

## Our Man in Mogadishu

It's a long way from Julian Lyne-Pirkis' comfortable Wilton home to his workplace digs: a shipping container in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu.

Julian is working with the EU Mission in Somalia for 9 months, advising the head of their Ministry of Defence and training its civil servants: vital in stabilising a



country struggling with Islamist al-Shabaab militias and clan differences.

"We have a mandate from the UN to help Somalis rebuild their country after decades of civil war", he says.

36 years as an artillery officer included posts at NATO, Gibraltar, and mid 2000s Damascus when, Julian says, "Syria had a stable, but autocratic government". His first civvy street job was Head of Event Management at Westminster Abbey, where he worked on 2011's Royal Wedding.

"I love the rhythm of the church year", Julian says, "The liturgy, the singing, and deep friendships of

Church have always been part of my life. Growing up, we went to Church regularly and learned to say our prayers at bedtime."

Charismatic priests helped root Julian's faith, as did battlefield danger. He says, "When I commanded a field battery in the First Gulf War, I wrote in my diary, 'I've never felt closer to God.'"

"We moved to Wilton just before I left the Army in 2010, and got involved in the parish. I became churchwarden last year. I offered to resign when the Somalia post came up, but was refused! I must now be the most far-flung churchwarden in the C of E!"

## Bishop's Letter

The Right Revd Nicholas Holtam  
Bishop of Salisbury

In each Deanery I am asking, 'What has renewed your hope in recent weeks?' Full churches at Christmas, more children and young families, and good community care are often mentioned, *and* everywhere, a difficult issue faced honestly and well has renewed people's hope.

Climate Change is a problem we find difficult to face well. Scientists are 95% certain that human activity, especially fossil fuels, is the main cause of current global warming. As CO<sub>2</sub> increases, temperature rises. The rate of increase has slowed, but the century began with fourteen of the

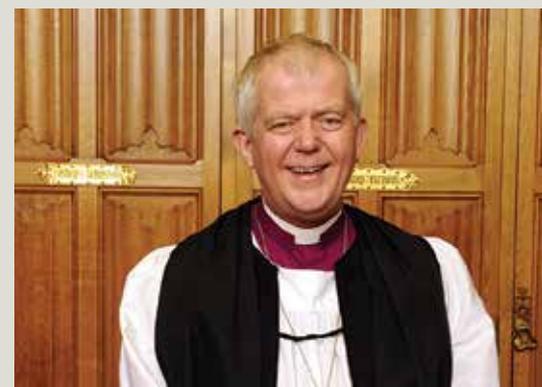
fifteen hottest years ever. Over the last 50 years, warmer oceans have led humidity to increase by 4%, and so to more intense floods and storms. This matters to us, but still more to the world's poorest, such as the Pacific islanders and Bangladeshis most affected by rising sea level.

We are making more progress on renewable energy and energy efficiency than was thought possible. My Skoda Greenline does an impressive 60 mpg. The new hybrid BMW claims 124 mpg. At the same time, 1,200 coal fired power stations are planned in our world, mostly in

China and India, chasing the dream of growth through consumption.

It makes no sense. Science, economics and politics all point

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the same way, but we lack global agreement on the way forward. This is a spiritual problem as much as a political one. What sort of world do we live in and what sort of people would God have us be?

One way to renew hope this Lent is a Carbon Fast. The Bishop of

Ramsbury is giving up his car for Lent. Some Christians fast and pray about climate change on the first day of every month. We can all do something to shrink our personal carbon footprint at home, work and church. Facing climate change well in Lent will renew hope.

## A Caring Community

Lyneham Parish Hall hosts a coffee morning every Thursday after midweek Communion. A majority of the thirty or so people who attend aren't churchgoers, so it keeps the wider community in the two villages of Lyneham and Bradenstoke in touch with their parish churches.

It all started as a Mothers' Union project in 2000. The profits from coffee, cake and raffles go to charity.

In 2014, over £1600 was raised for local, national and international



charities, as well as £1200 for church funds.

The money raised for church funds pays, among other things, for the Mothers and Toddlers Group on Wednesdays to use the hall free of charge.

## A Life in the Diocese

"I first went to Church because I was asked to - by the boy who sat next to me in Primary School. The lesson has remained with me ever since."

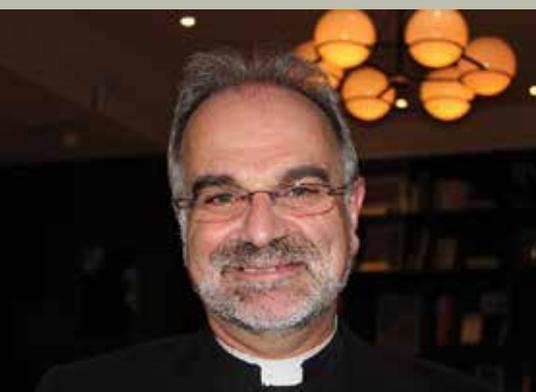
Archdeacon Alan Jeans has spent his whole life in this Diocese. He grew up in St Thomas', Ensbury Park, one of four Bournemouth parishes in our Diocese.

"That's where my vocation emerged. I was seventeen and an altar server. One day the thought came to me at

the altar rail, 'God wants me to help that priest': it was our then vicar, John Morgan. I went to see him later that week and he said 'I think you want to be a priest.' I replied honestly by saying, 'I don't!'"

Despite that, ten years later, after working as a building surveyor, Alan was at theological college in Salisbury, followed by a curacy in Poole and five years as a vicar in rural Wiltshire. He then became the Diocese's Parish Development Advisor and finally Archdeacon of Sarum in 2003.

"I love helping churches grow in numbers and also in their ability to 'turn strangers into family'. It makes me sad when congregations aren't a cross-section of the local community. Our ambition must be to share the Gospel with everyone.



## Trading Fairly in Blandford

For many years, the Set Fair 4 Trade shop in Blandford Forum was important to many churchpeople. Jennie and David Rake did great work to encourage people to take account of justice in everyday life.

After the Rakes gave up the shop on retirement, Prama, the Christian social enterprise, opened the Prama Fair shop just down the street.

The shop sells Fairtrade clothing, crafts, jewellery, food, coffee and chocolate from all over the developing world.

Colin Brady, Diocesan Social Justice Programme manager said, "The shop is a success for the recent partnership between Milton and Blandford Deanery and Prama. As well as selling things, it is a presence for Fairtrade values in Blandford's busy town centre."



"I prefer worship in a traditional Anglican style myself, but I'm asking committed churchgoers to give time and resources to new forms of Church attractive to other people.

"I'm also the Champion for the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The highlight might be the Diocesan pilgrimage on 15 June. Like Magna Carta itself, we'll walk from Old Sarum to the Cathedral, and then have an open air service and *Liber-tea* on the lawn.

"The celebrations will draw the best from our history and weave them into the social justice needs for our time. Would Jesus have supported Magna Carta? I think he probably would have!"