



St Andrew's Chaplaincy

Newsletter May 2021

Welcome

Welcome to our May Newsletter

Our Newsletter comes within days of re-opening our Church Centre at Los Boliches after its major 'make-over', and the ending to the National State of Emergency – so changes all round!



We have been incredibly fortunate with such a positive response to our Renovation and Renewal Appeal - and a very big thank you to everyone who has supported in any way.

It has been especially reaffirming to have the support of some of our Swallows, who are also supporting their 'home' churches as well.

There is still time to support us if you haven't already got round to it by using the Donate button on our website. At the time of writing I think we have almost raised the 8,000€ we had originally asked for, which is excellent news! We have also been able to do several other improvements, after generous, specific funding. But it would be good to be able to replace some of the Chaplaincy's 'savings' we used to kick-start the appeal – this will enable us to cover future expenses in running the Chaplaincy, including improved publicity as we start up again, maintaining the Vicarage and Chaplaincy car etc.

Depending on local restrictions, we hope it will be possible to start thinking about arranging social gatherings soon – but news of increased infection reports in some areas of Spain and especially the worrying news about the high levels of infections in India and elsewhere in the world, all serve as important reminders that care is still needed in how we proceed during the weeks ahead.

Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will find details about the Prayer Initiative Thy Kingdom Come – which we hope you will all want to be part of, to pray for the life of our Chaplaincy as we emerge from the pandemic, and also details about restarting our Bible Study Groups and the AGM.

Fr Nigel

Thy Kingdom Come



Thy Kingdom Come ~ An Invitation to join fellow Christians around the world in prayer from Ascension Day (13th May) to Pentecost Sunday (23rd May)...

For the last couple of years we have joined this global prayer movement that invites us to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. We invite you now to be part of this and to pray for the ministry of our Chaplaincy.

- Deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for God's Spirit to work in the lives of those we know
- Come to realise that every aspect of our lives is the stuff of prayer

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at this time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition.

- Pray that the Spirit will inspire and equip us all in the Chaplaincy to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities

and social networks.

- Pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 of our family or friends who do not share your faith.

Pray Daily for the ministry of your Chaplaincy:

For the worship, work & witness of the congregations that make up our Chaplaincy...

For each other as we gather again as restrictions are eased, and for all who are still anxious...

For fellow members of our congregations who are scattered around the world...

For our ministry to English speaking residents and visitors.... For all who may come to us for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals this year...

For more Visit
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global>

Re-opening of St Andrew's Los Boliches

We had a joint Chaplaincy Eucharist on Sunday 9 May to celebrate the re-opening of St Andrew's, Los Boliches following the major 'make-over' and improvement of facilities to make it a really good resource for the ministry and mission of the whole Chaplaincy.

Several people thought it would be good to share Fr Nigel's inspirational and challenging sermon with those unable to join us on that important day:
(John 15: 9-17)

I wonder if you've come across the BBC1 programme called The Repair Shop? Originally first shown in the afternoons during the first lockdown, but then moved to a prime slot because it became so popular.

The Repair Shop is filmed at the Weald and Downland Living Museum, in West Sussex, where a team of highly skilled and experienced craftsmen and women pool their talents to restore heirlooms and treasured possessions, to something of their former condition. The common thread is that each item, regardless of its commercial value or none, has great personal and often family value. It's often a treasured link to departed loved ones.

The various items brought in for repair often have unusual or moving stories attached to them. Whether from a broken clock to different items of furniture, or a worn-out teddy to a church weather-vein rusted to the point of it being unsafe, are all left in trust to the team of experts to be restored and repaired. When they are finally revealed in their new 'glory', there are often tears of joy all round, and expressions of deep gratitude. It's one of those happy programmes, where you would struggle not to feel uplifted by the joy, the humanity and the deep gratitude of those who had entrusted their treasured, fragile items, and the obvious satisfaction of the team whose skill and energy has transformed them. In many ways The Repair Shop is a powerful, visual expression of the heart of our Easter Faith. God in Christ heals, forgives, and restores us to our former beauty. We are marred by sin and selfishness and God repairs us out of his abundant and boundless love for us. In Christ's resurrection, all things are made new.

Today we celebrate our rather tired-looking Church Centre being repaired and restored for new work. To be honest, I groaned – inwardly and Fr. Peter Ford reminded me the other day when I had a Skype call with him, that in fact I groaned outwardly too, when I visited Los Boliches for the first time, after the Archdeacon had 'phoned to ask if I would consider coming here. You might have been in interregnum, but the place did look unloved and uncared for - and in need of a jolly good lick of paint. In fact as a potential

new comer you could so easily have thought the place was closed.

So what message did that give out to visitors, or potential new comers. What did it say about our attitude to worship and more generally, what did it say about our attitude to what goes on in here? Did it say anything positive about how we caring for one another? Did it say anything positive about God's love for all people... To be honest, I don't think it did have anything positive to say.

In complete contrast, I was reminded about a Church in the wilds of Norfolk, where my great Aunt, was organist for their group of churches. One of their churches was literally in a field, no mains electric (the organ still had to be pumped by hand), no water. Over the centuries the village had moved down the small hill, leaving the church quite isolated. An Electoral Roll of not more than a dozen or so – and yet, the place was always impeccably clean, the churchyard well tended and the Church always left unlocked. The atmosphere of prayer and peace embraced you as you entered. You just knew you were in a special place.

My Vicar who prepared me for confirmation and played an important part in encouraging me to explore my vocation for ordination, was a great believer that our church buildings should be a good resource for mission. In fact he claimed that how we cared for our Churches so often reflects how we care for one another, and reflects how we value what goes on in them too. And over the years as I have worked in a variety of parishes, I think he was right. These things do matter - How we care for our Churches does speak very loudly about our attitudes and our sense of mission.

And what has all this got to do with our Gospel reading today? Well everything!

Last week we were called to bear much fruit as the branches of Christ's Vine. Today Jesus gives us his one command that sums up his entire ministry: "Love one another as I have loved you". Jesus describes how, as he has been loved by the Father, so he loves us. As we receive this love, so we are to love one another. The gardener, the vine and the branches are all intimately connected. As we keep this commandment to love, we will be "abiding", literally finding our dwelling, in Christ's love. From this everything else follows.

The work to this Church Centre hasn't just been about the building – from the new access, to the toilet facility designed to make life easier for anyone with mobility issues, these things are about how we value people and want to give them dignity while they here. It also helps us to conform to that small thing called European law!

We may have got used the former tiredness of the place, but if we are serious about mission, serious about growing our congregations, then how we care for this place does matter. It may only be the starting point, but it's a good place to start.

What goes on here, also effects our other congregations. Compared with quite a few of our neighbouring Chaplaincies, we are so lucky to have our own building, especially where we can meet socially and also hold fund raising activities. To develop our rental income here, also helps to fund the ministry over the whole chaplaincy, which has to be a good thing.

"Love one another as I have loved you" is such a simple command, and yet so difficult. We have to let go of our differences, our prejudices, our instinct to hold things tight to ourselves. Perhaps admitting to ourselves, that sometimes, things do have to change and move on. After all, we are a Pilgrim People and journeying on as we live out our Christian calling, is a good and positive thing to do – it's part of our faith story and it's part of the history of this place. We are now ready for the next Chapter of our Story.

Following this command to love is possible when we take the second part of the command – "as I have loved you" – seriously. When we know we are loved, we can let go of defending ourselves and are able to love others. That is how our churches will grow and flourish – and that has to be worth celebrating. Not only in this Easter Season, but every time we gather in our different faith communities in this Chaplaincy.



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



Joint Chaplaincy Eucharist on Sunday 9 May to celebrate the re-opening of St Andrew's, Los Boliches

Charitable giving

Dear Saint Andrew's Chaplaincy,

On behalf of all the families at "DEBRA, The Butterfly Children's Charity" I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, generosity and kindness: we are delighted to have raised 151,16 €. As a charity we depend largely on private funding and donations from people like you. Your help is crucial to ensuring that we can continue with our work, providing specialist nursing care, psychologists, social workers and a researcher to support our families from the birth of a child to end of life care.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information. You can keep up to date with our latest news via Facebook in English, or through our other social networks in Spanish Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Thanks to your help we will continue to support and shield children and their families.

Thank you for giving us Wings.

Kindest regards,

Alicia Sande

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/ Administration

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This year the Chaplaincy Council decided that we will have a bi-monthly Charity of the Month. We will fund this through our usual Stewardship and also retiring collections during the year.

Our previous Charity of the month was Debra. Thank you for your support...

Our Charity of the month is now Christian Aid.



If you would like to support this charity, please make use of your usual bank transfers details, marking your donation with the reference 'C-of-month'.

Euro or Sterling cheques will also be most welcome. You can also use the Donate form on our website and give in your preferred currency.

<https://www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org/chatity-of-the-month>

There will also be retiring collections for the work of this charity ~ thank you for your support.

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

Notices

Bible Study



Both the Coastal and inland Bible Study Groups are about to start after a short break over Easter. For more information about dates, times and the programme please contact the leaders directly:

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



Revision of the Electoral Roll

Every six years the Electoral Roll is revised in all Churches. To be included in the new ER to take part in any AGM elections, you will need to complete a form and hand them in by Sunday 23 May. Forms are available in each Church. We appreciate that for many, names will have to be added to the ER as the year goes on.

It is worth remembering that for every name on the ER, a charge is made in the calculations for our Diocesan 'Chaplaincy Share', Archdeaconry dues and FERED fees – For 2021 these are: £8.011 - £135.28 - £639.10 respectively.



A reminder

For those who continue to self-isolate even when we are able to reopen the churches, we will still produce a shorter version of this on-line service for you.

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.

The Anglican Chaplaincy of Saint Andrew



Costa del Sol East

www.st-andrewscofe-spain.org

Chaplain:

Fr Nigel Stimpson.

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Email: vicar.costadelsol@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Jen Sutton 622 252 074 and John Brown 655 342 874

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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



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Just one small sign that things are returning to normal and that is having to meet the May deadline to hold our Annual Church Meeting!

Our APCM will be held on Wednesday 26 May after the 10.30am Eucharist at Los Boliches.

To reduce administrative costs, the Reports will be available on-line and will also be sent by email to all who request them – if you haven't sign up to receive them in Church, please drop Fr Nigel an email vicar.costadelsol@gmail.com as soon as possible.