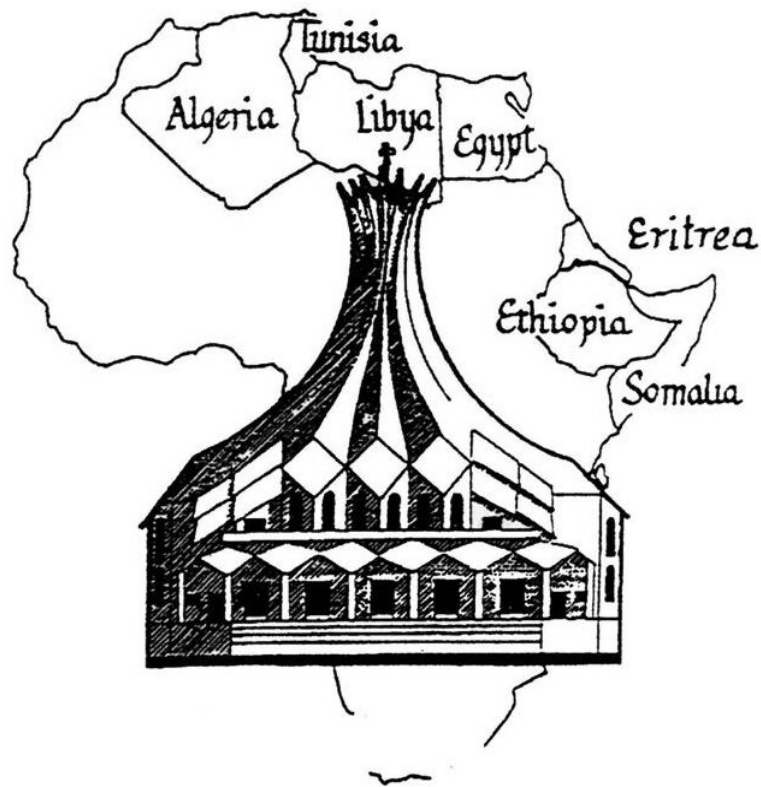




Egypt

Diocesan Association



AUTUMN NEWS
2009



EGYPT DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION
The Episcopal/ Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and The Horn of Africa
(Registered Charity No. 209145)

President: The Bishop in Egypt

From the Chairman: Canon Huw Thomas

Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to visit the diocese on your behalf in June and to share in three significant occasions and celebrations: the meeting of Synod, the 75th anniversary of Jesus Light of the World Church – the Temple-Gairdner memorial in Old Cairo, and then the “Commencement” or Graduation Ceremony of the first group of students from the Alexandria School of Theology.

It was an encouraging sequence of events with Synod engaged in present circumstances and issues, Old Cairo recalling so many past blessings and then the fresh graduates representing new resources and vision for the future.

Such is the growth of activity and mission development in each of the three Episcopal areas, Egypt, Ethiopia and the Horn, and most recently North Africa that Synod happily agreed to Bishop Mounner’s proposal that each region convene its own area synod annually, alternating with a diocesan gathering for sharing common concerns and support . Apart from significant cost-saving this will allow more concentrated focus on the issues specific to each area.

Again, at our EDA Annual Meetings we shall welcome the three bishops, diocesan and area, in rotation, thus informing ourselves in greater detail of the situations faced in each region. And what crucially significant regions they are, and how privileged we in turn are to be given opportunity to share knowledge, insight and first-hand experience of issues faced in each part of this huge territory by fellow-christians there!

It is clear too that the EDA should give thought to how its own role and activities should perhaps be adjusted to match more proportionately the recent expansion and development of the diocese. The committee are beginning to put their minds to this so as to bring something forward for your consideration in due course.

I do hope you will mark next year’s AGM date firmly in your diaries. Bishop Andrew Proud will be our guest and assist us towards an informed concern and care for the huge challenges his pastoral area faces with such courage .

Meanwhile we continue in prayer for the whole diocese and its leaders and pastors.

Huw Thomas.

From the Hon. Treasurer: Canon Peter Heartfield

I can report that the total sum raised so far this year is just over £7,815 from all sources and which includes a legacy of £1,000 from Pat & Marion Ashe. Marion, as many of you know, was the daughter of Bishop Frank Johnston who, as both Archdeacon and Bishop, gave so much to the diocese together with his wife, Gladys; he died in 1963 during his address at an Arnhem Memorial Service in Aldershot.

This income, together with the balance left over from 2008, has allowed us to make grants to various aspects of the ministry in the diocese and, at the suggestion of the Bishop, we are donating £2,500 each to Egypt, Tunisia and Ethiopia. All three parts of the diocese are going through a period of expansion and urgently need funds to deal with that expansion.

Two important aspects of our own funding, apart from general subscriptions, are Gift Aid and legacies. Most of our members subscribe under Gift Aid, and we are grateful for that as it has amounted to the fact that we have been able to reclaim nearly £700 from the Inland Revenue this year but we do commend legacies for your consideration. Should you wish to earmark any such gift for a particular part of the diocese or any particular project then this is easily arranged. We have been fortunate in receiving one or two legacies in the past few years and this has played a tremendously important part in the grants which we have been able to make and which have been increasingly welcomed by the various projects within the diocese.

Thank you all for your continued support and interest.

Peter Heartfield

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News from Bishop Bill Musk, Tunis

Prayers please for Algiers, Algeria. Rev Canon Colin Chapman and his wife Anne have received visas permitting them (with the generous support of I.C.S.) to spend three weeks at Holy Trinity, Algiers on a locum placement. During that period, also, Bishop Mouneer and Nancy will be making a pastoral visit. This is great news! We are praying for progress in finding a suitable chaplain for the church, with giving support in the meantime to the (mostly student) congregation there, and in sorting out a final solution to the difficulties that have continued for over a decade with regard to ownership of and access to the property of the church in Algiers. November is the month for good movement forward for Holy Trinity, Algiers!

Prayers please for Tripoli, Libya. We are gradually moving forward a process of appointment (once there is agreement from all parties plus a realistic probability of obtaining necessary visas etc) of a third ordained person to the chaplaincy team at Christ the King, Tripoli. The dynamic and growing church in Tripoli needs a strengthened team, in order for various potential streams of growth of ministry to come to fulfilment.

Prayers please for Tunis, Tunisia, where Sunday saw us yet again with standing room only at our second Sunday service and scratching our heads as to how we are going to accommodate all our Sunday School and youth classes now that the summer has passed and we can no longer sit groups outside in the shade.

Gifts of Hope, Ethiopia

Bishop Andrew Proud and Dr Janice Proud send greetings from the Anglican Church in Ethiopia and thank you for your support of our work over the last year. Janice writes: 'Last year ended with our first visit to a remote mission centre, Dimma, to the south of the rest of our churches. We were able to celebrate Christmas with them and visit Gedu, where a new congregation meets under a tree. Thanks to the Gifts of Hope catalogue, we were able to leave Wilson money to build a church in Gedu. When he met us in Mizan Teferi, the nearest town, we ordered chairs and a desk for him. We also took for the church an altar cloth, cross and candles; stationary for the office; footballs, volley and net, for the young people. We were also able to help send some sick people to the clinic for treatment.

This was just one small pocket of need that we were able to help with on one visit. The monies raised through the Gifts of Hope catalogue throughout the year allow us to meet needs like these that would otherwise be beyond our ability to respond to. The school sponsorship continues to be much appreciated. At this year's distribution, ETV the national television station, filmed and broadcast our involvement with the local community. We are delighted that we are negotiating to open a new library in Addis Ababa, in response to the request of parents of sponsorship children near our office. We will be able to go ahead through support of Gifts of Hope and other donors. Your giving through the catalogue makes a difference and has an impact, so thank you again for your involvement.'

If you would like a catalogue, please contact Ian Stratford (Gifts of Hope), 2 Alders Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0ED. E-mail: istratford@aol.com

For gifts for Christmas, please ensure that your order is received by him by 11th December.

ALEXANDRIA SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

We are thankful to God for His continued blessing on us as evidenced in these very significant new developments:

First graduation ceremony on 20th June:

This was a historic and blessed occasion celebrating the graduation of seventeen students with a Bachelor in Theology and seven students with a Diploma.

Ordinations:

Two of our students, Rev. Bahig Ramzy and Rev. Faiz Nady, were ordained priest and deacon respectively.

First 'home-grown' Arabic speaking faculty:

Perhaps one of our greatest achievements is to have four of our recent Bachelor in Theology graduates teaching courses under the tutelage of faculty members.

Masters of Arts Program launched 24th August:

This was another dream come true! We launched two parallel Masters Programs, the first is the AST Masters Program offered in conjunction with Moore Theological College, Sydney, Australia and the second is the Moore Theological College Program offered at AST.

TEOFL & Theological English Programs:

These were established in both branches to prepare students for the MA Programs.

Expansion of facilities at both campuses:

In Alexandria, we remodelled and leased four rooms from the building owned by St. Mark's Pro-Cathedral and also remodelled some additional space within the Cathedral. In Cairo, we gained access to a new classroom plus a faculty room.

Thank you for your partnership in this very strategic venture and ask that you would pray for us as we seek His Way for the way ahead.

Helen Fraser, Development Officer, AST

Egypt Diocesan Association Annual Meeting and Service Thursday 10th June 2010

**St Andrew's Worship and Community Centre
Short Street
London SE1 8LJ**

From 11am: Coffee and conversation

12 noon: Service of Holy Communion

Lunch – bring your own.

Tea and coffee provided.

2pm (latest): Annual General Meeting Speaker: Bishop Andrew Proud

Directions: Leaving Waterloo Station via the Waterloo Road exit cross the road via the pedestrian traffic lights and turn right down the Waterloo Road. At the traffic lights turn left into The Cut. Short Street is the second turning on the right and the church is on the left at the end of the road.

