

# Goa Anglican Centre News

(Spring 2024)

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this Spring 2024 edition of the Goa Anglican Centre News!

Time seems to go so quickly, and I am already back in London! That means, of course, that I do look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks and months.

It's been a very exciting time in Goa over the last few months and it is a real blessing to write a newsletter in which there is actual news! I am often asked what I actually do most of the time that I am in India so I hope that you will forgive a rather long travel diary in response. If not, you can always enjoy the pictures!

Much more interesting than my own travels of course are the exploits of our two new volunteers. They have been really wonderful, and the greatest joy is that they might well both come back next year too! If you do, please pray for them, and thank God for them and the amazing gifts of love that they bring.

Thank you as always for all your support and prayers and I wish you, in advance, a very Happy Easter.

With all best wishes,

*Richard Lees*

Richard Lees,  
Development Officer  
The Goa Anglican Centre

---

## CHARITY PROGRESS

**Volunteers at last**

---

## CHURCH PROGRESS

**Connections around India**

---

## PRAYERS FOR GAC

**Cycle of Prayer for Our Work & Surroundings**

---

## FRIENDS OF GAC

**Diary of Events across the UK**

## Charity progress: Volunteers at last - More please!

In the early years of the Goa Anglican Centre, our house in Porvorim was often full to bursting with volunteers, visitors, clergy, and supporters. They were certainly jolly days, but they seem such a distant memory now that it felt so very exciting to welcome Mike, his wife and a relative of theirs for lunch. Mike is our first volunteer after the Covid restrictions were lifted and we're so pleased to have him with us. He and his wife have enjoyed holidays in Goa for many years and having recently retired, he wants to give something back. He is just completing his placement in the boys' home, Margaret Bosco Bal Sadan, where he has been a particular help for two of the older boys who had fallen behind with their English and Maths. This kind of intervention from volunteers is so important and we have seen over the years how it can be enough for young people to turn things around and move from a dark place to a really wonderful future. We do hope that Mike will be back next year and perhaps for longer next time.

From no volunteers to two at once was such a blessing and we have been equally pleased to welcome Drew to Goa. Drew is also recently retired and has vast experience as a teacher of English overseas. As always, we look to make best use of the skills that volunteers bring and so Drew is our first volunteer placed in the glorious rural boarding school at Sulcorna, South Goa. The children there come from very disadvantaged backgrounds and often would miss out on formal education completely, were it not for the hard work of the Don Bosco Fathers and their dedicated local staff. Drew is doing a wonderful job in improving the level of English teaching there and we hope that he too will be back with us next year.

It has been such a joy to see our volunteer programme come back to life and so we look to the future with renewed excitement and hope. As was becoming increasingly obvious in former years, retired volunteers can bring a wonderful dedication, professionalism and range of skills and experience to our work. We do hope that we will be able to spread the word and that more people will feel called to spend some time in retirement making a difference in beautiful Goa.

**If you have any ideas for advertising or if you or anyone you know would like to join us then please do get in touch. We would love to hear from you.**



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.

# Church Progress – Connections around India

During my time in India this season, it has become increasingly obvious that the future of St Christopher's Church is to be found in working more broadly with the Anglican communion across India. With this in mind, I took some time away from my teaching commitments between Christmas and the New Year to visit churches and organisations with which we might form useful links. The first stop on my journey was a joyful Christmas day with our own presbyter-in-charge, Reverend Ronald Nadugaddi, at his other church of St Mary's, Belgaum. I was able to attend midnight Mass on Christmas eve and Holy Communion service on Christmas day. It was such a joy to see the church beautifully decorated and full of people merrily welcoming our Saviour afresh with the hope that Christmas brings. It was a real inspiration for the future of St Christopher's and shows what can be done when a church is lead well and committed to the witness of the gospel.



From Belgaum, I travelled on to the diocesan offices in Kolhapur, where I was pleased to meet my old friend and now Moderator's Commissary to the diocese, Reverend More. It was a joy to meet again after many years and we had a very productive discussion about the future of the church in Goa. I hope and pray that this will result in closer collaboration with the diocese and that we will be able to welcome more CNI clergy to Goa for retreats and to aid in the work of our little church.

The next stop, after a brief visit to see a friend in Pune, was Mumbai. Once again, this proved a blessed and useful time. The Dean of the Cathedral, Reverend Avinash Rangayya, was kind enough to spare me some of his time and it was fascinating to compare notes about ministry in two very different contexts. Avinash was keen to explore the possibilities of a link between Goa and Mumbai diocese with the hope that groups from Mumbai might visit us in Goa for retreats or residential fellowship and Bible study. The local train took me from South Mumbai to the swanky Suburbs of Navi Mumbai, where I had the chance to spend the evening with Reverend Nitin Dethé. Nitin works with the Mission to Seafarers as their Chaplain to Mumbai Port Trust. He was able to tell me a lot about the practicalities of port chaplaincy in India and we share the hope that St Christopher's may, in future, have a ministry to sailors in need in Goa. There are various challenges involved but also a lot of opportunities to work with.



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.



After a brief stop in Goa, I continued my travels with a trip south to Calicut, in Kerala. Here I was delighted to meet the diocesan Bishop, Right Reverend Royce Victor. You may remember that I wrote in the last newsletter about a possible local partnership in Goa with the Church of South India's retreat centre in Vasco. Bishop Royce is responsible for that centre and for the clergy who minister there. We discussed the possibilities of collaboration, especially in terms of the clergy presence in the state and we both feel that some sort of future partnership would bring much benefit for St Christopher's and the retreat centre.



My last visit was to celebrate epiphany with our nearest CNI neighbours in Vengurla at the kind invitation of my old friend and their presbyter-in-charge, Reverend Prakash Gaikwad. The worship was joyful and uplifting and concluded with a beautiful ceremony of carrying blessed candles out into the darkness of the churchyard to line with pond with light and pray for the parish and for the future of their ambitious project to reopen the once excellent St Thomas' hospital that is attached to their church. I was happy to offer what little support we can from Goa and to pray together for a closer collaboration between the churches in Goa and Vengurla in the future. The stay concluded the next morning with breakfast served in the home of one of the church families and presented along with a beautiful time of fellowship, song and laughter.

**With all these wonderful people praying for us and working with us we can be assured of a bright future for the church in Goa and across India.**



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.

# 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 ministry arrangements at St Christopher's, Vasco.**

**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.

Three of our cells are now able to offer a monthly Mass for our work. Please do join them if you can. The regular cell Masses are:

1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month <b>10:30am</b>	Mass at St John's Church, St John's Road, Bathwick BA2 6PT	Tea/coffee and fellowship in the church hall
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month <b>7:30pm</b>	Said Eucharist at St. Mark's Church, 56 Potters Road, Barnet EN5 5HY	
Last Wednesday of the month <b>7:30pm</b>	Said Mass at St. Mary's Church, 16 Bishophill Junior, York YO1 6EN.	