

# Easter News 2018

*The Newsletter of St Christopher's Cathedral and Awali Church.*

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 24<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am** Holy Communion (*Awali*)

**Palm Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am** Holy Communion

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 6.15pm** Holy Communion & Narration of The Passion

**Monday - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**8.00am** Morning Prayer

**6.30pm** Stations of the Cross

**Maundy Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**8.00am** Morning Prayer

**6.30pm** Holy Communion and Footwashing



**Good Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**9.30am** Family Service – *Journeying with Jesus*

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

**Easter Eve Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

**6.30pm** Easter Eve Vigil and Renewal of Baptism vows

**Easter Day 1<sup>st</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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

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