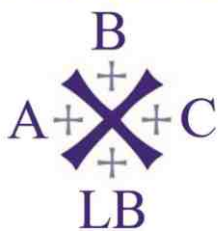


The Anglican Chaplaincy  
of Saint Andrew



Costa del Sol East

## Welcome



Autumn and has to be my favourite season. Even in our Mediterranean climate, there's something quite special about that time of year.

The colours of some of the trees and plants before their leaves fall, while others begin to thrive. The smell and general feel of the place. While we may not really care for the darkness of the winter months, we know that come next spring, God willing, there will be new life, with an abundance of colour. That is always our hope. Another reason why I like this time of year is that the Church's Season echoes so much of what goes on outside in the natural order. While autumn and winter is a time of death and remembering - so the Church also remembers, with All Saints, All Souls days and Remembrance Sunday. A time of remembering, but with thanksgiving and to be reminded of the need to regularly pray for peace in our world today.

Meanwhile our Autumn Church calendar seems to be increasingly busy with services, and social/fund raising events. Our small faithful band of helpers in each church centre, are working hard with their plans and preparations so that we can enjoy these events and support our Chaplaincy. Why not bring a friend or family member who doesn't normally come to church with you? You may be surprised - they may even enjoy themselves and hopefully want to join us one Sunday, or for one of the special services we are holding at this time of year.

*Fr Nigel*

# St Andrew's Chaplaincy

## Newsletter October 2019

### Thoughts for the month...



#### *Harvest. God in a basket?*

**Its surprising how much of God's character is revealed to us through food. All our major understanding of God's work has food somewhere attached to it.**

At the very beginning of the creation story we read that God placed humankind (Adam and Eve) in the garden where there was an abundance of fruit. They were given permission to eat of any of the fruit with the exception of the one tree. We read of the delight that existed as God walked in the cool of the evening with Adam and Eve.

This speaks to me of a creative God who loved His creation and who provided for it in abundance. We know that things went wrong because of mankind's disobedience, but right at the beginning "God saw that it was good."

Another important story which reveals more of God to us is that of Joseph. The evil plotting of his brothers saw Joseph being sold into slavery in Egypt, but through God's intervention the situation was turned round to the point that Joseph rose to the highest ranking official in the nation, and through the dreams of seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine provision to save the crops meant both Egypt and its surrounding neighbours were saved from starvation. We see a God who breaks into our history to fulfil His purposes and provides for His people.

Later still in the Old Testament we have the Passover. The scene again is Egypt, but this time all the people of God are enslaved to the Egyptian overlords. Following the plagues, Moses is instructed to prepare the People of God to paint the doorposts and lintels with the blood of sacrificed lambs so the they would be protected from the judgement of God on the

nation of Egypt. The meal they were to eat was in readiness for their release. Their escape from Egypt took them across the Red Sea and into the Negev desert where they wandered for 40 years, and during that whole time they never lacked for food. We read that the needs of every individual were fully met by the provision of God's Manna.

Again we see a God who is able to overcome human obstacles to set His people free to 'Worship Him on His Holy Mountain'.

There are many other events surrounded by a meal in scripture where we learn more of God, but perhaps the most significant is in the sharing of bread and wine. As Jesus offered bread to His disciples at the yearly festival of Passover, He offered it as a memorial of His body which would be given as the one perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. He also offered wine as a memorial of His blood, again in memory of all that God has done to restore that broken relationship. The followers of Jesus are commanded to repeat this memorial act each time they share bread and wine, in remembrance of all that God has done for us.

Harvest reminds us of all God's provision for us through the bounty of the land.

Perhaps the next time we stand in that long queue in the supermarket and we look deeply into the shopping basket with heavy hearts, we will be reminded of all that God has done for us, and be thankful.

## Why people go to church

**Found in a Grandmother's notebook, dated 1909. A reflection of Victorian village life...**

Some go to church just for a walk, some to stare, and laugh and talk.

Some go there to meet a friend, some their idle time to spend.

Some for general observation, some for private speculation.

Some to seek a friend or lover, some a courtship to discover.

Some go there to use their eyes, and newest fashions criticise.

Some to show their own smart dress, some their neighbours to assess.

Some to scan a robe or bonnet, some to price the trimmings on it.

Some to learn the latest news, that friends at home they may amuse.

Some go there to please the Squire, some his daughter to admire.

Some the Parson go to fawn, some to lounge and some to yawn.

Some to claim the parish doles, some for bread and some for coals.

Some because it's thought genteel, some to flaunt their pious zeal.

Some go there just for the name, others go to sound their fame.

Some to show how sweet they sing, some how loud their voices ring.

Some the Preacher go to hear, his style and voice to praise or jeer.

Some forgiveness to implore, some their sins to vanish o'er.

Some to sit and doze and nod, but more to kneel and worship God.

*How much has changed 100 years later?*



## November, a time for remembering

**'Remember remember the 5th of November, Gunpowder treason and plot' the verse we sang as children may have felt appropriate to sing again in recent times, but it is relevant in that November is a time when we do remember.**

The very ability to remember is in itself a gift from God. It can be fun to remember important times in our lives, perhaps our wedding day or the birth of a child in the family, a wonderful holiday or birthday celebration and what fun can be had sharing stories and going back over old photographs. Those memories stay with us and how often do we find it easier to recall those times rather than what happened yesterday!

When we lose a loved one, we talk about the memories we shared that death cannot take away. As Christians we remember that Christ died for us each time we re-enact the last supper when we celebrate Holy Communion.

Remembering should stir within us a sense of gratitude and appreciation, even though inevitably there will be some sadness, not all our memories are good; some are bad and can make us weep but that doesn't mean we don't need to visit them sometimes.

This November let's not just look back but also let's reflect on how our memories help us to move forward doing our part in serving God and others.

On 1st November, All Saints Day, we remember all the Christian saints and martyrs, followed by All Souls Day on 2nd November - when we remember all those we ourselves have loved and lost. Then on 11th November we remember those who died in two world wars and conflicts since.

Many question the relevance of looking back and remembering, but holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel suggests that *'without memory there is no culture. Without memory there would be no civilization, no society, no future'*.

## Recent News

### Chaplaincy Away Day

The Chaplaincy held a 'Vision and Strategy Away Day' on 26th October 2019, with the objective of beginning to map out where we think we might be as a Chaplaincy in the future. Church Council member and invited guests attended the day at Los Boliches.

The day began with an opening Eucharist followed by ice breakers, when we

all said something about ourselves that no one else knew, giving us all a little more insight into each other.

We then had an open discussion about the future of the Chaplaincy, what we thought we were doing well, areas that we could improve, and how this fit in with the Strategy for the Diocese in Europe. Subjects such as publicity, work with young people and families, pastoral care, and styles of worship, were discussed. This continued

after lunch at a local restaurant.

The day was a start to thinking about what the Chaplaincy's strategy can be to fulfil our calling to follow Christ to move forwards in our journey in faith. Through debate and through reflecting together, in listening to each other and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit through the worship we shared on the day, we made a start on mapping out our future strategy, and the enjoyable day was closed by worship



### Joint Chaplaincy Eucharist

On September 29th 2019 the Joint Chaplaincy Eucharist was held at Benalmádena, and was followed by brunch which was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all those involved.



# Recent Celebrations

## Harvest Thanksgiving



The Harvest Thanksgiving Services took place on Sunday 6th October at all four worship centres. Alhaurin held an 'informal' eucharist for all the family, and in the evening a joint Harvest Praise Service featuring the TAPAS choir, followed by refreshments. Harvest gifts of dried and tinned food were collected to support local Caritas.



## Quiet Day on CREATION

On 11th October fifteen of us enjoyed a quiet day at the home of Linda and Peter Hammond.

The morning was spent exploring various reflections on creation that Linda had set up around the garden, lots of food for thought and discussion when we got back together.

Food of a different kind was enjoyed with a delicious 'bring and share' lunch. Then in the afternoon we had to get our brains working with a quiz Hilary had prepared for us on Environmental issues.



The day concluded with a Celtic Communion Service at where we all handed in pledges of efforts we are going to make individually to help the environment.

Thank you to Peter and Linda for their hospitality and also to Hilary for all the hard work involved in preparing the day. We came away inspired to do more to care for God's wonderful gift to us of this world which we enjoy.

## Autumn Fair at Calahonda

With a forecast of rain, we were delighted to hold our Autumn Fair in glorious sunshine on 19th October at Calahonda.

The day began on a high and ended even higher. We had representation from all the churches in our chaplaincy. Fr. Nigel worked tirelessly along side Rev'd John Sutton cooking bacon and sausages for an endless line of diners.

There were stalls rented by none church members and a bar run by the Lions Club La Cala. Visitors were kept entertained by A Touch of Class and Reflections (barber shop).

We ate, drank, bought some interesting stuff, chatted, and were entertained. It was a great Chaplaincy day out. Pauline Hulme co-ordinated the event which like any took a lot of hard work from a whole team of people, planning, publicity, preparing the goods, setting up tables and chairs and gathering together bottles, bric-a-brac, crafts and food and drink, and clearing away, but it was done with good servants' happy hearts. Thank you Heavenly Father for giving us the strength to do it.



Seeds were planted, and good will extended to the local community including a local lady who had never been to church before. To our great delight she arrived the day after for our 9.30 service, and on top of all this a good amount of money was raised for our Chaplaincy.

I don't think anyone could have failed to soak up the happy friendly welcoming atmosphere from start to finish.



## Do you have an email address? Sign up to receive our newsletter by email...

To receive this Chaplaincy Newsletter in the future via email please go to our website

**www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org**

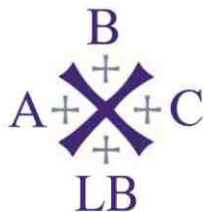
and at the base of every page you will see a link to click to take you to our subscription form.

Once you have signed up you will receive the newsletter in an email, this being the most cost effective way for the chaplaincy to distribute the newsletter and keep in contact with you.

Please also encourage your friends to subscribe.

There will still be a limited number of printed copies of the Newsletter available for those who do not have email.

### The Anglican Chaplaincy of Saint Andrew



Costa del Sol East

#### Chaplain:

Fr Nigel Stimpson. Tel: (0034) 608 403 024

Home: 952 472 140 Email: vicar.costadelsol@gmail.com

#### 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: jrbafo@aol.com

#### Vergers:

Janice Harris 638 058 661 (Alhaurin),

Sheila Allison 677 080 067 (Benalmadena),

Pauline Hulme 633 405 884 (Calahonda)

**www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org**

# Dates for your diary

## Coffee Mornings

Every **Tuesday** at Calahonda 10.30am meeting at Los Olivos Café at 10:30am

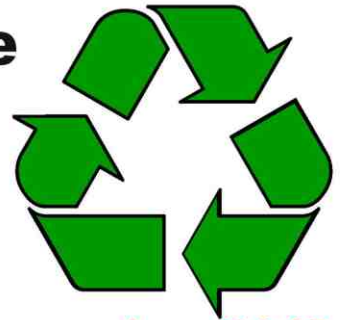
Every **Wednesday** at St Andrews Los Boliches 10am - 12:15pm including a cake stall, bric a brac, craft and books

**Visit to the Recycling facility** Hilary Tompkins has arranged a visit to the Recycling facility in Casares on Friday 15th November 2019. A coach will leave La Cala around 9.30am. For more information or to book a seat please email Hilary on [hjtompkins@gmail.com](mailto:hjtompkins@gmail.com) or message her on Facebook : [www.facebook.com/hilary.tompkins](http://www.facebook.com/hilary.tompkins)

**Christmas Fair** at Los Boliches on Saturday 23rd November - 11am - 2pm

*Look out for full details at our worship centres, on facebook and on our website.*

## Visit to the recycling facility in Casares



**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

A coach will leave La Cala around 9.30am. For more information or to book a seat please email Hilary on [hjtompkins@gmail.com](mailto:hjtompkins@gmail.com) or message via Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hilary.tompkins](http://www.facebook.com/hilary.tompkins)

## Christmas Fair

St Andrew's Church, Los Boliches

**Saturday 23rd November**

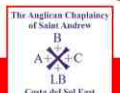
**11am - 2pm**

*Everyone's welcome*



- Bacon butties ★ Hot dogs
- Cake stall ★ Tea/coffee
- Bar ★ Bottle stall
- Crafts ★ Books
- Bric-a-brac ★ Clothes
- Tombola ★ Raffle

**www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org**



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