

Goa Anglican Centre News

(Spring 2022)

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this Spring 2022 edition of the Goa Anglican Centre News. This is the first newsletter for a very long time, and it is a joy to be writing to you once again with news and hopes for the future. I hope you are all well and that life may be returning to something resembling normality.

Sadly, as many of you will be aware, I have not been able to go to Goa now for two years. I am sure that those of you who have visited the centre will join me in thanking Iris Gomes for doing a great job in keeping our centre together during that time. The work of our charity has also largely stopped over the last two years although we were delighted to be able to assist a wonderful mission of charity and kindness to the Goan community in Swindon (**see page 2**). Barry was our last volunteer to leave Goa, just after me in spring 2020. Since then, there have been no international volunteers in Goa, but we do hope that we will be able to welcome volunteers again later this year. There are more people than ever showing an interest in going so do join me in praying that the situation will be such that they can come.

I am also hugely grateful to Reverend Ronald Nadugaddi (pictured here). He has also been unable to visit Goa during the pandemic as he looks after a church in neighbouring Maharashtra and the state borders have been closed. Despite this, he has faithfully broadcast worship online for the spiritual nourishment of our little congregation at St Christopher's. He also keeps in regular contact through a church WhatsApp group that has been a comfort to many. Finally, we must thank our dear friend and church member Johnson Stephen. He lives near the church and has been able to visit regularly and ensure that essential maintenance has been done.



So, what of the future? Well firstly I hope that we can now resume our regular newsletter. This will be published four times a year and more regular updates will be available on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/TheGoaAnglicanCentre> so please do like and follow us on Facebook if you have not done so already. Four of our cells are up and running again and details are on **page 3** - do join them if you can. The situation in Goa remains tense. The vaccination rate across India is much lower than it is here in the UK but there is considerable natural immunity. The main problem in Goa now seems to be unemployment, as so many businesses within the tourism sector have closed their doors. The return of domestic tourism this season has helped but please continue to pray for the people of Goa and that we will be able to return to serving there this year.

Thank you as always for all your support and prayers.

With all best wishes,

Richard Lees

Richard Lees,
Development Officer
The Goa Anglican Centre

The Goa Anglican Centre News is the monthly newsletter of the Goa Anglican Centre, a Registered Charity in England and Wales. Charity Registration Number: 1152714.

News from Swindon

Readers may remember that we have had a longstanding link with the parish of Swindon New Town. This started when a considerable number of Goans began attending St Luke's Church. The Goan community in Swindon has continued to grow and Fr Toby Boutle, the present Vicar, is keen to continue links with the Goa Anglican Centre and to provide the best possible pastoral and liturgical provision for his Goan congregation. To that



end, and during a time of very high covid cases in Goa, Fr Toby got in touch with me to discuss the possibility of introducing more *Konkani* (the Goan language) to a monthly Mass at St Luke's. He felt that this would be a particular comfort for members who had more recently arrived from Goa and who might be scared for the health of family at home. We worked together on a suitable order of Mass with as much of it in *Konkani* as possible. I am delighted to say that, through this collaboration, St Luke's now offers what I believe to be the only Anglican Mass in *Konkani* in the World. It has been very well received by the local community and now takes place as a Saturday evening Vigil Mass once a month. I gather that over 50 people attended on the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. A full report is available on the 'See of Ebbsfleet' website here: <https://ebbsfleet.org.uk/news/new-regular-bilingual-mass-in-swindon/>. Congratulations to Fr Toby for a kind and pastorally sensitive way of offering support to those in need.



Thanks for Prutha

Early on in my time in Goa, many people approached me as 'that charity guy' to suggest things that could or should be done in the area, ranging from support for the elderly to arts projects, reading centres, environmental campaigns, and HIV programmes. I quickly realised that many of these important issues were already being addressed by local individuals, charities, companies, or community groups. The problem was that nobody knew what they were doing so they didn't receive the support that they needed and were unable to reach many of those in need. The response to this was www.pruthagoa.com. This site, excellently run by Iris Gomes for around 8 years, shared positive news stories from across Goa. She wrote wonderful articles and shared them on our website and through social media. This effort has reached a huge readership across Goa and all over the world.

In more recent times, we have noticed that the more mainstream newspapers and other channels in Goa have started picking up our stories. They have often then continued to cover these organisations and individuals, giving them much wider coverage than we ever could. This is a huge success and vindication of Iris' journalistic efforts over all these years, and it certainly seems that Goans are now much more aware of the good as well as the bad around them. Job done!

The enforced break of covid has given us a chance to think about where we might be going next, and it feels that the time is right to bring an end to the happy story of Prutha. All the existing material is being transferred to an archive online where it will remain available for those who wish to study this fascinating period in Goa's life. Visitors to our centre will be relieved to know that Iris will still be there, assisting in providing the same warm welcome as always. Thanks to her, to the advisory panel, and to all who have supported Prutha on this wonderful journey.

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 future of the Goa Anglican Centre and that we may soon return to serving God in Goa.

Monday: People in need in Satari and Sanguem regions, for all who are hungry and starving and for the homeless

Tuesday: People in need in Quepem and Canacona regions and for peace between India and 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 and for all visitors to the Goa Anglican Centre

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

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

Sunday: People in need in Bardez region and 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:

-  **First Thursday of the month** at St John's Church, St John's Road, **Bathwick** BA2 6PT. Mass at **10.30am** followed by tea/coffee and fellowship in the church hall.
-  **Third Tuesday of the month** at St Mary the Virgin Church, Churchgate, Waltham Cross, **Cheshunt** EN8 9NB. A Holy Communion service according to the Book of Common Prayer at **7.30pm**.
-  **Fourth Tuesday of the month** at St Mark's Church, 56 Potters Road, **Barnet** EN5 5HY. Said Eucharist at **7.30pm**.
-  **Last Wednesday of the month** at St Mary's Church, 16 Bishophill Junior, **York** YO1 6EN. Said Mass at **7.30pm**.

The Goa Anglican Centre News is the monthly newsletter of the Goa Anglican Centre, a Registered Charity in England and Wales. Charity Registration Number: 1152714.