



HOLY  
TRINITY  
CORFU



**PULSE**

THE NEWSLETTER OF HTC - Dec 2019

## INSIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

Dear Friends,

We've been thinking about how we share our faith on the Beautiful Lives course and it's given some unexpected insights and challenges!

For example, if we are to "shine like lights in the world" for our Lord, how is that going to be recognised as anything different from simply being a "good" person and helping out when we can? How is one deed identifiable by motive from another?

Or another question... who do we share our faith with and how? People who know us well... well they know us already!! People we don't know so closely... one thing that is very clear about our personal relationships with God is that they are deeply personal and moving. Not so easy to share such intimate details with those we're just getting to know? Not easy for us or them!!

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### CLARIFYING OUR FOCUS

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It has really made me think about what exactly it is that speaks into the hearts of our modern, post-truth (as some political commentators are now calling it) age. I think the answer lies in clarifying our focus. What is it that lies at the heart of our faith and our experience of God that we would really like others to share - to know about for themselves.

And for me the answer always comes back to a simple word - grace. The unconditional acceptance and love of our Creator that draws us into a life of peace; accepted, forgiven and released to be ourselves and to grow into who we are made to be. The truth we share about God is that He really is so wonderfully gracious and joyful!!

The question about distinguishing ourselves through our actions is an important one, of course. There is no doubt that prayer changes us; the work of the Holy Spirit shaping our priorities, changes us. We find we do have a "tug" on our hearts that is not easily ignored as we are called to share the love we have received. But really, the difference that Jesus makes is deeper than the outward acts - it's the peace and purpose that comes from living with our Lord in our lives. Accepted. Forgiven. Belonging. These are the deepest desires that can only be found in our relationship with God.

And so what is it that we are sharing with others when we are sharing our faith? Isn't it ourselves? We have found and been found by God, the One behind the universe. We have found that this relationship shifts life into another dimension; it changes everything for the better - creates hope and joy. And this has become part of who we are. Isn't our greatest challenge to share ourselves, our time, our lives with others? Not just our stories?



As we enter Advent and move towards Christmas, we are remembering that God's approach is to *share Himself with us* - remarkably simple and risky. He became one of us and lived with us. He came with a powerful proclamation of peace and

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joy to the world and then acted through Jesus in ways that meant people found acceptance, forgiveness and belonging when they had known only rejection and judgement. He shared "Himself", His time, His life with those he lived among. He prayed, spoke, listened, ate, drank, walked, travelled; and as He did He healed, shared, transformed, released... He was God *with* us. *Among* us. The miracle of the incarnation seems less about the spiritually creative process of God becoming human but more the simplicity and "local-ness" of the whole venture. He *lived* among us, with just a few of us. But the *way* he lived...

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## INSIDE-OUT

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And maybe this is the greatest challenge to us as we seek to turn our church "inside-out" and to invite others to share in the joy of knowing God; giving our time; having more time for people; being accepting of people different to us; forgiving and inviting others. All the things that Jesus has done for us first.

So I pray that you will all have a blessed and peaceful Christmas; that joy overflows in knowing the One who came among us is *your* friend and Lord; and may there be a simplicity to the festivities which reflect the simple wonder of God among us. With every blessing,

Jules.

P.S. This is a free resource on line to help us focus on the heart of Christmas. It looks good.

<http://www.acts-scotland.org/images/downloads/publications/ALTERNativity - Just God Simply Christmas.pdf>



# ALTERNativity

## Just God, Simply Christmas



## PART OF CORFU'S CULTURE!

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November Jules, Anne and Pauline were invited to meet the Deputy Mayor of Culture, Mrs. Tombrou, at The Old Town Hall in San Giacomo Square. ( How we received the appointment is another story.)

Jules, Anne and Pauline arrived at the appointed time and were warmly welcomed by Mrs. Tombrou. She had heard us singing Christmas Carols in the town in previous years, which she had enjoyed immensely.

Mrs. Tombrou is in the process of arranging a Christmas Village in San Giacomo Square and would like the Anglican Church to take part in the event, singing Christmas Carols. They have arranged for Philharmonic concerts, choirs, music groups, children's fairy tales, games and Father Christmas, with a letter box for the children to write their requests. These events will take place from the 21<sup>st</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> January. A date was set for the Christmas event in San Giacomo Square for 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 18:30. HTC will be singing Christmas Carols and the Jazz band is going to play, our program will last 20 minutes and our Christmas events will be included in the Demos' advertising.

Jules was able to raise some issues that affect Holy Trinity and were received sympathetically.

Mrs. Tombrou was invited to visit HTC and another appointment was made for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. She arrived with her assistant Sofia, neither had been in our part of the building before and they were enchanted with the simplicity of our Church.

They saw the need for the refurbishment we are planning for the community area. Jules showed them the plans and the difference it would make. Jules told them we have further plans for a Cultural Centre, showing the history of the British in Corfu, which was received with interest.

The meetings were very encouraging and we had constructive discussions.





# CHRISTMAS AT HOLY TRINITY CORFU

- Fri. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Nicholas' Day Christmas Market  
6:00 - 9:00pm
- Fri. 20<sup>th</sup> Carols at Messonghi Catholic Chapel  
6:00pm
- Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> Kassiopi Carols. Lekas Taverna -  
7:00pm
- Sun. 22<sup>nd</sup> Carols by Candlelight - 7:00pm
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Crib Service - 6:00pm  
Midnight Communion - 11:30pm
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Communion - 8:00am



HOLY  
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DIOCESE IN EUROPE  
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH  
IN GREECE



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# FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE!

**"Thank you heavenly Father for sending Jesus to bring us back to you, bringing joy and giving us such an eternal heavenly hope. Your kingdom come .**

**Amen**

- We pray for:-
- The people of neighbouring Albania after the recent earthquake.
- Good weather and for a fun and joyful time for all attending the Christmas market.
- Families to come to The Crib service on Christmas Eve to enjoy and be blessed with a sense of the true wonder of Christmas
- Mathew and Cindy now in the USA for a while, supporting Cindy's mum Gwen through therapy, and so many others going through cancer treatments at the moment.
- Those in mourning, especially Lindsay and Greek family on loss of her brother-in-law.
- That we will bear fruit from the " *Beautiful Lives* ". Course.
- ♦ Joy and compassion, that at this time when some suffer we will bring the love and Light of Jesus into the darkness.
- Every provision for the Special needs High school and Lykeio.

We give thanks for:-

- Our families and pray that those separated or alone will sense the presence and joy of Jesus in their hearts.
- Pauline having a successful eye operation.
- Protection and joy for all those in the community giving their time over the Christmas holidays to serve others.
- Our musicians and pray for a deeper closeness to God through our worship.





# THE YEMEN - A FORGOTTEN CONFLICT?

UPDATE

The kitchen in Saana was opened in September and is feeding about 150 people every day. It is mostly vegetables, whatever is available at the local market, some beans and rice. We were able to send 13000 euro in June, now we still have about 7000, which should cover the next three months. According to Sabina it is sometimes very difficult to deal with the different mentality. Many people do not understand there has to be a system with cards that people are able to prove who they are. Many do not understand the concept of time so instead of coming between 11 and 12.00, they demand to come later whenever they want. Sometimes they would rather be hungry than not having their freedom of choice, which is really hard to understand. But fortunately these are only a few of those 150.



The eldest son Ali died and Alia cares for his 2 children. All 15 people live in one room. The other room is a primitive toilet. They have no other income apart from Fowzia's. When they beg for food, they can't even cook it, because they have no kitchen. Sabina's kitchen provides one hot meal a day for everybody. Sabina often visits them and she writes:

"When I come back from such a visit, I need two hours to calm down. If you'd see the room! That is not a room, it is a black hole! Humid, dark hole. I feel like a queen having my own house... I am emotionally exhausted but I will keep fighting and helping these poor people..."

The family of **Zahra Abdo Saadi (around 65)**. Although talking about a family is not really the exact expression. As you know, most of the families are made of half families and a few kids, grandchildren, usually women who have no husband and they try to get together with other half families to be able to help each other.

Zahra has 6 children and shares her household with two other women and their children. One has five and

*(Continued on page 6)*



Sabina & her son, who also works in the project.

Let me introduce you to two families:

**Alia (around 50)** has 6 kids. Three boys and three girls. The girls were married now they are divorced and live with their mother. Each of them has three children. The older one, Fowzia, is lucky enough to work as a cleaner. The whole salary is used to pay the rent. The second one takes care of all the children. The third one is ill and cannot walk.

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the other one nine of them. Twenty three people live in a three bedroom flat with one bathroom. They escaped from Hodaidah, which was bombed and they lost everything. One of the girls is 16 and has a serious heart condition. She cannot afford the medications. Some of



the women and children do small cleaning jobs and that is how they keep the community going. They were really grateful to be able to start getting food from our kitchen. With this help they might be able to pay for the medicine and some basic things they need.

Sabina started collecting clothes and toys and the kitchen is slowly getting into a small community centre. People who have enough leave things for those in need. And it is mostly the kids who come to get the food so they can take a toy as a reward from time to time.

Thank to your help, I was able to send at the end of September 633 euro collected in the HTC church. Sabina is very grateful for all your help and prayers. If you want to get involved, you can donate 10 euros a month (please see me) or any irregular amount. We need only about 14 euros a month to feed one person! If you would rather send a donation you can do it via bank transfer, this is the euro account in the Czech republic:

**Name:** Pomuzu jak muzu  
**IBAN:** CZ6820100000002301537847  
**SWIFT/BIC:** FIOBCZPPXXX

*Thank you Pavla x*



“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’  
“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

Matt 25:44-45



# ON THE EDGE OF WAITING

(A Meditation Poem for Christmas Eve)

Shhh.  
Come away a moment, my friend.  
Come away from the lights,  
and the crowds,  
and the shops,  
and the noise,  
and the pressure,  
and the worries,  
and the old wounds that  
winter us before our time.  
Come and sit with me  
here.  
Rest.

Just for a moment.  
Let me share with you  
once again  
what we forget in our fes-  
tive frenzy:  
He is coming...  
Down the long ages of  
despair  
He comes as Hope.  
Down the rough road of  
doubt  
He comes as Faith.  
Down the broken by-  
ways  
of the human heart  
He comes as Love.  
He is coming...

Sit with me on the edge of wait-  
ing...  
Sit in sacred stillness...  
Breathe the deep breath of bless-  
ing.  
You do not have to do anything.  
He is coming...  
Whether you are ready or not  
Aware or not,  
Able or not,  
Present or not,  
Believing or not,  
He is coming...  
As the sun rises,  
as the moon shines,  
as the tides turn,  
as the stars dance,  
He is coming...

So do not worry.  
Let the tyranny of tension fall from you...  
You never needed to carry it.  
Let the false face of righteous readiness to defend, dissolve.  
You never needed to wear it.  
How could you ever be ready for this?  
For the first proclamation of the  
Kingdom to be heard in a baby's cry.  
Nothing is asked of you  
but to be here and now  
who you are.



Truly.  
Fully.  
Broken?  
Yes.  
Weak?  
Yes.  
Called?  
Oh yes.  
He is coming...

And He is calling you to come  
to Him.  
As He always does.  
As He always will.  
So, how will you  
greet Him,  
the One who is com-  
ing?

The One who calls you,  
to His crib.  
(Yes, you.)

Will you prepare a place  
for Him?

Will you open the cave  
of your heart to Him?

Will you place Him in  
the sanctuary of your  
soul?

Will you lay Him up-  
on the rough straw of  
your life?

Will you swaddle Him with your silence?  
Will you offer Him the gentle warmth of animal breath?

Will you offer Him your love?  
Or not.

He is coming...

Do not miss the moment  
Of Mystery's mangled birth  
by succumbing to Bethlehem busyness.

No.

Become as still as a shepherd watching the flock of slumbering sheep.

Become as still as a sage watching the long dance of the stars.

Become as still as Joseph hearing Angels on the edge of dreams.

Become as still as she who is the still point of love's longing, filled with light,  
and whose silence

brought forth the Word of Love.

Be still and you will know

He is coming...

Always...

In stillness,

on the edge of waiting...

He is coming for you...

He is coming to you...

Always.

He is coming in Love.

- Brother Richard Hendrick



# SEND SOME LOVE AT CHRISTMAS!

**CHOCOLATE AND PACKETS OF BISCUITS** are gratefully received. These will go in the scripture calendar gift bags which are given to Maria and villagers in Ksamil and Lazarat Albania. I usually try to take about 30 and pop in a card from HTC. Thanks and blessings, Lorraine.



*How're your listening skills?*

# Sharing - A visit to family and friends

At the end of October, I had a lovely family time, with Sandra, staying with my brother in Horton village. It is really pretty in an area of exceptional beauty on the Cotswold border. There are no shops or pubs but there is a church and school and a village hall used for all occasions and celebrations, a real caring community. This is Tyndale country. William Tyndale made the first translation of the bible into English in the 1500's. He also preached at St. James the Elder, Horton village church. He was later burnt at the stake for his faith, accused of being a heretic.

Anyway, on to brighter things, I was also able to see Nigel and Anne Scotland, who send their love and greetings to HTC, as they live fairly nearby. Nigel has written another two books and I have one of them to share at H.T.C, so just ask me, if you would like to read it.

I also met Tony Dunford, an ex-Corfu resident, on Sunday at St Mary's Thornbury where he worships. It was lovely to be together and there was a warm welcome. At the end of the sermon, we were asked to turn to each other and share our favourite bible stories.

We were encouraged that we all have stories to tell and to go out and tell them, as the world needs to hear!



This is Tony's story to share:-

Luke 15.11-32. The story of the prodigal son, returning home and his father welcoming him with open arms.

"I had read this story many times and then at a bible study I was asked to read it, and it hit me right between the eyes, I exclaimed, 'That's me, the father is God!'. I knew then that my sins had been forgiven.

They were all suddenly stunned, but I happily read the passage through knowing that a great weight had been removed from my shoulders".

Tony

'Beautiful Lives' course has also been really inspiring, encouraging us to "tell our story".

Happy sharing and blessings  
Lorraine



# Water Colour Class

Hi, Christmas is on the way!

Wishing all the church family and everyone a truly blessed and wonderful Christmas.

The watercolourists are really enjoying the class under the guidance of Georgina our art teacher. Great things can be achieved with some practice.

Regards from our wonderful artists and me. *Rita.*

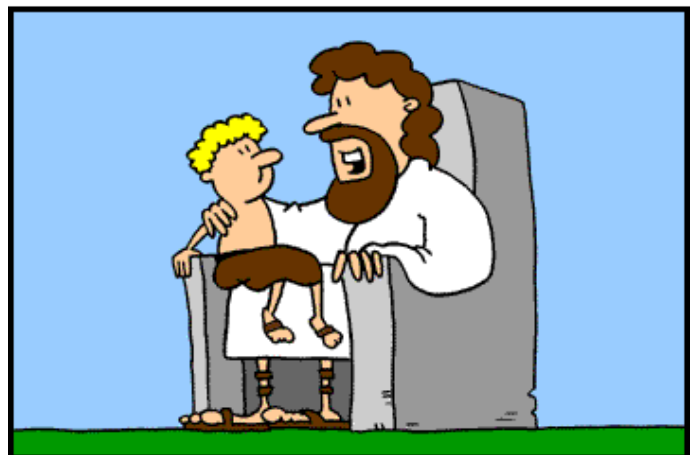


## Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



(See Luke 6:31) 12-28-1998

WELL WHAT DO YOU KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT,  
IT DOESN'T SAY 'DO UNTO OTHERS AS  
YOU'VE HAD THEM DO UNTO YOU'



Thanks to Christopher Huffman 12-24-1998

HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU  
EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT  
FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU  
NEED?





# S<sup>T</sup> NICHOLAS' DAY CHRISTMAS MARKET

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. 6:00pm**

LIVE MUSIC - CAROL SINGING  
FOOD AND DRINKS - STALLS  
CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE.



50% of proceeds support:-

***Hellenic Red Cross - First Responders***

***Special Needs Vocational School Korakiana***



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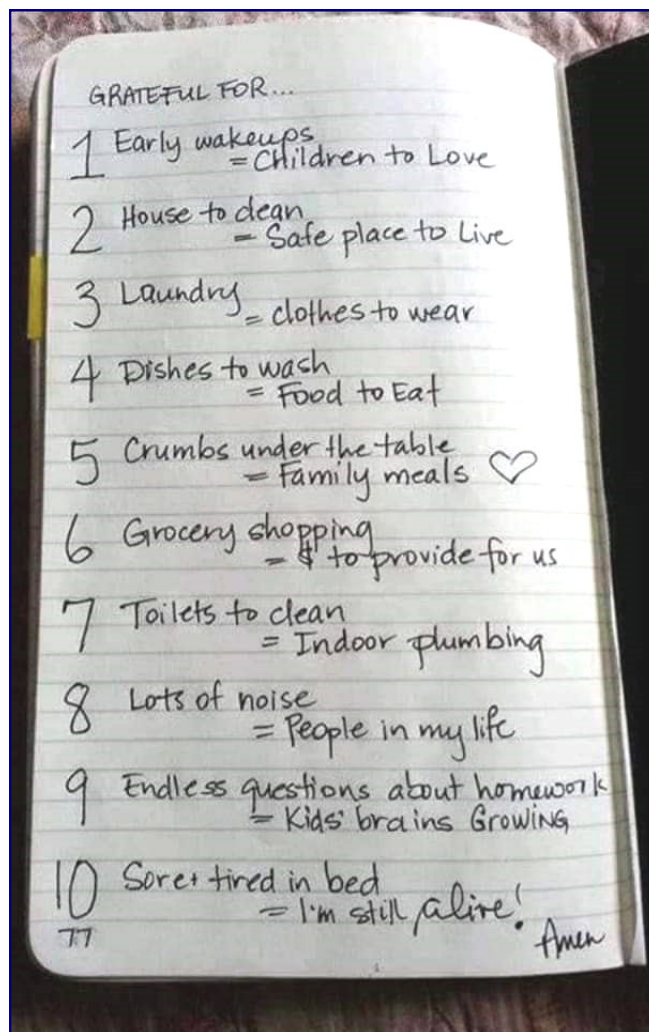
Remembrance at the British Cemetery





## What's on at Holy Trinity Corfu

Sun	1	10:30 Family Communion & Sunday School
Tues	3	10:00 Watercolour Class
Wed	4	18:30 Sharing our Faith Course
Thurs	5	17:00 Worship Group
Fri	6	09:30 Prayer Meeting 18:00 Christmas Market
Sun	8	10:30 Family Communion
Mon	9	18:00 Home Group
Tues	10	10:00 Watercolour Class
Wed	11	18:00 Ministry Team Meeting
Fri	13	09:30 Prayer Meeting
Sun	15	10:30 Family Communion
Mon	16	18:00 Home Group
Tues	17	10:00 Watercolour Class
Thurs	19	09:15 Pastoral Care Team Meeting 10:30 Bible Study at HTC 17:00 Worship Group
Fri	20	09:30 Prayer Meeting 18:00 Carols at Messonghi Catholic Chapel
Sat	21	19:00 Kassiope Carols, Lekas Taverna
Sun	22	10:30 Family Communion 19:00 Carols by candlelight
Mon	23	18:30 Carols & Jazz, San Giacomo Square
Tues	24	18:00 Crib Service 23:30 Midnight Communion
Wed	25	08:00 Christmas Day Communion 17:00 Worship Group
Sun	29	10:30 Lay Service



*We always welcome contributions to our publications; however, we will not publish any material which infringes copyright. When sending in items for inclusion please state your source and the name of the author.*

*We are happy to accept prayer requests for inclusion in Pulse or in the morning service. If you are requesting prayer for someone other than yourself please make sure you have their permission to be mentioned publicly.*

*Please remember the submission **deadline for PULSE is 25th of each month**. Articles, news, information etc. received after this time may not be included and will be carried over to the next edition if appropriate. Thank you.*

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