

# St Francis Anglican Chaplaincy Tenerife South

Worshipping in  
San Eugenio, Playa de las Americas,  
Espiritu Santo, Los Gigantes,  
San Blas, Golf del Sur,  
Callao Salvaje.



**Diocese of  
Gibraltar in  
Europe**



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***Continued on inside of back cover***

# From the Editor

As I write this many of us are trying to take the opportunity to relax if only for a few days. Yesterday was our big autumn day with the bazaar in Los Gigantes in the square in front of the Church. It is something that we have been working towards for the last 3 months. There cannot be many churches in the UK that have the problem of organising such an event in a parish that has more than 50 Km. (31 miles) between its churches. As you can imagine this presents us with a huge logistics problem and meant that for several weeks goods have been transported between the various churches and Los Gigantes to be stored in garages generously made available to us by supporters.

On the day an army of some 35 people, some getting up at 5:30 in the morning, descended on the square to make ready for the grand opening at 11.00 am. And then to man the stalls for four hours. At 3:00 pm the bazaar closed and by 4:00 pm the square was back to normal. At least we had sunshine and didn't have to operate in a cold Church hall!! (Now turn to page 7)

Finally may I offer all our readers, here and in the UK

*A Very Happy  
and  
Blessed Christmas*  
**The Editor**

**Deadline for January contributions  
15<sup>th</sup> December**

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## From Our Chaplain

My dear friends in Christ,

First, let me start by wishing you a very, very MERRY CHRISTMAS: This may seem premature if you are buying this at the beginning of the month, but even if you're buying it at this time it's still appropriate because we are only an Advent away.

Four weeks which give us the opportunity to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord Jesus once more into our hearts. The shops are full of presents, the streets are covered in festive lights and all around you can feel that something special is happening! But, for us Christians it's more than just 'special' – it's amazing, wondrous and incredible.

And that is why we owe it to ourselves and to our Lord to commit some time this Advent to the study of our faith or the examination of our inner-selves so that, when the great day arrives, we may be ready, both mentally and spiritually for the Immaculate Birth of the Baby Jesus this Christmas.

With this in mind, we have laid on for you three locations led by myself and our two licensed Lay Readers so that distance needn't be an excuse for not attending!

In Los Gigantes at Shirley Beard's House, from 25<sup>th</sup> November & led by Marisha Carter on Wednesdays at 11am.

In El Silencio at Christine Gaunt's House and led by her, from 26<sup>th</sup> November on Thursdays at 10.30am.

In Callao Salvaje at the Chaplaincy residence, led by Fr. Keith on Thursdays at 4pm.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all, and those whom you love a very Holy and Blessed ADVENT and a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS

May God Bless you and those you love this Christmas .

***Fr. Keith***

## **Advent Supper**

**Bring and Share**

**at**

**The Salytien Centre  
San Eugenio**

**Saturday 12th December at 7:00 pm**

**Tickets 5€ each**

## **Christmas Services**

### **Nine Lessons and Carols**

San Blas	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm (With Eucharist)
San Eugenio	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm
Espiritu Santo	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (With Eucharist)

### **Christmas Eve**

Espiritu Santo	6.00 pm	Eucharist with Carols
San Eugenio	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass and Blessing the Crib

### **Christmas Day**

San Eugenio	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung
San Blas	11.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung

# Diary for December

1 <sup>st</sup>	Tues			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
		11.00 am	Advent Course	– S Beard's
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thur		St Francis Xavier, priest	
		10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
		11.30 am	Advent Course	– C Gaunt's
		4.00 pm	Advent Course	– Residence
4 <sup>th</sup>	Fri			
5 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	7.30 pm	Social at David Grove's	
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
			Chaplaincy Lunch	– San Eugenio
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung (by extension)	– San Blas
7 <sup>th</sup>	Mon			
8 <sup>th</sup>	Tues		Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
		10.00 am	Guid of St Claire	– C Homer's
9 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
		11.00 am	Advent Course	– S Beard's
10 <sup>th</sup>	Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
			Chaplaincy Lunch	– Espiritu Santo
		11.30 am	Advent Course	– C Gaunt's
		4.00 pm	Advent Course	– Residence
11 <sup>th</sup>	Fri			
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	7.00 pm	Advent Supper	– Salytien
13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Blas
14 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	3.00pm	Chaplaincy Council Meeting	– Residence
15 <sup>th</sup>	Tues			

16th	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
		11.00 am	Advent Course	– S Beard's
17th	Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
		11.30 am	Advent Course	– C Gaunt's
		4.00 pm	Advent Course	– Residence
18th	Fri	7.00 pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	– San Blas
19th	Sat	6.00 pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	– San Eugenio
<b>20nd</b>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
		6.00 pm	Nine Lessons and Carols With Eucharist	– Espiritu Santo
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung (by extension)	– San Blas
21st	Mon			
22nd	Tues		St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr	
23rd	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
24th	Thur		Christmas Eve	
		6.00 pm	Eucharist with Carols	– Espiritu Santo
		11.30 pm	Midnight Mass and Blessing the Crib	– San Eugenio
25th	Fri		Christmas Day	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
		11.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Blas
26th	Sat		St Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr	
<b>27th</b>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Holy Family Sunday, St John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b>	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung (by extension)	– San Blas
28th	Mon		The Holy Innocents	
29th	Tues			
30th	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
31st	Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo



# *Intercessions*

THE SICK FOR WHOM WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PRAY:

## *The Power of Prayer*

Brent Aspinall – Anne Astley – Baby Jamie– Eileen Baldwin  
Cian & Joan Barry – Jean & Peter Bates – Bronwen Battye  
Laura Brown – Mendoza Chinae – Samuel Coker – Lydia Cook  
Doris Dendy – Bro.Edward SSF – Revd. Jeff Engel  
Victoria Ford – Lauren Gaunt – David Gledhill – Peter Goldsmith  
Bryan Goulding – Paul Hazelby – Declan Holmes – Emeka Job  
Fr. Philip Lamb – Florian Lughofer – Mary Mansell  
Garry Morris – Hazel Noble – Simon Norman-Ballantyne  
Brian Morris – Eunice Oates – Carol O'Kane – Danny O'Sullivan  
Jill Pratt – Mary Roe – Joe Slater 6yrs – Ewen Smith  
Fr. Robert Sterman – Susan Stratton – Stephen Thomas  
Rose Tomlinson – Rasaan Usman – John & Anne Vaughn  
Harry Wilkinson – Frank Winpenny

## *Years Mind – Anniversary of Passing*

December 4 <sup>th</sup>	James Boreham
11 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Wood
16 <sup>th</sup>	Ray Eagles
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Annelise Bolt
24 <sup>th</sup>	Bent Pedersen

## **Bazaar**

Saint Francis Anglican Chaplaincy, Tenerife South, held its annual Christmas Bazaar last Saturday in the Plaza, Los Gigantes. It was a wonderful occasion with live music from the 'Fenders' and something for everyone to look at and buy. The Raffle was very well supported and the stalls were busy most of the day. They included Tombola, Books, Produce, Clothes, Bric a Brac, Cards, Gifts and Textiles and Jigsaws/CDs. It was a beautiful warm day and everyone passed an enjoyable day.

The net profit from the event was 4,409€ which despite the slightly smaller number of customers was an increase on last year's total.

### **A big thank you to all those who made it possible.**

Perhaps the afternoon can be best summed up by the comments below which are from one of the bazaar team.

### **Bazaar – Team Spirit**

We often read of modern technology – paint balling etc – to help bond people together to better achieve a common aim.

What better example could we have than the team spirit shown by all the helpers at the Bazaar? A spirit of friendship, common purpose and happy relationships were seen and experienced by workers and all involved. All tasks were performed and contributions made without apparent taskmasters or controllers. The power of the Lord was enough to ensure that everyone worked most efficiently.

The result – a total of 4,400€ raised and, perhaps equally or more important, a feeling by all concerned of a job well done in a spirit of friendship, joy and personal and collective success by achievement. (No supervisory watchdog or OfBazaar.com).

Many will be helped by the proceeds, but perhaps the greatest beneficiaries are ourselves.

### ***It is more blessed to give than to receive.***

Thanks be to God.

## 12 Days of Christmas

When most people hear 'The 12 days of Christmas' they think of the song of the same name. It is believed by many that this song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith. From 1558 to 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not able to practice their faith openly, so they had to find other ways to pass on their beliefs. The song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' is one example of how many people believe that they did it.

The song goes, "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..."

The 'true love' represents God and the 'me' who receives these presents is the Christian.

The 'partridge in a pear tree' was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.

The 'two turtle doves' were the Old and New Testaments - another gift from God.

The 'three French hens' were faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (1Corinthians 13).

The 'four calling birds' were the four Gospels, which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The 'five golden rings' were the first five books of the Bible, also called the 'Book of Moses'.

The 'six geese a-laying' were the six days of creation.

The 'seven swans a swimming' were 'seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.' (1Corinthians 12:9-11, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1Peter 4:10-11.)

The 'eight maids a milking' were the eight beatitudes.

The 'nine ladies dancing' were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

The 'ten lords a-leaping' were the Ten Commandments.

The 'eleven pipers piping' were the eleven faithful disciples.

The 'twelve drummers drumming' were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.

So the next time you hear 'The 12 Days of Christmas' you can make up your own mind: could this non-religious sounding song really have had its origins in the Christian Faith, or not?

## **The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

This years poppy appeal in the south of Tenerife raised 8,272 €

This was slightly more than last year's appeal.

The British Legion would like to thank all who supported them.

## **Guild of St Claire**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**10.00 to 12.00**

**Coffee Morning  
& display of Teneriffe Lace & other crafts**

At Aixin Calle Finlandia  
(10 minutes walk from San Eugenio church)

## **SING - A - LONG**

**on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**at the The Salytien Centre, San Eugenio**

The prime intention of the evening is for us to have a good time and enjoy ourselves.

Well known songs for people of a wide (mature) age group, including those requested beforehand (very welcome, but please provide music!).

Success will depend on wide support.

Details of refreshments/drinks available - and raffle etc - to be given later.

## San Blas

(Blasius, Blas, Blayse, or Blaise - Blas is Spanish)

*From 'Lives of the Saints' by the Reverend S. Baring Gould, of 1872*

He was a Bishop of Sebaste, a city of Cappadocia, in the Lesser Asia. He spent a great part of his time in retirement on a hill not far from the city, whither he withdrew, after the duties of his office were finished, to be alone with God. During the persecution of the Christians in the reign of Diocletian, he lay concealed for sometime in his retreat; but was at last taken and brought before Agriolus, the governor of the province, and confessing himself a Christian, was thrown into prison. After enduring many tortures, he received the crown of martyrdom in the beginning of the fourth century. Some historians refer this event to the year 316, under the reign of Licinius. Seven holy women and two young children suffered at the same time. The Acts of his martyrdom are so trustworthy that it is not possible to state any further particulars which are authentic. The Council of Oxford, A.D. 1222, prohibited servile labour on that day. Its observance in England was marked by several curious ceremonies. Among others a taper used to be offered at High Mass; and it was lately the custom in many parts of England to light bonfires on the hills on St Blaise's night. Some have affirmed that these usages arose in an absurd pun on the Saints name (sc. 'blaze'); but this seems clearly erroneous, as they are not peculiar to England. In some parts of Germany, St Blaise's Day is called 'Little Candlemas Day', because of the bonfires that it was usual (for an uncertain reason) to kindle on that night. At Bradford, Yorkshire, a festival is holden every five years in memory of St Blaise.

In the Greek paintings, St Blaise is depicted as an old man with a pointed beard. In Western art he appears in the vestments of a bishop; his peculiar emblem is an iron comb, such as is used by wool-combers, which is said to have been an instrument of his torture. Owing, probably, to this reason, he has been esteemed the patron of manufacturers of wool, and that trade in the city of Norwich still observes his day, or did until lately. St Blaise is also frequently represented as surrounded by wild

beasts, or birds are bringing him food; the text, Job 5:23, which occasionally accompanies these emblems, indicates that, in his case as in that of other saints, by long continuance in a solitary course of life, the denizens of the wood had become accustomed to the Saints presence. Sometimes again, St Blaise has a swine's head at his feet, typical of his victory over sensual desires of the flesh. Finally, he occasionally holds in one hand, or has borne before him by a chorister, a lighted taper, typical of his being 'a burning and a shining light'.

## Dedication at San Blas Church

On the 13<sup>th</sup> November a service was held in San Blas church to dedicate the new pews, altar and lectern. The service was conducted jointly by Father Peter the Roman Catholic priest, Father Keith Gordon our Chaplain and Christine Gaunt our Lay Reader. The Church has been transformed by the addition of the new furniture and we owe a debt of gratitude to those who contributed to the cost of the materials.



The pews were made in the Ayuntamiento workshops and the altar and lectern were designed and made by David Groves.

The local Ayuntamiento was represented at the service by Consejal de Obras and Alcalde Victor Chinaea.

# **November Council Meeting (précis)**

## **Finance**

Gwen and Alan distributed papers and graphs showing the financial status of the Chaplaincy as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009; together with comparative figures for years 2006-2008. Average income is now 3,900 Euros per month; expenditure 4,900 Euros per month. Balance in the current account stands at 2,600 Euros. It was agreed by all that while it is necessary to transfer moneys from the deposit account to fund the deficits no changes of Bank accounts should take place for the time being.

The financial situation was discussed at length and it was agreed that all efforts must be made to raise the church income and reduce costs where possible. Fr. Keith, Gwen and Alan will meet to discuss mileage and other expenses. Keith and Jean Neilson had kindly offered to clean San Blas therefore incurring no cost to the Chaplaincy. This was gratefully accepted by council members.

## **Fundraising:**

Organisation of the Christmas bazaar well in hand. Discussion of various fundraising ideas took place including a possible Easter bazaar at Las Chafiras or Los Christianos (Elizabeth to investigate). Marisha reported that a sing along supper and a pate and plonk evening were being arranged for the New Year. Tickets were going well for the Neil Diamond Evening at the home of David Groves.

## **Church Reports:**

San Eugenio – numbers up

Espiritu Santos – numbers still down

San Blas – 27 attended the last service. An Ecumenical service of dedication is to be held 13<sup>th</sup> November 7pm.

Remembrance Day Services were well attended at all churches.

### **Chairman's Observations:**

Fr Keith was pleased to report that he had attended the unveiling of the new offices of the British Consulate and an enjoyable visit to the H.M.S. Scott which was visiting the Island. Servicemen from the ship attended the Remembrance Day service at San Eugenio.

### **Charitable Giving:**

The allocation of the 5,208€ (being 10% of our income for Quarter 4 2008 and Quarters 1, 2, & 3 of 2009) was discussed and agreed by all that that the recipients should remain the same with the exception of Water Aid.

The allocation was

Asociación San Juan	1,736€
Norma Martindale Prison & Homeless	868€
Grass routes – The Living Room	868€
Veninos	1,736€

Norma thanked the council for its ongoing support of her work at the prison.

### **Correspondance:**

All necessary documents had been received regarding the licensing of Christine and Marisha. The ceremony will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November at San Eugenio 10:15 am. The plate collection at this service is to be given to the Bishop's Ordination Fund.

Fr. Keith offered to host a drinks and nibbles party for council members and partners after the next Council Meeting to be held 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 2:00 pm.

## Save the Planet? Wear an Apron!

Sometimes I need a simple instruction rather than all the complicated stuff we get bombarded with about climate change and carbon footprints. Do you want to save the planet? Wear an apron!

Relatively speaking, very little of anything gets used up in the making of the bright and comfortable clothes we wear these days. And most of us rule out spinning, weaving and wearing clothes biblical-style.

But the bad news lurks inside our own homes – with the appetite of a tyrannosaurus rex for fossil fuels, mineral resources and the like... a monster laying waste to field and wilderness alike. The washing machine. Apparently over 80% of the carbon footprint of clothes is in the washing of them even including those that have travelled on the cheap from 3<sup>rd</sup> world sweat shops in diesel-engined polluters on the high seas.

Worse: a recent British survey found that over 30% of an average family wash were items already clean, but rejected as rumpled, un-ironed or retrieved from a bedroom floor.

(??? Whoever DID this survey? Obviously someone who caught my son putting his pants back in the washing bin to save putting them neatly in his drawer.)

Worse: washing powder, stain remover and softeners are recommended to be used in quantities akin to the carpet bombing of Dresden and destroy our garments with the same intensity as the London Blitz.

Since, as Christians, we are asked to be good stewards of our world: it is comforting to know that scientists are working on the stain-resistant T-shirt.

However... my Mother was way ahead of them. She had a cheap, easy solution in her own hands.....

WEAR AN APRON!

***Caroline Homer***

## Magazine Subscription Rates

Do you only get a copy of our magazine when you are on holiday in Tenerife?

Would you like to receive it on a regular basis?

We can now post a copy to you, including packing, for just 30p. This means that, with a minimum donation of 1€ per issue, we can get a copy of the magazine to you for a minimum subscription of 1.50 € or £ 1.00 per copy. Of course we are always happy to receive a donation of more than the minimum 1€. Please fill in the form on the back of this page and indicate how many issues you would like your donation to cover.

I know that some of you like to pick up your copy while you are out here on holiday so if you would like us NOT to post certain issues to you this can be arranged; simply circle the relevant months on the subscription form and we will make the appropriate arrangements.

Finally, remember, I am always glad to hear from you with comments, suggestions or articles for inclusion.

***Alan Charlesworth***

Editor

### **Recipe Book**

The much talked about recipe Book is now available on a computer CD. This enables one to browse the contents on a computer and then print off any that one wants to try.

The CD is now available in the UK for £8 inc P&P. To obtain a copy please send a cheque, made out to "The Chaplaincy of Tenerife South", to

Alan Charlesworth  
18 Oakfield Close  
Frome, BA11 4JL

and include your name and address.

# Magazine by Post



Every issue we post many copies to our friends in Spain & the UK. If you wish to receive the magazine, please complete the slip below with the name and address to which you would like it to be sent. With a minimum donation of 1€ per issue, we can get a copy of the magazine to you for only 1.50 € or £1.00 per copy.

We plan nine issues per year.

**Please send the Anglican Chaplaincy of Tenerife South magazine to:**

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Address .....

.....

..... Post Code .....

I enclose my Donation of ..... (€ preferred if possible)

For ..... Issues of the Chaplaincy magazine

Please circle any month for which you do **not** require a copy:

**Jan Feb Mar Apr May/Jun July/Aug Sep/Oct Nov Dec**

(Cheques payable to The Anglican Chaplaincy of South Tenerife.)  
Please hand this form to any of the Church Sidespeople or send to:  
Mrs Jean Bates, 278 Calle Abona, Urb. Sueno Azul, Callao Salvaje,  
38678 Adeje, Tenerife

## My Favourite Hymns

We often hear, after a service at one of our churches, the comment "that Hymn was one of my favourites". Well we aim to please.

If you would like to have one of your favourites played, and sung, at one of our services, perhaps to celebrate a birthday, anniversary etc or when you are visiting us, then please fill in the form on the back of this page.

We would ask you to confine your hymn choices to the ones in our hymn book, Mission Praise, but if your choice has a particular tune that you prefer please include this information and we will do our best to arrange it.

This is a new venture for us and you will appreciate that depending on the number of requests we receive it may not be possible to fulfil everyone's wishes but if you don't ask we can't help!

When your list is received our Chaplain, Father Keith, will attempt to include your choice if it is liturgically possible (we don't want Christmas Carols in Lent) on the date requested.

As most of you will realise St Francis Anglican Chaplaincy of Tenerife South is completely self financing , so we are asking for a minimum of 1€ (one Euro) per choice. We are sure that you will agree that this is a small price to pay to sing, and hear one of you favourite hymns sung in church.

Completed forms, with the donation, should be given to a Chaplaincy Warden, Fr Keith or sent to

Jean Kelly

Apdo Correos No.8

38630 Las Galletas

Arona

Tenerife

## My Favourite Hymns

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Contact

Telephone .....

Email .....

Date of Visiting .....

Which Church .....

First line of Hymn 1 .....

Tune .....

First line of Hymn 2 .....

Tune .....

First line of Hymn 3 .....

Tune .....

First line of Hymn 4 .....

Tune .....

## A Visit to Tromso

Forty nine years ago in 1960 I was sent on a winter exercise with the Norwegian Army way up inside the Arctic Circle. When not engaged with the enemy in the unbelievably cold arctic landscape we lived in a canvas tent the pole of which was also a stove pipe. A wood burning device was hung on the pole inside the tent and glowed bravely on the straw base strewn over the ice. We placed our reindeer skins and sleeping bags on top of the straw. The stove kept us comparatively warm, melted the snow at the base of the pole and was used to make toast for breakfast and lunch on which Primula cheese was spread and also to brew (or rather stew) coffee. It was, of course, a fire hazard especially when the smokers used the melted snow to put out their cigarette ends close to the straw. Evening meals, delivered once a day on a three day cycle, were either "Fiskepudding" which was like porridge with a kipper in it; "Polser" which was a sausage but rather like garden hose with a meaty mush pushed down the centre or finally the instruction was to eat the tinned emergency ration from our rucksacks which was to be replaced by one with a later use-by date. It was known to the Norwegians as "Dead man in a box" and this could well have been true. The food was invariably cold by the time that it reached the front. I was not sure if I was going to freeze to death, burn to death or starve to death, whichever of three was not as important as was the certainty of dying. However I did survive, partly by the euphoria on receiving a letter from my father to say that I had won £500 on a Premium Bond and partly because this gave the Norwegian Commanding Officer an excuse to relax the "dry in the field" rule and let me open the bottle of Scotch whisky from my rucksack. On returning from the exercise to the comparative comfort of the barrack base a beautiful pint of beer was served to me on a beer mat that proclaimed "Tromso Brewery, The most northerly brewery in the World"

This information has lived in my memory over almost half a century and was reinforced in Los Gigantes when I used to announce to visitors in our congregations that we were the "Most Southerly congregation

in the Diocese of Europe” and then to explain the scope of the Diocese by adding that Madeira was the most Westerly and Vladivostok the most Easterly and the most northerly was Tromso!

Come 2009 Julia was persuaded by her sister (whose husband is part Norwegian) that we might enjoy a trip to that beautiful country. The month of May was suggested as the ice would have retreated but the mosquitoes would not yet have hatched to drive man and reindeer mad. I was further persuaded that in the years since I was last in Norway many improvements had been made as Norway was a rich country after discovering oil in the North Sea. The population were friendly and great anglophiles thanks to British help in the Second World War and help in developing their oil fields.

Thus convinced we signed up for a tour with an organisation called “Great Rail Journeys” that would take us to Norway. The itinerary went from Heathrow to Oslo and after two days there on to a train that took over seven hours to cross the still snow covered mountains and on to the port of Bergen (Norway’s second city) where we were to catch a boat. I must say at this point that it was a large boat, beautifully appointed inside with polished wood floors, interesting native art and a wonderful panorama lounge on the top deck. The meals were of Michelin star standard and dispelled any memories of food in the field. There was evening entertainment and dancing. However it was also a working boat on a six day trip from Bergen past the North Cape to Kirkeness on the Norway/Russia border. It went up and down, in and out of the Fjords stopping at some twelve ports delivering cars, barbed wire, breeze blocks, food, beverages of all sort, pack carrying tourists and us. We were to disembark at Kirkeness but the boat turned round and then went back on its six day trip back to Bergen. I tell you all this because one of the ports of call, with a five hour stopover was Tromso! I had never actually been there; it was just a name in my memory so I thought that it might be a gesture to link up with the Chaplaincy and I persuaded Father Keith to write a message of greeting to the congregation in Tromso.

On one of our Just to Say cards, it read:-

***To the Reverend Canon Janet Heil. Oslo and Tromso.***

***“Greetings from the Chaplaincy of Saint Francis in Tenerife South, the most southerly in the Diocese to your good selves, the most northerly.***

***Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ***

***Father Keith Gordon***

The envelope was written to an Oslo address and I copied it for a letter that I wrote in advance of my journey giving my itinerary and date & time of the boats arrival in Tromso hoping that I might be met and given a tour. I heard nothing back but undeterred I went to the church in Tromso where I met the Rev Bremer who was the Lutheran priest

***David Dunn***



# Letter from St James the Least of All

## On what to do about swine flu in church

*The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

The Rectory  
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

The concern you show for the welfare of your parishioners during the current 'flu epidemic does you credit – although I am unsure of the continued effectiveness of your 'ministry of welcome', when those beaming smiles of your 'welcomers' will be hidden behind surgical masks. And surely, disinfecting the hymn books after each service is a little too enthusiastic? Won't the pages simply dissolve in the end?

Also, must you condemn those with even slight sniffles to sit encased in large plastic bags behind glass screens? That is unlikely to make newcomers feel that they are being warmly greeted. And I have never before heard of passing the peace with gardening gloves on. Won't people think it odd?

Finally, I must observe that obliging your entire congregation to paddle through a disinfectant pool as they leave the church is unusual practise. It will make people feel they are in the public baths – although I concede that the architecture of the two buildings has much in common.

We take a rather more robust attitude to viral attack here at St. James the Least. The use of the chalice was only reluctantly suspended during the Black Death and – apart from the one Sunday when Mrs Clapton lost her teeth in it, has been used at every service since. Colonel Addleshaw is safe from the virus, since it could never survive the alcohol levels in his blood stream and a glare from Lady Millcheam would freeze any unwelcome visitor at a hundred yards.

Dear, romantic Miss Mompesson suggested we hold future services in the open air, but the thought of Mr Charnley losing his wig yet again in anything greater than a light breeze and the choir looking like galleons in full sail, made the idea unworkable – especially as it would oblige Lord Melchett to sit with everyone else and not in the family pew, where he can read the Sunday papers unobserved by the rest of the congregation.

There have, however, been some unintended benefits to the health scare. It has enabled me to cancel the coming visit of the bishop, explaining that we are far too concerned for his health. Also, as a way of containing the spread of the contagion, I have stopped visiting parishioners and do not allow anyone to call at the rectory. All evening meetings are suspended, I refuse to visit the village school and risk contaminating the children and I have made it clear that not stopping to talk to villagers in the street saves them from being ravaged by the disease.

Should the 'flu epidemic continue for some time, it would be a sadness I could learn to bear.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



## Christmas Prayer

As we celebrate sweet Jesus' birth  
with praise on Christmas day  
let us also think of others  
for whom we need to pray.

The battered, beaten broken  
those who live their life in fear  
the child who only knows abuse  
Father Christmas won't call here

The refugees, the starving  
the homeless on the street  
the poor, the jobless penniless  
for them no Christmas treat.

The ill the injured, dying  
the grieving the heartbroken  
the elderly who live alone  
with no Christmas cards to open.

For those whose country is at war  
for our troops so far away  
the children maimed or orphaned  
with no Christmas game to play.

For we're all of God's creation  
the birds and bats and bees  
whatever colour race or creed  
and all those Christmas trees.

Let's pray for all God's children  
those we love and those afar  
and remember the precious Christmas babe  
born beneath the shining star.

This Christmas prayer is simple  
peace and love to fellow men  
spread yule tide joy around the world  
God bless you all. Amen.

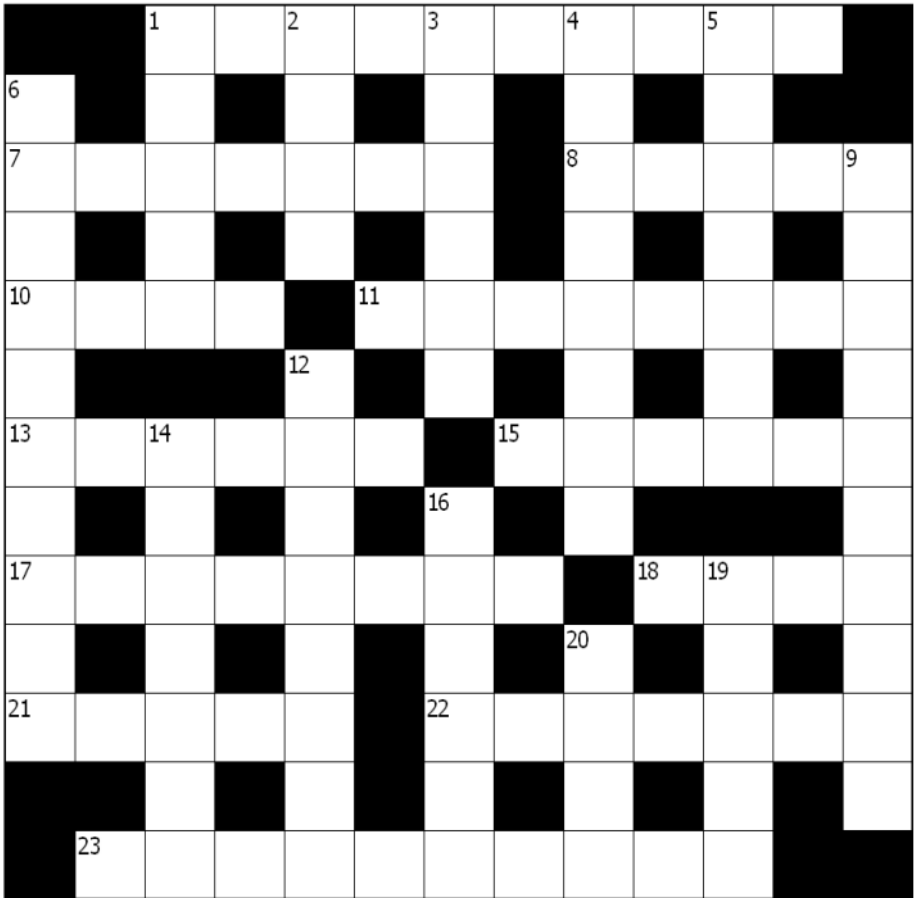
***Elizabeth Thomas***

## Tenerife Sur Lions

The Lions have opened a new Charity Shop  
in the Apollo Centre (upstairs)  
in Los Christianos  
Opening hours  
Monday to Friday 11:00 – 3:00



# Crossword



The bible references in the clues all refer to the text of the NIV version.

## Clues

### Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14–15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith — (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

### Down

- 1 ' — and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as — as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19–20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living — , holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will — his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

***Solution on page 30***

## Sudoku

		8						
			3		7		5	
	2					9		3
				9			6	2
2		4				8		1
6	5			7				
4		9					1	
	1		5		8			
						2		

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*Solution on page 30*

## Gentlemen's Christmas

God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
You may be sure the ladies  
Have sorted Christmas Day!  
They've shopped and chopped and scrubbed and wrapped,  
They've bought and dressed the tree  
*So you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day*  
*So you'll have a joyful Christmas Day!*

Now come, ye merry gentlemen,  
And follow my advice  
You'd better not upset her,  
Or you will pay the price!  
So get you to the nearest town  
And buy her something nice -  
*Then you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day*  
*Then you'll have a joyful Christmas Day!*

So then, ye merry gentlemen  
Who've tied those marriage knots,  
Once Christmas lunch is over  
Tell her you love her lots.  
Then prove it, merry gentlemen  
By washing up the pots.  
*And you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day*  
*And you'll have a joyful Christmas Day!*

Then, just as you are thinking  
What a good chap you've been;  
Perhaps you'll watch the movie –  
It's one you haven't seen.  
Forget it, merry gentlemen,  
She'll want to watch the Queen!  
*But she's earned a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day*  
*She's really earned a joyful Christmas Day!*

***Nigel Beeton***

# Puzzle Solutions

Here are the solutions to the Puzzles .

Now I know you would never intentionally cheat but I know how easy it is to see the odd word or letter without meaning to. So, unless you can read upside down and back to front, I have disguised the solution.

You can read it properly by holding this page up to a mirror.



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Alan Charlesworth .....	922 17 61 10
Ronald Eastwood .....	922 76 40 62
Gwen Furmston .....	922 74 83 51
Christine Gaunt .....	922 78 60 96
Jean Kelly .....	922 78 67 77
Norma Martindale .....	922 71 17 12
Keith Nielsen.....	922 72 71 95
Elizabeth Thomas.....	922 39 61 33
Patricia Whenlock.....	922 78 41 74

### **Synod Representative**

Shirley Beard .....	922 86 19 97
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Details of services can be found on the back page.

***Magazine email & contributions***  
***charlesworth.as@blueyonder.co.uk***

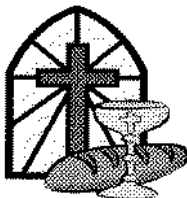
***Chaplaincy website: [www.tenerifechurch.com](http://www.tenerifechurch.com)***

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December 2009

# TIMES OF SERVICES



## **Playa de las Americas**

San Eugenio	Sunday	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist, Sung
	Wednesday	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist, Said

## **Los Gigantes**

Espiritu Santo	Sunday	6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist, Sung
	Thursday	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist, Sung

## **Golf del Sur**

San Blas	Sunday	6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist, Sung. By Extension
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## **Callao Salvaje (Services to be resumed shortly)**

*(See the diary on pages 4-6 for detailed times)*

For Baptisms, Confessions, Wedding Blessings, Renewal of Vows, Confirmations and funerals, please contact the Chaplain Father Keith Gordon or one of the Church Wardens for information.

Should you wish to talk to the chaplain privately, please do not hesitate to contact Father Keith Gordon on 922 74 20 45.