

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE AND THE GREATER ANGLICAN COMMUNION

### Bishop Hewett's schedule:

**England, London** – Forward in Faith Assembly, October 14-15 at the Emmanuel Center, Westminster. So far three from the DHC are signed up to go as delegates: myself, Mr. George Hillard (Christ Church, Southern Pines, NC) and Mr. John Hagan (St. John the Baptist, Marshall, VA) From 17 – 24 October I will visit the Mission Province in Sweden. +PCH

### **Anti-Christian violence rages on in Nigeria: pastor slain and village razed**

*From barnabusfund.org*

Two tragic stories from Northern Nigeria, recently received by Barnabas Aid, graphically illustrate the brutality of anti-Christian violence in the region following April's presidential election. A Nigerian missionary pastor in Bauchi State was tortured and murdered by a group of Muslims when he refused to renounce his faith in Christ. And an entire Christian village in Kaduna State was burned to ashes by a mob of Muslim militants and its water supply contaminated.

The pastor was travelling in a van when it was pulled over by Muslims posing as police. They asked if anyone in the vehicle was a Christian, and the pastor said that he was. The men pulled him out of the van and told him repeatedly to renounce Christ. When he refused, they first beat him, then gouged out his eyes, and finally killed him and burned his body. He leaves a widow and eight children.

On 18 April the village of Ung, Kerau was attacked by more than 300 men armed with various weapons. The Christian villagers fled, and the mob torched the village, including the church. An estimated 183 buildings, both homes and storerooms, were burned. The Church of Nigeria Bishop of Ikara, the Rt Rev'd Yusuf Ishaya Janfalan, wrote: *[The villagers] were drinking from two wells. But when the mobs arrived they broke their store rooms, carried pepper and poured inside the well. They also poured their clothes, mortars, firewood and all sort of rubbish inside the well. We have stopped the villagers from drinking from the well, as we are suspecting that the mobs poisoned the well.*

The bishop said that the (approximately) 300 villagers were peasant farmers who "were attacked simply because they are Christians". He reported that two other churches and a vicarage in the same region had also been destroyed. Christians and churches in Northern Nigeria have come under sustained attack since the re-election of Christian President Goodluck Jonathan in April. Supporters of defeated Muslim candidate Muhammadu Buhari have been taking out their anger on Christian communities. Around 200 churches have been burned or destroyed and over 1,200 houses razed, and at least 800 people are estimated to have been killed in the riots.

## St. Peter's Welcomes Michelle Needham

At long last and after the extended fun that is singular to the experience of putting a house up for sale in a buyer's market, Michelle joins Fr. John in Houston. Michelle was baptized at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Dannemora, New York. She was later confirmed in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. The daughter of a career Army Officer, she grew up traveling the world.

In 1984 she and Fr. John were married in Virginia Beach, VA. Michelle is the proud mother of two daughters and grandmother to two grandsons. She is looking forward to getting to know all of the St. Peter's family as we live and grow in our life in Christ together.

### *Family Anniversaries*

*Have we missed yours? Please tell us.*

#### *Birthdays*

10/03-Michael Dowe  
10/12-Maureen Martinez  
10/13-Steven Prewitt  
10/17-Nancy Farris  
10/19-Janis Hunzicker

#### *Year's Mind*

#### *Baptisms*

#### *Confirmations*

#### *Other*

#### *Marriages*

10/02-Bishop Pat and Betty Murphy