

Friends of St Georges, Tunis—Easter Edition



From our Patron—Bishop Bill

I am greatly looking forward to making a visit to Cairo at the end of February, 2017! Archbishop Mouneer has graciously invited me to participate in the ordination as bishop of Dean Samy Fawzy Shehata. Dean Samy will succeed me as Area Bishop for North Africa. Like me, Dean Samy will also continue as a senior clergyman responsible for a local church ministry – in his case, the Pro-Cathedral of St Mark, Alexandria, Egypt. Dean Samy will also continue his responsibilities as Principal of the Alexandria School of Theology.

This is such a good appointment, especially in that bishop-elect Samy is both an experienced church-leader and is currently directing the development of the Alexandria School of Theology. He will bring good pastoral skills to oversight of the diverse, exciting, delicate congregations in the Anglican churches of North Africa. He will also be the ideal person to encourage and nurture the bringing

into reality of the St Cyprian Centre in Tunis. That Centre, based within the grounds of St George’s, will provide a base “at home” for the development and training within the diocese of North Africans in ministerial leadership and other church ministry roles. It will also provide a base for the growth of appropriate ministries of compassion within the local community of Hafsiya in which St George’s is set. The St Cyprian Centre will function as one of three sister campuses of the Alexandria School of Theology. The St Athanasius campus is well established in Egypt with a branch in Alexandria and a branch in Cairo. The St Frumentius College has been recently founded in Gambella, Ethiopia within the Horn of Africa Episcopal Area. The St Cyprian Centre will provide an equivalent institution in the North Africa Episcopal Area.

Both St George’s Church, with her congregations, and the planned St Cyprian

Centre will benefit hugely, I am confident, from bishop-elect Samy’s expertise and encouragement.

I ask you especially to pray for Dean Samy. It is clear that his responsibilities are many and huge. He and his wife Madeleine, with their two university-aged sons, will continue to live in Alexandria. It is a slight irony that for Dean Samy as an Egyptian, visits to Libya and Algeria will be relatively easy to arrange, whereas visits for an Egyptian to Tunisia are somewhat more complicated – the exact opposite of myself where a Briton in Tunisia worked well but visas to Algeria and Libya were very difficult to obtain!

Thank you so much for your continued sustenance of St George’s through the Friends of St George’s. Dean Samy’s impending ordination as area bishop is a major, positive step in the

(Cont p6)

Prayer requests

- > Sustainability and growth of St Georges, Tunis
- > Growth in faith and numbers for both Saturday and Sunday services
- > Financial support



Dean Samy, Madeleine, Rafik and Rami. The ordination of Dean Samy as Bishop will take place on Monday 27th February, 2017 at All Saints’ Cathedral, Cairo, Egypt.

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About Friends of St Georges, Tunis

We aspire to prayerfully support, strengthen and empower the members of St George’s Anglican Church, Tunis:

- ◆ in their spiritual growth;
- ◆ in their service of the local community of Hafsiya;
- ◆ in their influence for good in nation and region;

such that a legacy can be consistently built that helps to bring in the kingdom of heaven. To mobilize people and resources to address the challenges of sustaining such a legacy

through the life and ministries of St George’s Anglican Church, Tunis.

The purposes of the Friends of St Georges, Tunis are to:

- ◆ Keep Friends of St Georges Tunis updated about development and progress at the Church.
- ◆ Pray for continual spiritual growth and expansion of the local church.

- ◆ Support and strengthen the Christian ministry in Tunis and North Africa.
- ◆ Be prayer partners.
- ◆ Keep the legacy of the St Georges, Tunis, going.
- ◆ Contribute to financial sustainability of the church.
- ◆ Support the building, furnishing and use of the St Cyprian Centre legacy project



For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

St Cyprian Project

St Cyprian Project Launched

The vision has been honed and shared, and several committees were formed to put some “flesh and bones” to the prophetic vision.

On Sunday, 2 December 2012, The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis, the Diocesan Bishop, joined Bishop Bill Musk, the then Rector of St. Georges Anglican Church, in the presence of members of St. George’s, to officially

launch the Legacy Project, later on renamed St. Cyprian Centre. At the launch, the congregation dedicated themselves to “leave a legacy by providing facilities for the equipping of disciples”.



Update on St Cyprian Project

Big projects move slowly, and the St Cyprian Centre project is no exception. However, although all may seem quiet, with barely a ripple of movement on the surface, underneath there is a lot of activity going on, steering the process towards its destination.

At the moment we are negotiating the sensitive issue of the tenants in the shops which will need to be demolished before the Centre can be built. For obvious reasons we can't say much about this issue while it is still in progress, but at the moment we are hopeful that all the associated issues can be resolved. The speed, or slowness, of this process really dictates the rate of progress at this stage. This is an important item for prayer.

However, we are also beginning to look beyond the physical process of the actual construction of the building, to what will happen once it is completed, for the building will only gain a life of its own when it begins to be used for the ministry for which it is being built – and perhaps for

ministries as yet unseen and not even thought of. These things need to be developed and planned ahead of time so that once the Centre is built it can be used effectively straight away. The Church Council has overall responsibility for the Centre, in conjunction with the diocese and the Alexandria School of Theology who will take a particular interest in the St Cyprian Bible School which will be based at the Centre. However, the Church Council will not be able to be involved in the day-to-day running of the Centre and the anticipated community outreach, and we need to develop a steering group who will be able to take on this aspect of the work: there was a meeting of some potentially interested people just before Christmas.

Please continue to pray for this project, that the vision that conceived it will bear fruit and come to reality soon.

Rev Peter Knight
Rector, St George's Church, Tunis

Donations

You can make a **bank transfer** directly to the church's bank account

Please mark the transfer:

1. 'St Cyprian Project' or
2. "Friends of St Georges" if you would like to contribute in general

Account Holder :

Saint George's Church

Account Number :

71 51 09967 4

RIB :

08 003 0007151099674 11

IBAN :

TN59 0800 3000 7151 0996 7411

BIC :

BIATTNTT

Bank :

Banque Internationale Arabe de Tunisie (BIAT)

Address :

H.B COMPTOIR INTERNATIONAL,
70-72 AV HABIB BOURGUIBA,
TUNIS RP CP 1000



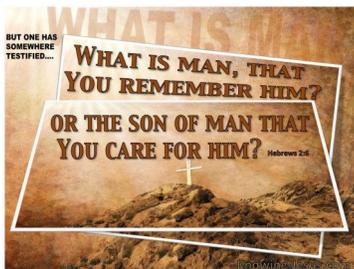
My St Georges Experience



I still miss St. George’s Community and Church Tunis. I was a born –again serving Christian for close to 20 years before I joined St. Georges in Tunis. But I learnt a lot from the community. I learnt humility from Bishop Bill, how to be extravagantly in love with God from Sister Hillary; the application of bible truth and reality in cultural context from Rev. Frank, and so many other clergy men including Pastor Kwame. The St. Georges ladies were a pure gift from God. I served with them and learnt a lot from them. I learnt about service, commitment, love, fellowship, zeal, Agape and thoroughness. I miss all my sisters; some we still see in Abidjan, some we may never see on this side of heaven again; but I carry all your faces in my heart wherever I go. Sometimes, I still pray for you individually; sometimes I remember our mini squabbles during our meetings, and I laugh trying to remember what the disagreement was about. In my current church in Abidjan there is a sizable number of former St. Georges and I am proud to say most of us are serving at different levels in the church. Thanks Bishop Bill and Sister Hilary for all that you sowed into our lives.

Awuese Oku

Who am I? - Easter Message from sister Awuese



What is man that though art mindful of him and the son of that thou visits him? Hebrews 2:6; Job 7:17; Psalm 144:3

Many times when I think of the abundant Grace of God to me and HIS manifold blessings, the scriptures above always comes to my mind and I always ask these questions

- ◆ Who am I Lord that you would leave your heavenly habitation to wear the habiliments of humanity to die for my sins?
- ◆ Who am I Lord that you have engraved me in the palm of your hand? That you have made me the apple of your eyes? That you answer when I call?

I am always comforted when I read passages such as these

“I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of naught.

For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee” (Isaiah 41: 9-13).



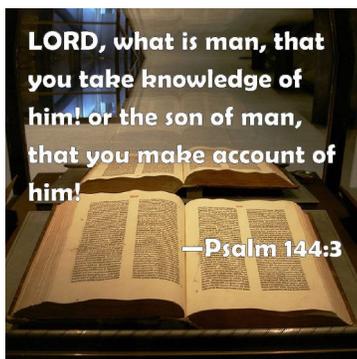
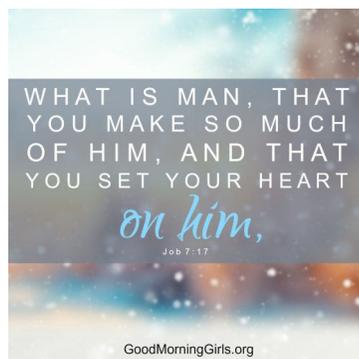
These promises in the above passage are for every one that accepts Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. The invitation is for everyone @ Rev.3:10 *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me”*. For we have a God and Savior that is touched by the feelings of our infirmities, our despondencies and our frailties’. HE never sinned but HE has cleaned us of sins, HE was never tempted, yet HE understands when we fall into temptation and picks us up *“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it” 1 Corinthians 10:3.*

Are you weary and heavy burdened? Christ has the answer “come unto me all of you who are weary heavy burdened and I will give you rest” Matthew 11:28.

Wherever and whoever you are the Lord paid the supreme price for you @ John3:16 *“ for God so loved the world that HE gave HIS only begotten son that whosoever believes in HIM will not perish but have everlasting life.*

Once you accept this invitation, you can join me and sing the song below.

https://youtu.be/OzU_jT7Y_JA



St George's Anglican Church News Update

Following all the excitements of Christmas (the church was full on Christmas Eve, for a bilingual carol service, with visitors from various churches around the city), the New Year has started quietly. In addition, the latest virus/flu to be going around has been a particularly virulent one, laying people low for a long time, which in turn has affected the life of the church. But, at least the days are getting longer and, after a noticeably chill patch, a little bit warmer, too.

The annual service of Christian Unity was well attended towards the end of January. This year it was hosted by Jeanne d'Arc Church, and many of the churches in the city took part. It was a tri-lingual service, which presented interesting challenges for the production of the order of service – but the sermon was in French only. St George's Church was responsible for the "confession", which turned out to be a major part of the service – as we

confessed the sins that divide us (12 were listed), a wall was built by children from our congregation, with large bricks (cardboard boxes) each labeled with one of the sins. Later in the service the wall was taken down and the bricks formed into the shape of a cross.

The big news for St George's, as part of the Anglican Communion, is that after a vacancy of around 15 months, a new area-bishop for North Africa is to be consecrated in February, to replace Bishop Bill Musk who retired in October 2015. The Very Reverend Dr Samy Fawzy Shehata, will be consecrated in Cairo, and Rev Peter and Rev David will represent St George's Church at the service. A few days later, Bishop Mouneer and Bishop Samy will start a tour of the North Africa episcopal area, starting with St George's. We look forward to welcoming our new bishop and, amongst other things, celebrating a number of confirmations.

In announcing the appointment, Bishop

Mouneer wrote:

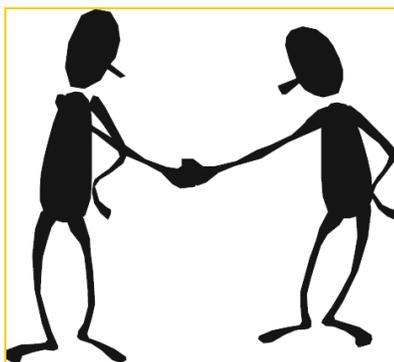
"I am happy to let you know that I have appointed The Very Reverend Dr Samy Fawzy Shehata, the Dean of St Mark Pro-Cathedral Alexandria, as the new Area Bishop of North Africa.

He will be based in Alexandria and will travel to the churches in North Africa when needed. Dean Samy is a very experienced priest who is well acquainted with the Diocese, its churches and institutions, the Province, and the whole Anglican Communion.

He was ordained in 1990 and assisted the Bishop Ghais Abd El Malek from 1994 to 1998, and has led a team of ministers since 2002 in Alexandria. He taught at Alexandria school of Theology since 2005. He was appointed Dean of St. Mark's

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Get involved / Contribute



Become a Friend of St Georges, Tunis

Pray

Look at the prayer list on the first page and pray for St Georges

Distribute Newsletter

Send this Newsletter to all previous members of St Georges Congregation that you know. Please copy Friends of St Georges, Tunis email that we can put the person on our mailing list.

Send Articles

Send us an article to be placed in the newsletter.

Become a Friend of St Georges

- ◆ Send us a photo and tell us why you would like to be a Friend of St Georges, Tunis.
- ◆ Send a donation to St Georges

Suggestions

- ◆ Tell us how you can contribute to the vision and purpose of Friends of St Georges, Tunis.
- ◆ Give us suggestions on how we can assist the Sustainability of St Georges, Tunis.

Photos

Send photos when you visit Tunis and St Georges

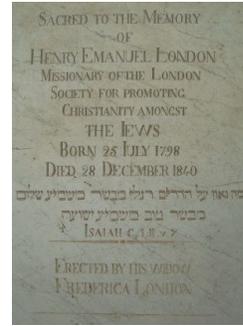
friendsofstgeorgestunis@gmail.com

History of St Georges

St. George's has a rich history. The cemetery has been in existence since about 1645, although the church is a 19th century addition to the site. Professor Denys Pringle has written a paper on the cemetery, which gives great insight into some of the monuments: The Protestant Graveyard in Tunis: A catalogue of inscriptions, 1648 - 1885. (the PDF can be viewed on <https://www.stgeorgetunis.com/resources/history/st-george-s>). We are very grateful to him for making this available to us and you.

The cemetery was the start of the history a site that saw the building of the present church building around the end of the 19th century (the PDF can be viewed on <https://www.stgeorgetunis.com/resources/history/st-george-s>).

Bishop Bill



St Georges Church Update Cont

Mark's Pro-Cathedral in 2009 and Principal of Alexandria School of Theology 2013.

Dean Samy is married to Madeleine and has two sons studying at university."

The full announcement can be found on the diocesan website.

Don't forget to visit the church's new website at www.stgeorgetunis.com and the Face-book page at www.facebook.com/stgeorgetunis for up-to-date information. I am happy to announce that, with the new website, it is now also possible to donate to the church on-line, and we hope that this will become an increasingly popular way for people to support the ministry of the church here.

As I write, we have finally come to the end of the Epiphany season, the occasion being marked by the story of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple when He was 40 days old (sometimes called "Candlemas"). Since Christmas, we have been more-or-less in a celebratory mode, thinking about Jesus coming to live among us, and how His true nature was revealed through various sections of the gospel stories. From now on we turn and face the cross. In the coming weeks, and as Lent progresses, the shadow of the cross looms ever larger, and we join Jesus on the road as He heads for Jerusalem. Eventually we will walk with Him through the events of Holy Week, His sufferings and the cross. But beyond all that we look forward to Resurrection and the glories of Easter Day

Rev Peter Knight

Rector, St George's Church, Tunis

From our Patron—Bishop Bill Cont

process towards St

George's fulfilling – through the St Cyprian Centre especially – the wonderful vision with which the church in Tunis is entrusted in these years. Thank you for your prayers and support!

In Christ,

+Bill

Rt Rev Dr Bill Musk

