



Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria
Supporting churches in Egypt, North Africa, Horn of Africa and Gambella

Registered Charity 1181201



FAPA NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2022

Promoting the FAPA Tunisian Pilgrimage Tour 5th -13th May 2023

A private tour arranged for FAPA members and friends –
led by FAPA Trustees Richard Hibbert and Andy Wheeler



Dear Members and Friends

Carthage revisited! *Question:* What do the following dates have in common?

7th March; [17th July]; 27th August; 28th August; 15th September

Answer: they each commemorate early Christians living or martyred in North Africa, as included in our Anglican liturgical calendar (plus Roman Catholic calendar for 17th July).

So...

7th March: Perpetua, Felicity and their companions, martyrs at Carthage, AD203

17th July: the Scillitan Martyrs, tried and executed at Carthage, AD180

27th August: Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, AD387

28th August: Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, teacher of the faith, AD430

15th September: Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyred AD258

It was one of my joys and richest experiences, whilst we were living and ministering in Tunis, to take Tunisian and expatriate Christians to visit sites in the northern suburb of the city (the original area of Carthage) that are strongly connected with the saints mentioned above.

We stood together at the site of the Roman Forum on Byrsa Hill and read out loud the dialogue recorded at the trial of the Scillitan Martyrs – incidentally we know from that trial that some of the Gospels plus Letters of Paul had reached the Roman Province of North Africa well before then.

We visited the ruins of the amphitheatre where Perpetua and Felicitas and her companions were martyred for refusing to renounce their Christian faith. We listened to a reading of part of Perpetua's diary plus an account of their martyrdom by an eyewitness.

We passed by the area where Tertullian used to live – in a wealthier part of Carthage. This man was never ordained, but wrote some significant theological works and is famous for his early treatise on the Trinity and his conviction that the blood of the martyrs becomes the seed of the church.

We found ourselves at the site of a former basilica dedicated to Bishop Cyprian, said to mark the place of an earlier chapel where faithful Monica said farewell to the departing Augustine (her son) as he set off by sea to Italy – and eventual conversion. Sometimes the current remains are referred to as the Basilica of Saint Monica. For ten years Cyprian served as Bishop of Carthage prior to his execution.

Then there are the brilliant remains of a basilica that was once the largest church in Africa. Augustine used to preach here and councils of Christian leaders from all over the Province of Africa used to meet here in synod. Within its walls the canons of our Old and New Testament were confirmed. The remains of this church include an underground rotunda and it was very moving to gather as modern-day pilgrims at this old baptismal site and reaffirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed – in Arabic and English!

the underground rotunda

The Baths of Gargilius – or their ruins – seems a funny place to visit on a pilgrimage; but here is the place where the famous Donatist controversy was settled – in favour of Augustine and the Latin-speaking, Roman Church against the more indigenous Donatists of North African origin. Power politics and the church, an ancient as well as a modern theme!



Well! I trust that I am whetting your appetite! Hopefully, the pilgrimage/tour arranged by Andante Travel on behalf of FAPA for May 2023 will allow us to stand in some of these places and rehearse the history of those who have contended so sacrificially for their faith in Christ in this land now called Tunisia. Being beheaded for refusing to deny Jesus is no new phenomenon – Bishop Cyprian experienced it in the mid-3rd century.

Pilgrims on the FAPA trip in May 2023 will uncover other treasures of the Christian era in the Roman Province of Africa through visits to museums – wonderful baptistries and mosaics! Hopefully we can get to understand some of the internal arguments between Christians in those days that so weakened the Christian communities once Christianity became identified with political powers: the Donatist controversy; the fights between Roman Christians, Arian Christians, Byzantine Christians – all leaving a very weak Christian presence in the Province for when Umayyad Islam exploded out of the Arabian peninsular in the late seventh century. Islam, of course, soon developed its own internal tensions and fights and we should learn something of the development of Sunni and Shi'a struggles when we visit Kairouan.

Then there is a great selection of Carthaginian and (especially) Roman sites that are simply stunning to see. We will visit some of the outstanding examples in the country.

Most brilliantly of all, we will have the opportunity to visit some contemporary Christians – national and expatriate – living in Tunis today.

If it would help you to consider more seriously the learning possibilities of the FAPA trip to Tunisia next Spring, I would be very happy to make available a couple of articles/talks that I prepared whilst living there...

Christian Heritage, Carthage – relating how the archaeological sites in the Carthage area of Tunis tell or reflect the story of the arrival of the Christian gospel in North Africa and its gradual transformation into “Church”.

Carthage Questions: Carthage Answers! – highlighting (for then and now) the issues of “discrimination” (ie persecution), “diversity or division?” (ie Christians arguing); “discerning the moment” (ie diocesan, synodical government).

Just send me an email to billamusk@gmail.com and ask for either/both of the articles.



Bishop Bill, FAPA Chair

FAPA – Tunisian Pilgrimage Tour 9 Days 5th -13th May 2023

A private tour arranged for FAPA members and friends – it will be led by Trustees Richard Hibbert and Andy Wheeler. Book Now to obtain discount!

Details are available in the Notices section of our website www.fapa-egypt.org

[Double click on this image for brochure](#)



FAPA 2023 Tunisia
Pilgrimage Tour (UK)

Please advertise this Tour amongst your congregation - it is open to all.....



Sustaining Christian witness in Tunis today

In 1830, missionaries from the Church Mission to the Jews began teaching in the poor neighbourhoods of downtown Tunis (the then-Jewish quarter). There they created the first school (in the modern sense of the term) in Tunisia. In the same area, St George's Anglican church came to be built on the site of a former cemetery. The buildings of the Kallaline School and the parish house of St George's (constructed next to the church) were built by the same joint organization under the aegis of the Church Mission to the Jews, and a joint committee still manages those properties.

The school itself, and the church itself, developed independently from each other, though there is still a lot of connection. Kallaline School today welcomes around 200 students, most of them Tunisian. The presence in the school of Tunisian and foreign Christian teachers makes it possible to holistically demonstrate the Christian gospel to the students, with great tact. Relationships with parents of students provide many opportunities for sharing Christian trust in common, difficult, human circumstances.



Several members of St George's participate in the life of the school, either as employees or as volunteers for occasional activities (clubs, English camp, sports day). To maintain the unique Christian ethos at the heart of the school, Christians professionals and volunteers are needed at the school. The current administrator of the school is a dear Tunisian friend whom I had the privilege of baptising some dozen years ago. She has accompanied us to previous gatherings of FAPA (when it was EDA) during the time that she was part of the St Anselm prayer community based at Lambeth

Palace.

She is asking whether anyone knows a professional teacher with (if possible) skills at organising curricula, teaching staff etc who might be free and willing to volunteer for some years to offer some leadership as headteacher ("pedagogical director") of the school. A flat for living in is ready and waiting on the school site! If not Arabic, fluent French would be needed! Shorter-term volunteers (maybe via a British mission group?) are also needed for extra-curricular supervision of students.

I am very happy to be point of contact for anyone willing to consider these volunteer opportunities and contribute to a significant ministry to young Tunisians and their families: billamusk@gmail.com



Other News - other friends

The Province of Alexandria is supported by 3 charities in addition to FAPA, namely JMECA, FACE and FAPAUS. Trustees are pleased to inform members that FAPA is committed to working with these friends in our common mission of helping the Province realise its goals with prayer and financial support. Please do visit their websites and read their news and prayer requests.

The Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association (JMECA) www.jmecca.org.uk has supported the life and work of the Anglican Church across Jerusalem, the Middle East – Cyprus, the Gulf States and Iran - and North Africa for more than 120 years.

Friends of the Anglican Church in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa (FACE) supports the vital ministry of the Anglican Church in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa by raising awareness in the UK, providing grants to support that work and facilitating opportunities for people in the UK to volunteer in the region. Bishop Andrew Proud is Patron, and the Revd Christopher Haywood is Chair of Trustees www.friendsanglicanethiopia.org.uk

Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria, United States FAPAUS, previously FADE, is dedicated to supporting the Anglican Province of Alexandria which encompasses four Dioceses, serving the countries of Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Tunisia, Djibouti, Chad, and Mauritania. www.FAPAUS.org

Winter Seminars Trustees will shortly be giving consideration to organising another Winter Seminar programme – members are invited to suggest subjects. Please email Michael (secretaryfapa@gmail.com)

The Annual Gathering 2023 - Note for the Diary – 13 September 2023

We are pleased to confirm that arrangements have been made to hold an ANNUAL GATHERING on Wednesday 13 September 2023, at St Margaret's Church, Westminster. This will be a hybrid meeting – a chance for those that can to meet in the flesh..... and for others to join via zoom. The 2023 Annual General Meeting will be a 'virtual' meeting in April, date yet to be fixed.

Amazon Smile Did you know you can raise funds for FAPA by shopping with AmazonSmile who will donate to your favourite charity at no extra cost to you?!

If you are making purchases from Amazon, please log in through www.smile.amazon.co.uk – This is exactly the same site, with the same prices, it just means that your purchase will trigger a donation of 0.5% of purchases. When you go to the Smile website choose The **Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria** as your chosen charity! And raise money without trying!

Down Memory Lane! Umm Ali... mmmmmm!



Egypt's national dessert delicious scrumptious... generous ... like Egyptian hospitality much missed!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Om_Ali

Michael- FAPA Hon. Secy. welcomes contributions to our newsletters!