

# IGLESIA ESPAÑOLA REFORMADA EPISCOPAL

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IGLESIA ESPAÑOLA REFORMADA EPISCOPAL | COMUNIÓN ANGLICANA



## REPORT ON THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF OPERATION OF THE ANGLICAN HOUSE OF THE PILGRIM, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

On May 2, 2023 we received the keys to the old Pension Santa Cristina. The immediate tasks to be able to put the house at the service of the pilgrims were: removal of old furniture, purchase of tables and chairs for the new dining room, various repairs in rooms (plumbing in four rooms and two bathrooms and painting in six rooms).

The Anglican Pilgrim House has 15 rooms (11 doubles, 2 triples and 2 singles) distributed in two buildings separated by a courtyard. Only 5 rooms have en-suite bathrooms. There are 5 shared bathrooms:

The main building consists of 11 rooms (four of them with bathroom inside), reception, dining room, kitchen and 4 shared bathrooms (both the dining room, reception area and courtyard have been furnished by Ms. Nancy Mead).

The auxiliary building has 4 bedrooms (one with its own bathroom) and a shared bathroom.

The Casa is managed by a full-time manager and a part-time assistant. It also has a room cleaning company that provides two cleaners every day of the year. We also have a laundry company that provides linen and towel cleaning every day of the year.

The Anglican Pilgrim House offers a buffet breakfast included in the price of the accommodation.

USE OF THE BUILDING:

221 people used the building in the month of May, of which 92 percent were pilgrims.

In June, 539 people used the building, 91 percent of whom were pilgrims.

In July, 622 people used the building, 96 percent of whom were pilgrims.

By country (those who wanted to say their country of origin):

- . Germany: 57
- . Austria: 2
- . Belgium: 4
- . Brazil: 1
- . Canada: 6
- . Croatia: 12
- . USA: 9
- . Spain: 274
- . Estonia: 2
- . France: 36
- . Greece: 1
- . Guatemala: 2
- . Hong Kong: 2
- . Hungary: 2
- . Ireland: 3
- . Israel: 1
- . Italy: 30
- . Latvia: 1
- . New Zealand: 2
- . Netherlands: 12
- . Portugal: 24
- . Puerto Rico: 1
- . United Kingdom: 36
- . Czech Republic: 11
- . Russia: 2
- . Switzerland: 10

To our knowledge, 13 clergymen from different denominations have used the house during these months, of which 5 were from the Episcopal Church of the USA, 1 from the Church of Ireland, 3 from the Church of England and 4 from other Christian denominations.

We have had a total of 46 free overnight stays.

During these months several contracts and insurances for the house have been taken out.

Setting up a project like the Anglican Pilgrim House has had its CHALLENGES:

- . In May we only opened a third of the rooms because we did not have a cleaning company for the first few weeks and we wanted to provide a good service to the pilgrims.

- . The previous owner of the house left us a list of clients who had booked with her for the months of May to September.

- . We have had to look for companies to provide food supplies for the breakfasts we offer.

- . We have had to hire several companies to do the minimum repairs to bring the building up to standard: plumbing, electricity, glass and paint.

- . During these three months it has been impossible to install internet in the building. The telephone company informed us that the regulation for the protection of buildings in the historic center of Santiago de Compostela prevented the installation of fiber optic cables. The company no longer installs copper cable lines like the one the house had with the previous owner. In July the municipal legislation has changed and we have been informed by the telephone company that, in less than two months, we will have fiber optics with which to have wifi in the building.

This new project has also had many ACHIEVEMENTS in these three months:

- . The reception area has been completely remodeled and all the services we offer at St. Susanna's Church and how to contact Rev. Anna Noon are on display.

. We have placed in each room a folder containing a welcome letter in five languages (Spanish, English, French, German and Italian); it has information about the activities of the Group of Friends of the Anglican Pilgrims' Center of Santiago de Compostela. Also, information about the religious services in Santa Susana and how to contact the missionary personally.

. In each room we have placed two bilingual New Testaments, Spanish-English. In the dining room there are several copies of Bunyan's classic book, "The Pilgrim's Progress", among other books to orient the pilgrims.

. To meet the ecological objectives, gel dispensers have been installed in all rooms and bathrooms. Trash bins have been purchased to allow separation for recycling.

. Weatherstripping has been installed on all doors to prevent noise from disturbing and heat from escaping.

. To help pilgrims find their way around, the room numbers have been changed to much larger numbers in a modern steel design.

After these first three months of work and service we have realized that WE CAN IMPROVE:

. The facilities: It would be necessary to put a private bathroom inside the 10 rooms that still do not have one.

Our house offers five things that other lodgings for pilgrims in Santiago de Compostela do not offer:

1. A quality breakfast included in the price of the room.
2. An open space all day long for pilgrims to meet and share a cup of coffee.
3. Free laundry service (washer and dryer)
4. We admit pets. We are the only lodging in Santiago that admits them. This makes many pilgrims happy.
5. We offer spiritual care to those who need it.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that, in spite of the initial difficulties of the beginning of any project, we give many thanks to God for this opportunity of service and witness that we are already giving to more than 1,000 pilgrims who have stayed at the Anglican Pilgrim House. We are aware that this miracle has been possible thanks to the tireless work of the Group of Friends of the Anglican Center of Santiago de Compostela. I have no words to thank all your effort, work and dedication to make this ministry to the pilgrims a reality today. In a special way I want to thank the president, Ms. Nancy Mead, for her work, her two trips to Santiago in these three months, offering her ideas, suggestions, and support in everything. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ULTREYA. BUEN CAMINO!

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol and the name 'Carlos López Lozano' in a cursive script.

+Carlos López Lozano  
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