

The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East

أبروشية الكنيسة الأسقفية / الأنجليكانية بمصر وشمال أفريقيا والقرن الأفريقي

The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa



Diocesan Bishop
Honorary Assistant Bishop
Assistant Bishop
Assistant Bishop

The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer H. Anis
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Maurice Sinclair
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bill A. Musk
Vacant

Diocesan Newsletter

November 2011



*He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.” Psalm 91.1*

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My dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

A dear friend of mine, Mr. Joseph Wassef, Secretary of the Egypt Diocesan Association in the UK, sent me the photograph of the three birds on the front cover with a message saying *"If you are concerned about the economy or the Egyptian elections or..., This could help: the storm will pass!"*



I put it on [my Facebook page](#) and many young people liked it and commented on it. Perhaps it was because it came at a time of turmoil and uncertainty? It came at a time when we all needed to be reminded of this reassuring verse:

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart"
(Psalm 91:4)

The recent elections went very well and we were so encouraged and proud of the people who were keen to give their votes. However, there are several reports about attempts to forge votes and to persuade people to vote in certain ways. As a result, the Egyptian administrative court cancelled the election in one of the densely populated suburbs of Cairo where many Christians live.

The results of the recent elections showed that 60% of the seats are now occupied by political Islamists (the Muslim Brotherhood and Salafi groups). The others are mostly liberal and democratic which is a great achievement having in account that they other political parties are only four months old!

During our Ecumenical Lunch on 5 December we had a discussion about the church's response to the elections. We agreed that we need to have active prayer, engagement in the community through community services and involvement of Christians in the political life of Egypt.

Once again, nothing that happens around us can change God's plan.

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
(Psalm 91.1)

"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him"
(Psalm 91.14-15)

May the Lord bless you!

Yours in Christ,

+ Mouneer Egypt

The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer H. Anis
Bishop of the Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Egypt
with North Africa and the Horn of Africa
President Bishop of the Episcopal/Anglican
Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

The Situation



The Church in Egypt is praying hard for the situation. I am proud of courageous Christian young people who were present at Tahrir Square to help the injured during the violence in November. It was also great that one of the Presbyterian churches, close to Tahrir Square, opened its doors to receive the injured. Christian and Muslim doctors were serving the injured side-by-side in that church.

We in the Diocese encourage our people to be pro-active, positive, and participate in the elections. We continue to serve all Egyptians, Christians and Muslims, through our churches, hospitals, community development centres and schools. We believe that sharing the love of Jesus is very much needed at such a time as this. We also believe that God has a great plan and that no one can change this plan. It is a time to fix our eyes on God who grants us hope.

For Bishop Mouneer's full statement on the 25th of November, please see the [Diocese website](#).



Elections in Egypt

On Monday the 28th of November, the Diocesan offices in Cairo were closed, as the staff of the Diocese joined thousands of Egyptians to vote in the first round of elections. Rev. Faraj Hanna, the priest of the Church for the Deaf in Cairo, writes about his experience below.

"On the 28th November, I felt very happy to cast my vote in such a peaceful election day. It is the first time in my life to cast my vote and elect candidates to Parliament. I queued for three hours waiting my turn to vote. During that time, it was so wonderful to talk with people. The presence of army forces at the polling stations encouraged people to hand over their worries that violence could break out and the whole election process would plunge into tragic chaos. A group of deaf from the Church for the Deaf came with me. They were given a special welcome by the army officers and the staff at the gates of the polling station. The deaf group were enthusiastic and determined to participate in the election despite the muddy roads after the heavy rain the night before."



The Diocesan Welcome Centre

The new Welcome Centre next to All Saint's Cathedral in Zamalek is almost complete. The Welcome Centre is part of our preparations for 2013 when All Saint's Cathedral in Zamalek will celebrate its 25th anniversary in Zamalek. It will have information about the Diocese, have displays of products and projects of the Diocese, provide simple foods and beverages, and provide an informal environment for meetings and interactions. The funding for the Welcome Centre was provided through our St. Mary's Waqf funds held by the Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association (JMECA).



All Saint's Cathedral Bazaar

The Welcome Centre was used officially for the first time at the annual All Saint's Cathedral Bazaar on the 18th of November. The bazaar was well attended and included items from different ministries of the Diocese, as well as other organizations. All proceeds raised will go to various charities in Egypt.





The Clergy Retreat

From 8-10 November, the clergy in Egypt gathered together at St. Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Monastery for a time of spiritual refreshment and to be challenged in ways of expanding the Kingdom of God. Some lay ministers also attended.

Bishop Mouneer Anis spoke on how mission and evangelism should not just be a committee, but the business or mission of all of us as Christians—and especially for those who are ordained Christians. He also said that if we do what we have always done, we will get what we have always got. Let us do something new to get something new.

Rev. Dr. Jos Strengholt of St Michael's and All Angels in Heliopolis, spoke on the "Letter of St. Polycarp to the Philippians" which deals with a pastoral situation of a priest in the early 2nd Century AD.

It is worth mentioning that Pope Shenouda III offers his monasteries to us without any cost or compensation. We are indebted to the kindness of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

On the 14th November 2011, His Holiness Pope Shenouda III celebrated 40 years of being the Pope and Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church, sitting in the seat of St. Mark the Evangelist who brought Christianity to Egypt in the 1st Century. Bishop Mouneer extended congratulations on behalf of the Diocese, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and that of the Anglican Communion.



Memories from the Past...

St. George's Church, Tunis

Then...

St George's was built on the grounds of a Protestant cemetery, which had been in use since the seventeenth century. The church was modeled on an English church in Patras, Greece. The first sermon in the church was the Memorial Service to Queen Victoria, who died in 1901.

The beginnings of St George's were closely linked to the London Society for Promoting Christianity amongst the Jews. There was an estimated 15,000 Jews in the neighbouring area at the time. However, after the Six Days War of 1967, most Jews left Tunisia.

Next to St George's, there used to be a Bible Depot from which bibles and brochures were distributed. However, as a result of the 1967 war, at the same time as the British Embassy in Tunis was attacked, the Bible Depot was burned down.

St George's had to close from November 1942 to May 1943 during the German occupation of Tunis. However, after the arrival of the British Armed Forces, the church was used a lot, to the extent that it acquired the title 'The Westminster Abbey of North Africa.' Rev. Dunbar acted a chaplain to the British forces, and was awarded a MBE for his work. During these years, 300 men were confirmed at the church.



* Information taken from Historical Reflections on the Centenary of St George's Church, by Mr Ivor J Rawlinson, HM Ambassador, Tunis.

Now...



St George's has been serving the community in Tunisia for 110 years. Today the church is a diverse, vibrant and friendly crowd of all ages and backgrounds! The church enjoys celebrating God's presence in our midst. Through a range of worship styles and via a variety of ways of engaging with the Bible, the church tries to listen to Jesus Christ and please him.



As well as the Arabic and English services, the church is very involved with serving local hospitals, orphanages, and homes for single mothers. They are also trying to help establish some micro-enterprise projects that will enable poor believers to become self-sufficient, especially when support from their own families is withdrawn. Through their outreach work and through cultural evenings and other creative initiatives, they are seeking to build bridges with those around them.

For more information about St George's, please see their website: <http://www.stgeorgetunis.com/>

Ordinations in Tunis

Ayobami Ayorinda, a Nigerian ministering at St George's in Tunis under the leadership of Bishop Bill Musk, was recently ordained a Deacon.

Deacon Ayobami says *"it was an event that changed my entire being which equally set my foot on a journey of no turning back for the Lord (Luke 9:62). I started a journey of servanthood in order to depict the full nature of Christ's service on earth (Phil 2:1-11), I was called not to boost my ego but to serve the church, the community, society and brethren with all humility (Matt 20:28), to care for the oppressed and the sick, and to be teachable, to learn from the elders how to take care of the church of Christ. These are the roles of a deacon!"*

Since the day of my ordination, things have never been the same in my life: my way of doing things changed, as did my character and thinking. Beloved in Him. I felt it! I felt the anointing to serve and be His representative at all costs in every situation for the growth of His church. I thought myself unable to do many things but since that very day boldness came, as did wisdom and a spirit of willingness to fulfill my responsibility for Him. Although sometimes I found things difficult, I thank God for my leaders with whom I serve.

Thanks so much to my faithful leaders and fathers in faith in His vineyard (The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna & The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bill Musk) for allowing me to serve with you in this region."

Justin Lokey, an American living in Tunis with his family (seen right) and ministering at St. George's, was also recently ordained a Deacon.

At the ordination service, Bishop Bill Musk presided and Rev. Canon David Roseberry preached. Rev. Emil Bou Rizk, Rev. Frank Bernardi, Deacon Ayo Adekunle and Pastor Kwame Busumbru were all in attendance. Churchwarden James Onyango presented Justin as a candidate for ordination.

"It was a wonderful service with much singing led by the African Student Group. Canon David Roseberry preached from Matthew 29:18-20, pausing at one point to have the entire Lokey family stand and receive together the commitment of the Church's ministry. Afterward, the whole congregation stood to commit to caring for and supporting the Lokey's in their ministry. Bishop Bill closed the service by presenting Justin with a Greek New Testament. A potluck lunch followed the service in the garden. One of the most significant moments for Justin was being presented by James and received by the entire congregation. It was a humbling and Spirit-filled event, and one that Justin has been waiting for since 2004."



A Community Library in Addis Ababa

By Rev. Roger Kay

St Matthew's Addis Ababa runs a community library in a building beside the church for Ethiopian students in the local community. It provides the students with access to the text books set in the Ethiopian Education Curriculum which their families would not be able to afford to buy, as well as a quiet place to study after school each day and on Saturdays. The church employs two librarians and over 1000 students are registered with up to 250 students come each day.



Members of St Matthew's have been thinking and praying about ways to develop this ministry. With the start of the new academic year, we began offering English language classes at the library.

Three members of St Matthew's come one afternoon a week and each runs two classes of 10, one for boys and one for girls, making a total of 60 students being taught each week. Learning from native English speakers is a unique opportunity for these students, giving them the chance to develop their speaking, writing and reading skills. In Ethiopia, from Grade 7 all education is in English but students are in such large classes (40-60 students) that they have little opportunity to do more than rote learning, and are mostly learning from people for whom English is a second language.

Give thanks for the students who are coming. Pray that as the church members build relationships with them, they will have opportunities to share their faith.

Supporting Women's Literacy Projects

The rate of school attendance for girls in the Gambella region of Ethiopia is low. Many women are not able to read and write. If women become literate, they gain more control over their lives, and their families and communities benefit too.



The women's literacy project was started in Gambella in 2010. The project is designed to reach illiterate women in the town of Gambella and selected outlying communities. The objective of the programme is very simple: to increase the number of women who have basic literacy skills in their mother tongue. In 2011, over 500 women were registered in literacy classes at 30 literacy stations in Gambella.

For more information, please see the [project summary](#).

News from our Partners:

The Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association (JMECA)

The [Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association](#) (JMECA) held its annual meeting at St Alban's Church Centre, London, on the 16th November.



The President Bishop of the Province, the Most Rev. Dr Mouneer Hanna Anis, and The Rt. Rev. Michael Lewis, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, attended the meeting and presented reports on their Dioceses. Reports were also presented on behalf of Bishop Suheil of Jerusalem and Bishop Azad of Iran.



From left to right;
Bishop Mouneer, Bishop Azad,
Bishop Suheil and Bishop Michael

Bishop Mouneer's annual report on the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa can be read on the [Diocese website](#).

The Church Missionary Society (CMS Ireland)



In November, Bishop Mouneer visited [CMS Ireland](#). He was hosted by Mr. David Gough, the Partnership Co-ordinator at CMS Ireland.



Bishop Mouneer and Mr. David Gough

CMS Ireland has a long history with the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa. CMS was a conduit which brought Anglicanism to Egypt in 1800, and through which planted many churches and ministries.

In 1910, Dr Frank Harpur, a pioneer medical missionary from Ireland, founded Harpur Memorial Hospital in Menouf.

Today, Bishop Mouneer says that the relationship between the Diocese and CMS Ireland *"lies in shared prayer, exchanges of visits, and the fundraising of CMSI to help with many aspects of the ministry of the Diocese of Egypt."*

An interview with Bishop Mouneer was reported in the [Church of Ireland Gazette](#)

The Vocational Training Centre

in 6 of October City

Progress continues to be made on the new Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Sixth of October City in Cairo. The first phase is nearly complete and we hope to start opening the workshops in 2012.

The Vocational Training Centre for the Deaf will offer modern technology training and traditional training in several fields. The overall objective of the centre is to improve the quality of life of young deaf people by providing and facilitating access to employment and income.

Since 1998, the Vocational Training Centre has been training young deaf people. Because of the success of this centre and the space constraints in its current location, the VTC is being relocated to Sixth of October City. In the future, the VTC may be open to hearing people as well. This will help to integrate the deaf and hearing communities, and will enable the VTC to reach more people.

Please pray that the work continues to go smoothly and the current staff and students will be able to move in soon.

For more information about this project and other projects at the Diocese, please see the [Partnership Opportunities](#) page on our website.



“Care and Share” Gift Catalogue

We are very excited to announce the first publication of the “**Care and Share**” Gift Catalogue. In the midst of the Arab Spring throughout the Middle East, there could not be a better time to show someone how much you care and can share with them. People are longing for freedom and are hoping for a real democratic change in the Middle East. You can be part of the positive change.

This gift catalogue focuses on some particular needs in Egypt and in Ethiopia, a vast area which includes over 165 million people, and helps us in our mission as a Diocese. The gift catalogue is grouped into four sections: education, health care, community development and emergency assistance, and church based programs.



We pray that you will consider ways in which you can partner with us to “**Care and Share**” with many here in the Diocese. For an electronic version of the gift catalogue, please see our website; <http://www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/careandshare>

For more information, please contact:
Ms. Rosie Fyfe, Diocesan Partnership Office
rosie@dioceseofegypt.org

Visitors to Egypt

- Mrs. Christa Lund Herum (Danmission, Denmark)
- Rev. Leigh Spruill (St George's, Nashville, USA)
- Mrs. Morag Gillies (Biblelands, UK)
- Rev. Geoff Holt & Peter Holt (New Zealand)
- Rev. Dr. John Pryor (Australia)



Prayer Requests

We pray for the future of our beloved countries and for justice and peace to be established upon the earth:

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our countries a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

We pray for all persons in the world, especially all of those who serve in the Church, to take an active role in shaping our societies:

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression and that we may reverently use our freedom; help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

We pray for those newly born, especially Caleb Guustaaf born of James and Stephanie van Straten (former employees of the Diocese of Egypt, pictured *right*) in mid-October. We pray that God will bless them and give them grace.

We pray for our newly ordained clergy throughout the Diocese, remembering especially deacons Ayo and Justin in Tunis.

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders in your Church: Give your grace, we humbly pray, to all who are called to any office and ministry for your people; and so fill them with the truth of your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may faithfully serve before you, to the glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.



Important Upcoming Events in the Diocese

DECEMBER

- Ecumenical Lunch (2 December)
- NIFCON Meeting (7-9 December)
- Bishop Mouneer's visit to Algeria (11-16 December)
- 9 Lessons & Carols at All Saints Cathedral (16 December)
- Visit of a Delegation from China (17 December)
- Christmas at El Gouna (18 December)
- Christmas Visit to Kanatar Prison (20 December)
- Grand Mufti & Vatican Ambassador at AST (22 December)
- Televised Christmas Eve Service at All Saints Cathedral (24 December)
- Christmas Day Services (25 December)
- Consecration of the Church in Ezbit el Nakhl (30 December)
- Ordination of a priest in Ezbit el Nakhl (30 December)

JANUARY

- New Year Celebrations (1 January)
- Visit of Rev. Adel Shokralla of Exeter (2-16 January)
- Visit of Canon Andrew Tremlett of Westminster Abby (3-11 January)
- Orthodox Christmas (7 January)
- Bishop Mouneer's visit to CMS Australia (10-22 January)
- Visit of Bishop Maurice (21 January—13 February)
- Bishop Mouneer's visit to Adelaide (22-26 January)
- AST Faculty & Staff Retreat (23-35 January)
- Centenary of All Saints Cathedral, Khartoum (26-29 January)

FEBRUARY

- AST Residential Conference (8-11 February)
- Consecration of the new Archbishop of South East Asia (12 February)
- Visit of Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer on Christian Zionism (13-18 February)
- The Love Campaign with Dr. Nabil Jabbour (17-23 February)
- Provincial "Central" Synod (28-29 February)

Contact Details

Please send us your news! Contact the [Diocesan Editors](#).

Websites

The Diocese of Egypt:

www.dioceseofegypt.org/english

The Egypt Diocesan Association (UK):

www.eda-egypt.org.uk

The Friends of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt (USA): www.friendsanglicandioceseegypt.org

The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa, a diocese within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East in the worldwide Anglican Communion, extends over eight countries including Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Djibouti. There are over 100 congregations throughout the Diocese, with All Saints Cathedral, Cairo being the spiritual centre. The Diocese supports over 30 institutions which include hospitals, clinics, nurseries, schools, a theological seminary, micro-enterprise ventures, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for the deaf and the disabled. The five goals of the Diocese are: 1) to reach the unreached with the Gospel of Christ, 2) to grow Christ's church by making disciples and equipping leaders, 3) to serve our neighbours in Christ's name, 4) to work for unity among all Christians, and 5) to dialogue with other faith communities.