

anyone taking communion understood the importance that the others in the church put on that act. So we talk about the communion

Confirmation is still important for participation in the Eucharist, but, at least in our 'parish' we have a more open table than many other churches.

## Confirmation

It is conducted by a bishop, maybe locally, maybe not, and people are invited from all over to come and celebrate this event. It is special. Sometimes that alone changes people.

It may be that, if you want to be confirmed, you

will have to wait a few months for a bishop to be in the right place at the right time!

## What the course is not!!!

This is not like a school course with a test at the end. It is not about opening your heart to the world. It is not about you having to speak at all. You are welcome to sit and listen. It is not intellectual. It is not complicated. It is not boring, it is not irrelevant but as true to our own experience as possible. You don't have to remember anything or write an essay or report back. This is between God and you growing as a Christian, and wherever you are on the journey you are most welcome!



# Essential Christianity (& confirmation if required)

First evening: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 7.30, Anglican Chaplaincy House, Estepona.

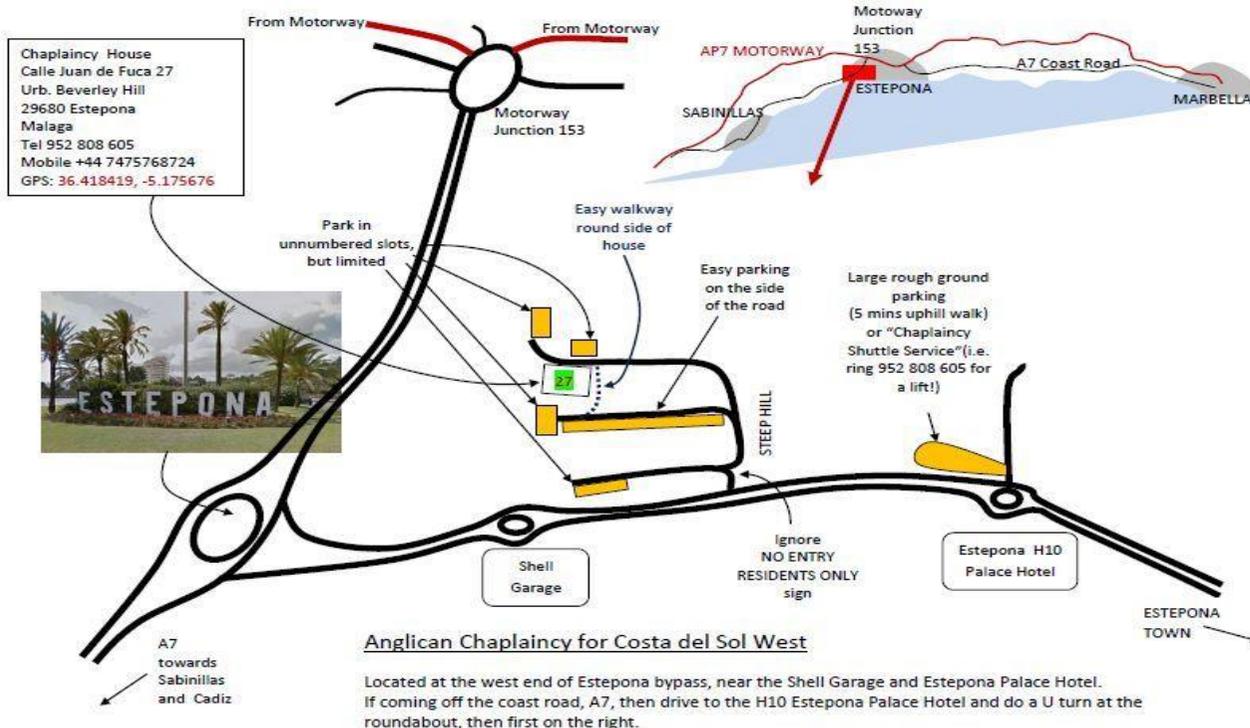
You may have heard the old saying 'you can't see the wood for the trees'. The church is sometimes like that. There is so much going on you miss out on the basic elements of what our Christian faith is about. So here is a six evening course about the Christian faith. No hassle, no threats, no homework, no tests! Just an easy run through what the Christian church believes. 'Back to 'Basics!'



## So what's confirmation?



Lots of people get baptised when they are too small to know what is going on. Others, usually their parents and godparents, make promises about them. Later in life confirming the promises of parents, personally, is a good thing.



Finally it is you making the decision, publically, not them!

Coming to the course does not mean you want to go through being confirmed at a special service, you may already be 'confirmed' or 'become a member' of another church, but if you have not been confirmed, you might like to think about it.

## Confirmation FAQs

**What if I want to be confirmed but have never been baptised?** No hassle! We can organise that you are baptised at your confirmation

**I was baptised as a child, can I please be baptised again?** No, most of the Christain churches believe in one single baptism. Confirmation is the next step, not a new baptism.

## What is in the course?

Well what makes up the Christian faith? We talk about God and what we believe God is like, and we compare it with other faiths' understanding of God.



So we talk about Jesus, who, when, where and why he came, about birth, ministry, death and resurrection, and his life in the church today.

We talk about creation and God our Father. We talk about the Spirit of God living inside us and how to recognise that Spirit.

We talk about the Bible, where it comes from and what it contains. Is it a reference book, a set of rules, a history, a difficult read – or all of them?



We talk about the Anglican Church – the Church of England - and how it relates to the other church denominations in the world. What does it believe differently, what beliefs are essential and what are a matter for the individual to decide.

We talk about love. It is key in Christianity, but what kind of love are we talking about? How can we really love people we don't like?



We talk about pain, and why there is pain in a world where God's in charge. We talk about healing and what God's role is in miracles.

We talk about the history of the Church and how that has developed into the church we know today. That includes looking at some of the historical sources that confirm the Bible stories.

We talk about our church and the diocese we belong to, key people and places.

## The faith thing

Faith is more than just believing in something. It includes trusting. I believe in some of the characters alive in the second world war, but I

wouldn't necessarily trust them. It is different with God. Learning how to trust someone you don't see; speak to someone who doesn't usually answer you back with a normal human voice and love someone who does not physically hug you, is unusual. This is about an encounter of our spirit with that of God's. Practice makes perfect, though, and it's the same with the Christian faith.

## Praying and worshipping

Getting our act together in talking with God is important. We need to work out what God wants from us, and that can take a time because it is often not obvious. So how do we do it?

Praying and reading the Bible are pretty key to what our faith is about, so we will do some of that. And why do we worship? Worship is 'giving God worth'. It is saying that when we look at creation we think God is really great – and thanks Lord!

## Communion/Eucharist



For many years in the past only those who had been confirmed could take communion (the bread and the wine). That was because Christians have seen this as very central to the Christian worship and it was important that

Rev Adrian Low is the Chaplain to the Anglican Church in the Costa del Sol (West). See more information on [www.costachurch.com](http://www.costachurch.com)