

# Lent Lunches, 2011

Lent Lunches are an expression of our Lenten discipline as a Christian congregation.

We use them to fulfil three aims:-

- 1) to be together to deepen our faith and awareness of God's word and world;
- 2) to give alms to assist others in need - this year, we are supporting the London Diocese **Appeal for the Churches of Angola and Mozambique.**
- 3) to serve each other's needs in preparing simple food and sharing it with guests.

**Lunch is served from about 12 noon to about 1pm**

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>ACTIVITY TO ENJOY AROUND LUNCH THAT DAY</b>
12th March	<b>Spring into Poetry</b> – a selection of old and new works to celebrate the progress of Spring and Lent, 2009. Everyone is invited to come and read their own poem or a favourite poem. Meet in the Old Church 11.00am.
19th March	<b>My Life and Work as a Cartographer</b> – a 3D illustrated talk using examples of stereoscopic viewers by Gary Marsh. 11am in the New Church
26th March	<b>1611 and all that!</b> - a talk by Dr. Peter Hounsell on the Authorised Version of the Bible whose 400th anniversary we are celebrating during 2011. 11am Old Church
2nd April	<b>Mothers' Union and Mothering Sunday</b> – a discussion led by members of the Holy Cross Mothers' Union at 11am Old Church
9th April	<b>A Visit from St. Martin's Church, Ruislip.</b> Following a very successful guided visit in Ruislip last lent, we have invited the congregation to come and visit our churches and take Lent Lunch with us, starting at 11am
16th April	11.00am <b>Krystyna Palamarchuk</b> and some members of the congregation, perform a concert in the New Church.

**Please try not to interrupt the performance by being late!**

We hope that members of the Holy Cross congregation will take up all the opportunities presented to them during Lent, 2011.

The money raised through these Lent Lunches will be offered to the people involved with a school, Todos Santos school in Nacala, a town in the north of Mozambique. We will join forces with the students of Edward Betham school for the second year running.

In this way, we are in touch in a practical and a spiritual link with fellow Christians who are very much in need of our support.

On the next two pages, you may read a report on the situation in Niassa from Revd Helen Van Koevering, Director of Ministry, Diocese of Niassa (pictured with her husband)



# Strategic Plan for Growing the Church in the Diocese of Niassa: 2010-2015

God has been working in a new way in the Diocese of Niassa in Northern Mozambique!

- Great organic growth has occurred in the last 5 years:
- Congregations have grown from 250 to about 500
- Parishes have grown from 20 to 30
- Numbers of priests have risen from 18 to 45
- Archdeaconries have grown from 4 to 5
- Church members have grown from 30,000 to about 60,000
- Mother's Union members have grown from 110 to 230
- From 1 staff member, a diocesan structure has been put in place.

There is hope that this growth will continue, with God's grace and help, for the next three years, and that our members will double from 60,000 to 90,000, with catechists needing to increase from 600 to 900.

## Four challenges have arisen:

1. The urgency to provide good discipling to new adults and new leadership (both male and female) to congregations and small groups to sustain this growth;
2. The need to move from organic to strategic church growth with limited resources, allowing for the strategic to build around the organic growth;
3. The necessity to teach, right from the birth of each new congregation, what it means to be church:
  - Servant leadership
  - All member mutual ministry: the seeking, using and stewardship of our gifts
  - Integrated mission: to be church is to be reaching out.
4. The need to train priests in their choice of local leaders (men and women), and to understand the characteristics of a godly leader.

In order to cope with further growth, these challenges need to be addressed through training at every level: at diocesan level, training of the trainers for the local parish level is needed, so that our grass-roots momentum is supported within the diocesan structures and organization. The training programme should address all four of the above challenges, with 'Rooted in Jesus' as the discipleship material and within the diocesan vision of our direction into 'a communion of communities in Christ Jesus' and the development of Small Christian Communities. At the foundation of our training is the belief that every member, whether male/female or young/old, is called into full participation of church life, and that bridges need to be crossed between clergy and VIDA groups, ministry and mission. We want to involve the whole community in the life of the church, and paint mission as part of the personality of the community. If we only look at Sundays as the day of our participation as church, then we are not being church in that place. And, if each member was to bring one more member per year to their church community, the growth would be phenomenal for the church and for the upliftment of communities as we all join in with what God is doing where we are!

## Action plan:

Presently, the diocese has about 600 lay readers (catechists). These numbers will need to grow alongside the church growth, so that after three years our diocese will have 900 catechists trained as trainers in their communities. To train the trainers over a three year period, our 30 priests in 30 parishes need to be given the materials and confidence to train in areas of 'Rooted in Jesus', VIDA, leadership, Anglicanism and church structure, evangelism, church growth, trauma healing, Diocesan vision, sacraments, liturgy, preaching, stewardship, servant leadership and gender. Our priests can then pass on their training to their parish catechists. These trainings will take place in annual 30 day trainings in Lichinga. With the priests motivated as trainers in this way, the archdeacons will become the supervisors and managers of the trainers in each district, with monitoring, evaluation and resourcing by the Diocesan Director of Ministry.

