

CHAPLAINCY PROFILE - 2016



DIOCESE OF EUROPE
ST VINCENT'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
THE ALGARVE
PORTUGAL



WESTERN ALGARVE
Igreja Nossa Senhora da Luz, Praia da Luz



EASTERN ALGARVE
Igreja das Pereiras, Pereiras
(near Almancil)



EASTERN ALGARVE
St Luke's, Monte da Palhagueira
(near Santa Barbara de Nexe)

CHAPLAINCY PROFILE – 2016

CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	1
WELCOME.....	2
LOCATION	3
LEGAL MATTERS.....	3
THE LOCAL AND FOREIGN POPULATION	4
THE ECONOMY.....	4
SCHOOLING AND HEALTHCARE	4
THE PLACE OF ST. VINCENT'S CHAPLAINCY WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY	5
CENTRES OF WORSHIP IN ST VINCENT'S CHAPLAINCY.....	6
West Algarve: Nossa Senhora da Luz, Praia da Luz.....	6
East Algarve: Igreja das Pereiras, Pereiras (near Almancil)	8
East Algarve: St Luke's, Monte da Palhagueira (near Santa Barbara de Nexe)	8
STYLES OF WORSHIP AT ST VINCENT'S.....	9
PEOPLE.....	9
Clergy:.....	9
Laity:	9
THE CHAPLAINCY HOUSES	10

WELCOME

Welcome to our Chaplaincy Profile. Thank you for taking the time to read it. Our aim is to give you an understanding of our Chaplaincy and a taste of what it might be like to be part of our church family here in the Algarve.

We hope that it will enable you to consider prayerfully our vacancy for a new Chaplain based in Praia da Luz.

Praia da Luz, Western Algarve



LOCATION



The southernmost region of Portugal is known as The Algarve and is a fairly narrow coastal strip extending from the Spanish border in the east to Cape St. Vincent in the west. It is bounded in the north by the Alentejo well-known for its vineyards and large farms. It is served by the relatively new “Via do Infante” A22 motorway so travel across the region is relatively

quick and easy. Portugal is well-served by motorways linked to European motorways; it is possible to drive from Northern Europe to Portugal quite easily. A modern, fast and efficient High Speed Rail service links the Algarve to the national capital at Lisbon and the northern city of Porto. The regional airport at Faro has many flights to all areas of the UK and other European cities. Within the region there are buses and regional train services between the main towns but more remote areas can be difficult to reach by public transport, so a car is essential.



LEGAL MATTERS

Whilst subscribing to the rules, laws and canons of the Church of England and adhering to Diocesan Directives, The Chaplaincy of St. Vincent's is, in the first instance, bound by the laws of Portugal and in any conflict between those of the Church of England and the State of Portugal, the latter has precedence. Under various statutes the Chaplaincy is properly registered as a Religious Association and is legally represented by the Chaplaincy Council. The Chaplaincy Council members are elected at the local ACMs and are confirmed at the Chaplaincy AGM. The only people elected at the main AGM are the Chaplaincy Wardens and the Fiscal Council is confirmed having been nominated by the local ACMs.

THE LOCAL AND FOREIGN POPULATION



The main centres of population are Faro (the administrative capital), Albufeira, Portimao, Loule, Lagos and Tavira. A resident population of over 500,000 people is spread between these centres and scattered in small communities elsewhere. The resident English speaking population is estimated to be around 80,000 people but fluctuates greatly.

Relationships between the various communities are good – the Portuguese being a welcoming and friendly people who are keen to speak English.

THE ECONOMY

Today, tourism is the major industry, bringing more than a million short-term visitors each year but widespread residential development has also provided for the permanent and semi-permanent expatriate residents many of whom are English speaking.



Other traditional economic sectors in the Algarve, namely fishing and agriculture, have lost ground over the years to tourism but agriculture continues to be the livelihood of the inland inhabitants and citrus fruits, almonds, olives, figs, wine and cork are produced. The fish markets in the coastal fishing towns are still active and are a delight for tourists and residents alike.

SCHOOLING AND HEALTHCARE

Expatriate residents have access to the national educational system and there are a number of private fee-paying international schools which offer a range of British curriculum subjects up to A Level with access to universities as appropriate. By reciprocal arrangements within Europe, hospitals and other healthcare institutions are available to expats and visitors. Private medical facilities are “state of the art” with multi-national professional medical staff. Private Medical Insurance is available if required and many expatriates arrange this cover for themselves and their families at very reasonable costs in comparison with the UK. The local services have improved greatly in recent times and Portugal enjoys an extremely good National Health system – much of which equals or exceeds standards in the UK.

THE PLACE OF ST. VINCENT'S CHAPLAINCY WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

The Chaplaincy of St Vincent's is in the Diocese of Europe and under the Episcopal oversight of Bishop Robert Innes, the Bishop of Gibraltar, and the suffragan Bishop David Hamid who has the main oversight in this part of Europe. The Archdeacon of Gibraltar serving the Western Mediterranean area including Portugal is the Venerable Geoffrey Johnston. As a single self-supporting chaplaincy, St Vincent's divides itself geographically into two distinct areas of Pereiras and St. Luke's in the East and Luz in the West, thereby its three congregations cover the whole of the Algarve. In addition to the Portuguese Catholic Church, there are at least twelve other Christian communities advertising regular worship and pastoral care in English throughout the region. St. Vincent's is committed to ecumenical cooperation and tries to maintain as much contact as possible with the other Christian communities, whose leaders meet once a month. From time-to-time joint services are held. There is an especially good relationship between St. Vincent's and the local Roman Catholic Church through the Bishop of Faro.



Ecumenical Service, Faro Cathedral, January 2016

WEST ALGARVE

Nossa Senhora da Luz, Praia da Luz



Remembrance Sunday 2015

The Roman Catholic Church allows the use of this historic and beautiful church in the centre of the village of Praia da Luz. The village has a good number of residents including many English-speaking; it is also a popular holiday village with many visitors.

Services

There are two Eucharist services each Sunday, one at 8am which is said and one at 11.30am which is sung. The 8am has an average congregation of 12 and the 11.30am service has an average of 100 (Electoral Roll 59) with as many as 150 at major festivals. There is a Eucharist service 10.00am on Thursdays and an occasional Choral Evensong. We have a "Sunday School" as required for younger children of three years upwards and a study session for older children (this is an area that needs to grow). For sung services there is an enthusiastic choir who are led by the choirmaster with the organist. Occasional Baptisms are conducted during the 11.30am service or at times by agreement with the chaplain.



Ecumenical service Sept 2015

The core congregation is mainly retired people from about mid-50s with some younger working families and in the summer there are many holiday-makers who join the congregation - some visiting each year. Congregation members come from as far as Alzejur on the West Coast, Monchique to the north and Guia in the central Algarve. We are a vibrant, living church and our activities include:

Pastoral Visits: we have a caring group of members who visit those of our congregation who are elderly, unwell or in hospital.

Bible Studies and Courses: after the Thursday morning service regular Bible studies and courses, under the guidance of our priest, reader or lay members, are held in members' homes or the chaplaincy house/chapel. In addition there is a Ladies Bible Study group

which meets in members' houses. Both of these study groups have grown in popularity and we are now almost bursting at the seams!

Sunday Fellowship Lunch: most Sundays a lunch in a local restaurant and coffee in a local bar are organised after the 11.30 Sunday service, bringing together regular worshippers and those in our community who are alone. Non-churchgoers are encouraged to attend. In addition we hold special lunches organised by Luz committee for Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Men's Breakfast: gentlemen of our congregation get together at a local restaurant and over breakfast listen to, and discuss, talks on a variety of subjects.



Men's Breakfast February 2016 with guest speaker, Father Pat

Fundraising events: under the leadership of our Reader we have an active fundraising team who organise BBQs, Quizzes, Coffee Mornings, Fayres, etc. all of which are great fun and raise funds for the Chaplaincy and the local charities which Luz congregation supports.



Supper & Quiz Night, February 2016

Charities: as funds and volunteers allow, Luz church supports the following local charities: Lar de Espiche, a home for the elderly and Day Centre in Espiche, near Praia da Luz and works with Lagos International Christian Church in providing much needed food for the needy and homeless in Lagos. For at least 10 years a group of volunteers from Luz church have been offering monthly prayer support *in situ* to the management group of A Rocha Portugal in their mission to protect the environment and oppose harmful development.

EAST ALGARVE

Igreja das Pereiras, Pereiras (near Almancil)

For many years St. Vincent's Chaplaincy has had regular use of this lovely, modern Roman Catholic Church with an attached large hall and community facilities. A Eucharist service is held every Sunday at 9.30.

This close-knit and mutually supportive congregation comes from an area which stretches from Tavira, 40kms to the east, to Alcantarilha, 35kms to the west. Average weekly attendance is about 25, (electoral roll 23) fluctuating with the seasonal migration of the community.

Through the year members arrange social and fundraising events and are now working closely with St Luke's members on this programme.

Boliqueime Chapel

There is a small, simple chapel attached to the Chaplain's house (Casa São Vicente) at Boliqueime. Thursday Eucharist is held here each week at 11am. This service is open to the whole Chaplaincy but the majority of those attending come from the Pereiras congregation.

EAST ALGARVE

St Luke's, Monte da Palhagueira (near Santa Barbara de Nexe)

Monte da Palhagueira is a village of retirement properties with a nursing home and is located 2km north of Santa Barbara de Nexe at Gorjões. St Luke's Church was built on an "eira" (threshing circle) by Mrs Mary Cornelius-Reid, the owner of the village, in memory of her late husband, and was consecrated in 1999. The building is circular with seating for 130 people and through its mixture of old and new, evokes a gentle charm. There is a fine organ in the church and a number of organists available to play it.

The spectacular views over the surrounding countryside to the sea make the church a popular setting for Wedding Blessings and Baptisms. As the only consecrated C of E church in the Algarve, is also sought out for many funerals and memorial services. The Church has a small War Memorial and has been chosen by the Royal British Legion for its annual Remembrance Day Service.



Christmas Day 2015

A sung Eucharist takes place every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. The Village Hall, next to the Church, is the setting for coffee and fellowship after Services. The hall is also available for meetings and is used for some Chaplaincy Council meetings.

STYLES OF WORSHIP AT ST VINCENT'S

As described elsewhere the pattern of worship is different in the three churches: however, the three year lectionary of the Church of England is normally followed.

Liturgy:

Except where otherwise stated all three congregations follow the order of Common Worship for Holy Communion and for Morning Prayer as appropriate. The Book of Common Prayer is occasionally used in two churches. Hymn Books used vary between the churches as follows:-

Luz: Hymns Old and New

Pereiras: Mission Praise

St Luke's: Hymns Old and New

PEOPLE

CLERGY:

With agreement of the Diocese of Europe the Chaplaincy is appointing two full-time priests. The first appointment has been made and a chaplain is now in place looking after the churches of St Luke's and Pereiras in the East. A second chaplain is currently being sought for Praia da Luz and the West, to be appointed and in place by the end of 2016. Please refer to the Person Specification for further information.

A chaplain has administrative responsibilities associated with that role in the Diocese of Europe including chairmanship of the Chaplaincy Council and the local committees.

Each priest makes himself available to assist his colleague with pastoral work at times of absence due to illness etc. Normally, vacations are covered by locums working on the Sunday and assisting on other days if required.

St Vincent's Chaplaincy offers a stimulating environment for a priest who wishes to serve a diverse and caring community of people in a beautiful part of the world. However, whilst it is good to enjoy the sun, the sea and the social life it should not be forgotten that many parishioners are struggling financially and need our care and our support.

LAITY:

There are currently three licensed Readers in the chaplaincy: one in each congregation. There are two Chaplaincy Wardens who are the Bishop's representatives in the

Chaplaincy. One of their roles is to provide pastoral care for the Chaplains and their families and to support the priests in their work. The Chaplaincy Wardens are the senior lay members of the chaplaincy. There is one in Praia da Luz and one in Pereiras - they have regular meetings with the priests.

Each church has a Congregational Warden who has the role of ensuring the smooth running of the services and the preparation of the churches for all the services at the place of worship.

THE CHAPLAINCY HOUSES

WEST Praia da Luz (Casa do Jardim – House in the Garden)

The single storey villa is within sight and sound of the sea and five minutes stroll to the church via the promenade by the sea. The villa was modernised nine years ago and has central heating, air conditioning plus an enclosed log fire. There are two large double bedrooms, one with an en-suite bathroom and smaller single bedroom. There is a family shower room and a guest toilet. The large lounge opens onto the garden as does the dining area. Adjacent to the villa is a small chapel and the Chaplain's office. The gardens, on three sides of the building, are stocked with some fruit trees and flower borders. The village of Luz has supermarkets, chemists, doctor, post office, etc. all within walking distance of Casa do Jardim.

EAST Boliqueime (Casa São Vicente – House of St Vincent)

The house has a garden and views of the sea with a very useful wide terrace. It has been modernised and has heating/air conditioning and a wood-pellet stove and radiators. It has two large double bedrooms both with en-suite bathroom and a third single bedroom which is equipped as an office. There is also a visitor toilet. The large lounge, which has a good-sized dining area, opens onto the terrace which also has a dining area and access to the garden. The garden, mainly to the front of the house, has the Twelve Stations of the Cross which have been sympathetically included among the shrubs and trees. At the time of writing consideration is being given to selling Casa São Vicente and purchasing in its place a modern property in a more central position. There is a small chapel and office adjacent to the house.

Each house has a well-fitted kitchen with the normal electric appliances including a fan oven, dishwasher and washing machine and also a gas hob. The extensive cupboards are well-stocked with glass, china, pots, pans, cutlery, cooking utensils, etc.

St. Vincent's Chaplaincy offers a stimulating environment for priestly Ministry serving a diverse, lively, interesting and caring community of people in a beautiful part of the world.