El Corazón

From the Anglican Chaplaincy of St George, Malaga
Volume 6, No. 11, November 2026



Hello and welcome to the November edition of El Corazón.

As the nights draw in and the weather changes, it's time to turn our thoughts towards cozy nights.

There is so much going on this month in the church, make sure you check out details inside, also we have for you:

- Fr Louis shares some thoughts on the art of loss.
- Michael moves his focus to Major Desmond Arthur Bristow.
- Colin brings to our attention the Mystic, Margery Kempe 1373 – c.1440.
- Also thank you to Fr Hilary for an early reminder of this year's Christmas Fayre on 5 December - an important day in the calendar and worthy of your attention.
- 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.

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:
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or join our WhatsApp group using the QR code:

A Word in Season

Fr. Louis Darrant



Practicing the art of loss

by Fr Louis

Its entirely natural to have great aspirations for our lives. I suspect these change over the course of our lives and hopefully the older we get the more contentment we find in the ordinary moments of our days.

The very nature of unfulfilled hopes need not necessarily mean that we have wasted our lives. There will always more to explore, do and achieve.

Practising the examen can help us notice just how much we have done and experienced. The point is not the amount we have achieved, but the fruit which comes from it. Could it be that the realisation that there isn't enough time points us in the direction of a life beyond this life? I know the tyranny of the 'to do' list . We're never going to complete what needs to be done as is life was something to be overcome and mastered.

Attached to this is the anxiety of fretting over our legacy. Great aspirations, if they are truly great, can never be achieved. To believe that we can is to limit the nature of aspiration. We must yearn for the horizon, knowing that the horizon always lies beyond us. This is why many settle for lesser aspiration – making lots of money, building a comfortable home and obtaining lots of power. While all these things are not bad in themselves and perfectly achievable if you set your heart on them, we know that ultimately they do not satisfy (Luke 15.11-32).

The Irish Nobel Prize-winning author Samuel Beckett put it simply, 'No Matter, Try Again, Fail Again, Fail Better'. Thomas Merton elaborates on this when he says, "A man [sic] who fails well is greater than one who succeeds badly. One who is content with what he has, and who accepts the fact that he inevitably misses very much in life, is far better off than one who has much but who worries about all that he may be missing. For we cannot make the best of what we are, if our hearts are always divided between what we are and what we are not. The lower our estimate of

ourselves and the lower our expectations, the greater the chance we have of using what we have. If we do not know how poor we are, we will never be able to appreciate what we actually have. But above all, we must learn our own weakness in order to awaken to a new order of action and of Being – and experience God Himself accomplishing in us the things we find impossible. We cannot be happy if we expect to live all the time at the highest peak of intensity. Happiness is not a matter of intensity but of balance and order and rhythm and harmony."

In November we remember the departed. Those who have died no longer aspire or strive, but continue their journey of transformation in the love of Christ.

Do our expectations for our lives make sense in the light of the journey which awaits us? Do the things we worry and concern ourselves with our lives now stand up to scrutiny when placed alongside the freedom we shall one day enjoy fully? If not, what amendment of life is needed to help us enter into an experience of that freedom now?

Merton further writes, "What we need is the gift of God which makes us able to find in ourselves, not just ourselves but Him, and then our nothingness becomes His all. This is not possible without the liberation effected by compunction and humility. It requires not talent, not mere insight, but sorrow, pouring itself out in love and trust."

Our lives are hidden in Christ and Christ's life is hidden in ours. In God we discover that nothing is lost. We shall one day be united with all who we love and have died and our learning shall continue in ways we cannot begin to describe. I think, therefore, that to describe the Christian pilgrimage as practising the art of loss is one of those wonderful paradoxes which illuminates the path of faith.

SO NOW YOU KNOW



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

The 49th in a series prepared for your interest and enjoyment by **Michael Edwards**



On the 9th of September 2000 the cremated remains of Major **Desmond Arthur Bristow** were placed within a Columbarium Niche adjoining St. George's Church. The Cemetery records inform us that he died in Velez Malaga on the 5th of September 2000, that he was a married man, 83 years of age and his occupation was recorded as " ret. co-executive ". The occupation title stated here must relate to Bristow's later work in Africa with Percy Sillitoe the former General of MI5, undertaken after Bristow left MI6 and before his retirement with his wife Betty to Spain. The subject of this joint work was their investigation of the illicit trade in smuggled diamonds in West Aftica. Yes, Major Bristow was a British spymaster both during and after World War II throughout the Iberian Peninsula and beyond.



The Village of Punta Humbria, Humbria near Heulva, Brisow's birthplace.

Desmond Bristow was born in Birmingham, England on 1st of June, 1917 but grew up a long way from middle England, not a million miles from Malaga in the small fishing village of Punta Humbria in the Province of Huelva. The village is located on the banks of the Rio Odiel River and across the water from the capital Huelva surrounded by extensive salt marshes and near Isla Saltes.



The Rio Tinto Mining Region.

His first language was the Spanish spoken in Andalusia, a dialect of Castilian. His father, an English engineer, oversaw a copper mine nearby in Santa Rosa in the Rio Tinto mining region. His father it seems did not believe in overworking the labourers; shifts on the mines started at 7am and finished at 2pm. With their afternoons free, the more industrious labourers took up land allotments offered by his father and worked the soil. His father then created a co-operative where the community would buy and sell their fruit and vegetables.



The Main Entrance to Dulwich College, London, SE 21

In the autumn of 1925 when young Desmond would have been just 7 years old , he was sent to a boarding School in England and took his place at Dulwich Preparatory School, with a gigantic change of geography, climate, food and language to cope with.

In 1931 at the age of 13 years he moved on to Dulwich College and after doing well academically, won a place at Magdalene College, Cambridge to read French and Spanish. It also must be noted that he captained the college at rowing. Visits home to Heulva were rare because of the Spanish Civil War at that time. Bristow left University in May,1939.



The Refectory, Magdalene College, Cambridge.

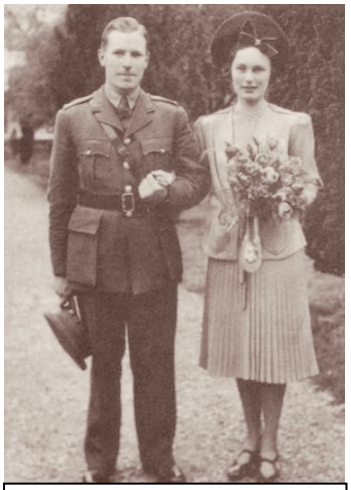
(That was a quite splendid month 'cos I was born in Manchester. Sorry about that but couldn't resist!)



Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, 1939.

On the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry as a private. When the British Army became aware of his educational background, language skills and Southern Spanish knowledge, he soon became a lieutenant in the British Intelligence Corps.

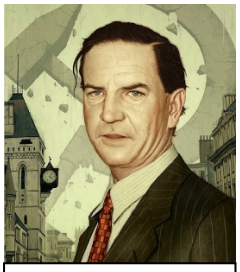
Training here included learning all about enemy uniforms, hand weapons, tanks, airplanes, ships, habits and the German way of life. Bristow translated many military slogans and technical terms from the Spanish army into English, and many English military terms into Spanish.



"The Happy Couple". Desmond Bristow marries Evelyne Betty Weaver on May 18th, 1941 in London.

On May 18th, 1941 Desmond Bristow married Evelyn Betty Weaver in London. The couple had two sons and two daughters.

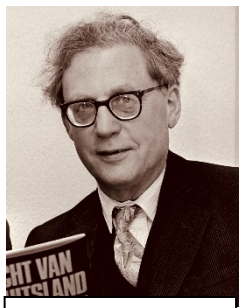
Bristow was transferred to Section V (d) of MI6, the Iberian sector (Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, Andorra and a little bit of France: French Cerdagne in the Southern Pyrenees) located in St Albans, England run by Major Felix Cowgill, described by one of his colleagues as " .....the model of an old-style intelligence officer: a former officer in the Indian Police, he was rigid, combative, paranoid, and quite dim, and "As an intelligence officer, he was, inhibited by lack of imagination, inattention to detail and sheer ignorance of the world ".



Kim Philby

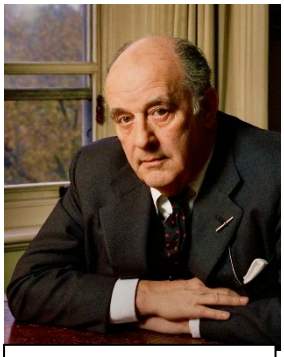
The unit included some notable figures, such as;

Kim Philby, British Intelligence Agent and well known Russian Spy. Born 1st Jan, 1912 in Ambala, India. Died 11th May,1988 in Moscow, Russia. (Ultimately unveiled as a double-agent feeding Russia);



Hugh Trevor Roper, Baron Dacre of Glandon

Hugh Trevor-Roper (15 Jan. 1914 - 26 Jan. 2003) English Historian and Major, British Intelligence Corps. (his full name, Hugh Redwald Trevor-Roper, Baron Dacre of Glandon), an English Historian and Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford University with an in depth knowledge of Nazi Germany;



Nathaniel Mayer Victor, Rothschild, 3rd Baron Rothschild

Nathaniel Mayer Victor, Rothschild, 3rd Baron Rothschild, the son of his Jewish farther, a member of the Rothschild banking family. (31st October,1910 - 20 March,1990) British scientist, Intelligence Officer in World War II, and later Senior executive with Royal Dutch Shell and N M Rothschild and Sons, and advisor to the Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher governments of the UK.

Victor Rothschild, a Trinity Cambridge man, played First Class Cricket and his flat in London was shared with Guy Burgess, Anthony Blunt and Kim Philby, members of the " Cambridge Spy Ring ".



Eric Arthur Roberts (18 June 1907 - 17 December 1972). Alias Jack King, the Grammar School man, a MI5 field agent who posed as a Gestapo Agent and infiltrated fascist groups in the UK during the Second World War to prevent secret information finding its way to Germany. Hardened spies were "astonished" by the treachery he unearthed.

During World War II, Rothschild's roles included bomb disposal, disinformation and espionage, winning the George Medal for " dangerous work in hazardous circumstances " which included personally dismantling German booby traps and disguised explosives. With his assistant Theresa Clay, he ran the " Fifth Column " operation, which saw MI5 officer Eric Roberts masquerade as the Gestapo's man in London in order to identify hundreds of Nazi sympathisers; and finally Gilbert Ryle and Stuart Hampshire, both Oxford University Fellows who at the break of World War II were seconded to work near London in military intelligence. The overall intelligence " brain - power " involved must have been horrific.

At the outset of Bristow 's work in Section V (d) where he trained under the guidance of Kim Phiby, he established a routine and divided the tasks members should undertake. ABWEHR 's (The German international service) messages would come to the group for consideration or " go upstairs " to the German, Dutch and French Sections .

Next Month we will take a look at what Bristow carried out in his new role for MI6 when he was tasked with the opening -up of a new MI6 (V) Unit centred on Gibraltar in the June of 1942, and then the Catalan Double Agent Juan Pujol (GARBO) and finally " Operation Mincemeat " or The Man Who Never Was, and so much more .

SO NOW YOU KNOW

MICHAEL EDWARDS.

NOVEMBER NOTABLES

Margery Kempe 1373 – c.1440, Mystic.



Margery Kempe lived from 1373 – c1440. She was the daughter of a prosperous businessman in King's Lynn and was married to John Kempe. They had 14 children.

Margery lacked a formal education. She never learnt to write, and all her books were dictated to others. She was not a recluse, neither was she a submissive wife. She was highly emotional, could be incredibly rude (especially to senior male clerics) and would emotionally engage with the liturgy, all of which led to distrust of her actions from established clergy and a search for any heretical element in her sayings.

Margery experienced depression possibly connected to the birth of her first child, and it was this depression that initiated a life of spiritual experience. Locked away in a room, forcibly restrained on the orders of her spiritual director, and suffering from depression, Margery saw a vision of Jesus, who said to her, "Daughter, why have you forsaken me, and I never forsook you?"

This convinced her that both her guilt and fear were misplaced, and brought her into a personal and intimate relationship with Christ.

In 1436 Margery dictated The Book of Margery Kempe. It is essentially a spiritual autobiography. It is honest, but with a dubious historical chronology. It is not a diary. The book was written down by someone else, and edited, after much persuasion by a priest. Extracts of it were published in the sixteenth century, in a carefully edited edition. The discovery of the complete manuscript in 1934 led to a re-evaluation of the book and of Margery herself.

Margery is honest. She reveals her love of clothes, her envy of other people, her lack of scruples and her fantasies. Yet she is also honest in her dealings with her relationship with Christ. She finds in Christ a fulfilment she could find nowhere else, and this fulfilment leads her on a journey of great transformation.

Remembered initially as a mystic, Margery is now known to be a more complex and challenging character. Her achievements, despite all her failings, have often been met with puzzlement, or even hostility. At times overcome by joy, at others too honest for comfort, Margery is the embodiment of an honest soul on a quest for God.

Then said the Archbishop to her, "You shall swear that you shall neither teach nor challenge the people in my diocese."

"No sir I shall not swear", she said, "for I shall speak of God and reprove those who swear great oaths wheresoever I go for God almighty forbids me not, sir, that we should speak of him and therefore sir, I think that the gospel gives me leave to speak of God."

“Ah, sir”, said the clerks, “here we know well that she has a devil within her, for she speaks of the gospel.”

THE BOOK OF MARGERY KEMPE Ch. 52

Taken from “Saints on Earth” a biographical companion to Common Worship (Darch and Burns) published by Church House Publishing

Margery Kempe is commemorated in the CofE Common Worship lectionary on November 9th.

Major Feasts this month:

Nov. 1st	**All Saints Day;**
Nov. 30th	**St Andrew the Apostle, Patron of Scotland.**



Colin Somerville

October 2026

WHAT'S ON AT ST GEORGE'S

St George's Christmas Market - Saturday 5th December

The history of Christmas markets goes back to the 13th century. Today the Christmas Market is very much a European institution, popular in much of central and eastern Europe. And Málaga!

Here at St George's we bring you the complete experience – a full flavoured Christmas market on your door step in the centre of the city. And your favourite stalls will be there. In fact the mulled wine, bratwurst, bric-a-brac, plants, books, and all those lovely English things that make it feel so Christmassy, will all be there...with so much more.

And there'll be Christmas music too!

Come. It will be fun. And start your Christmas shopping early!

We'll be in the English Cemetery in Málaga, outside St George's church, from 11am, Saturday 5th December. Parking: Calle Cervantes

Book the date now, or face years of disappointment!




St George's Church
MALAGA
Christmas
FAYRE
SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER 2026
11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
GOOD FOOD AND DRINK
BOOKSTALL
BRIC-A-BRAC
TOMBOLA
CAKES AND BAKES
PRIZE RAFFLE
PLANT SALES
Vintage Fashion
Home-made Preserves
Cakes and Bakes
Bric-a-Brac
Books
Christmas Gifts
Tombola
Prize Raffle
Bar & Bacon Butties
All Welcome!
St George's Church
Avenida de Pries 1, Malaga
(in the English Cemetery)

SING WITH US

St George's Anglican Church, Málaga



New opportunities to sing

Adult choir • Children's choir

Choral Evenscng for All Souls

Wednesday 4th November

- Rehearsal: 5.00pm
- Service: 7.00pm

Adult choir

Choral Evensong for Advent

Friday 4th December

- Rehearsal: 5.00pm
- Service: 7.00pm

Children's choir

Help us start something joyful.

Interested in joining? Contact Fr Louis

WhatsApp: +34 614 73 69 19

chaplain@stgeorgesmalaga.com

www.stgeorgesmalaga.com

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/

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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	Jerry Steward, 630 934 946
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