

The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East

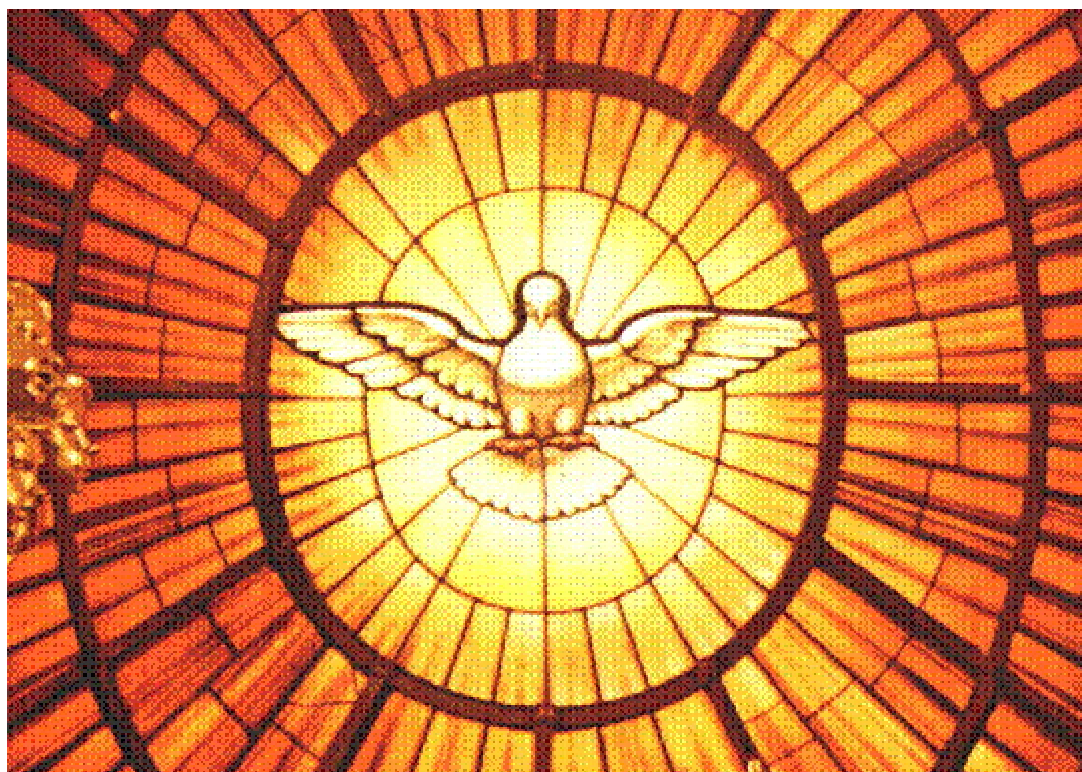
The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa



Diocesan Bishop
Honorary Assistant Bishop
Area Bishop (North Africa)
Area Bishop (Horn of Africa)

The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer H. Anis
The Most Rev. Dr. Maurice Sinclair
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bill A. Musk
Vacant

Diocesan Newsletter June 2011



Pentecost Come Holy Spirit

The Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa
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My Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Egypt today is still living in a stage of uncertainty about which direction we are heading. Only one thing is certain, which is that the people of Egypt who lived under oppression for several years, are now eager to be free and have their voice heard. This is the reason for the frequent demonstrations that continue to happen in Tahrir Square.



The main debate nowadays is about whether we should have the constitution first, or the parliamentary election first. Those who are in favour of the 'constitution first,' desire to have a clear roadmap on which the parliamentary and presidential elections will be based. They would also like to give an opportunity for the newly formed democratic and liberal parties to be established and known among the people. Those who want the parliamentary election first, speak about the need for quick stability of the country, and support the already established political parties, such as the Muslim Brotherhood.

We are still struggling economically because of this uncertainty and the decrease in tourism. The thing that breaks my heart is the growing desire of young Christians to emigrate. My prayer is for the Church in Egypt to play an active role in shaping the new Egypt.

We can definitely play an important role in education, which is a key for building a democratic country. I am pleased with the growth that has happened in our micro-enterprise program, which is run through our community development centres. Our hospitals are receiving more and more patients. These three areas, **education, health and economic empowerment**, are very important for fulfilling the dreams of our people. The challenge is how we can continue to provide these services in an affordable way.

In addition to the above mentioned role, we are involved in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue in order to consolidate our efforts with other Christian and Muslim leaders. In the middle of all this uncertainty and apprehension, we can fix our eyes on the One whose love is forever, and who cares for us. The One who is in charge, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

'Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.' 2 Chronicles 20v12

May the Lord bless you!

+ Mouneer Egypt

The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer H. Anis

Bishop of the Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Egypt
with North Africa and the Horn of Africa
President Bishop of the Episcopal/Anglican
Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

Better Together

News from our Partners

Egypt Diocesan Association (EDA)

EDA is a UK based charity which encourages members to participate in the work of the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa through; prayer, raising funds, and promoting interest in the work of the Diocese. The EDA traces its roots back to two CMS missionaries Canon Temple Gairdner and Rev. Douglas Thornton who laid the foundation for the Anglican Church in Egypt. The EDA always welcomes new members. For more information, visit their website www.eda-egypt.org.uk.



2011 AGM

In June 2011, the AGM of the Egypt Diocesan Association was held at Christ Church, Blackfriars Bridge in the UK. Greetings were received from Bishop Mouneer and from the Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, who has generously agreed to be EDA's Patron.

The speaker was Bishop Bill Musk, who talked about the Diocese, with a focus on the Episcopal Area of North Africa. EDA reports that *“we were privileged to hear memorable first-hand accounts of life in North Africa from Bishop Bill Musk. We heard of courage, constancy and trust shown in the life of the churches in this turbulent part of the continent where the Diocese of Egypt has a presence. His talks led into a lively exchange of question and answer and members left knowing their continuing prayers and support were now better informed. The chaplaincies in Tunisia, Libya and Algeria exercise an impressive steadfastness in a volatile region.”*

USPG



USPG (United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) exists to support the churches of the Anglican Communion as they engage in God's holistic mission. USPG is focused on sustaining relationships between churches and supporting our partners in growing the church's capacity for mission, particularly through leadership development and health work.

Annual conference

The title of this year's USPG conference was 'Pushing Boundaries.' The focus of the conference was on the importance of leadership development and health within Anglican global mission.

The speakers included the Archbishop of Brazil, Bishop Trevor Mwamba from Botswana, Bishop Mouneer and several others. Bishop Mouneer spoke on the topic [‘The Ministry of Healing: An Effective Way of Communicating God's Love to All People.’](#)

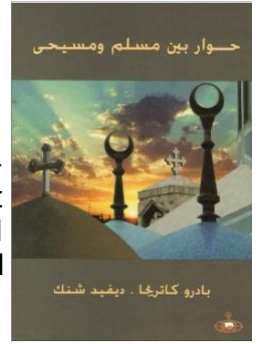
One of the ways that USPG partners with churches is through the Experience Exchange Programme. Volunteers from Britain and Ireland spend up to a year living and working alongside a church.

Over the past year, **Ms. Charlotte Kirton** has been volunteering at the Diocese of Egypt through this program. She supported the Diocese through working in the psychosocial program at Refuge Egypt, and teaching English at the Episcopal Training Centre. Thank you Charlotte!



Muslims and Christians in Dialogue

The Diocesan Episcopal Publishing House recently published a translated version of 'A Muslim and a Christian in Dialogue.' The book is a dialogue about Islam and Christianity, written by two friends Badru Kateregga and David Shenk. Badru Kateregga is an East African professor of Islamic studies, and David Shenk is an American Christian missionary.



Bishop Mouneer Anis presented a copy of the book to Dr. Ali Gomaa, the Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt.



In the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram, Dr. Ali Gomaa states that *"this book teaches how to be tolerant and how to respect other religions. The areas that Muslims and Christians have in common are more than the areas of conflict. Muslims and Christians share the same two core values; loving God and loving our neighbours."*

Team of Love

"For he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, how can he love God?" (John 4:20)

On Sunday 26th June, Sudanese youth gave a performance of art, drama, dancing and singing in the hall of All Saint's Cathedral.



This initiative came out of a reconciliation meeting which Rev. Emmanuel (pictured right) organised at All Saint's Cathedral, between gangs of Sudanese youth. The purpose of the meeting was to respond to problems and fighting between Sudanese youth, many of whom are unemployed and have nothing to do during the day.

One of the outcomes of this meeting was that more of the youth started to attend church regularly, and the 'Team of Love' program started. This is a program where the youth are involved in activities such as art, drama, singing, drumming and hip-hop dancing. Each week, the youth meet to practise and to have fun together.



Confirmations at the Church for the Deaf

On Sunday 12 June, 11 young people were confirmed by Bishop Mouner at the Church for the Deaf in Old Cairo. Eight of the young people confirmed are deaf. The other three are hearing but involved with the deaf community.

One of the hearing confirmed was **Ms. Casey Bridges**, who has been volunteering at the Deaf Unit and the Church for the Deaf for the past six months. She is pictured to the right with Rev. Faraj, the priest of the Church for the Deaf, and his wife Raja. Rev. Faraj says *“for us, Casey was a blessing for the Deaf Church and the Deaf Unit. She was a good role model for all of the Deaf; the children and the young adults. She left good memories in the hearts of all the deaf children”*



Deaf Unit

The Deaf Unit is a sign bilingual primary school for deaf children and hard of hearing based in Old Cairo. The school offers kindergarten through primary levels and provides a boarding house for students who do not live locally. At present we serve 70 children.

Most children arrive with little or no language skills, and in addition to the standard curriculum, our goals are to teach Arabic Sign Language, speech therapy, lip reading, literacy in Arabic and English, mathematics, computer skills, and physical education and hygiene.

Achievements:

Our new computer lab opened, providing opportunities for teaching basic computer skills and for entertaining the children

The final year students successfully passed the government assessed mid year Arabic examinations in February 2011

Through our summer and other courses in Egypt, the Middle East and Asia we have taught more than 300 people. Our Summer course with Teachers of the Deaf was a great success (pictured left) and the first to involve both Christian and Muslim teachers of the Deaf.



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Helping the poorest of the poor in Egypt

The Diocese of Egypt received a generous response to our appeal to provide food and emergency assistance to the poor most affected by recent events in Egypt. As of 2 July, we have a balance of **48,510LE** available in our accounts to assist the poor families, having received the approximate equivalent of **529,542LE** from various donors throughout the world. Thank you so much for helping prayerfully and financially.

After the revolution, we had people approaching the community development centres through EpiscoCare to ask for small loans to start small businesses. These people preferred to earn their living and have sustainable income rather than given food weekly. Two of their stories are included below.

“Now I have a dream”

I am 24 years old. I finished high school and started to work in different areas, but my salary was very low. I was working in a very small workshop but after the Revolution they said that they did not need me to work for them anymore.

I felt very sad and disappointed. But then God started to work with me and things changed. Medinet Salam Community Development Centre’s staff invited me to attend a seminar focusing on income generating projects. They told us how it is possible to earn your living by starting your own business. The centre liked my business idea and helped me write a feasibility study establishing a small mobile accessories shop, where I help transfer ring tones and people can buy time on the computer or make photocopies. I got the loan from the centre and paid it as a deposit for all the equipment. I now receive a good income, and I have two employees assisting me which gives me more confidence and a feeling of success. Thank you.



“Working Hand in Hand”

My husband was working day to day work as a construction worker. After the Revolution nobody asked him to work and we had no income. I started to ask my neighbours for food for my son. Luckily the staff at the Ain Shams Community Development Centre invited me to receive weekly food packages. I felt happy but it was not a permanent solution. My husband kept trying to find work but he couldn’t, three months passed and he had no work. He started to get very angry and nervous because he couldn’t support us and we were getting into a lot of debt.



I went to Ain Shams Community Development Centre staff to ask for a loan to buy a wooden cart and donkey to sell vegetables with my husband. The staff liked my idea and helped me to buy the cart. Now my husband and I go out every day to sell the vegetables and we returns with enough money for us and for our son. My husband has gained more confidence and dreams of opening a small shop to avoid walking in the sun all day and to be able to have a larger supply of goods. He is happy because he has work and I will support him to make his dream come true. Thank you!

Menara Centre for Special Needs Children

In Egypt, a lack of understanding of disabilities means that children who have a developmental disability are often kept at home and their education is ignored.

The Menara (“Lighthouse”) Centre, located in Menouf in the Nile Delta, offers a safe and cheerful environment for special needs children to learn. The philosophy behind the centre is that each child is a unique person created by God and they deserve opportunities and support to function in their families and in society.

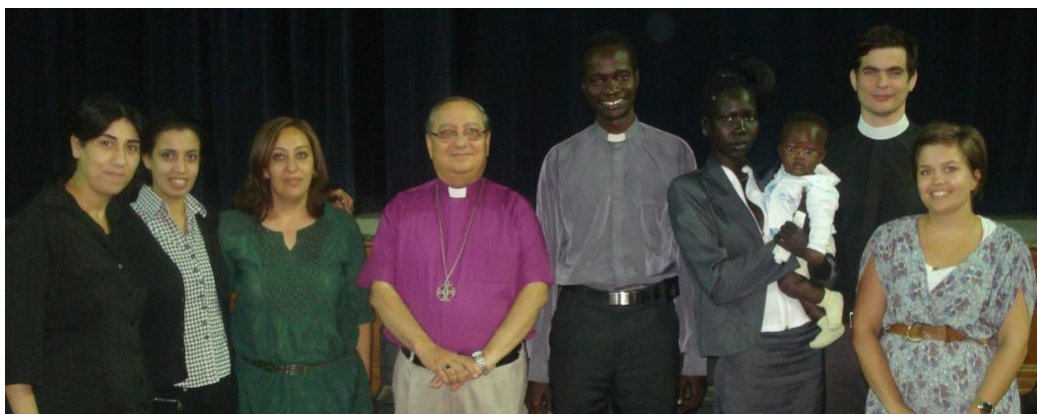
The Menara Centre was established in 2004. There are now 40 children at the centre, from both Muslim and Christian families. While providing both teaching and physical therapy for the students, the school also works to teach the parents how to care for their children and realise their full potential.

In 2010, the centre rejoiced in

- Observing the happiness of the parents for what they saw in their children’s progress.
- The increase in the number of students
- The children who work hard and achieved their goals. Some of them have been able to join mainstream schools.

A current challenge for the Menara Centre is that there is no constant source of income to cover the expenses of the centre. The average cost per student (per month) is £60 (550LE) and each family pays an average of £5 (65LE) per month. The subsidy needed monthly per child is £55 (485LE).





Welcomes

Rev. Jeremiah, Elizabeth and Wunuar

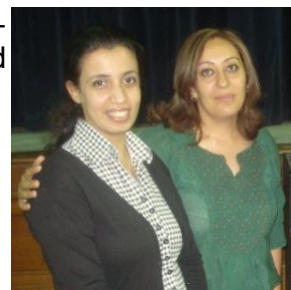
Rev. Jeremiah, his wife Elizabeth and their son Wunuar have recently arrived to work at the Diocese of Egypt. Rev. Jeremiah is originally from Sudan, but has been living in Ethiopia for the past 25 years. He has been working for the Anglican Church in Gambella, Ethiopia since 1996. He will be assisting Rev. Emmanuel in the ministry among Sudanese in Cairo, and he will be studying at the Alexandria School of Theology.



'I love my people, I love Africa, and I love you Bishop. I will definitely return to serve my people in Gambella after I finished my studies.' Jeremiah said these words in response Bishop Mouneer's question 'will you return to serve your people in Gambella?'

Mrs Nermen Shenouda Tamer

Nermen has recently joined the Diocese to replace Nasreen as an accountant. Nasreen and Nermen studied together at university. Nermen is married to Ayman, and they have a 4 year old son Kevin.

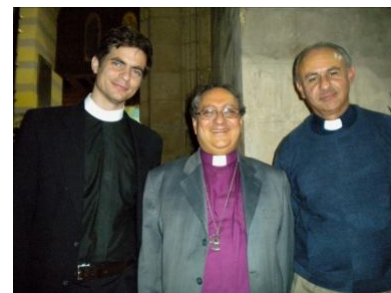


Farewells

Ms. Nasreen Samy Eshak

Nasreen has been working for the Diocese of Egypt since 2004. She spent 3 years as an accountant at the Deaf Unit, and the past 4 years as an accountant at the Diocese. She is leaving to live in the United States, where she will stay with her soon-to-be husband. Congratulations Nasreen!

"Nasreen was so clever in preparing financial statements, and proactive in her work. She has a heart to help others, for example teaching workmates computer skills. We will miss her so much, but we are sure that God will use her in the U.S., and that she will be an ambassador for the Diocese there." Mr. Raouf Zekry, Financial Director



Rev. Matthew Anderson

Rev. Matt arrived in Egypt two years ago. During his time, he has taught Islamic studies and Eastern religion at the Alexandria School of Theology, learnt an impressive amount of Arabic, and served as a priest at All Saint's Cathedral. He is leaving to do a PhD in Islamic Studies at Georgetown University in the US, and hopes to maintain a strong relationship with the Diocese. Matt says *"I'm extraordinarily grateful for the kindness of the Diocese. I feel that I've received more than I've given, and I have learnt more than I taught. I'm very grateful for the leadership of Bishop Mouneer, Rev. Emad, and many others."*

Prayer Requests

- Give thanks for the generous response to the appeal to help the poorest of the poor in Egypt. Pray for the continued work of the Community Development Centres in poor areas of Alexandria and Cairo.
- Give thanks for the work of the Menara Centre for Children with Special Needs and the Deaf Unit among children with disabilities. Pray that the Lord would provide for the financial needs of these schools.

Important Upcoming Events in the Diocese

JULY

- Visit of Dr. John Binns (8-10 July 2011)
- Way of Life Conference (13-15 July 2011)
- Visit of Lord Carey of Clifton, the former Archbishop of Canterbury (14-18 July 2011)
- Graduation of the Alexandria School of Theology (16 July 2011)
- Bishop's Visit to the UK with the Grand Mufti (18-25 July 2011)
- Bishop's Visit with Grand Mufti to Hope Liverpool University (19 July 2011)
- Evangelism & Youth Conference (30 July-4 August 2011)

AUGUST

- Zamalek Youth Conference (9-13 August 2011)
- Evangelism Conference I (22-26 August 2011)
- Diocesan Youth Olympics (26 August 2011)
- Evangelism Conference II (22-26 August 2011)
- AST Residential Conference (30 August-2 September 2011)
- Bishop's Visit to China with Global South (31 August-10 September 2011)

Contact Details

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Websites

The Diocese of Egypt:

www.dioceseofegypt.org/english

The Egypt Diocesan Association in the UK:

www.eda-egypt.org.uk

The Friends of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt in the USA: www.friendsanglicandioceseegypt.org

Please send us your news! Contact the [Diocesan Editors](#).

The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa, a diocese within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East in the worldwide Anglican Communion, extends over eight countries including Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Djibouti. There are over 70 congregations throughout the Diocese, with All Saints Cathedral, Cairo being the spiritual centre. The Diocese supports over 30 institutions which include hospitals, clinics, nurseries, schools, a theological seminary, micro-enterprise ventures, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for the deaf, disabled and the elderly. The four goals of the Diocese are 1) reaching the un-reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, 2) serving holistically, 3) training leaders, and 4) building bridges through interfaith and ecumenical dialogue.