

GENERAL INFORMATION

Thank you for coming to our Church on locum duty, we hope you will enjoy your stay with us.

The congregation of St. George's Anglican Church is small – we are about 15 adults and 2 grandchildren, with just 5 adults living locally. During the holiday season, from May to October, the holidaymakers swell our numbers to around 20 – 25.

Taormina is built terrace-like on a hill, but the town centre where the church is situated is on a level and shops, supermarket, fresh fruit/veg market and Post Office are within a short walking distance. There is a cable car about 50 yards from the church which will take you down to the beach and sea-front.

Travel: The nearest airport to Taormina is Catania “Fontanarossa”, so please arrange your flight to arrive in Catania. At the moment it is served by British Airways and Easy-jet from the U.K, but during the holiday season there may be other airlines.

Locum chaplains are responsible for all their travel expenses to and from the chaplaincy. We kindly request you to make your own way to and from the airport in Catania with the airport bus which arrives and leaves from the Bus Terminal just a few yards down from the church and the apartment. Tickets cost approx 9 Euro per person.

If you wish, we will arrange for a taxi to collect you on arrival at Catania airport for the journey to the chaplaincy apartment in Taormina (The taxi-driver will hold a board with either your name or that of St. George's written on it). The cost of the taxi is approximately Euro 70 – 80 (as opposed to the Euro 120 if you pick up a taxi outside the airport). If you wish us to book a taxi for you, then please let the Church Secretary know your **flight number and arrival time** in advance

To check bus departure times: <http://www.interbus.it> . The timetable varies from month to month according to the holiday periods, so that there will be many more during the spring and summer months.

It is advisable to consult the chaplain who precedes/succeeds your period of stay before booking your flights. Thank you.

Accommodation:

St. George's provides an attractive apartment attached to the Church, running off the Vestry. It consists of living room, bedroom with en suite shower-room, kitchen and a second toilet next to the Vestry for the use of visitors to the church. The apartment is well supplied with linen, towels, hairdryer, iron and kitchen equipment. The Vestry can be used as a study. It is fully centrally heated and air conditioned. Outside the kitchen there is a large terrace overlooking the Straits of Messina and Calabria. There are fine views and a pair of binoculars is available in the apartment.

During your stay with us, we are responsible for heat, lighting and local telephone calls.

Automatic emergency lighting, in case of power failure, has been installed.

Telephone

The telephone number at the flat is: +39 0942 23859

A rechargeable Post Office yellow telephone card is kept by the telephone. This allows you to call European countries land phones (NOT mobile phones) for a much reduced fee (approx 5 euro for 3-4 hours). If you use the card, then please recharge the card at the Post Office before departure.

Internet Access

As from May 2014 we have installed wi-fi (Telecom) in the church apartment and because we cannot in any way afford to bear the costs ourselves, **we kindly request our locum chaplains to contribute 30 euro per month towards the cost** (payable to the church treasurer Sylvia Moschella at the beginning of the month). This amount is equivalent to just moderate use of internet café facilities.

Television

There is a television in the flat – there are various programs available in the English language, including BBC World News.

A decoder is being installed to enable to watch films available on the National TV channels in the English language where possible.

CHAPLAIN DUTIES AND SERVICES

Eucharist: Sundays at 11am.

Every Sunday there is a Holy Communion with four hymns. Either Common Worship or the Book of Common Prayer is used. Services for Feast days and other particular occasions are usually held after consultation with the members. There are two Hymnals available, "The English Hymnal" and "Ancient and Modern".

Music: There is an electronic organ in the church but no regular organist (Una Scaletta will play when available).

Hymn CDs are available for use with the Music Centre which has a remote control allowing the chaplain to punch in the hymn numbers and turn the music on and off as necessary. A cross reference for all the hymns and hymn books is available in the apartment.

Joint Anglican/Lutheran Service: We now have a regular pattern of worship together with the Lutheran Congregation with the exception of the month of August. The Service is held on the second Sunday of each month at 11am. The Lutheran Pastor Andreas Latz will contact you a few days prior to the Service.

Pastor Latz's contact details are email: alatz81990@aol.com, tel. 095 213230, mobile tel. 340 1214292 (the prefix code for Italy is 0039).

We have together worked out a basic HC service in the English language based on the Anglican Common Worship and normally we sing two hymns in the German language and two in the English language, with each chaplain preaching a short sermon in his own language. **The Easter Day Service will always be a joint Service and will include the Ceremony of Light.**

During the tourist season, which lasts usually from Palm Sunday to the end of October, there are many foreign visitors attending the Services. This provides an excellent opportunity for Ecumenical co-operation and international fellowship. There is a very good relationship with other local churches.

It is our custom at St. George's to offer our visitors wine, soft drinks and crisps in the front garden after the Sunday Service; please prepare the trolley (at the back of the church where you will find various items) before the service. Thank you.

Many useful contacts have been made with the Taormina people; it is vitally important that the Chaplain maintains and develops these relationships. Occasionally there is a baptism, wedding, blessing or funeral to perform. Naturally, pastoral and sick visiting is expected when requested.

The Chaplain will be invited to attend Ecumenical Services – more information will be provided by our Ecumenical Officer Norma Mazza. We would appreciate some help in distributing notices to publicise events whenever necessary. (The hotels and travel agencies are usually covered by members of the congregation.)

Please bring a photograph of yourself to display on the outside notice board. Thank you. The Church Secretary will print times of services for the notice board.

Please be prepared to welcome visitors/passers-by. It is not unusual for holidaymakers to call from such diverse countries as Italy, Germany, Austria, UK, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, Switzerland, France, Finland, Sweden and North Africa. We invite you to keep the church open whenever possible during the day for a few hours, at your discretion. You will find that there will be many people who pop in for a chat and to visit the church. Usually we expect 10 – 15 visitors each day. There are CDs with music for use in the music centre which will provide a welcome background. There are postcards of the church for sale and a donation box at the main door.

The Chaplain partly shares with the Verger (cum Gardener), the care and ordering of the Altar linen etc. The Verger prepares the Altar and cleans the Church (among various other duties) while the Chaplain is responsible for the laundering of the albs and surplices etc. when necessary.

St. George's has a very large supply of every kind of vestment – it will therefore be unnecessary to bring any with you unless you happen to be particularly large or tall.

Chalice Assistants: Valerie Bailey, Susan Vinciguerra, Sara Teed – usually at least one of them will be present at the service.

Health documents: For EU Citizens: European Health Insurance Card. Apply online at: www.dh.gov.uk/travellers or phone 0845 606 2030; or by post, with forms available from the post office.

For non EU Citizens: proof of total Health coverage for your stay in the country which should include your trip to and from Italy for both the Chaplain and his wife. *The Diocesan authorities insist that the Chaplains and their wives, whether EU or non EU citizens, are fully covered for any and all eventualities.*

Police Registration: For EU citizens - only if your stay with us exceeds **ninety days** will it be necessary to register at the local police station the day after your arrival. In that case, you will be requested to produce your passports, four passport size photographs and the Bishop's Licence.

For non EU Citizens: generally this will apply to citizens of the U.S; Canada; Australia & New Zealand residing in their own countries; contact should be made with your nearest Italian Embassy for full details, but in theory you are allowed to enter and stay in this country for up to 90 days, as tourists, on your passports with no visa required. Once in Taormina, no registration at the local police station is necessary. Be aware that police requirements can vary considerably from place to place within Italy irrespective of what information you have been given by the Italian Embassy in your home country.

Citizens of South Africa and all other countries specified on the above mentioned website will have to apply for an Entry Visa. For those requiring an entry visa then you will probably have to provide the following: a set of four passport size photographs per person, valid credit cards with photocopies, comprehensive health insurance covering you while you are in Italy, and finally the Archdeacon's Letter of Guarantee in the original and the Bishop's Licence.

For full information on visa requirements please refer to the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (English version) at http://www.esteri.it/visti/home_eng.asp

(Note in URL: between *home* and *eng* there is a lower hyphen: _)

Important Note for non EU citizens: To obtain the Archdeacon's Letter of Guarantee you will need to supply the Archdeacon with your full name (and that of your wife) exactly as they appear on your passport(s), together with the Taormina arrival and departure dates. Please email the Archdeacon, giving him your full home address in order for him to mail the Letter directly to you. (Only originals are accepted).

Some Do's and Don'ts

The apartment is a smoke-free area.



Please treat the apartment as your home, we hope you will be comfortable, and leave it as you would wish to find it. Thank you.

If something in the flat is not working properly, please inform the verger Salvatore or a church member as soon as possible in order that it can be repaired.

If something gets broken, then please tell us so that it may be replaced.

For Health and Safety reasons we do not allow animals inside the apartment. Please do not feed any stray cats or dogs found in the garden. The chaplain or his wife who come after you may be allergic to cat hairs, etc. The stray animals should not be allowed to enter the church where they leave their mark - this is unpleasant for all concerned.

Please be sure to **always** lock up the church, apartment and gates when leaving the premises. Please be as careful as you would be at home. Do not carry large sums of money or your passports with you when you go out.

IMPORTANT

During your trip out, in the event of a hold-up lasting two or more hours, please contact either Sylvia Moschella or Susan Vinciguerra, who will advise the verger of any flight changes and/or delays. Here are their home and mobile phone numbers :

Sylvia Moschella: home- 0039 0942 654066/ mobile- 0039 346 5913 443

Susan Vinciguerra: home 0039 0942 58293/ mobile 0039 320 1159 364

Alternatively, leave our numbers with a member of your family and contact them, in case of delays, asking them to inform us.

Postal address of St. George's and Chaplain's flat:

Via Pirandello 24, 98039 Taormina (ME), Sicily, Italy.

Tel: 0039 0942 23859

St. George's website: www.anglicanchurchtaormina.it

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Churchwarden: Una Scaletta, Catania,

T: 00 39 095 717 7348

E: unaesanti@gmail.it

Churchwarden: Sara Teed, Taormina

T: 0039 0942 21224

Church Treasurer: Sylvia Moschella, Taormina

T: 0039 0942 654066

Church Secretary: Susan Vinciguerra, Taormina

T: 00 39 0942 58293

E: churchsecretarytaormina@gmail.com

Ecumenical Relations Representative : Norma Mazza, Taormina

T: 0039 0942 24826