Late last year I had the privilege of a quick visit to Jerusalem and had the opportunity of going to the Garden tomb, a short distance outside the city walls. On the door to the tomb is the simple message: *He is not here. He is risen*, which was the message that the angel gave to Mary of Magdalene and another woman called Mary who had come to visit the tomb as the sun rose early on the Sunday morning, that first Easter Day.

Events had happened so quickly in the previous few days: the arrest of Jesus on the Thursday night in the Garden of Gethsemane; court appearances before the Sanhedrin, the religious council, and then before Pilate, who succumbs to the pressure of the crowds and orders his crucifixion; his death on the cross and the quick laying to rest of Jesus’ body in a tomb by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus before the onset of the Sabbath on Friday evening at sunset. It gave no time for Jesus’ followers to give him a proper burial or to grieve at the graveside and the first opportunity to visit his tomb was on the Sunday morning at first light.

Imagine their shock to find the tomb empty, but the message that they were given is one that has continued to resonate down the centuries: *He is not here. He is risen*. They certainly didn’t come to the tomb expecting the resurrection. They came in their different ways grief-stricken, fearful, theologically confused, full of doubts and prejudices, locked away from the world or planning to return to their old way of life. And that is where Jesus came and met each one of them, bringing each of them to the conviction that he had overcome death – He was alive. Death could not hold him.

### Holy Week and Easter Services

**at St Christopher’s Cathedral and Awali Church**

**Friday 23rd March 9.30am** Family Service

**Saturday 24th March 10.00am** Holy Communion (Awali)

**Palm Sunday 25th March 10.30am** Holy Communion

**Sunday 25th March 6.15pm** Holy Communion & Narration of The Passion

**Monday - Wednesday, 26th - 28th March**

8.00am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Stations of the Cross

**Maundy Thursday 29th March**

8.00am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Holy Communion and Footwashing

**Good Friday, 30th March**

9.30am Family Service – *Journeying with Jesus*

12noon - 3.00pm At the Cross – *Meditations on people who were there*

**Easter Eve Saturday 31st March**

6.30pm Easter Eve Vigil and Renewal of Baptism vows

**Easter Day 1st April**

5.00am Holy Communion (Tamil)

5.30am Ecumenical Sunrise Service (AMH car park)

9.30am Holy Communion (Awali Church)

10.00am Easter Egg hunt (Deanery Garden)

10.30am Family Communion

6.15pm Holy Communion
Thank you Anne!

It has been a pleasure welcoming the Rev’d Anne Futcher for a month at the beginning of Lent. Anne came from the Diocese of Exeter as part of her training as a curate, but has given so much in her time, immersing herself in the variety of opportunities for ministry in Bahrain as well as getting to know many of us in the Cathedral community. We wish her well for her future.

Welcome Christina and Angel!

The Rev’d Christina Mauntel is a US Navy Chaplain on the Base. Before joining the Navy she was a parish priest of an Episcopal/Lutheran parish in Alaska. Bishop Michael has given her permission to officiate in her two years in Bahrain, so she will be involved in the cathedral preaching and celebrating.

Dr Angel Afolabi is known to many of us, thoroughly involved in our community as a Friday Club teacher, heading up the Charity Centre’s ministry and serving on the Bahrain Anglican Church Council. She is following the Exploring Faith course and is now formally a Reader in training. In her day job Angel is a lead teacher in Maths and Science at the Nasser Vocational Centre.

Friday Club

Our Friday Club for children and young people meets regularly on Fridays at 9.30am meeting together first in the cathedral and then splitting up into various age-related groups exploring Bible stories and teaching in imaginative ways.

St Christopher’s Day Dinner

The Cathedral and Awali Church holds its annual St Christopher’s Day Dinner on Friday May 17th at the British Club. The speaker is Marietta Dias, the remarkable Chairperson of the Migrant Workers Protection Society, whose aim is to help expatriate workers achieve their basic human rights in accordance with internationally recognized standards.

Living Room Dialogues

Living Room Dialogues take place on Sunday evenings in The Deanery at 7.30pm, following our 6.15pm evening service. We have bring-and-share food first and always finish by 9.15pm.

Sunday 13th May: Monica Gorzna, Bahrain’s only Tea Master, will be sharing her passion for tea and there will be an opportunity to taste some of the wonderful teas that she has sourced and to hear of her journey in exploring tea.

Sunday 10th June: John Davies, a landscape architect, has been described as a product of the traditional school of English landscape design; a builder of the earthly paradise and a planter of poems. His philosophy aims to please the eye, gladden the heart and nourish the soul.

For more information on life at St Christopher’s Cathedral and Awali

Dean Chris Butt: Tel: 39522547/revbutt@ymail.com
Assistant Chaplain: Rev Canon Stephen Thanapaul
Tel: 39247413 stephentpaul@gmail.com
Administrator: Fozia Prince
Tel: 17246436/ cathedra@batelco.com
or visit our website: www.stchcathedral.org