

RING OUT WILD BELLS

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Ring out wild bells to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

*Be thou a bright flame before me,
Be thou a guiding star above me,
Be thou a smooth path below me,
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today - tonight - and for ever
--- Columba (?521-597)
Irish monk and missionary*

**Christmas is more than a time of music, merriment and mirth;
it is a season of meditation, mangers and miracles.**

The year is fading quickly, Lord, A new one lies ahead. Only You know what's in store, along the path we tread. There could be days of happiness, of laughing in the sun, of great achievement and success, new projects just begun.

There may be shadows on our path with days of tears and pain, with times when we must seek new hope and rainbows after rain. We know the trees will bud again, we know the birds will sing. We know that winter passes by and we will welcome spring. So as all the seasons change Lord, help our spirit climb, and let us share in love and joy the precious gift of time.

Fr Ray Andrews: Part Time Chaplain. Thursday to Sunday: 616 237 406

For more information, phone Local Warden: Elaine Mitchell 96 686 4962 / 636 164 467

Or visit the Chaplaincy website: www.costablanca-anglicanchaplaincy.org

Message of the Christmas Tree: Life Is "Ever Green"

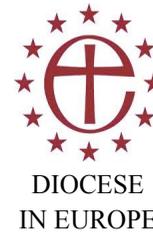
Pope John Paul II in his Angelus message in 2004. The traditional "Christmas tree" is a very ancient custom which exalts the value of life, as in winter the evergreen becomes a sign of undying life. In general, the tree is decorated and Christmas gifts are placed under it.

The symbol is also eloquent from a typically Christian point of view: It reminds us of the "tree of life" (see Genesis 2:9), representation of Christ, God's supreme gift to humanity.

The message of the Christmas tree, therefore, is that life is "ever green" if one gives: not so much material things, but of oneself: in friendship and sincere affection, and fraternal help and forgiveness, in shared time and reciprocal listening.

The sleeping town of Bethlehem.
The humble inn nearby,
The stable where the midnight hush
was cut by newborn's cry.
And there within, in lantern light,
amidst the dust and straw,
A mother looked upon her child
with love and hope and awe.

Our desire to please God is our highest driving force for obeying God



Costa Blanca Anglican Chaplaincy
Abir Church of England
Carrer Mart 8, Albir Playa

NEWSLETTER Christmas 2017

*Faith
Family
Friends*



THANKS
BE TO GOD
FOR HIS
INDESCRIBABLE
GIFT.
2 CORINTHIANS 9:15

COME
let us
adore
HIM



Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. During his first 30 years he lived in obscurity but probably shared the daily life and work of an ordinary home. For a short period of three years he went about healing the sick and troubled people and teaching small groups in villages, in the fields and by the lakeside. He gathered 12 ordinary men to be his followers. He had no money, he had no university degree, he wrote no books, he commanded no army, he wielded no political power. During his ministry he never travelled more than 200 miles in any direction. He was executed by crucifixion at the age of 33 and three days later he rose from the dead and appeared to many people. Jesus Christ taught by what he said, by what he was and by what he did. He taught us to trust in God as a loving and merciful Father and to pray, in faith, to him for all our needs and in all our difficulties. He taught that as we are made in the image of God we are infinitely precious, that we are the children of God, that we are filled by his Spirit and so should be patient with one another in love, understanding, respect and forgiveness.

LOOKING BACK :

SOCIAL SUNDAYS—1st Sunday of each month. In May Melon & Ham went down well. In June we enjoyed a ploughman's and in July scones & jam & cream.
Curry Night October 11th Was a great Success raising €346
El Cid Chaplaincy Auction: Friday 13th October. Albir's contribution to over €2300 was around 10%. Thank you to everyone who donated items.
Beetle Drive Sadly this was postponed due to low numbers
Boat Trips Those of us who have had a day out with Mike can recommend the trip.
Disco—Chaplaincy evening—Another amazing Disco.
The Gift—Christmas Musical - Performed in Javea, Denia, Calpe and Albir
 At the time of printing we are anticipating a good attendance in Albir.
Carols on the Beach Monday 11th December 3pm
TODAY - 18th December
Christmas meal M Godoy. Attended by 40 of us.
Carol service. 5pm—lighting spectacular starting by candle-light.

Albir Church responded well to the "Treat for Christmas" with Chocolates that were donated for the Food Bank for Christmas treats for the Children. .

"Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of **Christmas**.

" *Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawns*"
 -Clement of Alexandria (c.150-c.215) Theologian

I saw a weather vane during the summer and I can't remember where! It was inscribed with the words "GOD IS LOVE". I don't expect that this means that God's love is as changeable as the weather—I would like to think of it as God loves us no matter which way the wind blows.



I remember my Dad talking about Bob Hope—he said "my idea of Christmas, is very simple—it's loving others". He went on to say "Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" Perhaps the celebration is the reminder we often need of what's important; love from on high, to be shared with every one of us. If we carry that spirit forward, then there's "HOPE" for the New Year and every year.



LOOKING FOWARD into 2018.

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and healthy 2018. Our congregation has grown over the last year and with help from us all the growth could continue. Our Church needs people and we should all be thinking about encouraging others to join us.

ALBIR AGM Sunday 11th February. You are all encouraged to stay after the service.

WORLD DAY of PRAYER-Friday 2nd March 5pm. I would like offers to take part.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING Tuesday 20th March. This year the APCM will be held at La Fustera Church at 11.00 am and will be followed by a "Bring & Share lunch"

Circle—Eternity of God
 Evergreen Wreath—Life, immortality
 Candle—Jesus is the light of the world
 4 x Candles—Four weeks of Advent
 3 x Purple—Purple = Prayer, Penance & Preparation.
 1 x Rose Pink—Rose = Rejoicing



O Father may that Holy Star
 Grow every year more bright,
 And send its glorious beams afar
 To fill the world with light

Loving Father,
 Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
 that we may share in the song of the angels,
 the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of
 the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of
 love all over the world.

FUNDRAISING BOOK

The ABC "Albir Beautiful Church"

The Congregations' Story is now available to purchase on Amazon.co.uk - All the royalties from the sales are for Chaplaincy funds. As you know, this book was started last September so has been a year in the completion. I hope it will make happy, interesting reading.

I purchased 20 and these have been sold raising over €130 for Chaplaincy funds.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

(A Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson)

Amy, a 7 year old girl was asked to say grace for the Christmas dinner. The family all bowed their heads in expectation.. She began her prayer thanking God for her Mummy, Daddy, brothers and sister, Grandma and all her aunties and uncles. Then she began to thank God for the food. She gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the roast potatoes and Yorkshire pudding even the cranberry sauce. Then Amy paused and everyone waited and waited. After a long silence she looked up at her mother and asked "If I thank God for the Brussel sprouts, won't he know that I am lying?"