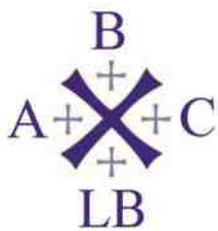


The Anglican Chaplaincy
of Saint Andrew



Costa del Sol East

Welcome



Welcome to our
joint Christmas
and New Year
Edition.

As this Newsletter is prepared we are about to enter the wonderful 'get ready' season of Advent. There are some wonderful Advent hymns, both ancient and modern, full of expectation and hope. With only four Sundays in the Season some of them are rarely sung, but they do make wonderful prayers and thought provoking meditations as we get ready to greet the Christ Child, hopefully with a renewed sense of awe and wonder in God's love for us. When you come to church over the next few Sundays, instead of talking to your neighbour immediately before the start of the service, why not look at the Advent section in the useful 'Times and Seasons' index at the back of our hymnbooks, and choose one to help you get ready to worship 'in spirit and in truth'. That moment of quiet and reflection will make our celebrations all the more real, and our faith renewed.

Advent, this powerful liturgical season that we are beginning, invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us. (Pope Benedict XVI)

Fr Nigel

St Andrew's Chaplaincy

Newsletter November 2019

Just a thought...

Most of us would prefer to have some access to a group of people, rather than being in total isolation



'Families' seem to be mentioned more at Christmas, than possibly at any other time of the year – or is that just me?

It's not surprising really, for most of us, families are important and of course, it's good to get together with those closest to us at Christmas. But let's be a little more precise: communities are important to us, because we're really communal beings. Most of us would prefer to have some access to a group of people, rather than being in total isolation. For many of us, it's in the context of the family that we learn to relate and build community. Even when families break down, for whatever reason, we still need to seek out a community, to reach out and to bond with others. In other words, we need to belong.

The crib scenes we see in churches, some shop windows - and you may have one at home, show 'the Holy Family'. To refer to this group as the 'Holy Family,' seems to imply all kinds of goodies. We may imagine the perfect, stress-free existence. Some would have us picture the faithful Joseph teaching Jesus the

carpenter's trade. While Mary, would be teaching Jesus how to pray. Certainly we would hope that there would have been love and care and respect within that family in Nazareth.

Of course, taken to extremes, we can make our families, or the immediate group around us, self-enclosed and self-engrossed at the cost of everything else that goes on in the world. As Christians we believe that we are all God's children - but we shouldn't want to become totally engrossed in ourselves - because we'd leave too many out of our real community.

Maybe, like the Holy Family of Nazareth, we need each other to be more fully open to each other and for each other in the year ahead. For precious things always need to be protected - and above all nurtured and encouraged to grow and flourish – and we can always start now – by making sure our neighbour or a person we know who doesn't have any immediate family nearby, is aware that we're concerned and looking out for them this Christmas-time. That may be the one Christmas present that really matters to them!

Subscribe to our weekly pewsheet

To improve communication and to keep you informed about what's happening on a weekly basis, it is now possible to subscribe to our weekly pewsheet. So if you miss a Sunday, travel, work or are a Swallow you can still stay in touch with what's going on!

To subscribe, simply send an email to CdSEpewsheet@gmail.com

Christmas Prayer Candle Appeal

Details of our Christmas Prayer Candle Appeal are now in each of the Church Centres. If you would like a candle lit for your prayer concern and dedicated at our Carol Services, please return the form with your donation to Fr Nigel as soon as possible.



Just a reminder that as part of our pastoral care in the Chaplaincy we have a small dedicated team who will pray for you or those you may be concerned about. It is done in complete confidence, and you will never be approached by a member of the Prayer Chain about your requests. Only first names are used and details are kept to a minimum.

Many people have found this prayerful support quietly reassuring as they either endure some difficulty personally, or have friends or family in need of such support.

For information about the Prayer Chain please contact Mike or Wendy Edwards: cdsolprayer@gmail.com or have a word with Caroline or Fr Nigel.

Father, I pray that today I may know with keener awareness that I am in your hands. Well or ill, happy or sad, at work or at leisure, with others or alone, may I become increasingly conscious that you, who have called me, are utterly trustworthy and will accomplish your purpose in me. Grant me the sense of your presence, born of your indwelling and enfolding love.

If this day brings storm or stress, fear or sorrow, pain or disappointment, or if it brings gladness, serenity, happiness and peace, let nothing rob me of the joy of knowing I am yours, kept by your power in readiness for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Leslie Weatherhead)

Recent News



Aubrey Bowles

This week we heard the sad news that Aubrey Bowles had passed away.

Aubrey and his wife Ann had been active members of our Chaplaincy for more than 15 years and during that time they took on a number of roles

and supported Church life in many ways.

Aubrey's main passion was music, and in his role as principal organist for St Andrew's he played at two services every Sunday for more than ten years, as well as playing for the Scottish Church, Lux Mundi, funerals, weddings, Songs of Praise, NADFAS Christmas dinners and Burns night suppers to name but a few venues.

Ann ran the Calahonda Sunday school and together they initiated an annual Christingle service at Lux Mundi which brought together families and congregations from different Churches and traditions. It became so well attended that the service moved around Fuengirola and was hosted by a different parish church every year. On several occasions the congregation

numbers reached the hundreds.

Aubrey was a retired policeman and during the week he could be found at the local police station where he and Ann served as volunteer helpers at the Foreigners' Department helping bewildered expats with their paperwork.

His dedication was recognised by the Spanish National Police, when, along with several serving Spanish police officers, Aubrey was presented with the Cross of the Order of Merit by the Chief of the National Police in Fuengirola.

We remember his son Cameron and his family at this time and we are invited to attend a memorial service at Lux Mundi on Thursday 19th December at 5.00pm.

Visit to recycling and waste sorting centre



On Friday 15th November nine members of St Andrew's visited Urbaser, the recycling and sorting plant in Casares to learn more about the processes carried out to sort and manage our waste.

The Church of England's five marks of mission aims to support, encourage and enable the whole Church of England to pray, speak and act prophetically on environmental issues, which threaten the flourishing of the whole of creation.

"The moral crisis of climate change is an opportunity to find purpose and joy, and to respond to our creator's charge. Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. It is a way to love our neighbour and to steward the gift of creation." Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

With this in mind Hilary Tompkins kindly organised our trip to the Urbaser Plant on a coach trip which was organised by La Cala De Mijas Ayuntamiento. The Foreigners Department were instrumental in organising the visit. Aranzazu Lopez, the councillor for FRD and the environment initiated it..

Urbaser's broad aim is to process waste so more is recycled and less ends up in landfills, reducing the environmental impact.

5th Sundays

In theory these four gatherings a year are a wonderful opportunity for our congregations to get together to worship and enjoy fellowship afterwards.

But in practice, many struggle to attend the 9.30am services, leaving our huge Parish basically un-Churched and visitors confused.

The Urbaser plant processes waste from 516,600 inhabitants (rising to 2 million in the Summer) from western Costa del Sol, which comprises of 11 municipalities from Torremolinos to Manilva. This means the treatment of 350,000 tons of waste per year. The plant runs 24 hours a day 365 days a year with a staff of 300.

We arrived on a sunny crisp morning and visited the various processing areas of the plant on the coach.

First, we saw that when a lorry load of general 'organic' rubbish arrives large items such as furniture, white goods, computers and electrical items are removed. (These of course should not have been put in the bins but taken to the Punto Limpio). The rubbish then goes through manual, mechanical (including a huge washing type machine) and magnetic processes to remove as much recyclable material as possible.

We all have access to recycling bins but the sad fact is that the other waste bin for 'organic' material only contains 5% of organic waste! There is a huge number of items put in these bins, such as glass, plastic and cardboard, that should be placed in the other recycling bins.

The recyclable material extracted then joins that from the recycling bins, and is further sorted and compacted into cubes ready to be transported to specialist recycling centres. For instance, there are 6 or 7 types of plastic that have to be separated.

What is left of the 'other' waste is divided into organic and none organic.

The non organic is compressed into cubes and behind the plant they are literally building a mountain from it. They are layering cubes, then covering

with soil, to build the man-made mountain which has chimneys to release gasses produced by the waste. The waste also produces liquid which is taken away to a specialist plant to purify.

The organic waste is fermented for two months to produce compost. This is then filtered and a further 2% of glass is extracted before being sold.

At the end of the tour we went into the lecture theatre and saw a film further explaining what the plant does, and were able to ask questions.

The feeling from those that attended the visit was that there should be more publicity on what exactly is able to be put into the recycling bins. There is still a lot of confusion about this, in particular what plastic items are accepted.

350,000 tonnes of waste a year is a huge amount, perhaps we should all examine not only how much we can recycle, but try to cut down on how much we produce, by choosing how we buy our products, how they are packaged, and not buying unnecessary items that end up in the bin! Plastic is a real cause for concern. There are links to interesting articles below.

At the end of our visit we were given a 'goody bag' of items that had been created using recycled materials. I hope we all make good use of them and they do not end up back in the waste too soon!

Thank you Hilary for organising this interesting and thought provoking trip.

Some excellent articles to read including one with information on what goes in which bin:
<https://twostepsfreelance.com/category/going-green/>

also be developed in 2020.

So for **Sunday 29 December** our services will be:

9.30am Sung Eucharist at Benalmadena

9.30am Sung Eucharist at Calahonda

11.30am Morning Prayer at Alhaurin

11.30am Sung Eucharist at Los Boliches

Following feedback over several months and discussions at the recent Council meeting, it was decided that we will no longer have a Joint 5th Sunday service, keeping to our usual Sunday services pattern instead.

The evening Praise Services at Alhaurin are always well supported by the whole Chaplaincy and other opportunities to meet together will



Christmas Services at St Andrew's

Sunday 15 December

6:00pm Carol Service at Alhaurin

Sunday 22 December

9:30am Carol Service at Benalmadena

6:00pm Carol Service at Los Boloches

Christmas Eve

4:00pm Crib Building & 'Early Midnight Mass'
for all the family at Alhaurin

6:00pm Crib Building & 'Early Midnight Mass'
for all the family at Los Boliches

7:00pm Christingle Service at Calahonda

Christmas Day

9:30am Sung Eucharist with Carols at Calahonda

11:30am Sung Eucharist with Carols at Alhaurin

11:30am Sung Eucharist with Carols at Los Boliches

Epiphany Sunday 5th January

11:30am Epiphany Christingle Service at Alhaurin

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, crafty and
books

A TOUCH OF CLASS An evening of cabaret on Friday
6th December 2019. The 'Kaleidoscope' show starts at
7pm in St Andrew's Church Hall in Los Boliches. Tickets
are 10 euros and proceeds will go to Church Funds. There
will be a raffle and bar. Booking is recommended tel: 952
026 811.

BAG PACKING AT ICELAND Thursday 12th December
2019. Can you help bag packing and/or carol singing any
time from 11am until 2pm, stay as long as you are able.
Let Caroline or Pauline know if you are able to come.
Caroline 697 867 377 carriemachome@gmail.com
Pauline 633 405 884 paulinehulme01@hotmail.co.uk

CINEMA AND TEA CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Saturday
14th December at Los Boliches. Doors open 2pm, film
starts 2:30. Refreshments available before and after the
film. This month we are showing Christmas at Downton
Abbey (2011) 12 rating. We will have mince pies, punch
and other festive treats! Please bring friends and family
with you!

ALL AGE SERVICE Sunday 5th January 11:30am
Alhaurin El Grande

BURNS NIGHT Friday 24th January 2020. 7.00 for 7.30
pm Saint Andrew Community Centre Los Boliches. Tickets
€35.00 from Billy Dawson on 952 375 708 or email
billy@cancuca.com

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

The Anglican Chaplaincy
of Saint Andrew



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