



Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

Who are we?

A brief guide

Our shepherds in Christ



The clergy and lay people of our diocese are part of the worldwide Anglican Communion—supported in prayer and in practice by its traditions and international standing

(left) the Most Reverend Dr Hosam Naoum, from Palestine, is Archbishop of our Province—Jerusalem and the Middle East

(centre) Jenny and the Right Reverend Sean Semple are from South Africa; Sean is Bishop of our diocese—Cyprus and the Gulf

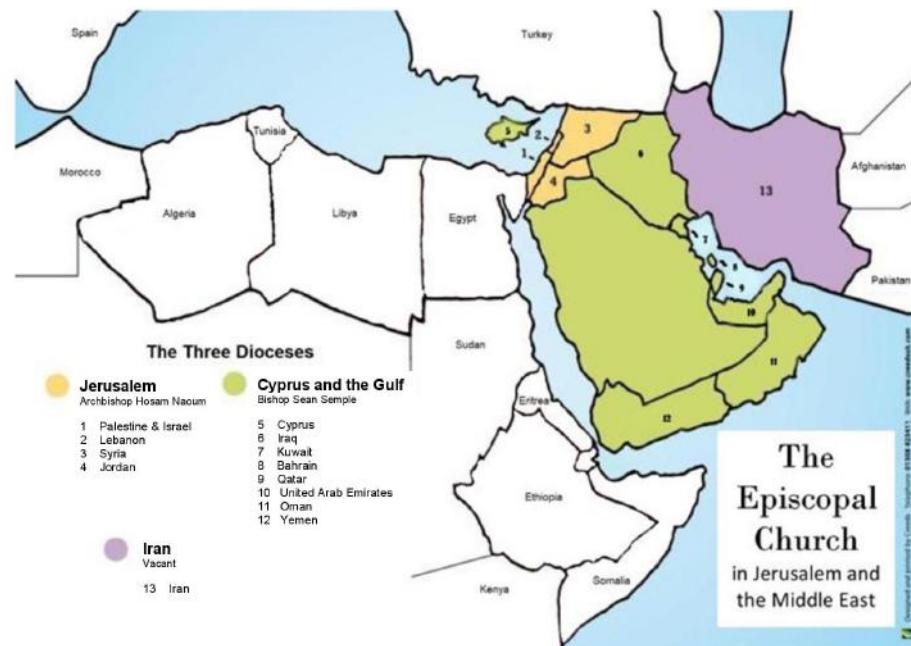
(right) the Right Reverend Anthony Poggo, from South Sudan, is head of the Anglican Communion Office—the heart of the global Anglican family

The Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf was formed in 1976, with churches in nine countries of the Middle East region. We are one of three dioceses that make up the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East (see map).

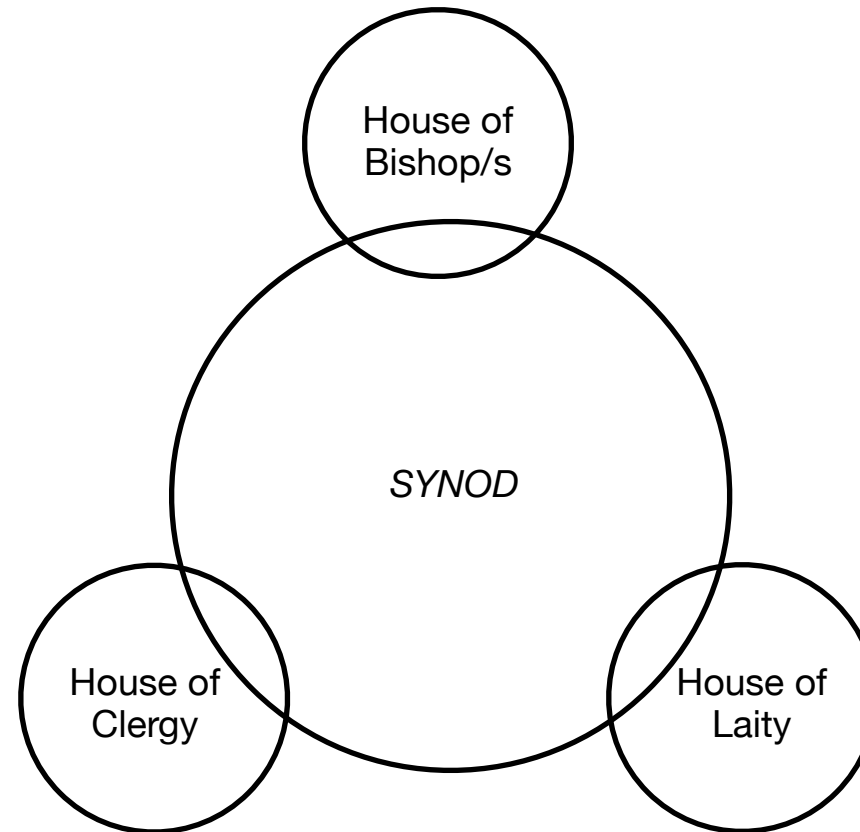
The Bishop of our diocese is the Right Reverend Sean Semple. Our Archbishop—the head of the Province—is the Most Reverend Dr Hosam Naoum, who leads the Diocese of Jerusalem. Our third sister diocese—Iran—does not at the moment have a bishop.

Our diocese is a rich mix of cultures brought together in Christ to worship in the tradition of the global Anglican Communion. We are proud to have congregations worshipping in English, Tamil, Igbo, Hindi, Urdu, Arabic, Mandarin and more.

Visit our website www.cypgulf.org and Facebook page www.facebook.com/DioceseOfCyprusAndTheGulf to find out more about our Diocesan family



How does our diocese work?



“The diocese is like a three-legged stool:
the bishop, priests and laity are partners and fellow-workers for Christ.
Each has their place and particular ministry;
and each depends absolutely on the other”

Bishop Sean

What is Synod?

Synod is the seat of democracy in our diocese, bringing together members of the three Houses of the diocese once a year, to share news of life and worship in our churches, and to discuss the priorities, programmes and budget for the year ahead. There is often also a second Synod meeting by Zoom.

Synod is a truly special period of togetherness in Christ—singing, praying, eating, laughing together—and sometimes, of course, disagreeing. But even in disagreement, Synod is a celebration of the gifts each brings to the diocese, as people of faith living by God's word, guided by the light of Jesus in churches across the region.

*Make sure your name is on the church roll.
You can then attend council annual general meetings,
take part in parish elections—and may be selected to represent your parish at Synod*

Each parish pays to send two lay representatives to Synod. This is the House of Laity. Members hold their post for one year, representing their parish at Synod, and in online House meetings and WhatsApp discussion groups. Let your council know if you are interested in being a lay representative for your parish.

The House of Laity is represented on the many committees set up to examine important issues affecting the diocese. Members who want to be part of a committee stand for election in the House. There are also elections for co-chairs, from the Gulf and from Cyprus—and to approve the candidate for bishop when the post is vacant.

Episcopally led, synodically governed



The Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf functions according to the natural system of checks and balances that is a defining feature of Anglican practice: episcopally led but synodically governed, according to the terms of our constitution—itself a living document, subject to debate, committee scrutiny and amendment, in response to the needs of changing times.

Led by our spiritual shepherds—our bishop and, at the heart of our parishes, our clergy—we are prayerfully dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming space for all who seek it.

True to global Anglican tradition, our diocese strives to support and encourage people of faith, and to model for all the life of Christ in our work and in our worship.

Every parish of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf has designated trained Safeguarding Officers, with clear reporting standards and procedures.

Celebrating our church



The congregations of our diocese draw strength from their unity in Christ, led by clergy committed to worship in the global Anglican tradition, enriched by the gifts and energy of the laity.

That tradition includes an understanding of how important it is for every part of a congregation—clergy and lay—to know that they are valued and respected in their work and prayer for the life of the church.

Welcome to our diocese!

Click on the links below to find out more about the diocese and how it works

[Constitution and Standing Orders of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf](#) — learn about our structure and processes
[scene@synod2024](#) — catch up on talks, motions (votes), parish news and House election results

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DioceseOfCyprusAndTheGulf to keep up to date with events in the diocese, and explore our website www.cypgulf.org. Did you know the diocese offers a [Retreats](#) ministry, an [online prayer diary](#) and [spiritual resources](#)?