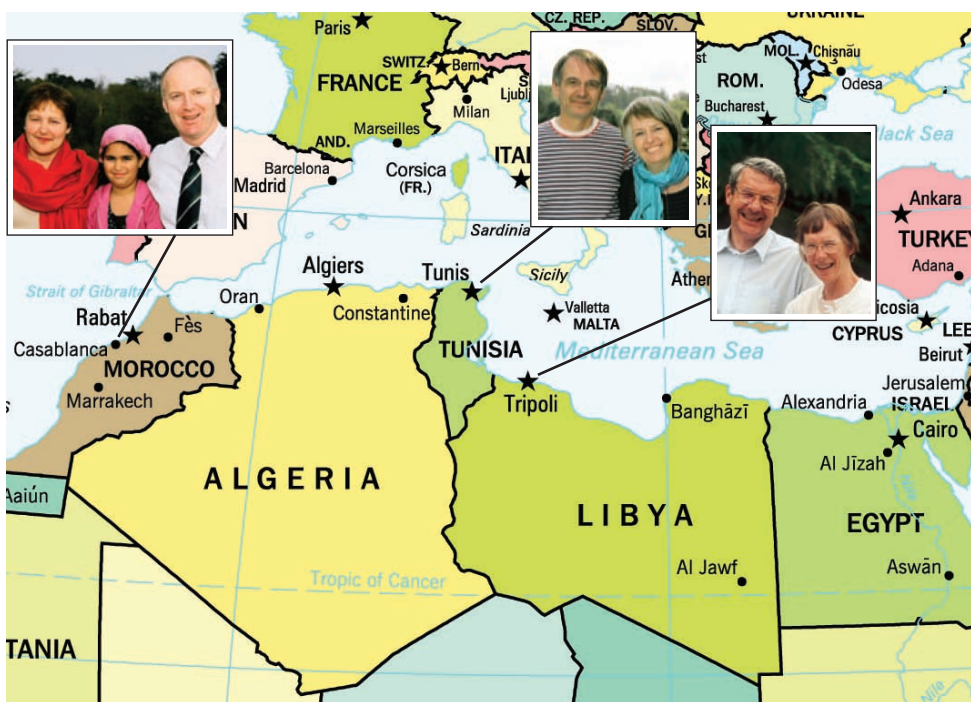


ICSNews and Prayer Diary

'THIS JESUS GOD RAISED UP, AND OF THAT ALL OF US ARE WITNESSES' ACTS 2: 32

North Africa special issue



ICS mission partners work across North Africa, communicating the good news of Jesus Christ to the international community. See page 3 to learn how you can join us in praying for and enabling the mission of their dioceses.

New ICS Christmas Cards for 2008 – see page 24

Contents

ICS is an Anglican mission society which makes known the Christ of the Scriptures to people of any nationality who speak English.

ICS enables the planting and growth of English-speaking international Anglican churches/chaplaincies in countries where English is not the first language, and conducts outreach to tourists. ICS is also a patronage society, so nominates ministers for numerous Anglican churches abroad and owns many church buildings.

Our web site and *Directory of English-speaking Churches Abroad* enable people to find churches abroad.

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ICS Christmas cards and plain greeting cards 2008 form:

You are invited to send the new cards, as about half of the pack price goes to ICS. Apologies for mentioning Christmas, but for November delivery please order now using the form.

TO PRAY

These side boxes indicate upon which days in the Prayer Diary (see page 25) the chaplaincies you read about are featured.

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Used stamps for ICS: help fund outreach.



A new bishop for North Africa!

BP a major inward investor in Algeria; trade and tourism with Libya increasing; The Independent (pre credit-crunch!) featuring Tunisia as the 'next place' to buy a holiday home.



David Healey, Editor

Many North African countries enjoy close cultural ties with continental Europe, ICS's other major field of operation. ICS's work of English-language outreach to the region's international communities and tourists dates back to the nineteenth century; more recently ICS seasonal chaplains have spread the gospel amongst Thomson holidaymakers in Tunisia; and our mission partner Mark Cregan is the chaplain in Casablanca (Diocese in Europe). At the invitation of Bishop Mouneer Anis, we are now helping to expand the mission of the Diocese of Egypt, North Africa and the Horn of Africa. So, the first Area Bishop of North Africa, Dr Bill Musk, will be part-funded by ICS. Bill will also serve as the Rector of St. George's, Tunis. His new role will develop mission amongst the international community, such as along the coast at Tripoli where the new chaplain (Michael Starr) is also an ICS mission partner.

It is not always easy for indigenous churches to provide English-language ministry, so your support and ours will:

- be a great encouragement to the church in North Africa;
- help English-speaking people holidaying and working abroad hear the message of the Cross, and further the discipling of Christians living far from home;
- enable the local churches to work amongst the international community, freeing them to concentrate on living daily in their cultural and religious contexts;
- help secure consistent English-language ministry; international congregations can lose one-third of their members annually and income is often erratic, changing significantly if a few generous donors leave for work reasons;
- provide additional support to the English-speaking chaplains (and families) working in isolated contexts where the majority religion is not Christian; home leave and attendance at our conference are important to ensure their health and welfare. ■

FOR NEWS see pages 4, 6

TO GIVE see centre section

ICS will be meeting the Musks' outward and return relocation costs, their annual attendance at ICS conference and medical and travel insurance. First year costs will be £9,000 and then around £2,600 annually during the term of their appointment. Can you please make Bill's appointment financially possible? If so, please use the Christmas card order form to make a gift. See back cover for other ways to give to ICS.

From Tulse Hill to Tunis

ICS's David Healey caught up with Bill and Hilary Musk (who have served in Bishop Mouneer's diocese before) and interviewed them about their new roles in North Africa.



Bill and Hilary Musk

Bill, your appointment as Rector of St. George's, Tunis and Area Bishop of North Africa sounds a pretty challenging brief. How will the two (potentially full-time) roles fit together?

Bill: Initially I will need to establish our base in Tunis itself, getting to know the many there and to be known by them, and then make initial visits to meet the Libyan and Algerian chaplains. I suspect the episcopal functions may increase and it may be appropriate to appoint another as Rector in order to allow me to work more widely.

What will being a bishop involve, and what role will Hilary play?

Hilary: I hope to travel sometimes with Bill to visit and encourage people in the chaplaincies. I will avoid taking on many immediate commitments whilst I assess the possibilities. *Bill:* Part will be pastoral oversight but, hopefully, more chaplaincies will be established. Bishop Mouneer envisages the growth of the national church so I will pray for and encourage national brothers and sisters; then, hopefully, one will replace me.

How are changes in the region affecting English-language mission and ministry, and what role will you play in developing them?

Bill: There would seem to be quite a strong reorientation going on in some parts of North Africa towards a greater engagement with Europe, and English-speaking Europe at that. To learn English is certainly one of the felt needs of some North Africans. Many internationals work in North Africa: St. George's is full of wonderful, mature, vibrant Africans from all over the continent who are in the city because of the African Development Bank. Trade, commerce, oil, gas and tourism are the reasons for the growth in the number of English-speakers. We need to pursue the opportunities!

It must be a challenge for a small indigenous church to sustain a vibrant English-language ministry; how can these different ministries strengthen each other?

Bill: Bishop Mouneer is very keen on partnership—hence his calling of an Englishman to undertake episcopal direction of





St. George's Church

the Diocese of Egypt's work in the North Africa area with the help of ICS. Being part of a Christian minority in a dominantly Islamic society and culture helps Christians to become more supportive of one another, across divisions and differences. There can be great benefit and growth through these connections, and through mutual care by expatriates and nationals. *Hilary*: The church is often more vibrant and meaningful in such an environment. The church provides support networks for the international community, and relationships form more quickly and deeply than back home. Natural barriers can be far more easily surmounted in a multi-cultural, mixed background church.

Outline the benefits of being an ICS mission partner, both for you and for English-language ministry in the region.

Bill: Work in this area of the world is not easy, and can often be lonely and spiritually exhausting. ICS provides the opportunity of being part of a wider fellowship of ministers who find themselves in similar roles in different contexts. The prayer support, fellowship provision and practical backup provided by ICS is such a vital gift to all finding themselves in similar circumstances. *Hilary*: For me it is the comfort of knowing that in an emergency or if things 'fall apart' there is someone back home looking out for us and ready to help us put ourselves back together. I look forward to the ICS conference and it is encouraging to know that there will be all sorts of prayer happening, especially about the spiritual realities, which is essential for our safety and effective ministry.

FURTHER READING

Bill's four books on Islam are published by Monarch/Lion Hudson

How can supporters pray for you and for Tunis?

Bill: First, for our immediate family as this is not an easy step for any of us; our leaving of friends in Tulse Hill; the move in November; and the congregation in Tunis which has very generously agreed to support their new chaplain in his episcopal duties. *Hilary*: Remember particularly our youngest, Nicola, who is 'losing' her parents and her home base here in London, and our second youngest, Sarah, marrying next summer. We appreciate your support much more than we can say! ■

TO PRAY see day 2

... and from Addis to Tripoli

ICS mission partner Michael Starr has just become Anglican chaplain in Tripoli. Margaret and he explain the move and the potential for English-language ministry in Libya.



Michael and Margaret Starr

We came to Ethiopia two years ago, to serve at St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Addis Ababa. We have seen God's blessing in many ways, including Alpha courses becoming a regular part of the church's life, the setting up of a breakfast club, providing a cooked breakfast for forty of the poorest local children, and seeing an extension built for the Community Library to provide more study space for local children to do their homework and consult school books. An extra Sunday service has been started, St. Matts@Five, meeting the need for a more informal all-age service.

Now Bishop Mouneer has asked us to move to Tripoli, Libya, to be the Chaplain of the Anglican Church there. We shall be sorry to leave St Matthew's, as we like Ethiopia and its varied people, history and beautiful scenery, but we are foot soldiers in the Lord's army and when the Bishop says 'Go', we go. We can see the reasons for proposing the move, as Tripoli is a strategic opportunity, with many foreigners moving there now that Libya is opening up its relations with the West. The present chaplain is due for retirement.



St. Mary's Tripoli (exterior)

We left Addis Ababa at the end of July and, after seeing family and friends in the UK, expect to take up the appointment in Tripoli at the end of August. Tripoli will be very different from the happy muddle that is Addis Ababa, as it is a large modern city with wide roads, proper pavements, big shops, modern cars and evident wealth. When Colonel Gaddafi took over thirty-eight years ago, all the churches were put under state control and many changed to mosques, libraries or art galleries. The old garrison church of Christ the King was closed and the few remaining Anglicans were allocated a first floor flat for their services.



St. Mary's Tripoli (interior)

Libya is now more open to the West and the international population is growing rapidly. When the Anglicans outgrew their church in the flat, they asked the Islamic Call Society (which deals with all religious affairs in Libya) for larger premises. To their delight, they were given St. Mary's, a large church in the *medina*, the old part of town. St. Mary's is a historic church which goes back to the seventeenth

century when the Franciscans established a mission near a Turkish prison where foreign prisoners were held. The church feels like a cathedral, cool and echoey: wonderful as a monument, not so good as a worship space.

The congregation of about sixty are a mixture of people from the Indian sub-continent, some Nigerians and a few westerners. There is also an Arabic-speaking congregation, mainly of Egyptian and Lebanese Christians. We enjoyed meeting them when we made a brief visit last Palm Sunday weekend. Later we walked around the *medina*, with its traditional *souk* [market] in a network of covered passages.

Libya has many interesting facets. The national museum has sections devoted to pre-history, the Punic and Greek period, the Roman period (Libya has some of the finest Roman ruins in the world) and the Islamic period. There is also the Mediterranean close by, so start making plans to visit us!

TO PRAY see day 2

Our main prayer requests are:

for the right person to be found to be the next chaplain at St. Matthew's, Addis Ababa;

for our transition to Tripoli, that we may quickly find a suitable place to live and get to know the congregation and ministry team;

for God's rich blessing on the church in Tripoli over the coming months and years. ■

Ministry to the international community: ICS mission partners will start work this autumn in Tunisia and Libya and we are assisting the Bishop with recruitment and funding for posts in Egypt and Algeria.





Christ as Lord in Prague

'... in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have ...' 1 Peter 3: 15 (NIV)



John and Margaret Philpott

Setting apart Christ as Lord will have different results for different people. For us it meant teaching in Uganda in our twenties, and parochial ministry in England in our thirties, forties and most of our fifties. But after that it meant responding to a very strong push from God to apply for the Prague chaplaincy which was vacant in early 2000. For nearly eight years Prague was to be the setting in which we continued to set apart Christ as Lord. We write in the plural because, whilst John was the chaplain and Margaret the accompanying wife, we felt that this was very much a joint enterprise—a privilege experienced by many married people in ministry.

Prague was a glorious setting in which to declare Christ's lordship. Prague's art, architecture, music and spectacular views were a cultural feast. However, wherever a culture does not acknowledge its Creator there are bound to be issues. The dying god of Marxism showed occasional signs of rising; but all too easily it was the god of western-style consumerism under the protection of NATO and the EU which came to hold centre stage. In that setting, national churches struggled to be heard giving voice to the hope that was in them. The church and the faith were seen by the vast majority as the irrational obsessions of those who, in spite of the Enlightenment, had refused to be enlightened.

The 9/11 terrorist attack with the resultant chorus of 'religion does more harm than good' was both a challenge to the faith and an opportunity to declare it afresh. What we trust we were able to do through the ministry of the English-speaking Church of St. Clement was to give people reason to believe. Whilst this was not in some rarefied intellectual way, the faith that was presented was intelligent even in its inherent foolishness (1 Corinthians 1: 18ff). The historicity of Jesus Son of God, the relevance of Scripture to daily life and the corporate fellowship of the church compared to the world's isolating individualism, were recurring themes.

Over the years we rejoiced with those who came to faith and, more frequently, those who came back to faith. Adult

baptisms and confirmations were a great joy in this context. We hope the ladies reading this will understand if we say it was very encouraging that there were often many more men in the congregation than women. In part this reflects the fact that there are many single businessmen as well as male students and teachers of English as a foreign language in Prague; but we also dare to believe that St. Clement's Church offered a vision of the faith and a way of life to which men could relate.

A midweek prayer breakfast, a midweek Bible study and the occasional seminar series were not just opportunities to see how the faith could impact the issues that we face as individuals but also what it had to say to the world at large. Homosexuality, the Just War, Anglicanism, Death and Dying and Global Warming were some of the issues tackled in seminars. At the prayer breakfasts we looked at work-related issues such as ethics in the work place, biblical economics and justice. The aim was to locate the faith in the reality of people's everyday lives rather than allow it to be a form of pious escapism.

Having in the congregation students who were studying at the Protestant Theological Faculty was a great privilege, because not only were they encouraging but they were also being helped to think through their future ministries and their use of Scripture. Theological education, even for future ministers in Central Europe, is still very academic so it was a joy to be able to demonstrate something of the practicalities of church life and ministry to those who will take up the baton and give reason for the faith that is in them. Two former members of the Prague congregation—one Czech (Petra Hánová) and one English (Alan Beahan)—are now serving in Liverpool Diocese as parish clergy. Thus new voices speak of the hope that is theirs.

Another encouragement during our time there was the growth of work with families. International weddings were a great opportunity to reveal the implications of the faith. Careful preparation of those wishing to marry led to ongoing contacts, requests for baptism and, in time, youngsters in the Sunday School. More than anything this has changed the profile of the church from one which was just there to serve the spiritual needs of those on the move to

one which is also for those who see their future being lived out in Prague. Amongst the children in the church are many who have been adopted. They are especially precious.

We are enormously grateful to the Diocese in Europe, the Old Catholic Church and ICS for enabling us to live out the reality of Christ's lordship in the context of the Anglican Episcopal Church of St. Clement, Prague. The ever-changing congregation, the joy of meeting with a steady stream of tourists, and insights into a country whose faith history is different from ours are things to treasure. Our prayer is that the church will thrive with its new chaplain, and that it will survive the divisive forces from left and right which are threatening to split the Anglican Communion.

John and Margaret Philpott have just returned from Prague after eight years as ICS mission partners serving in the Diocese in Europe and Old Catholic Church.



Ricky and Sybille Yates

ICS and St. Clement's

The new chaplain, Ricky Yates, will be licensed in Prague on Tuesday 28 October and enjoy the licence of the Bishop in Europe and the Bishop of the Old Catholic Church in Prague.

At the invitation of the Bishop in Europe, ICS recruited and funded John Philpott to serve as Prague's chaplain from 2000 onwards, and we have since supported the chaplaincy on a reducing basis as it works towards self-sufficiency; this can often take ten years, given the normal high turnover of chaplaincy congregations. Your help in providing this important support would be a great encouragement. ■

TO GIVE see centre section

ICS's contribution is currently around £4,800/€6,000/CHF9,600 annually, plus one-off recruitment and outward removal costs this year for the new chaplain. We would welcome your help to fund this appointment. See back cover for other ways to give to ICS.

St. Clement's is the only Anglican church in the Czech Republic.





From seasonal chaplaincy to church

The Aquitaine Chaplaincy holds services across its region, and Reader Madeleine Holmes tells of church growth at one centre in the Dordogne, Sainte Nathalène.



Madeleine's licensing by
Bishop Geoffrey on
14 June

Initially this church building was used for services only in the summer holiday season, when the Intercontinental Church Society provided a seasonal chaplain to lead worship for holidaymakers in the area. Resident worshippers living within a forty kilometre radius swelled the congregation and eventually there was a desire for services all the year round for the residents. For the past year or so, services have been held fortnightly at the delightful church at St. Nat's and a congregation varying between ten and twenty-five people meet to worship.

The church has a reputation for being welcoming, warm and responsive. They are not a congregation to be easily fazed either! On Sunday 20 April the organiser discovered that a double booking had been made for the day. Instead of the Prayer and Praise Service for the members of the congregation, it was discovered that the Bishop of Perigueux would be presiding at a baptism in the church.



The service in the café

On impulse the organiser, Judith Thomason, asked the owner of the nearby *hostellerie* if he would allow the congregation to hold their service in his establishment. Without a hesitation Jean-Pierre said 'by all means'. Hastily dining tables were removed, keyboard, OHP, cross and candles were swiftly brought from the church and installed, and with twenty-two members of the congregation the Prayer and Praise Service went ahead in warm, congenial surroundings whilst the regulars popped into the bar next door for their usual coffee and cognac!



The congregation's
worship leaders

God moves in mysterious ways and he certainly made the way smooth for St. Nat's to worship on that Sunday, with the knowledge and approval of the Bishop of Perigueux too! Do come and visit us if you are in the area any time. ■



At Europe's heart

Robert Innes, Chaplain of Holy Trinity, Brussels (HTB), spoke at ICS's Public Meeting in June about the ministry of the pro-Cathedral 'to Brussels and beyond'.



The Innes family

Brussels has a population of about one million. Most are Belgians, but there are people in Brussels from practically every country in the world. It houses the headquarters of the EU Institutions and of NATO, which attracts diplomatic and business people. As the capital of Belgium, it draws many others, including asylum seekers and refugees as well as ambassadors and executives. Some of our international community are rich, some are very poor. What many of them have in common is the most widely spoken language in the world—bad English.

Not always bad: at least 25,000 people in Brussels speak English as their mother tongue. Probably a similar number use English as a daily means of communication. About a third of the people of Brussels speak English reasonably well. So, English-speaking ministry is relevant to a potentially huge constituency in Brussels.

Holy Trinity is quite a large church. On a typical Sunday, three to four hundred people come through our doors. This afternoon I would like to tell you a little about our church: firstly, some of its ministries; secondly, some of the challenges we face; and thirdly, the difference we can make to people's lives. But my talk is entitled, 'Brussels and beyond', so I want to conclude by talking about my wider role as President of the Central Committee in Belgium, and some of the opportunities that role opens up.

Ministries of Holy Trinity Brussels

African Ministry Forty per cent of the membership of HTB is African. Many Africans come to our main 10.30 service. In addition we have a special African-style service at 14.00. Some come as diplomats or businesspeople. Others come as refugees, fleeing persecution or simply looking for a better life. We have a community of francophone Anglicans who came to Belgium from Rwanda after the genocide. We also have mother tongue English-speakers from Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda and so on. My Nigerian colleague, Augustine Nwaekwe, has particular responsibility for African ministry.



The Nwaekwe family



European Institutions By contrast, another aspect of our ministry is with the institutions of the European Union, and those who work in them. A lot of those who work for the European Commission or the Council are younger people doing short 'stages' or three year placements. Our 19.00 service is particularly intended to meet their needs. Single people need friends, and so our evening service has a strong social component, with people going out for a drink or a meal after the service and often meeting up with each other during the week. My new colleague, Dr Gary Wilton, the first Church of England Representative to the European Institutions, has particular responsibility for this area of work.

Music One of the features of Holy Trinity is our music. We are fortunate to be able to employ a Precentor, Dr David Mitchell who takes overall responsibility for the pro-Cathedral's music. In the morning we have a robed choir with traditional hymns and songs, much as you'd find in many English parish churches. In the afternoon, the atmosphere is very different. We have a black-robed choir, with Pentecostal-style singing. Then in the evening we have an informal worship band, playing contemporary soft rock. David Mitchell oversees all this. His own tastes include everything from Flemish baroque to African spirituals, and he is a talented composer in his own right. In continental Catholic and Protestant churches, music can be rather weak, so the strong musical tradition at Holy Trinity is a great source of attraction.



Holy Trinity,
at the heart of Brussels

Three challenges

Being a cathedral, HTB is quite a complex operation with big buildings to look after. Managing ourselves, in a foreign city, under Napoleonic administrative law, is a real challenge. A year or two ago we almost sank under the difficulty of managing ourselves financially.

Communication With people from so many different cultures and backgrounds we have to work very hard at communication. Our people have different understandings about time, money, cleanliness, property, children. Misunderstandings can arise quickly and we are constantly

having to work to help people understand one another better.

Building community Our people are scattered all over the city of Brussels and beyond. We struggle to get people together, except on Sundays. So, two annual house parties, homegroups meeting across the city, a telephone prayer request system . . . these kinds of things are needed to try to build something like the sense of community that you might get in a more traditional church.

Does it all make a difference?

Most emphatically, yes. I think of Mark, a philosophy research student in his late twenties, who has found faith as an adult and whom I baptised last week; or Lois, a girl in her early twenties who will be baptised by total immersion in a pool in our church courtyard in August; or Zietse and Maureen, two nine-year-olds who told me that they wanted to follow God and whom I baptised and admitted to Communion last month.

Then there is Jacqueline and Menno: Jacqueline with a Hong Kong Chinese background, Menno with a Dutch Catholic background, who found HTB on the Internet because they were looking for an English-speaking church in which to get married. They enjoyed the wedding so much that they have stayed and now sing in our choir.

Or I think of some of our distinguished older members. After a lifetime of service to the church, they expect and deserve pastoral care and support to sustain them through what can be the difficult personal circumstances of being elderly in a foreign country.

Brussels and beyond

Beyond Brussels itself, HTB has a fine history of church planting. St. Paul's, Tervuren and All Saints, Waterloo are now both mature congregations in suburban areas of Brussels. Tervuren has a church plant of its own. Further afield, HTB is involved in St. Mary and St. Martha, Leuven, a small student church with enormous potential. Leuven is a fine medieval university city, which boasts the largest theological library in the world. I would love to see the Church of England establish a theological institute in

Leuven in co-operation with our ecumenical partners. The Diocese in Europe needs to be training its clergy in Europe, not just sending them back to Britain, and Leuven could be the place to do it.

Anglicans have a special status in Belgium. The Belgian state helps to fund both our clergy and our buildings.* As President of the Central Committee it is my particular responsibility to look after these funding relationships and our diplomatic relationships with the State.

The Church of England has many opportunities in Belgium. We offer a combination of spiritual life, humanity, and liturgical order not found anywhere else. I'm keen to work with ICS and the Diocese to develop and extend our mission here. It is challenging work, but deeply worthwhile. And I would like to see this work continued in Brussels, and beyond. So that, not only will the Church in England be a resource to English-speakers in Belgium, but that maybe the church in Belgium could be a resource and an inspiration for the people of England and the rest of the UK. ■

TO PRAY see day 4

*HTB's buildings are owned by ICS.

Belgium is divided into Flemish-speaking Flanders and French-speaking Wallonia; population 10.4 million





TUI Thomson revisited

'Pray for us also, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ.' Colossians 4:3 (RSV). Seasonal chaplain Colin Pontin tells of the outreach in Ibiza.



Colin and Jenifer Pontin

When, after more than twenty years, TUI's arrangement for ICS seasonal chaplains to be part of Thomson 'Young at Heart' Holidays in the Mediterranean ended, it seemed that such outreach would also cease. Then, out of the blue, a request came from the Ibiza chaplaincy for help in extending the work of the church among summer tourists.

Ibiza, far from being the media stereotype of a hedonistic playground for hippies, drunks and junkies, is in fact a very lovely island with a huge appeal, catering for thousands of summer holidaymakers. There is, of course, the downside of this, centred on the town of San Antonio and parts of Ibiza Town, and a great Christian work under the name of 24/7 (supported by the local church) seeks to meet these very special needs. However, we were asked to work in the resorts of Santa Eulalia, Es Canar and Cala Longa on the east side of the island among more typical holidaymakers: old and young, singles and families, with all the joys and sorrows of people everywhere, who, contrary to what the travel agents would tell us, carry their burdens and problems with them. Our brief was to develop the Christian work in these areas: begun by the local church and congregation but unable to be developed through lack of time or resource.

At the beginning of the season our first priority was to recommence a Songs of Praise service previously held in one of the local Thomson Gold hotels and to introduce a similar service at another hotel in the nearby town of Santa Eulalia, these services to be a stepping-stone to a wider ministry.

Bob Short, the Ibiza chaplain, had already established good relationships with the hotel management and staff, and the Thomson representatives, who invited us to the Welcome Meetings for new intakes of guests. The meetings, four times a week in each hotel, allowed us to meet the guests on a one-to-one basis. This was excellent for promoting the services, raising the profile of the chaplaincy team and emphasising our availability, either direct or through the Thomson reps.

To raise the profile of the chaplains in the town we all made a point of being out in the resorts and having a coffee in the cafés along the promenades, where dog-collars and official badges were a novelty for the crowds enjoying their full English breakfast! Many interesting conversations arose during these times, plus quite a bit of barracking.

The hotels were keen to promote one of Bob's ideas: the possibility of offering holidaymakers services of blessing for special occasions including the renewal of wedding vows. During the season we helped celebrate Golden and Silver Weddings, birthdays and anniversaries and also a baptism: often in the hotel grounds witnessed by the crowds around the swimming pools or in the lounges. Those involved, and their friends, were much impressed by the availability of the services in the hotels and the presence of a chaplain to conduct them. Some have kept in touch with the chaplains after what had obviously proved to be a memorable moment for them during their holiday.



Through the generosity of the local Roman Catholic Church, with whom the Anglicans there have excellent relations, the Chapel in Es Canar had been made available for an Anglican service each Sunday morning. This proved very popular with Christians of all denominations.

All the chaplains received many comments from people attending the services, especially Songs of Praise, saying that they had been touched by God in special ways, with spiritual needs met, encouragement brought in facing personal problems, and 'lost' faith re-established (perhaps 'misaid' would be a better word!). We ourselves were encouraged in turn by some 'God-incidences': ourselves and other people being in the right place at the right time for God to meet very personal needs.

One day, for example, as I left the hotel in Ibiza a gentleman in the foyer approached me, telling me with tears running down his cheeks that his wife was suffering from terminal cancer but they had wanted to come away for one more time together, possibly the last. We were able to pray together. He told me that whilst they had a faith they went through times of great depression and one such time was the previous Sunday. On their way to the dining room they had passed our little group celebrating a Songs of Praise



service in the lounge. I sometimes play pieces of music which I think will have a universal appeal: all sorts of people pass by and who knows what may touch them! On this occasion I was playing, though my computer, Aled Jones singing 'I'll raise you up', which is not a hymn but has very strong Christian message:

When I am down and oh my soul's so weary,
When troubles come and my heart burdened be,
You raise me up so I can stand on mountains,
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up to more than I can be.

My friend said, 'Listening to that song we felt that God had spoken to us: we went on our way greatly comforted.'

Whilst mainly ministering to Christian holidaymakers, we encountered the real needs of those of different faiths and some apparently of none; many seemed encouraged by their contact with a Christian presence. Friendships were formed, Christian literature was distributed, and specific needs in people's lives were addressed.

The presence and activities of a seasonal chaplain are quickly becoming an accepted part of hotel life and there is potential for this to expand as staff and reps see that seasonal chaplains are not there just to hold Songs of Praise on Sundays but to assist with the needs of all. Sunday morning services at the chapel in Es Canar have also become established and appreciated in the town.

Following this first stage of ministry in 2007 we felt that there was much on which to build. Ibiza attracts some two million visitors each summer, approximately one quarter of whom are British. Good relationships with the permanent English-speaking congregation will continue to be vital so that the seasonal work on Ibiza is seen an integral part of their wider church ministry.

So, as we go forward this season please pray:

for Bob and Clare Short, their team and congregation in their work among resident English-speaking people;

for the work of 24/7 among young clubbers in San Antonio;

for the seasonal chaplains' work among holidaymakers until October: three couples, each for eight weeks. ■

TO GIVE

see centre section

To provide a seasonal chaplain in Ibiza costs ICS weekly £370/€460/CHF740. If you would like to sponsor a week, please use the donation section of the form in the centre, or give on line and select 'seasonal outreach—Ibiza' on our donation page as the project you wish to support.

TO PRAY see day 29

This is an abridged version of Colin's talk, given at our Public Meeting.



The Commission we share

We invited former mission partner Jonathan Fraiss to preach at our Public Meeting, and there follows the text of his sermon which was based on Matthew 28: 16–20 (NIV).



Jonathan Fraiss

Mr Chairman, brothers and sisters in Christ, thank you for asking me to give this sermon. I see many friends here—some from the south coast, some family, some colleagues from my own days as an ICS-supported chaplain—and I want to turn prayerfully with you now to an old friend, the Great Commission.

Board games these days are frustrating because my wife, Ruth (also here), is often better at them than me. One such game is Balderdash and a recent word she served up to me was sermuncle (meaning, as I discovered, a short sermon) and that is what I bring you now.

I start with three words of context. Firstly, *mountain*: the disciples went 'to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go' (v16). Famously, Moses had received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, so such a meeting place makes us contrast the Lord Jesus with the great Old Testament leader of God's people.

Matthew has an eye for the Jew (and, by secondary application, the naturally religious person—the one who fears God, loves righteousness, knows faith is important, but often does not know how to respond to God). Hence the



writer of the first Gospel records Jesus reaching out to those who are weighed down by religious obligations saying, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest' (11: 28). So, although belonging might precede believing, turning to Christ for yourself is vital. Have you done that?

Here is another symbol of the Jewish background. The first five books of the Bible are known as the Law (or Books) of Moses, and Matthew structures his Gospel around five sermons: discipleship (the Sermon on the Mount, chapters 5–7), mission (10), the kingdom (13), church (18) and the end times (24–25). These are the new building blocks for faith. So Jesus is the new Moses; but because he had no sins of his own to die for, he is the greater mediator between God and people.

The next word of context is *eleven*: 'the eleven disciples went to the mountain' (v16). Not twelve, of course, because Judas, the traitor, has hanged himself. And our Lord bears the scars of that betrayal in his hands, side and feet. And, if you follow him, you too will accumulate the bruises and wounds of discipleship as you endure the hardships which are the path to glory.

Thirdly, *doubt*: 'When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted' (v17). It is an interesting doublet—and always true. So, our home churches are a collection of worshippers and doubters. In the chaplaincies there are worshippers and doubters. And even here today at this Public Meeting, there are worshippers and doubters. Some doubt the gospel, others our vision, and yet others the decisions of the Council. It is always this way; so we encourage everyone, feed the spiritually hungry and leave the results to the Lord.

To sum up, the context is that Jesus is our mediator, faith is a battle, and doubt is ever present. And now we turn to the four 'alls'.

First, Jesus says, '*All authority* in heaven and earth has been given to me' (v18). Secular authorities and leaders' decisions may open doors for us or appear to frustrate our plans. But Christ is in charge. And whenever troubles arise, our greatest comfort is that God remains sovereignly in command of his world and does what pleases him.

Second, we are to 'make disciples of *all nations*' (v19). ICS is one of those mission agencies that takes this seriously and



Making disciples of all nations in Famagusta, a new church part-funded by ICS

that is why I am delighted to be a member of it. One friend suggested that a missionary is sometimes 'a believer with a travel bug'; this may be so but we must send able ministers wherever we can. 'What should I pray for?' I asked a former Chief Executive of ICS. 'For the right people to offer for work that we may continue the job at hand.'

Third, we are to teach these disciples 'to obey everything I have commanded you' (v20). 'Everything' or '*all things*' includes the nature of the problem we face: the wicked 'will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life' (25: 46). This is a fearful verse but one we must face. For we have an immortal soul and it has to go somewhere. 'All things' also includes the solution: the angel told Joseph to call Mary's child Jesus because 'he will save us from our sins' (1: 21). And 'all things' includes holiness: in the Sermon on the Mount we go from beatitude attitudes, through the Lord's Prayer to the Golden Rule. We are an evangelical society and we teach the biblical problem, the biblical solution and the biblical response.

Fourthly, *all time*: 'And surely I am with you always [for all time], to the end of the age' (v20). What an encouragement this is! What reassurance! Time is God's resource and we use it for his glory and he personally accompanies us in the work. So join up today for this gospel work and help us to use the opportunities the Lord has given us.

We have authority to go, nations to reach, things to say and time to use. May our gracious Lord fulfil his good purpose for ICS and continue to give us the resources to complete the task.

The ICS Prayer Lord Jesus Christ, you called your disciples into your service and sent them to take the good news of the gospel to the whole world.

Give your grace and power, I/we pray, to all who go through ICS to minister to English-speaking people worldwide.

Grant them a vision of the task so that, through their ministry, many may come to a knowledge of your glorious salvation and be established in the fellowship of your church. To the glory of your holy name. Amen. ■



News from the chaplains

Further information for praise and prayer is found on the indicated relevant day of the Prayer Diary each month, which begins on page 25.

ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa Alpha Ethiopia, recently officially registered with the government, has an office on the St. Matthew's compound. The co-ordinator is an energetic young man, Addis Getachew. Over 300 church leaders and youth workers have attended training events held here over the last six months, from many different denominations: may many of these churches now start Alpha programmes.

TO PRAY see day 1

FRANCE

Aquitaine On 14 June, Madeleine Holmes was admitted and licensed as Reader by Bishop Geoffrey. Her ministry started long ago, as a lay assistant and leader of a fellowship group at Petites Côtes in the Dordogne. She is now involved in an outreach radio programme in English on a local French radio station. Lay ministry is very important over the vast territory of Aquitaine. Give thanks for the written Word and the many disciples who spread it far and wide.

Grenoble We have benefited from a good group of students who joined our church—we pray for more this autumn. As more French- and Chinese-speakers join our church we need to think afresh how we can best minister to them.

Versailles and Chevry Sadly, the planned autumn youth mission to Mae Sot on the Thai-Burmese border had to be cancelled because of restrictions by the Thai police. Instead, the youth have led the church by raising funds by many ingenious and imaginative means and have sent solar panels, a guitar and specially designed T-shirts to the orphanage they would have been visiting. However, as a result much love and prayer for Burma has been generated.

TO PRAY see days 7–13

GERMANY

Düsseldorf We appear to be losing more church members this summer than at first thought. We would value some experienced believers amidst newcomers to help shoulder ministry responsibilities and opportunities.

TO PRAY see day 14

GREECE

Corfu Regular holiday visitors have offered their musical talents: in May, Owen Rayment (Bridgend Gideons) held another joint Songs of Praise at the Corfu Palace Hotel, with HTC and the Greek Evangelical Church. In July Ken Carter



TO PRAY see day 15

THE NETHERLANDS

(Saturday shoppers' services at St. Martins-in-the-Bullring, Birmingham) led an evening Songs of Praise at the Chandris Hotel. At the end of July two outstanding violinists, teachers at the Ionian Music Summer School, joined Rob Sherrat at the keyboard in HTC to lead morning worship.

Amsterdam South 'Men on Mountains': in the Netherlands? Well maybe in the future; we aspire to being a group of men from Christ Church, Amsterdam who are committed enough to each other to value going away for a couple of days of fun, activity, meeting with God, and deepening friendships. We started small, with fourteen of us (from seven different cultures) going away one weekend in June.

Utrecht We have just launched a restoration appeal for the fine stained glass windows by Jersey artist Thomas Bosdet, initially for the large west window depicting the crucifixion. If there are any Holy Trinity supporters out there who would like to help, we should be delighted. You may give tax-efficiently via ICS—contact Maggie for a form. Please see our web site (www.holytrinityutrecht.nl) for more details.

TO PRAY see days 16–20

SPAIN

Ibiza In October, we will work with local people in San Antonio on a large cross-cultural music event to support local charities and Mercy Trucks. In November, we have our own Mercy Trucks fund-raiser and our Christmas fair—a great opportunity to meet with our island community.

TO PRAY see day 21

SWITZERLAND

Vevey All Saints' has started two main Sunday morning services, aiming to plant a new Sunday school in the 09.00 service by the beginning of 2009. A representative from CPAS will be leading a training day for new Sunday school teachers in September, and then the team of volunteers will prepare to take this next key step in our church's life.

TO PRAY see days 22–24

CHILE

Viña del Mar With a mainly elderly congregation, illness makes it difficult for some to come to church. However, we have a number of new attendees who have come to Chile for work. The challenge is to give spiritual care to all the different groups, and to help the body of committed members to look at ways of drawing in newcomers more effectively.

TO PRAY see day 27

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Stanley A Sunday service from the Cathedral is regularly broadcast Islands-wide. Residents of isolated settlements and those out trawling for fish in local waters listen in. ■

TO PRAY see day 28



Comings and Goings

We were delighted to see so many attend our AGM and public meeting on 11 June, highlights of which are printed in this edition. At our AGM, Alan Strange stood down as Chairman and was replaced by John Moore; we said farewell to Council Members Peter Walley, Madge Olby and John Corbyn who have all given many hours of diligent service to the Society; and we welcomed Ambrose Mason to the Council. Mrs Gill Lea was awarded Life Membership to mark her service to the Society. In June we also said farewell to Peter Luson, our Operations Manager, whose professionalism and skills were widely valued; he has left ICS as part of a management restructuring.

We welcome as mission partners: Bill Musk, and Hilary, (see page 2) going to Tunis, to be instituted on 22 November; Ricky Yates, and Sibylle, the new chaplain in Prague (licensing 28 October); John (and Claudia) Moore and Charmaine (and Ian) Host to the staff of St. Michael's, Paris; and Bradley (and Marit) Long, the new curate in The Hague. We say farewell to the Riordan family from Tervuren as Sean is to be Associate Vicar in Woodley, Oxford Diocese from September. Andrew Tweedy (to be licensed on 19 September) is the new chaplain in Barcelona and Peter Jordan will work for the Archdeacon on a fixed-term project exploring for of English-language mission and ministry in the wider region.

Can you help us?

Earlier this year we welcomed John Dinnen as voluntary Honorary Travelling Secretary for ICS in Northern Ireland; John will be locally promoting ICS through speaking at churches and meetings such as coffee mornings, and organising prayer events for supporters. We would like to expand this scheme so would value your prayers that we would find people to undertake this role, who understand ICS well, who have (preferably) served in a chaplaincy, are able and diplomatic public communicators, and share our vision to spread the gospel amongst English-speakers.

We would like to start more ICS prayer groups: would you help us start one? We also need more volunteers to assist with mailings from the office in Warwick (tea and biscuits provided!): call Jeanette for information. ■



David Healey