



# Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria

Supporting churches in Egypt, North Africa, Horn of Africa and Gambella



Registered Charity 1181201

## FAPA NEWSLETTER – Easter 2024

Dear Friends;

One (or two!) of the things I have been working on during the recent weeks of early sunsets and grey skies, not to mention rain, has been the preparation of lecture series on the Book of Jeremiah and the Gospel of St Mark. I have been asked to help fourth year students at AST have a concentrated look at the Book of Jeremiah in October this year. Then in early 2025, I will hopefully be back at St Cyprian Theological College in Tunis to introduce students to both the Book of Jeremiah and the Gospel of St Mark. Of course, through the preparation, I feel as if I am the one who gains most from these assignments!

Easter is almost upon us, and this year Mark 16:1-8 (its final verses, as the earliest, reliable manuscripts have it) is sticking in my mind – I guess because of the preparation work mentioned above. Apart from the humbling (for us men!) naming of three female, Galilean followers of Jesus – alternatives to the missing male “inner three”? – is the passing mention in the previous chapter of “many other women” who had come up to Jerusalem from Galilee with Jesus. Is Mark flagging up an unseen/replacement disciple group that the Cross brings to the forefront as the in-place, experienced, male disciple group melts into the back streets of the holy city? It seems to me that this text provocatively asks – in whatever culture or context, Christian tradition or leadership role norms – who can tell who is the real disciple of Jesus Christ when it comes down to sticking with our Saviour? Lord, have mercy on us all.

There is much more in this final chapter, but, for us this Easter I want to note that the Gospel signs off on verse 8 rather than verse 7: “Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.” As quickly as the women entered the tomb, they exit it, fleeing. They are a mixture of ecstatic and traumatized (the Greek words tell this). They have been commanded to speak, but say nothing. We leave Mark’s Gospel asking ourselves: did the women at the tomb overcome their fear in order to proclaim the new beginning to occur in Galilee?

I don’t know about you, but I find myself “conflicted” by the world situation in which we find ourselves today and the role of religion – and specifically Christianity – in that situation. Think: the Russian Orthodox, spiritual conviction shoring up a war of aggression (for them retrieval) in Ukraine. Think: the awful, continuing inhumanities hurting Jews and Palestinians in Israel, in Gaza and West Bank, partly but strongly legitimized by religious convictions (ranging from Islamist Muslim to “Settler” Jew to fundamentalist Christian-Evangelical). Please forgive my words, if I offend you – but these thoughts raise in me at Eastertime a “trauma” for my faith

that lives alongside my “ecstasy” in knowing that “He has risen” and people the world over, including nation-builders and destroyers – and ourselves – can be changed!

I guess that our question of the women at the closing of Mark’s Gospel is fairly one that we need to face up to ourselves: does our (personal, faith-group) ecstasy-and-trauma lead us to remain silent in our conflictedness today or are we willing to seek renewal of our faith-lives – with the risen Jesus “going ahead”?

In this Newsletter we hear from Archbishop Samy about his appointment of diocesans for the three new Dioceses in the Province. We also hear from the three new bishops themselves, learning a little of their backgrounds and the contexts in which they are already exercising episcopal ministry and leadership.

I need to let you know that, for personal reasons, I shall be stepping down as Chair and trustee of FAPA at this year’s AGM after seven+ years. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with an expanding group of trustees as we have shifted the charity’s status to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), have transformed ourselves from Egypt Diocesan Association (EDA) to Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria (FAPA), have sought to promote prayer on behalf of the Province and in various ways give timely support. We have coped with Covid and learned “Zoom” and “hybrid” ways of meeting! I am thankful for all the trustees I have worked with and am indebted to the commitment of successive officers as Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We have been blessed to have Archbishops Mouneer and Samy as successive Presidents of the charity and Archbishops John Sentamu and Mouneer Hannah and Bishop Michael Ipgrave as Patrons. As you will discover at the AGM we find ourselves now at a significant crossroads, along with other charities that also give support to the Province, and need, with them, to find the optimum way forward in fulfilling such a calling. I am so pleased that the Revd Canon Mike Parker has agreed to give leadership to FAPA (as Chair of trustees) as we work with Province and others to discern the Lord’s guidance for us as a charity going forwards. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to FAPA! If you would like to offer to join the trustees from this year’s AGM, please let our Secretary know.

Our most significant calling (as both Archbishops Samy and Mouneer have often urged us) is to facilitate prayer for the Province. The FAPA website contains a “prayer room” where current needs are posted. As you read this Newsletter you will come across specific requests for prayer from around the Province. Please join us in specific intercession for these important matters. Thank you so much!

In wishing you all a blessed and happy Easter, let me sign off with the collect for Easter Day:

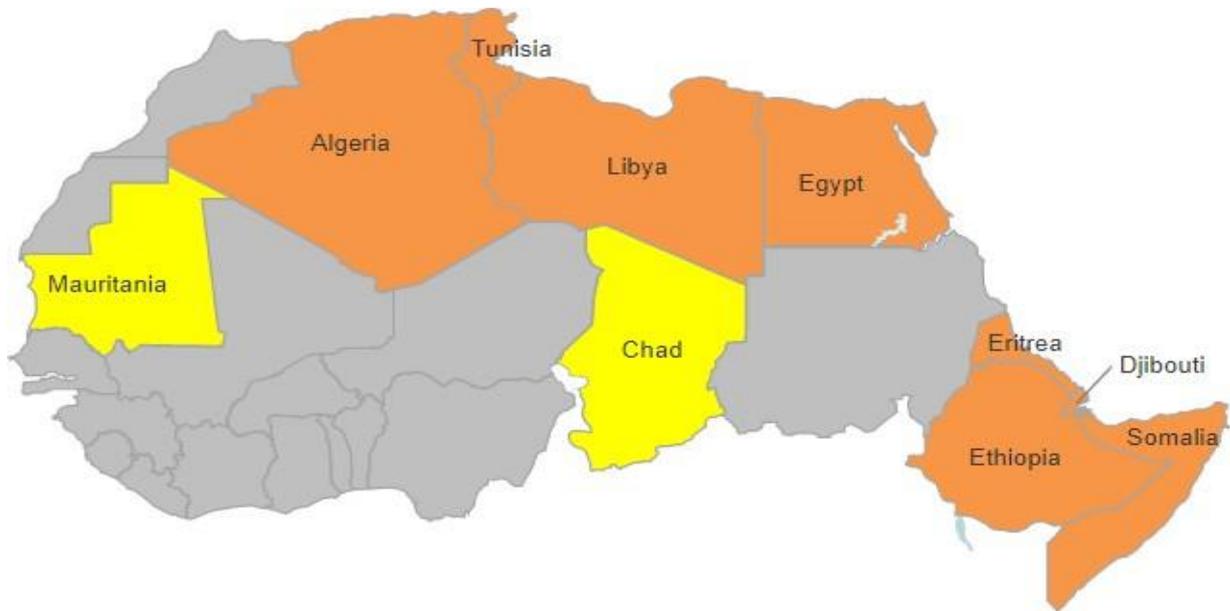
God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
In our Saviour Jesus Christ.

In His grace,



Bishop Bill, Chairman FAPA

The 2024 Annual General Meeting will be a 'virtual' meeting on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 2.00pm. We expect Archbishop Samy to join us from Cairo - please make every effort to 'attend' so that we can be sufficiently quorate.



### The Province of Alexandria

Dioceses of Egypt, North Africa (newly added countries in yellow), Horn of Africa, and Gambella

## Archbishop Samy Reports - New Bishops Appointed - Hallelujah!

The Anglican Province of Alexandria, spanning across ten countries in North Africa and the Horn of Africa, stands as a beacon of hope, faith, and service in a region rich with cultural diversity and historical significance. With a vision deeply rooted in the teachings of Christ and a mission to spread His message of love, and compassion. The Anglican Province of Alexandria strives to make a profound impact on the lives of individuals and communities it serves. Our vision as a province is living Church for a better society.

In a significant development for the Anglican Province of Alexandria, several new bishops have been appointed to lead the dioceses in the expanding regions of North Africa, the Horn of Africa, and Gambella. This marks a pivotal moment in the province's mission to strengthen its presence and extend its outreach in areas where the Anglican presence is growing rapidly.



The consecration and installation of new bishops in the dioceses of the Horn of Africa and Gambella and the installation of a new bishop in the diocese of North Africa took place at a ceremony held at N'Djamena, Chad. The celebration was attended by clergy and representatives from across the province.

Bishop Anthony Ball, the Bishop of the Diocese of North Africa, brings a wealth of experience in pastoral ministry and a deep commitment to serving the diverse communities in the region. His leadership is expected to play a pivotal role in the growth of the Anglican Church in the region.

Bishop Martin, the Bishop of the Diocese of the Horn of Africa, has a passion for social development and a heart for mission - he is well-positioned to lead the church in addressing the pressing needs of the communities it serves. His dedication to building bridges of reconciliation and promoting holistic transformation will have a lasting impact on the region.

Bishop Jeremiah has been entrusted with the responsibility of serving as the Bishop of the Diocese of Gambella. Known for his commitment to evangelism and discipleship, Bishop Jeremiah is poised to equip and empower leaders for ministry in this dynamic and growing diocese. His vision for a church that is rooted in faith, hope, and love will guide the diocese as it seeks to make a difference in the lives of people.

The Anglican Province of Alexandria looks forward with eager anticipation to the leadership and guidance of these newly appointed bishops as we work together to advance the kingdom of God. May our ministry be marked by faithfulness, fruitfulness, and a deep sense of joy in serving the Lord and His people.

**Archbishop Samy , March 2024**

## Bishop Jeremiah calls for our prayers as he faces challenges in the Diocese of Gambella

1. Pray that God would provide a car for the Diocese because without a car it's difficult to do mission work as I am visiting our churches far and near.



2. Pray that God can provide funding for new church buildings because we have lost several of our Church buildings to termites and strong winds since last year and the low income congregations of Gambella can't afford to build a good Church by themselves though we have been trying hard to raise funds locally.

3. Pray for the Anglican Unity School to be built in Gambella so that many families in the Region don't have to send their children to better Schools in Addis Ababa or other countries of Africa.

Challenges in the Region: Ethnic conflict .. please pray that the tribal conflict between the Nuer and Anuak in Gambella won't continue to claim more lives. The recent scenario is worrisome and we pray that the situation be resolved by the help of God.

May the good Lord bless you abundantly, **Bishop Jeremiah Paul Koryom**

### A Short Biography of Bishop Jeremiah Paul

I was brought up in a Christian home by faithful parents who taught me the basic principles of Christian living. I am married to my beautiful wife Nyachom Puoch Chol and, God has blessed us with three boys. We live in Gambella town.

Educational Background: I went to School in Gambella up to High School level.

In 2002, I had such a spectacular encounter with the Lord, Jesus, and my life never remain the same ever since. I begin to experience the power of the gospel of Christ working in and through me in a totally new dimension. My heart begins to burn for the lost to be saved through Christ.

I was installed into a full time ministry in 2003 so as to lead the St. Luke's Anglican Church in Gambella. In the following year, 2004, I was made a Deacon by the Most Rt. Rev. Dr. Mouneer H. Anis at St. Matthew's Anglican Church in Addis Ababa. I then served as a Deacon for 4 years.

In 2005, I began to embark on a business of planting churches in and around distant villages of the Gambella Region. During this time I was also working as a TEE Tutor, teaching Clergy and Lay Readers whose level of education was still low. This went on until 2011 in which year

I was invited with my family by Archbishop Mouneer to study a Theological Degree at AST (Alexandria School of Theology) in Cairo.

During my 4 years' studies in Egypt, I had the privilege of leading the Sudanese congregations at All Saints' Cathedral in Zamalek, Cairo, as well as serving 'Refuge Egypt' as its Spiritual Director, a title given to me by Archbishop Mouneer.

After graduating in 2015, I had to go back home and then served as a Lecturer at a newly established Anglican Theological College known as St. Frumentius' Anglican Theological College (SFACT) in Gambella. I taught at St. Frumentius' as a full-time Lecturer from 2015-2019.

Last year, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, I was appointed the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Gambella by His Grace, the Most Rt. Rev. Dr. Samy Shehatta, the Primate of the Anglican Province of Alexandria. I was consecrated on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 in Chad and on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January I was installed as the Diocesan Bishop of Gambella.

## **Bishop Martin reports on challenges in the Diocese of the Horn of Africa**

The Diocese of the Horn of Africa is one of the newest, largest, and smallest dioceses in the Anglican Communion. How so? It covers all of Ethiopia except Gambella region, along with Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia. So a vast area, but currently less than 20 churches - 2 in Addis Ababa, and approximately 15 in refugee camps around Assosa on the border with the Republic of Sudan.



The opportunities are many: to plant churches as the Lord opens doors, and to raise up future church leaders from people groups which have few believers - there are about 10 different languages spoken in the various congregations.

The financial resources are limited: a reducing grant from the Province, and the tithe of St Matthew's Church in Addis. Some project funds from Bishop Kuan, formerly the commissary bishop, are still available for the moment, through the generous support of the Province of Singapore. The needs are considerable, even to stand still. We are still weighing up what is essential, for which we will need to raise money, and what will need to be cut.

**Bishop Martin's Biography** Bishop Martin was brought up overseas, where his father worked in agriculture in Uganda (where Martin was born); Australia; Fiji (where he did his first year of school); and Malawi. He was at boarding school in England from the age of 7, and made the faith of his parents his own while at prep school, which had an evangelical foundation.

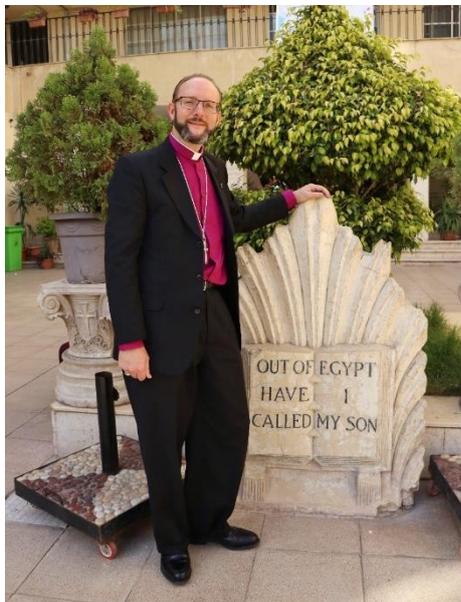
He studied German and Russian at university, which included a year in Heidelberg where he became fluent in German. He trained for ordination at Cranmer Hall in Durham and was ordained in 1991 to serve a curacy at St. Peter's Harold Wood, on the eastern edge of London. He had a growing sense that the Lord was calling him to ministry in Germany, and in 1995 a door opened to move to Leipzig, one of the major cities of the former 'German Democratic Republic', where he established Leipzig English Church (Anglican), with the support of the Intercontinental Church Society.

He had been there for over a quarter of a century when the Lord knocked on his door and prompted him to apply for the post of Rector of St Matthew's, Addis Ababa, another international, English language church. He arrived at the end of 2021, and has since been rediscovering his long-latent love for Africa.

Alongside his 'parish' ministry, he spent a lot of his first two years helping Bishop Anthony set up the structures of the new dioceses in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. At the end of October 2023, Archbishop Samy asked him to be the first Bishop of the Diocese of the Horn, and he was consecrated in Chad in January 2024 alongside Bishop Jeremiah.



## Bishop Anthony shares news, joys and challenges from the Diocese of North Africa



Bishop Anthony was appointed as the Bishop of the Diocese of North Africa at the beginning of this year – being commissioned by Archbishop Samy in N'Djamena, Chad on 17<sup>th</sup> January (the Feast of St Antony of Egypt). In the same service he took part, with Archbishops Samy and Mouneer, in the consecration of Bishops Jeremiah and Martin for the Dioceses of Gambella and of the Horn of Africa respectively. Since his consecration in November 2021, as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Egypt, he has supported Archbishop Samy in his provincial responsibilities across North Africa and the Horn of Africa, with a particular focus on preparing the three new dioceses for the appointment (and in 2025 election) of diocesan bishops. Alongside his ministry in the Province of Alexandria, Bishop Anthony also serves as a Canon of Westminster (Abbey) where, as Canon

Rector, he has particular responsibility for the relationships with Parliament and other religions. He is currently also the Sub-Dean of Westminster.

Bishop Anthony was born in Zimbabwe and lived for many years in southern Africa whilst attending school and university in England. He has previously worked with HM Diplomatic Service, enjoying overseas postings in the Middle East and Spain - during which time he was ordained as an Anglican priest – before leaving to work for the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Williams, variously responsible for advising on international, inter-religious, ecumenical, Anglican and Church of England affairs. He has also served as a parish priest and a school chaplain. Through charitable, religious and academic work Anthony has maintained an interest in the Christian communities of the Middle East and issues related the Freedom of Religion and Belief. At present he chairs the Board of JMECA (the Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association) and was previously the Chair of Trustees of Embrace the Middle East.

Bishop Anthony writes about the Diocese of North Africa: In each of the five countries that make up the geographical territory of the Diocese – Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia – Christians are in a minority and the numbers of Anglicans is quite small. Nevertheless we have a rich heritage, with North African Christians being at the heart of the early development of the Christian faith and when our Province was established in 2020 it was with a strong commitment to indigenous leadership. That remains the vision and I see a key priority for the diocese as locally delivered theological education supporting joyous disciples confident in sharing the Good News. Please pray for the development of St Cyprian Diocesan Theological College and the provision of the human and financial resources necessary to meet the demands for high-quality and inspirational theological education and ministerial formation – and give thanks that Canon Herb Hand (who arrived at St George’s as Associate Rector in December) has accepted the responsibility of Director of the College. In addition to preparing for students at the Tunis campus to progress to the next year we are also looking to establish a campus in Chad – where last month we held a two-week training session with professors from Cairo and Australia.

Chad is the only country in which we have more than one church and any indigenous clergy,



and the church is growing fast – particularly in the south of the country thanks to the dedicated (non-stipendiary) clergy and licensed lay ministers (LLM). The photo is in the yet-to-be-completed church in Koutu Beti (donations welcome!). We hope to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Synod there in September. Your prayers for (lengthy) preparations for that gathering, for a forthcoming medical mission and also for conversations about collaboration with colleagues in the Church of Nigeria (who

also have clergy serving in the country) would be appreciated. The Revd Gilbert Mbaiondoum is the Area Dean for Chad. The other four countries come under the Area Deanery of the Maghreb, with Revd Frank Bernardi as the Area Dean. Your prayers for their ministry, that of the six clergy and seven LLM who serve alongside them as well as for mine would be a blessing, as would those for the congregation in Tripoli, some of whom are facing a particularly difficult time – and please rejoice with us that, after more than a year’s wait for a visa, Revd Canon Medhat Sabry is celebrating Holy Week with the congregation at Holy Trinity, Algiers.