

• **JANUARY 2012**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION, BUCHAREST**



Dear Friends,

In this period of cold weather it is good to think of the delights of spring, and one of them is the **Britannia Ball, now rescheduled for 21st April at the Hilton Hotel.** There are further details about the Ball below.

I hope that you have had a Merry Christmas and are enjoying the New Year. The Christmas season comes to an end with the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple (Candlemas) on 2nd February, so the snow has reached Bucharest just in time! Christmas services in church were well attended and enjoyable, with 40 at Midnight Mass and 90 at the morning Eucharist. The previous Sunday I had been in Sofia to celebrate Christmas with a morning Eucharist and a Carol Service in the evening. These services also were most enjoyable. In Bucharest there was even a congregation on 1st January, despite the celebrations of the night before.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th January) was marked in Bucharest, as in previous years, with a series of seven different services in different churches. This year I preached in the Calvineum (the Hungarian Reformed church) and The Revd Dr Daniel Zikeli of the German Lutheran Church preached an excellent sermon in our church. On 28th January some of us attended a splendid Burns Night Supper organised by Light into Europe in the Intercontinental Hotel, at which I gave the Toast to the Lassies and Lillah Houghton responded on their behalf.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (22nd February), when we begin the 40 days of preparation for Easter. There will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 6 p.m. on that day, and services of Holy Communion at 1 p.m. on 29th February and 7th, 21st, and 28th March. On 17th March there will be an ecumenical service for St Patrick's Day. We shall be following the western calendar for our Lent and Easter services in Bucharest. In Holy Week there will be services at 6 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday (5th, 6th, & 7th April) and then the Eucharist at 10 a.m. on Easter Day (8th April). The following week I will go to Sofia and conduct the same sequence of services according to the Orthodox calendar!

We are holding a series of three Early Music concerts in church. The first one saw a fine performance of music by Georg Philipp Telemann, the next concert will be a performanc of baroque flute music on 24th February, and the final concert will be on 30th March. Tickets @15 RON will be available on the door.

As I said at the beginning of this letter the Britannia Ball has now been arranged for 21st April. It will be held in the Hilton Hotel in Bucharest and promises to be a lively and very enjoyable occasion. The day of the Ball is the actual birthday of Queen Elizabeth II in 1926 and so will be an eminently appropriate day on which to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of her reign. There will even be Jubilee souvenirs

available on the night. The day is also the Saturday before St George's Day on 23rd April and ANZAC Day on 25th April, so makes an excellent occasion for English people, Australians and New Zealanders to congregate and have a good time together. This is a major feature of our fund-raising programme and we are very keen to involve as many people as possible. Tickets cost 100 euros each. For further information and to purchase tickets please contact Lillah Houghton on 0723 737006 or Alexandra Slater at britanniaball12@gmail.com. Any prizes donated for the tombola and the silent auction will be much appreciated.

On Wednesday many Christians of different traditions made their way through the snow to the Patriarchal Cathedral for the concluding service in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. After the service Patriarch Daniel quipped in English "We must stick together whatever the weather!" That applies to Christians in general and also to our own community in Bucharest. It may be cold at present... but spring is on its way and in any case the church heating is working! I look forward to seeing you in church and walking with you along the road of this Year of Our Lord 2012.

Best wishes,

Father Patrick