



Saint Francis Anglican Chaplaincy, Tenerife South

THE 17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 5th March 2008, 11 am

Atlantic Holiday Centre, Callao Salvaje

Agenda and Reports

Agenda

1. Opening prayer
2. To receive apologies of absence.
3. To approve the Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting held on the 19th March 2007
4. Election of Chaplaincy Wardens.
5. Election of Deanery Synod representatives.
6. Election of Representatives to the Chaplaincy Council
7. Election of Sides Persons
8. To receive the Report of the Electoral Roll Officer.
9. Election of Electoral Roll Officer for ensuing year.
10. To receive the Report of the Proceedings of the Chaplaincy Council
11. To receive the Report of the Independent Examiner
12. To receive the Treasurer's Report
 - 12.1 Adoption of the Financial Accounts for 2007
13. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Financial Statement for ensuing year.
14. To receive the Report of the Chaplaincy Wardens on the chaplaincy inventory, chaplaincy fabric, and fundraising.
15. To receive Report of the Archidiaconal Synod
16. Closing Prayer

REPORTS

Electoral Roll	1
Proceedings of the Chaplaincy Council	2
Report of the Auditor	3
Financial	4
Chaplaincy Wardens including chaplaincy inventory, fabric & fundraising	5
San Blas, Golf del Sur	6
Report on the Chaplaincy Magazine	7
Report on the Chaplaincy Web Site	8
Synod	9

INFORMATION

Chaplaincy Council Members 2007-2008	A
Chaplain's contact details	B

LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN

My dear friends in Christ Jesus,

2007 was a very important year for our Chaplaincy. We consolidated our strengths and moved in some new and exciting directions. Unfortunately there seemed to be a lot of serious illness about, but, as I write this most of those people have recovered or are recovering and a lot of that is down to each one of you and the power of prayer. In the January magazine I wrote – “Personally, it was a year when I tried to see where I don't serve you as well as I would like to - the limits of my wisdom, the limits of my foresight and ability. But at the same time, it was a year that made me aware that I wasn't called to this ministry alone, that I was called to this ministry with you, and so your strengths are a part of what is offered to God right next to my weaknesses. And so, it was a year that I could rejoice that I have worked with some wonderful people. It's a time when we see things that show us how we have fallen short and at the same time I hope for most of you that you can see this deep encouragement to know that you are not in it alone.”

And that's very important as we approach the AGM and the election of Chaplaincy Wardens, Synod Representatives and Chaplaincy Council members. You are not in it alone, we are a team working together for the glory of God. So, as your Chaplain, I ask you to examine your hearts and souls to see where you are called to serve. Being on the Council though does involve more than just attending 10 meetings a year, Each Council member must be willing to take on extra responsibilities so that the work-load is more evenly shared.

The German Lutheran Church has bought and renovated an old supermarket close to the Church of San Eugenio in Playa de las Americas for use as a social/outreach resource and we have been invited to share it. Initially we will hold an open morning on Saturdays to see what kind of response we get. The church in San Eugenio is now manned and open for several hours after the midweek service. This winter we have held regular services on a Sunday evening at San Blas on the Golf del Sur. Alan Woods granted a license for Christine Gaunt to administer Holy Communion by Extension from San Eugenio. This has proved very worthwhile. Fr Michael Harding conducted a Sung Eucharist on Christmas Day attended by over 100 people.

Unfortunately, the new church in Callao Salvaje is still not finished and so services are on hold.

The web site, continues to grow and we have now received nearly 10,000 'hits'. The Chaplaincy magazine is now on-line in addition to the familiar paper edition. There is now a new section to encourage residents and swallows to visit the site – UK TV listings! The photography section continues to reflect the beauty of this island. A huge range of e-mails result from this site ranging from times of services (Roman Catholic and Anglican) to contacting missing, sick or long lost relatives!

Finally I would like to say a huge thank all of you for your help and support during the past year and may God Bless you and all those whom you love.
Your Chaplain and friend,

Father Keith Gordon

1 ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The number on the Electoral Roll of St. Francis Anglican Chaplaincy, Tenerife South as at the 31st December 2007 was 68 (sixty-eight) members.

2007 saw a complete revision of the Roll, with 2 (two) passing away, 5 (five) leaving the island, 12 (twelve) not renewing their membership, but 27 (twenty-seven) people were added to the Roll, which resulted in a net increase of 8 (eight).

There was a fairly even split between the two main worship areas, but with only 25 (twenty-five) members being full time residents and 11 (eleven) of these working, most on a full-time basis, we are still very reliant on the non-residents and visitors for assistance in the running of the Chaplaincy.

The ageing Membership has to be remembered. The oldest is 86 and the youngest 41, but the majority, 50 (fifty) members, are between 60 and 80 years of age, so we do need to encourage new, younger people to join us, for the future of the Chaplaincy.

Jean Kelly
Electoral Roll Officer.

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF FUND RAISING & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Meetings Held

9 monthly council meetings were held in 2007.

Charitable Giving

This was agreed at 10% of the total income in 2006 and was distributed as follows:

The Nuns of Arona	9%	
Asociacion San Juan.	32%	A day care centre for mentally and physically handicapped people.
Veninos	32%	Underprivileged children in Venezuela
Christian Aid	9%	
The Living Room.	9%	The Grass Roots Trust in Las Americas helping people with alcohol and drug abuse.
Norma Martindale	9%	For prison visits and helping with rehabilitation

Chaplaincy

Two major decision were taken this year -

That the name of the Church Warden be changed to Chaplaincy Warden

The name of the Parish Council Committee be changed to Chaplaincy Council Committee

Services

There have been a number of wedding blessings and renewal of vows held during the year.

Fund Raising Activities

Bazaar – Held on 24th November in the square at Los Gigantes, this proved to be yet again a huge success and raised over 5600 Euros some 1200 Euros of this from the raffle.

Miscellaneous goods – Books, cards, Little Crosses and many more items are a continuing success.

Social Activities

Parish Lunches – These still continue to be well attended and successful, thanks to all those involved in making them a lively, social occasion.

Anniversary Picnic - This took place in September on the beach at El Puertito on a very hot afternoon. A good time was had by all.

Shrinking the Footprint

This year has seen us embrace the ‘Shrinking the Footprints’ initiative and Sue Dale agreed to be the Chaplaincy Environmental Officer.

Remembrance and Birthday Cards

These continue to be sent out to those whose names appear in our anniversary books and are being well received.

A word from the Secretary

At this time may I offer my thanks to Fr. Keith and all the council members for their support during the past twelve months with my work as Secretary.
Thank you, and God Bless.

Sue Dale

Secretary

3. Independent Examiner of Financial Statement

To The Anglican Chaplaincy of Tenerife South
P.C.C. Members

12.02.08

Once again it has been my pleasure to audit your church’s accounts, and I am pleased to report the following.

I have thoroughly checked three complete months, picked randomly from your year 2007 accounts and have made numerous spot checks in the remaining months, using all the documentation given to me.

I find that your accounts have been meticulously kept, and congratulate Mrs. Jean Bates on the exceptional job that she does, as I appreciate how much time and hard work goes into keeping these accounts in such good order.

I understand that in the near future you are to include an assistant treasurer to help you, and I feel that this might be an opportunity to simplify the accounting method somewhat, without losing any of the detail needed to run such a large chaplaincy in efficient and correct manner.

May God continue to bless the valuable work you do in His name.

Yours sincerely
Edna Goodall

4. FINANCIAL

Treasurer's Report

I think I can safely say that finally we have a year to look back on where all transactions fall in line with standard accounting procedures and reporting. With no significant debts or pending values awaiting calculation or approval this makes the understanding of the figures easier for the reader and in turn this report hopefully a little shorter.

At the start of the year our only outstanding (pending) payment was that of the outside (charitable) giving which we decided some years ago would be a standard accounting procedure as the true figure for charitable giving, being a percentage of certain income, cannot be set until the year is complete and those figures audited. One should also remember at the same time that the figure is therefore based on an estimated euro amount that when paid later in the year may deviate a little within the overseas currency transfers that occur.

In 2006 we had introduced an envelope scheme in addition to F.A.C.T.S. allowing us to reclaim tax through the UK governments Gift Aid scheme even when the amount was below the £30 threshold that had been set by the Diocesan office. Alan Charlesworth offered his time and expertise to manage this enormous administrative task. To fully administer the reclaim process it was necessary to open a new Bank Account (Natwest) to service procedures, and a bank transfer was made for this purpose in early 2007. With this in place, we have been able to reclaim an extra £3,392 this year*.

** This figure is in fact the tax claimed for the period May 2006 to September 2007. A claim for the period October to December 2007 of £1,154 was made in January 2008 and will be entered as part of 2008 income.*

Well done Alan!

In addition to this income we have seen a buoyant year increasing of giving (+15%) and seem to be managing a stable expenditure pattern year on year (+5%).

These combined factors result in a very positive year where our combined asset value has increased by almost 30% on 2006.

So we could and should to a degree pat ourselves on the back but to think financial problems are of the past would be foolish. We enter a year with world economy changing radically and fears of world recession looming. Such slow downs have historically been reflected promptly in giving which is our only form of income and therefore we must not be complacent and be prepared for perhaps not such a good year in 2008.

In concluding this short report I will finish by saying a huge thanks to Jean Bates and Alan Charlesworth who have both looked after the complex administration of day-to-day accounting and the complex gift aid refunds. We enter 2008 with Lesley Bowen taking over from Jean although I am sure Jean will be assisting in the wings during the first few months of transition.

Finally in closing once again huge thanks goes to everyone who contributed and donated time, money and energy to this past year, remember without this we are nothing, but with the Lord's help and spirit we can continue to grow.

EURO ACCOUNT TENERIFE

INCOME	Note	2006	2007
		€	€
Plate collections (cash)	1	26.259	21.587
Plate collections (Gift Aid)	1	6.072	15.448
Fees	2	7.495	8.985
Fundraising	3	11.914	12.616
Donations	4	706	1.682
Banking & Investments		397	334
Total Income		52.843	60.652
EXPENSES			
Chaplaincy Buildings usage & cleaning	5	4.349	3.630
Common church expenses		0	2.339
Chaplains residence	6	3.964	3.505
Chaplain I - Stipend & Social Security + travel	7	25.271	25.779
Chaplain II+ - Fees, Travel, etc.	8	2.063	2.412
Chaplain car etc.		1.596	2.320
Synod Incl. Travel etc.		999	0
Administration		2.146	2.224
Finance		32	153
Outside giving		4.757	5.214
Transfer to Sterling Acc. (Diocesan)		3.689	6.000
Transfer to Sterling Acc. (Natwest)			5.000
Total Expenses		48.866	58.576
Excess of income over expenditure		3.977	2.076
ASSET LISTING			
FIXED ASSETS			
	A		
Chaplaincy residence - Callao Salvaje (5% in 2007)		216.309	227.124
Chaplains Car (depreciation 20% 2007)		5.400	4.320
Altar silverware (New & repaired 2005)		2.000	2.000
Digital Hymnal (Value as re-purchased 2006-20%)		1.292	1.034
		225.001	234.478
LIQUID ASSETS			
	B		
Bank Savings Account		21.643	16.978
Bank Current Account		14.780	23.141
Petty Cash		1.947	326
Diocesan Sterling account (Euro converted x 1.45)		1.317	5.316
Nat West Sterling account (Euro converted x 1.45)		0	5.558
		39.687	51.319
Total Assets		264.688	285.797
LIABILITIES			
Outside giving	9	5.243	5.897
Total Liabilities		5.243	5.897

UK STERLING ACCOUNTS

DIOCESAN	Note	2006	2007
INCOME		£	£
F.A.C.T.S Donations		4.936	4.469
Tax Reclaim on Gift Aid envelopes		0	3.394
Other		65	
Tax reclaim on F.A.C.T.S		1.329	929
Transfer from euro account		2.469	3.882
Total Income		8.799	12.674
EXPENSES			
Common Fund		2.464	2.352
Chaplains stipend		0	0
Chaplains pension		6.060	7.349
Re-purchase of Digital Hymnal		850	0
Sundry expenses		81	173
Total Expenses		9.455	9.874
Excess of income over expenditure		-656	2.800
End of year Balance		866	3.666
<i>Euro Conversion 1.45</i>			5.316
NAT WEST			
INCOME	Note	2006	2007
		£	£
Gift aid		0	530
Sundries		0	5
Transfer from euro account		0	3.298
Total Income		0	3.833
EXPENSES			
Sundries		0	0
Total Expenses		0	0
Excess of income over expenditure		0	3.833
End of year Balance			3.833
<i>Euro Conversion 1.45</i>			5.558

NOTES TO INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

Note 1

Collections

Collections L.G. (Cash)	7.636
Collections L.G. (Gift Aid)	6.161
Collections S.E. (Cash)	12.400
Collections S.E. (Gift Aid)	8.790
Collections S.B. (Cash)	1.429
Collections S.B. (Gift Aid)	464
Collection C.S. (Cash)	122
Collection C.S. (Gift Aid)	33

Total 37.035

Note 2

Fees

Fees L.G.	1.725
Fees S.E.	6.235
Fees S.B.	1.025

Total 8.985

Note 3

Fund Raising

Fund Raising L.G.	1.818
Fund Raising S.E.	3.704
Fund Raising S.B.	36
Common fundraising projects	7.058

Total 12.616

Note 4

Donations

Donations L.G.	163
Donations S.E.	1.519
Donations S.B.	0

Total 1.682

Note 5

Chaplaincy Buildings usage & cleaning

Chaplaincy Buildings usage L.G.	2.074
Chaplaincy Buildings cleaning S.E.	1.415
Chaplaincy S.B.	95
New Worship Centres	46

Total 3.630

Note 6

Chaplains residence

Telephone	1.022
Community fees	1.177
TV	0
Electricity	444
Water	112
Entertainment	78
Rates	336
Insurance	277
Miscellaneous & maintenance	60

Total 3.505

Note 7

Chaplain I - Stipend & Social security + travel

Chaplains Stipend	23.041
Chaplains Social Sec.	2.738
Travel	0
Total	<u>25.779</u>

Note 8

Chaplain II - inc. travel, telephone etc.

Fees	1.375
Travel	1.007
Telephone	30
Total	<u>2.412</u>

Note 9

Outside Giving

Nuns of Arona	469
Christian Aid	469
Asociación San Juan	1.668
Veninos	1.668
Grass routes - The Living Room	469
Norma Martindale Prison & Homeless	469
Total	<u>5.214</u>

NOTE A

FIXED Assets

Due to the present property market I feel reluctant to increase the value of the property by more than 5% again. The car is written down by a further 20% as is the digital Hymnal. I have chosen to keep the value of the Alter Silverware unchanged.

NOTE B

LIQUID Assets

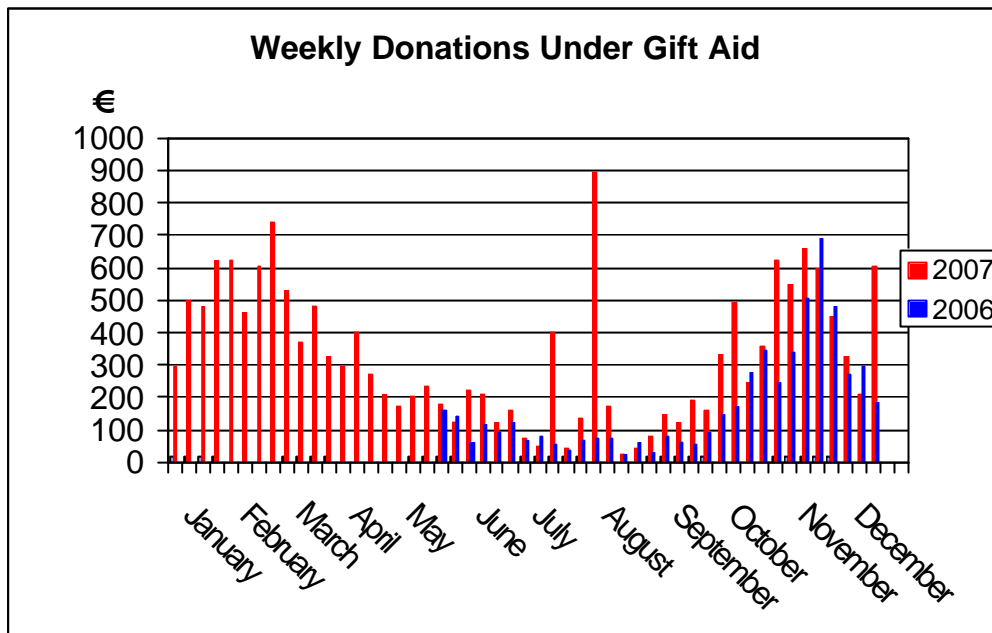
The liquid assets show an increase of some 29% in 2007. This reflects the overall movement of funds and therefore a true full picture of the year, as funds have been moved between Tenerife & UK to open a new account that services legal requirements for the reclaim of Gift Aid donations made through the envelope scheme in Tenerife.

Gift Aid

We have now had Gift Aid envelopes available for a full financial year and the take up has been very encouraging.

During the financial year we have received 1,514 donations from 618 people giving a total of 16,170€ on which we can reclaim £ 3,363 in tax paid.

The following graph shows the donations received on a week-by-week basis since the scheme began and through to the end of the 2007 financial year.



It is encouraging to note that for every week but two the amounts received in 2007 was up on 2006.

It is hoped that this trend will continue because from April 2008 the tax rate will be cut to 20p in the pound which means we will only be able to reclaim 25p in the pound instead of 28p.

It is important to note that the full name and address, as known to the Inland Revenue, is recorded on every envelope. Unfortunately we continue to receive a few envelope donations for which we are unable to reclaim tax due to incomplete or undecipherable details.

So please remember, if you pay UK tax make sure your donation is Tax Effective by completing all details clearly and correctly.

Philip Davies, Jean Bates and Alan Charlesworth

5. CHAPLAINCY WARDENS' REPORT

Inventory

A detailed inventory of property held in San Eugenio has been prepared by Jean Kelly and a similar inventory has been completed by Shirley Beard and John Bosley for Espiritu Santo. Christine Gaunt has prepared a separate inventory for San Blas.

The decision was taken to curtail the weekly services in Callao Salvaje until the new Church was complete and open when it is hoped that local attendance will improve.

Service books are replaced and updated in-house as necessary but the replacement of hymn books is still in abeyance.

The Chaplaincy linen has been replenished by the purchase of 5 new Purificators in San Eugenio. Once again, we would express our thanks to the ladies who devote such care to this task by replacement items in Espiritu Santo and of course the laundering of all the linen in all three churches.

Fabric

There is no report on the fabric of the churches in the Chaplaincy as they are not in our ownership, but all churches are being cleaned and maintained to a good standard. Our contribution to the maintenance of Espiritu Santo is to be raised from 75 euros to 100 euros per month. Regular cleaning has commenced in San Blas.

Fund Raising

It is clear that fund-raising still forms a very important part of our chaplaincy income, and, although our accounts indicate a much healthier position than last year, we cannot afford to become complacent in this area.

The main fundraising event of 2007 was the Bazaar held in Los Gigantes Bougainvillea Plaza on Saturday 24th November. Together with a raffle and the bazaar a grand total in excess of €5,000 was raised. It is realised that this event requires the commitment and dedication by a number of willing volunteers and many thanks and appreciation are extended to all who helped prior to the event, the hard work on the day itself and also the final clearing away, and of course to all who came along and helped raise the money.

Both main churches continue to run their monthly lunches, providing a regular income to our funds and offering welcome, informal social togetherness.

Chaplaincy sales at the rear of the churches continue to thrive. 'Just to Say' cards, Christmas cards, little crosses, etc., provide a substantial regular income. Special thanks to the ladies in both Los Gigantes and San Eugenio for their sterling efforts and loyalty throughout the year.

Gift Aid and F.A.C.T.S. (Friends of the Chaplaincy of Tenerife South)

The Gift Aid scheme is reported separately within this document but many thanks are extended to Alan Charlesworth for all his work in this respect which of course also continues when he returns to the UK in the summer months. This scheme has made an enormous difference to our income.

PROJECTS

History of the Chaplaincy and the Recipe Book

Both these projects seem to have taken a back seat during 2007 but hopefully this will be addressed and continue to take shape in the coming year.

The Chaplaincy Magazine

This continues to be popular and a separate report on this item is incorporated within this document.

The Web Site

A separate report on the Web Site forms part of this document.

In conclusion

Unfortunately, there are irritating and unnecessary problems in the Church of Espiritu Santo, Los Gigantes. We have not as yet managed to have a cupboard for storage of Service Books, Hymn Books, the Bible, Digital Hymnal, Linen, Kneelers, Service Silver etc.. Hopefully, now Father Keith has spoken with the Vicar General, we shall be able to move forward. The Vestry is very small and narrow, it would be an advantage to the Catholic worshippers if we could store our items elsewhere and increase their storage area.

After a considerable time and some frustration we have taken the plunge and purchased our own microphone which we keep with the Hymnal and spare batteries in the 1. Chaplaincy Warden's brief case and 2. the basket containing the linen.

A Notice Board is another ongoing problem; it is undignified to have notices sellotaped outside the Church door, which soon look tatty and are removed, we would appreciate an external glass-fronted lockable notice board and/or an internal notice board, or access to the one inside the church.

May we say, once again, that it has been a privilege to serve as your Chaplaincy Wardens during the past year, albeit there have been periods when neither of us have been present due to illness and home commitments. We greatly appreciate all the help given in each church by our teams of willing and dedicated helpers and our Assistant Chaplaincy Wardens, all this work helps to make our services run smoothly and in turn enjoyed by all who attend. As in the past your continued support and encouragement during the forthcoming year is hoped for.

Jean Bates and Shirley Beard
Chaplaincy Wardens

6. SAN BLAS, GOLF DEL SUR

The Church in San Blas has had a regular worship with a good sized congregation until the middle of March with Father Michael and Elise Harding officiating.

May and June began with Evening Prayer held at 6.00 p.m. on Sundays, leading to Holy Communion by Extension from the middle of May. Attendance reached 18, mainly people on holiday. From late October 2007 evening services continued with attendance between 6 and 31; Remembrance Sunday being the greater number.

Christmas Day morning service was held at 11.00 a.m. and had an exceptional congregation of almost 100. Father Michael celebrated the Eucharist and Elise preached. This certainly reinforces the need of the Chaplaincy's presence in this area.

The Services have been taken during the past year by Father Michael assisted by his wife Elise a Licensed Lay Reader and Christine Gaunt, also a Licensed Lay Reader, and Caroline Homer, a Methodist Minister.

The English Education Centre School held their Christmas Fayre on 7th December at which the Chaplaincy had a stall. The school gave an excellent Nativity Play on 14th December which was word perfect. In the afternoon of 17th December a Christingle Service took place. Both the Nativity Play and the Christingle Service were held in the church. A carol service was held on 21st December with an attendance of 22, teachers from the school being involved in the readings.

The church has had good support in general from our brothers and sisters of San Eugenio and Espiritu Santo, for which I am eternally grateful.

It has been a privilege to officiate at San Blas over the past year and with God's blessing, I hope to continue to do so.

Christine Gaunt
Licensed Lay Reader

7. REPORT ON THE CHAPLAINCY MAGAZINE

Alan Charlesworth took over the editorship of the Magazine with the March 2007 edition. We have now established a pattern of 9 issues per year – 6 monthly issues from November to April and 3 bi-monthly issues from May to October. Eleven complimentary copies and 25 subscription copies of each issue are posted to people in the UK and Tenerife. Although a number of subscriptions have lapsed, with a new subscription price structure in place, we are beginning to receive subscription renewals.

Thanks are due to Janet Charlesworth for proof reading, Lionel Flather for printing the magazines in the summer while Alan is in the UK and all the people that have submitted articles.

Alan Charlesworth
Editor

8. REPORT ON THE CHAPLAINCY WEB SITE

WWW.TENERIFECHURCH.COM

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to report good progress on the Chaplaincy website during the past year. A web page is made up of various individual files that are brought together by a browser such as Internet Explorer. You may be interested to know that our site now has 1,780 files with 511 pictures and to date 9816 people have viewed our site since the counter was set two years ago. The following items describe the main changes and developments of the site during the past 12 months.

PICTURES

Whilst the website has expanded in all areas, the pictures section was enlarged more than any other. A decision had to be made as to the quality of the pictures. A few people were still experiencing difficulties due to the large size of the original picture files and so we reduced all new pictures to a reasonable size without compromising too much quality. This problem should eventually disappear as people replace their old computers and also get ADSL to replace their slow 'dialup' linking to the Internet.

MAGAZINE

A complete rearrangement of the magazine section has been undertaken. Following a change in Editor earlier in the year it was mutually decided to reproduce each magazine as a single scrolling page. Although this required a few people to download the free Acrobat reader, most new computers come ready loaded with this software. In addition to the current magazine we also started an archive section. The latest magazine will always be available by clicking a scrolling tag line at the top of our home page; in fact this month we even beat the published item!

ADDITIONS

Other innovations have been introduced, such as the very popular UK TV guide. This has been added to encourage people to visit our site and the number of 'hits' has certainly increased since its introduction.

A newly designed and enlarged 'Assistance Page' covers almost everything a visitor would need to know when planning or holidaying in Tenerife. There are also many items and services local residents could use. Please have a look and certainly let me know if any of the information is out of date or incorrect.

WEBSITE TO EARN ITS KEEP?

My commitment to maintain, support and pay all fees for the website and its hosting remains. The aim, however, is to start earning money from the site so that it not only pays these fees but also makes a profit for the Chaplaincy. This may take another couple of years to achieve.

THE FUTURE

Last year I reported that we were trying to obtain a 'critical mass' of hits to encourage advertisers to use our site and to pay us money. As mentioned in my introduction above, our current counter shows that 9816 people have looked at our site since I set counter and this is very close to the 10,000 required for organizations such as Amazon and Tesco to form a link with us. A constant reminder about our web site to everyone

who attends church certainly helps promote it, but unfortunately I know that even some resident churchgoers with internet access do not seem to be using the site - or even know of it's existence.

In the coming year it is intended to attract more correspondence and letters, to change the front page more frequently so that people will see something different at least every month, and to add other suitable links to other sites. I was encouraged to see from our Archdeacons Synod Report this year that a huge range of emails resulted from the site ranging from times of services to contacting missing, sick or lost relatives.

I am always open to suggestions as to how to progress the site and of course to correct any errors. Can I particularly ask all officers of the chaplaincy to either produce a photograph for the web or present themselves to me after any service so that our 'viewers' can put a face to who they are dealing with.

Martin Thorne
Webmaster

9. SYNOD

Diocese in Europe

The Archdeaconry of Gibraltar Synod, Casa E San Jose, El Escorial, Madrid, Tuesday 29th January to Friday 1st February 2008

It is a long way from Tenerife to El Escorial, especially the final lap from Baracas Airport, Madrid, with luggage, stairs and long walks. After the crowded metro and an hour long train journey, standing most of the time, we were exhausted on our arrival.

Our accommodation at Casa San Jose was warm and comfortable, but bewildering in the maze of corridors, stairs and rooms.

As usual we had a long working day, starting at 8.30 a.m. and continuing with two short coffee breaks and lunch, finishing with dinner at 9.00 p.m. We included morning worship before breakfast, Eucharist before lunch and Evening Prayer at 6.00 p.m.

This year Synod in El Escorial, was greatly blessed with the presence of Bishop Geoffrey. He spoke of our need to have a connectedness and shared values. The Bishop's Commissary, the Revd. Canon Hugh Broad (Costa Almeria and Costa Calida) chaired the meeting. The Archdeacon's Report was read by the Treasurer, David Coulson in the absence of Archdeacon Alan Woods, who has now retired. The Chaplaincies attending synod were well represented, coming together as one body in Jesus Christ, through Worship, Bible Study and presentations from the Chaplaincies of Costa Del Sol East and Minorca, together with business meetings.

In between we had two very interesting Bible Studies by Rev. Dr. Nathan Moser and Mr. Jonathan Rowe from Seminario Ecumenico Unido de Teologia in El Escorial.

There was a presentation on vocation, given by the Rev. Ulla Monberg, she gave an excellent talk to encourage those who felt the call to ministry.

The discussion of Spanish Taxes relating to the Church was discussed at length, with a representative from FEREDE, Calolina Bueno, in the chair.

A presentation was given by Mrs. Jeanne French entitled “Perfect Parish seeks Perfect Priest”, both interesting and humorous.

Presentations from the Chaplaincies – first Menorca, whose Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Michael Bunce had lost his luggage and spent the entire Synod in a pink shirt! Eventually, his luggage did arrive but too late! Nevertheless, we were happy to learn of the progress and history of the Chaplaincy. Second presentation from Costa del Sol East by the Rev. David Wright whose Chaplaincy is going from strength to strength with a church that can be used for other activities, the altar area can be closed off and a large area is available for fund-raising, coffee mornings etc..

An update on Peru was our last presentation with two members of U.S.P.G. Pam and Dan Cauldwell who had spent some five years in Peru, (a country rich in minerals, and untapped wealth but with a huge and desperately poor population), building churches, educating for the future, breaking the cycle of poverty, preaching the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On Wednesday afternoon we were given time off to visit El Escorial from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. The attractive name El Escorial actually means Slag Heap (of a mine or a quarry), which was the site chosen by Philip II of Spain to build the Monastery Palace and Church which serves as a Mausoleum to the Royal Family of Spain. It is a grey imposing building with spires and many windows on all four facades. The entrance has Grecian columns and bronze doors.

The interior is divided into many rooms of all sizes. There are oil paintings by many famous artists from Dutch Masters to El Greco, huge tapestries and an amazing collection of books, china, furniture, weaponry and building tools.

The large church glitters with gold and silver, there are famous statues, five on either side of the high altar of Royalty related to Philip II cast in bronze and gilded. Above the altar is a small room whose window opens into the Church where Philip spent many hours. It is said he plotted the Armada in 1588 in this room.

The surrounding gardens are of clipped box attractive in the sunlight.

On the final evening, it is traditional to have entertainment after dinner. The Thespians among us were invited to present themselves as volunteers for a melodrama in mime, reminiscent of the early silent movies. The audience would play their part with the usual groans, catcalls and cheers with their usual enthusiasm.

Surprisingly, the villains were Father Keith and Father Idris from Lanzarote. A mini hero was Father Robert from Grand Canary. The Hero was Father Haynes from the Algarve.

The remaining cast were humble lay representatives, taking the parts of heroine (the Bride), father (impoverished mother – hysterical), trees, carriages of the train and bridesmaids. The highlights of course were the villains who abducted the Bride and tied her to the railway lines while the hero was away making his fortune and the courageous engine driver who stopped the train in time and cut the heroine free. There was a fierce fight between the villains and the hero, who of course, won the day and the bride while the trees, bridesmaids and carriages helped to secure the villains. It was great fun.

We were blessed in abundance in our time at El Escorial, Madrid; in particular by relatively good weather, with reasonable temperatures. This being my first Synod (Christine) I found a very warm welcome and an agenda packed full from 8.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. Will I consider attending again if called to do so? Watch this space.

At the end of worship these words were said *“our worship is over, our service now begins”*.

Friday morning after Eucharist and breakfast we were free to return to our respective Chaplaincies. We were to stay on Friday night in Madrid where Father Ian of St. Georges Church Madrid had arranged our hotel which was close to St. Georges, which we visited before exploring the old area of Madrid round the Plaza Major. The glorious sunshine of the last three days was replaced by a cold, wet, grey day.

We had arranged to meet Father Idris and his two Synod representatives Linda and David in a famous restaurant said to be the earliest restaurant in the World (according to the Guinness Book of Records), The Botin, in the Calle de Cuchilleios, we were not disappointed. It was fabulous.

We had an early start on Saturday and by mid-day we had returned to Tenerife and the Sun.

Shirley Beard and Christine Gaunt Synod Representatives

A CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL MEMBERS 2007-2008

Fr. Keith Adrian Gordon	(Chaplain)
Mrs Jean Bates	(Chaplaincy Warden, San Eugenio and Assistant Treasurer)
Mrs Shirley Beard	(Chaplaincy Warden, Espiritu Santo)
Mrs Shirley Beard	(Archidiaconal Synod Representative)
Mrs. Christine Gaunt	Archidiaconal Synod Representative from September 2007)
Ms. Sue Dale	(Secretary)
Mr Philip Davies	(Treasurer in absentia from September 2006)
Mr. William Blocksom	(Chaplaincy Council Member & Publicity Officer)
Mrs. Fay Briffett	(Chaplaincy Council Member)
Mrs Elise Harding	(Archidiaconal Synod Representative to September 2007)
Mrs Jean Kelly	(Assistant Chaplaincy Warden, San Eugenio & Electoral Roll Officer)
Mrs Kate Bosley	(Assistant Chaplaincy Warden and Council Member – Espiritu Santo)
Mr. Alan Charlesworth	(Chaplaincy Council Member, Gift Aid Officer and Magazine Editor)
Mr. Alec West	(Assistant Chaplaincy Warden & Council Member)

B CHAPLAIN'S CONTACT DETAILS

Father Keith Gordon
Residencial Sonia #17
Calle El Mojon
Callao Salvaje
Adeje 38678
Tenerife.

Telephone / FAX (0034) 922 742045
Mobile (0034) 679 660277

website: www.tenerifechurch.com
e-mail : kagordon40@hotmail.com