

Cathedral News

The Christmas newsletter of St Christopher's Cathedral and Awali Church

The great film director and screenwriter Stanley Kubrick in an interview spoke about *the very meaningless of life forcing man to create his own meaning... however vast the darkness, we must supply our own light.*

As we reflect on the Christmas message afresh, we can certainly agree with Kubrick that the world can be a very dark place, and the actions of men all too often deepen the darkness, but thankfully we are not reliant purely on humankind to create our own meaning or supply our own light; rather, in the coming of Jesus, "the true light, that gives light to every man, was coming into the world."



The re-telling of the story of Christmas is not the re-telling of a fairy story, but the amazing account of how God has come into our world and into our history in the birth of the baby Jesus. The fact that we are still celebrating this birth more than two thousand years later is remarkable enough, but the reality is that peoples' lives are still being transformed through their living encounter with Jesus through the retelling of the story and the life and worship of the Christian community. They are discovering a new meaning for their lives; they have found the Light. In the past few weeks three adults have been baptized and fifteen adults and youngsters from a variety of nationalities and backgrounds have been confirmed

Christmas Services

Friday 8th December

9.30am Nativity Play

Sunday 10th December

7.30pm Bring and share Advent and Christmas (*The Deanery*)

Sunday 17th December

6.15pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Friday 22nd December

9.30am Short Advent Service followed by Christingle Workshop

Sunday 24th December, Christmas Eve

10.30am Holy Communion

4.30pm Crib service (*Awali*)

4.30pm Christingle (*Cathedral*)

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day

10.00am Holy Communion (*Awali*)

10.30am Holy Communion (*Cathedral*)

Sunday 31st December

11.30pm Watchnight service (*Cathedral*)



We welcome children at all of our services but if you want to come to services which have children very much in mind, then the Nativity Play on Friday 8th December; the Simple Advent service and Christingle Workshop (always fun) on Friday 22nd December; the Christingle (*Cathedral*) and Crib (*Awali*) Services on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm; both Holy Communion services on Christmas Day at the Cathedral and Awali will be accessible to children.

Welcome to Anne!

On 12th February, shortly after the Diocesan Synod in Cyprus, we will be welcoming the Rev'd Anne Fitcher, who requested to come to Bahrain as a placement as part of her training. She has been given permission to officiate by Bishop Michael and she will be immersing herself into the life and worship of our community. She is currently serving as a curate in the Holyford Mission Community, serving five rural parishes in the Diocese of Exeter which is one of our partner Dioceses. Please enable her to get the best of her month in Bahrain by



inviting her into your homes. She is married to Christopher, who is the Archdeacon of Exeter.

Living Room Dialogues

The Living Room Dialogue will be continuing in the New Year with our usual variety of speakers:

Sunday 14th January – An evening with *Satheesh Paul*, a winner of the prestigious Sandro Boticelli Prize. He will reflect on his art and what inspires his work.



Sunday 18th February - *Judith Baker* will introduce the writings of the Franciscan priest *Richard Rohr*, founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation and encourage us to go deeper this Lent.



Sunday 11th March *Anne Fitcher*, on her last evening in Bahrain: A comparison of male and female discipleship in the Gospel of John.

There will be no Living Room Dialogue in April.



meets on **Friday mornings at 9.30am** for a lively and interesting programme for our children and young people, beginning in Church and then moving into a variety of age-related groups. Faith is explored in a safe environment through story, music, drama, craft and conversation using both Old and New Testaments of the Bible. If you would like to find out more, please be in touch with Natasha (Tel: 66330106) or Sara (Tel: 39449017). The Cathedral Office serves as a crèche room and is available for parents, as required, with the service piped through.

New Piano



We are very grateful for the support and encouragement of groups, companies and many individuals in the purchase of a new piano better suited to concerts in St Christopher's. Especially we thank Paul Bagshaw and the St Christopher's School Music Department for launching the appeal with a memorable concert, Ambassador Stores and DHL. A big thank you and warm wishes to *Nora Smith*, who has kindly co-ordinated our concert programme, as she returns with Adam to the United States in early 2018.

More information?

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