

Spreading the Word

Every church in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf works in unique and remarkable ways to serve God across the region. Every member of Diocesan clergy, staff and congregations has a part to play in celebrating its work.

Parishes are encouraged to share their news with the wider Diocese, informing, supporting—and inspiring—one another, through both traditional (print and broadcast) and social (online) media.

Working with the media

Our Diocese covers a wide area, and many political jurisdictions—contexts that local parishes understand. Led by their parish priest, many of our churches form constructive relationships with local media to share news of their events and work in the wider community—sensitive, always, to their local context and respectful of the authorities that are our hosts. They are adept, too, in their use of social media, sharing the joy of their worship and work with the wider Diocese and its partners around the world, as well as their own communities.

There are occasions, however, when journalists—including freelancers—may seek input from a parish for a story that goes beyond the purely local. Given our context, statements broadcast or published as part of such coverage can have unanticipated effects on the reputation of the Diocese and/or its relationships with other faiths and churches.

Parishes should note:

1. It is Diocesan policy to require that any licensed/PtO priest, member of parish or Diocesan staff, or member of a Diocesan congregation with a formal role (including Reader, Warden, Lay Worship Leader, member of parish council) contacted by print, broadcast or online media to discuss an issue beyond the purely local, established activities of their parish, convey to and discuss with the Office of the Bishop said contact—to agree what, if any, interview/statement is to be issued, by whom, to whom, and on whose behalf.

2. It is Diocesan policy to require that any licensed/PtO priest, member of parish or Diocesan staff, or member of a Diocesan congregation with a formal role (including Reader, Warden, Lay Worship Leader, member of parish council) wishing to themselves initiate contact with the media to give an interview or make a statement about an issue beyond the purely local, established activities of their parish, contact the Office of the Bishop before doing so—to agree what, if any, interview/statement is to be issued, by whom, to whom, and on whose behalf.

As Anglicans, we are guests in our region, engaged with the communities around us, grateful for the welcome shown to us by local authorities, and committed to growing interfaith and ecumenical understanding—in ourselves and the wider world. All members of the Diocese are expected to carefully consider how they reflect that commitment, including in their interactions with the media.

To seek advice about contact with the media, email helen.perry@cypgulf.org or contact Bishop Sean via his PA georgia@spidernet.com.cy
