

**Anglican Chaplaincy of Costa Almeria & Costa Calida**

**Anual General Meeting 2021**

Held at Milaflores Resurant,

On

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

At

12.00 a.m.

## AGM 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

### Chaplains report 2021

My 2021 report is for a shorter period than normal because of the fact that our last AGM was delayed until September, so that this report covers the period from October 2020 to May 2021.

It has been a very difficult year for many of us and for the chaplaincy itself. Individuals have had to cope with repeated and sometimes unexpected lockdowns. This has meant extended separations from families and loved ones, funerals at which those who would have loved to have been present could not be and strain on mental and emotional health for many. We are living in a world with difficult financial pressures and uncertain work faces many or their loved ones too. In addition to all this have been the uncertainties of Brexit.

For us as a church family it has been difficult too. For long periods we have not been able to hold services and when we could we found our numbers greatly reduced. This has meant we have had to rely on a mixture of on-line services and services in the flesh as well as more simple thoughts for a Sunday on line. Lately because our churches are now open, we have produced on-line services for special days and occasions only- thank you to Robert Carson and to all who have helped with recordings.

PCC meetings have been possible in the flesh on four occasions, partly because of our shortened year and partly because we are now alternating between a zoom meeting and a meeting in the flesh.

All of the above together with the return of many of our leading lights to the UK have impacted the chaplaincy on a leadership level. We were forced to stop worshipping at Aljambra for almost the whole of the period because a tree fell on the chapel roof and rendered the chapel unusable. Although here, in Antas and in Llanos we did manage to hold a few small home Eucharist's and acts of worship -though we were limited to 6 people in each.

I have sought to keep people together by pastoral telephone calls and of late by meeting for coffees where possible and appropriate. Necessarily the focus has had to be on doing many small things.

The effect of the virus, Brexit and departures of leadership on our finances has been devastating! Last year we ran a deficit of 26 000 euros! We could not go on at that rate without closing the chaplaincy down within the next couple of years.

Partly in response to this situation I have moved to a 4 day week and we have moved to our own accommodation. We hope that this will save the chaplaincy and enable us to raise some money from holiday lets. THIS WILL NOT solve the problem completely.

We all need to do our part. Please would not solve the problem completely! Please will you consider giving by order on line from your bank. This means 1. People don't need to be put at risk counting money and 2, we know what is coming in on a regular basis even if churches are unable to meet in the flesh. (Running a chaplaincy is expensive and we have cut costs to a minimum, but to give you an example one insurance policy alone costs over a 1000 euros!)

THERE IS MUCH GOOD NEWS TOO: We have had a few new regular worshipping members join us recently and I want to warmly welcome them!

Aljambra worship has been moved into Albox. Recently we held our first service in the Spanish Evangelical Church there and we hope to meet monthly on the second Thursday. Our first service was a truly joyful occasion. Please tell your friends in that area and tell them they would be most welcome to come along.

We have continued to supply regular food and other donations to three food banks and many of us are active members of other charities, such as the RBL, steppingstones and the new domestic abuse group. Much practical pastoral care is also being offered by various members of our congregation.

I would very much like to thank our ministry team (Fr. Alan, Margie, Tony, Alwyn) for another season of faithful service. Thank you too to those who have offered such sterling service in other ways. To Val as our treasurer, Janetta and Pam as wardens, Terri as Secretary and departing councillors Richard, Ray, and Len, thank you so much. I want to say how much I appreciate the quiet service of the many who do regular things to keep things going from week to week. (Cleaning, washing linen, producing leaflets, taking church bookings, ordering communion requirements, and running departments like Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Data Protection handling money and taking food parcels out.

My thanks most especially go to Robyn Anne who does a great deal with, for and on behalf of me as well as in her own name in this chaplaincy.

My thought for today and this time is to persevere in your faith, in worshipping and in your wonderful service of each other, others and the Lord and to try to do it with joy and thanks giving.

***Rev Vincent Oram.***

### **PCC Secretary's Report**

After the last AGM in September 2020, the PCC held a short meeting with new members. Following that meeting, there have been a further four meetings of the PCC either via ZOOM or face to face when allowed. A further ZOOM meeting was at the request of the Archdeacon who asked to speak to the PCC members as his visit to the area had had to be cancelled.

Full minutes of each meeting are kept by the Secretary and brief synopses of those minutes are available in each Church.

There have been a number of members whose terms on the PCC have ended or have resigned resulting in there currently being six spaces on the PCC. Huge thanks to all for their service to the PCC.

One of the major changes the PCC agreed to has been Vincent moving to part-time working hours.

Another has been the decision to let the La Mata apartment as a holiday let as Vincent and Robyn Anne now have their own apartment.

We were all very sad that Val had to retire as Treasurer after doing some sterling work over the years and the PCC would like to congratulate her on her achievements and thank her very much indeed for all her hard work.

More sad news was the death of Peter Watson, a long standing member of the Mojacar congregation and the PCC Gift Aid Co-ordinator. The PCC are very grateful for his hard work and pass on their best wishes and sincere condolences to his Widow Hazel.

***Terri Lyndon***

### **Report from Church Wardens**

At the delayed AGM in 2020 Pam Carter and I, Janetta Causton were both elected again as Church Wardens.

This year has been one with many challenges for us all, mostly because of the current Covid pandemic and the restrictions that have had to be observed. This has been compounded more in a year when some of our Church family members have returned to the UK and others have died. We have reopened our Churches three times and attendances have fluctuated as a result. We thank those of you who have faithfully continued to book seats at services and given help in many other ways too. We couldn't do our job without you.

Unfortunately Ajambra Chapel building is no longer in a useable state of repair but we are very grateful that the South American Church in Albox has begun to allow us to use their premises on a monthly basis. We hope that this will allow for growth. Llanos Church continues to meet and flourish at the Chapel in Zurgena by kind permission of Zurgena Town Hall.

All three of our Churches have continued to support food banks local to them. We thank those who support and organise these on our behalf.

As we go forward towards a new era of normal, helped by the vaccinations now being administered, we hope to go forward towards, a stronger, more united Church in all three venues in our Chaplaincy.

Other good news, Tony Noble passed his training to become a Lay Reader and is awaiting the time when the Bishop can come to present him with his blue scalf and officially swear him in to office, Covid restrictions are responsible for the delay. Also, Gavin Sunshine has been accepted for ordination training and is already taking an active part in leading worship. We congratulate them both on their achievements. ***Janetta Causton & Pam Carter.***

## **Mojacar Church Report**

This last 18 months has been a challenge for our churches. First starting after the period of lockdown, changing furniture around and promoting hygiene rituals. Extra challenges of social distancing and track and trace lists, trying to accommodate all those wanting to attend services but to keep our congregation as safe as possible. We all suffered from lack of personal fellowship but I believe our faith helped us through.

We as a chaplaincy were fortunate that our ministry team here led by Vincent, have us internet services and when possible home gatherings for worship in several different venues. We were so pleased when we could open the church doors again, albeit with lower numbers and masks.

Historically Mojacar church's membership is half residents and half visitors and holiday makers, so we had very few members of our congregation attending. Our numbers are rising, people daring to mix again and new people being welcome.

We continue to support the food bank at Turre, which under the current circumstances has more demand on its resources. As well as food parcels being brought, money is donated for which the food bank are grateful as they can purchase fresh produce as needed.

We thank God that he has kept us safe through the pandemic although the virus was caught by a small number who met socially, he brought them safely through it.

May we see our extended family return to swell our numbers and our singing voices once again be heard across the countryside. *Pam Carter*

## **Llanos AGM Report May 2021**

Despite being a difficult year we have continued to see God's blessings at Llanos.

Janetta has done a marvellous job of managing the seat bookings and we have had several new faces join our congregation who have continued to attend regularly.

Jasmine has raised approximately 300 euros for the chaplaincy by the selling of cards and jams, she was also able to host a socially distanced coffee morning which raised 415 euros. A big Thank You to Jasmine.

Our foodbank has continued throughout lockdown, thanks to our generous congregation and some very generous donations from people outside of our church. Thank you to Hazel, Peter and Keith for their sterling work.

Recently we have been able to help a young Venezuelan family, who were losing all the furniture from their rented flat. The congregation rallied and we were able to collect furniture and white goods to ensure they were not left without anything. We were overwhelmed by people's generosity from both in and outside the church.

Since the last AGM 42 euros has been collected for missions through coffee and brown money collections.

Our Easter services this year were a joy and a time for reflection. They were all well attended.

We pray that very soon we will be able to meet up socially again, but continue to thank God that at times throughout the year we have been able to continue to worship together. **David Blake.**  
**Llanos Church Rep.**

### **Report from Aljambra /Albox Church**

At the start of the year having returned from our temporary home at Cantoria Tanatorio we briefly returned to the little Chapel at Aljambra. However having cleaned and repaired it our stay there was of extremely short duration due to the pandemic and the continued deterioration of the Aljambra Chapel building.

During our enforced time of closure we were very shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our own Lay Reader Duncan Burr. He had over the years done so much for us at Aljambra that it left a big hole in our Church family. This was some what enlarged subsequently by the return of his wife Jean and their friends Ann and John Cooper to homes in England.

Not to be beaten however the Aljambra Chapel folk have continued to support the food bank at the South American Church in Albox.

Three Eucharist home Services also took place, all abiding by the restrictions of numbers and practices current at the time.

We are now please to be able to report that we have begun monthly Eucharist services. These can go ahead thanks to the kind loan of the rooms of the South American Church in Calle Segovia, Albox. **Janetta Causton**

### **Synod Report.**

This year's synod was in one respect disappointing. Due to the Covid restrictions we were unable to meet in a hotel at La Zenia, as we usually do, so the synod was done electronically using Zoom. Both our bishops took part and the keynote session was given by the new Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. All the usual sessions happened, and some important things were brought back to the PCC for consideration, but sitting at a computer for two days did cause a pain in the backside, the things we have to do for you in our chaplaincy. We are waiting to find out if the next synod will return to normal, I do hope so. **Alwyn Carter & Tony Noble, Synod Reps.**

### **Church Electoral Roll.**

Last year I reported 102 people on the electoral roll, the number this year is 85 a twenty percent drop. Whilst disappointing it does not represent the number of people actually attending church. Llanos church seems quite stable but Mojacar traditionally has a good number of holiday makers and swallows who attend for long periods but are not resident here. Until the Covid epidemic is controlled and free movement of people returns to normal we will not know when or whether these people will return to our fold. If these people were to be removed from the list we would be looking at a loss of a further twenty people, realistically a forty percent drop in one year. **Alwyn Carter**

### **Gift Aid**

Due to the sad loss of Peter Watson and Duncan Burr who administrated the Gift Aid giving to our Church, Pam and Alwyn are now taking over this role. We have at last obtained the records held by Peter and are now in position to make the request to HRMC for the payment of this money.

## **Safeguarding Report.**

- Since the last AGM a lot of work has been carried out to strengthen Safeguarding systems and structures and to raise its profile in the Chaplaincy.
- Safeguarding Audit carried out and Action Plan drawn up.
- All of the Worship Team (5), Church Warden (1) and Safeguarding Officer (1) have renewed their 'Level C2 Safeguarding Leadership' training.
- All required 'Confidential Declaration Forms' are now in place.
- Authorised 'Sides-Persons' list drawn up to aide wardens.
- All 'Fit & Proper Persons' forms are in place as required by HMRC.
- All 'Police Clearance Checks' near expiry have been successfully renewed.
- New online Single Central Record created to hold all information more securely and in compliance with Data Protection laws.
- Chaplaincy has moved to using the 'Promoting a Safer Church' posters which are much clearer.
- PCC has adopted the Church of England 'Domestic Abuse Statement'.
- Chaplaincy has made links with the new 'Domestic Abuse Support Levante' group.
- New Safeguarding section on the Chaplaincy website launched to give greater access to information including a 'Report a Concern' section.
- Local and National 'Helpline' list drawn up to support the pastoral care team (also on the website).
- A safeguarding article now appears in every edition of the Chaplaincy magazine to raise its profile in the wider community.
- Safeguarding officer recently took part in the Diocese of Europe "Virtual" Safeguarding Conference.

We will reaffirm our safe guarding policy at this years AGM.

***Darren Ellsum, Safe Guarding Officer***