



**Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria**  
Supporting churches in Egypt, North Africa, Horn of Africa and Gambella  
Registered Charity 1181201



## **FAPA NEWSLETTER – Advent 2021**

Dear members and friends, Advent greetings to you!

A friend recently lent me his copy of *Vaxxers* by Professor Sarah Gilbert and Dr Catherine Green. What a fascinating book – it records the targeted designing and producing at large scale of a vaccine against the pathogen Covid-19. Fact is separated from fiction, plus the inside story is full of suspense with baited-breath-waiting on ultra-delicate laboratory processes or on results from trials or on the safe arrival of precious vials of vaccine or on requests for (much!) money being granted. There is plenty of personal honesty by the two protagonists/authors and a strong insistence on the heroism of whole teams of researchers and lab technicians and production facilities in the UK and elsewhere who worked night and day (literally) to produce the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine. Scintillatingly, the book is peppered with explanations-to-lay-persons of things like DNA and RNA and proteins and amino acids and you can't help exclaiming how complex and how simple, beautiful also, is the created world, including ourselves. It is a good book to read at Advent time, with its description of a race to save the global community from a terrible, unseen enemy. Perhaps it can give us an inkling of the sense of "race" that ran from heaven via virgin and company to offer a Saviour and Son amidst a catastrophe within human hearts.

Thank you for your prayers for places and people around the Province in need of them: at large scale is the continuing, increasingly grave, situation in Ethiopia; at smaller scale is the mending of the broken femur of Canon Huw Thomas in Algeria. St Andrew's Day at the end of November saw the consecration, in Cairo, of the Rev'd Canon Anthony Ball as an assistant bishop to Archbishop Samy. Bishop Anthony is tasked with addressing the legal and practical steps, finding potential personnel, helping to bring into reality a Province with four functioning dioceses – by 2025. We pray for him, for Bishop Kuan, and for Archbishop Samy in their fellowship-in-leadership, vision-sharing and careful balancing of ecclesial and administrative duties. The October visit to Egypt by Archbishop Justin Welby to celebrate the recently-inaugurated Province of Alexandria was very much appreciated by all in Egypt, especially as the media attention to the visit (including in Egypt) strongly emphasised the global and independent status of the Anglican Communion – something that will hopefully prove helpful in the current attempts by the Diocese of Egypt to free itself from the domination/takeover attempts by the Presbyterian church there. In Gambella, we congratulate the Venerable Jeremiah Paul Koryom on his appointment by Archbishop Samy as Archdeacon. Good news for St Matthew's Addis Ababa comes in news of the appointment as incumbent there of the Revd Canon Martin Reakes-Williams, for many years incumbent of Leipzig English Church in Germany.

There has been a lot of growth of the Diocese of Egypt in recent years (perhaps making the resulting churches, institutions, personnel constitute an attractive prize for others?) and in this newsletter we

transmit from Archdeacon Emad a summary of the churches in Egypt. Canon Hamdy Sedky describes the development of new hospital and church (St Luke) in Sadat City while Dean David Aziz offers insight into his ministry at the pro-Cathedral (St Mark) in Alexandria. Archbishop Samy has kindly added some further, exciting news of recent events in the Diocese of Egypt and in the Province as a whole.

Within FAPA, trustees are giving thought to promoting support and interest in the Province, possibly arranging some study tours (more on this soon!). Meanwhile, as a first step, trustees Revd. Canon Richard Hibbert and Dr Peter Le Feuvre have been planning a series of “Seminars” to be held early next year – advance details are below.



*But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4-5)*

Bishop Bill, FAPA Chair

## The Diocese of Egypt - An Overview

The current population of the Arab Republic of Egypt is thought to be 104 million (21 million live in Greater Cairo). 10 million are of the Christian religion.

The Anglican presence in Egypt owes itself to CMS missionaries who arrived in Egypt in 1819 and, after meeting the Coptic Orthodox Patriarch and receiving letters of introduction to all monasteries in Egypt, they set out to visit the monks and distribute copies of the four Gospels in Arabic. Land was given to the Anglican Church by Mohammed Ali Pasha and St Mark’s Anglican Church in Alexandria was consecrated in 1839.

The Anglican presence grew due to the British influence in Egypt and through the ministry of CMS which during the late 19th and early 20th centuries sent the Revd Canon Temple Gairdner, Dr Frank Harpur, Revd Douglas Thornton, and Miss Constance Padwick among others. Their influence continues today especially through the establishing of the Jesus Light of the World Church in Old Cairo, and Harpur Memorial Hospital in Menouf. We are so privileged in FAPA to have as current trustees two who are grandchildren of Temple Gairdner and Douglas Thornton!

Outreach to non-Christians and to Coptic Orthodox Christians continues and the Anglican communion has flourished – today there are about twenty congregations in Egypt:

**Cairo** - Zamalek – All Saints Cathedral (English, Egyptian, Sudanese).

Maadi – St John the Baptist (English, Egyptian, Sudanese).

Old Cairo – Jesus Light of the World (Egyptian, Deaf).

Heliopolis – St Michael & All Angels (Egyptian, Deaf, Sudanese).

Giza – The Good Shepherd (Egyptian) . Tawabek – (Egyptian)

Ezbet El Nakhle – (Egyptian) . Ain Shams – St Athanasius (Egyptian)

Salam City – Jesus the Prince of Peace (Egyptian)

**Alexandria**- Mansheah – St Mark pro Cathedral (Egyptian)

Stanley – All Saints (Egyptian, Sudanese) Ras El-Soda – Christ the King, (Egyptian)

**Port Said** – Epiphany **Suez** – Saviour **October City** – Jesus the King **Menouf** – St Mark

**Sadat City** – St Luke **Ismailia** – All Saints (no congregation as in the hands of the Presbyterians)

**St Mark's Anglican Pro Cathedral in Alexandria** is led by Dean David Aziz. He was installed as Dean of Alexandria in March 2021 after 6 years' service in Tunisia. He sends news of his ministry in this historic city. *Clergy, lay readers and their families come together weekly for prayer and training sessions – prayer life developed by increasing the number of times of morning and evening prayers each week and increasing the number of Holy Communion services to two or three times per week.*

**Children are our HOPE** - taking care of our children and creating a suitable environment for their spiritual and social growth is a priority, through applying the Safeguarding policy and developing a Sunday school.

**Other Ministries** ... an important role is encouraging many services in Alexandria, including the Sudanese service, which is increasing significantly. Also we are starting a service for the deaf by receiving and caring for them and holding a weekly spiritual meeting by sign language. We also encourage church's youth to learn sign language and mix with their deaf brothers and sisters. Finding new ways to reach out to people by media and online ministry is one of our goals. So we encourage church members to use their gifts in this field; this summer SMAPC produced a 'YouTube' program weekly stream to discuss the critical issues in our community in the light of the word of God.

**Mission to Seafarers Egypt** was been launched in St Marks last April in the presence of Archbishop Samy and Canon Andy Bowerman the regional director of Seafarers in Middle East and South Asia.

**Community Service** St Marks believes in the importance of being salt and light as two sides of the same coin in our service: - a spiritual role (light) by reaching out and teaching the word of God, but also a tangible role to serve society (salt) through improving the human being through the Cultural Center and St. Marks, giving courses of English, programming, graphics, E-marketing, cooking.

**Interfaith dialogue and Ecumenical Relationship** St. Marks stresses the importance of dialogue with our community partners as part of building a peacemaking culture in the society through cooperation with Azhar, Misr el-Khir and all the religious units of the local society in Alexandria.



**The Anglican Church of St. Luke – Sadat City** was planted as the fruit of the medical ministry of Dr. Taky Sanad who took on his heart to move from the missionary Hospital of Menouf City in 1996 into this new city, some 100km northwest of Cairo. He started his medical work with a clinic in a rented apartment, then after ministry expanded, through other clinics. Dr. Taky and his team conducted home Bible studies through which St. Luke was planted and came into being. The big fruit of this medical ministry is that Harpur Anglican Missionary Hospital was established in 2011, to be the second missionary Harpur Hospital of our Anglican Diocese of Egypt... Praise the Lord!

**Canon Hamdy Sedky Daoud** continues: *'Now I am serving as the Chaplain of Harpur Hospital and Priest in Charge of St. Luke's Church since August 2021. My congregation is a small one and members are from different cultural background and ages. I enjoy leading daily Morning Prayer and a short Bible study with some of the hospital staff. In Church we have weekly Holy Communion and home*



*Bible studies. We pray for preparing some good leaders for Sunday school and youth ...We pray also for establishing ways to reach out to people from different backgrounds. It is lovely to have a vision and mission working together through different levels of interfaith dialogue and ecumenical ministry. The Lord is good and His mercy endures forever!*

During his recent visit to Egypt the **Archbishop of Canterbury visited Harpur Memorial Hospital in Sadat City**. He was warmly received by Dr. Hany Abadir, Director of the hospital. During the visit, and in the presence of bishops from other Provinces of the Anglican Communion, Archbishop Samy congratulated the hospital staff for their wonderful efforts in the medical work that has been lovingly provided since the days of the clinics that preceded the current hospital, adding: *I congratulate you on the occasion of completing the work of intensive care for premature babies and nurseries, with the support of British charitable funds.*



**Visit of HRH Prince Charles:** Archbishop Samy Fawzy participated in receiving Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall at Al-Azhar Mosque, accompanied by the Grand Imam, Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, Sheikh of Al-Azhar Mosque, in a visit he described as historic. The Archbishop said: *A cordial dialogue took place between the Sheikh and the Prince about students being sent from Al-Azhar to study in English universities in a way that supports cooperation between the Al-Azhar Institution and the United Kingdom, as well as promoting Islamic-Christian dialogue.*



The establishing of the Anglican Province of Alexandria, was celebrated on 8 October in All Saints Cathedral, Zamalek, Cairo. The Most Rev'd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, preached during a service that was attended by several Primates and bishops of the Communion from Africa and Asia. The Archbishop of Canterbury gave Archbishop Samy a symbolic primatial cross.

**An Assistant Bishop in the Province of Alexandria.** The Executive Committees of the Province and of the Diocese of Egypt approved the appointment of the Revd Canon Anthony Ball, as an assistant bishop to Archbishop Samy. The consecration service was held on St Andrew's Day, 30<sup>th</sup> November, in All Saints' Cathedral, Cairo. Bishop Anthony will assist in the development of the four dioceses of the province. Archbishop Samy comments: *Bishop Anthony Ball has supported ecclesiastical service in Egypt and North Africa for many years in addition to his long experience in the Middle East, which prompted the Executive Council of the Province of Alexandria and the Diocese of Egypt to approve his appointment as Assistant Bishop.* The Archbishop is grateful to Westminster Abbey, in which Bishop Anthony continues to serve, in its partnership and support at this pivotal time in the life of the Province of Alexandria.



**A Clergy Retreat in the Monastery of Anba Bishoy** was held at the beginning of November.

The retreat included all priests, ministers and deacons in the Episcopal/Anglican Church in the Diocese of Egypt, allowing everyone to exchange experiences from service in many churches across Egypt. Archbishop Samy thanked His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark, for hosting the Episcopal/Anglican Church during the retreat, stressing that Pope Tawadros demonstrates his love in word and deed and sets an example for all church leaders in love, openness, and humility.



**Gambella** Archbishop Samy has appointed Revd Jeremiah Paul as Archdeacon in Gambella Diocese. The Venerable Jeremiah is a native of Gambella. In 2003 he was licensed as a lay minister in the Episcopal/Anglican Church of St. Luke, Gambella, which was the first church established there in 1996. A year later, he was made a deacon and served for four years. He then trained for several years at the Alexandria School of Theology in Egypt, before returning to Ethiopia as a priest.



**Winter Seminars 2022** Sunday evenings at 7.30 pm GMT by Zoom

*Further details and invitations will be circulated to FAPA members in the New Year*

**The Church in Ethiopia: Its history, its theology and the situation today**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January** with Rt Rev Dr Michael Igrave OBE, Bishop of Lichfield; Rev Dr John Binns, visiting Professor and founding director of Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies; Dr. Desta Haliso.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January** with Rt Rev Andrew Proud, retired Bishop of Reading, and of the Horn of Africa; the Venerable Jeremiah Paul, Archdeacon and Evangelist, Gambella; Rev Dr Johannes Vander Bijl, former and founding Principal of Saint Frumentius College, Gambella; Rt Rev Dr Grant LeMarquand, retired Bishop of the Horn of Africa.

**The Church in Egypt: Its history, its theology and the situation today**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> (or 20<sup>th</sup>) February 2022** with Rt Rev Dr Michael Igrave OBE, Bishop of Lichfield and FAPA Patron; His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Archbishop of London; Rt Rev Dr Mouneer Anis, former Archbishop of the Province of Alexandria.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February** with Rt Rev Dr Bill Musk, retired Bishop of North Africa; the Archbishop of the Province of Alexandria; Rev Mark Takki, Acting AST Academic Coordinator and former Diocesan youth leader; Mr. Shady Anis, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge. Professor Hoda Gindy.

**A Good Read –** Sibella Laing recommends “Celestial Bodies” by Jokha alHarthy, the young Omani woman who won the Man Booker International prize in 2019 - the first Arab woman to do so. It’s a good read, excellent translation too, and interesting as it’s on an appropriate theme. The novel traces an Omani family over three generations shaped by social change and consequent shifts in outlook.