

TREE OF LIFE

AUGUST 2020

کائنات کی زندگی



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second edition of the Tree of Life!

While we are excited to share our first digital magazine with you all, we need to take a moment to recognise the strange times that we are currently living in. 2020 has brought with it many challenges, and for some of us, the most difficult we may have faced yet.

Until some normality returns to our everyday lives, The Tree of Life team hopes that this edition can bring some light into your homes. With more interesting articles, community highlights, and fun activities, our magazine can be shared with the whole family.

Be sure to print the interactive pages for kids, and share this latest edition with your loved ones!

Tree of Life Team

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H. H. Mar Dinkha IV

Biography



His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV – Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East (1976 – 2015)

This year marks the 5th anniversary of the passing of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, who dedicated his life serving God and the Assyrian Church of the East.

Born in Iraq on September 15th, 1935, H.H. Mar Dinkha entered the church at the 11 under the tutelage of Mar Yousip Khnanisho, who ordained him deacon following two years of study.

His Holiness went on to become the Bishop of Iran, where he worked to establish connections between the churches, and advocated for Assyrian nationalism. He continued to work for these causes throughout his service for the church.

In 1976, His Holiness was elected as the new Catholicos-Patriarch, and his consecration took place at Saint Barnabus Church here in London.

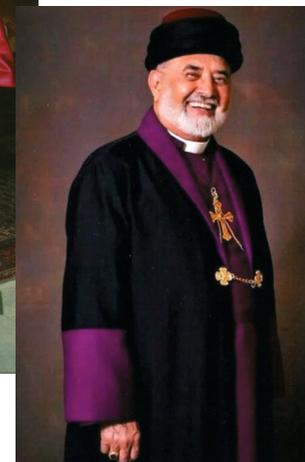
His Holiness Mar Dinkha passed away on March 26th, 2015, in the USA. He will always be remembered for his incredible spirit and generosity, which live on through his legacy and his unification of our people.

Clerical Ordinations

- Ordained to the Diaconate on September 12th, 1949
- Ordained to the Priesthood on July 15th, 1957
- Assigned to Iran in December 1957
- Episcopal Consecration on February 11th, 1962 in Tehran, Iran
- Elected and enthroned Catholicos-Patriarch of Seleucia-Ctesiphon on October 17th 1976



H.H Mar Dinkha IV with Pope John Paul II



The History of the Assyrian Church in the UK

by Praidon Darmoo

His Grace, Mar Dinkha (then the Bishop of Iran) arrived in England in the summer of 1967. He celebrated only the second Qurbana Qadisha in Great Britain in 10 years. He also visited the Assyrian Community in Slade Green, Kent - the first Bishop to do so.

On 17th October 1976 His Grace Mar Dinkha was consecrated Catholicos Patriarch of The Assyrian Church of The East (His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV) in St. Barnabus Church in Ealing. In November of that year His Holiness was invited to the General Synod of the church of England. I accompanied him, and we met with His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, His Grace the Bishop of London and the Church of England commissioners. During their discussion H.H. requested a redundant church for use by our community. After six months of correspondence between us, we were offered churches in Kensington, Battersea Park, Southwick and Sydenham, but these churches were not suitable as they were too far from the Assyrian Community in Ealing.



His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV at his consecration in London in 1976

On the 28th October 1977 His Holiness made an initial visit to Geneva, and I accompanied him. He met with the World Council of churches, the Middle East Council of Churches and the United Nations representative for refugees, where they discussed obtaining help for resettlement for those Assyrians caught up in the Diaspora. During this visit, His Holiness asked me to continue negotiations

with the Church of England to obtain a church for our community in Ealing, and to obtain a permit to bring Archdeacon Yonan to England as our parish priest. H.H. also asked me to set up a temporary church committee. On our return, I contacted Mr. Hawil Michael (who was not yet Shamasha at the time) and Mr. Edward Khamo. We formed a temporary Committee with myself as Chairman, Hawil Michael as Secretary and Edward Khamo as Treasurer. As per instructions from H.H. I began working with the Archbishop of Canterbury's office at Lambeth Palace with regards to finding a church and obtaining the necessary permit for bringing Archdeacon Yonan and his family to England. The Temporary Church Committee began enrolling members and collecting donations and membership fees.

On 21st October 1977 an official meeting was held for the Temporary Church Committee with His Holiness Mar Dinkha at the Carnarvon Hotel. H.H. confirmed the Temporary Church Committee to be named as the Church Committee until we were able to have an AGM to elect a permanent committee. It was decided at this meeting to charge £1 per family per month as a membership fee. The Executive Committee of the Assyrian Society of Great Britain was informed of these decisions on the same day immediately after the meeting with His Holiness.

Prior to 1978 all church services had been held in St. Barnabus Church in Ealing. Our accounts at that time showed that we had collected £5077.07 in donations, Sliwa collections and membership fees. By October the Assyrian Society of GB had purchased a community center called the Assyrian House, and on 8th October 1978 His Holiness Mar Dinkha and His Beatitude Mar Narsai celebrated the first service there.

On 11th October 1978 we added four new members to our committee. These were: David Malik, Emmanuel Kelaita, David Youna and Enwia Esho. The committee met with His Beatitude Mar Narsai and we discussed ways of moving forward and writing a constitution for our church.

With the help of Lambeth Palace we were able to arrange for the arrival of Archdeacon Yonan and his family. On 18th October 1978, at a meeting with H.B. Mar Narsi we discussed:

1. The arrival of Archdeacon Yonan and his family
2. Financial Reports
3. Purchase of a residence for Archdeacon Yonan
4. Collecting an accurate list of church members

By March 1979 we had 145 fully paid up members and a total of £17,653.72 obtained from membership fees, Sliwa collection and donations. We also accepted interest free loans from members totaling £7,500.00.

In October 1979, we purchased a house for the church as first residence for the priest and his family from our account, which was had now reached £30914.95. This house was purchased for a total of £27,753.05 and the property was held for the church in the names of the trustees, Archdeacon Yonan, David Malik and David Youna. It was later sold with the funds going back to the church.

In October 1980 the committee held a dinner for H.B. Mar Narsai in order to raise donations for the purchase of a church building and we were very grateful to all those who donated, as we raised a magnificent £45,600.00 from those present.

On 29th March 1981 at the AGM I resigned as Chairman of the Church Committee and a new committee was elected, with Edward Khamo taking over as Chairman.

By 14th July 1986, thanks to the generosity of members, total donations had reached £79,441.35, and we purchased St. Mary's church in Ealing (now ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL) which was consecrated by H.H. Mar Dinkha on 15th August 1987.

In October 1992 Archdeacon Yonan was semi-retired, and Rev. Stephen Yalda Turkhan (Qasha Stepanoos) was appointed parish priest by H.H. Mar Dinkha.

On 24th July 1994 His Grace Mar Odisho was given the diocese of Europe, which included the U.K. although his see was in Stockholm, Sweden.

1st June 2008 Shamasha Shmaiel Tamras was ordained priest for certain parishes in Europe by H.B Mar Narsai and H.G Mar Odisho, and he celebrated occasional services in London.

On 1st February 2009 Shamasha Tony Malham was ordained parish priest for U.K. by H.G. Mar Odisho, and Reverend Stepanoos was transferred to Holland. On 25th May 2019 His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis was appointed by the Holy Synod as Bishop for Western Europe, with his see in London. His grace was welcomed in Heathrow Airport on 28th June 2019 by over 250 parishioners.



The consecration for His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV was held in St. Barnabus Church, London



The banquet that followed the consecration was attended by the Prelates and other key members of the church

From Habbaniya to Slade Green

By Josh Coleman

Slade Green, in Kent, is home to a small community of interlinked Assyrian families. We have few Assyrian run businesses, and, unlike Ealing in West London, we don't have a designated community space. Early settlers moved to Slade Green in the late 1950s; it was a burgeoning community on the London/Kent border that promised a stable life, something so many Assyrians were desperate for after years of strife across the Middle East. For many Assyrian families moving to Slade Green was a chance to fulfil aspirations: an affordable and safe town perfect for building a home and starting a family. This was part of the appeal for my grandparents, Eramia and Luciya Gabriel, who relocated from Habbaniya to the UK after my grandfather began working for the British Council.

Migration to Slade Green started in the late 1950s with the arrival of the Skopila family, understood to be the first family to set up a home in the town. More Assyrian families moved to Slade Green throughout the 1960s, a decade that saw lots of Assyrian migration to London, other parts of the UK and many countries across the world. Relocating and starting a family in a new part of the world is a story that lots of Assyrians can relate to. Many had to leave their homeland in the Middle East and start new lives in other countries. The Assyrian diaspora stretches across the globe, with some of the largest communities established in Australia, California, Chicago, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Russia, the Caucasus region, and the UK. Many Assyrians of my generation are blessed to have grown up in such stable circumstances, thanks to the sacrifices our parents and grandparents made. Our lives are often vastly different from the generations that precede us. This is why it is particularly important to understand their stories and the sacrifices they made in establishing the Assyrian communities we've grown up in, like Slade Green.

Speaking to my grandmother over the years has allowed me to gain an insight into what moving countries with young children at the age of 25 was like. My grandfather was sent to the UK for work by the British Council but couldn't return

to Iraq due to sweeping political changes that took place while he was abroad. He settled in Slade Green so that my grandmother, aunt, and uncle would have the company of the Skopila family, yet he wouldn't be joined by them for another year due to complications with attaining visas. The night they eventually arrived they stayed with a relative, David Malik, in Ealing. People migrating often relied on friends and family to help them get through the arduous process. When they arrived in Slade Green the following day and were reunited with my grandfather, they were completely overjoyed. The difficult years of separation were finally over.

Next came the long process of assimilating into the community. My grandmother spoke practically no English and my aunt and uncle could only communicate to each other in Arabic or Assyrian, so immersing into the community seemed a daunting task. Despite the language barrier, my grandmother made friends with her English neighbours by communicating through actions and often invited them over to try her Assyrian food. The Skopila children helped my aunt immerse into her new school by translating for her whilst she picked up English. Back at home, my grandmother would speak to her children in Assyrian to ensure that they didn't lose their mother tongue, whilst she would pick up their English words and phrases that they learnt at school. More Assyrian families moved to Slade Green over the years, each one helping the last to integrate into the local community. Eventually, my grandmother and her Assyrian neighbours were making regular trips to the local bingo hall, and by the 1980s, my family had opened a wine bar that served a range of Assyrian dishes.

Many of our parents and grandparents undertook the same life-changing journey and most received some level of support from people in the Assyrian diaspora. What we can learn from their stories is the importance of community. We are all blessed to be part of an Assyrian community in which we can look out for one another and work together to preserve our culture. Albeit small, the Assyrian community in Slade Green consists of a strong network of families that have supported each other for decades. It lends itself as an example to my generation of how to preserve our culture through connecting with one another.

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“A hand cannot clap by itself” (Assyrian proverb)

Since the last issue was released, a lot has changed and we have faced significant challenges to daily life. We are all learning how to adapt to the new normal – Tree of Life moving online is an example of this. Luckily, I have been able to continue with my university studies remotely and finish this academic year. I also managed to finish some ongoing projects in the house and spend more time reading. The extra free time has been a great opportunity for me to focus more of my attention on studying Assyrian, which is an ongoing hobby of mine. I pray everyone is well and enjoys this new electronic issue!

The History of the Assyrian Society in the U.K.

by Praidon Darmoo 02.02.2020

I was very privileged to have known Victor Wales and his Iranian-Assyrian wife Sandra, who were instrumental in establishing the Assyrian Society of Great Britain. Victor was a very English gentleman who had worked in Iran and who spoke fluent Assyrian. He met and married his wife Sandra in Iran and they came to England 1956/1957. The idea of creating an Assyrian Society was first put to Victor in early 1959 by Mr. Sam Amrikhas, a student from Tehran, and Miss Helen Hosmand (later Mrs. Helen Kiernan) as well as Mrs. Sophie Willis.

The next two paragraphs were written by Mr. Victor Wales:

“The first General Meeting was arranged in April 1995, at the Seymour Hall behind Marble Arch. The hall authorities had placed notices outside on the pavement to show which entrance should be used, and I recall what a thrill it gave me that evening to see for the first time in Central London notices indicating “Assyrian Society of Great Britain.” Mr. Shadrakh Skopila had been persuaded to take the chair for that evening and a Committee of seven was chosen from about thirty people attending. Later in the year, when Shadrakh felt unable to continue, the chairmanship was taken over by Mr. Aprim Willis (son of Mrs. Sophie Willis), and at the same time Mr. David Malik. Joined the committee.

The first activity was held promptly in May, a ‘Sulagha’ picnic, when a coach was hired to go to the Windsor area, and all enjoyed a wonderful day on the banks of the Thames at Runnymede, a very beautiful spot, which also has a special place in England’s history. The weather is always a hazard when arranging outdoor events in England (a fact well known to those of you drenched to the skin at this year’s ‘Sulagha’ picnic!) but on that first occasion the sun shone brilliantly all day.”

I was introduced to Victor and Sandra in 1960 by my uncle, David Malik, who had been in England since 1953. I became a member of the society, which used to meet once or twice a month keeping the Assyrian language and culture alive in this country.

In September 1960 Andy Mama arrived in England and in 1961 he joined the Society, where he became Editor of the Society's magazine "The Assyrian," which had been started by Victor. Andy later took over production and publication of the magazine for many years with the help of a sub committee. In 1963 Enwia Warda joined as a member of the society and became a great supporter of its aims. Gradually, more Iraqi Assyrians arrived and were enrolled into the Society. When the number of members reached about fifty we began to hire small halls for our meetings, providing soft drinks, tea and sandwiches to make a real social occasion.

Our members increased as more Iraqi Assyrians came to England. 1966 was the year when the Society first recorded 100 members. About the same time, blazer badges and ties (which I still have) were produced and sold readily both in Great Britain and to interested Assyrians overseas.

We became more active - we elected a committee to organize our meetings, and we established a constitution. David Malik was elected as our chairman. He was followed by Enwia Warda, Avimalk Yonan, and others. Throughout these years, Andy Mama served as a very able and active General Secretary. I was given the position of Social Secretary, organising parties and other activities for the Society. In 17th October 1976 I had the greatest honour, with the help of other members, of organizing the consecration of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV as the Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East. The Society's membership numbers continued to increase and we hired larger halls, eventually graduating from pub halls in Acton to Ealing Town Hall, where we could accommodate up to the 250 members we then had. At this time it was decided that we should seek to purchase a hall of our own, and in this project we were aided by Dinkha Latchin, an architect already involved in property acquisition. In 1977 Dinkha informed me that St Mary's Church Hall was for sale and it was agreed by the committee that we should attempt to purchase it. The society will forever be in debt to Dinkha for his work in finding us the perfect property for that time. So Dinkha and I approached the Church commissioners, who were acquainted with the history of Assyrian Christians and wished to help us to obtain the hall as a community center and as a place of worship. The hall was used for

regular Sunday worship (Qurbana) until we were able to obtain our own church.

The church commissioners agreed to sell the hall to us for £24,000.00. We obtained a Loan for about £20,000.00 from the National Westminster Bank with the help of the manger Mr. John Vian, who was a good friend of my uncle David Malik. The deeds were in the names of David Malik, Zakhria Odisho and Praidon Darmoo. We three became guarantors of this loan, and became the first Trustees of the society. Subsequent Trustees included Dinkha Latchin and Benjamin Khoshaba. The trusteeship changed and at present they are Dinkha Latchin, David Michael, Robert Babakhan, Thomas Khoshaba and myself.

Our membership numbers increased to over three hundred and our committees became even more active.

I wish to pay tribute to the founder of our Society, the late Victor Wales, and our early Chairmen including the late David Malik, the late Enwia Warda, and the late Avimalk Yonan, and to later chairmen including Emmanuel Kaleita, and especially David Michael, our longest serving chairman who as the present chairman is a great pillar of strength being very much involved in our community and Society's affairs.

It should be noted that the Assyrian Society of Great Britain is the oldest Assyrian society in the world, apart from those in the USA. In 1990 the Society changed its name to the Assyrian Society of the United Kingdom.

Bukhra Home Delivery

by Diana Hinar

For the first time in our church history, to adhere to the government guidelines in light of the covid-19 pandemic, all churches had to not only suspend public worship, but to close church buildings entirely until further notice. In doing so, we demonstrated how important physical distancing is in saving lives.

We have been blessed that even in these difficult times, we were still able to join together with the church in worship and prayer through social media.

The closing of the church during these unprecedented times is born of the teaching of Our Lord that the two greatest commandments are the love of God and love of neighbour. The very love of our neighbour that leads us to want to come together requires us to sacrifice congregating for a season.

Even though our church buildings are closed, the church continues to be alive and active. Holy Raza has continued to be celebrated every Sunday and live streamed on different social media platforms for us to join in and weekly bible study zoom sessions for all members has continued. Through these we are able to reflect on the word of God and take spiritual communion from our homes.

To further reach the community, St Mary's Cathedral were pleased to announce the monthly home delivery of bukhra to our community. Over 170 houses in London have been reached after lockdown measures were eased.



Bukhra, prayer, olive branch from Palm Sunday and bisma package

The first home delivery was on Sunday 24th May and included a package with bukhra, a prayer, an olive branch that was blessed on Palm Sunday and a bag of bisma. The second home delivery was on Saturday 27th June and packages of bukhra with blessed holy water were delivered.

Additionally, we were able to support the Ealing Food Bank and the food was collected from our members upon the delivery of the bukhra. Large numbers of boxes were packed and delivered to the food bank. We have around 25 volunteers who have taken from their time to do this good deed for the church and the community in what has been a challenging time with the closure of all churches.

St Mary's Cathedral would like to thank everyone for their kind donations to the church and to the food bank.

May God bless each and every one involved in making this amazing ministry happen and God bless our Assyrian Community for all their help and support during these unprecedented times.

We pray to see everyone back at our beloved church safe and well very soon.



(Left) Bukhra and blessed holy water package. (Top) Bukhra packages are ready to be home delivered by volunteers to over 170 homes.

Zoom Bible Studies

by Sara Odisho-Darmoo

“And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love.”

- Romans 8:38

On the 23rd March, our church doors closed, as did the doors to our houses, schools, shops and businesses.

We may have had to adhere to social distancing but by no means did we distance ourselves from God. Thanks to modern technology and a huge coming together of the community, we have received Holy Raza in our homes, Bible Studies on our devices and bukhra to our front door. Where this virus caused a spiritual moat, we built the strongest bridge over it.

Zoom became our new normal, every week, we have been virtually gathering for Bible Studies, welcoming people from all over the world to join us. Week after week we grew closer to the Word of God, arming ourselves with the greatest shield against the fear and uncertainty we faced, the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the greatest guide, the only guide.

We have delved into St Paul’s letters, learning the importance of our Church family and strengthening our faith.

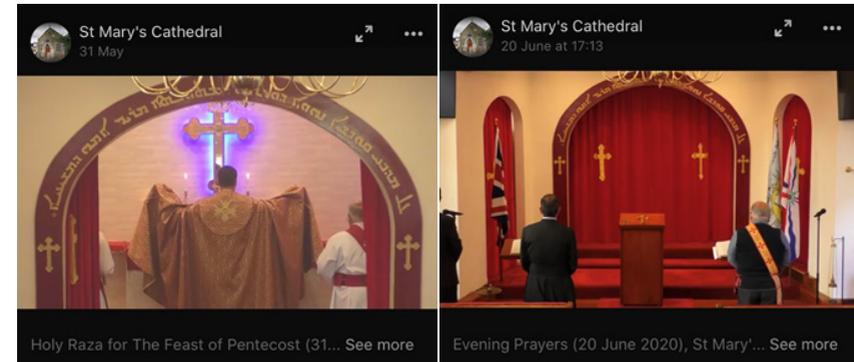
Weekly Bible Studies schedule is below, we encourage all our members to join and look forward to the day we can walk through the blessed St Mary’s Cathedral doors



Zoom bible studies with HG Mar Awraham

kneel before the altar and once again worship in the House of God.

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis for his leadership and tireless efforts, to our Parish Priest Fr Tony Malham, Cor-Bishop Rev Stephanoos Yelda, Rev Fr Shmail Tamras, Deacons and Sub Deacons as well as all the Committees for making it all happen.



Holy Raza and Evening Prayers live on Facebook and YouTube

Weekly Bible Studies

*Monday Night - Preaching
in Assyrian @ 7.30pm*

*Tuesday Night - ages 16+
preaching in English @ 7.30pm*

*Friday Night - ACECA
(Children’s association)
@ 6.30pm*

*Friday Night - Junior Youth
(ages 12-15) preaching in
English @ 6.30pm*



Children’s activities

A History on St. Barbara Church

by Bernadette Youna

The Barbara Fouq Attal Church used to be located in an Assyrian town in northern Iraq called Karemles, which is near the city of Mosul.

The majority of the population living in Karemles (also spelled Karemlash, Karemles) were Assyrians who were mainly part of the Church of the East. It wasn't until the late 18th and early 19th century that many of the Assyrian people converted to Catholicism, which is why many of the people in Karemles are members of the Chaldean Catholic Church.

Karemles is believed to be one of the towns where there was a first human settlement, which is why it is frequently visited by many Mesopotamian archaeologists who are searching for old Assyrian and Babylonian ruins. In today's world, the



Assyrian town of Karemles has been completely depopulated since the ISIS invasion in 2014, who were killing or imprisoning hundreds of Assyrians every day.

The St Barbara Church is believed to be built on the ruins of an ancient Assyrian temple, this was discovered in 1852 when an excavation uncovered two halls used by ancient Assyrians in their ceremonies, as well as tools and other religious items.

The name Barbara came from a daughter of the governor for the region. She decided she wanted to convert to Christianity along with her servant Yulina, however this was against her father's will. Once he found out, he imprisoned her

forcing Barbara to denounce Christianity, which she refused. When deciding there was nothing that would change his daughter's mind, he ordered their deaths. Both Barbara and Yulina were killed in a room which was attached to the ancient Assyrian temple, which is where the church used to stand. The church was first attacked by Nadir Shah who was the prince of Persia, however the Assyrians in the village decided to rebuild and renovate it in 1798.



The Church of St. Barbara stood and was used for many years until October 9th 2016, on a Sunday. ISIS planted a number of explosive devices inside the whole of the Church. According to human rights activist Ghazi Shamoun, "the Church was completely destroyed" leaving only rubble.



St. Barbara joins the list of churches that have been destroyed by ISIS, which has caused thousands of Christians and other minorities to be displaced and move to another town. ISIS has destroyed dozens of Assyrian Churches and archaeological sites, which is eliminating the historical identity of the area and country.

In recording and re-telling these stories, we are able to preserve our culture and history, ensuring they are never forgotten.

Recipe Corner - Rza Smookah

(Red Rice)

by Josh Coleman

Red rice is a staple in many Assyrian homes, with each household often having their own varying recipe. Below is a rough summary of how my family make red rice, which can be tweaked to suit individual tastes as necessary. This recipe is for one cup of rice and takes roughly an hour.

Ingredients

- 1 cup of white basmati rice
- 1 tablespoon of butter or margarine
- 1 medium onion
- 1 teaspoon of paprika
- 1 half of a tube of tomato puree/paste
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 carton of passata (500g)

Method

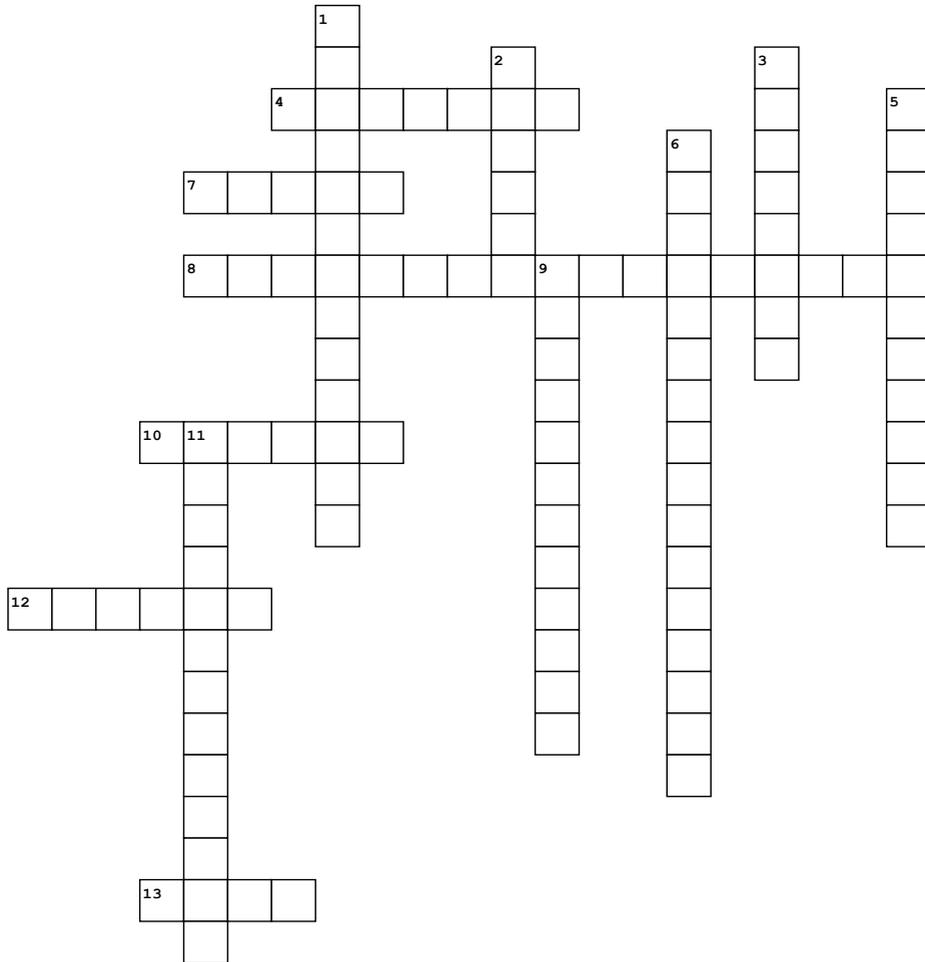
1. Wash the basmati rice thoroughly under cold water until the water runs clear.
2. Melt a tablespoon of butter in a saucepan on medium heat (we tend to use less butter when making red rice than when making white rice). Chop a medium onion into quarters (or smaller depending on how large you want the pieces of onion) and separate the layers and throw it into the butter.
3. Allow the onion to soften on a medium heat for about 5 – 10 minutes. After the onion has softened add a teaspoon of paprika.

Next add half a tube of tomato puree and mix it into the onions allowing it to heat through for about 30 seconds. Whilst it heats, add one level teaspoon of salt per cup of rice (according to taste).

4. Add the carton of passata into the saucepan and top up with a small amount of boiling water from the kettle to thin the liquid. Allow it all to simmer together for a few minutes and come to the boil.
5. As it begins to boil, add the cup of rice. If the liquid does not cover the rice add more water from the kettle. Cover the rice with a tight lid or add a layer of foil to the underside of the lid if it does not sit on tightly.
6. Once the water has come to boil turn the heat low and leave it to cook. Check on the rice after about 30 minutes and gently mix so that the rice on the bottom is brought up to the top. We find it often needs about 45 minutes to simmer, as it is slightly slower than cooking white rice.



Crossword



Across

- Capital city of the Assyrian Empire
- National bird of England (since 2015)
- First wife of King Henry VIII
- “To be or not to be, that is the question,” is a famous quote from which Shakespeare play
- Oldest established university in UK
- Animal typically hunted by Assyrian kings

Down

- Museum that holds the biggest Assyrian collection in the UK
- Britain’s longest river
- Tallest building in the UK
- James Bond’s car of choice
- Largest cathedral in London
- Longest reigning monarch of England
- Last king of the Neo-Assyrian Empire

Spot The Difference

Can you spot all 8 differences in the pictures below?



Quiz

Test your knowledge with this multiple choice quiz!

1. Who is the current Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East?

- A. Mar Gewargis III
- B. Mar Dinkha IV
- C. Pope Francis
- D. Mor Ignatius Aphrem II

2. Which city does the Patriarch reside in?

- A. Tehran
- B. Sydney
- C. Chicago
- D. Arbil

3. How many churches are there in the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon?

- A. 3
- B. 6
- C. 10
- D. 4

4. Which of the following books are in the Old Testament?

- A. Esther
- B. Leviticus
- C. Exodus
- D. All three of them

5. Who denied knowing Christ three times?

- A. Thomas
- B. John
- C. Peter
- D. Andrew

6. How many days did Christ remain on earth after his resurrection?

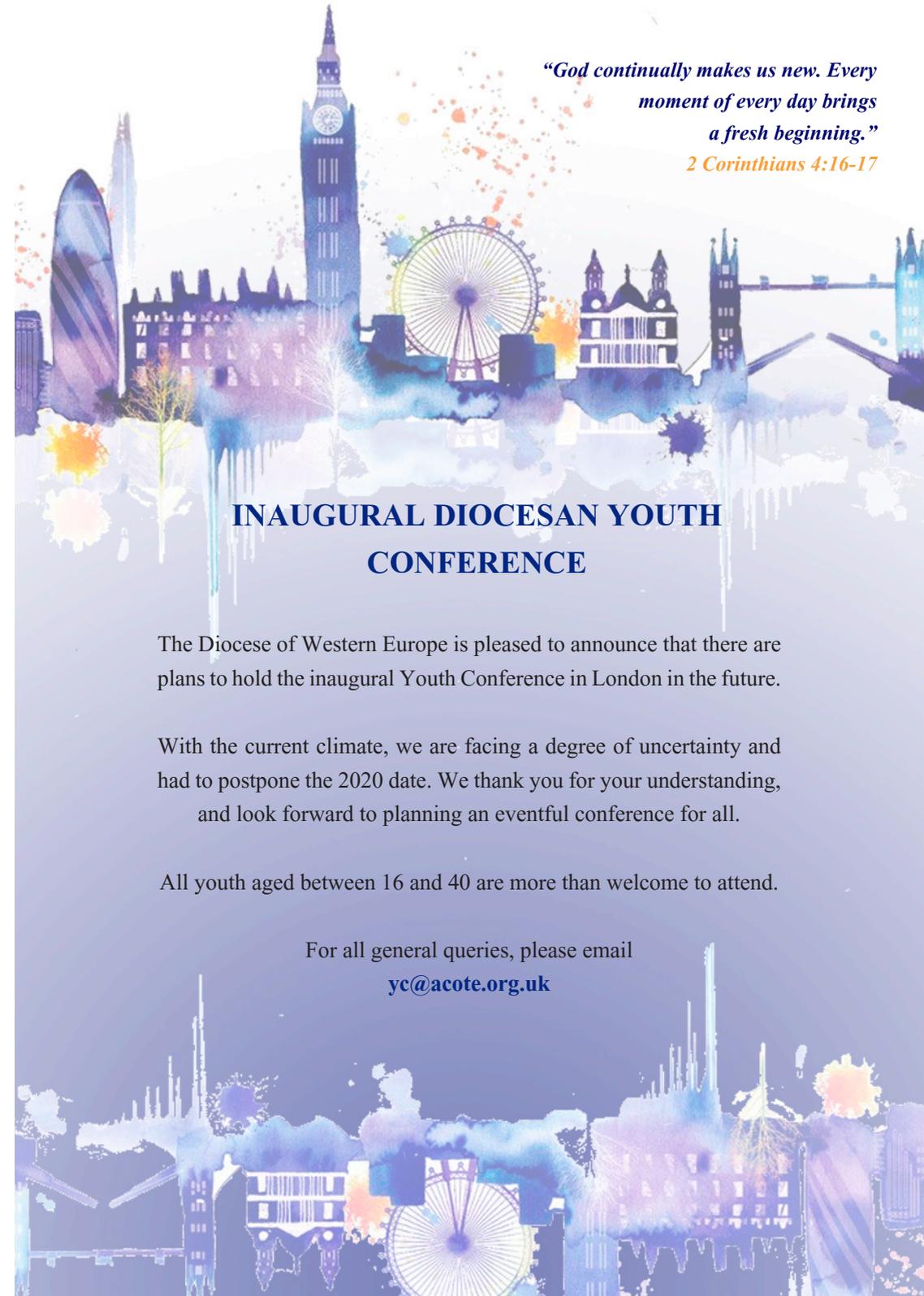
- A. 60
- B. 40
- C. 30
- D. 50

7. What day does Easter 2016 fall on?

- A. 27th of March
- B. 1st of May
- C. 3rd of April
- D. 20th of March

“God continually makes us new. Every moment of every day brings a fresh beginning.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-17



INAUGURAL DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Diocese of Western Europe is pleased to announce that there are plans to hold the inaugural Youth Conference in London in the future.

With the current climate, we are facing a degree of uncertainty and had to postpone the 2020 date. We thank you for your understanding, and look forward to planning an eventful conference for all.

All youth aged between 16 and 40 are more than welcome to attend.

For all general queries, please email
yc@acote.org.uk

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Struggling to find the hidden words on the puzzles? The solutions below will help!

Crossword Answers:

Down

1. British Museum
2. Severn
3. The Shard
5. Aston Martin
6. St. Paul's Cathedral
9. Elizabeth II
11. Ashur-Uballit

Across

4. Nineveh
7. Robin
8. Catherine of Aragon
10. Hamlet
12. Oxford
13. Lion

Spot The Difference Solution:



Quiz Answers: 1A, 2D, 3C, 4D, 5C, 6B, 7A

ARTISTS' CORNER

Submit your entries for a chance to be featured!

Do you have a passion for art and photography?

Would you like to submit your work and have it featured in the next edition?

Let your creativity flow, and share your vision with Treeoflife@acote.org.uk for the chance to have it included in the next edition!



By @ArtworkBYBelle

MEET YOUR EDITORS

What's been keeping us busy during lockdown?

Josh Coleman, Content Editor

Since the last issue was released, a lot has changed and we have faced significant challenges to daily life. We are all learning how to adapt to the new normal – Tree of Life moving online is an example of this. Luckily, I have been able to continue with my university studies remotely and finish this academic year. I also managed to finish some ongoing projects in the house and spend more time reading. The extra free time has been a great opportunity for me to focus more of my attention on studying Assyrian, which is an ongoing hobby of mine. I pray everyone is well and enjoys this new electronic issue!



Diana Hinar, Content Editor & Treasurer



It has certainly been a challenging time for many of us during the pandemic and we pray that this will all be over soon. However, I have learnt some new skills during lockdown! I have successfully learned to paint and painted and redecorated my room, painted the whole garden fence and learnt how to do the odd bit of gardening whilst enjoying the lovely sunshine we have had! I do miss seeing

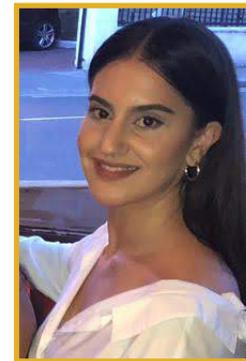
friends and family so this time has made me appreciate the little things in life. Never take anything in life for granted!

Bernadette Youna, Advertising Creative & Content Editor

During this lockdown I have managed to complete a dissertation along with also graduating from university. My uni work had kept me very busy for the majority of the lockdown but once I was done I found myself getting very bored. To keep myself entertained I decided to read more books along with looking for graduate jobs, I also decided to give myself a haircut...which didn't really go to plan. The books below are a few I have read over the last couple of months which I recommend:



- *Reforging a Forgotten History: Iraq and the Assyrians in the Twentieth Century* by Sargon George Donabed
- *End Game* by David Baldacci
- *The ship of Thesus* by Doug Dorst and J.J Abrams



Belinda C. Yonan, Editor In Chief & Creative Design

The most difficult thing for me has been dealing with spending time apart from family. But thankfully, being in the 21st century we can all keep in touch and video chat at the click of a button, so we can still feel close on a daily basis! Working in the film and TV industry means work has not really slowed down for me, but I've enjoyed being able to go back a more relaxed lifestyle and catch up on my art projects and

reading. Some interesting reads that I would recommend for quarantine life:

- *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline
- *Sweet Bean Paste* by Durian Sukegawa
- *Siberian Education* by Nikolai Lilin

In times like these, the important thing is to remain united, and we would like to take a moment to recognise the efforts of our church and community in this endeavour.

Please join us in thanking the church and its members for organising prayers, donations and deliveries. We would also like to give extra thanks to the contributed content for this July issue.

We hope you have enjoyed the latest edition of our magazine – the Tree of Life will return for its third issue in December, look out for updates!



As always, if you would like to contribute, share ideas, stories or photos, please contact

Treeoflife@acote.org.uk

*“The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not
overcome it”*

John 1:5

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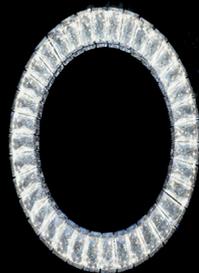
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