



ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

An Anglican / Episcopal
Christian community in Lugano

News Bulletin

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A Thanksgiving from Father Richard



Dear Friends,

There are many ways of praying. *Pray as you can, and do not try to pray as you can't*, was the pithy advice given by Abbot John Chapman (1865–1933) to the laypeople, monks, nuns, and priests who wrote to him seeking guidance in a life of prayer. It is good advice.

Some people think that praying 'ad hoc' or extemporary praying without preparation is better than reading aloud a prayer from a book. Sometimes that might be true; but sometimes the opposite can be true: we are given a prayer to read and it challenges us and speaks to us in a way that would not have happened otherwise.

There is particular prayer that I use before Council meetings – it was written by John Bell and is a good prayer:

*Lord, give us wisdom before we speak, understanding while we listen,
sensitivity towards those we meet and the perspective of your kingdom.*

There can be no better guidance for those attending a Council meeting and no better advice for a parish priest – and I hope that I have tried to live up to that prayer in my time here.

We all know that at the end of some joint endeavour it is best not to go through a great list of those to thank: there will always be somebody you will miss out. It is still good to be thankful for all that has been achieved, but save those individual thanks for individual people when you can manage to speak with them. We know that those who are part of the great mission of the Church do not do it for the thanks they might (or might not) receive, but to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for God's love shown to us. It is God who loves us first.

So this last message is written in thanksgiving for all that has been achieved here in this year: in this great endeavour to somehow be a little outpost of the Kingdom of God in this place, with our particular - and peculiar - identity: part of the Church of England, but in (of all places) Switzerland. So it is that I can say this:

"It is good that we have celebrated the sacraments Sunday by Sunday - and usually Wednesday by Wednesday too.

It is good that the Sunday School has given guidance to our young and kept them faithful, culminating in what I might see as the high point of the year: the visit of Bishop Michael and the Confirmation in June. It is good that we have continued social events specially (but not exclusively) aimed at the young – including bowling!

It is good that we have had people – young and old – participate in readings and leading prayers and in carol services and nativity plays and participating in the Liturgy of Holy Week. It is good that we have had people participate in Advent and Lent Prayer Groups, the latter being a much appreciated engagement with the concept of Lectio Divina.

It is good that pastoral care has been offered in many situations and not least after bereavement, with a moving memorial Service for our long-standing member of the congregation, Ernest Jaeger.

It is good that we have been able to offer hospitality and fellowship and that we have participated in ecumenical events, sometimes even leading them, both in our own church and in other churches and even being featured on local TV and Radio.

It is good that I have also struck up a friendly relationship with the Diocese of Lugano Seminary here and improved our participation in the life of the Chaplaincy in Milan, joining in on-line Morning Prayer and Bible study. It is interesting to note that this is so much easier in Italy than with our own Archdeaconry here in Switzerland.

This is all quite a lot for a small church which has also managed to keep the ship of faith afloat through generous giving and inspired fund-raising – and this is without even mentioning the necessary care for our church buildings.

*It is good to **thank all of you** who have made me welcome here, all who have helped me in various tasks and especially who have helped me when I was in need, and all who have formed the body of Christ in this place."*

All of this is quite a lot in only one year, moreover a year in which I have also managed to go on Pilgrimage in Izmir (where James Buxton is Chaplain), to visit the Seven Churches of the New Testament with our Bishop and other Chaplains too. Now we look to the future, with another prayer by Angela Ashwin in her 'Book of a Thousand Prayers'

Christ our Guide, stay with us on our pilgrimage through life: when we falter, encourage us, when we stumble, steady us, and when we have fallen, pick us up. Help us to become, step by step, more truly ourselves, and remind us that you have travelled this way before us.

Amen

Pace e bene ("peace and a blessing") in thanksgiving from Father Richard



13th August Fellowship Lunch after the 10:30 Sunday Eucharist

Since his arrival last year (seen here in the photo) Father Richard has brought renewed energy and restored unity within our worshipping community.

The churchwardens have really appreciated a great collaborative team spirit and the chaplain's sympathetic sense of fun 😊

Father Richard has been a visible parish presence, and with his own personal warmth connected with members of all ages and backgrounds. We hope you will come to wish Father Richard "God Speed", as he goes forth with our love and blessings in his new ministry as school chaplain in Oxford

**RSVP - Please contact christinemccreary@yahoo.com
Contributions towards the catering would be gratefully received, thank you**

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



The Bishop in Europe is pleased to announce that he has offered the post of Chaplain to St Edward's Anglican Chaplaincy in Lugano, Switzerland, to the Revd. Paul Hrynczyszyn, currently the Priest in Charge of the Anglican Church in Cairns, Australia, dedicated to St Margaret of Scotland, and that he has accepted this, though of course the offer is subject to completion of the usual formalities. Paul and his wife expect to move to Lugano once he has fulfilled his notice period to his current Parish and the necessary formalities have been finalised.

We would ask that you hold Father Paul and his family in your prayers as they bring to an end their ministry in Cairns, and prepare to come to join us in Switzerland. We also continue to pray for Richard as his time in ministry in Lugano comes to an end.

The churchwardens are now working hard to complete all the formalities, and once this has been done we will be able to announce some dates regarding when Father Paul, his wife Anna and their small daughter are due to arrive in Lugano.



**Join us in Casa Benson for 2 hours circa
Meetings begin in September ...
Watch this space!**

Whatever church you go to, teenagers up to the age of 21 are invited to come along. Our fully trained and safeguarded leaders will welcome you



We also hope to go bowling again



Our autumn term begins on September 3rd ... Hurray!

- We look forward to welcoming our younger disciples at the 10:30 service
- Teachers and children rejoin the congregation in time for the Eucharist
- Children from the age of 3 are welcome to join either the Pebbles or Rocks groups

Holy Baptism and Confirmation



We pray that they may
Be filled with the
HOLY SPIRIT



The Rt Revd Dr Michael Langrish
Hon Assistant Bishop in the Diocese in Europe
Sunday 11th June 2023
The Feast of Saint Barnabas



**On the fourth Sunday of Lent
we were honoured to
welcome Mr James Squire,
British Ambassador to Switzerland
together with his wife and family
to bless the Olive Tree,
planted in beloved memory of
Her Late Majesty,
Queen Elizabeth II**

*The righteous are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God,
Psalm 92*

The next Church Council Meeting
Monday 25th Sept – 7pm
Casa Benson - in person, chaired by the Lay-Chair(s)

The Council will be soon be launching a “Giving Page” on our website



Fundraising enables Faith-raising at St Edward's
A place to become ...
A place to belong