

A PARISH PRIEST FOR ST MARY'S, TRISTAN DA CUNHA
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

A. LOCATION

St Mary's Church is situated on the island of Tristan da Cunha in the South Atlantic Ocean, six to ten days sailing from Cape Town. Sailings are sporadic. There is no air link.

The local population consists of about 300 islanders including 65 pensioners, 40 children under 15, adult islanders and 6-12 expatriates (e.g. Administrator, doctor, factory manager and families, occasional specialists on contract).

The islanders speak a dialect which is similar to West Country English. The islanders tend to be markedly insular and the island itself is isolated.

There is a nursery school for children from 3 years old and a primary school for children aged five to fifteen. The education is good quality British-based education with small classes and individual attention. Children have had no problems in going on to secondary education in South Africa, St Helena or Britain.

There is a four-bed hospital on the island, with an expatriate doctor on a one-year contract (NICARE). Any major medical procedures are done in Cape Town. Optometrical and dental services are available for three weeks of the year.

There is a local fishing industry, as well as basic agriculture. Potatoes, eggs, chicken and crayfish form a major part of the island diet.

B. PERSONAL PROFILE

We are looking for a priest with a stable personality, self-sufficient and in good health.

A vegetarian would find life very difficult.

Alcohol could prove to be a temptation.

There are no particular educational requirements - the standard qualification for ordination would suffice.

Five or more years of ministry experience would be desirable.

The language spoken on the island is English.

On arrival on the island the priest would be given an informal introduction to island life.

Given the isolation of the island, the appointment would be ideally suitable for:

- a) A married couple. Young children up to the age of twelve would be able to attend school on the Island, but there is no secondary school there.
- b) A single person who is able to cope well on their own. (The parish has not yet experienced the ministry of a woman priest.)

C. CHURCH LIFE

The island parish is historically fairly conservative, though open to some liturgical and musical

innovation.

The priest would receive pastoral support from three lay ministers, and other leaders in the congregation. The local schoolteacher is at present a great support.

Children are admitted to Holy Communion from the age of six.

The island of Tristan da Cunha is part of the Diocese of Cape Town, within the Anglican Church in Southern Africa. The priest is responsible to the Suffragan-Bishop of Cape Town (known as the Bishop of Table Bay).

The priest will need to relate to the following:

The Island Administrator

All island groups, including the Island Council

St Mary's Church Parish Council

St Mary's School

The islanders

The expatriate community

D. MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

The main responsibilities of the post are as follows:

The pastoral care of 300 people (fluctuating from 250)

Teaching of Religious (Christian) Education in the school, and leading weekly assembly there.

Relate to visiting ships - crew and passengers - including the Royal Navy.

The principal duties from week to week are as follows:

Leading worship

Celebrating the Eucharist

Preaching

Pastoral care

Children's worship

School teaching (about four ½ hour periods per week)

Being available to islanders and expatriates for counsel and advice

E. WORKING CONDITIONS

The Rectory is a 3 bedroomed house with a lounge, dining room, study and kitchen. It is fully furnished and fully supplied with all utensils (kitchen and other) plus all crockery, cutlery etc. and linen.

There is a television and a video recorder for videos. The Island has British Forces Television. There is no hi-fi system. The local Radio Station broadcasts two hours daily.

A computer would be useful. However, the rectory does not have direct email or internet access, but this will change by years end (2006).

The Church Council is responsible for maintenance, electricity bills and fuel costs. They also pay for the cost of official phone calls. Private calls are paid by the cleric. (Via radio/satellite to RSA, UK etc.)

Transport is not necessary on the Island

The island currency is UK Pounds sterling, but the priest is paid in South African Rands. The current (2006) monthly stipend is SAR5280,00.

Any additional work expenses are paid by the Church Council.

The priest is granted 48 days leave per annum. This could be taken as an accumulated three-month leave period, midway through the three-year contract, and the remainder after the contract. Leave dates need to be cleared with the Bishop.

Medical treatment on the island is free, and is provided by the British Government.

The Diocese pays fares from Cape Town to Tristan da Cunha to and from the island on arrival and on departure, and on leave midway through the contract. There is a free baggage allowance of 1 cubic metre per person per voyage.

The contract is normally for three years, but could be negotiated.

The Diocese of Cape Town would not be obliged to secure an appointment to another parish within the Diocese on completion or termination of the agreed contract. The possibility of this appointment being a secondment to the island from the cleric's present diocese could be explored.

**The Rt Revd Garth Counsell
Bishop of Table Bay**

June 2006

**ST MARY'S, TRISTAN DA CUNHA
DIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN**

Please complete and return to:

THE BISHOP OF TABLE BAY

P O Box 1932
CAPE TOWN
8000 SOUTH AFRICA

Telephone: +27 21 465 1557
Fax: +27 21 465 7686
Email: bishop.suffragan@ctdiocese.org.za

Title:.....

Surname:

Christian Names:.....

Date of Birth:.....

Married YES/NO If YES

Spouse's Name.....

Date of Birth:

Children? YES/NO If YES

Name:..... Date of Birth

Name: Date of Birth.....

Name: Date of Birth

Name: Date of Birth

Date of Ordination: as Deacon.; as Priest

(Please enclose certified copies of your letters of ordination)

Current Diocese and name of your bishop, with contact details:.....

.....

(Please supply a reference and a "safe to receive" from your diocesan bishop.)

Educational Qualifications:

.....

(Please supply certified copies of your qualifications)

Ministry background and experience:

.....

.....

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Present position:.....

For how long have you been in your current post?

Names and contact details of three referees:

1.....

2.....

3.....

If you are appointed, from when would you be available to take up the post?