

THE ROCK

FREE
Issue 5

PEOPLE | REVIEWS | WHAT'S ON | LOCAL INTERESTS

Front cover photo by Lee Cervasio



The Rock is the quarterly magazine of the Costa Blanca Anglican Chaplaincy. For the people about the people whoever you are!

Message from the Editor

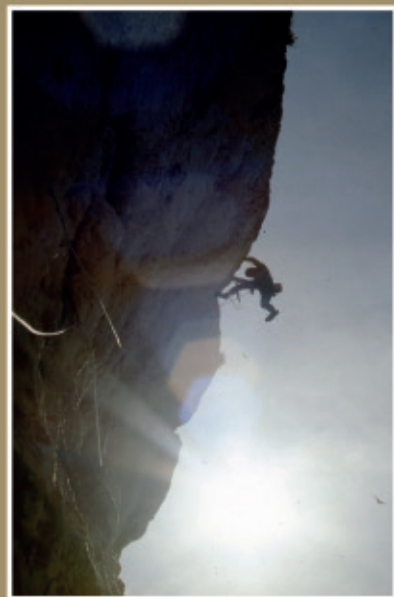
Welcome to the fifth edition of The Rock which covers the period from June to the end of August.

Of course July and August will see a massive increase in holiday makers along the Costa Blanca and the Costa Blanca Anglican Chaplaincy invites everyone to join us for our Sunday worship and social events.

In a world torn by war, famine and suffering one might ask what can we do. The answer is we can give to charities at home and abroad that try to ease the suffering of people caught up in these dreadful events. We can comfort those who have lost a loved one or who are ill. We can phone someone who is alone and have a chat. Finally we can pray and through the power of prayer we may find some answers!

Stay safe, live life to the full each day and help someone less fortunate than you.

Ed.



*Just hanging around on the Costa Blanca.
Climber Wayne Shakell.*



THE CHURCH
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Online services

Father Rodney and Father Robin continue to stream a service on Facebook each week. Due to early commitments most Sundays this service will usually be on Saturday at 7pm, but occasionally on Sunday at 10am. Simply open Facebook and search 'Rodney Middleton'. You can also open his Facebook page to check the time of the service, which will be confirmed on Saturday morning. The Service is available for viewing at any time after the live stream.

We have our very own Facebook group page, so please look for Albir, La Fustera and Gandia Anglican Church on Facebook, like it and follow it. For information to be included please mail David on **dhernandezmitchell@gmail.com**

If you have a story you would like to publish in The Rock, then please email it to me. Sports news, jokes or quiz questions are all welcome.

Or if you would like to advertise in The Rock please contact the editor.
davidwarblers@gmail.com

"If you know of someone who is alone, give them a call and have a chat!"

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Walter Part 5.

by Carole Anne Baggaley

A Disturbed Night

I didn't feel like getting out of bed this morning. When one has not had much sleep, what do you expect?

The night started off well, lights out and we curled up on our beds. I'd had a very busy day and felt very tired

There I was all comfortable and sleepy when Scarlet decided to start fidgeting on her bed, the pest! Then she settled, peace at last. Oh no! Then she was up on my bed giving me a good push which sent me right onto the edge of my bed!

Okay, I can cope with that. Peace for two minutes, but then she got up again and proceeded to scratch and dig at my bed! Did she think she was digging up those plants again? At last, all was quiet, hurrah! I was just dozing off when I heard a howling noise. I was immediately alert and on duty, so you can see what an asset I am to this family, a good guard dog, ready to protect them, day or night.

With that thought, perhaps the parents will reconsider that nice guard's uniform that I so want.

I knew straight away what the noise was, that pesky fox from over Chase Woods at the end of our lane. I've seen him snooping around our bins a few times and one night I spied him loitering around Dad's tool shed where he keeps his home brew!



I know where you live, so watch out Mr Fox, I could be coming for you!

There I was again, back on the edge of my bed, settled and dreaming away about that uniform and then I heard, "Twit twoo twit twoo." Oh no, not again!

I got up and went to the french windows. As there was a big, bright moon, it lit up the garden. There, on a branch of the big, old oak tree sat Oliver the Owl, his big eyes swivelling around in search of a tasty meal.

'Why can't he have his meals like us, at a civilised hour,' I thought?

Honestly, talk about selfish!

At last all quiet, now where was I?

Morning light streamed through the French Windows and I could hear the parents clattering around in the kitchen. Scarlet was nowhere to be seen so now I could have a nice quiet lie in. Zzzzz!





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TALES FROM THE DIOCESE

by Jillian Ribbons

1. MOSCOW 1998: INTO THE WOODS

You have probably all heard of "Into the Woods", a Stephen Sondheim musical which features much loved fairy tales. My memory of it is not the songs or the scenery but the interval. The first half had finished, Cinderella was united with her prince, as was Snow White: Red Riding Hood had escaped the wolf and Jack had killed the giant at the top of the beanstalk. We had reached the happy ending: where was there to go now?

The second half was merciless. Everything fell to pieces, mainly because the Giant's widow came down the beanstalk to seek revenge, destroying and killing. Leaving a Wasteland.

Those of us who were living in Moscow in the later 1990s were in the same position as that audience during the interval. Communism was finished. Russia was dear friends with the rest of the world. Glasnost! Perestroika! Western businesses were moving in: McDonalds, KFC, Hush Puppy, Baskin Robbins - there was even a British Home Stores in the best shopping street. Everything was wonderful with a glorious future beckoning. Then the Giant's wife started down the beanstalk.

Things started to crack gradually. The Mafia started to demand ever larger percentages from Western businesses, culminating in the day-light killing of a Western businessman whose company had been trying to negotiate a reduction in the Mafia percentage. Banks collapsed and started paying staff and customers in tangible assets: on one occasion I nearly got run over by a man pushing a Controller chair down a Main Street. Elderly Russians who had lived through the worst of Stalinism, trusting that they would be looked after in their old age, found themselves destitute. The new Western businesses started to close down.

The other destitute group were third-world students. Under communism large numbers had been granted 'scholarships' to Lamumba University. This amounted to board, lodging and tuition as well as a single ticket to Moscow from their home-country. This was originally a scheme to spread communism to the developing countries and the collapse of communism led to the collapse of the scholarships, leaving hundreds without support or the ability to work or the means to buy a ticket home. Most of them came from countries too poor to repatriate them. I will always remember the shock of finding a young West African man, wearing a serape and sombrero, crouching outside a Mexican restaurant and repeating '¡Hola!'

The one stable institution throughout this was St Andrew's Church. It was the only non-Orthodox church permitted to operate at the time and it spread its wings to take in anyone who wished. Roman Catholics had to attend mass in the US embassy but we had a large grey gothic church looking as if it had been magically transported from the Home Counties and desperately out of place in the middle of Moscow, surrounded as it was by Golden Onion Domes.

Just a few years ago, the Bishop's appeal was for funds to provide a kitchen for St Andrews, which seemed mystifying until you realise that they are clearly still supporting those in need.

You might ask why it was left to the Anglican Church to provide such support, regardless of race, religion or politics. If so, you have not been attending to your Bible! There was also the fact that it was the ONLY church permitted to operate at that time and, if they did nothing, no one else would.

To followMoscow 1885: St Andrew is consecrated



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Church Humour



"If you had believed the good news on Earth, I would have some good news for you here.."



THE 13th DISCIPLE, REUBEN THE FOLLSTER, TURNED OUT TO BE AN IRRITANT AND WAS SOON DISMISSED.

91% of people want to see more miracles, 58% believe your Sermon on the Mount could have opened with a better joke, and 100% don't understand the whole Trinity thing.



AS A DISCIPLE, IT WASN'T EASY TO SNEAK AWAY FROM JESUS FOR A DAY OF GOLF.

Can't join you today, Lord. Got a cold.

You're healed.



A man rang his high street bank with a query, only to be connected to a call centre somewhere

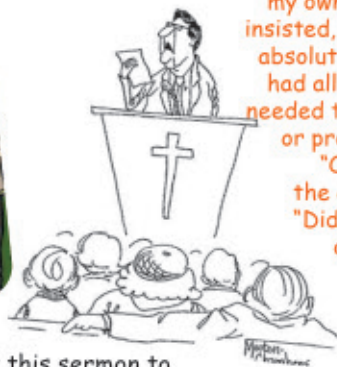
in India. "I'm sorry," the customer said,

"I really need to speak to someone at my local branch."

"No problem, sir, the call centre replied, "I can deal with any query you may have."

"No, I really need to speak to my own bank," the customer insisted, but the call centre was absolutely adamant that they had all the information they needed to answer any questions or problems he may have.

"Oh, alright then," the customer relented, "Did I leave my glasses on your counter yesterday?"



"We interrupt this sermon to inform you that the 4th grade boys are now in complete control of their Sunday school class and are holding Miss Moseby hostage."

ORBA WARBLERS GOLF SOCIETY

The Orba Warblers golf society held their annual Captain versus Vice Captain team slug fest this week at La Finca golf resort, Alicante.

Friends, partners, wives and husbands joined the golfing gladiators to watch them partake in this annual partisan sporting fest.

After a warm-up day of bonhomie and practise, the pretence was cast asunder, daggers were drawn and halos hidden under hats. Of course, I exaggerate, but competition is what it was all about, and may the best man, or woman, or whatever, win.

In the event it was a draw. Four and a half hours of purgatory, spent in the wilderness, toil, hardship, blood, sweat and tears. Digging in bunkers, hacking through woods, slicing round trees, wading through water, and walking on mud. And for what?

Well, shared times, encouragement, team building, kind words, motivation, confidence giving, learning, friendship and bonding, that were all too clear in the noisy, yet happy club house after the game."

If you are looking for a friendly golf society to join, contact us through our website below, or email Julian Leckie

julianleck@aol.com

<https://orba-warblers.golf-club.website>



SPORTS HUMOUR

of Football

"A football manager is a person who is willing to lay down your life for the good of the team!" *Anon*
A football manager is a man whose job it is to predict what will happen on Saturday... then explain, on Monday, why it didn't." *Jeff Rovin*
What did the football manager do when the playing field was flooded? He sent on his subs!

of cricket

He had a bad day in the field, dropping six catches, and now sat huddled in the dressing room he could feel a cold coming on.
"I think I've caught a cold," he muttered.
"Thank goodness you are able to catch something," grunted the captain. *Ernest Forbes*



of Golf

"Frank Sinatra once played eighteen holes with golf pro Arnold Palmer. Afterwards, Sinatra asked, "What do you think of my game?"
"It's not bad, Palmer said, "but I still prefer golf."

of Skiing

"Skiing? Why break a leg at ten degrees below zero when I can fall downstairs at home?" *Corey Ford*

SILVESTER

by Doreen Hammond

Silvester was a spider
Who couldn't spin a web.
Every time he tried it
He landed on his head.

He couldn't understand it,
Everything he did was right.
He was getting very tired
As he worked on through the night.

He was feeling rather silly,
He would have to seek advice.
Perhaps with one more lesson
He'd spin one in a trice.

This page was sponsored by the Orba Warblers Golf Society

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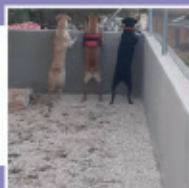
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Max by David Brown Chapter 3

Leading the team and a dozen auxiliaries rounded up by Fat George, Max took a route somewhat easier than last night. A couple of alleyways, a patch of derelict building site, half a dozen back yards and Max was at the heart of what had been Nasty Bob's kingdom. On the way they had met a number of would be interlopers but Fat George took the auxiliaries and quickly drove them off.

At the junction of four alleyways Max met what he had expected, several groups of opposing gangs trying to stare each other out rather than go for a full fight. Max and his team quickly circled them and seeing they were hemmed in tight, Max delivered his short but direct edit.

"Join the group and never have to worry about food again or be driven into the wilderness to forage for scraps."

Only one took up the challenge, a large one-eyed, tiger-striped grey who, it has to be said showed more courage than sense. He lasted about five seconds after Fat George sat on him. He gave in and meekly followed Fat George around like a faithful servant.

Now leading some fifty curious gang members Max made his way to the very edge of Nasty Bob's area. Sitting in a fenced off patch the size of a football field and surrounded by a tall chain link fence stood a large warehouse.

Max led them to a gap in the fence and then to the building itself where a lone window spilled light onto the scruffy patch of grass they had to cross. In the



room was a warehouse custodian who had a small dog of indeterminate breed who could enter and leave the room via a large flap in the door. Max had already briefed Fat George so he, with Lenny and Ginger, moved either side of the flap while Nelly sat in full view of the window.

Max knew that the mutt spent most of his time at the window and as soon as he saw Nelly flaunting herself he was out through the flap like a ferret down a rabbit hole only to bounce off the immovable object that was Fat George. Lenny and Ginger had the mutt pinned and all the mutt could see was eyes like fire staring at him and bared teeth that looked like swords ready to strike.

A flick of Max's wrist and the boys let the mutt go. It took off in sheer terror, wetting



"Eternity is a long time to think about where you went wrong!"
This page is sponsored by David Brown author of The Darkness

itself as it went to the far side of the compound before taking cover behind some broken pallets.

Max led on. A loose air grill was pushed aside and they entered the building. Inside there were gasps of amazement! Everywhere they looked was pet food, dog food, cat food, rabbit food! But right before them was the largest pile of cat food ever! Dried, semi moist, rolls of cat sausage and tin foil containers easily opened by sharp claws.

"Well, what are you waiting for!" Max exclaimed. "Help yourselves!"

"How did you find this place?" asked Nelly?

"Oh, I wondered what the shops did with all the out of date pet food so one day I followed the van that collected it, actually I stowed away in the van. Lo and behold it came here!"

To be continued with "Trapped"

Introducing Gail, 'the bag lady'

I spent much of my childhood with my maternal grandmother, a seamstress by trade, and I was fascinated by the process of turning a piece of fabric into a garment or decorative household item.

By the age of four she had begun to teach me to make simple things sewing by hand, making cloth dolls from scraps with buttoned, removable clothes. I was told not to throw away the scraps as they would come in useful one day!!!

I moved onto the sewing machine at around seven using the handle to move the needle not the treadle. Years passed and at the age of eleven I was given my first electric sewing machine and by now I could design and cut simple patterns myself.

Moving on to teacher training college my main subject was Needlework and Design. My straight stitch machine was not suitable for machine embroidery so I bought one that, at the time did everything - even sewing buttons on!

Over the years I have designed and made costumes for school productions, fancy dress, mystery plays and here in Spain costumes for the Fila de Maseros.



The technique for the patchwork bags was shown to me by a German friend and I have sewn many over the years, adapting the log cabin design to give variation.

The bags are made from clean re-cycled fabrics and the denim has been donated by a friend (whose business is denim) and is from half pairs of jeans, in the main, samples. There must be many people wearing the other half around Europe.

The bags can be constructed to the customers colour order. All monies are donated to the Chaplaincy, my contribution is my time and skill.

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God, the Natural World,

by Fr Chris Cowell

'Each of us is a masterpiece of God's creation' - Pope Francis

I hope that his Holiness the Pope, will not mind me using his quote. Adding into it the Natural World and the Animal Kingdom.

I want to share a little journey with you, that encompasses, some Historicity, Philosophy and Theology: principally in thinking about God and Nature.

May I start with Animism, the most primitive of religions, around before any of the Organised Religions were formed. Our ancestors, including 'ancient man' had some idea about the power of God, which controlled their lives.



Some of the evidence is found on the most ancient of Cave Drawings, if one can find them. It was a form of Animism.

Animism is the belief that objects, places and creatures all possess a distinct spiritual essence. It perceives all things - animals, plants, rocks, rivers, weather systems and human handiwork, having agency and freewill. It is quite possible that some of the ancestors of the ancient tribes today, still follow its beliefs and practices. E.g in Medieval England, when the weather was very thundery and stormy, some believed, that it was God 'being angry'.

The first of the organised religions is Hinduism, they worship One God. Their Gita (Scripture) says there is only god who is omnipresent and included in everything. But they have forms that they may use to aid their worship and some of them in part, can include animal forms e.g Ganesha (Elephant).

The next is Buddhism, and they teach that it's wrong to kill anything. They will not eat anything 'sentient', (living creature with a nervous system) and so they mostly follow a 'vegan' style of diet.

Let me say something about the Abrahamic religions from the Bible, especially, Judaism and Christianity, concentrating upon the first book of the Bible, Genesis 1.

I urge you to study and contemplate upon it, especially noting the order of the Creation of the Natural World, from nothing, then the smallest to the largest creatures and ending with mankind. It shows us how Nature and the Animal World is important to God, Our Creator and how we have a duty to take care of it. Leaving us all with the big question, are we?



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enthusiast books, maps, travel, books for learning Spanish, dictionaries galore and children's books.

There are some Spanish books as well as Dutch and French and there is always someone on the computer dealing with books returned or taken on library loan. Members can pay 10€ for three months, 18€ for six months and 32€ for a year (prices correct at time of this publication). We rely on donations so do call in and drop off books in good condition and we'd love up to date reads too.!

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FLYING HIGH

Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by US Air Force pilots
....and the replies from the maintenance crews.

Problem: "Left inside tire almost needs replacement."

Solution: "Almost replaced left inside tire."

Problem: "Test flight okay, except autoland very rough."

Solution: "Autoland not fitted to this aircraft!"

Problem: "Something loose in cockpit."

Solution: "Something tightened in cockpit!"

Problem: "Dead bugs on windshield."

Solution: "Live bugs on order!"





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Buñuelos

from Megan

Ingredients

- 1 kilo peeled Pumpkin
- 50 grams of yeast
- 250 grams Flour
- 1 Egg

Cooking method

Boil the Pumpkin until soft. Drain and mash like a potato. Do not add anything until you have mashed the pumpkin.

Now mix all the ingredients together. Put in a bowl and cover like you would for bread and wait for it to rise.



When ready heat some oil in a pan which should be about two inches deep.

Take a small amount of the mixture and roll into a ball then with your thumb put a small hole in the centre and place into the hot oil. When the first side is golden brown turn over.

Drain on kitchen paper and sprinkle with sugar.

They can be eaten hot or cold but the Spanish eat them cold.

They will last for two days.

Oh yummy! This is all too much for me Lynda get cooking! Ed

A customer at a garden centre asked his companion,
"Do you get any help from your wife in the garden?"

"No none," the man replied,
"She is totally non compost mentis."

Never attribute to malice that which can adequately be
explained by stupidity.

People usually get what's coming to them- unless it's been posted.



THE LIONS INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF CALPE & BENISSA

The Lions International Club of Calpe and Benissa, was founded in 2007, and donates all its member's efforts into fund raising for local causes. Having had a book stall on Calpe Saturday market for 4 years it was decided to open a charity shop in Calpe. All items sold in the shop are kindly donated, and we accept all types of articles. The money made in the shop has, for a number of years now, allowed the club to give monthly donations to Caritas Calpe, Caritas Benissa, and the Cruz Roja Calpe, the sum of which amounts to 1,000 euros. We donate regularly to many local causes, such as, the Maite Boronat Day Centre for disabled adults, and the Gargasindi College for disabled children, having recently donated 1,000 euros to ADICALP, the Association of parents of the attendees of these two institutions.

One of the main fund raising events of the Lions year is the annual Fashion Show, on the 7th of June. Taking

place in the fabulous El Toro restaurant in Calpe, where a fantastic array of nearly new clothes are modelled. On the 6th of October, a concert with "Moonshine" and Caprice performing, will be held in the beautiful gardens of Finca Jacaranda, overlooking the hills of Benissa. Like all Associations we are always in need of new members and volunteers.

For more information about our forthcoming events, and information on the Calpe and Benissa Lions please call 639 637 520, or email calcalpe@gmail.com

P.S. only two legged Lions need apply. Ed



BRAIN TEASER TIME!



1. A red brick house is made from red bricks. A blue house from blue bricks. A yellow house from yellow bricks. What is a green house made of?

2. You're escaping a labyrinth and there are three exits. Exit A. Leads to an inferno. Exit B- to an assassin. Exit C- to a lion who hasn't been fed for three years. Which exit do you take?

3. I am a box that holds keys without locks, yet they can unlock your soul. What am I?

4. Four cars come to a four way junction from different directions and stop. They cannot decide who goes first, so they all go forward at the same time but do not crash into each other and keep going. How is this possible?

5. I can be short and sometimes hot. When displayed, I rarely impress. What am I?

6. Why is the letter F like death?

Answers: Seek and you shall find!

This page is sponsored by Carol Saunders



MOFTAG CLUB OF CALPE EXCEEDS ALL EXPECTATIONS AT SPRING FAYRE

After pushing the limits for the past few years the Moftag club of Calpe finally reached their target of raising 3000 euros at their Spring Fayre on Saturday 4th May!

The fayre was held at Pub Delfin, Calpe and was very well visited. Amongst the goods on offer was a large variety of homemade cakes, savouries, marmalades and chutneys.

The bric-a-brac had an amazing selection of jewellery and house hold items. Handmade greeting cards were also on sale and the cutest hand knitted goods.

For entertainment there was a treasure hunt game, a dice game and the ever popular bottle tombola.

Moftag has become renowned for its superior raffle prizes and this year was no exception with luxury food hampers, vouchers for beauty treatments and meals and beautiful flowers and plants.

Moftag would like to thank everyone who made this event possible and especially the members of the Calpe community who came along to support them.

Together we can make a difference for so many of the Calpe charities, like the Red Cross, Caritas, Maite Boronat, children in care, single parents, homeless people, the Fibromyalgia Association and Calpe cat shelter.

If you are interested in being a member and enjoying a nice social club please contact the president, Jenny Godfrey at 639 139 518.



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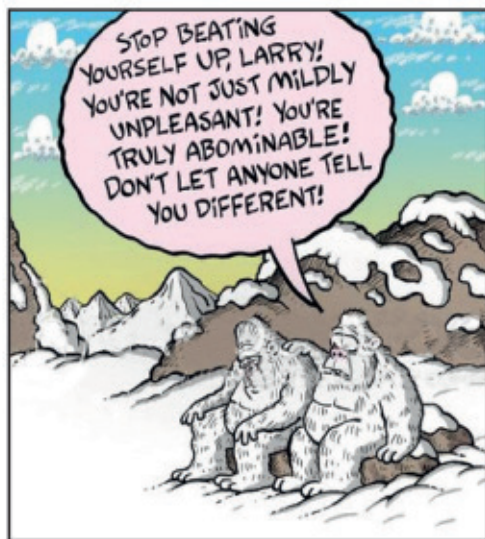
In The Himalaya I met a Yeti

by David Brown

I saw a yeti, he didn't see me
He sat in the snow drinking tea
He was big and hairy, not like me
Then he saw me and shook my hand
Saying you look quite thirsty have a dram
I drank a cup it went down fine
It was whisky flavoured better than wine



He danced a gig and sang a song
I joined him dancing and sang along
Then he said it's time to go
To the top of the mountain, my abode
I went to my tent and fell asleep
In the morning I drank some tea
It wasn't as nice as that made by a Yeti
I climbed the mountain to the top
Hoping to find my friend and his pot
But all was sky and snow to see
And just one small tea pot full of tea



Authors note: At high altitude the brain can get starved of oxygen which can cause a person to hallucinate. However, I'm sure that's not what happened to me. Nepali whisky has been known to have the same effect at sea level!

4 They all turn right. 5 Temper. Because without the f it makes life a lie!
1 Glass. 2 C The Lion will have starved to death. 3 A piano.

Brain Teaser Answers!

This page is sponsored by Sally Cressey



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Padel a Fast Growing Sport

by Ted Barnett and Victor Laroux

The game of Padel, from the English word paddle, was invented by Mexican Enrique Corcuera in 1962. A friend of his was Spanish nobleman Prince Alfonso de Hohenlohe, a real estate developer on the Costa del Sol and he was so taken with the game that he built 2 courts in Marbella in 1975 and so the game came to Spain. Since then, it gradually gained popularity here and today it is the game with the fastest growth of any sport. It is played in 75 countries and is growing fast in the UK, with many courts now being built.

Padel is a doubles game played on an enclosed glass walled rectangular court approximately 20m long and 10m wide. The floor is carpet topped with sand. The ball is



a tennis ball with slightly less pressure and the racquets are short and solid. Serving is underhand and scoring is as in tennis. The ball can be bounced on to the back or side walls but not hit directly on to them, so in effect it is a mixture of tennis and squash.

I run two sessions, each of an hour and a half, one on municipal courts in Teulada, and the other at privately run Sol The ga Park in Moraira. In each group we have 25-30 members and we usually take 3 courts at each venue each week. We play with different partners each time but stick with the same partner for the session. We have greatly enjoyable friendly, yet competitive, games- and always social sessions in the bar afterwards!



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The **Weary Warriors DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP** was formed in 2021 to provide free help and support to those members caring for a partner or friend living with **DEMENTIA OR ALZHEIMERS**.

The group now has 30 members, ladies and gentlemen, and all English speaking individuals are welcome. The Weary Warriors now have three sections:

1. The Weary Warriors for the carers of partners or family members.
2. The Silent Warriors, for those members who have partners or family members in Care Homes,
3. The Warrior Widows, or Widowers, for those who have lost their partner.

The next meeting dates at the Javea Golf Club, from 10.30-11.30 on the 1st and the 3rd Tuesdays of each month,

are as follows: 7th & 21st May, 4th & 18th June, 2nd & 16th July.

New members are made very welcome. We all understand the problems and concerns and help each other in so many ways, in particular with useful and practical information. We have regular invited guests from all the professions that can provide us with help.

For enquiries, please WhatsApp or email Lyn Baerfuss on 692 059 257 or lynbaerfuss@gmail.com

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Do Pets have Souls

by Fr. Chris Cowell

People know that I am an animal lover, having two cats and a dog. Therefore, I often get the above question addressed to me and so I thought that I would examine some thinking about it. My short response is usually 'I do not know', 'I am not sure', you will understand why I think this way, by the end of this short note.

I would like to start, by saying a few words, on the nature of 'one's soul'. The thinking on this is from an Italian 13th Century RC Dominican Philosopher and Theologian called St Thomas Aquinas. He determined that to have a soul, you have to have the power of 'reasoning' and as animals cannot reason, therefore they do not have a soul.

I offer some further discussion of this. What is the nature of our pet? They cannot talk, but they can certainly communicate, with 'meows', 'barks', 'wagging tails', 'eye contact' and 'hugs'. They mostly operate on 'instinct'; but can they 'think or reason', I believe they can, 'in their own way' and they have intelligence and can be trained, eg police, customs and excise and guide dogs. Look how clever guide and hearing dogs are, to care for human beings.



People have experienced, what are called OBE's, (outer body experiences), wherein they say, they have seen 'past deceased relatives and pets', within some beautiful serene and calm settings. I know a bit about it, because I had one myself, about 35 years ago, and saw, what I have just described. Did I have a glimpse of 'heaven' or was it the action of my brain?

We also have the claims of 'animal spirit' phenomena by Medians and Spiritualists. What about the dog known as Greyfriars Bobby, who in Scotland, regularly visited 'his masters grave'. From ancient Egyptology, we note the high regard that was shown by the Pharaohs, towards, the spirits of their cats.

I have no doubt that the souls of humans can go to be reunited with God in heaven. I find it hard to believe that our pets can't. It may be that they have their own form of it? I am biased, but for me my pets are 'little angels'.

I would conclude with a quote from Vet James Herriot,

'If having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude then animals are better off than a lot of humans'.

CLARA

by Doreen Hammond

Clara was a lonely crab,
She didn't have a friend.
She'd sit upon the cold damp beach
For days and days on end

Then when a stranger came along
Her arms she'd open wide,
But always missed a meeting
When she took a sideways stride.

It's Not Too Late

by Fr Ray Andrews and Father Ted



I was delighted when David and Elaine asked me to write something for The Rock. It is a privilege to still be considered part of the Costa Blanca Chaplaincy in some way. However, as I write this I am aware that some time has passed since I was a member of the chaplaincy team, so some of you will have forgotten me, and there will be others I have never had the pleasure of meeting. So that makes it even kinder of you to want to know something of my story and what I am doing now.

I came from London to live in Spain in 2015 and spent three very happy years as a team priest in the Costa Blanca Chaplaincy. Towards the end of the three years, I began to fantasize about retirement an idyllic kind of retirement of quiet days with my dog, reading, writing and contemplating the mountains I had come to love. But, as it turned out, God had other plans. Apparently my priestly ministry wasn't ending, but being transformed. Endings often turn out to be beginnings, don't they?

I had trained as a spiritual director in London and had long enjoyed the

ministry of spiritual director and retreat conductor. However, the demands of parish (or chaplaincy) ministry had always limited the amount of time I could give to this. But having more time and availability opened the way for many new and unexpected opportunities. Bishop Robert asked me to take on the role of Diocesan Spirituality Advisor and Sarum College, in Salisbury, asked me to be a tutor on the Spiritual Direction formation course. At the same time the pandemic, and various global crises, was increasing the demand for the ministry of spiritual direction, or accompaniment.

So, the idyllic retirement of my fantasies



Photo. The Bossey Ecumenical Institute Geneva

had to go on hold, as my ministry expanded and deepened into these very privileged responsibilities. I continue to live in the area with my dog, Father Ted. And I do enjoy some time reading, writing and contemplating my beloved mountains, but mostly (thanks to the miracle of Zoom) I am in my office communicating with chaplaincies throughout the diocese and beyond, teaching in Salisbury, and occasionally travelling to conduct retreats, or to give talks.

David invited me to provide some photos, so here is one from a recent trip to Switzerland where I was invited to conduct a retreat on the theme of "A spirituality for our times".

The beautiful setting was the Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Geneva. I thought I would end with a simple poem of encouragement. There may be someone reading this who needs to hear this today:

*It's not too late... the angel said.
Even though the world's a mess...
Even though you're not that young...
Even though you've made mistakes
and have been afraid
it's not too late...
And then I saw the world through the angel's eyes...
I saw the colours I could paint
The bridges I could build
The lives that I could touch
The dreams that could still come true
And it became very clear to me... That it's not too late.
(Ron Atchison, from 'Inspiration Peak' website)*



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A woman with long blonde hair and glasses, wearing a blue shirt, is shown from the chest up, looking upwards with her hand on her chin in a thinking pose.

It's time I got a
WILL



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A man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit and a light blue shirt, is shown from the chest up, looking upwards with his hand on his chin in a thinking pose.

I think I'm paying
**TOO MUCH
TAX**

A man with short dark hair, wearing a light blue shirt, is shown from the chest up, looking upwards with his hand on his chin in a thinking pose.

I ought to discuss my
**PROPERTY
CONVEYANCING**

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark top, is shown from the chest up, looking upwards with her hand on her chin in a thinking pose.

I want to set up as
self employed
AUTÓNOMO

A man with short dark hair, wearing a light blue shirt, is shown from the chest up, looking upwards with his hand on his chin in a thinking pose.

I really need some
**BUSINESS TAX
ADVICE**

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a grey cardigan over a blue top and a necklace, is shown from the chest up, shrugging her shoulders with her hands raised in a questioning or 'I don't know' gesture.

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What's happening in a church near you?

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CALPE LA MERCED

Sunday Services 10.30am

We have coffee afterwards at the Café opposite.

If you don't wish to attend the service you are still welcome to join us for coffee.

Check the website for details of our monthly lunches.

LA FUSTERA

Sunday Services at 12.15pm in the Ermita de San Josep.

JAVEA

Sunday services at 9.45am

at the Emita on the Jesus de Pobre Road 160, Javea.

GANDIA

Sunday Service at 12.00 midday in the Chapel of the Fransican Hospice.

DENIA

Sunday Services at 12.00 midday in the Ermita Las Rotas.

ALFAZ DEL PI

Sunday services at 9.30am

in the The Old School House, Carrer les escoles 03580 l'Alfàs del Pi.

EL CAMPELLO

Sunday Services at 12.00 midday in the Chapel in the grounds of Los Salesianos.

Organisations that may be of assistance to you

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HELP of Marina Alta : 686 320 435

Lynwen's Nurses : Jayne 634 345 685

Widows & Widowers Orba : Julie 639 176 812

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Welcome to our service



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The Old School House. Carrer
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Alicante
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Jávea
Ctra. de Jesus Pobre, 160
03737 Jávea, Alicante
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(9.30 July to September 11)
Wednesday 10.30



El Campello
Carrer Bernat Metge, 3
03560 El Campello, Alicante
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Gandia
The Chapel of the Franciscan
Hospice, CV 686, 671.
07600, Palma de Gandia
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La Fustera
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03720 Benissa, Alicante
Service times: Sunday 12.15



Calpe
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de la Merced
Av. Jaime I El Conqueridor /
Av. de la Merced, 2
03710 Calpe, Alicante
Service times: Sunday 10.30



Dénia
Ctra. Provincial del Barranc
del Monyo, 39
03700 Dénia, Alicante
Service times: Sunday 12.00



Forum Mare Nostrum
Alfaz del Pi
Service times: Thursday 11.00
2nd Thursday of the Month -
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"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." Romans 12:9
"Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins." Proverbs 10:12

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