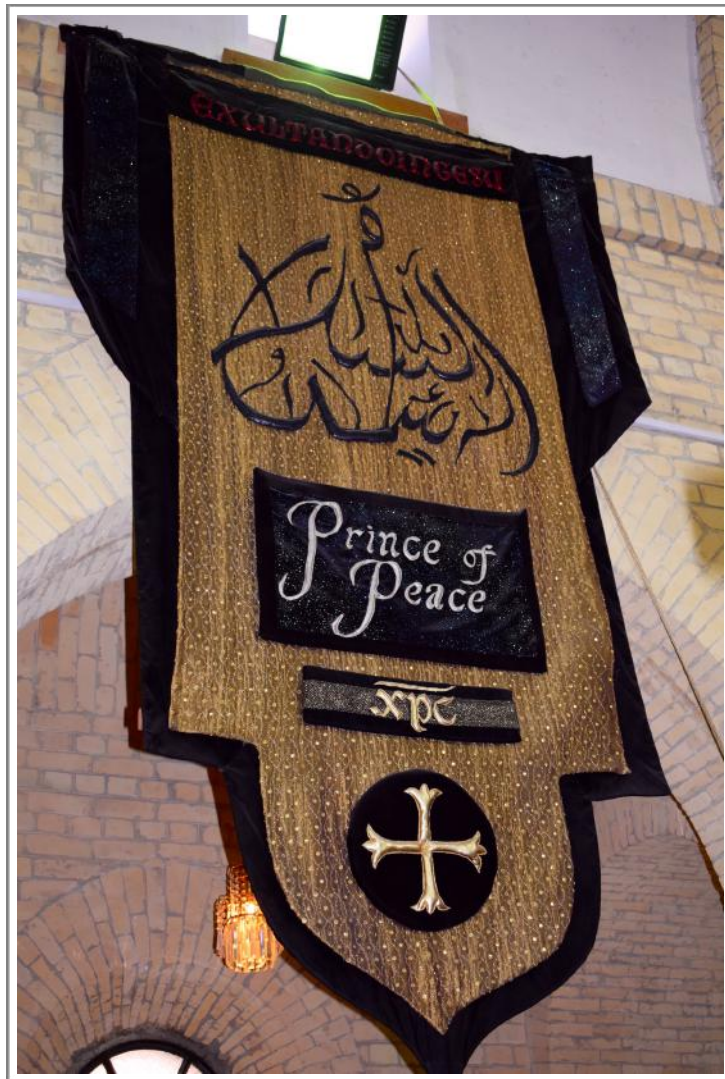

St George Baghdad

Quarterly Insight

November 2022



*A quarterly snapshot of the life and people of St George Baghdad,
a parish of the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf*

Photos: Sinan Kakarash

Onward in faith

The congregation of St George Baghdad
gathers for Sunday worship, led by Fr Faiz Jerjes in a
service of prayer and music.

Funding its ministries is always a struggle, especially at this time.

Yet the work of this remarkable parish finds
strength in fellowship, and
weekly worship at St George's is infused with a warmth that
sustains its congregation
in the face of many challenges.



From the church of St George, the
joyful purpose of service
reaches across faiths:
to provide a rich education
to local children;
to provide the sick
with care;
to show love and leadership
in bridging divides.



Back to school!

As the uncertainty of covid fades, St George's School of the Redeemer (al-Fadi) has now reopened, with kindergarten and grades 1-6 back in full swing.





Children everywhere suffered greatly during covid lockdowns, both socially and developmentally—missing friends and the excitement of learning and play. With the resumption of school, pupils are less anxious and, like their teachers, glad to be back at their desks.

(Below) Mrs Rand with her class, KG1



In search of peace and reconciliation



US Ambassador Alina Romanovski (centre left) and Fr Faiz (right)

Fr Faiz and Sinan Kakarash attended the recent Middle East Research Institute Forum held in Erbil, where speakers and panel participants included

Kurdistan Regional Government President Nechirvan Barzani and Prime Minister Masrour Barzani, as well as US Ambassador Alina Romanovski.

The annual Forum, organised by MERI Director Dr Dlawer Ala'Aldeen, aims to provide a neutral setting for stakeholders to discuss issues facing the Middle East, promoting peace, stability and prosperity through dialogue, reconciliation and the rule-of-law.



Reaching out, reaching in

St George's combines a keen sense of community with a strong tradition of music and drama—activities that help draw together the congregation's young and old, and support its outreach activities.

At the recent Bless My Country event arranged by the Christian Missionary Alliance church in Baghdad, St George's won two prizes—for best spiritual song (Majd Faris) and best actor (Melad Gabriel).



(Above and left) Sinan Kakarash, Rabea Haddad, Majd Faris, Yasameen Eta, Melad Gabriel and Um Mariam



(Below) Mariam George, Majd Faris, Fr Faiz, Melad Gabriel, Rabea Haddad and Yasameen Eta



St George Baghdad

Life and ministry at the Anglican church of St George, close to the River Tigris in Baghdad and near the heart of the huge city, is genuinely holistic. Worship on Sundays, usually led by Canon Faiz assisted by keen volunteers as acolytes and musicians, is at the centre.

But St George's is also the kindergarten, and the school of the Redeemer, and the medical clinic, and the distribution of food relief to the very needy, and the ecumenical resource centre, and more.

Often St George's has been the venue for interfaith and intrafaith dialogue and reconciliation involving Shi'i and Sunni Muslims, Christians, Yezidis, and others, attended by politicians and key actors in civil society as well as religious leaders.

St George's is a witness to persistence, faithfulness, and hope.
Please hold it and all its people in your prayers.

*The Most Reverend Michael Lewis, Archbishop
Primate of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East,
A Province of the Anglican Communion
Bishop of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf*

