

HOUSE FOR DUTY ON THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST IN SPAIN

St Christopher's on the Costa Azahar formally became an Anglican congregation within the Diocese in Europe in October 2006. Services had been started by a priest who had retired to the area, north of Castellon.

In 2007 Rev Paul Needle was appointed as part-time Priest in Charge with two services a month in Alcossebre in the local Roman Catholic church. Following his induction, services have been held every Sunday in Alcossebre.

As English speaking people came from further North occasional services in Vinaros proved successful and now a congregation meets every week in a leased shop unit called "Portico". The property is also used for other functions during the week including a popular Thursday Coffee Morning, where books, bric-a-brac and cakes are available for small donations which cumulatively pay for the rent.

Since January 2009 services have been held in Ampolla, a small harbour town some 60 miles north of Alcossebre. Currently these services are held twice monthly (once on a Sunday, the other on a Wednesday) and we anticipate demand will grow in the next year or so for regular weekly worship.

Most recently a shop unit has been leased in Alcossebre (the original church location) to open as a Drop-in Centre from September 2010. Worship patterns ensure that Holy Communion is a central service in one congregation every Sunday and other services are normally of Morning Worship – sometimes followed by a short Holy Communion.

There are 3 authorised Worship Leaders – one for each centre and each Leader has the authority to distribute extended communion occasionally although not on a regular basis.

Because we are conscious of our need to grow the northern congregation and to keep a stable pattern of worship in the 2 southern ones, as well as making good succession planning when the time comes to appoint a new part-time or full-time priest we are looking for a priest to join us on a "House for duty" basis from the Autumn of 2010.

An apartment will be provided (in Vinaros – the central location) and a car for church use. In return for this the priest will be expected to take a share in Sunday (and occasional weekday services – e.g. in Ampolla) and to share some of the pastoral services and duties – weddings, funerals and some hospital visits (the most frequently used hospital is in Vinaros).

Little or no administrative responsibility would be involved – the House for duty priest is not expected to be part of the Church Council or its committees except insofar as it may affect his ministry.

We would seek to welcome priests for a six month period. For further details of the church there is more on the website www.azaharanglican.org/

For additional information about what we are looking for, please contact Rev Paul Needle 0034 662 482 944 or email paulneedle@aol.com