



EL CAMINO



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IGLESIA ESPAÑOLA REFORMADA EPISCOPAL | COMUNIÓN ANGLICANA



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 ANGLICAN CENTER, SANTIAGO,
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THE VISION STATEMENT:
 THE ANGLICAN CENTER OF SANTIAGO WILL
 BE AN ECUMENICAL PLACE THAT OFFERS
 HOSPITALITY, LEARNING, HEALING, HOPE
 AND LOVE AND REJUVENATES THE EPISCOPAL
 DIOCESE IN SPAIN.



New Taize Sunday Evening
 Service to start at Cathedral
 with Special Pilgrim Blessing!
 The Cathedral will be the only
 place for English speaking
 pilgrims to currently be
 received.

PROGRESS! A BLESSING



FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN

Friends, progress is being made since our first historic gathering of twenty-five dedicated people at Trinity Wall Street last April, when Bishop Don Carlos and Father Spencer first brought to the greater church the dream to build an Anglican Center. The Spanish Episcopal Church is most pleased to have the endorsement of Archbishop of Dublin, for the connection between the two churches goes back to our founding.

Pilgrim, there is no road, you make the road as you go. — Antonio Machado, Spanish poet who died at the end of the Civil War as he and his mother were force-marched out by Franco's troops. His mother died three days later. He is buried in Collioure, France.

Here below is Archbishop Jackson and Archbishop Martin, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Dublin, in Christ Church Cathedral with massed choirs on the Eve of St Patrick's Day this year 2016.



Dear Friends,

The link between the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and the diocese of Spain along with the diocese of Lusitania is precious to those of us who are members of today's diocese in Ireland. Together we share witness and worship in the Anglican Communion as fellow Christians. We are members of Europe and that also binds us in a special way.

We also share a link of solidarity in a particular way. The diocese of Spain and later the diocese of Lusitania looked to Dublin for a sense of apostolic community when they were being founded. Names like Plunket, Gregg and Neill in particular are names that open up historical memories of such solidarity in the faith in Jesus Christ. As archbishop of Dublin and bishop of Glendalough I have had the privilege both to be part of the consecration of today's bishop of Lusitania and to participate in the General Synod of the Church of Spain by kind invitation of Bishop Carlos Lopez-Lozano.

I am most excited about the prospect of renewing the faith of pilgrims by embarking on the adventure of building a new Anglican Center in Santiago. The fact that our church and the church of Spain goes back to Archbishop Lord Plunkett who raised the money to build your beautiful Cathedral in Madrid feels like the natural continuation of a conversation begun in the 1800s. The Anglican Centre is important in the ministry of hospitality that always lies at the heart of the Anglican way. The Centre will be a living expression of welcome and of refreshment for those who make use of The Way of Christ on the Camino in their personal and corporate devotion and fresh commitment. It is greatly to be welcomed and supported.

With every blessing,

Revd. Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin & Bishop of Glendalough

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BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR THE ANGLICAN CENTER



We, the Spanish Episcopal Church, are thrilled here in Madrid, Spain, by our productive trip to the United Kingdom. The Bishop and Father Spencer breakfasted with the Archbishop and began to make many important inroads and open relationships with the church there. Perhaps most significantly, we were able to complete the board appointments for the FRIENDS OF THE CAMINO. We are happy to announce the full list of board members. After our visit with the archbishop of Canterbury in Lambeth Palace, this past July, it was suggested by His Grace that we seek to have a board that was well-balanced between the States and Europe.

You will see we have also now added several consultants who have agreed to offer their advice and suggestions as time allows. We are grateful for such bounty. The European members are: The Most Revd. Dr. Joris Vercammen, Archbishop of Old Catholic Church, from the Hague; Archbishop Revd. Michael Jackson, Dublin, Ireland; the Revd. José Jorge De Pina Cabral, Bishop of Lusitanian Church, Portugal; the Revd. Canon Dr. William Taylor, St. John-s, Notting Hill, London; and Revd. Canon Jim Rosenthal, of St. James Merton, in Wimbledon. Here is Bishop Carlos and Rev. Dr. William Taylor in Notting Hill, a vibrant

congregation in a beautiful section of London. Bishop Carlos gave a wonderful homily on the importance of unification and reconciliation and plans are being made for one of the young Philipino priests there to visit us soon at the Cathedral. Afterwards we were feted and treated to a feast by the congregation. Here's Father Spencer after the service: a true Episcopal selfie if ever there was one.



In the States we have Revd. Dean Cathy George, dean of students at Yale Berkeley, New Haven, CT; Revd. Scott Walters, of Christchurch, Little Rock, AK; Nancy Mead, Narragansett, RI, an inveterate Camino walker and enthusiastic supporter of our efforts; Revd. Mario Milián, St. Thomas Church, Coral Gables, FL; Willem Brans, Trinity Wall Street, Director of Development, New York, NY.

Several consultants have also joined our ranks: Marion Marples, former

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Secretary, Confraternity of Saint James, of London; Revd. Joseph Britton, of St. Michael's, Sante Fe, NM; Bishop Leo Frade, former bishop of Southeast Florida, San Pedro Sula, Honduras; Rev. Dr. James Cooper former rector of Trinity and current rector Rev. Dr. William Lupfer; and finally, but not least, we welcome Rev. Jimmy Bartz, new rector called to St. Johns in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

It is our belief this unique blending of international with national with foster

reconciliation and excitement, as we seek to establish the Anglican Center. Friends, with talk of disagreements and fracturing, isn't it comforting to ponder the opposite? What great good our church can do, working together? This board is to be a symbol of what will be amplified as this project goes forward, to welcome pilgrims of all walks into the center, offering hospitality and a warm meal and a place to sleep. In short, the Eucharist.

Interview with Marion Marples, Camino Expert in London



Marion Marples, center, pictured with pilgrims on The Way

In our recent visit to London, we had the chance to meet with a remarkable British woman who has made the Camino her life's passion and who is eager to help consult with us in making the Cathedral in Madrid a welcome center for pilgrims on their way as well as offer insights into the building of the Anglican Center. We had a chance to ask her a few questions and listen to her wisdom gathered over the years. We thought you'd be interested in what she had to say.

Why has the Camino been so important in your life? The camino and all the associated spirituality, history, music, language, landscape, traditions bring together many of my interests and have given me great opportunities to develop them for myself and to share with others. As I look back I see St James has been with me a long time. I was

born in Poole, Dorset which was an early 15th Century pilgrim port, has a church of St James and my school badge bore the town's 3 scallop shells making the link with Santiago pilgrims. I learnt of the pilgrimage while at university at another pilgrim port, Bristol, and made my first pilgrimage through France in 1972, long before the

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revival of interest in the 1980s. But it was not until 1998 that I was able to set out on my own on the Camino and walk for 5 weeks to Santiago. Many years later, I wear my pilgrim scallop shell with pride!



Father Spencer meeting with Marion Marples in July of 2016 in London

That is amazing, how connected things can seem when we look back on our lives. Tell us a little about your journey? My passion for the Camino led to involvement with the Confraternity of Saint James. I can say I have walked, over time and in stages, all the way from my home in London through France to Santiago. I have walked with large and small groups and on my own. Being on pilgrimage gave me time to reassess my life and helped me to make important changes of direction. As Secretary of CSJ I have had the joy of being responsible for organizing many visits to pilgrimage sites in Spain and France as well as encouraging others to set out. I have also learnt a lot about Christian hospitality and the way we seek to offer it freely for pilgrims, as though they were Christ themselves.

So tell us a little more about how did you become involved in the Confraternity of Saint James & what could be its importance for the Anglican Center? The Confraternity was founded in 1983, at a time when I was at home with a small baby. I was fascinated to get involved with researching the history of the pilgrimage in England, planning visits all over the country and to

Spain as well as lectures in London. As we gradually moved into an office, meeting people planning to go on pilgrimage was a great privilege and actually encouraged me to train for pastoral ministry within my church, Southwark cathedral. I was fascinated by the idea that in Spanish, Jesus is 'the camino'-the Way. So I have tried to live life less encumbered with mental baggage, and being open to the way life opens up when you travel light and hopefully.

The CSJ is a non denominational organization with members of all faiths and none. We work with anyone planning a pilgrimage, with groups from RC and Anglican parishes as well as many individuals. We observe St James's day (25 July) at St James's Spanish Place in London and make visits to St James's churches elsewhere. We have developed and run 2 pilgrim albergues in Spain. Many members have been volunteers at the Pilgrim Office at Santiago Cathedral, welcoming pilgrims, both Spanish and non Spanish at the end of their pilgrimages.

Anglican groups are able to use a chapel in the Cathedral for the Eucharist or worship but for the lone Anglican it is possible to feel confused and neglected at the daily Catholic Pilgrim Mass where it is clearly stated that only confirmed RCs should receive communion. An Anglican Centre could contribute to understanding about the Anglican communion in all its diversity and bring some ecumenical light to a pilgrimage which should be a way of transforming any life, whatever its starting point.

What do you think the gift could be of having the Cathedral in Madrid be a welcome center for English speaking pilgrims? After they have done one camino many pilgrims like to explore Spain or France with more recently developed or less well known routes. Madrid is the beginning of a feeder route to the main Camino Francés, crossing the Sierra de Guadarrama and the *meseta* plateau to join the more

famous route at Sahagún. There is a Madrid Association of Amigos del Camino and their office is open a couple of evenings a week. It would be great for the non-Spanish speaking pilgrim to have a point of contact in Madrid to collect a credencial and a stamp, receive a pilgrim blessing and set out.

Well, we're on it! I think our Cathedral embracing the pilgrims in the capital city is a great first step to building the Center in Santiago and the fact nothing existed for pilgrims in Madrid before seems to beckon us. We are just now organizing a new Taizé bilingual service at the Cathedral where we will offer a special blessing for pilgrims (one you gave us, I might add!). What are your thoughts about this Anglican Center supported by the entire Communion? Hopefully more Anglicans would be encouraged to set out on pilgrimage! In Santiago itself, an Anglican Centre would need to be complementary to

the Cathedral - after all, they have been welcoming pilgrims for over 1000 years! The cathedral is gradually developing its own programme for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The Centre could be a place for Anglican pilgrims to 'give back' something to the Camino. It would be helpful to have more support for the growing proportion of non-Spanish speaking pilgrims who arrive having had a transformative experience and who need time and space to explore what this might mean for the rest of their lives. But we need to be aware that many pilgrims have little or no church background and are baffled by the different churches. However, the RC Church is working out how to use the experience of pilgrimage in the 'New Evangelisation' and there is space for Anglican insights too as we explore what being a Christian means in an increasingly secular and multi faith world in the 21st century.



INTRODUCING KAYLA MASSEY, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL MEDIA ADVANCEMENT FOR THE CAMINO ANGLICAN CENTER

We are thrilled to introduce to you Kayla Massey. She will be serving the board as the Director of Social Media Advancement. The new website will feature a video that was edited by Frank Burgess, a former editor for the BBC. This short video, length five minutes, explains the history of the church in English. The new website will feature ways for people to donate money towards the Center. The webpage will go live this fall. All the information regarding the site will be

presented by Kayla on our September 15th Conference call. For more questions about all things social media, Kayla can be reached in the States at

Caminante, no hay camino, se hace camino al andar... — Antonio Machado

864.314.0093. Kayla is currently on the Presiding Bishop's Staff of the Episcopal Church as the Assistant to the Missioner of the United Thank Offering. She has traveled as a short term missionary of the Episcopal Church for many. Kayla served on the Young Adult Service Corps from 2014-2015 in the Episcopal Church of the Philippines doing Asset Based Community Development. Kayla was selected as the first Julia Chester Emery intern for the United Thank Offering 2015-2016. It was during this time that she had the opportunity to visit the El Camino site and was incredibly happy to volunteer her time to the El Camino Project.

And, last but not least, Our First Pilgrim!

As if right on schedule for this newsletter, our first pilgrim came to Madrid. Reverendo Aloysi, from Cuba, our colleague, signaled Reverendo Spencer to come to the other side of the Cathedral where we have our massive food distribution every Saturday, feeding over 200 people in Madrid. And there was Patrick James Thorpe, aged 32, a high school English teacher from Dublin, who had just walked all the way from Pamplona, beginning on July 5th, arriving into Santiago the day before yesterday. Rvdo. Spencer gave him an orange from Seville as he gently laid down his back pack with the shell on the back with the red St. James cross embossed on it. Rvdo. Spencer asked him about the Camino. He said, "I met all kinds of people there, from all over the world." He paused then, looked out the window and said in a quieter voice in his musical Dublin accent, "You know, it doesn't matter your skin color or your race or your religion, we are all one, we are all together." He said he did go to church himself, but not all the time, and he'd brought the Bible along to read. He said he liked Madrid. He said he thought it'd be a good idea if pilgrims who speak English could be welcomed at our Cathedral here in the center of town. Yes, he said, a shell on the building would be a good idea. He looked again out the window with his playful Irish eyes and then he said, "You know, I think I might stay here a little while longer."





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