

Thursday 2 July 2020

Daily email to friends of St Matthew Croydon

From Richard Hinder

Dear Friends

I am sure that you are well aware that St Matthew's has links with the worldwide church exemplified by our focus on the Diocese of Egypt, North Africa and the Horn of Africa. Apart from raising funds each year for the Christian work in that Diocese, groups of St Matthew's people have made a number of visits to Cairo over the past few years.

Our link goes back to a chance move by Joseph and Alex Wasef from Sutton to Croydon when their children were small. They settled in Chichester Road and joined St Matthew's nearby. Joseph had grown up in Cairo attending the Anglican/Episcopal church there. It was through Joseph that I began developing links with Egypt: working with him from time to time in both Cairo and Alexandria. Later, as part of my ordination training I spent a month working as the Bishop's chaplain at All Saint's cathedral in Cairo shortly before I was ordained Deacon in 2007. This opportunity grew out of a totally fortuitous meeting I had with Bp Mouneer in Southwark Bridge Road one day when we both arrived at a venue for a meeting at the same wrong time! The Holy Spirit moves in mysterious ways.

Today (Tuesday 29 June) I received news that the growth of the Christian presence in Bp Mouneer's Diocese has been recognised formally by the Anglican Communion. The Diocese of Egypt, North Africa and the Horn of Africa will shortly become The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria: officially inaugurated as the 41st Province of the Anglican Communion. For details see the Anglican Communion News Service [news release](#).

On its formation the Province enlarges to embrace the following 10 countries as the official Anglican Communion presence: Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Chad, Mauritania, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia. The Province is named after the north Egyptian city which was home to one of the earliest branches of the Christian Church.

The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria has been allocated Sunday 2 August in this year's Anglican Cycle of prayer, so do remember Bp Mouneer and all the priests and peoples of the Province in your prayers particularly on that day.

Prayer for today

**God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen**

Take time to dwell on these words and see the world of humanity as wounded by the coronavirus covid-19.

We ask our saviour to give us that peace which the world cannot give as we continue to live through this crisis.

Warmest best wishes

Richard