
El Corazón

From the Anglican Chaplaincy of St George, Malaga
Volume 6, No. 3, March 2026

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

As we prepare for the coming of Easter, 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 and the Easter program.

Inside this edition:

- [Louis](#) shares a Sonnet by Malcolm Guite and presents the Program for Holy week and Easter.
- [Tristan](#) our treasurer shares some important information regarding donating to St Georges which we urge you to take a look at.
- [Michael](#) concludes his exploration of the life and times of Canon Henry Watson Barnard.
- This month, [Colin](#) teaches us about Mother Harriet Monsell the Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist.
- 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 wish all of you a happy and thoughtful easter and hope you enjoy this edition and as always sending 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!

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



Palm Sunday

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come
Break my resistance and make me your home.

“Here might I stay and sing”

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT THE ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY
OF ST GEORGE MÁLAGA

Saturday 28th March

11.30am Blessing of Palms and Eucharist (Salinas)

Palm Sunday - 29th March

11.30am Procession of Palms and Eucharist (Málaga)

Maundy Thursday - 2nd April

7.00pm Eucharist of the Last Supper (Málaga)

Good Friday - 3rd April

12.00pm Stations of the Cross (Salinas)

2.00pm Liturgy of the Passion (Málaga)

Holy Saturday - 4th April

11.30am Eucharist of Easter (Salinas)

Easter Day - 5th April

11.30am Eucharist of Easter Morning (Málaga)

with music by the Ganimedes Ensemble

www.stgeorgesmalaga.com

A place of hospitality, prayer and service



Let's get fiscal

A note from your Treasurer.

In this first of a quarterly series of articles on the thorny subject of church finances, I want to illustrate the key differences between Spain and the United Kingdom's approaches to donations made to charities. First, let's understand what our **charitable status** is.

In Spain, St George's Anglican Church is recognised as a registered charity through its affiliation to FERED, a Spanish religious organisation set up in 1986 with the specific aim of smoothing relations between all Protestant churches in Spain and the Spanish state. In the UK, it's slightly different: St George's belongs to the Diocese of Europe, and it is the Diocese itself that is a registered charity (with the Charity Commission, registration no. 250186).

So now that we've sorted that out, how are your generous donations regarded by the tax man in both countries? Most of you who donate regularly (what we call Planned Giving) do so in Spain, but a few of you also do it in the UK itself, through the diocesan bank account (which money is then attributed to our church, of the many dotted around Europe). And to all of you, by the way: thank you. **Your money is key to our continuing ministry and survival.**

The UK and Spain both encourage charitable giving through the tax system, but they do so in very different ways. The UK system is built around "grossing up" donations through the tax system, while Spain primarily gives direct tax deductions to the donor when they file their tax return.

The UK uses the Gift Aid system, administered by HMRC, whereby donations are treated as if made from income already taxed at the basic rate (20%). This means that:

- The charity can reclaim that tax from the government.
- This increases the value of the donation to the charity.

For example, the donor pays £100 and after Gift Aid, the charity receives £125 (the £25 difference = 20% of £125).

For higher-rate taxpayers, it is interesting too. If the donor pays 40% or 45% tax, they can claim the difference between their rate and the basic rate through their tax return.

In this case, say the (40% tax rate) donor gives £100, the charity receives £125 and the donor can then reclaim £25, so his or her real cost becomes £75, whilst the charity still gets £125.

Key characteristics of the UK system:

- Benefit is partly to the charity and partly to the donor.
- The charity claims the tax "bonus".
- There is no real limit to the money donated.
- It does require a Gift Aid declaration confirming the donor pays UK tax, which is easy to obtain from the Diocesan office in London.

Spain's philosophy is different and is generally seen as more beneficial to the donor, as we will now see. It uses a personal income tax deduction (called IRPF, which is a term familiar to many of you, I'm sure) system by which the donor receives a tax credit directly against their income tax bill when filing their annual return.

Spain has one of the most generous tax deduction systems in Europe for small charitable donations, designed to encourage many people to give modest amounts. For donations up to €250 per year, the tax credit is a staggering 80%, and from €250 upwards it goes to 40%.

For example, a donation of €20 per month, or €240 per year (all of which the charity gets), only really costs the donor €48 over the whole year. That's €1 per week! And for a contribution of, say, €50 per month (€600 per year), the 80% tax break on the first €250 and 40% on the remaining €350 gives back €340, so the real cost to the donor is just €260, or €22 per month.

So Spain's system makes small donations extremely inexpensive in net terms to the donor and, if we compare the two systems, we see that they reward donors differently depending on donation size. For small donations, Spain is the winner by a sizeable margin.

To illustrate this, let's go back to our examples: a UK 40% taxpayer giving £100 per month would see a monthly net cost of £75, whereas in Spain the donor giving €100 monthly is actually only paying €52 in real terms. It's a goodly difference.

We've just seen that the gaps become smaller for larger donations, both for individuals and companies, but at the low level we see true socialism at work in Spain – Viva España! In conclusion, the UK model is designed to boost the charity's income directly, whilst the Spanish model aims primarily to reduce the donor's tax bill and is much better geared to encourage small donations.

While some may argue that charities benefit more in the UK (because the donation is "grossed up" by HMRC), a donor in Spain can simply give as much as his or her UK counterpart, or more, but at a lower cost in real terms because of the very generous tax credit.

If you'd like to know more about either scheme, don't hesitate to drop me a line at tristram@congreve.fr or WhatsApp me on **+34 622 173 810**.

I'll be happy to have a chat and, more importantly, try to illustrate how important it is for our church's life to benefit from your donations, however modest.

I hope that if you've learnt anything by reading this article, it is that if you pay taxes in Spain, you should really consider making a donation to your church. Give me a call!

SO NOW YOU KNOW



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

The 41st in a series prepared for your interest and enjoyment by Michael Edwards

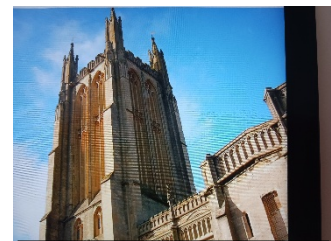
In this Edition I conclude my recent series of the life and times of the Anglican Priest CANON HENRY WATSON BARNARD (1792 - 1855) who spent all his life working in different Parishes throughout the English County of Somerset. In 1855 during a visit to Granada, he and his wife succumbed to the dreaded disease of cholera and died. About 18 months later they found a new resting place within the English Cemetery at Malaga.



The modern day High Street in Wells.

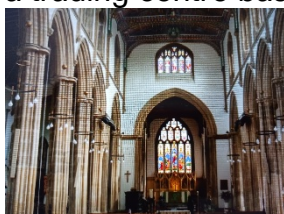
Canon Henry moved from his position of Vicar of St. Mary's, Yatton near Bristol after 16 years to take up a new living as Rector of St. Cuthberts in Wells in 1846. He would have been 54 years of age. He was also a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral, a position he had had from 1833.

The Church of St. Cuthbert is the parish church of Wells. Wells is a cathedral city and civil parish on the southern edge of the Mendip Hills, 21 miles south-east of Weston-super-Mare, 22 miles south-east of Bath and 25 miles South of Bristol. The population in 2021 was only 11,145. Wells has had city status since medieval times because of the presence of Wells Cathedral. Historically, Wells takes its name from three holy wells dedicated to St. Andrew that lie within the grounds of the Bishop' Palace and cathedral and they supply water to the marketplace.



The Somerset Tower of St. Cuthbert's Church, Wells.

A small Roman settlement surrounded them which grew in importance and size under the Anglo-Saxons when King Ine of Wessex founded a minster Church there in 704. The community became a trading centre based on cloth making. The city is notable for its 17th-century involvement in both the English Civil War and the Monmouth Rebellion.



Part of the Nave and Chancel with the stained glass Altar Window to the rear at St. Cuthbert's Church.

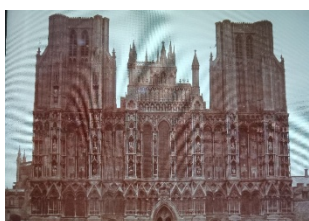
The Church of St. Cuthbert dates back from the 13th Century and is by reason of its great size and location often mistaken for the cathedral. It has a fine Somerset stone tower and superb carved roof. Currently it is a Grade 1 listed building.



The superb internal roof following recent renovation and repainting at St. Cuthbert's Church.

The dedication of the Church to St. Cuthbert suggests Saxon origins. St. Cuthbert was a monk, Bishop and hermit in Northumbria in the 7th century. After his death and burial in Durham Cathedral he became one of the most important medieval saints in the North of England. It seems it is not clear why the Church should bear his name. The Church originally, an Early English building (13th century) from which the arcade pillars survive, was altered substantially in the Perpendicular Period (15th century), when the Clerestory and Angel roof were added to the seven bay aisle Nave. Grand indeed! It is said that it has a host of colourful angels and hidden secrets. Today the church is open for visitors from 10am 'till 4pm every day.

A Parish Choral Eucharist with music provided by a robed Choir takes place every Sunday at 10.45am. There is a further weekday Service on each Wednesday at 10am. The recent Priest in Charge and Vicar was the Rev. Sam Denyer who has just moved to another Parish at St. Martin's, Knowle near Bristol. The Associate Priest is the Rev. Sue Rose.



An old photo of the West Front of Wells Cathedral.

Before I conclude this Jotting , let us take a brief look at Wells Cathedral, formally the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, which is the seat of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. It is now a Grade 1 listed building and currently over 300,000 persons visit each year. Should you wish to visit, the current opening times are from 7am to 6pm. The current charge for admission is £17:50. However should you just wish to pray, attend a service or simply light a candle, admission is free. Daily worship features regular Holy Communion and Choral Evensong.



A view of the Nave at Wells Cathedral.



The 14th century Vicars Close houses at Wells Cathedral.



The current Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Rt. Rev. Michael Beasley meeting the Town Crier of Wells.



The Bishop's Palace in 2000.

The Cathedral precincts contain the Bishop's Palace and several buildings linked to its medieval chapter of secular canons, including the fifteenth century Vicars Close Houses. The Cathedral was built between the years 1176 and c.1490 and contains Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles. It has 3 towers with a total of 10 bells, is 415 ft long and the nave is 67 ft wide.

The current Bishop and epidemiologist is the 58 year old, the Rt. Rev. Michael Beasley and the Dean is the Very Rev. Toby Wright , the senior priest in the Diocese.



An illustration of Mid. 19th century ships in the Port of Bristol all " Shipshape and Bristol Fashion ".

There remain two questions I believe that need consideration. In 1855 just how and why did Canon Henry and his wife decide to journey to the South of Spain from Wells ? The first bit I believe is reasonably straight forward. The couple in 1855 would have taken a passenger sailing ship from their local port of Bristol to Malaga, as Granada is where all the records show they both died and Malaga is the obvious port of entry for Granada.

Accordingly, they may well have visited Malaga Cathedral and the English Cemetery, as in 1850 the British residents in Malaga had a resident Priest but no Church. Services would in those days have been in premises near to the British Consulate. The couple would then have journeyed on by way of a horse- drawn carriage (a taxi of the day) on the difficult roads to Granada. Why did they go? As early day tourists I believe to see the Alambra for sure. That's what the gentry did before EasyJet!

In the Memorial Service for Canon Henry that was held in Wells Cathedral later in 1855 , it is recorded that, and I quote " ----- he contributed to its restoration efforts [the Cathedral] and was described by parishioners as pious, supported the construction of three additional churches in the parish and was renowned for his charitable work among the sick and needy ". Canon Henry's grave in the English Cemetery, Malaga is No. 122 C. RIP.

SO NOW YOU KNOW

MICHAEL EDWARDS.

MARCH NOTABLES

Mother Harriet Monsell, CSJB

Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist.



Harriet O'Brien was born in 1811 at Dromoland, County Clare, the daughter of an Irish baronet. In 1839 she married Charles Monsell and accompanied him to Oxford where he studied for ordination. Inevitably, both were influenced by the spirituality and practices of the Oxford Movement. They returned to Ireland when Charles became Prebendary of Aghadoe near Limerick. But he was found to be suffering from tuberculosis, and the couple spent four years in the warm climate of Naples before Charles died in 1851. Before the funeral service Harriet was beside her husband's coffin and dedicated herself to God's service, a dedication she renewed each subsequent year on 30th January.

But how best to serve God was the problem. Opportunities for women were very limited in 1851. Returning to England she was put in touch with Canon T. T. Carter, Rector of Clewer, near Windsor. He had founded a 'house of mercy' for former prostitutes, single mothers and other vulnerable women in his parish and was now in need for someone to take charge. Initially on a temporary basis Harriet offered her help but soon she knew clearly that this was the work to which God was calling her. On Ascension Day 1851 Carter admitted her as a 'Sister of Mercy'. But there was no community until two other women joined her the following year and the secular staff of the house of mercy withdrew, leaving the Sisters in sole charge.

Consequently, on St Andrew's Day 1852 the Community of St John the Baptist (CSJB) came into being when Harriet was professed as a Religious in the presence of Bishop Samuel Wilberforce of Oxford and admitted as the first Mother Superior. The work of the order expanded to include orphanages and hospitals, with foundations being established in India and America by the 1880s. The Sisters cared for orphans, ran schools and hospitals and opened mission houses in parishes. The Community of St John the Baptist (CSJB) was a model Victorian Anglican Sisterhood and Harriet a perfect Mother Superior who, it was said, possessed, 'a strength of character, firmness of faith, an infectious sense of humour, a gift for listening, and a magnetism which none could resist'. Eventually, in 1875, she retired as Superior through ill-health, moving to a small hermitage in Folkestone where she died on Easter Sunday.



Sisters of the Community of St John the Baptist in the United States today.

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

Harriet Monsell is commemorated in the CofE Common Worship Lectionary on March 26th

Major Feasts this month:

- March 1st St David, Patron of Wales,**
- March 9th St Joseph of Nazareth,**
- March 25th The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**



Colin Somerville



March 2026

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

Holy Week services can be found on Page 3.

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](#).



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/>

Bishop Robert's Lent Appeal

Bishop Robert's Lent Appeal has launched for 2026, and it will be found on the [Vale Silves Community Centre](#). Located in the Parish of Boliqueime, Algarve, Portugal, the Vale Silves Community Centre has been serving vulnerable families, children, and especially the elderly for more than 30 years. Founded by Dra Maria Armanda Silva, a woman with a deep and lively faith, the Centre grew from a small parents' initiative into a vital local charity providing homecare, food support, children's services, community outreach, and practical assistance to those most in need.

How you can donate to the Bishop in Europe's Lent Appeal 2026 By bank transfer:

Account number: 40317039 Sort code: 20-06-13 or

IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39 Swift / BIC: BUKBGB22

On the [Diocese in Europe Just Giving page](#).

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

Chaplain:

Fr. Louis Darrant, 630 909 131

Churchwarden:

Caroline Warren, 696 082 714

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