
El Corazón

From the Anglican Chaplaincy of St George, Malaga
Volume 6, No. 5, May 2026

Hello again and welcome once again to the May edition of El Corazón.

As the weather really starts to warm up, we hope you enjoy this edition of El Corazon.

Inside this edition:

- [Fr Louis](#) discusses the responsibilities and opportunities that the church is encountering during this period of growth
- [Michael](#) continues his examination of the remarkable life of Brigadier General Geoffrey Herbert Bruno ("Billy") Beyts DSO, MBE, MC
- [Colin](#) introduces social reformer Caroline Chisholm
- As ever, there are full details of all the [upcoming services and events](#), including details of the upcoming Annual Chaplaincy Meeting on Sunday 31st May

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

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



One of the most rewarding aspects of life at St George's recently has been working with the Fabric Group on the Council on aspects of our restoration project. I'm conscious of the responsibility we have for shaping future generations of St George's people.

The decisions we make are not only about honouring the heritage we have received but will also speak about the kind of community we aspire to be.

In search of a round table

Concerning the why and how and what and who of ministry,
One image keeps surfacing: A table that is round.
It will take some sawing
To be roundtabled.
Some redefining
And redesigning,
Some redoing and rebirthing
Of narrow long Churching
Can painful be
For people and tables.
It would mean no daising
And throning,
For but one king is there
And he is a foot washer,
At table no less.
And what of narrow long ministers
When they confront
A round table people,
After years of working up the table
To finally sit at its head,
Only to discover
That the table has been turned round?
They must be loved into roundness,
For God has called a People
Not "them and us".
"them and us" are unable
to gather round; for at a round table
there are no sides
and ALL are invited
to wholeness and to food.
At one time
Our narrowing churches
Were built to resemble the Cross
But it does no good
For building to do so,

If lives do not.
Round tabling means
No preferred seating,
No first and last,
No better, and no corners
For the “least of these”.
Roundtabling means
Being with,
A part of,
Together and one.
It means room for the Spirit
And gifts
And disturbing profound peace for all.
We can no longer prepare for the past.
To be Church,
And if He calls for other than a round table
We are bound to follow.
Leaving the sawdust
And chips, designs and redesigns
Behind, in search of and in presence of
The Kingdom
That is His and not ours.

Chuck Lathrop

At a recent community meeting someone offered a perfectly reasonable question about not knowing what was going on in the church and that decisions were being taken by a small group of people. I've been reflecting on this and I understand the question, but I feel the answer is more subtle.

I think this is a significant time of growth in our church – and I'm not talking primarily about numerical growth, but a step change in how we structure the life of our church. The scale of the commitments resting on the church means that the Chaplaincy Council needs to be adequately prepared to respond and step up to the responsibilities. There is room for improvement – both in our structures of governance, how decisions are made and how we communicate, but I want to celebrate the progress we have made. We have come a long way since the pandemic.

The ways in which we communicate across the church are being developed and I'd welcome your views on this – the Community WhatsApp group, the Weekly Bulletin, the Website, the Monthly Newsletter and there is a case for more frequent, short community meetings such as the recent one. I want to say also that each of us has a responsibility to ask questions and take an interest.

I've heard some interesting hearsay recently about the whys and wherefores of the restoration project, the sale of the apartment and other projects besides. I would encourage you to ask me or others directly. The more informed conversation that takes place across the community the better. I don't believe you can restore buildings without keeping mind the restoration of our life as a community. The two go hand in hand. I love the lines from Chuck Lathrop's poem above “Our narrowing churches/Were built to resemble the Cross/But it does no good/For building to do so,/If lives do not.”

SO NOW YOU KNOW



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

The 43rd^d in a series prepared for your interest and enjoyment by Michael Edwards



We continue this month taking a look at the life and times of the late Brigadier General **Geoffrey Herbert Bruno Beyts**, known to many who knew him as "Billy " or " Billy Bates ". This man from a Military family both living and serving for many years in British India and the UK retired to Malaga after a long and varied Military and Colonial life where he assisted in the worship at St.George's Church and the work of the British Legion Branch of the Costa del Sol until he died in 2000 at the age of 92 years.

In the August of 1942 during World War II, Beyts was appointed as Chief of Staff to Colin Hercules Mckenzie, assisting him in the establishment of a new special operational force known as Special Operations Executive or best known later as SOE/Force 136 (what I would term a very large 'James Bond ' type wartime military secret Unit).

Spymaster Mackenzie remained a civilian during his time leading this Force throughout the period of its existence during World War II. By the end of the war he was responsible for 33,000 agents in South East Asia.



A scene from the Battle of Imphal.

Between December 1943 and April 1945 Beyts returned to regimental soldering. He returned to his old Unit as Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Rajputana Rifles during the Burma Campaign in which his Unit formed part of the 17th Indian Division which were engaged in jungle fighting with the Japanese Army.

The Regiment saw intense fighting in the Battle of Imphal, a turning point in the Campaign.

His wife Ruby joined the SOE in 1943 as an Agent and became part of Force 136 in the April of this year having sailed from the UK to India. She was employed in Meerat as a ciphurette and resigned in the March of 1945.



Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Rajputana Rifles.



An official photo of Ruby Beyts in 1944 during her time as an Agent in the Secret Force 136 based in Meerat, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Of all the information I have located on " Billy " Beyts' long and varied military career, it is the details of the Citation for the award of his DSO (Distinguished Service Order) relating to the Burmese Jungle fighting with the Japanese that captivates all other, so much so, that I believe it should be included here verbatim.

It reads as follows:

" To : BEYTS. GEOFFREY HERBERT BRUNO. M.B.E., M.C.
For conspicuous courage and leadership .

During the bitter fighting in the IRRAWADDY Bridgehead between 30.Jan .45 and 5.Feb.45, Lt. Col. BEYTS led his Battalion with outstanding determination . In spite of heavy casualties, his officers and men were inspired by his leadership and example to hold on to THE NEEDLE and to PEAR HILL in spite of fanatical attacks pressed home to the last and thrown back with heavy losses to the Japanese.

On the 8 Feb. 45 during the attack on ABLE, BAKER & CHARLIE, Lt.Col. BEYTS again led his Bn. with conspicuous courage and dash in the face of the enemy. After considerable opposition from concealed enemy machine gun posts and snipers, the attack on the leading companies was held up . Our casualties were increasing rapidly and the situation had become critical . In spite of heavy and accurate sniping which causes us many casualties in his vicinity, Lt. Col. BEYTS carried out an effective close range reconnaissance of the enemy dispositions. As a result of this reconnaissance, Lt. Col. BEYTS was able to put in a successful tank and Infantry attack which inspired by his courage and determination carried the position by an exceedingly dashing attack .

Lt. Col. BEYTS ' personal leadership, disregard of personal risks & determination have throughout been an inspiration to his officers and men and been largely responsible for the great degree of success they have attained.

Honour or Reward . D.S.O. (IMMEDIATE) 3.5.45

Lieut - General Stopford, Commanding, 33 Indian Corps. "



Sikh Soldiers of the 62nd Indian Infantry Brigades, British Indian Army, June 1945.

Beyts was promoted to Brigadier to Command the 62nd Indian Infantry Brigades in the June of 1945 . After a short period of leave in England, Beyts helped plan the programme for the Indian Army Victory Contigent Parade in London in June,1946 before returning for his final posting, when he was appointed Commander of the Infantry School, Mhow, India from 1946 to 1947.

On the independence of India, Beyts left India for Kenya, thus severing the last link of his family that had served in India for 340 years . Arriving in Kenya, he planned to start a dairy farm, but finding that, even after diversifying, this project alone could not support his family, he applied for an appointment with the Kenya Administration. While his wife Ruby ran the farm, Beyts served as District Commissioner for the Mweiga area.



INFANTRY SCHOOL OF INDIAN ARMY



Indian Army Victory Contigent on Parade in London in June 1946 arranged by " Billy " Beyts.

The day Elizabeth became queen in a treehouse in Kenya



Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip at Treetops Lodge, Nyeri, Kenya, 1952.

The district included " Treetops Lodge " (Hotel at Aberdares National Park Entrance Gate, Nyeri, Kenya) and in 1952 it fell to Beyts to tell Prince Phil, who told Princess Elizabeth (our late Queen), that King George VI had died and accordingly she was the Queen.

In 1962, in the wake of the Mau Mau Rebellion, Beyts was advised to leave Kenya. He was, however unable to sell his farm and received no compensation. The fruits of 13 years work and the capital put into the farm were lost.

Returning to Britain he took up a job with a brewery company and 3 years later, had a Retired Officer post with the MoD, with the responsibility of recruitment of Army Officers.

Having retired to Devon in 1970, he and his wife were asked to supervise a camp at Greenham Common, Newbury, for Ugandan Asians expelled by Idi Amin. They were the perfect choice, since both were fluent in Hindustani and Swahili.

Following the death of Ruby his first wife in 1980 he moved to Nerja, near Malaga. It was here in his retirement that he took an active part in the worship at St. Michael's Anglican Church in the Town and also founded The Royal British Legion's Costa del Sol Branch where he was made Life President .

He remarried secondly, Linda Segrave Daly, a widow and resident of Nerja . Rosella Parmiter at this time owned and ran an Italian Restaurant in Nerja with her late husband Charles. She has informed me that "Billy Bates " and his wife Linda, dined out there from time to time and became good friends. It is said that " Billy " Beyts was driven by a firm religious faith and a strong sense of duty . In his autobiography " The King's Salt ", published in 1983, he said: " Caring for others in their distress has brought me the greatest rewards ".

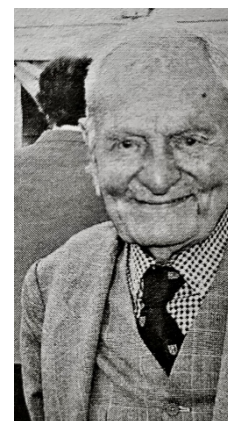


Photo of Billy Beyts during his retirement days



" Billy " Beyts grave in the English Cemetery, Malaga. (Note: Alas the stonemason thought his surname was Bruno rather than Beyts and that BEYTS was yet another meritorious award he had received).

GEOFFREY HERBERT BRUNO BEYTS (Billy) D.S.O., M.B. E., M.C. died on the 13th of December, 2000 and is buried in the English Cemetery Malaga, close to the main entrance to St. George's Church. May this brave and courageous long serving British Soldier rest in peace.

Finally, I can tell you that it was his wife Linda who donated the English flag of St. George in her husband's memory, is to be found hanging in the Chancel of St. George's Church.

Note : Should you wish to learn more about the life and times of " Billy " Beyts ", please note there is a further book entitled "The Path of Duty : The Life and Times of Bill Beyts " by Ian Trenowden / ebook published, 28th November, 2014.



Acknowledgements : I wish here to acknowledge with thanks information, first relating to the late Geoffrey Herbert Bruno Beyts, DSO .MBE. MC that I found and used from parts of the Obituary Artical published by " The Telegraph ", Filed : 22 March 2001; Second,The British Resistance Archive website sponsored by the Gerry Holdsworth Special Forces Charitable Trust.; and third, St. George's Church's Congregational Warden (Malaga), Rosella Parmiter, who kindly provided the information relating to " Billy " Beyts ' retirement years in Nerja, Spain.

SO NOW YOU KNOW MICHAEL EDWARDS.

MAY NOTABLES

Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer 1808 – 1877.



Better known in Australia than in Britain, (for over twenty years her portrait was on the Australian five dollar note) Caroline Jones was born in Northamptonshire in 1808 into a family with a strong tradition of charitable works. In 1830 she was received into the Roman Catholic Church in order to marry Captain Archibald Chisholm, an officer with the East India Company, and after the wedding she accompanied him to Madras in India.

Her interest in the welfare of women soon became apparent and she founded a school for daughters of the European soldiers. In 1838 her husband was granted sick leave, which they spent in New South Wales, and Caroline remained there when he went back to active service.

Sydney at this time still had the flavour of a convict town – outside the sheltered middle-class suburbs it was still a brutalized, male dominated society – and Caroline was horrified with the condition of many women who had to resort to prostitution or begging in order to support themselves and their families. The problem was aggravated by unrestricted immigration, but with no facilities to receive the immigrants when they arrived in Sydney and to arrange jobs and homes for them, poverty and destitution was the lot for many.



In 1835, after much lobbying, Caroline persuaded the Governor to allow her to use a disused barracks as a women's home. Here she worked to settle the thousands of unemployed immigrants, especially women. She met incoming ships, offering the women and girls shelter; she then arranged transport to inland areas, often escorting the women herself to help them find work. Caroline also ran schemes to place men and their families on the land. It is calculated that during her six years in Sydney, some 11,000 immigrants passed through her hands. Her report on this work, *Female Immigration* (1842) was the first publication by a woman in Australia.

On her husband's retirement, in 1845, Caroline returned to England where she promoted her work, raised money and support, and opened an emigration office in London. In 1854 she went back to Australia, where her welfare initiatives included providing shelters for workers going out to the goldfields. She also lectured on land reform and later opened a girls' school in Sydney. However she developed health problems and in 1876 she and her family returned to England where she died the following year.

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

Caroline Chisholm is commemorated in the CofE Common Worship lectionary on May 16th.

Major Feasts this month:

May 1st St Philip and St James, Apostles

May 14th St Matthias, Apostle

May 31st The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth



Colin Somerville



May 2026

WHAT'S ON AT ST GEORGE'S

From Carmen to Piaf, Tango and more!

25€

WITH *June 6th 2026*

STELLA GRIGORIAN & DAMIAN WHITELEY

First picnic concert of the year!

St George's Church - in the English Cemetery

19:30 FOR 20:00 START
BRING A PICNIC

Tickets:



www.stgeorgesmalaga.com/events

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

Annual Chaplaincy Meeting Sunday 31st May

“Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain”. Psalm 127:1



NOTICE OF ANNUAL CHAPLAINCY MEETING

Chaplaincy of St George’s Malaga
The Annual Chaplaincy Meeting will be held at St George’s Church, Avenida Priés 1
on the 31st day of May 2026 at 1.00pm.

For election of representatives of the laity as follows –

Two Churchwardens

To the Archdeaconry Synod 2 representatives. To the Chaplaincy Council 6 representatives.

For the appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditor. **For the consideration** of:

(a) a report on changes to the Roll since the last annual meeting

(b) an Annual Report on the proceedings of the chaplaincy council and the activities of the chaplaincy generally;

(c) the financial statements of the council for the year ending on the 31st December preceding the meeting;

(d) the annual fabric report under section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018;

(e) a report of the proceedings of the deanery/archdeaconry synod; and (f) other matters of chaplaincy or general church interest.

L. Min

Chaplain or vice-chair of the chaplaincy council as the case may be (see Rule M19(2) of the Church Representation Rules).

See also Notes overleaf/below.

Footnotes

* To be included in a year in which representatives of the laity are to be elected to the Synod. ** To be included in a year when a new Church Electoral Roll is prepared. Delete as applicable.

Notes

1 Every lay person whose name is entered on the Chaplaincy Electoral Roll (and no other person) is entitled to vote at the election of representatives of the laity.

2 A person is qualified to be elected a representative of the laity if –

(a) his or her name is entered on the Electoral Roll of the chaplaincy and, unless he or she is under 18, has been entered there for at least the preceding six months;

(b) he or she is an actual communicant (which means that he has received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England at least three times during the twelve months preceding the date of the election);

(c) he or she is at least 16; and

(d) he or she is not disqualified as referred to in paragraph 3 of these Notes.

3 (1) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a churchwarden or a member of a chaplaincy council, if the person is disqualified from being a trustee of a charity (and the disqualification is not subject to a waiver which permits membership of a chaplaincy council).

(2) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a chaplaincy council or a synod if the person is included in a barred list (within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).

(3) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a chaplaincy church council or a synod if the person has been convicted of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (with that expression being construed in accordance with Rule 71(2) of the Church Representation Rules).

(4) A person's disqualification under sub-paragraph (3) may be waived by the bishop of the diocese by giving the person notice in writing.

(5) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a chaplaincy church council if the person has been disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbent (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977.

Volunteer at St George's – role of Sacristan

Would you be interested in helping to oversee the preparation of worship at St Georges? Setting up for the Sunday Eucharist and other services (as available); changing the altar frontal; caring for the sacred vessels and linen; preparing the credence table with everything need for the celebration of the Eucharist. Please speak to Caroline Warren or Fr Louis.

Birdwatching group at St George's?

We're exploring the possibility of starting a new birdwatching group. It doesn't matter what level of experience you have – its more about gentle exercise, exploring more of Andalucia in good company and learning something new. Please get in touch with Mother Doreen or Fr Louis if you want to know more.

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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mikenjoanna@me.com

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