

European Anglicans

News and stories from the Diocese in Europe

Autumn 2026



European Anglicans Autumn 2026



New Awards for Lay People



Joyful Celebrations!



Ways of Seeing

Front cover photos show:



Volunteers at the new
Community Cafe in Brussels



The NW Europe and Germany
Archdeaconry Synod 2026



Rev. Maria Obafemi-Onuigbo



A volunteer cleans the church at
St Boniface, Antwerp



Setting up for a group shot after
ordinations



Rev Louis Durrant baptises an
infant at his chaplaincy in
Malaga



Rev Annie Bolger pictured after
her commissioning as the
Assistant Dean of Women's
Ministry



Volunteers with flowers at St
Mark's English church



The Reverend Deacon Christine
Saccali and Reverend Fr.
Benjamin Drury Priest & Chaplain
at St Paul's Anglican church,
Athens

European Anglicans September 2026 edition

Thank you to all who have contributed.

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Website



Daily Prayer
Diary



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Our diocese is built on a history of faithful people gathering together to worship God and serve their communities across Europe and beyond. We look forward together to an exciting and vibrant future, with this faith and love still as our basis.

This edition of our magazine shares stories of our history and then shows how we are building today towards our future together. We hear from author James Bettley and his research into English churches in Europe; the communities that built churches far from their home. We hear from Rev Dorienke de Vries and the prayerful development of a Dutch translation of our liturgy. These stories remind us that the Diocese in Europe has never stood still, and that adaption and courage are embedded in who we are, always rooted in prayer.

As we look ahead to our future, we have a lot to celebrate and recognise. We are inspired by new vocations, recognise faithful lay service, deepen our commitment to safeguarding, racial justice and care for creation, and take encouraging steps towards a new diocesan strategy. Each story reflects a church seeking not simply to preserve what has been, but to discern what God is calling us to become.

Throughout all these stories, we see the vibrancy of our diocesan family. Whether in prayer gatherings, community projects, chaplaincies welcoming newcomers, or churches finding fresh ways to serve their local communities, there is a quiet confidence that God is at work among us.

As we build on the foundations laid by those who came before us, we do so with hope. The future will bring challenges, but it also brings opportunities for mission, ministry and growth. Thank you for being part of this story, and please continue to hold everyone across our Diocese in your prayers of thankfulness for the work that is happening now and prayers of support and hope for what our future will bring.

Ruth

Ruth Blanco

Head of Communications



Bishop Robert announces new Awards for Lay People

"I'm delighted to have this opportunity to celebrate the work of lay people. And the particular way in which we're celebrating that work is through the introduction of two awards." Bishop Robert



video placeholder

Across the Diocese in Europe, thousands of lay people serve faithfully in their churches, communities and workplaces. They share the Good News, care for those in need, support worship, build relationships, strengthen communities and demonstrate God's love in countless practical ways. Much of this work happens quietly, without recognition, yet its impact is profound. Our lay awards celebrate those whose faith, commitment and service have made an exceptional contribution to the Church, their community or wider society.

Our Awards

The St Benedict of Nursia Award

The St Benedict of Nursia Award is conferred occasionally by the Bishop in Europe to recognise exceptional and distinguished service by a lay person. This award is made at the Bishop's discretion and is presented at an appropriate service or ceremony.

The first of those awards is presented by Bishop Robert in St. Paul's, Valletta in Malta in October to Mr David Coulston to recognise his long-standing service to the diocese.



The St Elizabeth of Hungary Award

The St Elizabeth of Hungary Award is presented every two years to lay people whose service deserves wider recognition across the Diocese. Nominations are welcome from across the Diocese and recipients are selected by an assessment panel.

Who can be nominated?

We invite nominations of lay people from our chaplaincies of all ages whose service has made a significant difference in their church, community, or workplace. This may include ministry with children, young people or families, pastoral care, social action, environmental work, communications, volunteering in the wider community, administration, worship, teaching, or any other form of Christian service. We are looking for the unsung heroes whose faithfulness and generosity inspire others.

For more information about the nomination process and to get involved, see our website: [Awards for Lay People](#)

Lost in Translation? Not Quite: Bringing Anglican Worship into Dutch

After years of painstaking work, consultation and revision, earlier this year Dutch translations of key Anglican liturgies received official approval. This work involved a wide team of experts, readers and support. Revd Dorienke de Vries, translator, priest and one of the driving forces behind the project told us about the process and the joys of translation.

The journey to complete the translations has been a long one, but Dorienke is tenacious and persistent. A professional translator before her ordination, she describes translation as a vocation that refuses easy compromises.

"When other people give up or think, 'Well, this is as far as we can go,' the professional will always dig deeper and review it again and start all over again," she says. "Especially when it comes to liturgy, I thought, 'No, you can't say this should do. There's a very specific purpose for this.'"

That purpose was not simply to translate English words into Dutch, but to preserve the character of Anglican worship itself, while making the translations appropriate and meaningful to many different audiences including Dutch-Dutch and Flemish-Dutch speakers.

"There is a very specific Anglican spirituality that should be reflected in the liturgy," Dorienke explains. "There is a lightness in Anglican liturgy that is quite unique, I think. And also an ambiguity. Anglicans have the skill of leaving things open in the way they say things, so you can have different theological understandings and still say the same prayer." Capturing that quality in Dutch was not straightforward. "Dutch is a language [where] you say it the way it is. You can't be ambiguous. So we had to work around it."

Among the texts closest to her heart is the funeral liturgy, the first section she worked on. One prayer in particular became a touchstone during the translation process, the dismissal prayer (Support us, O Lord...).



Revd Dorienke de Vries holding a chalice

"I worked on that one until I cried when I said it," she recalls. "And then I thought, 'Now, I'm there.'"

One key value of the translations, she believes, is that they offer a pastoral gift at moments when people most need to hear words of hope and comfort in their own language.

Dorienke remembers conducting a funeral for a Dutch family with little church connection. Leading the service in Dutch made the liturgy more accessible and welcoming for the friends and family at the service. It demonstrated how language can become a bridge rather than a barrier.

Her own experience as a chaplain also deepened her understanding of what the translations needed to achieve. "Being the person who carries the liturgy throughout the service, who holds the space, and then at the same time being carried by the liturgy," she says, "I could feel it in my body. It was amazing."

When the project started, Dorienke was a translator, but during the time of the project she was accepted for ordination, and now is Assistant Chaplain at the chaplaincy of Arnhem-Nijmegen.

Lost in Translation? Not Quite: Bringing Anglican Worship into Dutch

She found one of the most moving moments, when listening to another priest use one of the translated Eucharistic prayers, Dorienke realised she had not recognised it immediately as her work.

"That was a good moment," she says, "because then it was no longer my text, it was liturgy."

For a project measured in years rather than months, that may be its greatest success: not that the words were translated, but that they now belong to the worshipping life of the Church.

Bishop Robert shared:

I am delighted that the House of Bishops Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the House of Bishops, approved the set of translations of Common Worship liturgy into Dutch.

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all involved in this project, which began some years ago. Particular thanks goes to The Reverend Dorienke de Vries, who has been of determinative importance in getting it across the finishing line. The work on these translations into Dutch has presented the particular challenges of negotiating between Protestant and Catholic forms and between the Dutch and Flemish forms of the language.

The Liturgical Advisor, The Reverend Dr. Matthew Salisbury, commented on the excellence of the work, the way in which it was done and the very high calibre of some of those involved. It is seen as a model for how translations of Common Worship should be produced, agreed, quality assured, and approved. The House of Bishops conveys its congratulations to the Diocese and to the various and many members of the working group who have participated in the project over the years. It is a great achievement.

The full Dutch translation can be found here [Dutch Liturgy | Diocese in Europe](#)



The interior of the church at the chaplaincy of Arnhem-Nijmegen

More Than Buildings: The Hidden Story of the Diocese in Europe



James Bettley

When architectural historian James Bettley began researching Anglican churches across Europe, he expected to uncover stories about buildings. What he found instead was a rich and surprising history of the communities that have shaped what is now the Diocese in Europe.

For the past six years James has traced the story of Anglican churches from Portugal to Turkey, Switzerland to Malta. Individual churches had often recorded their own history, but nobody had stepped back to look at the wider picture. "English churches in Europe seemed a rather attractive prospect," he says. "No one's looked at them as a whole."

As an architectural historian, James found he started noticing more references to English churches across Europe whether when on holiday or mentioned in old architectural journals. By the time he had completed his research he had established that by 1914 there were nearly 300 such churches, most of which are still standing even if no longer in Anglican use.

While he enjoyed the idea of visiting as many churches as he could, the start of his research coincided with COVID and lockdown, and so he was able to do much of the groundwork research from home using online resources such as newspapers, and what he found was fascinating.

Like many people in our congregations today, the communities that founded these churches came to Europe for very different reasons. Some were merchants and diplomats, others were wealthy travellers, but one group is less well-known: ordinary working people.

"The biggest surprise was the number of actual workers, working-class labourers and so on," he says. Following the Napoleonic Wars, British engineers, railway workers and skilled labourers were in huge demand across continental Europe. "The British were building the railways in France, with huge numbers of labourers coming over." Churches and schools followed, serving communities that had travelled across Europe for work.

In northern France, entire communities formed around British-owned textile mills. At Croix the settlement grew to include "a church and schools and cricket ground, the whole lot", recreating a familiar sense of home far from Britain. Near Paris, the number of jockeys and stable lads involved with race courses led to the establishment of churches for them (and their employers) at Chantilly, Compiègne and Maisons-Laffitte.

In researching the book, James visited around 80 churches, many of them still active in today's Diocese in Europe. What impressed him most was not simply their architecture but the people he met.

"What has been really nice doing the work has been visiting some of these churches and meeting the people there and seeing how, in their different ways, they are really thriving," he says.



St Mary, Weldham



James Bettley in Ypres



All Saints, Vevey

More Than Buildings: The Hidden Story of the Diocese in Europe



St Mary's, Rotterdam



Good Shepherd, Belalp



Holy Trinity, Nice



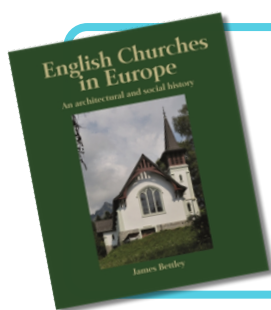
St James, Porto

His research also reveals how today's congregations continue a long tradition of adaptation. While some church buildings look unmistakably English, others reflect local cultures and histories. In parts of southern Europe “permission to build an English church would only be given if it did not look too much like a church” in case it was perceived as a threat to the predominant Roman Catholic population. Many were later rebuilt in a more church-like style, such as Holy Trinity, Nice, but St James's, Porto, remains as an example.

Yet wherever they were built, these churches sought to create what James calls “a bit of a home from home” for worshippers living away from Britain. Inside, familiar hymn books, furnishings and liturgy provided continuity and belonging. For a diocese currently reflecting on its future, James's work is a timely reminder that adaptability has always been part of our story. Many of the churches we worship in today were founded by generations of people responding creatively to new circumstances, cultures and opportunities.

Looking back over six years of research, one thing remains constant in James's mind: the fascination of the Church itself. “Whenever you go to a church, however humble it is, or however apparently uninteresting it is, you always find something new to learn,” he says. “Not just about the building itself, but about the people that built them.”

James's book has a comprehensive gazetteer and a very thorough index, as he knew people would want to find specific churches and their history, but the book also works through a series of themes showing how the English churches are linked not just by style or time in history, but in many other ways. It is a wonderful read for anyone with an interest in the history of our diocese and also of English churches in Europe specifically.



James Bettley, *English Churches in Europe: an architectural and social history*. John Hudson Publishing, 2026. 506 pages, over 530 illustrations. Hardcover £90, eBook £19.

For a special discount order from [Boydell & Brewer](#) and enter discount code JH25 at checkout.

Celebration of Vaud Authorities recognition of Anglican churches

Rev Carolyn Cooke of La Côte chaplaincy has sent us this report of a wonderful ceremony which took place at Christ Church Lausanne on the 2nd September:



L-R:

Mgr Frank Bangerter, Évêque de l'Église catholique-chrétienne de Suisse

Bishop Frank Bangerter, of the Old Catholic Church in Switzerland;

Pascal van Griethuysen (Representing the Canton of Vaud Authorities), Directeur des Affaires religieuses du Canton

The Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe

"It was in 2016 that the Anglican churches in the canton of Vaud began a unified effort to achieve formal recognition as a distinct religious grouping by the cantonal authorities. Apart from the relatively young La Côte, those churches have been around for a century or more yet they had no formal status in the canton until now. Ten years ago, a determined effort began to have the Anglicans – and the Old Catholic church which is in communion with the Anglicans – recognised as a formal church body.

After 10 years of meetings, assessments, investigations and the production of a good deal of documentation, the Vaud parliament formally recognised the Fédération des Eglises Anglican et catholique-chrétienne dans le canton de Vaud (FACCV) on 17th March, 2026. Following a period of three months for objections to be heard (there were none) the FACCV passed into law.

To celebrate this – and after checking with Bishop Robert and the cantonal authorities for suitable date, a celebration to mark the recognition of the Anglican and Old Catholic churches was held at Christ Church in Lausanne on September 2nd 2026. Those attending the event included FACCV committee members, representatives of the Anglican and Old Catholic churches, cantonal authorities, the Commission of the Grand Conseil and various religious groups as well as reporters from two local newspapers.

Revd Carolyn Cooke of La Côte Anglican Church, as president of the FACCV, welcomed participants and her greeting was echoed by Mazin Astefan-Barraud cure of the Old Catholics of Lausanne. Rev. Christoph Schuler, of the Old Catholic Church in Switzerland read Matthew 5, verses 1–9, on the Beatitudes. Congratulations to both churches were received from the cantonal authorities, and short, powerful addresses were given by Bishop Robert of the Anglican Diocese in Europe and by Bishop Frank of the Old Catholic church stressing the importance of ecumenism.

Following a musical interlude, both bishops gave the benediction and both they and Pascal Van Gruythiesen of the cantonal administration joined hands to express their unity. The FACCV comprises La Côte Anglican Church, Christ Church Lausanne, All Saints Vevey, Territet St Johns, Villars English Church, St Peter's Anglican Church Château d'Oex, and Paroisse Catholique Chrétienne Lausanne."

Please remember the work of the FACCV in your prayers and all of its members.

International and Ecumenical Conference on Racial Justice
10th to 13th December 2026



International and Ecumenical Conference on Racial Justice

God's Kaleidoscope 4.0

In such a time as this

Repairers of the Breach

From Lament to Liberation

10 - 13 December 2026

Christian Jensen Kolleg
Breklum, North Frisia, Germany

"You shall be called Repairer of the Breach."
Isaiah 58:12

 racialjusticeconference@gmail.com

**Registrations are open until
15th October.**

If you are unable to attend, please note that this vital conference also produces a range of resources which are of value to all chaplaincy and individual work in promoting racial justice. These can be accessed here: [Racial Justice Conference](#)

There will also be reports and photographs following the conference, so keep an eye on the Diocesan website and social media.

For all enquiries, contact:
racialjusticeconference@gmail.com

A reminder too that the Diocesan You Tube channel has some very useful videos: [Racial Justice](#)

Packed churches and joyful celebrations

'As this year's ordinations across our Diocese concluded, as ever we are incredibly blessed with much to be grateful for. Those ordained Priest were:

Seth Barker continuing to serve as Assistant Curate at All Saints, Vevey

Samuel Haiser continuing to serve as Assistant Curate at City Kirche, Vienna

Graeme Lloyd-Roberts continuing to serve as Assistant Curate at St Alban's, Copenhagen

Owen Prewett continuing to serve as Assistant Curate at St Alban's, Copenhagen

Jacob Quick continuing to serve as Assistant Curate at St Edmund's, Oslo

Stephen Razafindratsima continuing to serve as Assistant Curate at St George's, Paris

The ordination of Rev Graeme Lloyd-Roberts was a joyous occasion led by one of the Honorary Assistant Bishops, Rt Revd Trevor Wilmott at St Albans, Copenhagen.



Packed churches and joyful celebrations

Rev'd Mark Osborne, Chaplain at St George's Anglican Church, Paris, reflected;

"What a gift! Not just to the new priest filled with excitement, not just his family filled with a justifiable pride, not just his community filled with a deep joy but to all of us; Anglicans in France, in Europe and across the Communion.

We do like a party at St George's Paris so the church was packed and the overflow watched upstairs on a big screen. Stephen Razafindratsima's ordination included family from Madagascar as well as friends from France all joined by clergy from across the diocese to assist Bishop Richard Frith in laying on hands. Bishop Richard celebrated in English though the ordinary, sermon, hymns, readings and the Peace were in fun mix of Malagasy and French showing that running through the day was our joy at what God has been doing in Stephen and continues to do in the lives of those around us as we are shaped by our celebration of the Sacraments of the New Covenant.

Stephen continues to serve the congregations here at St George's that worship in the Malagasy, French and English languages. Please keep on saying thank you for the gift we've received as we thank God for our Diocese."



Packed churches and joyful celebrations

'With beautiful music from the choir, a strong ecumenical presence, a moving message from Bishop Trevor, and a church packed with people from near and far, the service was a joyful celebration!' reflected Rev Jacob Quick following his ordination at St Edmund's, Oslo.



Jacob Quick
Assistant Curate at St Edmund's, Oslo

Please continue to hold our wonderful ordinands and their loved ones in your prayers as they embark on this next step in their ministry.

Have you considered ordination?

**You did not choose me,
but I chose you and appointed you
so that you might go and bear fruit –
fruit that will last.**

John 15:16

We have a bank of resources, including information, guidance and video interviews with ordinands on our website:

[Considering Ordination](#)

Peace Service

People from across our diocese and beyond gathered online for a special service of prayer led by Bishop Andrew to mark the International Day of Peace.

Rev Canon Jean-Bosco, Diocesan Advisor for Peace and Reconciliation preached a sermon reflecting on Isaiah 6. An extract from his sermon is below:

"On this International Day of Peace, we gather to pray for Peace. When we speak about peace, we naturally think of the wars that continue to affect our world, the people who suffer, families who are separated, and children who become victims of violence. We also think about the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to build a more peaceful world.

But after so many years of prayers, declarations, and days dedicated to peace, one question remains: Why does peace still seem so difficult to achieve? Isaiah chapter 6, invites us to look at this question differently.

Isaiah finds himself in the presence of God. He discovers the holiness of God and cries out: "Woe to me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, sinful lips."

Isaiah does not begin by pointing out the faults of others, nor by judging them, nor by looking at their sins. He begins with himself. Standing before the holiness of God, he recognizes his own weakness and his own sin.

Perhaps this is where peace truly begins: by looking within ourselves. The first step we need to take is to look within... In our prayers, we often pray: Lord, change the world. Change our leaders. Use our clergy and our bishops. Stop the wars. Reconcile the nations. Bring peace to the world. Yes, these are important prayers, and we should continue to pray in this way.



But perhaps God asks us another question: "And you? What are you willing to change within yourself? What are you ready to do?" As Mahatma Gandhi famously said: "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

We want peace in the world, but do we have peace in our own families, in our own church, in our workplace, and in our neighborhood? Are we able to forgive? Are we able to ask for forgiveness? Can we listen to someone who thinks differently from us? Or do we sometimes carry small conflict and wars within our hearts—wars of resentment, anger, jealousy, and contempt?

Peace between nations also begins with these everyday realities.

In Isaiah's vision, God first purifies the prophet before sending him. Then God asks, "Whom shall I send?" And Isaiah responds, "Here I am. Send me!"

Peace Service

You can watch a recording of the service here:



video placeholder

A Diocesan Prayer for Peace and Conflict Transformation

Dear God,

As we work through conflict in our personal lives, amongst our families and friends, with our work colleagues and in our chaplaincies, remind us that we are all made in your image and that every one of your people has the ability to be creative, resourceful and whole.

Make us curious and give us the patience to converse to listen rather than be heard, to listen to learn and understand, and to listen to love.

Grant us wisdom to seek out multiple viewpoints and understand complexity - how we each see a situation is but a partial view, and often no one is "wrong" or "right".

Remind us that the tone of each of our voices shapes the discussion: help us be empathetic and open, constructive in our ideas and flexible in seeking solutions.

Give us courage to understand difference, to see strength in diversity and help us to work towards better ways of living, working and worship together that reflect your kingdom here on earth.

God of peace, guide our words, our relationships, and our decisions. Make our chaplaincy communities places of mutual respect, reconciliation, and hope—places where no one feels excluded or forgotten, but where finds a home, a voice, and a place to belong.

We ask this in your name.

Amen

By Philippa Hayward and Keir Fitch (Peacemakers)

Celebrating our Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officers

Gail Johnson has been a Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer (CSO) for the past ten years in Costa Blanca. "My role as CSO is secured in my faith, that I am called 'to love/care for others', not just in the difficult times but at all times and in all situations.

I feel that my faith has deepened and been strengthened through this valuable work."

This calling to work on safeguarding is echoed by Susan Boyd, CSO for the chaplaincy of Norway. "My role as CSO is absolutely one of the best ways for me to serve the church. We are asked to care and love our neighbour. This is a practical way in which I can help."

Our CSO network is critical to ensure we provide Safeguarding across our chaplaincies and to create an environment where everyone is safe and welcome.

Grace Fagan-Stewart, Diocesan Head of Safeguarding explains:

"We are always grateful to every one of our CSOs. They give their time, expertise and care to support everyone in their chaplaincy. Our network is engaged, supportive of each other and their own chaplaincies and always driven by love and care for everyone who worships in all of our churches. I hope they all know how grateful my team, and all the diocese is to them all."

What would Susan and Gail recommend if someone is thinking about becoming a CSO, or is asked to consider the role?

"Have a chat to someone who has had a positive experience already, look at the job description on the Diocese of Europe web site, does the criteria suit you?"

"...speak with their chaplain about the role and the support they can expect. Without this support it could be a very lonely place. Or speak with someone on the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, you will find they are helpful and reassuring at all times."

The CSO network receives training and also two conferences a year which are an opportunity to gather together, share experiences and keep learning together. Like all roles, it can be challenging at times, but Gail and Susan both share how the support from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team really helps. "Becoming a CSO is a wonderful way to serve your community. You are not on your own the priest, Wardens, Church Council all have their Safeguarding responsibilities and there to help you. You will be trained, invited to attend 2 short online conferences, they are recorded if you can't make it! and on the Diocese in Europe Safeguarding pages you will find lots of helpful practical information."

If you are interested in becoming a CSO for your chaplaincy, chat to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team who are there to support you.

"My role as CSO is absolutely one of the best ways for me to serve the church." shared Susan, and Gail agrees "My role as CSO has brought me closer to the people in our worship centres".

Have you thought about becoming a CSO in your local chaplaincy? [Talk to the safeguarding team](#) who will be happy to lead you through what is involved and how they can support you.

Join us in praying for and celebrating the work of all our Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officers, whose dedication and work is essential to helping us create a safer church for everyone.

An encouragement from Bishop Robert to support the Friends

Guy Milton, Chair of the Friends, writes:

'At this year's annual service and reunion of the Friends of the Diocese at Southwark Cathedral, Bishop Robert spoke warmly of the support provided by the Friends to the Diocese. He expressed his thanks for the Friends' prayers and financial support, for its value as a network for those who want to keep in touch with the Diocese, and for its role in helping connect the Diocese with its roots and history.

Bishop Robert very much encouraged chaplaincies to help raise awareness of the Friends amongst their congregations. To help with this we have prepared a flyer which is available to you to download on our website in digital format:

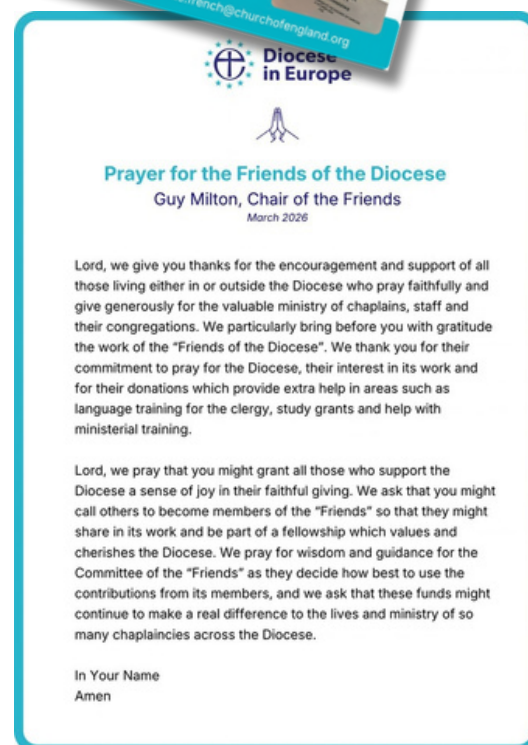
Friends of the Diocese information leaflet

As you will be aware, the Friends make a valuable contribution to chaplaincies in areas which go beyond the regular support provided by the Diocese. This has traditionally included the important area of assistance to clergy with the costs of language training. Members of the Friends also act as informal "ambassadors" for the Diocese across the UK and beyond. More information about the work of the Friends can be found on the Diocesan website.

Thank you for your help in raising awareness of the Friends and their support for the Diocese.'

Guy has also composed a lovely prayer, as part of our growing bank of Diocesan prayers. You can download a copy here:

Prayer for the Friends of the Diocese



Pro-cathedral in Malta gains Eco church Bronze award, and share advice for others considering this journey.

"The award is important to the Cathedral because it is a reminder that wherever we are set, our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation is the same. Perhaps we can be a catalyst for others to have a go, too"

The chaplaincy of Malta and Gozo has achieved a bronze eco-church award. This is a great commendation of the hard work over eight years as their eco-journey continues.



Alison Rutland holds the certificate in Gozo

This started back in 2018 when the first Local Environment Officer was appointed. The chaplaincy has always involved their local communities in the environmental work they do, for example with litter picks in various villages in Gozo. A newsletter helped raise awareness and more people asking how they could get involved.

In 2021, the Queen's Green Canopy campaign was announced to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Alison Rutland LEO at this time, led a collaboration with many community groups across Malta and Gozo and after a huge amount of work the planting happened earlier this year. Working on this alongside other groups in the community was a great way to engage more people.

This year, the opportunity to apply for a grant to help with a project in the cathedral crypt led us to look at the Eco church questionnaire. This involved pulling together information from many different areas such as utility bills, and creating an environmental policy which the Chaplaincy Council adopted.

The team had to think creatively when completing parts of the requirements and questionnaire for the award to fit their local context. The chaplaincy doesn't own their own building on Gozo and have some odd limitations at the Cathedral such as only electricity available, and from a single supplier at that; completely surrounded by stonework and tarmac - no earth; no heating or air conditioning but just fans in the summer; a grade I listed building in a world

heritage city. This is similar to many other chaplaincies and so the team are very aware that their work will hopefully inspire others who may face similar challenges.

Alison Rutland, Local Environment Officer shares:

"The team effort was the best approach as we all brought different angles to the process. The advice to other chaplaincies, based on our own experience, would be to look at local issues and projects that could be reported on and perhaps joined in with.

It has taken us eight years to get to the point of even applying for an award, and looking back at the subjects covered, the foodbanks and other local groups assisted, the friends made in other groups, the camaraderie and feedback have made the times of frustration pale into the background.

Please consider doing this – it may take a long time, but in completing the questionnaire we amazed ourselves in how much we are actually doing, are involved in and the collaborations we are part of on both islands."

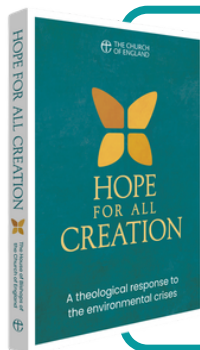
Rev Canon David Wright, chancellor of the pro-cathedral shared:

"In a nation where the economy is heavily geared towards and dependent on tourism, which brings people here mainly by air or on cruise ships, we have a sacred duty to make our Christian presence here as kind to the environment as possible. Perhaps our best advice would be to think creatively and look at how a framework devised for the UK can be adapted to our own situation and circumstances - seeing the difference as an opportunity rather than a limitation."



Rev Canon David Wright and H.E. Victoria Busby OBE, British High Commissioner. Church Wardens Bernice Caruana and Neil Hodgson

Hope for all creation



Hope for All Creation: A Theological Response to the Environmental Crises, a landmark teaching document authored by the Faith and Order Commission and adopted by the House of Bishops. The document sets out a Christian understanding of the environmental crises facing the world, rooting care for creation in the biblical story of creation, redemption and renewal, structured around the themes See, Reflect, Respond. Read and access it here: [A Time for Creation | The Church of England](#)

It feels like we need hope now more than ever. Our Care for Creation group often talk about what gives them hope for our world. Bishop Robert chairs the Faith and Order Commission, which recently authored a new critical teaching document: Hope for all Creation.

"Hope has been described as the future dimension of faith, and these are issues that are fundamentally spiritual, which is why the response of our church and other churches is crucial." "Hope for All Creation is intended not just to be read but to be studied and discussed, to shape our ethos, change our behaviour and lead to action.

This could hardly be more timely. The UK and much of Europe has experienced extreme heatwaves with record high temperatures in many cities. There have been warnings to stay inside, disruption of infrastructure and transport systems, and thousands of additional heat-related deaths in Western Europe with health services at critical stretch. The World Weather Attribution consortium has calculated that due to human induced climate change what we experienced in June is now 100 times more likely to occur than in 2003."

"Hope for All Creation is not just concerned with climate change. We stress the way in which the natural order and human flourishing are part of an inter-connected system."

"God has not abandoned his creation. He loves all that he has made and is at work to renew and redeem. Our role is to catch the vision for what God is doing, to co-operate with his activity and play our part in caring for creation as a core element of our Christian discipleship."

It is important and timely for the whole Church of England, and has a special connection with our Diocese because our own Bishop Robert chairs the Faith and Order Commission which commissioned it.

Diocesan Prayer Resources

"Shared prayer is above all what unites us as a diocese. In prayer we draw closer to God and closer to each other. In prayer we draw closer to God and closer to each other. I use the prayer diary every day and I am really pleased to see it launched in a renewed form. I hope the new materials will be widely used across our diocese."

Bishop Robert

As we journey together in faith, prayer remains at the heart of our life as a Diocese. This Summer, we were pleased to share a range of new and growing resources to support and strengthen us in this shared calling.

These can all be accessed here: [Prayer](#)

Praying for the Life of the Diocese

We're building a collection of prayers written by members of our Diocesan family. These are free to download and can be used in groups, in fellowship, or in your own personal prayer.

Prayer Diary

Our Prayer Diary now follows a simple weekly rhythm. From Monday to Friday, we pray for chaplaincies and their congregations. At weekends, our focus shifts to those we walk alongside—our partners, key relationships, and local communities.

The diary is available to download, and you can also access it via the PrayerMate app for prayer on the go. We encourage you not only to pray, but to explore and learn more about the people and places featured each day.

Keeping Connected

We've included guidance and ideas to help you stay in touch with chaplaincies across the Diocese, so we can continue to support and encourage one another in prayer.

Prayer Events and Initiatives

This section will continue to grow, bringing together opportunities to join in shared prayer, along with resources and local initiatives from across the Diocese.

Making the Most of These Resources

- Share them with your chaplaincy council
- Use them in prayer meetings and gatherings
- Contribute your own chaplaincy prayers
- Sign up to PrayerMate to stay connected

If you have ideas for additional resources, or an initiative to share, we'd love to hear from you:

communciations@europe.anglican.org



Prayer is fundamental to our life together, both individually and as a Diocese. Thank you for being part of this shared journey of prayer.

Ways of Seeing: Orthodox Spirituality for our Modern World

by Rev Nevsky Everett



Father Nevsky

Father Nevsky Everett is chaplain of the Church of the Resurrection Bucharest and is the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative (Apokrisarios) to the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchate. He shares how his ministry there has engaged him and led to his new book.

Ministry in the Diocese in Europe is exciting, engaging and full of surprises! I have been Chaplain at the Church of the Resurrection in Bucharest for a little over four years, and there are all sorts of things I have been able to do here that I wouldn't have done in the UK. Much of this has come from getting to know my context and discerning what God is doing here in this city. One example has been our chaplaincy's work with Ukrainian refugees. I had no experience in this area before coming to Romania. Nevertheless, the Five Marks of Mission encourage us to respond to human need with loving service, and this was something our chaplaincy embraced, working alongside other charities and organisations.

I have made a very conscious effort to learn Romanian. Of course, that makes all sorts of daily interactions easier, but it also opens other doors. I am more able to work alongside my ecumenical partners, and I preach in Romanian each year during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. I also give an annual Christmas and Easter address on Romanian national television, along with the representatives of other denominations. These things have done a lot to raise the profile of our community. It also has pastoral implications: for weddings and baptisms, I usually preach in both Romanian and English in order to ensure that people's non-English speaking relations can feel part of our services. One of the exciting things that drew me to ministry in the Diocese was the chance to explore what life and ministry

was like in an Orthodox-majority context. I have always been interested in Orthodoxy and here I have been privileged to work alongside Orthodox colleagues and to experience the lived reality of the Orthodox faith. Following a series of retreat addresses I gave to the congregation of Christ Church, Vienna, I wrote a book highlighting those things about Orthodoxy that I have found spiritually enriching and transformative. The book is called *Ways of Seeing: Orthodox spirituality for our modern world* (Canterbury Press, 2026) and I hope that it will help Christians from western traditions to understand Orthodoxy better.

The book focuses on five aspects of Orthodox spirituality that can offer us new ways of thinking about our spiritual lives. Some of these things are more familiar than others. Many people first encounter the Orthodox tradition through icons, and so my first chapter explores how we can see icons in a new way. The second chapter, however, offers something less familiar. Through an encounter with the *Philokalia*, a collection of writings on prayer, I suggest that the Orthodox tradition can offer us a profound way of understanding our inner selves better and in relation to God. The book also shows some of the things that we share with the Orthodox tradition, as well as the differences, with chapters on the Divine Liturgy, hymnody and the Holy Spirit. The book was a labour of love and invites us to look beyond the superficial and the stereotypes to learn from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

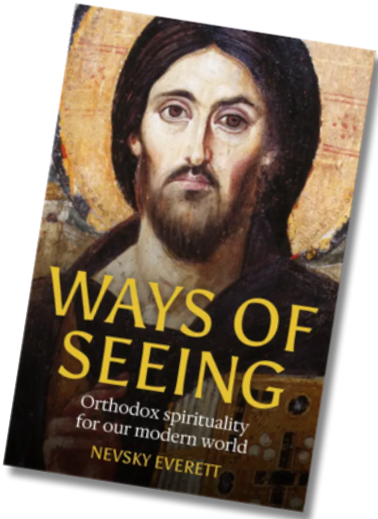


Father Nevsky signs his book at the book launch

Ways of Seeing: Orthodox Spirituality for our Modern World by Rev Nevsky Everett

These three things (our work with Ukrainian refugees, my efforts to learn Romanian, and my engagement with the Orthodox Church) have all come from a deep commitment to the rootedness of our chaplaincy in our context. This has given us a solid foundation on which to build, and on which we can discern the signs of the Kingdom in this place. Our Anglican tradition has much to say about being rooted in a particular place and community, through the Church of England's parish system, and this is something we can offer across the communities of our Diocese. As we get to know the places we live and work better, God will open new doors and give us new opportunities to grow in faith, hope and love.

'Ways of Seeing: Orthodox Spirituality for our Modern Age is published by Canterbury Press and is available to buy now ([link](#))
Ways of Seeing Orthodox spirituality for our modern world by Nevsky Everett - Paperback / softback - 9781786227065



The Diocese in Europe support the Mission to Seafarers in various ports across our Diocese. Below, you can watch an interview between Rev Jennifer Pridmore (Chaplain, St Mary's Rotterdam) and Rev Daniel Odhiambo (Port Chaplain, Rotterdam), where Daniel describes the work of the charity as well as something of their links with the Church of England and especially Diocese in Europe, describes his role and asks for prayer:



Video placeholder
<https://vimeo.com/1198384543?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

Diocesan Strategy

As we build on our shared history, this year we look ahead with joy at the development of our new Diocesan Strategy.

The Diocese in Europe stands at a significant moment in its history. Alongside profound changes across Europe, we have been entrusted with new opportunities and resources for mission and ministry. This invites us to renew our shared vision and discern how God is calling us to serve in the decade ahead.

This strategy has emerged through listening, reflection and prayer across the diocese. It draws on conversations with clergy and lay people, engagement with diocesan bodies and partners, and consideration of research and data. The vision and priorities that follow are the fruit of shared discernment and collective wisdom.



The strategy will articulate our vision and focus for the next years ahead and will support and empower our chaplaincies in delivering God's mission in the world together.

Many of the programmes and resources which the strategy will articulate are possible due to the work and mission which has happened across our diocese for many decades, and the foundation of prayer and a vibrant spiritual life in our hundreds of congregations.

Once agreed, the strategy will be shared in 2027. Please continue to pray for everyone involved in the development of it and the work which is needed. You can read more about the Strategy on our website: [Diocesan Strategy](#).

Diocesan Prayer for our Strategy

Gracious God,
you call your Church to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ afresh in each generation;
guide the Diocese in Europe as we seek to discern your will for us.
Give wisdom, courage, and humility to Bishop Robert and Bishop Andrew,
and to all who lead and serve in this process.
Bless the members of our working groups and all who contribute,
that together we may listen deeply for your voice.
In our prayer, our conversation, and our decision-making,
help us to recognise your calling and respond with faith and trust.
Shape us as a welcoming and diverse people,
rooted in Christ and sent out in love to serve your world.
Amen

Thank you for reading

European Anglicans Autumn 2026

Please get in touch with ideas for articles and stories for future editions

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**Daily Prayer
Diary**



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