



St Andrew's Chaplaincy

Newsletter July 2020

Welcome



Welcome to our first Newsletter since February!

As you read this, preparations have been made for our first gathering for worship since the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions banned all gatherings.

There's been a mixture of feelings and emotions about it all – from joy and excitement about being able to share the Eucharist together, after so many weeks of not being able to meet, to having quite a heavy responsibility to make sure that all the rules and regs governing our return, are carried for everyone's safety and well-being. The Chaplaincy Council have also met recently and have started looking ahead to our Autumn programme, by which time we hope the 'new normal' will allow us to be more flexible, and we will all feel more confident about gathering in greater numbers for worship and social events. It was a very positive meeting as we face new challenges.

It's a strange time, but hopefully one we can feel confident about as we support one another in our Church community and also our wider communities. Over the last few months there has been an excellent informal networking of care going on in the Chaplaincy. I hope this can continue as we all emerge from the lockdown at our own different pace.

May we all find strength and support in our Chaplaincy family, as we enter this 'new normal' – which I am sure will offer new opportunities and possibilities for being Church in this part of sunny Spain!

Fr Nigel

Just a thought

This week I have received a few cards from friends, marking my Silver Jubilee of Ordination as a priest on 2 July. One of the cards has a picture of 'The Light of the World' by the English Pre-Raphaelite artist William Holman Hunt (1827-1910). It's a popular picture, based on a verse from Revelation 3: 20 – "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

As a young man, Holman Hunt shook the artistic world when he exhibited the painting in 1854 – and it caused a sensation in both religious and artistic circles. John Ruskin, a leading Victorian art critic, at the time, described it as 'one of the very noblest works of sacred art ever produced in

this or any age.' For the next 20 years after that first exhibition, many copies of 'The Light of the World' were made, while the original was housed in a private collection. On the death of the collector, the painting was presented to Keble College, Oxford. However, Holman Hunt wasn't too happy with the way that the College kept the painting, so decided to paint the subject again, so that it might be available for the world to see. This time, the painting was twice as large as the 1854 version and was first displayed in 1904. It was then sent on exhibition around the world and was finally hung in St Paul's Cathedral, where it is still on display today.

It would appear that Holman Hunt intended to show Jesus standing outside the door to the individual's heart. The door may never have been opened. The doorway is overgrown with weeds, and there is no handle visible. As a consequence, Jesus can only knock, but it is up to the

individual to open the door and to trust the 'Light of the World', with his symbolic lantern to guide him or her through the darkness of the world outside.

It was a nice card to receive for my ordination anniversary, and I think the image can remind all of us that through the lives we lead, we too can show something of the Light of the World. By the importance we place on worshipping as a community, and how we treat one another. For many people today the world is a dark place at the moment, even as we emerge from the lockdown and find restrictions being lifted. Some are happy simply to get on with their lives, while others are being more careful. The ministry of Jesus, the Light of the World is ours today, both priest and people, working creatively together, as we seek to build up the kingdom of God in this place.

We praise you, O God, that the light of Christ shines in the darkness of our world,

and that the darkness has not overcome it; we pray that his light may shine more and more into our lives, illuminating our minds with the knowledge of the truth and enabling us to walk in the way of holiness and love; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Wednesday 24th June at Los Boliches

On Wednesday 24th June 20 of us met for our first service together since the lockdown. The whole occasion was very special although very different to what we are used to.

The contrasts were many, but interestingly not bad or good - just different. Entering a quiet church where everyone was seated in silence, at a distance, all wearing masks, instead of the usual buzz of friends chatting in groups felt very strange but allowed a much more reflective experience.

This continued during the hymn when not being allowed to sing Father Nigel suggested we hum or just reflect on the words. As much as many of us enjoy and have missed singing together over recent months, the opportunity to take in the words of a new hymn was special.

No sharing of the Peace as we know it, we were led in the sharing of 'Jazz Hands'! When I mentioned this to someone later in the day who visits church only rarely they said how much better they would have coped with that as they don't enjoy the Peace at all.

Father Nigel moved around among us to administer Communion, his taking the bread to each individual who removed their masks to receive was symbolic in many ways and also very emotional.

Afterwards there was not the usual sharing of refreshments, but friends who had been apart for too long couldn't resist the opportunity to have a brief chat, at a safe distance of course!

Having waited anxiously for the right time to join back together for our services, not knowing how the 'new normal' would feel, there is plenty for us to look forward to and enjoy as we adapt to different ways of worshipping.



Wednesday's service was followed by our first Council meeting since January.

The standing committee have been meeting weekly via Zoom, but it was good to be back together face to face all be it in our selection of masks, plus Jon Tait joining us via video link (how technical we have all become).

What could have been a difficult meeting as we face some challenging times ahead with the current situation was in fact very uplifting as we talked enthusiastically but realistically about what we have learned and what we have to face.



Sunday 29th June at Calahonda

San Miguel in Calahonda opened its doors to the Chaplaincy congregation on Sunday 28th June 2020. It was wonderful to see friends from both Calahonda and Los Boliches.

The service had to be different, but all 20 of us were glad to be there, to join in worship and to share in the Eucharist in a reduced form, humming to hymns and sharing the Peace from where we sat - a joyful moment.



Sunday 29th June at Alhaurin



After preparing the church following the new hygiene guidelines, we opened our doors once more for worship at Alhaurin on Sunday 28th June 2020 with a congregation of 17.



The experience was different to what we are accustomed to, wearing face masks and keeping our distance, humming to the hymns, and using 'jazz hands' to share the peace with one another which was a lovely idea. We went up one at a time with open hands to receive communion from a masked Fr. Nigel, taking our masks off only briefly to consume the host.

It was lovely to see everyone again after so long and the occasion was very special. Not knowing what it would feel like I think we all came away heartened.



Forthcoming Events



Thanksgiving Eucharist

Thursday 2 July, 10.30am

Thanksgiving Eucharist at St Andrew's, Los Boliches

This will be a 'quiet,' said celebration, as I celebrate my Silver Jubilee of ordination as a priest. Plans were in hand for a thanksgiving celebration with a visiting preacher etc. As this has been postponed, we can do this later in the year incorporating a celebration of all ministry. Under the present circumstances something less grand, will be just fine and I hope you can join me on Thursday as I give thanks for the privilege of serving the Church in this special way.

Fr Nigel

Annual General Meeting 2020

All AGMs would normally have to take place by the end of April – but special dispensation has been granted to all Churches, and we now have until the end of October!

A date has not been fixed by our Chaplaincy Council, as we are still waiting to see how things develop with regards to rules and regs for gatherings. Last year we had 40 people attend our AGM – we would not be allowed to use St Andrew's, Los Boliches for that number of people at the moment. So we plan to meet at the end of September or beginning of October and hope social distancing has been suitably reduced so that we can meet in comfort!

Supporting your Chaplaincy during this difficult time

A big thank you to all those who have brought in their offertory and stewardship envelopes, which have been a great help and support for Chaplaincy ministry. Even though we have started gathering again for worship, it's still possible to arrange a bank transfer to support our ministry here, either to our Spanish or UK accounts. If you have any questions about this, please have a word with our Treasurer, Graham Bloor.

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

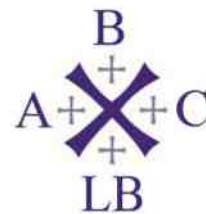
Contact details for the Chaplain, Reader and Wardens are readily available on our website and have been included in each mailing during the Lockdown period. Even during this phased return of gathering for worship, please do make contact should you simply need a chat, prayerful support or just quiet reassurance during this time, which for some continues to have many challenges. If there is someone you know who would value a call, then please do email us in confidence – and then this can happen.

This unprecedented time has revealed a lack of a comprehensive list of our Chaplaincy members with names, phone numbers and/or emails contact details. Like all Churches in the Diocese we have the Electoral Roll, with names and addresses, which isn't very useful at times like these! It's partly due to the Data Protection laws and what we can do with your information. The Chaplaincy phone I inherited on arrival, clearly has contact information that's long out of date, so that hasn't been very useful either.

It's been really encouraging to know there has been an excellent, active informal networking of care and concern going on throughout this challenging time. But it would be good to have a list of names and telephone numbers to build on that pastoral networking, for the future.

So we plan to create a Pastoral Contact List with names, 'phone numbers and emails of our members. To conform to the Data Protection laws everyone will have to sign the form as they give this information – which will then only be used by the Chaplain and Ministry Team under his direction, for pastoral care reasons. It will not for promoting Chaplaincy events for example. You can of course, choose not to have your name or contact details on this list – but then, please don't complain if no one get's in touch....!! Forms for this new Pastoral Contacts List will be available soon.

The Anglican Chaplaincy
of Saint Andrew



Costa del Sol East

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