

# St Andrew's Chaplaincy

Newsletter October 2020

## Welcome

### Welcome to our October Newsletter

Many thanks indeed for the very positive feedback following our Autumn Newsletter, which was the first to be published since we went into lockdown. It's so affirming for all involved in producing it, to have that support and encouragement – thank you!

As this Edition is being prepared, we are getting ready to celebrate our Harvest Festival Sunday (4 October - 9.30am at Calahonda, 11.30am at Alhaurin and on 7 October - 10.30am at Los Boliches) and there are several articles with a creation and harvest theme. We may have to wear masks for our services, but it is still good to be able to quietly sing those popular harvest hymns.

I usually say that Church life just seems to get busier when Harvest arrives and doesn't really stop until the arrival of Christmas! This year will probably be the same, although perhaps without the usual social and fund raising events. As long as there are no restrictions about services taking place, we plan to hold our usual special Services for All Souls-tide, Remembrance Sunday, our Patronal Festival – St Andrew's Day, and hopefully special services for Advent. They may well have to be a bit different in order for us to comply with the rules and regs that allow us to meet, but I firmly believe that it is better to be able to meet for worship in these new ways, than have our churches closed. I was quite shocked to discover the other day, that many churches in the UK remain firmly closed, with no indication as to when they are to re-open, so I think we are extremely lucky - even though it is a pain to have to wear a mask and hold back from any hearty singing of our favourite hymns!

We do seem to be in a state of regular change as the Governments of every county respond to increases in Covid-19 infections. So it may be that we have to cancel a service at short notice, but we will do our best to let everyone know. Please make a point to follow our Facebook page and Website for up-to-date information, especially if you miss a Sunday.

The 'New Normal' has seen us all trying to get on with our lives and supporting one another the best we can. May we continue to find strength and support in our Chaplaincy family, and be open to new opportunities and possibilities for being Church in this part of sunny Spain!

Fr Nigel



## A Reflection... *All things bright and beautiful*

A question to get us started.... Was Mrs C. F. Alexander (1818-1895) a modern day environmentalist? This famous hymn, loved by many and used in Primary Schools as an "easy hymn", sung especially at Harvest Festivals, but also weddings and even funerals, simply because people at least know the refrain. It was first published in 1848 and is quite possibly inspired by Psalm 104 verses 24 – 25.

Most hymn books have two tunes for this hymn: All things bright and beautiful composed by W H Monk (1823–1889) and Royal Oak, which is an English traditional melody from the 17th Century arranged by M Shaw (1875–1958). This can be a problem for clergy and organists alike - Which tunes will the congregation know...?

The words of the hymn may sound strange to our ears today. "Purple headed

mountains," - "The rich man in his castle, / the poor man at his gate, / God made them high or lowly, / And ordered their estate." - "...the rushes by the water, / we gather everyday"

The Anglican Church in Australia have made some alterations - "The wild flowers in their beauty / the mountain ranges tall / the billabongs and the rivers / and friendly birds that call". More changes further reflecting Australia include - "The coloured walls of gorges / the gum trees green and tall / the rocks and pools, and palm trees, the sparkling waterfall". Verse 4 is " The many-coloured corals, the creatures of the sea / of bushland, field or desert / on farms, or roaming free."

Even Monty Python couldn't resist parodying the hymn when they used this in a sketch - "All things dull and ugly, All creatures short and squat, All things rude and



nasty, The Lord God made the lot"

Changes apart, the wonderful words of the refrain remain forever true: "He gave us eyes to see them and lips that we might tell/ how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well."

With ever-growing environmental concerns and protests frequently in the news, saving the world may be beyond our personal ability, but we can make a difference

where we are. Check what we buy, be it food or clothes, or emissions from our cars and the like. Know your 'footprint', as they say. We can do this confident that God created the world, and that creation is good. We are the ones who are destroying his handiwork by our greed, and perhaps more so by our indifference.

God creates all things for good. Creation is good. As we are reminded in Genesis 1:31 - "**God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.**"

# We cannot ignore the climate crisis

WE'RE IN THE EARTH'S  
OVERDRAFT AND IT  
IS TIME TO RESTORE  
THE BALANCE

tearfund ACTION



In this season of Creation, Author and theologian Ruth Valerio reflects on why the church cannot ignore the climate crisis.

People ask, 'What does climate change have to do with the Christian faith?' In a nutshell: it's an issue of justice. Sir David Attenborough's new documentary Extinction: The Facts, brought home the damage that humanity continues to do to creation, and about the extreme and unfair impacts on those living in poverty.

Creation was made by Jesus, through Jesus and for Jesus (Colossians 1:16). That's a stunning declaration of our planet's worth. This is a world full of diversity and abundance and colour. The Bible shows that God, people and the natural world are deeply interconnected.

The climate crisis is wreaking havoc in our world, putting millions of lives at risk. We are seeing the outworking of a global system built on **greed and overconsumption**. As global temperatures rise, rains are becoming less reliable and droughts, floods and storms are becoming more frequent and extreme.

For those who are already vulnerable, this is a life-threatening emergency that is pushing them further into poverty. The climate crisis is a justice issue.

This is even more evident when we reflect on what it means that we're made 'in the image of God' (Genesis 1:26-28).

Firstly, it speaks of the absolute equality between people. Acting justly means looking beyond ourselves to our global neighbours living in countries that do not have the financial protection or healthcare that we do.

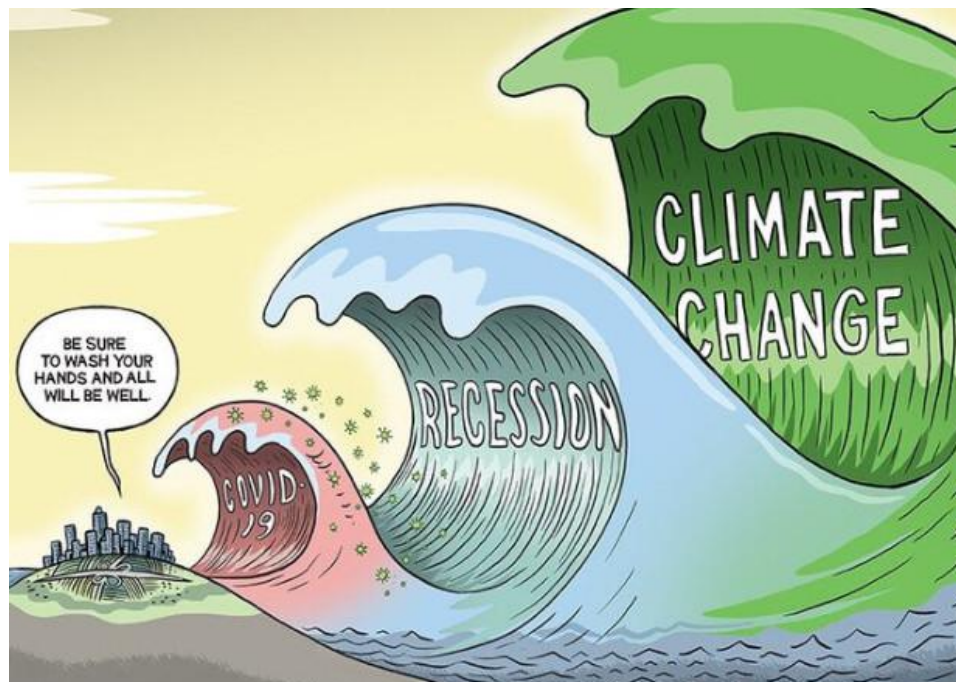
Secondly, being made in the image of God defines our relationship with the whole of creation. We are God's representatives, created to serve and look after the rest of what he has made.

**As Christians and churches we have a crucial role in calling for, and working towards, a world that allows everyone to flourish.**

Followers of Jesus need to be at the forefront of protecting and restoring his creation. The climate crisis is a huge and urgent challenge that requires all of us to play our part.

Proverbs 31:9 says: 'Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.' We are called as Christians to stand up for justice, calling on those in positions of power to make decisions that protect the most vulnerable people and the Earth we all rely on. Standing together in prayer and action to see a breakthrough in the climate crisis.

*Taken from Tearfund ACTION*



Useful links for further reading



[www.tearfund.org/about\\_you/action](http://www.tearfund.org/about_you/action)



[www.hopeinaction.uk](http://www.hopeinaction.uk)

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# Forthcoming events & diary dates

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.

NOVEMBER

1  
SUNDAY

## All Saints Sunday

### Sunday 1 November

9.30am at Calahonda and 11.30am at Los Boliches

We are all probably aware that All Saints/All Souls-tide is a busy time at most Spanish Cemeteries when families visit to tend the graves and lay flowers. There's something quite special about that, especially when you think of many unloved and untended UK cemeteries. We are particularly aware of the increased number of people visiting at Alhaurin on the Sunday around this important Festival, so much so that we can find it almost impossible to park and our worship disturbed.

It has been decided **NOT** to hold a service this year at Alhaurin on Sunday 1 November. Instead there will be services at 9.30am at Calahonda and 11.30am at Los Boliches which we can attend.

NOVEMBER

2  
MONDAY

## All Souls Day

### Monday 2 November 2020

10.30am Requiem Eucharist at Los Boliches

When we remember our departed loved ones and friends by name. Lists available at the back of Church for names of people you would like remembered at these service, which hope you will attend.

and **Thursday 5 November 2020**

4.00pm A Service of Remembrance – at Alhaurin el Grande Chapel.

NOVEMBER

5  
THURSDAY

NOVEMBER

30  
MONDAY

## St Andrew's Day

### Monday 30 November

10.30am Sung Eucharist at Los Boliches for our Patronal Festival

(Owing of restrictions, it is sadly not possible to serve refreshments afterwards this year)

This year we plan to include a 'Gift Day' as part of our Patronal Festival celebrations. Many churches have 'Gift Days' as a way of thanksgiving and further support for their Church's ministry.

It has been suggested that perhaps we may be able to give what we would normally have given to support our usual fund raising and social events that have not been held during the year....

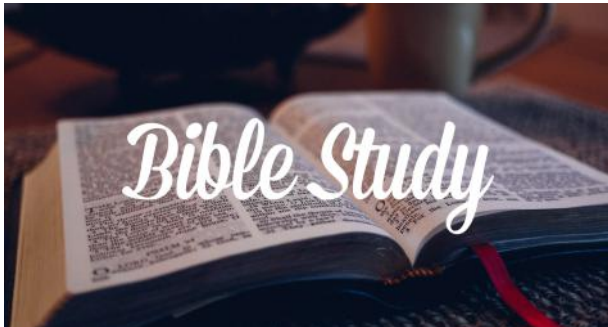


# Notices

## 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 **CdSEpewsheet@gmail.com** and we will gladly add you to the mailing list.



### Bible Study Groups are now up and running!

Both the coastal and inland groups are meeting via Zoom. Please contact the leaders directly for information and they can send you the links to join:  
John Sutton **johnsutton2104@gmail.com**  
or Caroline **carriemachome@gmail.com**

## Handmade Christmas Cards

Handmade Christmas Cards made by our creative 'crafty members' and sold at the Christmas Fair will still be available, despite not being able to hold our fund-raising Fairs.

If you would like to know more or would like to order specifically religious or more general Christmas cards, please contact Sandra Standen: **msstanden@live.co.uk**

## Autumn Raffle

**Please support our Autumn Raffle (a re-launch of our Easter Raffle!)**

It will now be drawn at the AGM on 28 October and there are some really good prizes!

Tickets are available in each centre. Please be generous and support this initiative, as we have been unable to hold our usual social/fund raising events since March.

## Another Great Raffle Prize

The Monday Club is a group of ladies in Coin who enjoy quilting.

They have made lap quilts for Cudeca, for Caritas, for the Children's home in Alhaurin and have kindly donated quilts to us for our raffles in the past. Their quilts are always beautiful, so when asked if we would like one for our raffle this year we were delighted.

For a chance to win this quilt along with a host of other wonderful prizes please see Sheila Allison or your vergers for tickets.



### 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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