

St Andrew's Chaplaincy

Newsletter November 2020

Welcome

Welcome to our
November Newsletter



Autumn and has to be my favourite season. There's something quite special about this time of year. We may not experience the season in Spain with all the wonderful colours of the trees and plants before their leaves fall as we do in the UK and other countries, but there is still a difference to the general feel around us with cooler evenings and early mornings, which is good after the intensity of the summer heat.

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. At the very beginning of November we kept All Saints Day - a time when we remember those real men and women of every age, in whose lives we can glimpse something of God and heaven.

The following day we kept All Soul's Day, when we remember our own departed loved ones - and other people who have touched our lives in some special way. Ordinary folk whom we have loved and respected - warts and all.

Remembrance Sunday soon follows, which still has painful memories for so many, and yet it is so crucial that each

generation remembers and then works and prays earnestly for peace.

At the very end of the month - even if the Advent Season has started, we get chance to celebrate St Andrew - our Patron. There will be a service at Los Boliches on Monday 30 Nov. at 10.30am. Sadly this year we can't gather to share a meal or refreshments afterwards (the rules and regs we follow to allow us to meet for worship, are quite clear about not encouraging or offering social gatherings afterwards - the fact that many meet up afterwards in local bars and restaurants, is a matter of personal choice!!).

I do hope each congregation will be well represented at that service, when we can give thanks for our Chaplaincy and pray for one another in these strangest of times.

Fr Nigel

A Reflection... *Miriam's Story*

Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them: **"Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea."** (Exodus 15:20-21)

Miriam's story

We stood by the shore, having crossed by dry land as the waters parted, and watched the chaos as Pharo's men their chariots and horses were engulfed by the sea as it closed around them. So many people, with all the possessions they could carry plus their few animals,

there were thousands of us yet for the briefest of moments there was a feeling of stillness and all that we could hear was the crash of the waves. It was as if not one of us could believe that after years of hardship and living as slaves we were finally free. As I gazed around at the hoards of people I felt an excitement bubbling up inside me, I needed to celebrate, to thank God for our freedom. I grabbed my tambourine and began to do what I loved to do so much, to dance, but now at last I had real reason to do so and enjoy it. Others followed and in no time a great group of women were dancing and laughing with such joy. As we danced I sang praises to God who had kept his promise and



led us to freedom. There may be difficult times ahead but in that moment we used the gifts we had to express our gratitude to God.

Father God, I thank you for the freedoms I enjoy in my life. Help me to appreciate that there are more ways to express our love to you than just words. Amen.

Sign up to receive future newsletters via email. Visit our website to find out how....

Chaplaincy Away Day

On Thursday 22 October around twenty people met via Zoom for our at home 'Away Day'.

We had planned to gather together in one of the meeting rooms at Miraflores Golf Course with Leo Roberts. Leo, a former colleague of John Brown, is a Church Training and Development Officer, and was going to come out to lead the day. But with all the increasing number of restrictions coming into play, it was decided to hold a morning session on Zoom instead.

Away Days gives Church Council members and other key church workers, time to pray, think - hopefully 'outside of the box' as they say - and plan ahead for our life together as a Chaplaincy. We were building on a similar day held last year. Our regular Council meetings are usually about the nuts and bolts of running the Chaplaincy, so this provide us the time and space to be able to be

more focused and hopefully more creative in our planning ahead.

After an Opening Prayer, Bible reading and reflection Leo gave a brief introduction about himself and then set us with three questions to ask in our small groups – the wonders of Zoom means participants can be organized into 'Breakout Rooms' for small group discussions.

We discussed our Ministry of Welcome, Pastoral responsibilities, Worship, Congregation and outreach social activities, how we use our building – while mentioning publicity and communications along the way. All of these overlap of course, but on each topic we asked:

- a) *What do we do well*
- b) *what could we do better?*
- c) *What would our congregations look/feel like if we made changes?*

Calahonda Brekkieteers

Every Saturday the Brekkieteers keep on the move enjoying a variety of excellent breakfasts traditional English, Spanish, avocado, poached eggs, salmon on muffins etc.

So far they have been able to sit outside, socially distanced and lap up some quite spectacular views, enjoying great conversations and laughter. To date they have traveled to Treetops El Faro, Churreria Cafe del Sol Elvira, Calanova Golf La Cala, Bridges in Riviera, The Terrace Calahonda, Snack Attack Jardin Botanico, and The Times in La Cala. They have even made a return visit to some already. Apparently if you love fried bread....Bridges is the place to go!

Further details from Diane Bloor dianepb23@icloud.com



New Chaplaincy Pastoral Contact List

Please watch out for the new Chaplaincy Pastoral Contact List forms available in each church, or available to download from our website.

The lockdown period revealed that we don't have a comprehensive list of our Chaplaincy members with names and contact details, such as phone numbers and/or emails. Like all Churches in the Diocese we have the Electoral Roll, with names and addresses, but that isn't very useful at times like the Covid-19 pandemic.

There is already an excellent, active, informal networking of care and concern going on throughout the Chaplaincy. But it would be good to have a list of names and telephone numbers to build on that pastoral networking for the future.

Our new Pastoral Contact List with names, 'phone numbers and emails of our members, will conform to the Data Protection laws - you will have to sign this form, giving permission for us to keep this information for Pastoral care reasons. The information will be used only by the Chaplain and Ministry Team,

under his direction. It will not be used for promoting Chaplaincy events, for example. There is an additional, optional question about your next of kin or someone who lives in Spain, who can be contacted in an emergency, which may be particularly useful if you live alone.

We look forward to receiving your completed forms soon - 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....!!

NOVEMBER

26

THURSDAY

Ministry of Welcome

As a way forward we are planning to have another Zoom 'Away Day' to discuss our **Ministry of Welcome** on Thursday 26 November from 10.30am to 12.30pm - and you are warmly invited to join us in our Zoom discussions.

It would be good to involve more people in this important part of our ministry as a Chaplaincy.

Please contact Fr Nigel vicar.costadelsol@gmail.com to let him know if you are interested in joining the discussion, so an invitation and link to the zoom meeting can be emailed to you.

Sign up to receive future newsletters via email. Visit our website to find out how....

Forthcoming events & diary dates

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' each year as a way of offering further thanksgiving and support for their Church's ministry.



As our income is down by some 35% this year, we do hope you will be generous in your giving - and we also hope our Swallows and regular visitors will also show support by making a bank transfer – details below, despite not being able to join us this year.

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

DECEMBER

FRIDAYS
4pm

Zoom Advent Reflections

Fridays in December at 4pm

In the company of some of the Biblical Characters who feature in our readings set for the Season of Advent, we will explore the theme of waiting – something we're not so good at in our modern culture!



Abraham and Sarah who waited for a child, Isaiah and the prophets who waited for judgement and redemption, John the Baptist whose role was to wait in the wilderness until the prophecies he foretold were realised, Mary whose waiting began in pregnancy and continued as she stood at the foot of the cross.

As we consider the spirituality of waiting - the active doing of nothing - we will find this a way of enhancing our lives and bringing us closer to God and helping us to prepare for Christmas.

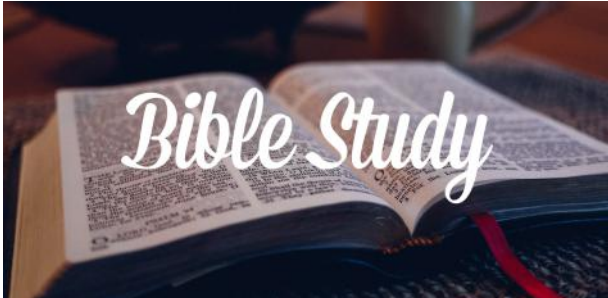
Please send an email to Fr Nigel vicar.costadelsol@gmail.com so he can send you the link to join.

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



Computer classes starting soon

Do you want to learn how to navigate through modern technology? Join Alex 's computer classes and help workshops. Learn how to use your digital devices at your own pace to get the most out of them. Bring your Computer, Phone, Tablet or Ebook etc.

Classes/workshops will be starting soon every Friday 11:30am - 1:30pm at St Andrew 's Church, Los Boliches. Watch out for more information or call +34 635 820 094

Thank you

Many thanks indeed to everyone who supported our rather prolonged Easter Raffle by buying tickets and/or donating some lovely prizes.

We raised 665€ - which is a brilliant result. A big thank you to Sheila Allison for keeping it going over these long months of lock down and restrictions.



The Anglican Chaplaincy
of Saint Andrew



Costa del Sol East

www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org

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: 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

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