



# St Andrew's Chaplaincy

Newsletter February 2020

## Welcome



**We were getting back to our normal routines after Christmas, while nicely coping with the challenges of having a 'dry-January', attending the extra events of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and we're off again – this time with the great 'get-ready season' of Lent. Life in Church is never dull!**

You will read elsewhere in the Newsletter our Lent Programme for this year. It is varied and we hope something will appeal to you. The various events are deliberately being held in different parts of our large Parish and wherever possible we have made use of existing service and meeting times, so extra journeys are kept to a minimum.

Give something up by all means for Lent, but why not take something new up instead? Come along to a Service or Bible Study or House Group that you haven't been to before – you may even be surprised and enjoy it! You may find your

faith and friendship with God deepened, while our Church fellowships are enlivened.

I'll leave you with some sensible and wise words from Raymond Chapman who says: "Lent is a solemn time, but it is not meant to be a miserable one...We may keep before us one of the most comforting and encouraging sayings of Jesus: 'I came that they might have life and have it abundantly.'"

Fr Nigel

Read more about our Bible Study and House Groups on our website:  
[www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org/spiritual-formation](http://www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org/spiritual-formation)

## Just a thought... Spring clean yourself for Lent



**There are always plenty of suggestions around for how to spend Lent: improving books and discussion groups are popular; knocking biscuits, cake and alcohol off the menu are common (if not popular); even fasting is being looked at again more seriously.**

What to choose? Well, how about everything? After all, Lent runs for six-and-a-half weeks, so it's not as if you're short of time. The Church has a habit of focusing on souls, but in Lent the spotlight is on your bodies, minds, and bank accounts, too.

The reasoning behind such a radical approach is simple. It makes no sense to

read a holy book, give up sweets, or pray more, if, for example, you're still beating your children, or stealing stuff from work. Think of it as spring cleaning. We all push the vacuum round, and dust the surfaces within reach, from time to time. But there comes a time, if only once a year, when it's important to get at what's underneath the sofa, wipe the skirting boards, clean to the very back of the kitchen cupboards, take down the curtains, and so on. So with the rest of your life.

For most people, hopefully, it's not a matter of refraining from committing any crimes; but once you start moving the furniture, all sorts of things come to light.

Just a few examples, starting with an easy one: are you eating properly? If you're comfortable eating or drinking, can you not find comfort elsewhere? But more than that, where does your food come from? It's easy to grumble about the extra cost of fairly traded goods, but the difference to us is tiny compared with the difference to the workers in the developing world. And the more people switch, the greater the pressure on

the big companies to treat their suppliers fairly.

What about your spending? There are too many commercial interests whose business it is to make us spend to our limit and beyond. Providing for our families is such a basic drive, but it can be so easily perverted by advertising, so that there's nothing left to give away. I would argue that the only way we can feel happy about the vast difference in living standards between us and the millions who struggle to survive is by shutting our eyes to their plight. Lent is the time to open them.

There is so much more: relationships, ambitions, how we spend our time, the way we treat our bodies, our carbon footprint. . . The point is that everybody is different, with different temptations and capabilities, so this really is a DIY exercise, though encouraging each other is immensely helpful, too.

So, how ethical can you be by the time Easter comes round?

(Lawrence Wilton)

# Looking after God's Creation

## REFUGEE GARDENS

*Turning old mattresses into fresh food*

An inspirational article from the BBC



Many refugees from Syria are living in refugee 'cities' which have sprung up in neighbouring countries. In Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan there are 80,000 people who had two big problems. Soil so salty that these former farmers can't grow food and a storeroom full of 10,000 old polyurethane foam mattresses with nowhere to dispose of them.

Professor Tony Ryan from Sheffield University was visiting, and he noticed a tomato plant growing out of

a sofa on a landfill site. This gave him the idea of growing plants on the foam mattresses using a system called hydroponics. Wet foam holds the plants and they get all their nutrients from the water. Only 20% of the water needed to grow plants in soil is needed as there is no run-off.

Everything in these emerging gardens is from recycled waste –

plastic tubs etc.

So far 1,000 refugees have learnt to grow food this way. The old ladies, especially, are delighted to have green homes again. All it has taken is a little science from Professor Ryan and a whole lot of ingenuity from the Syrian refugee farmers. Professor Ryan says this is the most worthwhile part of his illustrious career. He sees great potential for the urban world. 'If it can work here it can work anywhere'.

*'The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.'*

Isaiah 35:1  
reinterpreted for the 21st century

Watch the video here:

[www.facebook.com/bbcnews/videos/168461397787548/](http://www.facebook.com/bbcnews/videos/168461397787548/)

## Coming soon - Messy Church

We will be running Messy Church at Los Boliches very soon.

Watch out for details including dates on our Website and also on our Facebook Page.



A little about Messy Church...

The first Messy Church began in 2004 when a group at St Wilfrid's in Cowplain near Portsmouth were frustrated because, as a church, they were hardly reaching any children with God's story.

They had creative people in the church, and the area needed as much community-building as possible, being a rather featureless suburb.

The church wasn't offering anything that really gripped the imagination of local families.

They decided very early on to try to do something for all ages together partly out of a belief that we grow best as a church when we walk the journey with as many different people as possible, and partly from a desire to help families to grow together in their walk of faith.

A fresh expression of church is a "form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church [which] will come into being through principles of listening, service, incarnational mission and making disciples [and] will have the potential to become a

mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church and for its cultural context".

Messy Church...

...is a way of being church for families involving fun

...is a church, not a craft club, that helps people encounter Jesus as Lord and Saviour

... is found across the world

...values are about being Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration

For more information visit:  
[www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

Find us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/costadelsolchurch](http://www.facebook.com/costadelsolchurch) or search for St Andrew's Chaplaincy



# Recent News and Celebrations

## Fellowship Lunch

The Calahonda church fellowship Chinese lunch on Thursday 6th February at the Golden Sun, Riviera was enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us in great food and fellowship with the added bonus of 100€ in donations to the Chaplaincy



## Burns Night

Despite atrocious weather Billy hosted a superb Burns' Night celebration in January at Los Boliches. He addressed the haggis, which was pipped in by Leslie Thompson, and he later delivered the traditional "Immortal Memory". Jan Morley delivered and served a wonderful meal.

A hilarious toast to the lassies was given by Colin Pollard and the lassies reply was written by Diana Payne and delivered by Sandy. Traditional Scottish dancing and singing was provided after the meal by the members of A Touch of Class.



## Annual Synod

The annual Gibraltar Archdeaconry Synod was held during the last week of January at Torrevieja. Our Chaplaincy was represented by Father Nigel and Caroline Macfarlane. There were approximately 130 elected delegates and clergy from 28 Chaplaincies along with Bishop David, staff from the Diocesan Office, and various visitors.

The synod included presentations and discussion on current issues affecting the church, bible studies and worship with speakers relating to this year's theme 'Caring for God's Creation'. It also provided a great opportunity for sharing good practice, and discussing any problems affecting our Chaplaincies.

This year was very special as it was announced that the Bishop has appointed Fr Nigel as an Area Dean in the Archdeaconry, with responsibility for Southern Spain and Gibraltar. In collaboration with the Archdeacon this post essentially provides pastoral care of clergy in the area, and support when necessary, for the chaplaincies, especially in time of a vacancy.

This sort of pastoral care hasn't been on offer for our area of Spain for quite a while. Fr Nigel says; *"It is a real privilege to have been appointed and also a good reflection on our Chaplaincy in being considered able to give the necessary support for this important work to happen. Fear not - this work doesn't involve missing Sundays or a large time commitment!!"*



# Lent Programme

**Wednesday 26th February**  
**- Thursday 9th April 2020**

**Ash Wednesday** - 26th February  
9.30am Eucharist at Los Boliches  
6pm Eucharist at Alhaurin

## Sundays during Lent

During Lent we will be using a Celtic Morning Prayer Order instead of the usual Morning Prayer for our Services of the Word.

**Taizé Service** starting at 6pm at Alhaurin. These are short, meditative services using the chants & music of

the French Ecumenical community, (we already sing quite a few of these chants!). There will also be periods of silence for reflection.

[More Information on our website](#)

## Wednesdays during Lent

**9.30am** Eucharist & Walking the Way of the Cross (Reflections on the Stations of the Cross) at Los Boliches

**12.30pm** Soup Lunch & Short Reflections on Favourite Lent/Passiontide hymns by members of the Ministry Team at Los Boliches.

**7pm** Bible Study on the events of Holy Week - in the upper room at El Gusto's on the Boulevard, La Cala. Meeting on **Wed 4th and 18th March**

**and 1st April** (Details from John Sutton).

## Thursdays

'Where lost things go' ~ a Lent course based on the film 'Mary Poppins Return'. At the home of Marjorie Arthur in Alhaurin: **27th February at 2.30pm, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March and 2nd April at 3.00pm**

[More information on our website](#)

*'Lent is a solemn time, but it is not meant to be a miserable one... We may keep before us one of the most comforting and encouraging sayings of Jesus: 'I came that they might have life and have it abundantly.'*

**(Raymond Chapman)**

## Dates for your diary

**CALAHONDA** Coffee Mornings every Tuesday 10.30am at Los Olivos Café

**LOS BOLICHES'** Coffee Mornings every Wednesday 10am - 12:15pm

**BENELMADENA** Coffee Morning every Friday 11:00am

**CRAFT GROUP** at Los Boliches. Mondays 3:00pm - 5:00pm, Next meet on 2nd, 16th and 30th March. Make cards to sell for Church Funds. You don't have to be

artistic, and all materials are supplied. Enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit, and good company. You can help make cards for the Chaplaincy to sell for Church Funds if you would like to, or just enjoy the social get together!

**AGM** Wednesday 15 April 11am at Los Boliches. Eucharist followed by the Chaplaincy AGM and bring and share lunch.

Full details are available on our website  
[www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org](http://www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org)

The Anglican Chaplaincy of Saint Andrew Costa del Sol East

# EASTER RAFFLE

€1 a ticket or €4 for a strip of 5 Lots of great prizes!

To be drawn at Los Boliches coffee morning on Wednesday 8th April 2020

Tickets available from all worship centres  
[www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org](http://www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org)

The Anglican Chaplaincy of Saint Andrew



Costa del Sol East

[www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org](http://www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org)

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