

Goa Anglican Centre News

(Spring 2023)

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this Spring 2023 edition of the Goa Anglican Centre News. I write from a rather cold London and hope to see you all over the coming months now that I am back in England.

Our news is once again split between the charity and church aspects of our work and there is much to be thankful for in both areas. We are particularly excited about the prospect of having international volunteers back in Goa so please do have a read through the feature about that and consider how **you** can be involved.

Thank you as always for all your support and prayers.

With all best wishes,

Richard Lees

Richard Lees,
Development Officer
The Goa Anglican Centre

CHARITY PROGRESS

Our appeal for more volunteers
– we need your help!

CHURCH PROGRESS

Prayer & Worship at St.
Christopher's, Vasco, Goa

FRIENDS OF GAC

Cycle of Prayer for Our Work &
Surroundings

FRIENDS OF GAC

Diary of our events across the
UK

Charity progress

Appeal for volunteers: My main job with the Goa Anglican Centre and Volunteering Goa over these months in England is to find more volunteers. We need as many as possible to make good progress on each of the projects in Goa and it is always a challenge to find people. I am very encouraged to have several enquiries already and hope for many more.

You can help by:

- **Considering volunteering yourself:** Volunteers need to be at least 18 years old and there is no upper age limit. We would love to hear from you whatever your skills, interest and background.



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- **Telling your family and friends about us:** Many more people would volunteer with us if they knew we existed, and you are a vital link. Who do you know who might be interested?
- **Spread the word:** Talking about volunteering with us at your job, school, church or community activities. If you would like posters or pictures to display then please email me.
- **Prayer:** Praying that more people will feel the call to spend time with us in Goa.

What do the volunteers actually do?

I am often asked this question and apart from working hard and having fun, it's a difficult question to answer. We have never wanted to be a large organisation and one of the reasons for that is because each volunteer is unique. We like to plan our placements individually and the work often depends on the skills and experience that the volunteer brings. Some placements involve a lot of practical work, others involve teaching or caring for the children in the homes we support. No two placements are the same but every volunteer brings something unique and special. So come with an open mind and let's plan something wonderful!

Eco-tourism project in Cortalim

In the last newsletter, I wrote about the exciting new project that I am working on to develop a farm and homestay in collaboration with the local Salesian society. The hope is that this beautiful place will achieve many things including providing:

- Employment opportunities for young people from marginalised communities and especially those who have grown up in care
- Work-based training so that the young staff can make genuine career progress
- A beautiful homestay that will give visitors a memorable experience of traditional Goan life
- A long-term source of income to help fund the Salesian society charity projects
- A base for our volunteers to stay alongside local people and get involved in a huge range of essential work including practical jobs around the buildings and farm, welcoming visitors etc

The first stage of making this exciting opportunity a reality is refurbishing the existing semi-derelict buildings and making them secure before the coming monsoons. We have decided that part of this process is to replace all the old wood and tiled rooves with steel and tile effect sheets. It wasn't an easy decision as some of the rustic look has been lost but the sheets offer a much better defence against the weather and the monkeys! The work is nearly done and these old farm structures are well on the way to being basic but comfortable accommodation. I am very grateful to Fr Francis for sending me daily photo-updates now that I am back in England.



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Church Progress

It has been a real blessing to lead the small congregation at St Christopher's, Vasco in prayer over the last months. During that time we have grown in faith together and done our best to worship God in the beauty of holiness.

As part of this, we have undertaken a significant amount of restoration work and the church looks better than I have ever seen it. I am very grateful to the Stephen's family for almost all the hard work and donations needed to make this possible.

Sadly, it was not possible for my ordination to happen over the last months and that will now have to wait until September. We also have the problem of keeping the church going while I am in England. As part of our continuing work in ecumenism, Pastor Martin Philip from the Believers' Church will lead the liturgy in St Christopher's on several occasions over the coming months. Martin has been a friend of our charity for a long time and I am glad to leave things in safe hands. It is a joy to work and pray together with our brothers and sisters from other churches and we do what we can to be one. In the long term, we will need a permanent Anglican clergy presence in Goa so please keep that in your prayers as we seek to discern God's will.



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The Friends of GAC

I am grateful for all those who can support us in prayer. We have a cycle of prayer for our work and surroundings (listed below) which you are more than welcome to join in with.

Please pray especially for the ministry of St Christopher's Church, Vasco, Goa.

Monday: People in need in Satari & Sanguem regions: for the hungry & starving & for the homeless

Tuesday: People in need in Quepem & Canacona regions & for peace among India & her neighbours

Wednesday: People in need in Mormugao region, for all visitors to Goa and for those who live and work at the Goa Anglican Centre

Thursday: People in need in Salcete region, for the unity of the church & for all visitors to GAC

Friday: People in need in Pernem & Bicholim regions, for the faithful departed & for all who are isolated or lonely.

Saturday: People in need in Tiswade region & for all prisoners & those who are falsely accused.

Sunday: People in need in Bardez region & that the churches in Goa may be an effective witness to God's love.

Diary

I am so grateful to all those who continue to pray for us in these strange times. Many of you will know that there is a rosary offered every day for our charity and for you, our members. This is offered by different people on each day of the week. Please do email me if you have any particular prayer requests.

Four of our cells are now able to offer a monthly Mass for our work. Please do join them if you can but given the continuing uncertainty it would be wise to contact me or the local clergy in advance if you are planning on travelling a long way to attend. The regular cell Masses are:

1 st Thursday of the month 10:30am	Mass at St John's Church, St John's Road, Bathwick BA2 6PT	Tea/coffee and fellowship in the church hall
3 rd Tuesday of the month 7:30pm	Holy Communion service according to the Book of Common Prayer at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Churchgate, Waltham Cross, Cheshunt EN8 9NB	
4 th Tuesday of the month 7:30pm	Said Eucharist at St. Mark's Church, 56 Potters Road, Barnet EN5 5HY	
Last Wednesday of the month 7:30pm	Said Mass at St. Mary's Church, 16 Bishophill Junior, York YO1 6EN.	