
El Corazón

From the Anglican Chaplaincy of St George, Malaga
Volume 6, No. 2, February 2026

Hello again and welcome once again to the February edition of El Corazon.

As we prepare for the start of lent, we can share with you the words of our contributors along with the latest updates as to what's going on in and around the chaplaincy, including resources and events supporting lent devotions.

We are delighted to note that the Valentine's concert has sold out. Keep checking the website and What's On guide for the next concert and book early!

Inside this edition:

- [Louis](#) shares his thoughts around the work of a priest and the particular opportunities we are all working through at the moment.
- [Michael](#) continues his exploration of the life and times of Canon Henry Watson Barnard.
- This month, [Colin](#) discusses the 1597 Martyrs of Japan.
- As ever, there are full details of all the [upcoming services and events](#).

You can scan the QR code on the right to stay absolutely up to date with news, events, and services.

We both hope you enjoy this edition and send all our love and best wishes to you all.

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!

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A Word in Season

Fr. Louis Darrant



From time to time, I'm asked what I do on a daily basis. It's assumed that the work of a priest is limited to what can be seen, chiefly Sunday worship, funerals, baptisms and weddings.

I find myself giving a slightly different answer depending on who is asking the question and when the question is being asked.

Right now, for example, my focus is preparing us for our observance of the Lent season leading to Holy Week and Easter.

In administrative terms, our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 10th May takes weeks to prepare, so that naturally is on the agenda too. There's never something not to do. The dynamic of leading a local church community will always involve a blend of the predictable and the unforeseen. It's a rather thin account there to think of what the priest does purely in terms in what can be clearly seen and demonstrated.

An old-fashioned model of parish ministry saw the priest at the centre of the church with everybody else helping out the priest. I don't believe this model is healthy or biblically justifiable. Much better to see the Eucharist at the heart of the community and everything else flowing from that celebration. You can view the Eucharist as the heart of the wheel which brings shape, order and rhythm to our life together.

The Eucharist is certainly for me the point at which I strive to prepare myself for and then allow myself to be shaped by. In previous parishes I celebrated a daily Eucharist and so that Eucharistic action took on a daily character. That pattern of daily Eucharist wouldn't work in our context arguably, but the intention to view one's life through the lens of the Eucharist remains the same.

If you want to learn more the life and the work of a priest, then I heartily recommend you read the Bishop's charge at the Ordination Service which is a poetic and biblically grounded account of the priestly life.

"Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever. Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.

With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith. They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith".

Our church is working on many things during these days and paying attention to these needs is paramount: the refurbishment project, our pastoral care for each other, creating opportunities for volunteering and developing spaces to grow in our understanding and practice of the faith. None of this would be possible without the sacrificial commitment of a growing body of people, small though we may be, yet not without determination to be faithful to the responsibility entrusted to us. That's why I love reflecting on the picture of the mathematical bridge in Cambridge. It's held together not by glue or screws, but by how each piece relates to the others. It may seem fragile and precarious, but it is strong and resilient.



In all of the activity and pressing demands the paradox is each day the most creative times of the day are when I sit down to meditate, ideally twice daily for no longer than half an hour. In these times I am not seeking to give my attention to my role, my responsibilities, my worries or my aspirations. The unsought consequence is that the activity gains clarity and fruitfulness as opposed to an endless list of things to be done.

So, the next time someone asks me how I spend my time, I will resist the temptation to list the tasks and the projects as rewarding as they are. Instead, I will try and explain I try and settle my attention on the God who settles his attention on each of us with such loving regard that we need never feel we are on our own.

SO NOW YOU KNOW



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

The 40th in a series prepared for your interest and enjoyment by
Michael Edwards



This month we continue with the life and times of Canon Henry Barnard (1792 - 1855) who is buried with his wife in the English Cemetery after falling foul of smallpox in Granada at the age of 63.

Canon Henry, after spending time in the Somerset villages and churches at Pilton and Compton Bishop took on the position of Vicar at yet another Somerset village and parish in 1830, the much larger Anglican Church of St. Mary's in Yatton which dates back to the 14th century. He would have been 38 years of age.

Yatton is to be found in North Somerset , 11 miles Southwest of Bristol. The population more recently in 2011 had risen to 7,555 having expanded dramatically after the Second World War - now a small town. Historically it has remains of an Iron Age Hill Fort at Cadbury Hill as well as a Roman Villa, a Temple and a hoard of coins found within an urn in the grounds of a large residence known as " Henley Lodge " , situated at No .1 High Street.



The site of the Iron Age Fort at Cadbury Hill, Yatton

It also boasts a Victorian Station designed by Brunel which is still in use to this day on the Bristol to Exeter Line .



Yatton Railway Station featuring the "Cathedrals Express" Steam Locomotive No. 60103, better known as the " Flying Scotsman."

The Parish Church is to be found, not surprisingly, on Church Road and is often called "The Cathedral of the Moors" since it is very large compared with the small village it served in earlier times. It is a Grade 1 listed building.

Henry 's residence, known as "The Vicarage", was situated on the south corner of Well Lane is now demolished. Only the stables remain.



The Bishop of Bath and Wells is the Patron of St. Mary's. Currently this Church is part of a group of 5 Churches, the other 4 situated in the neighbouring villages of Claverham, Cleeve and Kingston Seymour and the present Priest in Charge, is the Rev. Denise Calverley.

Services of Holy Communion last month in January I noted were held at 10am on Sundays on the 18th and 25th, Morning Prayer on Zoom at 8.15am on one weekday each week, a Coffee Morning on Sat. 31st Jan. at 10 .30am and something different on Wed. 14th Jan - a get together for "Refreshments, Chat and Fun".

The details of the " fun " bit are not included in St. Mary's current information details! A meeting of their Mother's Union is held on the third Thursday of each month should you be in the vicinity.



St. Mary's Church, Yatton.

While the current Church was constructed in the 14th century, it is considered likely that a previous Church in Saxon times probably of wood was located on the same site . The first Vicar recorded here was Benthelin or Benzelin in 1084.

The Chapel on this site which was added in 1496 and various other alterations of the church have survived since 1445. The central tower built about 1400 has three stages, with diagonal weathered buttresses with crocheted pinnacles.

Unusually for Somerset, a Dundry stone steeple was built in 1455 -1456. In 1595 the local freemasons were engaged to take down this spire and reduce it to its present dimensions (See here my photo of the church with the current steeple). There is of course a ring of bells within the tower. A total of 8 bells. Some interesting information I have noted relative to these bells is that on the 7th Bell, hung in 1451, is the following inscription, "Misericordias Domini in Eternum Cantabo" which is the first verse of Psalm 89, and reads " I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever ." Oh, and one more thing, the Yatton Bells are always rung on Guy Fawkes' Day.

One of Barnard's sons, Henry John Barnard followed him as Vicar of Yatton between 1846 and 1884 and was also a Prebendary at Wells. To that end, it is such that within St. Mary's Church, one of the North Aisle stained-glass windows on the right hand side, is in memory of him and dated 1891. This window was the work of Messrs. Powell of London who designed and executed some of the windows at Liverpool 's Anglican Cathedral. A further stained- glass memorial window is to be found on the left hand side of the North Aisle in memory of another member of the family in 1924, namely Henry Cuthbert Barnard. The most recent addition to the Church structure was completed in 1975, the construction of an octagonal Chapter House.



The interior of St. Mary's Church, Yatton.



The remote Norman Chapel in Yatton.

During "our" Barnard's time at Yatton he was made a Prebendary of Wells in 1833 and served until he died in 1855. One of Yatton's little gems must be their remote Anglican Norman Chapel, to be found just outside the town at the end of a winding track adjacent to a farmhouse. It is recorded in the National Heritage List for England and now comes under the care and protection of the Churches Conservation Trust. One of this rural building's features is the floor - it's just simple earth. It would be interesting to learn what Worship would have been like on a cold, wet and windy winter's night just after the Norman Conquest, in (say) the year 1100!

Before we leave the Somerset village/town of Yatton I must tell you that the 14th Century Public House known as the "Butcher's Arms" is to be found on the High Street, opens each day at 12 pm and serves toasted sandwiches and jacket potatoes. On the bar are duck egg and Parma ham Scotch eggs, currently at £5.00 each.

Oh, I nearly forgot, the Bell Ringers from St. Mary's meet each week after a Church practice session at the " Butchers' Arms " between 9pm and 11pm. Thirsty work indeed !



The "Butcher's Arms" Public House, Yatton

Whilst on the subject of beer it's interesting to note from the historical records of Yatton that at No. 25 High Street was situated "The Church House " built in the 15th century for the brewing of ale to be consumed at what was known as the "Church Ales". It ceased operation sometime before 1620 as the premises were bequeathed by Lady Florence Stalling to the Parish "for the better relief and maintenance of the poor of the Parish of Yatton". Then known as the "Poor House ". Did I hear someone suggest that this former UK Church Brewery business system could be taken up by St George's as a little money earner!

In my next monthly Jotting, we will take a look at Cannon Henry 's final Somerset Parish where he served before his ill-fated visit to Southern Spain in 1855 .

SO NOW YOU KNOW

Michael Edwards.

JANUARY NOTABLES

The Martyrs of Japan 1597.



In 1854 the American naval Commodore Matthew Perry was received by the new Japanese government of the reforming Meiji dynasty which was beginning the process of opening up that previously closed land to Western trade and influence. Yet among the people of this overwhelmingly Shinto and Buddhist nation Perry was surprised to find a small number of persecuted Japanese Christians who had survived underground, without Bibles or clergy for centuries, and, though somewhat hazy in their understanding of Christian doctrine, had firm faith in Jesus as Lord.

The Christian faith had been introduced to Japan 300 years earlier by Jesuit missionaries and, later, Franciscan missionaries who first arrived in Japan with the Portuguese in 1543. The Jesuit priest Francis Xavier landed in Kagoshima in 1549. He studied the Japanese language for a year and then preached in many of the principal cities.

By 1551, when he left Japan, he had established a vigorous Christian community and laid the foundation for the future Christian church in Japan.

Initially the mission progressed: the first baptism was in 1563, and the first church was built in Kyoto in 1576, but the first decree banishing the propagation of Christianity followed in 1587. Nevertheless, for ten years Christian missionaries experienced a form of relative toleration and by the end of the sixteenth century there were probably about 300,000 baptised believers in Japan. But after the arrival of Spanish Franciscan and Dominican priests at the beginning of the 1590s quarrels broke out between the different orders and between Spanish and Portuguese nationals.

On February 5th 1597, six Franciscan friars and twenty of their converts were executed at Nagasaki, becoming the first martyrs in Japan. They were tied to crosses in a parody of the crucifixion and speared to death.

But in spite of local persecutions, the mission continued to expand. After a short interval of relative tolerance, many other Christians were arrested, imprisoned for life, or tortured and killed; in 1614 an effective edict of persecution was issued and by 1630 the Church was totally driven underground.

A peasant uprising under Christian leadership in Kyushu in 1637-38 was suppressed and as a result of it, the government closed the country to European traders as well as Christian missionaries. Contact with the West was strictly controlled and persecution of Christians continued until Commodore Perry's arrival in 1854.

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

The martyrs of Japan are commemorated in the CofE Common Worship lectionary on February 6th.

Major Feasts this month:

February 2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)



Colin Somerville



February 2026

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



Afternoon Tea at the Chaplain's Apartment

Tuesday 17th February from 4 until 6pm Paseo Reding 21, 2D
(opposite the Plaza de Toros)

Come along for some tea, cake and a chat – and pancakes too!

ASH WEDNESDAY

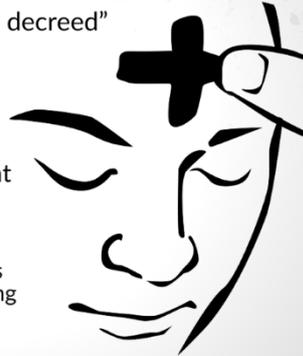
"Now is the healing time decreed"

Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday 18th February at
7.00pm at St George's

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Louis
Missa pro Europa, Berthier sung
by a guest cantor

www.stgeorgesmalaga.com



The Kingdom by R. S. Thomas

It's a long way off but inside it
There are quite different things going on:
Festivals at which the poor man is king and the consumptive is
Healed; mirrors in which the blind look
At themselves and love looks at them
Back; and industry is for mending
The bent bones and the minds fractured
By life. It's a long way off, but to get
There takes no time and admission is free, if you purge yourself
Of desire, and present yourself with
Your need only and the simple offering
Of your faith, green as a leaf.
Of desire, and present yourself with
Your need only and the simple offering
Of your faith, green as a leaf.

1. Discussion group: How to seek the Kingdom?

What did Jesus mean when he said, “Seek first the Kingdom of God”? Explore these famous words found in Matthew 6:33 and consider his way of valuing love and life more than status and wealth. Jesus never minimises physical needs, but he helps us rethink the things we often love the most. Follow the [link](#) here for the resources we will use from The Bible Project.

Wednesdays in Lent (25th February, 4th, 11th, 18th March) at 7pm at the Chaplain’s Apartment on Paseo Reding. Sessions can also be offered online by request. Please let Fr Louis know beforehand, by [email](#) or [WhatsApp](#) if you would like to come along to a session. You can dip into a session or more as your time allows.

2. Quiet Day at Cortique Carranque

Join us to enjoy a Day of Quiet Contemplation on Saturday 21st March in the beautiful surroundings of [Cortijo Carranque](#), a Christian retreat centre 45 minutes from St George’s.

The day will be led by Angela Tomlins on the theme of God’s Kingdom, with reference to RS Thomas’ poem, The Kingdom.

To join the day and for directions to the retreat centre, please contact Fr Louis by [email](#) or [WhatsApp](#).

3. Online Resources

We have identified some online resources which you might find helpful, particularly as a supplement to some of the other activities. Examples are:

- (i) The [Bible Project](#)
- (ii) The [Everyday Faith](#) app
- (iii) The [World Communication for Christian Meditation](#) app

For suggestions for further resources, please contact Fr Louis by [email](#) or [WhatsApp](#).

4. Breathing Space: Seeing God through Art

Tuesdays at 10am on Zoom. The idea is to display a piece of art and share a reflection from Bishop Richard Harries’ book, [Seeing God in Art](#), after which we will pray the Rosary.

Breathing Space takes place every Tuesday morning, in and out of Lent, and can be accessed via Zoom [here](#). It is a time to pause, pray, reflect and reconnect. To join a session, just click the link. If you wish to contact Fr Louis beforehand, you can do so by [email](#) or [WhatsApp](#).

5. Pilgrimage to the Pinares de San Anton

Pinares de San Antón lies north-east of Málaga, on the south side of Mount San Antón, bordering the Montes de Málaga. The pilgrimage will include resources on the theme of God’s Kingdom, using music, scripture and poetry.

We will gather for coffee at 10:30am on Saturday 7th March before we start the walk. For more details and start location, please contact Fr Louis, by [email](#) or [WhatsApp](#).

6. Suggestions for Further Reading

- (i) [Dancing to the heartbeat of God: global reflections from across the Anglican community](#) – the Archbishop’s Lent book
- (ii) [The Way of Benedict: Eight Blessings for Lent](#) – Laurentia Johns OSB
- (iii) [The Way of Thomas Merton: A Prayer Journey through Lent](#) – Robert Inchausti

All books are available in printed form or on Kindle.

For more suggestions, contact Fr Louis, by [email](#) or [WhatsApp](#).



Scan this code to join the St George’s Community WhatsApp group and receive regular news and resources



Scan this code to join the St George’s mailing list

Milk Fund Donations

Every month St George’s contributes 350 Euros for a pallet of milk (360 litres) to be distributed to children and families in need by the Comedor Santa Domingo in Malaga. Please donate in the cow box in the entrance to the church. If you would like to make a one-off or regular donation. Please contact Rosella Parmiter on +34 638 339 691 if you would like more information.

<https://comedorsantodomingo.org/>



St. George's Chaplaincy Worship Centers and Services

Malaga



**St George's Church,
Av.de Priés 1, Malaga
Sundays, 11.30 AM**

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/8530/>

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

GETTING IN TOUCH

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