



St Andrew's Chaplaincy

Newsletter September 2020

Welcome



Welcome to our September Newsletter.

Well, August seems to have passed quickly and while there's been many Spanish holiday-makers about – certainly in Los Boliches.

Many of the areas covered by our Chaplaincy soon became empty of any British visitors as quarantine restrictions were put in place for those returning to the UK. This must have had a devastating impact on hotels and local businesses, but has also meant we have had hardly any visitors to our Churches, which has been a great loss in many ways. It has been wonderful to be able to gather for worship and to share the Eucharist

together in three of our centres. But Church has been quite different as we follow the rules and regulations allowing us to gather. Having to wear masks, comply with social distancing, and not being able to sing properly has made for a quite different atmosphere. Then add the summer heat to all that, and not the easiest of times for any of us!

I think it has been good to acknowledge that while things may be difficult, good things have also emerged. There have been a number of very positive comments about the quieter, more reflective nature of our worship now on Sunday mornings. This is mainly caused by being masked and with a lack of music. Likewise, either humming or very quietly singing the two hymns has led to quite a few saying they are now concentrating more on the words

of the hymns and have found them good for reflection or helpful as prayers.

Our thanks must go to the small team of willing volunteers at Alhaurin and Calahonda who arrive early each week to clean the church before our use (as per the rules and regulations), and clean again after we finish. In the summer heat this has been a big commitment and something we will have to continue to do, until the regulations change. May we continue to find strength and support in our Chaplaincy family, as we get use to living this 'new normal' way of life – and be open to new opportunities and possibilities for being Church in this part of sunny Spain!

Fr Nigel

A Delay to re-starting Services at Benalmadena

It was with great sadness that I had to announce at Benalmadena's Coffee Morning the other Friday, that the Chaplaincy Council, after much thought, had decided to delay re-starting our services there, for the time being.

It was not an easy decision for the Council to make. While we are very disappointed for the small and faithful community at Benalmadena, we have to be sensible as to what we can realistically do at this time.

We very much want any new initiative there to be a success, but with our limited funds - which are reducing each month - with no real prospect of many visitors for the rest of the year, few Swallows likely to return this autumn (from what we have already been told), and few, if any, opportunities for social and fund raising gatherings coming up, we have to be totally realistic about the times we are now living in. Some Chaplaincies in our Archdeaconry have already had to stop

services because of local restrictions, and some have yet to open at all. For us, to open yet another small congregation in the Chaplaincy, sadly doesn't make any sense. We appreciate that it may not be easy for some to travel, but it has been good to welcome Benalmadena members to Sunday services at Alhaurin and/or Los Boliches on a Wednesday. We will see what more can be done to car-share etc. to make life easier for those who don't drive or are unable use public transport.

This is simply a delay - we are most certainly not pulling out of Benalmadena, as there is great potential there. Every area covered by our Chaplaincy has changed because of the world-wide restrictions now in place - as indeed our lives have changed, and we can't make any decision in isolation from all that. So we ask for your continued prayerful support for Council members in the months ahead as we try and steer the Chaplaincy in the right direction, and we all look forward to the time when we can re-open in Benalmadena.



At the time we are about to publish our Newsletter, plans are still being finalised for both the coastal and inland Groups. As soon as any information is available about dates, times and the programme we will let you know or please contact the leaders directly:

John Sutton
johnsutton2104@gmail.com
or Caroline
carriemachome@gmail.com

A reminder

For those who continue to self-isolate or find attending church difficult at the moment, we are still producing a slightly shorter version of the on-line service order we sent out during the lockdown. If you would like to receive this, please drop a line to CdSEpewsheets@gmail.com and we will gladly add you to the mailing list.

Life Long Learning

By Caroline Macfarlane

We hear a lot about the negatives that Covid has brought to our lives, so I would like to share one positive that has happened for me.

When I was at school and studying in the Health service for three years to gain my professional diploma, I don't think I really appreciated the joy of learning, it was a means to an end. Ten years into my working life however, I had the opportunity to go to college, day release, to study for a degree in Health Sciences.

I was terrified of the computer module of the course but went for it and loved it all. Learning became a wonderful experience. As mature students we were very competitive and worked hard to succeed. I achieved a 2:1 honors degree and one of my proudest days was being presented

with my degree in Coventry Cathedral.

When it came to Reader Training, I was again concerned how I would cope. This time I was worried how I would write essays having always been a scientist at heart, but again I needn't have worried, I achieved far better than I expected. Maybe we should trust that when God has plans for us, all will be well.

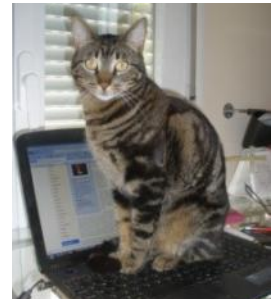
I have become a firm believer that we never stop learning in life, and since I have been licensed I have enjoyed the opportunity of further studies when they have arisen. The big problem has been that most courses involve travel and there were limited opportunities online. Since Covid this has all changed. For instance The Reader's Council in the UK is running a program of Lifelong Learning, and I have already taken a module in 'Online Worship' and am looking forward to the next module on 'Whole Life Preaching'.

I also discovered that one of my tutors from my Reader training was running an online workshop on 'Bible stories from

within' organized by a Christian charity CYARA. I signed up and thoroughly enjoyed it. It was fascinating, meeting people from all over Europe, some fellow Readers who I knew, but also new faces including a man who was in quarantine in a hotel room in Angola. It was all about taking a bible story and using one's imagination to build up a much more detailed picture. Perhaps I will provide an example I wrote for the next Newsletter.

The one disadvantage to online studies is that there isn't that opportunity to chat over coffee or a drink in the bar outside of lectures, but I am just enjoying the opportunities that have opened up in this strange new world and look forward to more to come.

One other small problem that I have is that one member of our household thinks that she should be involved when I am at my desk!



Antonio's going away gifts from the Chaplaincy

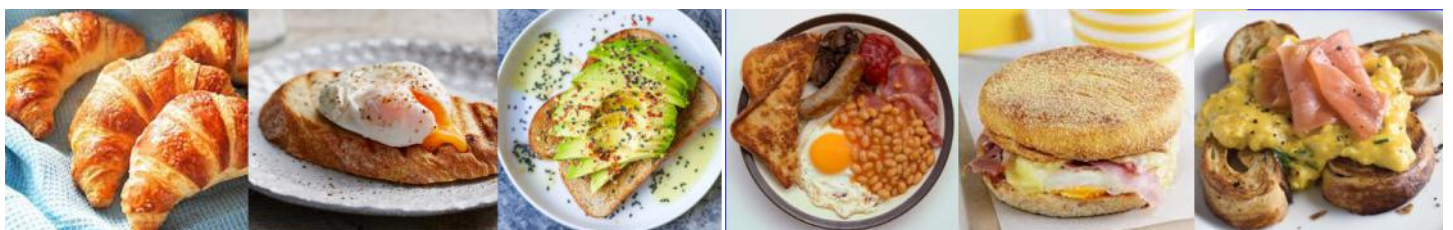


On Sunday 30th August, Fr Nigel presented Sandy Wright's son Antonio with items bought with money the Chaplaincy had collected for his University going away gifts.

Antonio leaves this month to study architecture in Granada. His course will start with half his lectures given at the faculty and half online.

With this in mind the Chaplaincy gave him a compact printer/scanner, a professional pencil set, a carry tube for his technical drawings, and money so that he can purchase items during the course.

Antonio is very grateful and would like to thank everyone for this very generous gift, the wonderful card and all the messages of support. It really is appreciated.



Enjoying a good breakfast!

The newly founded 'Calahonda Brekkietees' have enjoyed a Saturday morning 'get together' touring local restaurants, enjoying a variety of breakfast from a Full English to muffins, salmon, avocado and poached eggs.

Each venue had ample terrace space, Covid distanced tables, with plenty of cleaning implements!! We have tried four different venues, and next week we are upping the anti and aiming for the

dizzy heights of Treetops, El Chapperel.

Unfortunately numbers have had to be restricted due to recent rules, but hopefully numbers can be increased at a later date, welcoming more to enjoy friendship, a chat, a laugh, and a great munch.

Further details from Diane Bloor dianepb23@icloud.com

Visit our website www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org for Chaplaincy information

Forthcoming events

OCTOBER

4&7

Harvest Festival

Sunday 4 October

9.30am at Calahonda and 11.30am at Alhaurin

Wednesday 7 October 10.30am at Los Boliches

It will be good to support our local branches of Caritas help a growing number of families and individuals in our communities. So tinned food, long-life milk, pasta, rice, dried pulses, tomato frita, and litre bottles of cooking oil, would be most welcome.



OCTOBER

22

Chaplaincy Council Away Day

On Thursday 22 October members of the Chaplaincy Council and other key church workers are gathering together in one of the meeting rooms at Miraflores Golf Course to pray, think - hopefully 'outside of the box' as they say - and plan ahead for our life together as a Chaplaincy.

This is building on a similar day we held last year. Our meetings are usually about the nuts and bolts of running the Chaplaincy, so days like this provide us the time and space to be able to be more focused and hopefully more creative in our planning ahead, which is important and especially more so as we try and adapt to the changes imposed on us by the Covid pandemic.

This year we are going to be led by Leo Roberts - a former colleague of John Brown, who is a Church Training Officer and Development Officer. Please remember in your prayers all involved in preparing for this day and all who will give of their time to attend.



OCTOBER

28

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020

Church AGMs would normally have to take place by the end of April - but special dispensation was granted to all Churches this year, and we now have until the end of October to hold this meeting. We now plan to hold our APCM on Wednesday 28 October after the 10.30am Eucharist at Los Boliches.

It will be the strangest of AGM meetings for all of us, as AGMs are about reviewing the previous year, so to hold this meeting in the Autumn of 2020 will seem very strange. But it is a legal requirement and so I am sure we will do our best!

To reduce administrative costs, the Reports will be available on-line and will also be sent by email to all who request them - details will be available nearer the time.

Social and Fundraising Events

The Chaplaincy Council has now met several times by Zoom, which has worked remarkably well and saved on travel and frustration of finding somewhere to park!

We started looking ahead to our Autumn programme, but the 'new normal' way of living does seem to prevent us from having any form of reasonably sized social gathering at the moment - so very reluctantly, all social and fund raising events have been postponed. But please keep an eye on our website, facebook

page and future Newsletter emails, because as soon as things are relaxed I am sure events will happen!

Meanwhile, there is growing concern about our lack of fundraising and reduced collections with smaller congregational numbers. We encourage all who support us to review their giving and ask our 'Swallows' and regular visitors to consider setting up even a small monthly direct debit, to our UK or Spanish accounts, so the chances of still being here when they return is possible. (please see details on the next page)

NOVEMBER

30

A suggestion..... 30th November

Many churches have 'Gift Days' around their Patronal Festivals as a way of thanksgiving and support. Our Patronal Festival is St Andrew's Day ~ 30 November. Let's have a Gift Day this year, and perhaps give what we would normally have given to support our usual fund raising events during the year.

There may be other ways to raise money in these uncertain times. Someone may like to organise an online quiz for instance. Or can you think of anything else? Let's all hope & pray for a prosperous future for St Andrew's Chaplaincy and get thinking of how to raise much needed funds.

Notices

Supporting your Chaplaincy during this difficult time

Despite the easing of lock-down restrictions, there is still concern about our Chaplaincy finances.

We haven't had any visitors joining us since March and we haven't been able to hold any fund raising or social activities as usual. This means to date, our income is down by some 6000€. So Jen & John, our Churchwardens, would encourage those who are able, to consider making a bank transfer for their stewardship giving.

We are so grateful to all who have made recent offerings by bank transfers - these help us enormously. Whether we meet together or not, there are still bills to be paid. As time goes on, the chaplaincy's finances will be more and more challenged, therefore, they suggest that perhaps now is time to consider supporting our ministry by using a bank transfer, either to our Spanish or UK accounts:

Spain:

Bank: Unicaja
Account Name: Iglesias Anglicana De La Costa Del Sol Este
Swift/BIC:UCJAES2MXXX
IBAN: ES39 2103 0194 6500 3001 0341

UK:

Bank: Barclays Bank plc
Account name: Diocese in Europe Fund
Account number: 40317039
Sort code: 20-06-13
IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39
Swiftbic: BUKBGB22

Please include the reference: **CdSEast**
It is very important that you include the reference CdSEast – otherwise any offering may get lost in this account, which serves every Chaplaincy in the Diocese!

Thank you for your continued practical support.
Fr Nigel



Pastoral Care in the Chaplaincy continues

Please make contact should you simply need a chat, prayerful support or just quiet reassurance at this time. If there is someone you know who would value a call at this time, then please do email us in confidence - and then this can happen.

Fr Nigel - 608 403 024 vicar.costadelsol@gmail.com
Caroline - 697 867 377 - carriemachome@gmail.com

Don't forget our Prayer Chain - a small dedicated team who will pray for you or those you may be concerned about. It is done in complete confidence, and you will never be approached by a member of the Prayer Chain about your requests. Only first names are used and details are kept to a minimum.

For information about the Prayer Chain please contact Mike or Wendy Edwards at [cgsolprayer@gmail.com](mailto:cdsolprayer@gmail.com) or have a word with Caroline or Fr Nigel.



The Anglican Chaplaincy of Saint Andrew



Costa del Sol East

www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org

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Fr Nigel Stimpson.

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Churchwardens:

Jen Sutton 622 252 074 and John Brown 655 342 874

Reader:

Caroline Macfarlane 697 867 377

Safeguarding Officer:

John Brown 655 342 874 email: jrbafc@aol.com

Vergers:

Alhaurin: Janice Harris 638 058 661

Benalmadena: Sheila Allison 677 080 067

Calahonda: Pauline Hulme 633 405 884

Los Boliches: Di Mather