

Chaplaincy Report 2022

It has been quite a momentous year for the Chaplaincy, one that we will remember for many years, for both the sad times and the joyous celebrations.

There were two very special events:

First, we celebrated the licensing of our very own Lay Reader, Ruth Brough:



*Pic. 1: Archdeacon David Waller, Ruth and Bob and Judie (unfortunately masks were compulsory!)
Pic.2: However, Ruth and Derek sneaked a 'cheeky' non-mask photo after the service.*

Ruth completed her studies in record time, devoting many hours to reading and even more to writing essays and dissertations. Members contributed to purchasing the preaching stole, which was designed and made especially for Ruth.

The second notable event was the retirement of our first ever Chaplain, Bob Horrocks at the end of September 2022. Following two cancellations, first for a subtropical cyclone hitting the island, and then Covid infections, Bob finally got to deliver his final service as our Chaplain (originally planned for the 25th September) on the 16th October.

A retirement lunch was held at the Piedra Alta Restaurant on the 24th September, attended by over 30 members and friends and the final Cotillo service was held on the morning of the 25th September. However, early afternoon the cyclone arrived meaning it was dangerous to ask folk to travel to Corralejo in the late afternoon!



Just as arrangements had been made to hold the service a week later, both Bob and Judie were hit by Covid, isolating them in their new retirement home in Puerto Lajas and delaying the service by two more weeks.

Eventually, we were able to proceed with this service on the 16th October and a very large congregation were able to hear Bob “pass on the baton”. The service was followed by a summary of Bob & Judie’s service to the Chaplaincy from Graham Maclean, Council Secretary, and a series of video greeting messages. If you missed the service, it is still available on the [YouTube Channel](#).



Both Bob & Judie are licensed to officiate, and it is a pleasure to see them at our services, both offering Communion and delivering powerful and thought provoking sermons.

And here is a brief summary of the rest of the year’s events:

Weekly services started in January , in person and live streamed, in our new venue at Piedra Playa Restaurant in El Cotillo, along with the Beer and Bible Club and Cuppa and chat. We have been blessed by the family that own the restaurant as they welcome us each week. An Alpha course began in January led by Bob, and finished in June, blessing 3 individuals who completed the Course. Synod took place via zoom.

A working group was established to produce the paperwork for the recruitment of a new Chaplain. Eventually, it was decided to proceed with a “Bishop’s Appointment”. A preferred candidate was identified and then the really ‘hard work’ started for Derek and Merisa who were appointed as our representatives for the recruitment process. Little did anyone recognise the veritable mountain of paperwork required, and the bureaucracy needed to satisfy the authorities for a new Chaplain, thanks mainly to the effects of Brexit and complicated legislation. However, the work is continuing and we are very hopeful of a formal announcement in the near future.

Our Prayer Co-ordinators called people to commit to praying daily for the process of recruiting a new chaplain. The Women’s Prayer fellowship held a prayer session in November, with a bring and share lunch. We changed the timing of our service in Corralejo to 5pm to miss the drumming practice outside!

We had a visit from young members of Operation Mobilisation, from the Merchant Vessel ‘Lagos Hope’, as their ship was stranded in dry dock for repairs.



The Annual Meeting was held and Graham Adgie and Robert Swift were appointed wardens, with David Reed and June Boughtflower as deputy wardens.

We were truly blessed when the Revd. Brian Evans-Smith, a long-time supporter of the Chaplaincy and with Bishop's permission to officiate agreed to join us for 3 months, while we were without a new Chaplain. Brian and Mary are due to return to the island very soon, to enable us to continue with services of Holy Communion.

Continued support and funds raised for the work to help those in poverty on the Island, with Misión Cristiana Moderna, and supporting the work financially for those with cancer on the island, and international relief and development via Tearfund. Details are in the Accounts Report.

In Advent, Ruth provided everyone with an Advent Bag, to discover the "Names of Jesus". Christmas activities included supporting the Christmas Fayre, Carol Services at church and in the community, Christmas Shoebox collections and distribution, via the Misión.

Training took place for Safeguarding and Congregational Worship Leaders.

I would like to thank everyone on the Chaplaincy Council, and all the other volunteers who ensure that our Church holds regular church services in person and streamed, mission work, and social events on the island of Fuerteventura.



Yvonne Thompson
Lay Vice-Chair