

Chaplains Report.

The last year has seen a return to church but with restrictions. We are grateful to our sides people for their care in enforcing the rules.

Numbers have not returned to pre covid levels and people are not able to stay for the winter as in the past. Fund raising events have taken place but not on the scale of the past.

We have not had an organist at Mojacar and I say thank you to Alwyn and Pam for organising the music. At Llanos, Cath has provided us with great music, we shall miss her now that she has moved away. I am glad to say that Darren is helping us with the music.

It is great that we are now back at the restored Alhambra Chapel. The services will continue there on a Thursday once a month.

With retirement of the Revd. Vincent Oram the PCC agreed that there would be a service of Holy Communion in each church every other Sunday and on the other Sundays a service of Prayer and praise would take place. I am most grateful to the ministry team for their support we shall keep this under review as I do not want to put too much pressure on the team.

The PCC will be looking at what kind of new priest we want and how we are to finance them. The Revd Michael Garland has now permission to officiate and has supported us in May and again will be here in September.

With support of the PCC and ministry team I am sure that we can continue to be of service the people of this area. **Canon Alan Bennett.**

Church Wardens Report 2021/22.

Unfortunately I continued as Church Warden on my own this year.

It has been a difficult year for us all coming out of the covid pandemic situation. Fortunately with the guidance of Rev. Vincent and input from all our worship team our churches have survived and are beginning to build again. Mojacar will struggle to regain the congregation it once had owing to the new brexit regulations.

Rev. Vincent retired at the end of December after being with us for three years. I would like to thank him once again for being our priest and **Robyn Anne** for her friendship. They both must have enjoyed our company and area in which we live as they are retired in Mojacar and we still meet socially.

Once again we are indebted to **Fr. Alan** for stepping into the breach and with Bishop David 's approval has taken over as priest in charge until we decide what our future plans will be. We will have to look long and hard at our finances before we can decide on our next step forward. May I remind everyone that we are totally self financed and always struggle to make our books balance.

As Church Warden, when no-one comes forward as treasurer, the job falls back on me. I am not a natural book- keeper so I struggled along until a non church member, known to Darren offered to do the figures. Due to a family illness he has had to stop doing this at the end of last year. Many thanks Ian, you took the weight off my shoulders.

Terri Lyndon, our PCC Secretary has just resigned as she is returning to England to start another path on life's journeys. Thank you Terri, for your friendship, your work as secretary, your many years of help with fundraising and just for being you.

I also want to thank my unsung hero **Alwyn**. However would I survive without him. He prepares the services he has to lead, the sermons to has to give, The Owl, edited, printed distributed by email and to the website. Any extra printing such as this report falls in his lap too. He keeps the electoral role up to date and together we prepare the gift aid declaration for him to then claim. He shares my problems and of course is at the wrong end of my pique. **Pam, Church Warden**

Mojacar Church Report.

We had a very slow start to our new church year owing to the covid pandemic, our numbers well below the restricted numbers allowed. Mojacar's congregation before the pandemic was made up by half residents and half snowbirds and holidaymakers. The numbers of the second group are fortunately drifting back up but of course not staying as long due to Brexit restrictions. Some of our local members have not returned and our average attendance is now between 20 to 30 people whereas before we had an average attendance of 60 to 70 people.

We are still supporting our local food bank with gifts of food and money which I know are gratefully received.

Unfortunately our organist's rota was made up from people in the UK and Canada, visiting for good periods of time but none of these have as yet returned. Thankfully we do have a Hymnal machine that plays hymns, albeit at speeds we sometimes have difficulty keeping up with.

The year ended on a happy note, we were able once again to come together with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in a service in the Pueblo Church. Also we were able with the blessing of the Mayor and local council, to have Carol singing in the Parque Commercial.

Finally, my thanks go to **David Devonport** our Sacristan, who has worked tirelessly to help behind the scenes, and to **Norma Devonport** who each week took contact details at the church door and now shares the responsibility with David of being sides people and meeters and greeters. *Pam Carter.*

Llanos Church Report.

The congregation at Llanos del Peral varies between 20 and 25 each week. During the summer months this does increase with the arrival of holiday-makers and visitors and also by our “regulars” who do not live permanently in Spain but always attend when they are in country. Just recently a newly-arrived couple from Holland have joined the congregation and are keen to continue attending and taking part in all of our activities.

At the moment we have two planned activities each month – a Breakfast Club meeting on the first Saturday and a Coffee Morning on the third Wednesday. A Summer Barbecue is planned for Saturday 25 June and in late summer/early autumn monthly Sunday Lunches at local restaurants after the service.

It is hoped that the barbecue and Sunday lunches can also both be fund raisers for the Chaplaincy.

During the Covid Pandemic activities were at an absolute minimum. Since restrictions have been relaxed we are trying to be visible once again in the community and to this end have started to support local charities. Thus far 100 euros has been donated to Cancer Research Spain; 100 euros to the Alzheimer’s Society Spain and through the generosity of a parishioner 100 euros to two families from the Ukraine currently living in Arboleas whose husbands are still in the Ukraine fighting with the army.

The money we are able to donate comes from refreshments provided and served by our team of “Tea Ladies” and, of course, our congregation.

Recently a new service of Morning Worship has been included in our monthly calendar. *Jackie Simpson.*

Aljambra Church Report

I personally do not know when the Aljambra Chapel was first used for Anglican Services, but I do know that the flower festival in 2016 celebrated its 10th anniversary . We used to hold 3 services a month 2 Eucharist services which were held on the first Thursday of the month and the second on the last Thursday of the month, this was followed by a voluntary get together lunch and also a collection of food for the food bank for the South American Church in Albox. Our third service was an Evening Song.

We were informed that our chapel was going to be refurbished, so we continued at Cantoria Tanatorio Chapel, but only for Eucharist services with no lunches. Even though the refurb had not taken place we were allowed to return to Aljambra Chapel, within a short space of time covid hit and turned people's lives upside down which also included our services.

During covid when it was permitted to keep a safe distance apart we approached Pastor Argentino of the South American Church in Albox, as we knew that the interior had the capacity for us to hold a monthly service safely, Pastor Argentino was more than willing to accommodate us. During our time at Albox, Aljambra underwent the refurb, our first service back was on the 24th February again only for a monthly Eucharist service. Now looking to build a bigger and brighter future for us at Aljambra. ***Janet Yerell.***

Safeguarding Report 2021/2022.

I am pleased to report that all required checks and training are up to date. Back in November five Sidespersons renewed their Basic Awareness training by way of a coffee morning. Feedback was very positive with people feeling this approach gave more opportunity for discussion than doing the training at home via the web. Therefore we will use this approach for the upcoming Domestic Abuse training for the Worship Team and PCC.

I have just attended the Diocese's "Safeguarding Officers Virtual Conference" which gave an opportunity to network with over 70 other CSOs from across Europe.

Safeguarding systems developed in our Chaplaincy are being used as a model by the Diocese and over the year I have been called upon to support Safeguarding Officers in other chaplaincies.

Safeguarding is monitored using the Diocese Safeguarding Dashboard. We were showing as GREEN across the board until recently. We now have 2 AMBERS showing due to new requirements being added. These will be addressed as part of the 2022/23 Action Plan (which can be found on the Chaplaincy website).

Darren Ellsum - Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer.

Electoral Roll.

The numbers on the roll have reduced from 86 to 66. This number, represents a more realistic view of the people who attend our churches on a regular basis.

The inflated numbers we have had in the past made the chaplaincy look good but it is also one of the ways the diocese and archdeaconry calculate how much money they levy on us. The higher the number, the more we pay. Each person on the roll increases what the amount we pay to the diocese.

Those who do attend regularly are the ones mainly providing the income we need to run our chaplaincy. ***Alwyn Carter.***

Archdeaconry Synod 2022.

This year's synod had been planned to be an in person one but, due to an upsurge in Covid numbers in Spain it was changed back to a digital meeting via Zoom, the same as we had the previous year. Other than for our priests a normal synod stretches over a three day period, our virtual ones only lasts two days, requiring its representatives to spend most of two days in front of a computer screen.

As is normal, each day begins and ends with morning and evening worship.

The first session of synod always deals with procedural matters, confirmation of minutes and treasurers reports. This normally takes place in the evening session on the first day.

Four of us took part, Fr Alan, Gavin Sunshine, Tony Noble and myself, Tony and I being your elected synod reps.

During the synod we had two bible study sessions led by RR John Pritchard, who is a retired Bishop of Oxford. He showed us, over two sessions, how to see two passages from the bible from a different perspective. Both our bishops, our COO and members of the safe guarding team made presentations.

A number of items discussed at synod had to be presented to the PCC for their consideration. ***Alwyn.***

Auditor.

I, Christopher Hughes-Jones, have examined the balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure accounts for the Anglican Chaplaincy of Costa Almeria and Costa Calida for the year ending 31st December 2021.

In my opinion these accounts give an accurate and fair view of the financial affairs of the chaplaincy in 2021.

Signed *C.Hughes-Jones* Auditor

Signed *P.D Carter* Treasurer

Dated 22nd February 2022.

The original of the above is held by the treasurer and can be viewed at anytime.