
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE COSTA BRAVA : ANNUAL REPORT 2020



'Our church family seeks to offer love, comfort, peace and hope to all.'

Chaplain: Revd Rachel Shock

22nd March 2020
rearranged to
6th October 2020
due to coronavirus pandemic.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Vestry Meeting Agenda	1
Annual Chaplaincy Meeting Agenda	1
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 2019	2
Minutes of the Annual Chaplaincy Meeting 2019	3
Wardens' Statement 2019/2020	6
Chaplaincy Council Secretary's Report 2019/2020.....	8
Safeguarding Officer's Report 2019/2020	11
Treasurer's Report 2019 Accounts.....	12
Accounts	14
Archdeaconry Synod Report 2020.....	16
Fellowship Groups and Coffee and Chat Groups 2019/2020	21
The Events Committee	23
Data Protection 2019/2020	25
Electoral Roll 2019/2020.....	25
Chaplain's Report 2019/2020	26

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of 2019 meeting to be approved
4. Election/Appointment of Churchwardens

ANNUAL CHAPLAINCY MEETING AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Election/Appointment of Archdeaconry Synod Representatives
4. Election/Appointment of Chaplaincy Council Members
5. Chaplaincy Reports -
 - a. Electoral Roll Officer
 - b. Chaplaincy Council Secretary
 - c. Safeguarding Report
 - d. Treasurer's Report
 - e. Archdeaconry Synod Report
6. Appointment of independent examiner or auditor
7. Chaplain's Report
8. Any other business
9. Closing Prayer



MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING 2019

Vestry Meeting 2019

Church House, Corçà, Sunday 31st March 12:00 noon

Chair: Revd Rachel Shock

Minutes: David Wilkinson, Chaplaincy Secretary

Before the meeting began Revd Rachel Shock welcomed everyone and gave a brief outline of the legal purposes of the meetings, with reference also to the recent Synod

1. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Revd Rachel Shock.
2. Apologies for Absence:
Formal apologies had been received from David Hurley, Chaplaincy Treasurer, and from Debra Smith.
3. Approval of Minutes of the 2018 Vestry Meeting:
For this item, Keith Grant, Chaplaincy Lay Chair took the chair and asked for a proposal to accept the minutes. Tim Raine proposed to accept them and Melissa Levey seconded this. Those members present AGREED to the proposal unanimously.
4. Election/Appointment of Churchwardens:
Revd Rachel Shock chaired the rest of the meeting.

The only candidates for Churchwardens were as follows:

Gill Hepworth, proposed by Jean Sartori and seconded by Steve Brown. Those members present AGREED unanimously with this proposal and Gill was duly appointed.

and

Carol Wilkinson, proposed by Melissa Levey and seconded by Kevin Hepworth. Those members present AGREED unanimously with this proposal and Carol was duly appointed.

Gill and Carol will make their Churchwarden's declarations later in the proceedings.

5. Opting out of the 6-year rule for Churchwardens:

Revd Rachel Shock explained the 6-year rule including the pros and cons of revoking it. Against revoking the rule, there could be a future difficulty in changing a long-term occupant in the post because there may be a reluctance to stand against them at an election. Carol is starting her fourth year and Gill her third. However, a solution then would be to reinstate the rule at an ACM. This reinstatement would become effective at the following ACM. Michael Lee spoke of a situation he experienced in Cambridge where such a revocation caused a logjam against new, younger candidates but he felt that that was not the case in the Costa Brava. John Copestake made a proposal that the rule be revoked and Keith Grant seconded it. The members present voted thus: 15 for the proposal with 2 abstentions. Therefore, it was AGREED that the 6-year rule be revoked forthwith.

The Vestry Meeting was terminated at 12:10 and the Annual Chaplaincy Meeting followed on immediately.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHAPLAINCY MEETING 2019

Annual Chaplaincy Meeting 2019

Church House, Corçà

Sunday 31st March; 12:10

Chair: Revd Rachel Shock

Minutes: David Wilkinson, Chaplaincy Secretary

Revd Rachel Shock handed the chair to Keith Grant for the first 2 items.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 Meeting:
Keith asked for a proposal and Jean Sartori proposed that the minutes be accepted and Carol Wilkinson seconded this. Those members present AGREED to the proposal unanimously.
2. Matters arising:
There were no matters arising

Revd Rachel Shock returned to the chair for the items that follow.

3. Chaplaincy Reports:
 - a. Electoral Roll Officer & Appointment:
Anny Linnell proposed, and Gill Hepworth seconded that Keith Grant be appointed Electoral Roll Officer. The proposal was AGREED by the members present unanimously. Keith then stated that the New Roll stood at 32 members, somewhat lower than in the past due, in the main, to deaths and congregants leaving the chaplaincy. The applications form would be kept securely in the Chaplaincy Office safe in Corçà.
 - b. Chaplaincy Council Secretary:
The secretary asked for comments and Eleanor Copestake asked if the reports could have been sent out earlier, before the meeting, so that they could be read and digested better. Revd Rachel Shock was not sure they could be sent out earlier. Notwithstanding, the Council is always open and transparent. In any case they would be posted on the website from today, for all to read. Carol Wilkinson asked the meeting what they thought of the trial of having services on the 5th Sundays of March, June, September and November, this year, at the church in Corçà. Melissa Levey said that access was much easier there, for those in wheelchairs and those less sure-footed, than St Stephen's in Madremanya. Revd Rachel Shock said that the timing of availability is not so convenient at Corçà as the locals hold their service at 12:15 pm. Pat Wilson said she found the acoustics at Corçà poor. John Copestake concurred saying that hearing content is a well-known challenge for an aging congregation. The PA system at Madremanya works well if used properly, particularly by the positioning of the microphones. Those with greatest difficulties could sit near to a loudspeaker. Pat Wilson asked if we should employ an acoustics expert but this was over-ruled on cost, and also

the buildings were not ours to alter. Gill Hepworth suggested that the delivery could be slowed down to match the acoustics. Steve Brown suggested that turning the volume down can often be effective. Jean Sartori suggested we should practise different settings before a service to see if improvements can be made. Kevin Hepworth pointed out that the loudspeakers in Corçà were a problem even if you sat next to them. David Wilkinson and Sharon Grant to do some work on this emotive issue.

Finally, David Wilkinson promoted the website and the Facebook page to be the “go-to” places for information as they had been very much improved by the Chaplain. Revd Rachel Shock asked for feedback on their usefulness, or on any lack of, or error in, content. She then thanked the Secretary for his work.

c. Safeguarding Report:

David Wilkinson was pleased to report that the Chaplaincy was now, for the first time, up-to-date with the Training and with the checks. He reiterated the Chaplaincy’s commitment to the Safeguarding Policy. Although she said that the Chaplaincy was free from any cases of a safeguarding issue, Revd Rachel Shock urged that anyone should make their safeguarding concerns known as soon as possible, to either herself or to the Safeguarding Officer, as there was no room for complacency.

d. Treasurer’s Report:

As David Hurley, the Treasurer, had sent his apologies, Revd Rachel Shock said she would take questions if there were any. She also proposed a vote of thanks to David for his work. David had confirmed that Andrew Cannings was, again, willing to continue to audit the accounts.

e. Synod Report:

Revd Rachel Shock encouraged all to read the report and to give feedback. Sharon Grant said that we were part of a much larger organisation. Melissa Levey added that we are problem free in our Chaplaincy in comparison with others in the Diocese of Europe. Rachel pointed out that the 2 positions of Synod Representative, currently held by Sharon and Melissa, were due to be re-appointed at the 2020 ACM. Melissa said that the Synod was very interesting and was very much a 2-way exercise, with all present sharing ideas. John Copestake reminded the meeting that any of the members could attend Synod, albeit at their own expense.

4. Appointment of Sidespeople:

This was a Church legal process. Revd Rachel Shock read out a list of current and prospective personnel and 3 extra names were added at the meeting. Their acceptance for the task was proposed by Sharon Grant, seconded by Carol Wilkinson and passed unanimously by the members present.

5. Appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditor:

The re-appointment of Andrew Cannings was proposed by Keith Grant, seconded by John Copestake and passed unanimously by the members present.

6. Inclusion of Readers to Chaplaincy Council:

Revd Rachel Shock explained that Readers were not automatically included on the Chaplaincy Council. Sharon Grant is on the Council currently because she is a Synod Representative. David Wilkinson proposed, Tim Raines seconded that, in future, a Reader would be included automatically on the Council and the members present agreed unanimously.

7. Appointment of Legal Representatives for F.E.R.E.D.E.:

Revd Rachel Shock proposed, Jean Sartori seconded that the 2 churchwardens, Carol Wilkinson and Gill Hepworth, should be the Legal Representatives for F.E.R.E.D.E., and the members present agreed unanimously.

8. Amendment to the numbers on Chaplaincy Council:

Revd Rachel Shock explained to the meeting that the Council had one too many members currently. This was due to a reduction in the number of enrolled members to below 50. The rules state that if the membership is under 50, then there may be 6 lay members on the Council. This will take effect next year at the 2020 ACM. John Copestake said that, in addition, if necessary, the Council could co-opt members.

9. Chaplain's Report:

Revd Rachel Shock said she felt a huge positivity within the Chaplaincy and that it had made her feel very welcome. She expressed her gratitude for this and also made special mention of Melissa Levey and Sharon Grant for their contribution to the coherence of the Chaplaincy. She also thanked the Churchwardens, Carol Wilkinson and Gill Hepworth, for their hard work and said it would be impossible to run the chaplaincy without them. Anny Linnell said that all this had been especially true during the interregnum. Carol, Gill, Sharon and Melissa in turn expressed their gratitude back to Rachel.

10. A.O.B.:

There were no items.

11. There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 12:55 by the saying of Grace.

After the meeting the Churchwardens swore their oaths of office in the presence of the members.

WARDENS' STATEMENT 2019/2020

This last year has once more been enjoyable, eventful as well as challenging. As a Chaplaincy we are having to address the increasing demands from a changing world. BREXIT is continuing to make an impact on the number of families who live permanently in the Costa Brava. However, despite this, our prayers and hard work have been fruitful in improving the Chaplaincy finances and increasing congregations. We know that there is no room for complacency and with God's support, we continue with our work.

Rachel has officially been with us as Chaplain for over 18 months and has quickly gained an understanding of our strengths and areas that will help us move forward, with the support of members of the Chaplaincy. Both Rachel and Sharon guide us on our Christian journey with care and love and use their excellent interpersonal skills to support and welcome all. Our website is clear, professional and full of information in order to attract visitors especially those who arrive for a holiday as well as those who wish to get married in the Costa Brava.

We continue to use four churches for our worship across the Costa Brava although the Pau Service is on a weekday because of the very low number who attend from that area. We are now using Madremanya on the first and fourth Sundays of each month. The congregations continue to increase especially in Lloret and Panedes. These statistics are under continual review by the Chaplaincy Council.

We have now lost nearly all our young people because families have moved to other areas or older ones have moved onto further education away from home. We continue to give thanks for the hard work of Ann Rose and others who support her in encouraging young ones to come to church. We also continue to give thanks to our musicians, Mark Hinchliffe and Kevin Hepworth who both provide ways to enrich and support our worship. The Carol Service in Corçà was enhanced by a choir mostly formed from Cachondeo Choir singers. Their contribution was greatly appreciated by the congregation and we hope they can do the same for the next Carol Service! Special thanks have to be given to those who are taking on additional roles, many at the last minute, in services. Despite being an ageing congregation with fewer people on the electoral roll, we remain enthusiastic. Many of us are learning new skills and taking on different roles and responsibilities in order to provide greater flexibility when organising services.

Apart from regular weekly Sunday Services, we have had other services, including Carol Services at Corçà and Lloret de Mar, a Christingle Service at Madremanya, and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services at Church House. The Remembrance Service was held on 10 November at Madremanya. The monthly fellowship groups in Lloret de Mar and Church House are well attended but the fellowship group in Calonge has fewer people attending because of changes in circumstances for a number of people. The monthly Coffee and Chat groups in Lloret, Calonge and Montjuic are all appreciated. We have introduced a Taizé Service when there is a fifth Sunday in any month. It has been difficult to find the correct venue for what is a more intimate style of worship. Bigger spaces feel a little overwhelming, so the next Taizé service will be at Panedes where we hope that this smaller space attracts a larger congregation. The 'Quiet Day' in Church House provided a welcome opportunity for reflection and peace within our busy lives.

The Wardens' role includes assurance that the Chaplaincy is on a sustainable pathway. We'd therefore like to give a big thankyou to our Treasurer, David Hurley for his expertise and vigilance of the accounts; to David Wilkinson our secretary who does a lot of work behind the scenes and researches information when appropriate; to Tim Raine and Melissa Levey who take on many tasks and to the Chaplaincy Council and wider congregation who give help and support in many and varied ways. We also thank those who allow us to borrow their churches and those who, with a smile, open our churches or ensure that we have a key when needed.

As ever, the year has been full of activities which raise money, provide enjoyment and bring people together, thanks to the hard work of the Events Committee, led by Carol. The Great British Lunches continue to be well attended and are greatly appreciated by those who participate. Many thanks go to those who have organised and cooked them and for their hard work and cookery skills. The Spring Fair in June and especially the Christmas Fair in November were great successes financially and socially. We all appreciate the hard work and skilful hands of those who 'make and bake' and organise the many events. A surprising success was the carboot day in September at Corcà Sunday market. As a result of this, we organised another one for the Celrà Saturday market at the end of February and we're pleased to say that it was also successful as well as enjoyable.

We thank God for what we have achieved but with thought and prayer, we continue to move forward!

GILL HEPWORTH

CAROL WILKINSON

WARDENS

Addendum:

We would not want this report to circulate without making a brief comment about the last six months. We have had to make some difficult decisions but throughout everything we remain a church community that many of us feel is gaining in strength. Thanks must go to Rachel for her expertise, patience and leadership as she guides us through the challenges and copes with our many computer issues! Also we thank her and Sharon for their prayers and verses from the Bible and other sources which have helped raise morale. Last but not least, enormous thanks to everyone for their support financially and also the wonderful team effort in the clearing of Church House!

Gill & Carol

CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL SECRETARY'S REPORT 2019/2020

Your Council has met 6 times since the last ACM, most recently on March 10th. There were also 4 meetings of the Standing Committee.

The two issues which took up most of the Council's time were the Financial situation and the suitability of the Chaplaincy's places of worship. The first item has been covered by your Treasurer, David Hurley and so I will concentrate on the second.

Various questions occupied the Council regarding the 4 local churches that are available to us. Firstly, there was the question of location and, within a reasonable distance, the size of the "catchment area". Madremanya and Penedes are close to a large number of existing congregants and many more non-attendees. Pau and Lloret de Mar are close to large expat populations but are pretty remote from all but the few local existing congregants.

Secondly, there was the question of whether local facilities made it more or less comfortable for our ageing population. Your Council looked at parking, accessibility (steps, thresholds, toilets), temperature, hand-cleansing, storage for books etc., key-holding, caretaking, acoustics, etc., etc. Thirdly, there was the question of availability or not of better alternatives. Fourthly, the question of the relationship with the Roman Catholic Church, particularly the Bishop, but also our various contacts, including of course the Priests in charge of the four churches. Fifthly, the Council took cognizance of the views, sometimes strongly held, of the devotees of each place of worship. Finally, your Council looked at whether the historic aim of holding services in Girona itself was currently viable.

I think we all know the pluses and minuses of the four churches we use, so there is no need to list them again in this report. However, after much deliberation, we chose to hold the first Sunday service of each month in the centre of the Chaplaincy, initially at Corçà, but then at Madremanya, which is still the current situation. Revd Rachel Shock holds a Communion Service at Pau on the following day for the local congregants who were also encouraged to travel to Madremanya instead (or as well). This was set up as an experiment to last for 6 months beginning with September 2019. The idea was to cut down collective travelling time for the majority of worshippers. The results were reviewed in January and it was decided to continue with the arrangement for the time being. Alternative places of worship were considered but it proved to be difficult to obtain permission from the local priest or the Bishop to change.

With regard to Lloret de Market was decided that, as well as there being no better alternatives, the existing place of worship, the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception School, was in fact perfect except for the travel time from the centre of the province, which is around the hour for most. Therefore, there will be no change in our arrangements for the regular service on the third Sunday of the month.

Your Council decided to work on the accessibility of St Stephen's, Madremanya, which is the main problem. In fact, we have been encouraged by Mn. Josep Maria to use it as often as we like and so we are now using it successfully twice a month. The Council encourages everyone to park their cars at the top of the village from where they will find a flat walk to the church. There are ramps provided to help wheelchair over the tricky threshold, but it is acknowledged that care needs to

be taken inside the church which has both uneven areas of flooring and steps up to and around the altar. There have been efforts made to improve the acoustics via the sound system but, in the end, finding a better seat by experiment may be the best solution.

The Council was unable to get permission to use any religious building as an alternative to Sant Ampèli at Penedes. The chapel, for that is what it is, is small and is often very full, which is great of course but causes problems of movement and parking. The Chaplaincy Council has obtained permission for congregants to park in the drive of the house across the road from the chapel and this is to be strongly encouraged. The other short comings will be managed as best we can. In the meantime the Council will look out for a suitable, probably secular, alternative.

As to having a place of worship in Girona, taking into account the apparent reluctance of the Roman Catholics to offer us any churches, and the surprisingly low expat population in the city, your Council took the view that it was not viable at this moment in time.

As well as all this work on alternative places of worship, the Council also looked into opportunities to hold services with a different liturgy. To this end, two Taizé services were held at Corçà with some critical success apart from the size of the church which worked against what is an intimate style of service. Because of this, and the fact that Corçà is not regularly available to us, it has been decided to hold the next Taizé service at Penedes on the fifth Sunday of March. It is hoped that this more intimate chapel will encourage a greater number to attend and that, in the future, this then becomes a regular item during the ecclesiastical year.

Your Council also decided to smooth the flow of services by encouraging congregants, in a busy service, to offer the peace only to those around them, with maybe just the shake of the hands, rather than trying to make contact with everyone attending. This change has been adopted in most services.

The bring-and-share lunch has come in for some reappraisal too. The team in the kitchen has been reduced in size and their task list likewise. These tasks now revolve around preparation of the table of food and the brewing of coffee and drinks in time for the first arrivals from the Madremanya service. Clearing of tables is the responsibility of each attendee and washing up at the end is to be achieved in a more casual way with volunteers from the among all attendees. To ease the work of the kitchen team, they have asked that only cold food be brought from April to October.

During the year the Council negotiated a 5-year renewal of the rental agreement for Church House. The actual contract was submitted to the Chaplaincy's local lawyer,

Andreu Garriga, who confirmed its suitability. It was signed at the end of September for a commencement date of 1st October 2019. Tim Raine and David Hurley are once again the legal guarantors whose liabilities are limited to ensuring that any termination on our behalf is made in a timely way and without financial penalty.

Data Protection legislation took up some time also and the introduction of various software programs have helped to ensure our compliance, for example when we send out group emails.

And finally, a Diocesan Environmental Survey about the way our Chaplaincy conducts its business was returned to the central office for their response, advice, and assistance.

Our current Chaplaincy Council members are:

Chaplain, Rachel Shock

Churchwarden, Carol Wilkinson

Churchwarden, Gill Hepworth

Lay chair, Keith Grant

Secretary, David Wilkinson

Treasurer, David Hurley

Electoral Roll Officer, Keith Grant

Deputy warden, Tim Raine

Synod Rep, Sharon Grant

Synod Rep, Melissa Levey

Lay Representatives: Jean Sartori

Ann Rose

Anny Linnell

Kevin Hepworth

If you have any subjects, questions or issues you wish the council to discuss, please ask any of the members to raise them.

DAVID WILKINSON
CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL SECRETARY

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER'S REPORT 2019/2020

It has been a quiet year with regard to Safeguarding for our Chaplaincy which is good as far as incidents or concerns are concerned. I thank every one of you for your help in this. However we must remain vigilant.

We have been very successful in the past with regard to getting people through training and obtaining police checks where appropriate. However, all good things come to an end they say and the time has come for some of us to have refresher training. Those of us who had "Level 2" classroom training in 2016 will now have to have this new training. I am working with the area trainer, Solveig Schnur from the Ibiza Chaplaincy, to put this together for 8 of us in April this year. She has been our trainer twice before.

In addition, in October 2019, after working on it or some time, the Diocese in Europe Safeguarding Team [DEST] announced a series of changes, with regard to safeguarding, to the way we recruit and train people in our chaplaincies. They also moved some of the responsibilities towards the Chaplaincies. This means that, in future, organising police checks will become our responsibility, except for Clergy, Readers, Churchwardens and Safeguarding Officers.

In order to help us with this, they have updated most of the forms in use and also issued updated checklists. One of these checklists shows the level of training, and in some cases checks, that are required for all the different roles commonly found within a chaplaincy; from Chaplain to Bell Ringer.

One of these roles is that of sidesperson. Anyone carrying out this function must have filled in a Confidential Declaration Form and have carried out the basic level of online training, known as "Safeguarding Basic Awareness" (C0). In fact this is the default starting point for all of us with any type of function in our Chaplaincy. The course lasts about an hour altogether. It does not have to be done all at one sitting as it may be paused and saved. On completion of the training, a certificate is issued by the program and a message is sent to the DEST.

I have been playing catch-up and have written to all current sidepeople, plus some others, to notify them of the need to fill in the Confidential Declaration Form. When I have had that back, I will send out detailed instructions regarding the accessing of the training. Sidespeople are really important as they are the first point of contact for anyone entering one of our places of worship. Confidential Declaration Forms will be available at the ACM.

Finally, if you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact myself or the Chaplain as soon as possible.

DAVID WILKINSON

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

TREASURER'S REPORT 2019 ACCOUNTS

2019 has been a brilliant year for our church, and one of the best years in financial performance since I became treasurer quite some years ago.

We finished the year with a surplus of 3,909.39 euros, and this compares to a deficit of 2,738.51 euros in 2018. So, an improvement of in excess of 6,600 euros.

Our cash balance at the end of 2019 was 14,270.21 euros, compared to 10,581.35 euros at the end of 2018, so an improvement of just under 3,700 euros.

Our profit and loss statement shows an income for 2019 of 36,279.37 euros against 27,418.19 euros in 2018, an increase in income for the year of nearly 9,000 euros. This has come from better offertory, better donations and fees, and better fundraising during the year, an excellent all-round performance.

I would like to say a big thank to everybody for the effort made to improve our income and the success they have achieved. Needless to say, we must not let this be a one off in 2019 and we need to continue to repeat this in 2020 and onwards in order to stay healthy.

Our expenditure at 32,369.98 euros was 2,213.28 euros higher than 2018. The majority of this increase was out of our control in that the Diocese Common Fund and Archdeaconry Dues both increased in the year, and look like doing so again in 2020.

A decision was taken by the Church Council to reduce the sums paid as 'rent' to the churches used, and this has given us a saving of 1,250 euros per year. A portion of this saving has been given as donations to three charities. We may have to review this decision in the case of Madremanya as we continue to use it more.

Our balance sheet as at 31st December 2019 therefore now looks a lot healthier than it did at the end of 2018, and so we start 2020 in a much better position than we started 2019.

Our budget for 2020 shows an expected income of 36,362 euros, virtually the same as 2019, and a budgeted expenditure of 31,197 euros, a slight reduction on 2019, and therefore a budgeted excess of 5,165 euros. If we able to achieve these numbers then we will have a cash balance at the end of 2020 of around 19,000 euros in our two bank accounts. I will be a very happy treasurer at that point to be able to hand over to my successor a very healthy set of accounts.

Can I just remind you, that as a member of our congregation, you can help achieve our 2020 budget in a number of ways:-

1. If you have not yet done so, sign up for the Gift Aid Envelope system either as a UK taxpayer or a Spanish taxpayer. Just so you know, if you are a UK taxpayer we are able to claim 25% of your offertory from HMRC in the UK, and if you are Spanish taxpayer you can claim your offertory back on your tax return, and we will give you an annual certificate confirming your offertory for the year, which has been registered with the Hacienda. So, if you have not yet signed up please consider doing so, it is very easy. You can email me at either treasureracb@gmail.com or david_hurley@msn.com for information. It is a very simple process and brings great benefit to our income. Please look at the church website which explains exactly how the Gift Aid system works.

2. Bring a friend or friends along to a church service; I am sure they will enjoy both the service and the company.
3. Bring a friend or friends along to a fund-raising event. The events committee work unbelievably hard behind the scenes to stage an event. Again, have a look on the Church website where all the events for 2020 are listed. If you can help at an event, particularly the May Fair and Xmas Fair do speak with Rachel or Carol, as help is always very welcome.
4. Promote our church whenever and wherever you can.

Finally, can I say a huge thank you to Andrew Cannings for carrying out the audit of the Church Accounts again this year. This is not an easy task, as we now have in excess of 300 transactions to check, that constitute our accounts in a year.

DAVID HURLEY ACMA, GCMA
CHURCH TREASURER

ACCOUNTS

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE COSTA BRAVA

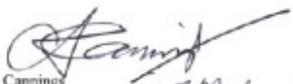
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER

		2019		2018	
	Note	€	€	€	€
FIXED ASSETS - ACTIVO FIJO					
Furniture & Fittings - Muebles	1	231.90		155.57	
Car - Coche	2	800.00		0.00	
Priest changeover	3	914.47	1,946.37	1,623.14	1,778.71
CURRENT ASSETS - ACTIVOS CORRIENTES					
Prepayments - Prepago		0.00		0.00	
Gift aid due from IR - Ayuda Gratuita		914.29		920.78	
Refundable rent deposit - Alquiler Deposito	4	750.00		700.00	
Bank Account - UK - Cuenta Banco - UK		6,902.96		6,276.89	
Bank Account -Spain - Cuenta Banco Espana		7,367.25		4,304.46	
			15,934.50		12,202.13
CURRENT LIABILITIES - PASSIVO CORRIENTES					
Accruals - Seguros	5	160.00		169.36	
			160.00		169.36
NET ASSETS			17,720.87		13,811.48
FINANCED BY:					
Reserve Account - Reservas					
Surplus from 2018		13,811.48		16,549.99	
Gain for 2019		3,909.39		-2,738.51	
Surplus carried forward to 2020			17,720.87		13,811.48
CAPITAL EMPLOYED			17,720.87		13,811.48

Note

1	Cost of Fixtures/Fittings	686.26
	Depreciation to date	454.36
	Net Book Value 31.12.2019	231.90
2	Cost of Car	1200.00
	Depreciation to date	400.00
	Net Book Value 31.12.2019	800.00
3	Cost of Priest changeover	2,132.01
	Depreciation to date	1,217.54
	Net Book Value 31.12.2019	914.47
4	One months rent deposit refundable	750.00
5	Accrued electricity Nov/Dec	100.00
	Accrued Water Qtr 4	60.00
		160.00

I have examined the books and vouchers of the Anglican Church in the Costa Brava and certify that the above accounts represent a true and fair view of the position as at 31st December 2019.


 Andrew Cannings
 March 2020
 15 February 2020

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE COSTA BRAVA**PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING**

	2019		2018	
	€	€	€	€
INCOME				
Offertory/UK Gift Aid	24,385.26		19,974.90	
Donations & Fees	5,665.91		2,801.62	
Fundraising activities	6,228.20		4,641.67	
TOTAL INCOME		36,279.37		27,418.19
EXPENDITURE				
Administration Costs				
Chaplaincy stipend/Clergy Honorariums	6,000.00		5,963.37	
Public Liability Insurance	221.54		221.54	
Chaplaincy accomodation & expenses	15,436.40		14,296.90	
Church expenses	166.90		505.79	
Depreciation - F & F	187.70		158.65	
Depreciation - Car	400.00		0.00	
Depreciation - Priest changeover	708.67		508.87	
Website	0.00		143.19	
Bank charges	224.00		213.48	
Gestoria/Legal fees	468.25		299.10	
Reser training costs	0.00		792.00	
Printing/Stationery/Publicity	798.29		496.33	
		24,611.75		23,599.22
External church costs				
Diocesan Common Fund	2,931.00		2,187.36	
Synod attendance & expenses	1,063.58		604.00	
Archdeaconry and Ferode levies	863.65		516.12	
		4,858.23		3,307.48
Donations made				
Madremanya	200.00		750.00	
Penedes	200.00		500.00	
Pau	200.00		500.00	
Lloret	400.00		500.00	
Other donations	900.00		0.00	
Columbia	1,000.00		1,000.00	
		2,900.00		3,250.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		32,369.98		30,156.70
GAIN FOR 2019/LOSS FOR 2018		3,909.39		-2,738.51

ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD REPORT 2020

The Synod this year took place from the Tuesday 28th January to Friday 31st January. Clergy arrived on the Monday in preparation for the Clergy Chapter of Tuesday morning and afternoon. The topics for discussion this year were Science and Christianity followed by a session about The Rule of Life. After lunch, the clergy had the opportunity to discuss business matters or concerns with the Archdeacon.

At 6.00 pm an Opening Eucharist was held for all Synod members and visitors. This was led by Bishop David, who also preached. During this service a Reader was licensed and a priest re-licensed.

We then started the first Synod session which was led by the Archdeacon, David Waller. A brief introduction and welcome was given. This was followed by apologies for absence, domestic notices, procedural matters and confirmation of the minutes from 2019. Gwen Furmston gave a quick financial report which summarised the previously circulated Treasurers Report. We heard that there are now 2,095 electoral roll members for this Archdeaconry. It was announced that Father Louis from Costa Azahar had been appointed to the Diocesan Synod for the House of Clergy. At 8.30 pm we went for dinner!

On Wednesday morning, we started with a Morning Prayer service at 8.15 am, followed by breakfast at 9.00 am. At 9.45 am the second synod session began, which was a bible study led by Dr. Clare Amos. As the overall theme for this year's synod was "Caring for God's Creation", Clare looked at various verses within the Old Testament which are related to God's creation. She especially focused on the chapter of Genesis, some verses from Job and a few psalms, including reading out all of Psalm 104. A couple of other poignant verses were "*I lift my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*" (Psalm 121:1-2).

A very quick refreshment preceded the next session which was given by The Reverend David Bookless. He spoke for a brief while about A Rocha. A Rocha is an interdenominational, Christian organisation, inspired by the love of God and involved in community conservation projects, environmental education, scientific research and technological training. The session then turned to the subject of creation and care for God's world.

Reverend Bookless was keen to stress that this earth, our environment, is our life support system. He stated mankind's impact on the earth had grown exponentially since the industrial revolution. In more recent years, between 1970 and 2016, there has been a 60% decline in wildlife populations, with a 67% decline projected by this year. Reverend Bookless explained that the reasons for the lack of current biodiversity are multiple and complex. However, we must understand that it will compromise all of us.

As Christians, which view do we take? That the environment is irrelevant and that only people matter? That the environment is important, but its care is more of a hobby? Or, is it integral to our lives. As Christians, caring for our environment, Reverend Bookless stated, is an inescapable part of following God.

Creation is a locus of divine blessing and also of human identity. It is the overflow and outpouring of love between God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They are co-Creators (*John 1:3*), God sees creation as very good (*Genesis 1*) the earth is God's, not ours (*Psalms 24:1-2*) and was made by God, for God (*Colossians 1*).

Several models for understanding our place within God's creation were examined and a final model called "Theo" was accepted as the most appropriate for Christians. We are part of God's very good creation. We must care and serve and uphold the earth. Whilst being part of creation, we are also guardians of God's good earth.

The Wednesday afternoon sessions were started by The Right Reverend Dr David Hamid, Suffragan Bishop (Bishop David). The session was entitled "Sex! Why is this so complicated?" Such a title ensured a full attendance! Much debate over sexuality, sexual ethics, gender, marriage, partnership, etc has been done by the Church of England over many years. Although, the discussions are moving forward, at the moment, the Church has no definitive decision in relation to these issues. Many views on these topics are deeply entrenched and often they are diametrically opposed. All churches are reflecting on this topic and not one is untouched.

One problem arising from these debates is the liturgy which exists within the church. The Book of Common Prayer and Canon B30 state that marriage is "one man, one woman" and that it is for the purpose of "procreation, the remedy of sin and mutual society..." Clearly, this is not relevant for same sex marriages. Since, 1988 the Lambeth Commission has been trying to resolve the issues but they have consistently remained unresolved and in need of further study.

Other issues relate to the law of England itself. For example, adultery within the English law is defined as having sex with another party of the opposite sex. This statement is not relevant to same sex marriages yet the church cannot change the law of England. Therefore, as liturgy should reflect our doctrine, and we have no doctrine, at present, on the subject of same sex marriage, we see that there is also no liturgy for same sex marriages.

This is, indeed, a complex matter! Of greater importance, however, is the way in which we treat people. Sadly, most youth today see the church as homophobic which raises the concern of how to draw people to church with this image. There is the issue of human rights to consider, and also the fact that biology alone should not define our identity with Christ.

The bible itself, has no positive word regarding homosexual activity. However, it may be that due to historical/cultural distance, biblical condemnation does not apply. The practice of keeping slaves and concubines, for example, is no longer considered acceptable within today's society. Importantly, the trajectory of scripture through the ages tells us of God's desire to reconnect, heal and build bonds of love with all people. Furthermore, plain reading of the scriptures, without correct interpretation and guidance from the Holy Spirit, is unscriptural (*Acts 8:30-31*). Then too, we have the example of Jesus who reached out to ritually impure and morally unacceptable people. The summary of God's law is love.

Although the debates on these subjects have not yet yielded firm directives from the Church of England, it is clear that distinct views across the Communion are emerging from the scriptures. Bishop David concluded the session with a quote from the Anglican Consultative

Council (1976), “As in the first century, we can expect the Holy Spirit to press us to listen to each other, to state new insights frankly, and to accept implications of the Gospel new to us, whether painful or exhilarating.”

Damian Thwaites, the Diocesan Communication Officer spoke briefly about Brexit Residency applications. There is a fund available to help people with the associated paperwork and help with residency applications where possible. Contact the Diocesan Head Office for more information. A well earned refreshment break was taken and followed by the Holy Eucharist service in the local church at 6.00 pm.

After Morning Prayer and breakfast on Thursday, we continued with the second session of the bible study. Again, this was led by Dr. Clare Amos. This session looked at the New Testament scripture and, whereas Wednesday’s study looked at God as Nature’s Poet, this study looked at God as Nature’s priest. Bible verses from Mark, Luke, John, Romans, Colossians amongst others were studied and a poem by Peter Baelz. A key scripture was *“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.”* (2 Corinthians 3:18-19).

Following a refreshment break, the rest of the morning was taken up discussing and sharing examples of good practice within our chaplaincies. We gathered into pre-arranged discussion groups, staying as a chaplaincy and joining with other chaplaincies. Our Chaplaincy was partnered with the chaplaincies from Barcelona, Palma Mallorca and Tenerife South. Initiatives which had been tried and which were discussed included visiting a recycling centre to encourage environmental care, “plogging” - picking up litter and jogging, holding a Contemplative/Holy Hour service with candles once a month, running a shop, holding concerts in the church hall and asking for donations for the use of the hall, cleaning the beach once a month and planting plants for bees. Obviously, not all of these ideas are applicable to every chaplaincy but it was good to hear so many diverse ways to bring God into our community. The ideas were then shared with the whole synod at the end of the session.

The Thursday afternoon was taken up with various presentations from Diocesan staff, all of whom had kindly come over from London to update us. Andrew Caspari, the Chief Operating Officer told us that his priorities were ordained ministerial development and support, developing Lay ministry, youth, the future of the earth, poverty and social justice and a digital diocese. He went on to describe some of the things which the Diocesan office has done for the chaplaincies in Europe in 2019 which include:-

- Managing 143 chaplaincy current accounts
- Managing 74 investment accounts and 44 trusts
- Giving out of £85,000 in gift aid
- Organising 200 locum placements over 1000 weeks
- Supporting 21 Ordinands in Training
- 98 Readers have completed training by the Diocese of Europe
- Supporting 33 Readers in Training

We then heard a presentation from Mrs Grace Fagan, the Safeguarding Director. Grace is new to the team and she introduced herself briefly. She was positive and friendly, passionate about

safeguarding and professional. Most importantly, Grace has 14 years of experience in safeguarding. Grace mentioned the enthusiasm and energy across the diocese, a highly skilled and professional safeguarding team and that the culture and ethos of safeguarding is becoming embedded in the Diocese of Europe.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team is made up of 6 people. They are particularly keen to promote a safer Church environment, review what's working well throughout the Diocese of Europe, analyse areas of concern and explain why they are of concern and share with the Diocese of Europe the collective next steps.

At present, there are 19 open safeguarding cases within the Diocese of Europe. Between January 2019 and December 2019 the Diocesan Safeguarding Team completed safeguarding checks for a total of 383 individuals. This involved checks in 745 countries (which was approximately 2 checks per person) and included 261 initial applications.

The current priorities of the Safeguarding Team are:-

- Improving safeguarding reporting across the Diocese of Europe
- C5 Training to be rolled out across the Diocese of Europe
- Review past cases
- Review every living clergy and church officer
- Progress and report on the 31 recommendations made by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) following their audit in 2017.

Reverend Elizabeth Bussmann, Environmental Officer shared her passion about the environment with us and this was followed by a questions and answer session and a refreshment break. The Spanish section business meeting followed. The Synod was closed by the Archdeacon and included a prayer from Father Luis, the priest from Peru.

A healing service was held and a collection taken for our partners in Peru. Dinner was at 8.00 pm and was followed by a final report from Canon Geoff Johnston at 9.00 pm. There was then a quiz and sketch.

Friday morning, our last day, started at 8.15 am with a Said Eucharist celebrated by our own Reverend Rachel Shock. It was a wonderfully calm service after all our busyness, preparing us for our onward journeys and filling us with "food for thought" with an excellent sermon. We departed shortly after breakfast.



REVD RACHEL SHOCK
SHARON GRANT, SYNOD REP
MELISSA LEVEY, SYNOD REP

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS AND COFFEE AND CHAT GROUPS 2019/2020

The three Fellowship Groups have continued to run successfully during the last year. They are held in Calonge, Lloret de Mar and Corçà.

The Calonge group, which was the original group, is still run in Tim Raine's house or in Keith and Sharon Grant's house. It is still held every second Wednesday at 10.30 am. This year has seen quite a change in dynamics in this group. Due to distances, age and also to the new group in Corçà, the numbers have dropped. There are still 5 core members but as some of these members have started to travel for extended periods of time, it is increasingly rare that we have so many altogether. There has been additional interest in this group shown by another 2 people which is great. However, these people are based outside Spain so it is not yet known how often they will come to the Fellowship. Certainly, attendance is rather erratic within this group.

The Coffee and Chat group which is held in Calonge is well attended and a cheerful time is usually shared by all. On average, there are usually about 11 people attending the coffee mornings, which are still held in Girbal Café. Recently, however, we held the coffee morning in a café in Palamos to support another member of the congregation and I understand that this went very well too.

The Fellowship Group in Lloret de Mar is still going very well. There are 5 core members and they all always come! Their enthusiasm and commitment are wonderful! The meeting is still held in either the Caritas rooms or more often than not in one of the rooms of the Parish. Every month, I ring and speak with Mosen Martiria to arrange where we can meet, and through this contact a very good ecumenical relationship has been developed. The group meet every first Thursday of the month at 3.00 pm outside the St Roma Church.

Following a discussion last year, we now share a coffee after the Fellowship group. This starts at 4.15 pm where we meet again, outside the St Roma Church. There are always at least one or two additional people who join us for coffee and once we had an additional 5 people for coffee, so that we were 11 in all!

The Fellowship Group in Corçà is also going very well. Once again, the commitment and enthusiasm from the members is excellent and invaluable! This group meet at Church House, every third Thursday of the month at 10.30 am. Eight people regularly attend this Fellowship group. The move to this location has proved popular and means that more people than previously now attend Fellowship Groups in the chaplaincy as a whole.

This year, the groups overall have studied topics requiring more than one session so that we have studied subjects in more depth. All three groups have studied the same topics but, obviously, where there has been a need, we have spent more time on one or more areas. In this way, the studies have both kept the church together as a whole whilst catering for the individual learning needs and interests of each group. We have studied:-

- The Holy Spirit,
- The Fruits of the Holy Spirit,
- The Disciples
- Discipleship in our own lives
- Our own Faith Journey
- The Author of the Gospel of Mark
- Christology and Discipleship in Mark
- The Author of the Gospel of Matthew
- Teaching and Righteousness in Matthew
- The Author of the Gospel of Luke

Not all groups have completed the last couple of studies yet. We hope to continue with the series of looking at the Gospel writers and some particular emphasises of each gospel. Over the next few months we will look at:-

- Prayer, praise and Salvation in Luke
- The author of the Gospel of John
- Jesus, the Son of God
- Love and Eternal life.

In addition to the above studies, at the beginning of the year, we did a couple of one-off studies which looked at prayer and seeing God in every day objects and situations. If we find the time, a future topic may to explore the different ways in which God speaks to us, and the different ways in which we may listen to Him!

Once again, this year, wonderful friendships have been growing and deepening. Our own journeys with God and with each other as Christians are maturing and, relationships with each other and God are stronger and more sure. Spiritual growth is occurring. Long may God continue to work within us, that we may walk with Him. Praise God!

SHARON GRANT
READER

THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events Committee is made up from the following people:

Anny Linnell (secretary), Ann Rose, Charlotte Soden, David Wilkinson, Jean Sartori, Melissa Levey, Tim Raine and myself plus the Revd Rachel Shock who attends meetings when she is available and who supports us so much at all of our events. Many thanks to you all, it's a really great team and although we work hard we also have a great deal of fun. Yet again we were able in the last year to meet David Hurley's Budgetary requirements, our Events Committee do a brilliant job and I'm happy to say we will continue to work together to fulfil this coming years budget. It is of course not without support from all of you, giving us help when needed which is greatly appreciated. Each year becomes more difficult especially as we grow older and we need to pull together, but sometimes we also need to bring in more physical help from outside, however, regardless, somehow we manage it.

The Christmas Fair of course is our biggest contributor to the events budget and enjoyed by many, however the Spring Fair is very worthwhile and brings us all together along with the local community in Corçà; then of course the well supported Great British Lunch which is extremely popular and enables us all to raise money in a most enjoyable way. We also joined forces with the Costa Brava rock and pop choir Cachondeo and had a very enjoyable concert here last year and we are going to repeat it in May again here in Corçà with donations this time going to the Costa Brava Hospice.

We have also started two new ventures to help us with our fund raising. Due to the amount of Bric a Brac that is so very kindly donated on a regular basis we have just held the second of our Car Boot Sales. The first was in Corçà and was very successful and the second was this February on a rather cold and blowy day in Celrà. We have another three lined up throughout the year in the warmer months so if anyone fancies a shift please let the committee know. Having the car boot sales allows us to move on our stock and make room for new items. Our thanks go to everyone who has kindly turned out to help so far and also to Gill Hepworth, Ann Rose and Debra Smith for their valuable input.

The other venture is the little shop in the entrance hall in Church House. The idea behind this is to be able to share things such as homemade produce (make a few extra for the shop if you are making preserves) or, if you have a surplus of fruit and veg through the Summer. If you have an unwanted gift or something special you would like to move on, please think about donating it to the shop as some lovely things are sometimes almost given away at our fairs when in fact they are special things, please talk to Charlotte Soden about this.

We are, as you may have heard/read, holding a craft workshop organised by Ann Rose on the morning of the 26th March at church house where we will be taught how to make cards by a very talented lady called Wendy Whitworth who some of you may know. There is no charge

for the workshop so do please come, enjoy the morning and add to your skills, the idea is to sell the cards through the shop, I don't know about all of you but we have great difficulty finding cards here especially for special occasions and these will be hand crafted, we will be able to take special orders too so don't forget, no longer the need to think ahead when in the UK or to order from Moonpig, we can help you, talk to Ann Rose for more information or to put your name down.

May I also remind you that if you would like to help the events committee with anything or hold an event yourself, we cover any reasonable expenses so no-one needs to be out of pocket for anything they need to purchase or pay for, talk to one of us with any ideas and if you would like to join in with anything please talk to one of the committee and once again thank you to everyone for all your ongoing support, it's vital to ensure the future of The Anglican Church here on the Costa Brava.

Hope to see you at the AGM. Blessings

CAROL WILKINSON
EVENTS CHAIR

DATA PROTECTION 2019/2020

We have prepared a Data Privacy Policy which will be available on the website shortly. The key issue to remember always is NOT to provide or forward anyone's personal data such as phone numbers or addresses without their express consent.

In the coming weeks an audit of the Church's compliance with the GDPR requirements will be carried out by the Data Protection Officer.

ELECTORAL ROLL 2019/2020

Numbers have declined fractionally due to members of the congregation returning to the UK. Anyone wishing to be on the electoral roll can download an application form from our website or obtain one from the Electoral Roll Officer; copies will be available at the ACM.

KEITH GRANT

DATA PROTECTION OFFICER

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT 2019/2020

The Chaplain's Report 2019/2020 *(written before the Covid Pandemic)*

It doesn't seem too long ago that I was writing last year's report. How time flies!

It has again been a varied and interesting year and I am grateful to everyone who makes this chaplaincy the welcoming space that we offer to all. We are a great team and such a lot of hard work goes into keeping us together. As you will see from the accounts, David Hurley congratulates everyone for the fantastic financial situation that we now find ourselves following the 'Giving Campaign' last year. Thank you to everyone who responded. One of the main challenges we faced last year was one of finance. With a little help from friends, and a huge amount of support from you all, we seem to be back on a safer financial basis. David Hurley's report gives all the detail and thanks go to him for the very detailed accountancy work he does for this chaplaincy.

Another challenge we had last year was in trying to work out which church location would better suit our needs. Corçà church seemed to be an obvious choice to move the first Sunday service to but after what seemed a very positive start, a change of heart from the local priest meant that we moved to Madremanya instead. David Wilkinson, the council secretary details a lot of our discussions so I won't repeat that but do have a read. Again, David works very hard in this role, so my thanks also go to him. The new Monday morning service fluctuates but the Chaplaincy Council have decided to keep with this format for the time being. We also had hoped to move to a larger and safer church from Penedes and again having got permission from the local priest, the diocese stepped in and said 'no' as our congregation was too large and it would confuse the local congregation. After much toing and froing, the Chaplaincy Council asked for a period of quiet and reflection while we prayerfully consider what our next steps should be.

Ministry is a challenge in this chaplaincy; indeed it is in most places. We have the challenge of distance and an ageing congregation plus we are battling with the fallout from Brexit and now a new problem has presented itself in the last few weeks, coronavirus, which has meant we are having to postpone social events. This leaves many of us in an anxious state.

We could spend our whole time worrying about all of this but what we have to remember is a fundamental truth that we are to depend on the Lord. Faithfulness is what God asks of us. Faithfulness is our duty and calling. We will watch with care to see where this takes us.

I continue to be thankful for my colleagues. Sharon does a fabulous job of looking after the Fellowship groups and assisting me in leading worship and preaching. Gill & Carol continue to work hard as Churchwardens with Tim Raine as Deputy Warden assisting in the background. Gill has taken over the task of finding readers, sidespeople and intercessors and I know this gets difficult some weeks. If you feel that you may be able to help, we are always looking for more volunteers particularly if you don't mind being asked on the day. Carol has taken over leading the Events Committee. Sharon relinquished this role last year after working incredibly hard to organise social events with Keith's support. My heartfelt thanks go to Carol, Gill and Sharon who are incredibly supportive and hard working.

David Wilkinson also keeps our safeguarding up-to-date which isn't an easy task as the goal-posts shift on a regular basis!

My thanks go to all who contribute to the smooth running of services - servers, intercessors, readers, and sidespeople - Thank you to you all! The team who work in the kitchen during our monthly lunch and other social events are brilliant and we value the work you contribute. To Kevin and Mark for continuing to play music for our services - thank you.

We continue in the Chaplaincy Council to monitor our churches - both the physical aspects and the spiritual side. The numbers in the congregations are steady although we have seen an increase in the number of people who attend Penedes which proves to be interesting logistically sometimes.

One of the concerns of the chaplaincy is that we have lost a few people again this year leaving fewer people willing and able to help with setting up for services or social events. If you feel you could help us, please talk to Rachel or one of the churchwardens. Having said that we have welcomed some new people and it will be great to baptise Pal on Easter Sunday in Madremanya.

Administration continues to take up a large part of my time as it does in any church environment but the website is now used much more as a source of correct and up-to-date information. We have many more visitors looking at our site and over 110 people who receive our notice sheet electronically each week.

As a chaplain, I am isolated other than occasional contact with Deborah & John Chapman in Barcelona so it is very important for me to meet with my colleagues from other chaplaincies. We get together twice a year and discuss church matters and get up to date with any business as well as enjoying some social time together. I also attend, at the Bishops' request, a Chrism service each year and of course, the synod with our two reps Melissa and Sharon.

In January we welcomed a priest from Peru. Luis was staying with the Chapmans in Barcelona and we gave him a taste of life here in the Costa Brava Chaplaincy and then met up again at Synod the following week.

It has, once again, been a privilege to be your Chaplain this last year and I give thanks for each and everyone of you and the witness you make to this community.

Chaplain Revd Rachel Shock
22nd March 2020

Addendum September 2020

Just on the verge of holding our Chaplaincy Meeting in March we were brought up sharp with the sudden requirement to stop all activities because of the coronavirus. So although the reports stand, it feels right to add in a further note to my report. We could never have envisaged the last few months. However, whilst there have been a number of losses I want to concentrate on the positive side of this pandemic. We have the technology which has allowed us to keep in touch whether via WhatsApp messaging; emails or Zoom services, coffee mornings, bible studies or quizzes. Without that technology I don't know where we would be. It has enabled us to meet

despite which country we happen to be in. As you know I drove back to the UK in March (with the support of the Wardens!) and ended up being locked down here. Unfortunately, the situation here meant I had to give in my notice due to the realisation of family commitments. However, that notice is being delayed whilst I continue to look after the Chaplaincy until we see how we can move forward. We are regularly in touch with the Bishop & Archdeacon. Whilst virtual services will never take the place of actually meeting, receiving communion and socialising with one another, there have been some positive aspects. Our carbon footprint has been massively reduced, you can have a cup of coffee at any point and even turn up in your pyjamas! There is a general feeling that we are more in touch with one another and it has enabled the different congregations to get to know one another.

As you know, David Hurley has reported on our financial situation and all that good work looked at one point as though it was going to be for nothing. We were looking at a very grim picture financially. Being unable to fundraise and not collecting the offertory each week took its' toll. This was one of the reasons the Chaplaincy Council came to the decision to relinquish Church House. After a request to you all for donations, we are enormously grateful for your response and with those and the money saved from church house, car expenses and other bills, we are once again in a financially stable situation. We wait with patience to see what the future brings and we miss those who are unable to join us on Sundays but put our trust in the Lord. Amen.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27

REVD RACHEL SHOCK
CHAPLAIN