

by Revd.  
David  
Waller



## Therapy all round please!

**S**O let me get the progress on Brexit straight in my mind shall I? Britain seems to have secured a miraculous last minute deal with the European Commission through the good offices of our prime minister (quite what David Davis the minister of state in charge of negotiations has been doing for the last eighteen months is anyone's guess - certainly not planning for the UK leaving the EU that's for sure!). But anyway, according to many of the daily papers in Britain, our Theresa seems to have pulled off a master-stroke of diplomacy in some way.

So let's get this straight. We're due to pay about €40 billion to leave the EU trading block so that we can then move onto negotiating a trade deal with that same trading block that is of course going to be less beneficial than the one we presently enjoy! And, oh yes, it's going to take several years to obtain that trading deal. OK! Then while all that is happening, or not, at the same time Britain is going to willingly embrace World Trading Organisation tariffs on all sorts of goods that we import. So some things will cost us a few percent more but others quite a large percentage more than what we pay in our shops at the

### Contact:

anglicanpalma@gmail.com  
www.anglican-mallorca.org

ing table of the trading block that we're leaving but hope to get a good deal out of. There, a common sense approach to diplomacy!

And then of course the border between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland will remain as it is now in terms of the everyday freedom to travel in either direction or to trade with neighbours in north or south, except that it won't because you can't have no border for part of the UK and lots of very firm border for the rest of it! Ah but it's alright because in the small print of the form of words signed in Brussels last week, Britain has promised to make sure that things will be as they are now if there is threat of things changing into something different in terms of whether the border is soft, hard, or just can't make its mind up! There that's clear at least! And with the unwavering help of the DUP the prime minister can of course feel that the 1.5 billion quid of taxpayer's money that she spent on gaining their support was all so worth it! That really paid off didn't it!

And finally there's you and me living here in Spain alongside many other Brits living in other parts of Europe whose rights, the EU suggested back in the early part of 2017, should be exactly the same as they are now. That was a relief, until that is, the UK government said that it didn't want that for EU citizens living in the UK and so the offer was taken off the table, not entirely unsurprisingly. If anyone does know what rights, less though they

# The Anglican Chaplain

minster, London, UK (not part of the EU)!

I know, I know, I'm sorry, I promised some months ago now to lay off the Brexit juice and to stop getting all angry and hot under the (clerical) collar about it all, but I'm sorry, with the events of the past two weeks, well I just can't help myself! I clearly need therapy of some sort!

I don't know how you feel about the prospect of Brexit right now, but I feel that if anything it is less clear to me now what is going to happen than it was several months ago – and it wasn't very clear back then! It seems as if the UK government has been working hard to draw a veil of mystery down over the whole affair while the European Commission - well I have an image in my mind of them just being able to sit back rather smugly, knowing that they in fact have all the cards in their hand, knowing that everyone knows this, but then watching David Davis flail around pointlessly trying to persuade people that he is actually doing something positive. Well, no one's taken in mate!

My sense of incredulity is stretched and then stretched again in terms of what passes for negotiations in all of this with it seemingly to me glaringly obvious that; a. no one really knows what they are doing – as Philip Hammond admitted the Cabinet has not even had a discussion on what the aim of Brexit is over and above the public soundbites, and then, b. that it was a bad idea to leave the EU on 23 June last year and that events since have only made that statement all the more transparent and

seems to me, are actively encouraging a pretty socially destructive sort of chaos because they believe that it will lead to something profitable arising from the ashes of that chaos as it were.

I'm happy to entertain another theory if anyone has got one, but it needs to account for the reason why, in the face of a growing and large body of evidence to the contrary some of our jolly right-wingers in Parliament seem to be content to ignore the looming crisis and tell us how brilliant it's all going to be for the UK once we throw off the shackles that tie us into the largest free trade block in the world. It almost seems as though these people want there to be the sort of chaos that seems to be on the not too distant horizon. Crisis Capitalism to give it a name!

The notion that in a crisis much more radical change can be made by those in power than is possible in normal circumstances. A crisis such as the economic meltdown of the British economy for example. You'd think that our elected representatives, presumably having their constituent's best interests at heart, would try to steer the ship of state away from these economic rocks. But for some it very much seems they are advocating 'full steam ahead', aim for them there rocks pilot!

Why would that be? Unless perhaps massive deregulation and removal of protections and individual rights were the end game so that big business could make money unfettered by little things such as