
El Corazón

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

Hello and welcome once again to the June 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](#) shares his Chaplains report
- [Michael](#) shares the life of Vice Admiral Henry Douglas Wilkin, CBE. DSO
- [Colin](#) introduces spiritual writer Evelyn Underhill
- Don't forget the last chance to book for tomorrow night's fantastic concert
- As ever, there are full details of all the upcoming services and events, including a summary of the recent AGM

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!

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

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A Word in Season

Fr. Louis Darrant



CHAPLAIN'S REPORT – 2026

Lenin is quoted as saying 'There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen'. This doesn't feel wide of the mark when I reflect upon the activity of the Chaplaincy over the past year. Fr Hilary quoted these words at the beginning of our vision morning a few months ago and at this AGM we find ourselves in a very different place to where we were a year ago. I want to express my gratitude to every person who, in whatever capacity, has made a contribution to the life of St George's since we last gathered for our AGM.

I'm taking part in one of the Bishop's strategy working groups exploring the characteristics of thriving and fragile chaplaincies. It's an opportunity to engage with the wider church and think about St George's in the context of other communities. The character of a healthy church is more subtle than simply looking at attendance figures and bank balances, although they certainly have their part to play. More subtle is how a church navigates differences of opinion or transitional times.

My own sense is that we have entered a liminal space in which the familiar structures and patterns of church life are changing and the pattern of what emerges is yet to be fully seen. Hence the gift of the Holy Cow consultation and subsequent vision morning to give us space to think about where we sense the Spirit may be leading us. We have a good idea now of the kind of things we would like to see happen and yet the challenge is we are such a diverse community, not only in terms of geography, but also church experience and culture. I want to celebrate this and acknowledge it as part of what makes St George's so engaging. The question I'm wrestling with is how you co-create Christian community when such a large part of your community is either transient or seasonal. I believe part of the answer lies in the concept of a 'church without walls'.

Part of the change we have witnessed over the past year is more energy for creative thought. The process of the sale of the apartment and the creation of an endowment fund is about getting us to the place of no longer expending most of our energy on fund-raising. A note of caution: fund-raising will always be necessary for our chaplaincy and the planned giving is a responsible part of our participation in the life of the church. Our aspiration is that one day we will find ourselves being able to increase our charitable giving and fund initiatives which are about fulfilling our mission not simply paying the bills.

To this end I want put on record my thanks to Tris, our treasurer, and Fr Hilary, Finance and Funding working group lead and all the team for the work done to build upon what Bele achieved as treasurer after a good number of years in the role.

The development of the teamwork has been one of the most rewarding aspects of this past year. We are indebted to Caroline as our Churchwarden and to all members of the Council for the time and energy given to running the Chaplaincy in different capacities. I'd like to draw particular attention to Norma's work as Safeguarding Officer, which Norma carries out with tremendous

efficiency and sensitivity. It is vital that we engage with the training and learning in ensuring our community is a safe and supportive space for all people. My thanks go also to the superb clergy team that serves our chaplaincy and to extend a very warm welcome to the Revered Liz McLean who had joined us very recently. We look forward to welcoming Liz and her husband, George to our community.

The variety of contributions to our life together is extraordinary and it's the sum of these part which enables the life of our church to happen in and out of season. I am always mindful of the improvements which we can make, but I want to celebrate our achievements and teamwork:

- For Sally and Jean's handiwork with flowers
- Fr Hilary on the website
- Fr Mark looking after the rota,
- Rosella and those who prepare our refreshments
- John and the choir at Salinas
- Caroline and the preparation of services assisted by Adrian
- Aitana's work on the refurbishment project
- David's picnic concert series and Gala Dinner
- Jo and Mike's editorship of El Corazón
- Elias as he takes up the reins as an altar server
- Michael our sexton and his care for the church
- all for those who assists at concerts and events.

Yes, we need to build our volunteer base, but look at the wealth of contribution already being made. I will have been here nearly six years now and so I qualify as someone who might get stuck into patterns of thinking and practice. I hope I can encourage you to reflect on what you hold dear and at the same time be open to making space for the contribution of new people as I aspire to do the same.

SO NOW YOU KNOW



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

The 44th in a series prepared for your interest and enjoyment by Michael Edwards



If you enter the Church by way of the main door beneath the Portico and take a look to your left you will see the St. George and Dragon Stained Glass Window. On closer inspection you will note that this beautiful window was installed in memory of **Vice Admiral Henry Douglas Wilkin, CBE, DSO**. who died in Malaga in 1931 at the age of 67. What do we know of this man? Stay with me and we'll find out some of his exploits, his eventful lifetime career in the Royal Navy and the fighting ships he sailed in.

The son of Major H. J. Wilkin, 11th and 7th Hussars, he was born at Ambala, India on March 27th 1862. Ambala is a City and municipal corporation in the state of Haryana on the border of Punjab. In all probability young Wilkin being part of an army family, together with his parents, would have attended the local garrison church of St. Paul which was consecrated in 1857. Alas, and much later, it was bombed by Pakistani aircraft during the 1965 Indo - Pak war and mainly destroyed. Only the tower now remains.



St. Paul's Church, Ambala prior to its destruction by Pakistani aircraft during the 1965 Indo-Pak war.

It seems rather odd to me that a young man from India with a military/army family background should have opted for a life at sea with the Royal Navy.

Perhaps there was a member of his family in Britain who moved him in that direction or could it have come from his school? However, after Officer Naval training what we do know with some certainty, is that at the tender age of just 20 he was a midshipman on HMS Superb on the Mediterranean Station during the whole of the Egyptian War.

HMS Superb (1875 and the sixth with this name) was an iron-clad 9710 tons battleship built by the Thames Ironworks and Shipbuilding Co.,



The St. George and the Dragon Memorial Window dedicated to Vice Admiral Henry Wilkins located in the Nave of St. George's Church, Malaga and a close up of the dedication.



H.M.S. Superb (1875)

launched at Blackwell and designed by Sir Edward Reed for the Turkish Ottoman Navy but purchased by the Royal Navy at a cost of £ 443,00.



The Bombardment of Alexandria, Egypt. A Bird's Eye Illustration of the Battle Fleet in canon firing action.

At the bombardment of Alexandria following the Egyptian Nationalist Uprising that took place on the 11th to 13th July, 1882 with a complement of 654, H.M.S. Superb was stationed together with an outer squadron of 5 warships from the British Mediterranean Fleet under Admiral Sir Frederick Beauchamp. A total of 15 British warships were involved, the French ships having sailed away.

On the morning of the first day, the British launched their attack and over the course of the day systematically silenced the 273 canons of the enemy located within the shoreline fort defences.

Alexandria on the following day in different parts of the city including the European Quarter, was alight with fire much of which was started by local rioters and looters. Much destruction occurred. The first foreign troops to land were 150 American Sailors who soon managed to restore some order and put out some of the fires. Young Wilkin was landed initially from his ship with part of the British Naval Brigade (a detachment of marines and sailors known as "Bluejackets") on the 14th July to first secure the Palace of Justice and the Ras el Tin Palace during the first few days of the occupation of Alexandria and Ramleh. He later received the Egyptian medal with Alexandria clasp and the Khedive's bronze star for his involvement.

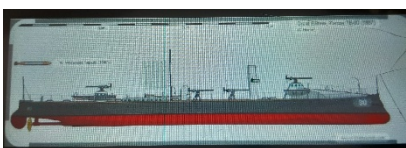
Wilkin became a sub lieutenant in May 1883 and served on the West Coast of Africa on H.M.S. Rapid, and it was on this ship that he earned the Silver Medal of the R.N. Lifeboat Institution and the bronze medal of the Humane Society for an act of conspicuous gallantry. It seems that two marines fell overboard in shark infested waters while the ship was at sea at Cape Coast Castle on the Gold Coast of West Africa (Now Ghana). Wilkin jumped in after them and succeeded in supporting them both until all three were rescued by boat. H.M.S. Rapid (1883) was a 1,420 tons, 200 feet long Satellite-class composite screw sloop with three masts and one funnel built at Devonport Dockyard.

In 1888-91 Wilkin served on H.M.S. Gannet in the Mediterranean. H.M.S. Gannet (1878) was a Doteral-class screw composite sloop of 1130 tons and 170 feet long. This ship can be seen to this day at Chatham as it is part of the UK's National Historic Fleet.



H.M.S. Gannett

In the months of July and August of 1891, Wilkin was appointed captain in charge of H.M. Torpedo Boat No. 84 on coastal duties. This vessel built at the Yarrow Yard No. 802 was known, due to its length as a "130 footer" and completed in 1889. It seems that this type of vessel was most uncomfortable to sail in due to its small size and cramped conditions



See here a copy of a drawing I have found of a TB Yarrow 80 that illustrates its comparative short length, armaments and early-day Whitehead 18inch type torpedo located on the deck. It should be noted that in the April of 1906, some 15 years after Wilkin had his very short stay in charge of No.84, this vessel was sunk when in collision with H.M.S. Ardent during exercises at night off Malta. One member of the torpedo boat was killed in the accident.

During the winter of 1891 -92, Wilkin was lieutenant and commander of the gunboat H.M.S. Widgeon on the Cape Station during the Gambia River expedition to Vintang Creek during which he was landed with the Naval Brigade. This ship was a 1st Class screw gunboat of the Redbreast Class launched in 1889, a 805 ton vessel with twin screws.

In the May of 1892 Wilkin was executive officer of the sloop H.M.S. Racer and took part in the second Gambia River expedition. He was landed in command of a Naval Brigade from the Racer, Sparrow and Alecto, in conjunction with a Battalion of the West India Regiment under Colonel Ellis, and took part in the operations resulting in the capture of Fort Toniataba. He was awarded the D.S.O. in January, 1893 at the age of 31, in recognition of his African Services but it was not until December 1900 that he was promoted to commander. By that time he had taken part in the South African War as lieutenant and commander of the H.M.S. Sparrow gunboat, which he joined in July, 1896. This ship was a Redbreast - class gunboat (steam and sail) launched in 1889 built by Scott's Shipbuilding and Engineering Company. He also served in command of the destroyer H.M.S. Otter at Hong Kong, when in the November, 1900, she went to the rescue of the river gunboat H.M.S. Sandpiper during a typhoon. He and his officers and crew was able to take off the officers and crew of the Sandpiper before she went aground in the West River, China.

In May, 1901, Wilkin became commander of the battleship H.M.S. Benbow at Greenock, and in January, 1904, he commissioned the sloop H.M.S. Clio at Sheerness for the Australian Station. This ship was a Cadmus - class launched in 1903. It was built at Sheerness Dockyard and was on Station in May 1904 after being damaged in heavy gales, all as reported by the Sydney Morning Herald of 10th May, 1904. In her, Wilkin conducted Island tours and surveying, visiting Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand. He also conveyed the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific to the Tongan Islands to settle certain affairs, and was thanked by the Admiralty and Colonial Office for the services he rendered. Later H.M.S. Clio was moved to the China Station and in December, 1905, when Wilkin was in Command of the naval forces, landed at Shanghai for the suppression, remaining ashore for 17 days. H.M.S. Clio was later in service during World War 1.



H.M.S Edgar, 1908 a first - class protected cruiser at sea.

Wilkin was promoted to captain in June, 1907. On the 27th June, 1908 he was appointed to command the first class protected cruiser H.M.S. Edgar built at Devonport with two funnels and two masts, quickly followed by the cruisers H.M.S Hawke on the 5th January, 1909 and H.M.S. Antrim on the 28th October, 1909 before he finally retired (or thought he had) on the 9th August, 1913.

H.M.S Hawke, an Edgar-class protected cruiser had an interesting and sad history after Wilkin left her command in 1909 insofar that she collided with R.M.S. Olympic (sister ship of the Titanic), and later sunk by the German Uboat U9 off the East Coast of Fenur, Scotland in WW1 with the loss of all souls.

On H. M. S. Antrim, in the August of 1911, this Devonshire - class armoured cruiser was stationed in the River Mersey by Winston Churchill, then British Home Secretary, to help maintain order during the Liverpool General Transport Strike.



Captain Wikin, on the deck of H.M.S. Antrim, June, 1912.

In 1913, at the good age of 51, Wilkin married Elfrida Iveson of Charters, Ascot, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Egbert Iveson at St. Thomas's Parish Church, Brompton, Northallerton, North Yorkshire. The wedding reception was at the Sloane-Gate Hotel and the best man Mr. Ernest Brudenell-Bruce. I'm sorry that I don't have any details of the wedding cake !



Greymount House, Greencastle, Belfast where Wilkin and his wife Elfrida lived for most of their time during World War 1.

At the mobilisation for War in the August of 1914, Captain Wilkin was appointed to H.M.S. Ganges as Assistant to the Senior Naval Officer, Harwich. Six months later he was appointed Senior Naval Officer at Belfast, and served there until the Naval base was demobilised in 1919.

It was during this period that he and his wife lived at Greymount House in Greencastle, Belfast. The couple had three children, one son and two daughters. Their first child, Maureen was born in Greymount in 1915. In September, 1919, he was gazetted C.B.E. in recognition of his services during the War. Promotion to rear-Admiral on the retired list was granted him in October, 1918, and to vice-Admiral in July, 1924.

Wilkin and his wife Elfrida on his retirement in 1918 resided initially in the West Riding of Yorkshire, where in 1920 he was appointed a JP for the area. He was also very much involved within the local countryside and engaged in field sports.

During the latter part of his retirement, Wilkin and his wife Elfrida lived in Malaga. After a brief illness he died on the 8th January, 1931 at the age of 67 years. Accordingly his three children would probably have been just teenagers at this time. I can't tell you where he is buried. The English Cemetery Malaga Burial Records that I have do not list him or his wife (at the commencement of the Spanish Civil War normal cemetery arrangements were not always possible) and unfortunately the dedicated information I have located does not provide this information. However wherever Vice Admiral Henry Douglas Wikin's remains are to be located, probably in the English Cemetery, R.I.P. A truly great Officer of the Royal Navy when Britain " ruled the waves. "



The cruiser H.M.S. Antrim sent into the River Mersey in 1911 with Wilkin in command by Winston Churchill, British Home Secretary, to assist quell the Liverpool General Transport Strike worker disturbance.

SO NOW YOU KNOW MICHAEL EDWARDS.

JUNE NOTABLES

Evelyn Underhill Spiritual Writer 1875 – 1941



Evelyn Underhill was born in Wolverhampton in 1875, the daughter of a barrister. After an education at home, supplemented by three years at a private school in Folkestone, she attended King's College, London. In 1907 she underwent a conversion to the Christian faith, though she joined no particular Church. Her inclination was towards Rome but the condemnation of modern theological developments by Pope Pius X served to keep her at arm's length from a formal commitment to that Church. It was 1921 before she returned to the Church of England in which she had been baptized.

As a non-denominational Christian, who had recently undergone conversion, Evelyn turned to a study of the largely neglected mystics and published her first important book, *Mysticism*, in 1911. Through this she made the acquaintance of Baron Friedrich von Hugel, who became her teacher and spiritual director.

Evelyn introduced the mystics to a wider audience and helped to establish the respectability of mystical spirituality in the Church of England. She taught that the life of contemplative prayer was not just for monks and nuns, but for any Christian who is willing to undertake it.

In 1924, after her return to the Anglican fold, she also began to conduct retreats, a service for which she was in great demand, as she also was for spiritual direction. It was said that her 'love of souls coupled with determination to help them to grow at God's pace and not at their own or hers, won her the love and trust of all who went to her for help'.

She was also a speaker, broadcaster and writer in the church press. For some years she was the theological editor of *The Spectator*. Among her many published works were *Practical Mysticism* (1914) and *Worship* (1936).

Evelyn had worked for naval intelligence during the First World War, but her views changed and as the Second World War approached she embraced pacifism.

Just a few weeks before her death in Hampstead in June 1941, and during the worst of the blitz, she wrote to a friend: *Yes – I am still a pacifist though I agree with you about the increasing difficulty of it. But I feel more and more sure that Christianity and war are incompatible and that nothing worth having can be achieved by 'casting out Satan by Satan'.*

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

Evelyn Underhill is commemorated in the CofE Common Worship lectionary on June 15th.

Major Feasts this month:

June 11th

St Barnabas the Apostle

June 24th

The Birth of St John the Baptist

June 29th

St Peter and St Paul, Apostles



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/>

Summary of the Annual General Meeting



Fr Louis with the two new Churchwardens, Caroline Warren and Jerry Steward-Derqui

The Chaplaincy Annual General Meeting took place today after the morning service. This was the time for reports from church officers, election of new officers and votes on key decisions for which the Chaplaincy needs its widest representation.

We are pleased to announce that Caroline Warren is staying on as Churchwarden and will be joined by Jerry Steward-Derqui, bringing us back to our full quota of two Churchwardens, Tristram Congreve is staying on as Treasurer, Norma Steward-Derqui will become Secretary, Norma McIntyre is staying on as Safeguarding Officer, Rosella Parmiter and Norma Steward-Derqui will represent us at the Archdeaconry Synod and Aitana Riordan Fernandez, Daran Little and David Tweed will join as Chaplaincy Council Members. Rachel Page, who was elected Congregational warden for our Salinas congregation, also joins the Chaplaincy Council.

In terms of key decisions, the Audited Financial Statements for 2025 were received and our Independent Auditor, Andrew Roberts, was appointed for a further year. In addition the meeting voted on a motion to sell the apartment owned by the Chaplaincy at Paseo Reding 21, with the aim of creating an Endowment fund so as to ensure the church's financial sustainability. The motion was carried.

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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