

Goa Anglican Centre News

(August 2019)

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this August edition of the Goa Anglican Centre News. I have just returned from a short but blessed time of retreat in Walsingham. It is always a joy to offer prayers in the Holy House for the work of our charity and I am delighted to say that a perpetual lamp still burns every day for us at the Shrine. It is no exaggeration to say that I have no idea really how to run a charity but it seems that Our Lady has and we are guided daily by her prayers.

Dates for your diary

Tues 27 Aug 7.30pm – Barnet Cell
Wed 28 Aug 7.30pm – York Cell
Sun 1 Sept 10am – West Midlands Cell
Thurs 5 Sept 10.30am – Bath Cell

As some of you will have realised, although I still find it hard to believe, next year is the 10th anniversary of the start of our work in Goa. Where does the time go? As this marks something of a special occasion, we are looking forward to returning to St John's Bathwick for a rather bigger festival than usual. It would mean so much to me and to everyone at the Goa Anglican Centre if you could be there. The main day will be Saturday 25 April. In order to make it possible to attend from most parts of the country, the programme will be slightly shorter than usual. We plan to have

“Next year is the 10th anniversary of the start of our work in Goa. We will be at St. John's Bathwick on Saturday 25 April 2020 to celebrate”

Sung Mass at 11am, followed a buffet lunch. There will be short talks and slide shows and I hope that at least one of our former volunteers will be with us to tell you about volunteering. There will then be Evensong and Benediction at 3pm, followed by informal discussions and questions

over tea and coffee for as long as we wish to stay after that. As usual, for those wishing to make a weekend holiday out of the festival, there will be rosary, fish and chips and compline on the Friday evening and Masses as usual on Sunday morning. I hope to have a poster ready for the next edition but do please keep the date in your diary and invite all your friends. The festival is designed as a celebration for those who have been with us from the start, our more recent members and people who are totally new to the charity.

I shall be returning to Goa in a few days and there are many new and exciting things happening. Barry is returning for another period of volunteering this year and is once again supported by the kind donations of members of our charity. Thank you so much for making that work possible. We also have Joan back to volunteering after a year off and two new people exploring the possibility of volunteering. The next newsletter will be from Goa so please do keep us all in your prayers.

Thank you as always for your support in so many ways.

With all best wishes,

Richard Lees

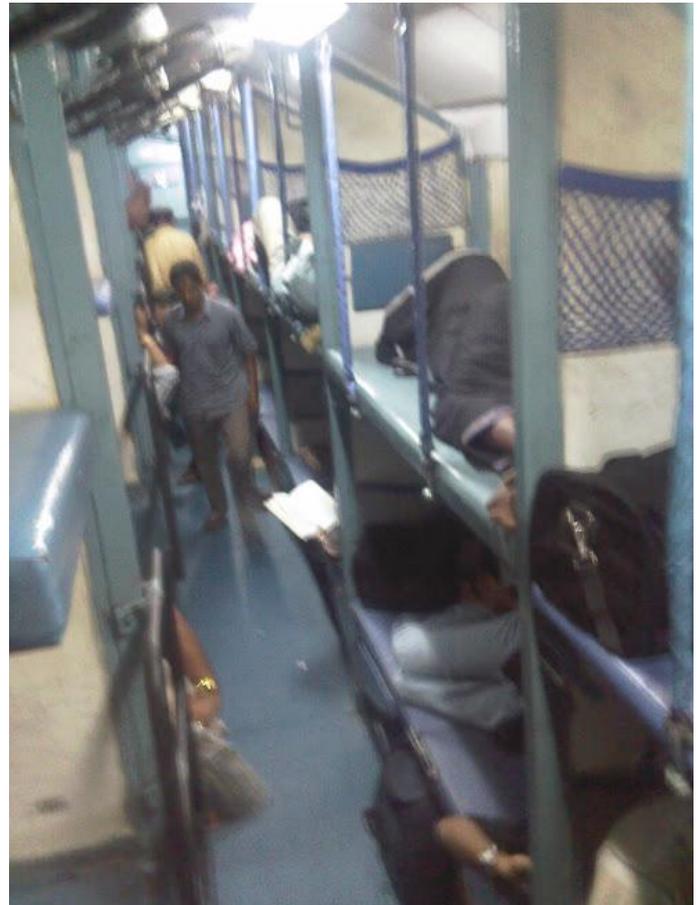
Richard Lees,
Development Officer
The Goa Anglican Centre

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.

Prayer Focus: Salcete

The South Goan province of Salcete is part of the 'Old Conquest': The area of Goa that was first taken by the Portuguese. As with most of the Old Conquest area, it is predominantly Roman Catholic and has a very Mediterranean influenced culture. It has a long and beautiful coastline that includes large and popular resorts such as Colva and some rather more exclusive beach areas too. These areas have always been quieter than the better known places close to our centre in the North and they are still more of a relaxing destination than a party centre.

Inland, Salcete is home to the bustling commercial centre of Goa: The town of Margao. While only a small town, Margao always feels bigger because of its crowds and traffic. It is very much the capital of South Goa and is also home to Goa's main station. This gives it a certain feel that is really, only known to the regular traveller on Indian railways. Trains are the lifeline of India and the arrival of a long-distance express is a major event, with the town overflowing with everyone from business travellers stepping out of air-conditioned comfort to thousands of migrant workers from the unreserved section (pictured) desperately hoping for work and new opportunities. Sadly, these people are often particularly in need of our prayers. Many have left family behind in the hope that Goa's tourism industry will provide a better future than the risky, small farming that they have grown up with. It often doesn't and many of these workers end up covering debts by illegal work in gangs or prostitution. Even if they can find work it is frequently as domestic workers, where there is minimal pay and high rates of abuse.



A great many NGOs work across Goa to help migrant workers and to lead them into a better future but the numbers of people are almost impossible. As your pray for the people of beautiful Salcete, please keep these migrant workers especially in your prayers along with the desperately overstretched NGOs who try to help them

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 (printed below) which you are more than welcome to join in with. **Please pray especially for the work of our charity in Goa this year.**

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

Tues 27 Aug 7.30pm	St Marks, Barnet	Mass with intentions for the work of the Goa Anglican Centre
Wed 28 Aug 7.30pm	St Mary's, Bishophill Junior, York	Mass with intentions for the work of the Goa Anglican Centre
Sun 1 Sept 10am	Emmanuel, Wylde Green West Midlands	Sung Eucharist with prayers for the work of the Goa Anglican Centre. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available in the church hall after the service
Thurs 5 Sept 10.30am	St John the Baptist, Bathwick, Bath	Mass with intentions for the work of the Goa Anglican Centre. Tea, coffee and biscuits after Mass