

Anglican Chaplaincy of Costa Almería & Costa Calida

Report of Church Officers 2024

Church Warden – Keith Steventon-Green

As a new Church Warden it has been quite an eye opener to see how the functions of the Church all come together to make it work.

I would like to add my personal thank you to Ron Makin for his sterling work and guidance as Treasurer. I will miss his monthly Monday morning email questioning things I had done - thankfully I always had an answer.

Taking on the refurbishment of La Mata was an epic job. Here I would like to add that I could not have done it without the full support of Peter, who kept me both calm and sane when every day brought fresh problems, including the sad death of the builder nearing the end of the work. Peter's commitment to the job in hand from purchasing new furnishings, ideas on layout and every other issue that arose, trust me when I say he was and is my rock.

Having to function without a permanent incumbent has also had issues, trust me sometimes the Locum you see standing at the front of the Church is not the Locum I have had to deal with on a daily basis; using a month's supply of towels in one week and complaining about having nowhere to stuff their turkey for Christmas dinner. I did comment that compared to the Ukraine their temporary apartment was quite luxurious.

David and Darren leaving will leave a massive hole in the running of the church. The amount of work they do and have done in the background that no one sees is phenomenal.

Pam, thank you. You are forever the font of all knowledge, I take my hat off to you for how you did this role for 10 years, as I said to you there isn't a medal big enough for you.

Caroline, an even bigger thank you for being the calm pragmatic one that you are and for sharing our joint support of each other.

It is only when you get involved as deep as the Church Warden that you realise what actually goes on with some people; from direct verbal abuse to people relying on hearsay without knowing the facts and making their own minds up and then making their comments known. I think, and correct me if I am wrong, that being a Christian is about love and forgiveness.

I would like to add my personal thanks to the three Readers who have kept the ministry going along with which ever Locum we had at the time. The Locums all had their own way of working but I would like to think we have met the needs of the congregation. Well, I say that but the number of complaints I have received about this church not having communion on this day and that one church being over favoured.....my view is if you can do a better job, great come and do it and I will step down.

Where is the future taking us? I wish I knew. Yes, we need a permanent Priest. Yes, we need to build the congregation. Yes, we need more involvement from the congregation we already have. It all sounds quite simple...I only hope we achieve it.

Church Warden – Caroline Gore

I was appointed as church warden alongside Keith in October. I feel that I have learnt a lot since then. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me.

On being appointed we felt that we had two main tasks - to complete the refurbishment of the chaplaincy apartment and to keep the appointment of the new priest on track.

Keith has been the driving force behind the refurbishment and he accomplished much in a short time. The apartment is now habitable, but continues to have on going issues.

We have worked together on the chaplaincy paperwork for the priest recruitment, held zoom meetings with Father Louis and things are slowly moving forward. In the meantime, supported by David Blake and Emma Biaggi (in the Diocese), we have been served by a range of Locum priests and we have Locums in place up to September.

Keith and I have been forced to confront some of the ugly side of church life and there continues to be issues.

We need to remember that COVID and Brexit has changed everything and we need to think deeply about how we continue to have an Anglican presence in Costa Almeria and Costa Calida. This will require soul searching, flexibility and more people offering to support the Church. We are planning a Vision Day guided by Archdeacon David Waller to discuss the way forward.

I have to say it's been a rollercoaster - but I have learnt a lot, and am so grateful to all who have shown me kindness and patience.

Together we will build a stronger Church!

Electoral Roll - Keith Steventon-Green

Taking on the role from Alwyn I can now confirm that all members details are stored in the cloud to meet Data Protection requirements.

We have had people leave that have formally written to me to remove them from the roll and we have had a couple of new additions. At present the roll stands at 66 at the time of writing.

Next January 2025 sees the completion of a new roll which I think will reduce the numbers considerably.

Archdeaconry Synod – Alwyn Carter

I was asked to represent the chaplaincy as neither of our elected Reps were able to attend this year's synod. I had made arrangements to go and meet with Bishop David Hamid to wish him personally, a farewell on his retirement and my thanks for his friendship and guidance over many years.

Fr. Alan Bennett also attended as his last official act for the chaplaincy. He is well and enjoying his retirement. He sends his love and best wishes to everyone.

The theme this year was "Walking together in Faith". Synod starts on Tuesday evening and ends on Friday morning. There were fourteen different sessions including two Bible studies, one of which was on using the Lectio Divina technique to help us get more from our Bible study.

By attending synod we learn what is happening in the wider church, including reports on the proceedings at the General Synod. We are able to talk to other Reps and discuss the problems we all face. It is also a time when we can air our difficulties and grievances we have with members of the Diocesan office team and the Bishop's staff.

There was Morning Prayer every day, the first one I led as Tony had been asked to lead it but was not able to attend. We had a Eucharist service each evening in turn led by both Bishops and then our Archdeacon.

Our synod was also the last one that Bishop David would attend as he has now retired. It is normal practice to have a quiz as the final session, this year it was decided we would play bingo. Bishop David struggled with this and complained he could not understand why two little ducks and two fat ladies were included, he has obviously led a very sheltered life. He finally got the hang of it, then became very disappointed when he did not receive a prize when he called for a line, the rest of us had moved onto a full house.

Aljambra Chapel - Janet Yerrell

I am pleased to report that our monthly Eucharist service is maintaining on average 18 attendees. We have always said that our door is always open, I am pleased to say that other European nationalities are taking part in our services.

Our good relationship with AGUAVIVA is improving every year, this year we were able to provide 20 families with a complete food hamper including a whole chicken for their festivities for the night of the three kings, the children did not miss out, and again 17 children from 18 months to 12 years all received a present. We hope that we are able to carry this through to next year. So I will gladly accept any donation in the form of an unused toys, food either tinned, bottled or carton or a monetary gift. I thank you.

Also to help the above children celebrate Easter, while recovering from a broken hip, one of our congregation knitted little chickens and inside there was a chocolate Easter egg.

A warm welcome always awaits you.

Mojacar Church – Pam Carter

We have a very varied number of congregation, as always relying on visitors to increase the numbers. Some of our regular attendees have returned to the U.K. but we have a congregation of between 20 and 30.

We still support our local food bank in both food and money contributions which are gratefully received.

We still have the link with our Roman Catholic friends, continue the joint Christmas service and they kindly give us the loan of their outdoor chapel for Remembrance Day service.

Llanos del Peral Church – Jackie Simpson

The numbers in the congregation at Llanos remain steady, between 20 & 43 people, with the occasional attendance of holiday-makers and those who do not live permanently in Spain.

Our monthly Breakfast Club continues to be well supported with good food and fellowship enjoyed by all.

There have been no major fund raising events during this past year but the sale of hand-crafted cards and preserves continues to be well supported every Sunday. All proceeds go directly to Chaplaincy funds. Special thanks to the Marmaladers/Greetings Card Team.

In an attempt to be visible in the community we continue to support local charities with donations from our weekly refreshments. Our latest project is in co-operation with the Zurgena Town Hall to provide a defibrillator for the village. We also intend to donate to the Lion's Club of Vera who support various departments at the Huerca Overa hospital. Our successful and much appreciated Food Bank continues to be well supported. Thanks go to our congregation who so generously donate and to our Food Bank Team who sort, bag and deliver to the Town Hall for distribution.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	2019 (Pre Covid/Brexit)	2022	2023
Aljambra Chapel	27	15	18
Mojacar Church	47	28	25
Llanos del Peral Church	30	20	28

Safeguarding – Darren Ellsum

The required Police Checks are up to date. Our Safeguarding information is all stored digitally as is required under EU and UK Data Protection Law. The Worship Team have been booked on to the mandatory Safeguarding Leadership Refresher course in May. This happens every 3 years.

The Parish Dashboard (how the Diocese monitors Safeguarding in the Chaplaincy) is all “green”, apart from a new mandatory requirement for all Chaplaincy Council members to undergo “Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse” training. This will be done in the summer by way of a coffee morning. We will open this up to sides persons and any congregation members wishing to attend.

I must remind you the bullying and aggressive behaviour, either verbally or by written communications, is not tolerated in the Church of England or our Chaplaincy. We take this very seriously.

Father Louis has appointed Caroline Gore as my successor, which I am pleased about. She has a wealth of knowledge around Safeguarding through her career in education.

Each year we must adopt the Diocese Safeguarding Policy at the AGM.....



Chaplaincy Safeguarding Policy Statement

01

Chaplaincy information

Name of Chaplaincy

Safeguarding Officer name

In accordance with the Diocese in Europe's Safeguarding Policy, our Chaplaincy is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Chaplaincy will:

- Endeavour to maintain a safe and healthy church culture through listening well, communicating well, managing power, building effective structures, establishing good governance, and modelling safe behaviours that give equal value to all.
- Have a named local Safeguarding Officer to work with the incumbent and the Chaplaincy Council to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and vulnerable adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Where possible, ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and vulnerable adults undertaken in the name of the chaplaincy.
- Communicate well by displaying in church premises and on the chaplaincy website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs, and ensuring that all volunteers and attendees are aware.
- Listen well to all those who disclose abuse and take appropriate action.
- Take steps to protect children and vulnerable adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops' guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and local child and/or vulnerable adult services immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and vulnerable adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, procedures and practices at least annually.

Date adopted / reaffirmed by the Chaplaincy Council

02

Declaration

Chaplain name

Signature

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

Churchwarden name

Churchwarden name

Signature

Signature