.

A SERVICE of blessing for the new Anglican and Allied Centre in Qatar has been held at the large site in Mesaimeer, on the southern outskirts of Doha, where the foundations of the Centre are being put in place.

Representatives of several Christian congregations were present, and the service was attended by the recently appointed British Ambassador to Qatar, John Hawkins, along with diplomats from a number of other embassies, and members of the Anglican congregation.

In his address of welcome, Father Bill Schwartz of the Church of the Epiphany said: "We offer our sincere thanks to HH the Emir and to the ministries of foreign affairs and the interior for their sustained help and support with this project. We hope that the eventual completion of the Anglican Centre will offer a place of prayer for the many Christians who worship in small groups in different places all around Doha. We also hope to see opportunities in the future to encourage increased dialogue among Christians and people of other religions, and we trust that God will be pleased to receive the prayers of all people from this place and will continue to bless praying people in Qatar with His grace and peace for the years to come."

Bishop Michael Lewis, Anglican Bishop in Cyprus and the Gulf, led prayers for the successful completion of the project, for the safety of the workers and for the mercy and compassion of God towards all people living in Qatar.

The Centre, when completed, will provide a place for prayer and worship for many Anglican, Protestant and Evangelical congregations in Doha. The project is being undertaken in three stages, with hope that the first stage will be completed within fifteen months, initially allowing for three-four spaces of different sizes for simultaneous groups of Christians to offer prayers. The second stage of the project to be built will include the main sanctuary, which will enable larger groups of Christians to gather at one time. The third stage will add on more rooms for groups of various sizes to gather for conference, fellowship and prayer.

Eventually, the site at Mesaimeer, dubbed an 'Ecumenical Church City' by Father Bill Schwartz, will include accommodation for as many as 18 different church denominations and congregations. The total cost of this project is likely to exceed £5million, the hope is that support will be found from around the world.

Information supplied by "Gulf Times"

Praying round the Province



*The Middle East, home to the three Abrahamic faiths,
heart of the worlds political conflicts, needs your prayers.*

We offer this monthly cycle:

1st The Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East and The Most Revd. Dr. Mouneer Anis, Presiding Bishop

The Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East

- 2nd** The Bishop, Rt. Revd Suheil Dawani and his wife, Shafeeqa, with his Cathedral and Diocesan staff and all who serve the Guest Houses
- 3rd** The clergy serving the parishes, in Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon
- 4th** The Diocesan Institutions: The hospitals that tend the sick: St. Luke's Nablus, Ahli Arab hospital Gaza, Penman Clinic Zebabdeh.
- 5th** The schools that teach the young and shape the future: in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nazareth, Haifa, Amman, Zerqa, Irbid and Beirut.
- 6th** The centres that give hope to the disabled: in Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children Jerusalem, Holy Land Institute for the Deaf Salt, The Jofeh Community Rehabilitation Centre Jordan Valley and The Father Andeweg Institute for the Deaf Beirut.
- 7th** The reconciling work of all church members, giving thanks for people of all faiths who seek peace and pursue it.
- 8th** The leaders of the nations: King Abdullah II of Jordan, Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine, Dr. Bashar Assad of Syria, Fouad Siniora of Lebanon and Shimon Peres of Israel.

*For the healing of the nations
Lord we pray with one accord,
For a just and equal sharing
of the things that Earth affords
To a life of love in action
Help us rise and pledge our word.*

The Diocese of Iran

- 9th** The Bishop, Rt. Revd. Azad Marshall and his wife, Lesley.
- 10th** Revd. Canon Nosratullah Sharifian and his congregation at St. Luke's Isfahan.
- 11th** Revd. Christopher Edgar and his congregation at St. Paul's Tehran.
- 12th** Nozar Ashrafi and all the laity who sustain the ministry and the administration.
- 13th** Joura Zarookian and all called to the sacred ministry, and those who train them.
- 14th** Amir Senai and those who facilitate the dialogue with the government.
- 15th** The Government of Iran, the Supreme Leader, the President, the Governors and all in authority.

*We find thee, Lord, in other's need
We see thee in our brothers
By loving word and kindly deed
We serve the Man for Others.*



Praying round the Province

*Day by day take a break. To focus prayer.
For some of the world's bravest people and some of the most troubled.*

The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

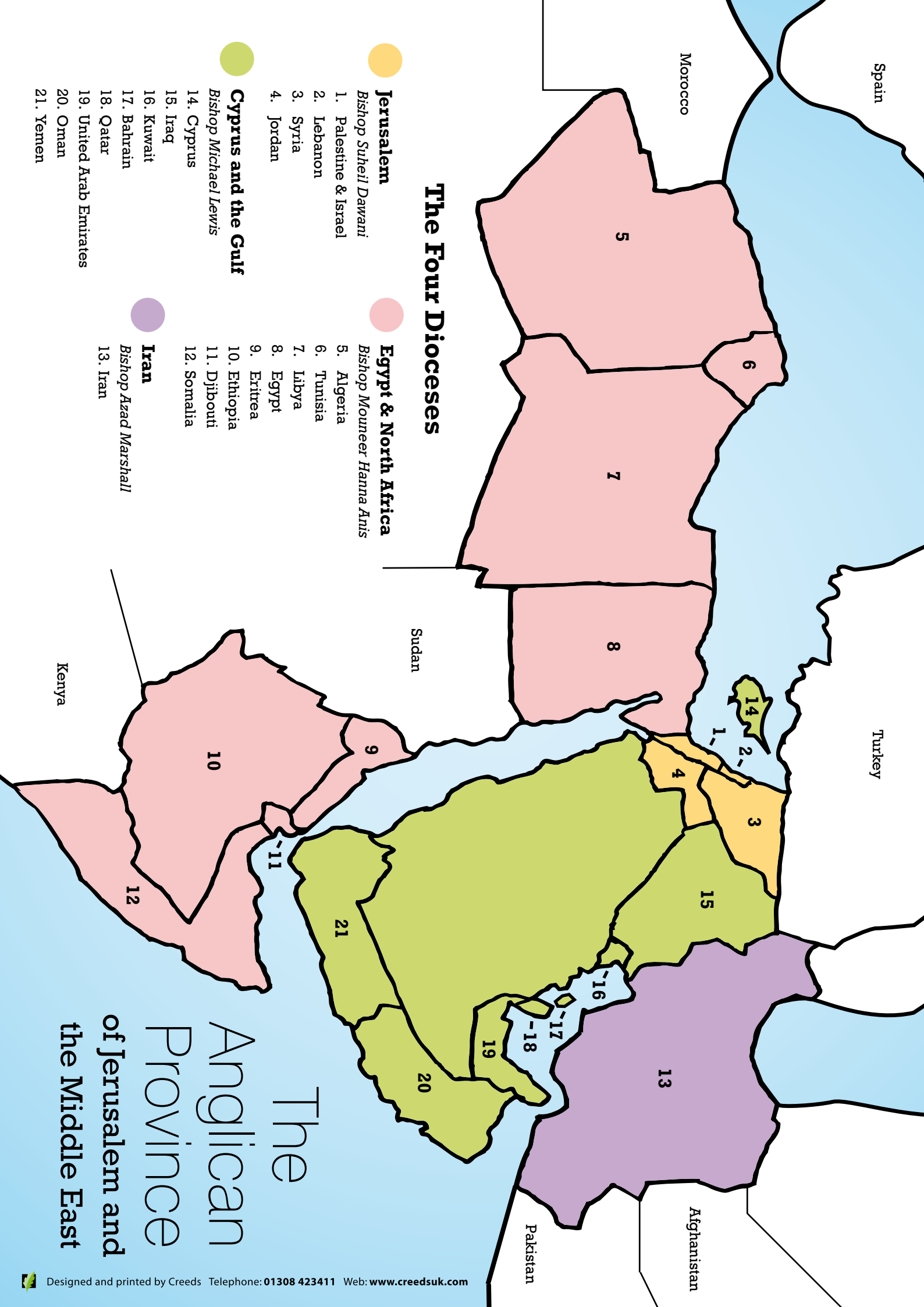
- 16th** The Bishop, Rt. Revd. Michael Lewis and his wife, Julia, and his Administrative staff.
- 17th** The Dean of Nicosia Cathedral and Archdeacon of Cyprus, Stephen Collis and his wife Kath
The Dean of Bahrain Cathedral and Archdeacon of the Gulf, Alan Hayday and his wife Pam.
- 18th** The parish clergy of Cyprus and their congregations in Kyrenia, Larnaca, Limassol, Ayia Nape, Paphos, Famagusta and the Katafiyio Retreat House.
- 19th** The clergy of the Gulf, serving Dubai, Sharjah, Oman, Jebel Ali, Ras al Khaimeh, Aden, and the scattered congregations of the Arabian Peninsular who keep the faith privately.
- 20th** The opportunity to build a church in Qatar, and for Canon Bill Schwartz who leads the work and the appeal for funding.
- 21st** The Ecumenical congregation of Baghdad and for the people of Iraq, of all faiths, torn apart by the ravages of war.
- 22nd** The leaders of the nations, in North and South Cyprus, in Iraq and in the Gulf States, seeking just and stable government.

*Speak to us and every nation, bid our jarring discords cease
To the starving and the homeless may we bring a full release.*

Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and The Horn of Africa

- 23rd** The Bishop, the Most Revd. Dr. Mouneer Anis and his wife, Nancy, and the Interim Dean of the Cathedral Rt. Revd Derek Eaton and his wife, Alice.
 - 24th** The Bishop in the Horn of Africa, Rt. Revd Andrew Proud and his wife, Janice, with those who are seeking to develop a centre at Gambella.
 - 25th** The Bishop-elect in North Africa, Revd Bill Musk and his wife, Hilary, as they prepare for a new ministry, in Tunis.
 - 26th** The clergy who sustain the church day by day in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Ethiopia and Eritrea.
 - 27th** The Institutions that serve the community: The Harpur Hospital in Cairo, Health Centre in Sadat City, the Episcopal School Menouf, the work with the deaf, with refugees and in areas of welfare and social need.
 - 28th** The Theological School in Alexandria with its Principal Revd. Emad Azmi and all his staff and students, that it may be a place of sound learning and good fellowship.
 - 29th** The leaders of the many and diverse nations that form the diocese, that Government may be just and sound.
- ***
- 30th** The Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association, its Chairman Mr. Richard Owens, the chair of Trustees Mr. John Clark and all whose gifts, past and present sustain the work.

*Bring to our world of strife
The sovereign word of peace
That war may haunt the earth no more
And desolation cease*



The Four Dioceses

Jerusalem

Bishop Suheil Dawani

1. Palestine & Israel
2. Lebanon
3. Syria
4. Jordan

Egypt & North Africa

Bishop Mouneer Hanna Anis

5. Algeria
6. Tunisia
7. Libya
8. Egypt
9. Eritrea
10. Ethiopia
11. Djibouti
12. Somalia

Cyprus and the Gulf

Bishop Michael Lewis

14. Cyprus
15. Iraq
16. Kuwait
17. Bahrain
18. Qatar
19. United Arab Emirates
20. Oman
21. Yemen

Iran

Bishop Azad Marshall

13. Iran

The
 Anglican
 Province
 of Jerusalem and
 the Middle East