



Issue Number 35 – Autumn 2013

Iglesia Anglicana del Uruguay, CC 6108, Montevideo 11000, Uruguay

New Bishop

I was born in Canada, of parents who had emigrated here from Italy near the end of the 1940's.

I was raised as a Roman Catholic and actually felt a call to the priesthood at a fairly early age. This faded into the background and I pursued an academic path, which saw me go on to get a Master's degree in Spanish.

However, I believe that "the hounds of God," re-awakened my sense of calling to the ordained ministry as I was finishing my M.A.

At that time I had been exposed to the Anglican Church of Canada and started to feel more and more comfortable with this particular expression of faith. I was eventually received into the Anglican Church, and I took Divinity at Trinity

College, Toronto.

I was ordained to the diaconate in May, 1979 for the Diocese of Toronto, and priested a year later.

I served in a couple of parishes in that Diocese and then, in 1994, was offered a position as Rector in the neighbouring Diocese of Ontario. After a few years as Rector, I was offered a position as Stewardship Education Coordinator for the Diocese, a role I enjoyed for approximately 6 years. During this time I was also able to complete a Doctorate of Ministry at Colgate-Rochester Crozer Divinity School, in Rochester, New York.

In 2006, I was offered the role of General Secretary for the Anglican Church of Canada - a role which I carried out for approximately six years.

This position gave me some exposure to ministry in the international Anglican

Church, especially in Cuba. And, from this connection I was invited to allow my name to be put forward for election at the Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Uruguay.

I have five grown children, four of whom live in the Ottawa area of Canada (that's Canada's capital).

I was a widower for a while and am now a recent newly-wed. My wife, Vilma, is from Brazil and we are enjoying life in Montevideo.

My hopes for the Diocese of Uruguay:

I believe the Anglican Church in Uruguay faces some very large challenges. Some of these are of the church's own doing, and others are more general.

Being a secular country certainly presents challenges to any church that wants to spread the word. So, the Anglican Church in Uruguay is not in a unique position here. All churches in Uruguay face the same challenge - making the gospel come alive to people in a country that is avowedly secular.

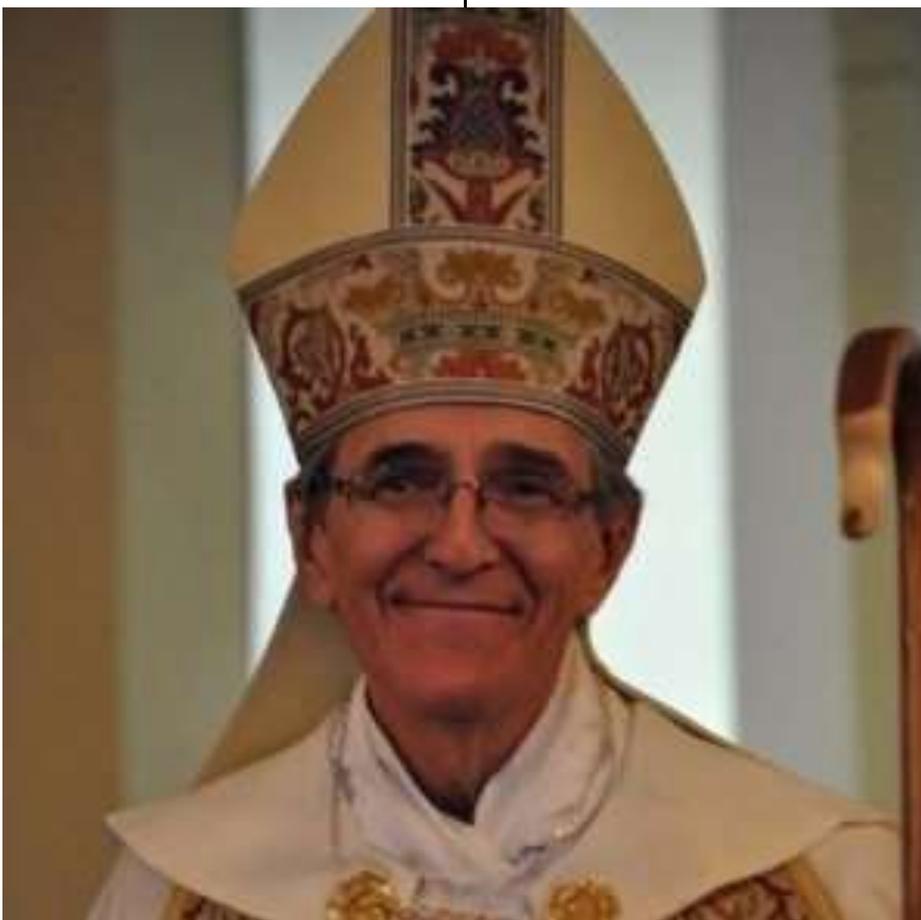
I believe that the Anglican Church in Uruguay faces a couple of other challenges, which are more of its own "doing," if you will.

The larger of these is that the Diocese, when it was established back in the late 1980's, made a decision to ministry and work with the marginalized and the poor of the country. In theological terms, it made a choice for "a preferential option for the poor."

While I wholeheartedly support this option, I believe that the Anglican Church in Uruguay (by making this choice) had decided not to work with the whole people of God.

So, one of my hopes is to get the Diocese to expand its vision, to expand its ministry, so that it includes people from all walks of life.

At the same time, I also believe that the church needs leaders who are working as a team, with a set of common goals and objectives. And, one of the major



focuses for the coming year will be for me to spend time with the clergy, to discern just how we can enable this to happen more effectively.

Of course, the Diocese needs financial resources to help it grow. However, I hope that if we can re-focus our mission and our ministry, making these attractive and viable, so that people will want to get involved, that people will want to support such an initiative.

Essentially, what I'm talking about is being able to discern God's dream for us as a Diocese, and for our individual roles within the diocese, so that together we can be God's dream for us and for the Diocese come to fruition!

✠ Michael Pollesel

✠ Miguel

The Committee of the Friends of the Diocese of Uruguay decided to make a small gift to Miguel and Marta in recognition of their wonderful efforts in Uruguay. This gift was sent to them care of their daughter in the USA.

"Dear Miguel and Marta,

On behalf of the Committee of the UK Friends of the Diocese of Uruguay, we're delighted to send you this small gift in recognition of our many happy and successful years of working together for the Diocese of Uruguay.

The Spode plate commemorates one of the most important early Christian documents, The Book of Kells. The Book is held in Trinity College Dublin – which we have been able to see – and it is truly wonderful.

We've also included our spare copy of a paperback book about the Book of Kells which we hope will give you more background to its history. We're sorry it's not new, but we're sure you won't mind!

We do hope you and Marta are able to enjoy a long retirement together and to spend more time with your family.

With all our love and prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Chris and Nick on behalf of the Committee of the Friends of the Diocese of Uruguay"

From Miguel:

"We are doing well, and looking forward to our retirement to go back to our family and friends. We thank our good Lord for the almost 20 years in Uruguay, for all the support we found here including you, "The Friends".

We specially thank you for the present you are willing to send us. One more thing to add to our fond memories of you.

We will never forget our trips to the UK sponsored by you and we bless our God for your beautiful friendship and

solidarity. It is one of the great treasures of our lives.

Love to you all

+Miguel"

And After receiving the gift:

"Dear Nick and all the Friends!!!!

What a nice surprise we had arriving Miami! You are more than super!!!

The book and the plate regarding the famous Book of Kells are something! It brought to my mind and heart the good memories when I visited in Ireland the place where the originals are.

Martha and I thanks a lot for this loving and caring expression. We will treasure it for ever.

Also thanks a lot for all your love and support during the years of my episcopate in Uruguay. You are real "FRIENDS" with capital letters.

Keep in touch

All the best

+Miguel

Revd. Charles

Much of the content for this newsletter is provided by Revd. Charles Bradshaw (now retired), one of the founder

the Cathedral on the first Sunday and we worshipped again at Salto holding a simple prayer in the church of the Holy Spirit where we remembered again the life of Cathy Harrison. We also shared a Eucharist at St Luke's in Salto and met again Bishop Gilberto and his wonderful team of workers.

Like many of you we weren't really clear what state the Diocese would be in. The Church press here has been talking about the Diocese of Uruguay leaving the southern cone of Latin America and it has just had its proposed candidate to replace Bishop Miguel refused by the Southern Cone Bishops. Michael was the Mission Officer for the Anglican Church in Canada and speaks fluent Spanish.

Having met him, you immediately know him to be a kind, gentle and already popular figure in the Diocese. Just before we arrived Kenneth Kieron from the Anglican Consultative Council had been in the Diocese and clearly the election will be re-run. What was clear from the first is that the feel of the Diocese and the clergy and lay people that we met is good, and confident. We hope that as you read some of our reports this purposeful and faithful ministry will come through. As Friends of the Diocese we do need to continue to support encourage and if possible donate to their work.



members of the "Friends". Early in 2013, he spent some time in Uruguay. Many thanks to Charles.

Visiting Uruguay again!

In January Charles and Janet Bradshaw, Christopher and Francis Clementi went to visit our link Diocese. We were there for ten days and managed to see some of the work in Montevideo, Salto and also Fray Bentos. Charles preached at

Charles' photo above shows Chris Clementi and Janet Bradshaw salivating over a typical "Light" lunch in the more affluent part of Montevideo. This is a gargantuan portion of "meat fest" – a good job they're not Vegetarian! Uruguay has, of course been long famed for it's meat – Sheep (and there are many descendants of Welsh Sheep farmers here in Uruguay – and Beef. Fray Bentos means Corned Beef or tinned pies to most of us, but it's actually a place name in Uruguay, and location for the Church of the Holy Trinity.

Fray Bentos

I first visited Fray Bentos in about 1994 with Bishop Bill Godfrey. The church was closed and there was no Anglican community. Today the church is open (but in need of urgent repairs) and a new meeting room and flat for the clergy family has been built and there's a lovely growing Anglican community and also a prison outreach from the church. Dominating the town is the old 19C meat packing plant which fed this country for 50 years and especially in the two world wars. The famous OXO cube was 'invented' in that factory and today 'The Anglo' (the English factory is a vast museum dedicated to the production of corned beef and Fray Bentos pies and puddings). During its peak period, El Anglo had 5,000 workers whose ranks included English, Belgians, Russians, Spanish and Italians. It finally closed in 1979 after Europe and the United States had cut back their purchases from Latin America. Small brick houses with thick walls running along the river's edge in Fray Bentos form the "Barrio Anglo," a city-within-a-city where meatpacking workers lived that featured a hospital, a school, a social club and a football squad. My favourite image of the factory is the statue dedicated to Queen Victoria standing on tins of corn beef! She would not be amused.



The Church of the Holy Trinity is a mission at the moment which means that it is not yet self funding. It has its own priest Fr Gonzalo and his wife Leticia and their family. They are a very committed hard working couple living a very simple life style in a very poor community. As well as leading worship and their pastoral work they have developed two special ministries.

- The care of young girls who become pregnant and need support and lessons in baby care and nurture. The aim is to get the girls caring for their children but also to go back into education so that they can have a future in work.



- Gonzalo has also been invited by the local prison to begin pastoral work in the prison. This is very unusual in a country that bans God and keeps a keen separating between church and state. It is a tribute to his local reputation.

Thanks to a generous gift of £10,000 from one of the 'Friends', work on the restoration has begun. The roof is to be replaced and also the floor and some cracking in this Victorian chapel. More funding will be required to help create a modern worship place.

Salto

It was so good to be in Salto again, the parish that I have seen grow and develop since my first visit in 1993. It is one of the older parishes as it was the English community church from the

early twentieth century and still has members of those families in the congregation today notably the Jones family. I saw the church before it first restoration and was there when Matthew Godfrey (then about 16) began work amongst the poor children in barrio Fatima. It began life in a tiny shed and is now part of the wonderful complex of the Holy Spirit. Along with the Church of St Luke in town the whole church and mission had grown and matured under the leadership of Bishop Gilberto. It was here that our English volunteer Cathy Harrison worked and whose sudden death eight years ago helped to create the new church. I have had two lengthy placements in the parish, which has the temptation of the hot springs nearby to swim in at night!

It is hard not to be amazed at the state of this parish. Everywhere is pristine and well ordered. The congregation is



still small but very committed and there is a very easy and co-operative partnership with the local authority that now helps to fund some of the children's work. I accompanied Gilberto as he visited the sick in their homes and gave communion. He is very much loved by the wider community.

Salto has a well-maintained British cemetery, which Gilberto insists is well maintained in respect for those who helped create this mission and sustain it over the last 100 years. He even showed me his one gravespace!

We visited the new room which was paid for by a donor in Caterham and is now creating a new ministry amongst young teenagers as a place where they can do their homework. Often their homes are too small and dominated by the television that this space is very important. Gilberto has a great gift with young people.

From Salto a new mission is now at work in Rivera which is a five hour drive away on the border with Brazil. In fact the border runs down the main street. A typical house has been gutted and developed both as a home and small church for the Anglican Church, which is able to draw on the resources of the Anglican Church in Brazil which is long established. I went to see one of its schools. Rivera has the feel of being a frontier town with its tax free shops. Salto feels long way from Montevideo, it's a six hour bus trip and this forces it to work in isolation from the centre and it is good that Gilberto and his team work so well together.

St James Colon



It was a real joy to see how the work at St James Colon has developed over the years. Our links go back over 20 years when St James Birstall and St James the Greater Leicester undertook to try and support this project. Today I think we

can be really proud of what has been achieved. Although there were no children in the day we visited, it is clear how well cared for are the buildings. The new room and toilets which we provided two years ago are spotless. A small school has been built next door which means that the site looks really contained though burglary is still a problem.

The site is a church, a guardaria (a place for young children and their mothers). A training centre now for mothers and also there is a youth facility. The work done by Mark and Caroline Gilmore is now bearing fruit under the leadership of Alejandro. The links with the local authority means that there is some financial help but also help from professional child care trainers and social workers. There is also a dental surgery and the dentist comes regularly to the area. One of the newest developments is a small room where the mothers make shopping bags which are sold down in the city.

From the Friends point of view this must be one of our oldest projects and it is so good to see how it has developed. The Church congregation is still small but the enthusiasm of its members means that there is always a good source of local voluntary support. Colon is six miles from the city centre and is still an area of unemployment and now drugs. Although Uruguay is developing well and there is a sense of the country recovering after its traumatic past these outlying areas are still areas of great social need.

The picture top right is of a guard of the ashes of General Artiga the founder of the state of Uruguay – in Montevideo.



One of the great talking points in Uruguay at the moment is about their new President, Jose Mujica. Instead of living in the official residence of the President, he lives on his own ramshackle farm guarded by two policemen. He only takes 10% of his salary and donates the rest to charity. The president and his wife work the land themselves, growing flowers. This radical lifestyle has divided the country; some think he lets down the office of President, others welcome his rejection of the luxury lifestyle of the President. When Parliament opened, he arrived on his old motorbike and was turned away by the police. He had to tell them, I have to go in, I am the President.

He defends his lifestyle by saying that this is how he always lives and the salary that he takes from the state of £485 a month is the average salary in the country. "I can live well with what I have."

His life mirrors the recent history of the country. Mujica spent the 1960s and 1970s as part of the Uruguayan guerrilla Tupamaros, a leftist armed group inspired by the Cuban revolution. He was shot six times and spent 14 years in jail. Most of his detention was spent in harsh conditions and isolation, until he was freed in 1985 when Uruguay returned to democracy. Those years in jail, Mujica says, helped shape his outlook on life.

I'm called 'the poorest president', but I don't feel poor. Poor people are those who only work to try to keep an expensive lifestyle, and always want more and more," he says.

"This is a matter of freedom. If you don't have many possessions then you don't need to work all your life like a slave to sustain them, and therefore you have more time for yourself," he says.

Chris Clementi

Chris, who's been a very keen and generous supporter of the work of the Diocese, recently celebrated a major birthday.

What a man!

"I may appear to be an eccentric old man... But this is a free choice."



Happy birthday Chris !

Chris hosted a party for friends at "Finchcooks", a fine Georgian manor in Kent, housing Richard Burnett's celebrated collection of over 100 keyboard instruments: harpsichords, pianos, organs and many more.

Can you help ?

Our Committee has reduced in size due various reasons including the deaths reported in previous issues. We desperately need "new blood" - and new ideas - to help us to continue to provide support to the Diocese in Uruguay. Do you think you may be able to help ?

Our meetings (no more than once or twice a year) take place in the Nottinghamshire / Leicestershire area but if attendance to these would pose a problem, please don't let this dissuade you from joining us - we will find a way! If you think you might like to join us, please contact Nick Roberts nick.roberts@bcs.org or 01246 233590.

Fund Raising

Donation

Please consider making a donation or organising a fund raising event. Every penny we can raise to help the work of our Church in Uruguay is so valuable. Donations to our Treasurer, Sheila Harrison, at 8 Front Street, Birstall, LEICESTER, LE4 4DP.

Gift Aid

If you are able to make a donation, no matter how small, and you pay Tax, please do Gift Aid it. Gift Aid forms can be downloaded from our website (see the footer at the bottom of the page for the URL), or if you've no internet access, please telephone Nick or Chris on 01246 233590 and they will post one on to you.

Newsletter

If you are happy to receive by email instead of by post, please email nick.roberts@bcs.org

Thank you, Nick

CAIF

Fr Alejandro maintains another website with many more photos, in particular, focussing on CAIF:

<http://www.comunionuruguay.org/>

It's in Spanish, but if you access it using Google Chrome, it will make a passable attempt at translation.

Also An interesting short film of the creation of a mural to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of CAIF:-

<https://vimeo.com/74501976>

There are now four CAIF centres:

The Mission and Community Centre of St Columbus in Colon with a Kitchen, Polyclinic New Hope - Policlínica Nueva Esperanza - including Dental Treatment Room. Teaching staff, Therapist, Psychologist, Social Worker and many other staff offering support for children grouped in 0-2 and 2-3 years. Weekly cooking workshops and dental clinics.

Granjeritos in Progreso in partner-ship with the State Institute for Children and Adolescents of Uruguay (INAU) with a capacity of 120 children. Daily: from 8:30 to 16:30 hours.

Basquadé - Jardines del Hipódromo belonging to St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish with capacity for 118 children - 54 children between zero and two years, attending once a week in the company of mothers. The activity consists of a snack and coordinated by a team of therapist, an educator and a psychologist. 64 children aged two to three years, who attend every day on day and evening shifts. The activity is coordinated by the teacher on duty and an educator.

Daju-Bilu Zona Gruta de Lourdes belonging to St. James Parish serving more than 200 families on average. The action is aimed at children 0-4 years old and their families.

Another Video

A lively review of decorations at St. James, Colon is on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENxj4Cmqf1Q>

The Diocese now also has a Facebook page



<https://www.facebook.com/Iglesia.Anglicana.del.Uruguay>

A reflection

I first went to Uruguay in 1985 before it became a Diocese. I was doing some

research in Argentina when one day I met a new priest come out from England to be the first Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Bill Godfrey. They invited me to Montevideo and I stayed on a camp bed in an empty Duart House on the beach in the city. Everything looked drab. The cathedral was run down, the Lefone room a very run down night shelter. The economy of Uruguay was in a mess having just got rid of 13 years of military rule.

I was inspired by that visit, as I reflected on my working conditions as a parish priest. The support I enjoyed from the Diocese. A regular salary and a series of wonderfully supportive congregations. Bishop Bill had a vision for that Diocese (him and one other priest) and gradually you began to see a transformation as other church plants were made and some fine young priests caught the vision. From the first the Diocese was committed to 'an option for the poor.' Often the tiny vulnerable Anglican church was the first religious and social plant in the district. In a later visit two members of St James in Leicester began to support and encourage the new community of St James in Colon. Now it is a large centre serving the community with support for children, teenagers and various different attempts to help families. The congregation is still small but the effects of their work are obvious.

I saw Salto before the old Victorian Church was restored and have seen the work in the barrio Dona Marta go from strength. to strength. They even had two Alpha courses running. The work of now Bishop Gilberto is almost legendary.

All the time there are new beginnings like the pioneering work of Gonzalo and his wife Leticia in Fray Bentos. Starting with one closed Victorian Church and new community is fast developing.

At the moment things are very tough across the Diocese. Costs have risen in the country and living there is now very expensive. It was explained to me that it's like living with first world prices on a third world income. The Diocese is financially in great need and to help is selling the Bishops house to help to release funds for ministry. We must pray hard for them at this difficult time and continue with our work to support them financially for their future ministry.

Sorry we're so late

This issue has been unavoidably delayed due to circumstances beyond our control. We do hope that your interest in the activities of our Church in Uruguay has not diminished, nor your support - it is so desperately needed.

The Diocese has embarked upon the production of a twice monthly newsletter:

This regular newsletter will be put on our own website (<http://www.friends-of-the-diocese-of-uruguay.org.uk>)



EL PREGONERO (The Town Crier) Diocesan Bulletin October 2013 #1

Welcome! Thanks for sharing in this new beginning of 'El Pregonero'. We'd like to encourage each one of you, to send us news – the joys and the sadnesses – in order that we can get to know each other and as a family, pray for one another. At the end of the bulletin, you will find our email address, which is open every day to receive your news.

Getting to know each other

Espiritu Santo Parish (Malvin)

During this month of October, we've started our first steps in Malvín, towards a **Community Center**.

It is open to the needs of the community and neighbourhood. To begin with, we're having activities – some are free, others at a low cost – such as: Choir singing & dancing, Cooking classes, Gym & Computer/IT classes for Senior Citizens, as well as other activities which will go unfolding.

We hope that anyone who has suggestions / ideas, will feel free to contact us and begin sharing.

For further information, pls contact

Rev. Alejandro @ 098021691
Thanks!

Rio Branco Home

We'd like to share with all, the happy news re the RIO BRANCO 24-hour center for mothers and children. For all of us who work there, it is a pleasure and it's wonderful to see how much we have learned, working as a team, with a vocation to serve.

It is often difficult to accurately measure the success-rate of this kind of project. As we become more committed and stick to the objectives, such as the well-being of the beneficiaries of the programme, we feel satisfied. It is a pleasure to share this with the Church Community and inaugurate our space, within El Pregonero – which, we see as necessary and very welcome.

On behalf of the Work Team
Laura Castro – Coordinator

Let us pray

- For our **Diocesan Bishop, +Michele** – we prepare for his Installation on Sunday, November 24th @ 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Cathedral.
- For our **Diocesan Synod**, to take place on Saturday, November 23 and Sunday, November 24 @ the Lafone Hall, Reconquista 522, Ciudad Vieja
- For the Anglican Church of Uruguay – its mission to be God's instruments in the midst of our society; for our clergy and families and for the project workers and their families.



Sharing

We found a photograph on Facebook.
Do you recognize anyone?



Parish of San Agustín, CAIF Basquadé

We recently celebrated the first 25 years of the CAIF (day-care centers) within Uruguay and at Basquadé's

Project we are preparing ourselves to celebrate our first ten years, in May 2014. Many thanks and let's continue sharing together, in communion with one another.

P. Tito+

We seek to help

On 19th October, the group **El Niño del Milagro**, where I am a voluntary coordinator, will be having a garage sale and auction of famous items (@ Salón Sens on García Cortinas 246) from 13-17 hs. All the proceeds will be donated towards **Iara Milagros'** rehabilitation process. This little girl suffers from West's Syndrome and must undergo treatment in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in order to improve her quality of life.

The reason for this note, is to invite you to the event. Apart from helping **Iara, we are celebrating 4 years as a group** and we look forward to sharing it with all those institutions who have been or still are, part of our history.



Leticia Mariño.

Note: **Leticia** is part of the DAJU BILU Project and the group 'El Niño del Milagro' were the ones to donate all the toys for Children's Day at our day-care **CAIF Center, DAJU BILU**



Some of Fr Alejandro's CAIF photos :



CAIF Centre St. Columbus

Bishop Michele's Consecration

