

# Fancy meeting you here...

For many of us 'Summer' means a holiday - often in Europe. The Church of England Diocese in Europe maintains an Anglican presence in 44 countries from Madeira to Moscow and Morocco to Iceland. Most popular tourist destinations are served by a chaplaincy offering pastoral care and regular Anglican worship.

Here we learn a bit more about what this involves from three ex-Southwark clergymen who you might meet if your holiday takes you to their part of Europe...



## Parish ministry - on the Costa Blanca

'But what will you DO?' asked Bishop Tom anxiously when he called me in for a debriefing interview before I left for Spain in May 2003. My reply was that 'something will crop up,' - which it did, in response to Bishop Colin's more prophetic accolade: 'May God's good hand be upon you.'

Any thoughts I've ever had about a different type of ministry have always been trumped by God - who has kept me firmly within parochial ministry. It's certainly different here; but it's parochial ministry. I set off armed with a PTO for the Costa Blanca, and helped out on Sundays whilst teaching English during the week. Within a year I was stipendiary, and 18 months ago became Senior Chaplain.

Our website describes the parish in detail. We have eight churches, all of them Roman Catholic premises for which we pay a donation; and all of them open for the Eucharist at different times every Sunday morning, requiring four clergy each presiding twice. Our Electoral Roll is currently 267, slightly down on last year as financial pressures have affected resident ex-pats. The exchange rate has hit sterling pensions; and high Spanish unemployment, within the building trade and property market particularly, has meant that even within the church community, people have had to return to the UK.



There are three resident clergy within the team, and four sprightly-retireds who have homes here. We have a licensed Reader, together with a strong lay team of chaplaincy and local wardens. It's real collaborative ministry as far as the management of this 4,500 sq. mile parish is concerned.

Apart from worship and the common life, the Chaplains and Reader conducted 146 funerals in 2009, evidence of a substantially retired element among the residents. We also conducted a dozen baptisms and several wedding blessings from among those who live here. Home communions, pastoral visiting, committee meetings and a host of church social events keep us busy. Our spirits and our finances remain buoyant though occasionally challenged; and we are aware that 40 years of consistent growth in Spain is currently in decline. But it is a good life, and there are still new people coming to live it. Our task remains to express the Good News by word, action and worship; and to draw people into the life of the Church.

**Rev. Peter Edwards**  
www.costablanca-anglicanchaplaincy.org



The Venerable Jonathan Lloyd is Archdeacon of

## Germany and Northern Europe...

Southwark is very much my "home diocese". I trained for ministry with the Southwark Ordination Course and was ordained at Southwark Cathedral in 1990. My father was ordained there in 1947 and my mother trained as a deaconess at Gilmore House in Clapham in 1948.

Roots are important to me in my new ministry here in continental Europe. As I travel on an overnight train to a synod meeting or parish visit, I often think to myself "the traffic jams of south London were not that bad after all!" Especially when the Icelandic volcano sends out another ash cloud!

My archdeaconry covers the Anglican churches across nine countries - Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Iceland. With the Meissen links with Germany and the Porvoo Communion with the Nordics/Baltics, it is an exciting place to be. In October this year the Danish Lutheran Church will formally join the Porvoo Communion. One of the misconceptions about the 44th Diocese of the Church of England is that our parishioners are all ex-pats.

Jonathan on a parish visit to Stavanger, Norway

The reality is quite different. St Alban's Church in Copenhagen has 25 different nationalities. One of our congregations in Finland has several hundred refugees from Sudan - they are Anglicans and worship using the 1662 BCP translated into Arabic. I am visiting them in September and have a very quick course in Arabic to get through!

There are two Deaneries in my archdeaconry - Nordics/Baltics and Germany. In Germany we have a joint meeting with The Episcopal Church chaplaincies - we are the only place in the world where local Anglicans from the CofE and TEC are co-working in this way. And we live with all the current tensions and challenges that there are in the Anglican Communion.

The Diocese in Europe is a diverse and growing diocese, with one of the highest numbers of ordinands from minority ethnic groups. We call ourselves a diaspora diocese. The common theme is that people are on the move. The diocese covers one-sixth of the world's land mass and nine time-zones. Nothing can be assumed - even when you answer the phone and say "good morning" it might be "good afternoon" to the person calling. The Diocese in Europe is a wonderful and rich blend of cultures, of faith journeys, of expressions of the work of God in this amazing Continent of Europe. It's a great place to serve.

## In Europe since before the Reformation

English churches and congregations have been established on the Continent of Europe since before the Reformation. The number grew to such an extent that in 1633 congregations of the Church of England in all foreign countries were placed under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London (London then being the chief port of England).

The Diocese of Gibraltar was founded in 1842 and took over the pastoral care of chaplaincies and congregations in the lands around the Mediterranean.

In 1883 the Bishop of London appointed a suffragan bishop, later given the title of Bishop of Fulham, to supervise chaplaincies in north and central Europe.

From 1970 North and Central Europe and the Diocese of Gibraltar, were under the episcopal care of one bishop, the Bishop of Fulham and Gibraltar and in 1980 a single diocese was formed - The Diocese in Europe, the 44th Diocese of the Church of England.

Other Anglican Communion churches in Europe include six churches established by the Episcopal Church of the USA and Spanish Episcopal Reformed Church and the Lusitanian Church (Portugal).

The Diocese also maintains friendly relations with other Christian churches in mainland Europe and is committed to the quest for the full visible unity of the Church.



## "Rome must be very different from Catford"

Rev. Jonathan Boardman writes:

Comparisons are generally thought to be odious but many people express this idea when considering my passage from Southwark Diocese, where I worked in the Catford (Southend) and Downham Team, to my present job as chaplain of All Saints' Anglican Church, Rome.

Well, naturally, there are some differences: I couldn't get such good coffee so close to my door in SE6, or indeed buy a Fendi handbag at Homebase across the A21 from the rectory. Whereas Via del Babuino, the swish shopping street, on which All Saints' is built, is lined with designer boutiques and excellent cafés. But you'd be surprised how often frustration at not finding some DIY article has me longing for *Half-price Friday!*

I describe what we do at All Saints' as offering as much of a normal Church of England parish experience as our extraordinary circumstances allow. So we worship on Sundays and weekdays (eucharist and morning and evening prayer), host a mother-and-toddlers group twice a week, welcome concerts from visiting groups, school visits and other groups of Christians. Pastoral care, bible study, and youth work is shared between clergy and laity. We tithe our income, and provide a picnic lunch for up to 300 refugees one day each week. We enter fully into the ecumenical life of the city, both amongst the

other English Speaking churches and the local Italian Roman Catholic church. But when I say 'we', exactly who am I talking about?

Though All Saints' Rome is known as 'The English Church', and its construction in the 1880s by G.E. Street in an unmistakable Victorian neo-gothic reinforces this name, only about 40% of its congregation self-identify as English. We have an electoral roll of about 150 drawn from more than twenty nations, mostly from the Commonwealth, but noticeably the proportion of Italians choosing to worship with us or become 'Anglican' has been increasing in the eleven years I've been chaplain. Since almost all of our worship is conducted in English this requires a degree of language skill for these adherents, but one elderly Italian woman who has lived in the neighbourhood all her life has recently adopted us and she and her Polish carer speak no English whatsoever. They play a lively part in our monthly 'Parish lunches' and clearly revel in the *post missam* fellowship. Church Wardens in recent years have included British, Indian, Canadian and Italian nationals, and our current PCC also has Dutch, Ghanaian, and American membership. On average we have six confirmands each year, perform ten weddings, celebrate twenty baptisms, and conduct three funerals. And it is this last statistic which signifies the biggest single



difference from my work in Catford; there we had two hundred and seventy funerals each year, since at that time the parish had the highest proportion of elderly householders of any London borough.

Luckily we were a team of four there, but nor am I entirely without Anglican clerical colleagues in Rome. We see our bishop, The Rt Rev. Dr Geoffrey Rowell (Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, but resident near Gatwick airport) quite often as there are lots of reasons other than the parochial to bring him to one of the world's most significant Christian centres. The American Episcopal Church has a Rector, and the Anglican Centre in Rome an ordained Director, with both of whom I work very closely. All Saints' has also produced two

ordinands, one of whom returned to serve her curacy with us, and we currently have one Reader and another in training. We also welcome a surprisingly large number of clergy as medium to short term visitors - so much so that I often joke that with three bishops so regularly in the congregation we could perform a consecration some Sunday!

Comparisons are indeed odious, but I can't hide the fact that I love working in Rome. For me it seems to have been a square-peg, square-hole fit. But what I have learnt beyond all other things is that the things which 'make church' are exactly the same whether in Catford or here on the banks of the Tiber - and to quote one of this city's patron saints, they are 'faith and hope and love. And the greatest of these is love'.

## If, however, this year you are taking a 'Staycation' (a holiday at home)

here are a few suggestions for places to visit (in the Diocese and free of charge).

### Just a few steps from London Bridge... SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

There has been a church on the site since AD 606. The current building dates from the 13th century and became a Cathedral in 1905 when the Diocese of Southwark was formed.

An archaeological chamber inside the Millennium Courtyard entrance shows the gravelled surface of a Roman road and Roman mosaic can be seen in the choir aisles. The life, diversity and character of the area are revealed in the tombs and monuments. A fabric and beadwork map of Zimbabwe was installed in 2007, celebrating Southwark's link Dioceses and in the churchyard a contemporary stone sculpture commemorates a Mohegan tribal chieftain buried in the precincts.

The Cathedral is open daily from 8am to 6pm and admission is free (donations welcome). There is a refectory and audio tours and a photography permit are available from the Cathedral shop. Details of service times and a leaflet 'Access for people with special needs' are available on [www.cathedral.southwark.anglican.org](http://www.cathedral.southwark.anglican.org) or tel. 020 7367 6700.

### A short walk away is TATE MODERN

housing a collection of modern art from 1900 to the present day in the former Bankside power station. Entry is free except for major exhibitions. The Tate Modern Collection focuses on the pivotal movements of twentieth-century art history - Surrealism, Minimalism, post-war abstraction, Cubism, Futurism and Vorticism.

A new Learning Zone has games and multimedia activities relating to the displays. 'Meet the Artists' features a selection of video clips of artists, and 'Art in Focus' looks closely at the art movements featured. Further information, including accessibility is available on [www.tate.org.uk/modern](http://www.tate.org.uk/modern) or tel. 020 7887 8888. The gallery is open Sunday to Thursday, 10am-6pm (last admission 5.15); Friday and Saturday, 10am-10pm (last admission 9.15).



Greenwich Park and The Royal Observatory

### Or how about a day in Greenwich... THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

The museum is on three sites: the Maritime Galleries, the Royal Observatory and the Queen's House.

The Galleries celebrate Britain's maritime history from the 16th - 20th centuries with displays of boats - both models and full size - paintings, weapons, tools and artefacts even the uniform Nelson was wearing when he died (look out for the bullet hole, and then compare it with the painting alongside).

At the centre of the museum is the 17th century Queen's House - England's first fully classical building, which today houses the Museum's planetarium. The Royal Observatory, Greenwich is the home of Greenwich Mean Time and 0° Latitude, the Prime Meridian of the World, making it the official starting point for each new day. It is also home to London's planetarium.

The National Maritime Museum buildings are open daily 10am-5pm

### Linking them all is GREENWICH PARK

London's oldest Royal Park open daily from dawn to dusk. Try to find the oak tree Elizabeth I hid in as a child, check out the views over London, gardens and visit the wildlife sanctuary with deer and foxes.

Greenwich can be reached by boat from Westminster to Greenwich Pier, by train from Charing Cross (Greenwich station) and by the Docklands Light Railway (Cutty Sark or Greenwich stations).

### Three other suggestions

#### ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHALDON

Chaldon Church is of Saxon Foundation (recorded in the Charter of Frithwald, 727 AD) and is probably best known for its large and unusual medieval mural depicting Judgement and the Ladder of Salvation, uncovered in Victorian times when the church was being redecorated. The church is generally open from 10am to 5pm every day. Unfortunately the church is not really accessible by public transport - the nearest rail station is Merstham. For more information visit <http://peterpaulchaldon.org.uk/>

#### ST ANNE KEW

St Anne's Church stands on Kew Green adjacent to the Royal Botanic Gardens. The first church on the site was built in 1714 on land given by Queen Anne and enlarged in 1770 by King George III, whose country residence was Kew Palace. Monuments in the churchyard include that of artist Thomas Gainsborough. On Sunday afternoons tea and cake is served in the hall from 3 - 5pm, and there are recitals at 3.30pm (retiring collection towards associated expenses). Kew Gardens tube and Kew Bridge Rail stations are within a short walk. For further information visit [www.saintanne-kew.org.uk/](http://www.saintanne-kew.org.uk/)

#### and finally

#### RICHMOND PARK

The largest open space in London, it is home to around 650 free roaming deer. Attractions include the Isabella plantation, a woodland garden excellent for bird watching, and King Henry's Mound which gives a spectacular view of St Paul's Cathedral ten miles away. There are children's play areas at Kingston and Petersham Gates and summer holiday entertainment at Petersham Gate and at the Gate Gardens.

Admission is free. The park is open from 7am in the summer and closes at dusk. Buses 371 or 65 go from Richmond station (British Rail or District Line) to the pedestrian gate at Petersham. Further information can be obtained from [www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/richmond\\_park](http://www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/richmond_park) or by ringing 020 8948 3209.