
El Corazón

From the Anglican Chaplaincy of St George, Malaga
Volume 6, No. 1, January 2026

Hello again and welcome to the first El Corazon of 2026.

Happy New year everyone. I hope you enjoyed all that Christmas had to offer and are looking forward to 2026.

Please make sure you read and consider the St George's Church [End of Year Appeal](#) to raise money to renovate and upgrade the Chaplain's flat in Paseo Reding. Jenifer has also added some history around the flat itself.

Once again, would like to make sure we draw your attention to the important ongoing work regarding **St George's** [Mission Action Plan](#).

Also, inside this edition:

- [Louis](#) highlights New Year message from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally.
- [Michael](#) continues his exploration of the life and times of Canon Henry Watson Barnard.
- This month, [Colin](#) introduces us to George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers) 1624-1691.
- Full details of all the [upcoming services and events](#).

As always, you can scan the QR code on the right to stay up to date with news, events, and services.

We both send all our love and wish you all a very happy New Year— and we hope you enjoy this month's El Corazón. We look forward to giving you more to enjoy in 2026

Mike and Jo Eaton



ALL ARE WELCOME

St. George's is part of the Diocese in Europe within the Church of England.
Fr. Louis Darrant, Chaplain

There's always a lot going on at St George's!

Want to be among the first to know?

Join our Mailing List by clicking the link below:

<https://stgeorgesmalaga.com/maillinglist/>

or join our WhatsApp group using the QR code:



A Word in Season

Fr. Louis Darrant



As we enter 2026, I want to share with you the New Year message from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally.

As I look to the new year and my forthcoming role as Archbishop of Canterbury, I draw upon my experience as a nurse working in the NHS. In this same spirit of service, both of these callings are shaped by my desire to uphold and support those in need, from all walks of life.

Good health care is incredibly important to me. It goes hand in hand with my Christian faith, inspired by Jesus's call for us to love and care deeply for one another. At St Thomas' Hospital, where I first trained, the chapel is a place of sanctuary for staff and patients, away from the busy wards.

The multifaith chaplaincy team is on hand to listen, pray, or simply sit with those going through life's most difficult and painful moments.

On the wall is a memorial to Florence Nightingale, who established the Nightingale School of Nursing here in 1860, driven by her deep Christian faith and commitment to care.

More than 160 years on, I see that same care for patients in the porters, nurses, doctors, healthcare assistants and many others who work in our hospitals. At bedsides, in wards and theatres across our country, they work to bring healing, alongside countless other acts of kindness.

At the Children's Hospital, there are staff here who specialise in play therapy, softening the anxiety of a hospital stay and speeding up recovery. While places like this provide excellent care, we know that our hospitals are under increasing pressure, with social and palliative care services stretched, long waiting times, and severe strain on dedicated NHS staff.

But this can be eased. Community support can help deal with the root causes of many admissions. I see this in my own diocese in London, where people are delivering holistic support in different settings. Churches like SAINT in Hackney hold regular lunches, understanding that for many of us, a place to go where food is provided and there are people to talk to, can be as important as medical intervention for our physical and mental health.

Here, people from all over the world, from many different backgrounds, experience a warm welcome, a health check up if they need it, and importantly, the love of Jesus Christ, who showed us how to wash the feet of others.

In my calling now, I strive to carry the care and compassion that shaped my vocation as a nurse into everything that I do. The role of the church should be a healing presence in our nation, bringing people together at times of often intense division, caring deeply for those who are in need of our help.

Happy New Year.

Congregational Vision Workshop

Saturday 17th January

Since September, the Chaplaincy has been developing a Mission Action Plan (MAP), a vision for the type of church that we want to be in 5 years' time and the steps we need to take to get there. This is not just some 'nice to have' document that sits in the shelf. Rather, having a credible forward plan helps us to better explain our mission as a Church, focus our activities, take informed decisions, and use our resources more effectively.

Members of the congregation participated in a Consultation/Assessment Process (Sept/Oct) using an online questionnaire run by an organisation called 'Holy Cow', The results are now out. A total of 68 people took the survey, exceeding our target of 50. We are busy considering the results.

At the same time, the leaders of the 5 Chaplaincy Council Working Groups - Finance, Fabric, Outreach, Events, Liturgy – have been considering how their area might change in 5 years and the clergy team are looking at the wider changes in the Church, the Diocese and in our fellow chaplaincies along the Costa del Sol.

On Saturday 17 January, we are gathering at the Casa Diocesana in Malaga for a half day to receive the results of the Assessment Process, hear the outcomes of discussions in the working groups and among the clergy, and begin to discern together the future for our church.

Programme for the Workshop

- Introduction
- Feedback from the Working Groups' vision for the next 5 years
- Feedback from the HolyCow Congregational Assessment Tool
- Group discussion and Feedback
- Development of 5 year Strategic Objectives
- Next steps

This is an important event for the Chaplaincy, that will have an impact on the sort of church we want to be for the coming 5 years.

SO NOW YOU KNOW



HISTORICAL JOTTINGS usually relating to St. George's Church, Malaga.

*The 39th in a series prepared for your interest and enjoyment by
Michael Edwards*

May I first wish all my readers wherever they be, all the very best for 2026.



This month we continue with the life and times of Canon Henry Watson Barnard (1792 - 1855) who is buried in the English Cemetery in Malaga.

You may recall from my recent Jottings that this Priest was born in Kent and spent the whole of his life working in different Anglican Churches throughout the "Cider" County of Somerset. He was also a very accomplished Cricketer, more of that a little later.

In 1826 he moved from the Parish of Pilton with his growing family to Compton Bishop, a small village or hamlet at the western end of the Mendip Hills in Somerset, close to the historic town of Axbridge and located in the village on Church Lane. His new parish had, in 2011, a population of only 620 and was listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Comtone*. It was historically the property of Giso, Bishop of Wells .



The village of Compton Bishop.



Exterior view of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Compton Bishop with Crook Peak in the Mendip Hills to the rear.

It is currently described, and I quote "On the southern side of one of the most westerly outcrops of the Mendip Hills, the tiny hamlet of Compton Bishop holds a privileged situation cuddled in a combe under Crook Peak".

More recently in the adjoining village of Cross where Wavering Down House is situated, it is interesting to note that for the last 20 years it has been the home of the British Comedian, Frankie Howerd.

The Anglican Church is St. Andrew, which dates back to the 13th Century being consecrated by Bishop Jocelin in 1236.

The Church is built of coursed and square rubble, slate and double tile roofs, and consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle and south porch.



Interior view of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, the Nave and Chancel.

It has a 14th or 15th century pulpit with tracery panels, carved friezes and cresting, described as "one of the best in Somerset". It also boasts a Norman Font. The two-stage west tower with a stair turret has been dated to around 1380. The porch was added and the roof renewed in 1852.



The Old Norman Font.

The Church is part of the Crook Peak United Parish which also includes the churches of Badgworth, Biddisham, Christon, Loxton and Weare from 1985. It has no resident priest as it what is termed "a lay lead parish". The current person leading St. Andrew' s is a certain Mr. Gary Orriss. I note that during the recent Christmastide period they had on Christmas Eve, a Crib Service at 4pm and at 11pm a " Midnight Holy Communion " Service.



The Old Rectory as it is today.

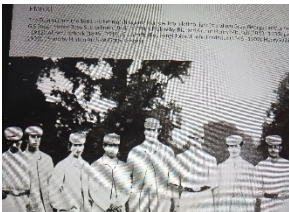
The Old Vicarage is currently a Grade II listed building to be found in the village not surprisingly on Vicarage Lane. The listed description states it has two storeys and an attic, five windows and two dormers and such detail that some of the current glazing bars are missing .

The public house in Compton Bishop is the "The White Hart Inn", another Grade II listed building to be found on the Old Coach Road where traditional "pub grub " is available.



The White Hart Inn, Compton Bishop.

Canon Henry was appointed in 1833 a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral and served for a period between 1833 to 1855.



The Old Rectory as it is today..

Now Canon Henry Barnard was a first class "early day" cricketer. Following upon his cricket at Eton College, he played in five first-class cricket matches between 1815 and 1823, making his first class debut for a Kent XI (the county of his birth) against an England side on 17th and 18th July 1815 at Wrotham Napps, playing alongside his brother John. England won by 51 runs. Barnard in his first innings scored 3 not out and in the second innings, 12 not out .He played for Old Etonians against Gentlemen of England in 1816 and 1817 and for MCC in 1823. He scored a total of 76 runs with his highest score of 40 made for Old Etonians in 1817. He also took five wickets in his five first class matches, four of them in the same match for Old Etonians.

Canon Henry only stayed at the Parish of Compton Bishop for 3 years before moving on to other Somerset livings . In my next Jotting we will see where he and his family moved, serving yet more of the good folk of Somerset as their Anglican Priest .

SO NOW YOU KNOW

Michael Edwards.

JANUARY NOTABLES

George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers) 1624-1691.



George Fox was born in 1624 at Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire, the son of a weaver. In 1643, when Fox was 19, he said that he received mystical revelations in which the voice of God told him to be directed by Christ alone. He described these revelations, which he took as a sign that everyone should be guided by their individual 'inner light', as coming to him while he waited in an absolute calm frame of mind and as being preceded by violent physical agitation. He felt called to give up ties of family and friends and travelled in search of spiritual enlightenment.

In 1646, after many dead ends in his quest, he heard a voice which told him, 'There is one, even Christ Jesus, who can speak to thy condition'.

In 1647 Fox began to preach openly his 'inner light' doctrine. He objected to political and religious authority, opposed war and slavery, and believed that all human actions should be directed by inner contemplation and a social conscience inspired by God.

On Pendle Hill in Lancashire George Fox experienced a vision of 'a people to be gathered to the Lord'. He made many converts, and it was in the north-west that Fox's teachings had the greatest effect. In 1659 he made his home at Swarthmore Hall near Ulverston, owned by an influential supporter, Thomas Fell. When Fell died Fox married his widow, Margaret.

Fox's overt opposition to the established Church (whether Presbyterian or Anglican) resulted in frequent imprisonment in 1649, 1650, 1653, 1656, 1664-6, 1673-5 and it was the judge who sentenced him at Derby in 1650 who contemptuously described Fox and his followers as 'quakers' – a name which was to come into widespread use.

In 1666, though weakened by hardship and the effects of imprisonment, Fox began to devote most of his time to the organisation of the Quakers as a Church. He was greatly assisted by Margaret Fell whom he married in 1669, the year of the first great Quaker meeting. He also made missionary journeys to North America, Germany and Holland.

Fox spent his final years founding Quaker schools and communities and lobbying for the passage of the Toleration Bill, which granted freedom of worship to all except Roman Catholics and Unitarians. The bill was finally enacted by Parliament in 1689. The Quakers registered under the Act as the 'Society of Friends'. He died in 1691, and his journal was published posthumously in 1694.

(Adapted from "Saints on Earth" a biographical companion to Common Worship – Darch & Burns Published by Church House Publishing)

George Fox is commemorated in the CofE Common Worship Lectionary on January 13th.

Major Feasts this month:

January 1st

January 6th

January 18th -25th

The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus,

The Epiphany of our Lord

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Colin Somerville

Jennifer Vernon Smith: Thoughts on the chaplaincy flat

Back in the times of long hair and Bell bottomed trousers, Dorothy Johnson (or Johnston?), decided to donate her flat to the church with *Usofructo* for herself, along with a generous donation for repainting and works. She and her husband had always been very active in church life. She lasted another 20 years!

The flat has had many tenants over the 30 years or so and some major works were carried out. Both bathrooms were totally gutted and redone as well as the kitchen. These were principally paid for by parishioners' generous donations. Rewiring has been done in several places, several times but never really properly, I fear. Obviously, furniture is an interesting mixture of mainly donations!

Not every priest was happy with the location (too noisy), the ancient air conditioning and some wanted to be in the countryside. Others were delighted because you could give all the grandchildren a free holiday! You never quite knew what to expect.

The rest of the building is mainly Spanish families and, as this was one of the older buildings on the "good side of the tracks" there were a lot of elderly widows who lived there for 40 years and major changes were difficult to say the least. We attended owners' meetings but usually went with the flow and tried not to rock the boat.

You want your priest to feel comfortable when he arrives home so.....what can I say, The three Johnson children have given their inheritance for St George's. Your part will be smaller but who knows maybe longer lasting!

AROUND THE PARISH

St George's End of Year appeal.

On 23rd November, the Feast of Christ the King, St George's Church launched its End of Year Appeal to raise money to renovate and upgrade the Chaplain's flat in Paseo Reding.



The flat was given to the Church some years ago, and, while certain repairs have been undertaken, more general disrepair is now rendering it a bit tatty and not as homely as we would wish for our Chaplain.

Some of this can be seen in the pictures above, which show the extent to which we need to upgrade furnishings, carpentry, electrics, painting/ decor, and windows. We estimate that the total works will cost something of the order of €20,000, half of which we hope to come from an external application for funds. So we are launching an End of Year Appeal for €10,000 for the remainder of the upgrade and renovation.

Could you help us? Would you be willing to make a gift to the Church, so that we could start these works promptly in the new year?

Your donation can be made in cash in one of the envelopes given out in church. It can also be made using this QR code and following directions on the web.



Thank you for your generosity.



January 2026

There is a Eucharist at St George's every Sunday at 11.30

Saturday 17th January

Congregational Vision Workshop

Helping shape the future of our community

Friday 23rd January at 19.00

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Service at St George's Malaga

This annual ecumenical event, organised by Lux Mundi, will be held from Sunday 18th to Sunday 25th January 2026.

Caroline, our churchwarden, attended an ecumenical conference and volunteered St George's to host one of these 8 services, on **Friday 23rd January 2026**.

The ecumenical movement is founded on Jesus' farewell prayer in which he asks:

"That they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21).



Saturday, 24th January 2026, 20:00

St George's Church presents **Burns Night!**

Dinner starts 8pm. Gates & bar are open from 7.30 pm.

Your reservation includes a three-course meal, drinks, poems, dancing and bagpipes.

Some Tartan must be showing!

Book online now! Tickets: €60



<https://stgeorgesmalaga.com/events/>

St. George's Chaplaincy Worship Centers and Services

Malaga



**St George's Church,
Av.de Priés 1, Malaga**

Sundays, 11.30 AM

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8530/>

Velez-Malaga



**La Antigua Capilla de San
José, 7 Calle Linares,
Velez-Malaga**

**Temporary change
please see
stgeorgesmalaga.org
for details**

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8549/>

Salinas



**Church of the Sagrado
Corazon de Maria, Salinas,
Archidona**

**Saturdays, 11.30 AM
2nd and 4th Saturdays of the
month**

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8488/>

GETTING IN TOUCH

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