

September 2023,

The 1st letter, from Casa Bob, by Revd Anne.

Greetings, May the peace and love of Christ rule in your hearts.

Well, here we are, finally, after a long and at times arduous journey. Thank you to all who have laboured long and hard during the interregnum, I am sure none of us thought it would take as long as it has, but then that is the joy of Brexit. The gift that keeps on giving.

It was lovely to be licensed on Sunday, and again thank you to all who had anything to do with the organisation and delivery of the service and the wonderful refreshments that followed. Since then, we have already had a Chaplaincy Council meeting and I am beginning to try and get myself settled into the role. I have explained to the Council that in general, my workdays will be Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. That does not mean I will be sunning myself on the other days, it is just that this is a part time post, and my focused work will be on those aforementioned days.

My first task has been to look at the responses from the questionnaire that was circulated some weeks ago. I have divided the responses into three categories, mine, ours and beyond us. I have pledged to work on those which are mine alone to deal with, but I am looking for others to help with the ones that I believe are ours as a church. To that end, if you are interested in being part of that group, please email me, chaplain@fuertechurch.org to let me know, and I will sort out a date when we can meet up. This group is a task and finish group so this is not a long-term commitment, and I would hope that we could complete the task so that we can report back to the council in November. In the responses, there was quite a lot around openness and communication, and this will be the first of regular letters from Casa Bob, probably every 6-8 weeks, so that everyone has some idea what is happening. Be they on the council, here on the island or elsewhere in the world.

Another thing I have done is to set a date and time for Bible Reflection on Zoom. This will be on a Tuesday at 7pm for around 30minutes. This is not a 'Bible Study' but more a 'wrestling with verses.' We will look at the forthcoming Sunday Gospel and in a 'Lectio Divina' style, see what new insights the passage may offer to us. You can join in and contribute or just listen, but all are welcome to come along. The zoom link is on the calendar.

I am also on the 1st Friday of each month, starting in November, going to hold a prayer walk around the Wolf Patton Labyrinth. Anyone is welcome to come along. We will start at 10am with the bible reading for the day and then each enter the labyrinth for a time of personal reflection and prayer, at the end we will gather again for a closing prayer.

Going forward I will be hosting meetings for all those who take part in worship and intend to set aside a time for a fellowship gathering each month at Casa Bob, but as yet, they have not been planned. So, do check the calendar regularly for updates.

Finally, I offer this prayer, which I intend to use as our church prayer and hope you will do the same,

God of Mission, who brings growth to your Church
send your Holy Spirit to give
vision to our planning
wisdom to our actions
and power to our witness.

Help our church grow,
in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you
and in service to our community.

We asked this in and through the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen