



St Vincent's Chaplaincy Praia da Luz Newsletter March/April 2019

Welcome

Welcome to the *March/April* edition of St Vincent's Algarve West newsletter. Items for the newsletter can be sent to Fr Rob via email stvincentsalgarve.west@gmail.com

What type of church are we?

That's a question that Fr Reid and myself have been looking at with the help of many of you during the month of March, at two 'visioning Days' that were held at Amendoeira Golf Resort during the month of March – and more importantly, what type of church do we want to be? The two days were extremely helpful to us as chaplains, as they were an insight into what you as congregations hold to be your core values (which, to me, are indicators of how God has shaped you and this chaplaincy!).

One of the exercises we undertook at the second session looked at what churches 'do' *other than* worship; what is the heart of the church at the moment? What is God telling us?

In 'Developing your local church' by Richard Impey, he describes the activities of

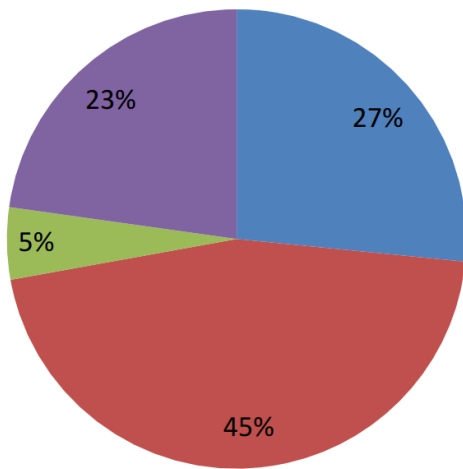
a church as being 'loving God, with all your heart, soul, strength and mind' – WORSHIP.

After that, as you know, comes 'Loving your neighbour as yourself'. Churches on the whole exercise this neighbourly love predominantly in one of four ways:

- 1- **Fellowship** – Loving your neighbour at the church you worship in
- 2- **Service** – loving your neighbour in your local community (so, for example, helping the local charities)
- 3- **Campaigning** – loving your neighbour further afield, (so, for example, looking at the plight of persecuted Christians in other countries, or taking a stand against environmental issues).
- 4- **Just worship** - Loving your neighbour in your workplace or usual place of worship is you are a visitor to this church in particular (it's not exactly that, but it's the easiest way to describe it here)

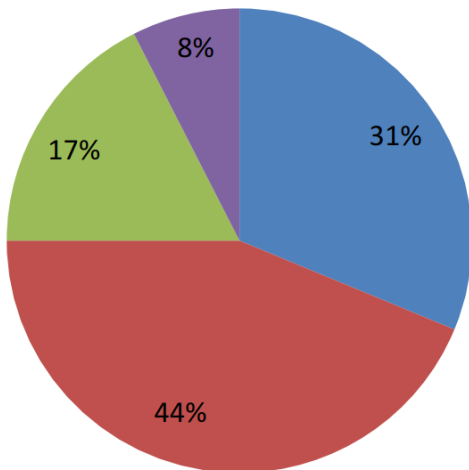
Although it was a small sample of people that undertook this exercise, they see us (as a Chaplaincy) as being a little like this:

How we see ourselves now



5% Campaigning
23% 'Just' worship
27% Worship and Service
45% Worship and Fellowship

But – we would like to be part of a church that looks more like this:



17% - Campaigning
8% - 'Just' Worship
31% - Worship and Service
44% - Worship and Fellowship

So – what does this mean? Well, we have to remember that this was from a small sample of people, and we would like to undertake this exercise with the entire electoral roll at some point, but, what it seems to highlight is that as a chaplaincy, our core values are that we want to love our neighbours *more* in the areas of **service and campaigning**. What that would look like (according to this exercise), would be to grow in the areas of supporting local charities, whether that be with our time, gifts and talents or financially, and also to support something further afield, with our time gifts and talents as well. And I guess, where that growth capacity seems to come from is from those who turn up to 'just worship' (possibly), our visitors. Perhaps that's the next 'task' for us – how do we turn our 'just worshipping' visitors into servers and campaigners?

Anyway – just some thoughts to stimulate conversations, and to get you thinking. It would be helpful to do this exercise for the entire electoral roll at some point, and I am looking at ways that we can do that.

If you have any thoughts on this area then please feel free to email me.

Lenten activities

There has been an ongoing bible study during Lent, which has been taken from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website - <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent> and that has been well attended. The last session of this will be on Thursday the 4th April at 11.30am in Casa do Jardim chapel.

On Thursday the 28th March, the film 'Tortured for Christ' was shown at Casa do

Jardim – this is a cinematic retelling of the testimony of Voice of the Martyrs founder Pastor Richard Wurmbrand as written in his international bestseller Tortured for Christ. There is a follow-up bible study taking place at the Casa do Jardim chapel on Wednesday 3rd April at 7pm. (You do not have to have seen the film to attend).

There is also a **Lent Lunch tomorrow** (April 2nd) at 1.30pm at the house of Sue and Norman Newbiggin (this has of course been previously publicised) – it's still not too late to say that you are coming along!

Local (Luz) AGM and election results

The local committee AGM and elections took place in the Salão at Luz Church on Thursday 28th March, and as a result of the elections the following people now make up the local committee:

Chris Wells – Congregational Warden
Joyce Daffey – Chaplaincy Council Rep
Tricia Wells – Chaplaincy Council Rep
Leslie Johnson – Committee Member
Janet Giacomini - Committee Member
John Payne - Committee Member
Chris Johnson - Committee Member
Mary Young - Committee Member
Vanessa Cocksedge - Committee Member

John Daffey – Synod Rep for Luz
Mark Ellerton – Chaplaincy Warden

Thank you to all who have offered their time to support Luz church both locally and at Chaplaincy and Synod level, and of course to all those who served in this previous year.

April Services

This month sees some very key services in our church calendar, and I have attached a poster/leaflet of what these are – but, dates for your diary:

- Palm Sunday 14th April at 11.30am
Palm procession with Passion readings
- Maundy Thursday 18th April 10am
Holy Communion
- Good Friday 15th April at 11am
Prayers, readings and reflections
- Easter Sunday 21st April 11.30am
Easter Sunday Holy Communion

The 8am Sunday Eucharist continues as normal throughout April of course! All the above services are in the church.

Rev Dr David Kirby



Many of you would have been good friends of Rev Dr David Kirby. Fr David arrived in Luz in September 2000 with his wife Margaret to take up the Post of Assistant Chaplain. David had retired from the post of Pro Chancellor of Huddersfield University

after being Head of the Geography Department and Dean of Faculty of Arts. He was looking for a new direction in his life and this led him to be the Locum Chaplain in Luz in 1999. His duties when appointed as Assistant Chaplain were something completely new to him as he was asked to go into the local school and speak to the children once a week. David always said that this was one of the most rewarding aspects of his time in Luz.

David and Margaret quickly established themselves in the community and especially becoming firm friends with Fr Ze Manuel. Margaret loved cooking and had small dinners parties each week inviting a cross section of the congregation. There was always a welcome coffee and biscuits if you called at Casa do Jardim.

David led a small group of the congregation on a five-day Pilgrimage walk to Santiago de Compostella from Ponte de Lima in 2002.

In 2003 he organized five Lent walks starting from different local churches (I have a certificate!), A few members also joined Rev Canon Gordon Dey's party from a parish in Bradford visiting Egypt (in 2005) – the places mentioned in the Bible.

On David's last service on Easter Sunday 2005 over three hundred people attended. This was followed by a celebration dinner at the Ocean Club where David led us in a rendition of "On Ilkley Moor bar t'at", wearing a traditional cloth hat!

Les Johnson.

We will be remembering David in our Eucharist Service on Thursday 4th April at 10am.

Fauré's Requiem sung by the Adágio Choir

Lastly, on Friday the 12th April at 9pm, there will be a free concert given by the Adagio choir at Luz Church. I have heard from people that have previously attended concerts by them that they are very good. You can have a look/listen if you hunt them out on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/GrupoCoralAdagio>

God bless all of you, and have a wonderful Easter.

Fr Rob

