

LIFE IN URUGUAY



A photographic exhibition looking at the work of the Anglican Church in Uruguay

LIFE IN URUGUAY

Famous for beef, beaches and football, Uruguay was once one of the most prosperous nations in South America.

Then recession struck in 2002. Thousands lost their homes, jobs and savings. Once thriving communities were left coping with unemployment and struggling to access health care and education. Meanwhile, the poor in society faced even greater hardships.

Against this backdrop, the Anglican Church in Uruguay has been growing. The Diocese of Uruguay is one of the youngest in the Anglican Communion. It was formally established as an autonomous indigenous church in 1988, having emerged out of an English chaplaincy that had been in the country since the eighteenth century.

From the outset, the church adopted what it termed a 'holistic' approach to mission, meaning that a form of mission that is concerned equally with both spiritual and material wellbeing.

The Rt Revd Miguel Tamayo explained: 'Holistic mission means we are not only going to talk about God, we are also going to show people the love of God with good works. When we plant a church we immediately look for the best way to serve the community.'

Enthused by this view of mission, the diocese has set up a hostel for people living with HIV, a night shelter for homeless mothers, a soup kitchen, a

school for young people with disabilities, and job training for teenagers, among other work.

In a predominantly Roman Catholic country, Anglicans are a tiny minority, with just 1,000 members in a population of 3.3 million. But Bishop Miguel believes the Anglican Church has something unique to offer.

He said: 'I think our special contribution is to provide an alternative to the Roman Catholic Church, not that we are in opposition – because we are on good terms – but to show people another way of being church.'

In all of its work, the Diocese of Uruguay is grateful for the support of overseas partners, including USPG.

Bishop Miguel said: 'I see our Lord guiding us and sustaining in many different ways, from our partners around the world, like USPG, and from people in Uruguay responding to the challenge of mission.'

'I can't think of a church living alone in the world. The church is a family, so you pray for us and we pray for you. This is very important.'

We hope these photographs will inspire you to find out more about the Diocese of Uruguay and the work of USPG around the world.

For further information and resources, phone 0845 273 1701 or email enquiries@uspg.org.uk



A slum on the outskirts of Uruguay's capital city Montevideo. Uruguay was once one of South America's most prosperous countries. Then an economic crisis in 2002 propelled the country into recession and many lost homes, jobs and savings – and life for the poor became even harder.



Uruguay is a significant producer of wine and the wine industry is a significant employer of people. The Pedro Bettini Vineyard is in Progreso, 15 miles to the west of Montevideo.



Many people come to Progreso's vineyards and fruit farms in search of work, but there are not enough jobs for everyone.



Two boys pose in front of a mural on the side of the clinic in Villa Felicidad, a settlement community founded by people who came to Progreso in search of work. Villa Felicidad is an impoverished community, but the local Anglican church is running a number of initiatives to encourage the people to support each other.



A child performs a traditional folkloric dance in Villa Felicidad.



Kneading dough during cookery lessons held at the San Pablo (St Paul's) Church, in Villa Felicidad. The church runs cookery lessons – both at the church and in the local school – for children and parents as part of a programme to improve nutrition in the community.



As part of its nutrition initiative, San Pablo Church, in Villa Felicidad, helped to build a greenhouse at the local primary school. Pupils Jorgito and Florencia Pessano, dressed in traditional school uniform, show off the turnips they have grown. .



Basket making at the Panambi workshop for teenagers with learning difficulties in Montevideo. The workshops are run by the Anglican Diocese of Uruguay as part of its social outreach programme.



A soup kitchen for homeless people is held once a week at Holy Trinity Cathedral, in Montevideo.



The Inn of Bethlehem Night Shelter offers a mother and her daughter refuge from the harsh realities of life on the streets. The shelter, run by the Anglican Church, provides food, warmth and a chance to talk through problems with people who care.



USPG-funded Dr Livan Echazabal comforts a resident at the San Esteban AIDS hostel in Montevideo. The hostel takes in people living with HIV who, once discharged from hospital, found themselves living on the streets and in hostile environments.

'We don't want to just talk about God. We also want to show God's love through good works.'

The Rt Revd Miguel Tamayo, Bishop of Uruguay



USPG: Anglicans in World Mission is enabling churches to share God's love in practical and life-changing ways.

We work in direct partnership with Anglican Churches in over 50 countries, helping to strengthen the church and build communities.

USPG needs your donations to support vital church work, including healthcare, education, leadership training and action for social justice.

USPG: Anglicans in World Mission

200 Great Dover Street

London SE1 4YB

Tel: 0845 273 1701

Email: enquiries@uspg.org.uk

www.uspg.org.uk

Registered charity number 234518

