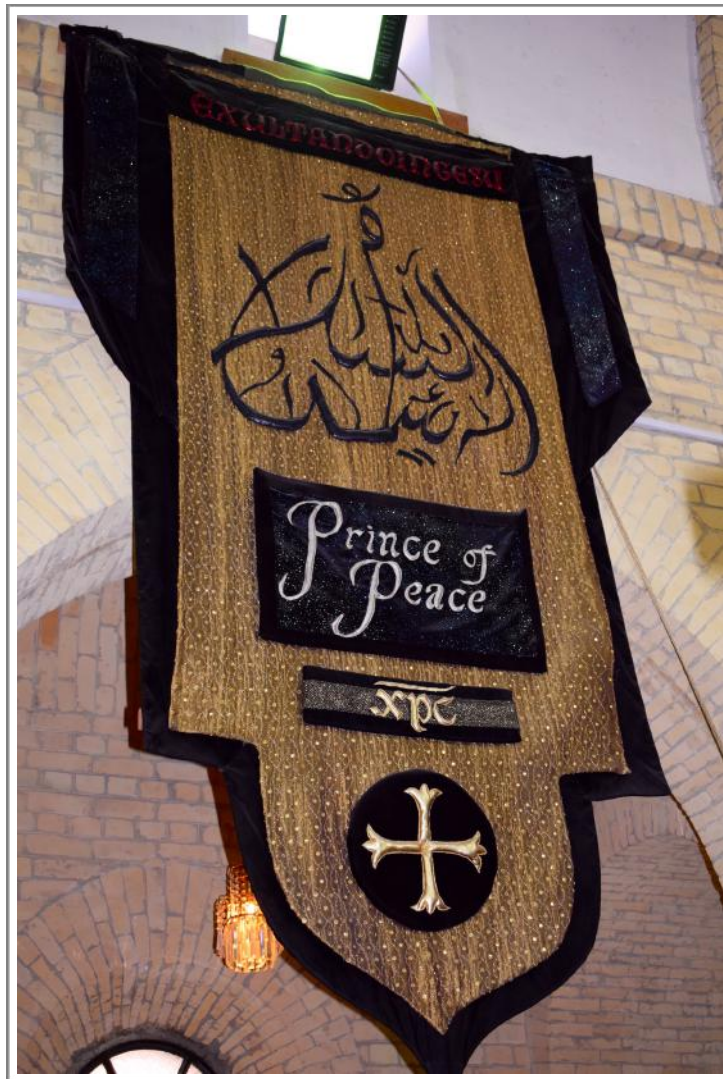

St George Baghdad

Quarterly Insight

March 2023



*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

Celebrating

compassion



Lord Ahmad and Canon Faiz

The rich spiritual life of St George Baghdad nurtures a congregation active in the service of Christ, reaching across divides in a nation scarred by war and sectarian violence.

Parish priest the Reverend Canon Faiz Jerjes is widely known for his work for those in need. On 1 March UK Foreign Office Minister Lord Ahmad conferred upon him the British honour of an MBE, citing Fr Faiz's long and tireless service—not least in support of Yezidi women and girls who have suffered greatly at the hands of the terrorist group Da'esh.

(next page) Among those at a celebration for Canon Faiz hosted by British ambassador to Iraq Mark Bryson-Richardson were Archbishop Michael and his wife Julia; Vatican Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Mitja Leskovar; Sheikh Ali al Soudani, personal representative of Grand Ayatollah Husein al Sadr; and prominent tribal leader Sheikh Saddam al Atwani



Celebrating

the nation



St George's Kindergarten provides an encouraging learning environment for children of all backgrounds, underpinned by a steadfast commitment to the multi-faith heritage of Iraq. Every Thursday, pupils gather in the schoolyard to sing the national anthem—with enthusiasm... and mostly in tune!

Celebrating *excellence*

Education fosters understanding—and understanding
is at the heart of reconciliation.

St George's School of the Redeemer (Al Fadi) boasts an enviable reputation,
with Muslim and Christian pupils studying a full range of subjects taught in Arabic and
English—and many attaining top marks across the board.

Academic excellence is recognised in a ceremony awarding medals for exceptional
achievement. But more important still is the sense of shared pride.



*Assistant Headmistress
Miss Aseel Ghassan (left centre)
awards medals to star pupils
announced by Miss Fatimah (left),
teacher of Arabic literature
and grammar*



*Pupils Shams Muntather (top)
and Baqer Waleed (left) are among those
receiving medals for academic excellence,
cheered on by fellow pupils (above)*

Movie Day

St George's school keeps learning fun. Movie Day is a regular favourite—and if it's *The Emoji Movie* the outfit of choice can only be yellow.



Valentine's Day



Daily keep-fit

The children of St George's kindergarten warm up for the day with morning exercise.



St George Baghdad

As you see from this Spring edition of Quarterly Insight, Julia and I made a flying visit to Baghdad to coincide with Canon Faiz Jerjes's MBE award ceremony. Both Lord Ahmad and the British ambassador were emphatic in stressing the remarkable contribution that Fr Faiz and St George's make not only to the Christian communities of Iraq but to the whole nation in its great religious and cultural variety. The presence of the representative of the Grand Ayatollah Husein al Sadr alongside a prominent tribal leader, the Papal Nuncio, and others was testimony to the breadth of St George's outreach.

Meanwhile the daily work of the church kindergarten and school go from strength to strength.

All this is in spite of the virtually stalled state of the country's politics and economy, which has been provoking frequent large-scale demonstrations for improvement and change that regularly disrupt access to our compound, situated as it is near a main entrance to the high-security government area called the Green Zone.

Please hold the people of St George's, its staff, and Canon Faiz in your prayers. If you feel moved to help the ministry by either a one-off or a regular donation, you will find details at <https://www.cypgulf.org/donate/>

*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*

