

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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Chaplaincy Information

Chaplain

Fr Keith Gordon 922 74 20 45

Mobile 679 66 02 77

Res. Sonia 17 Calle La Laja, Callao Salvaje, 38678

email: *kagordon40@hotmail.com*

Locum Chaplain

Reverend Michael Harding 922 73 28 97

Lay Vice Chairman

Elizabeth Thomas 922 39 61 33

Treasurer

Philip Davies

Email: *home@teamviking.dk*

Secretary

Jean Bates 922 74 15 32

278 Urb. Sueno Azul, Callao Salvaje, 38678

email: *jean.bates89@yahoo.co.uk*

Magazine Editor

Alan Charlesworth 922 17 61 10

Email: *charlesworth.as@blueyonder.co.uk*

Wardens

Shirley Beard 922 86 19 97

Ann Plummer 648 77 02 65

Assistant Wardens

Jean Kelly 922 78 67 77

Elizabeth Thomas 922 39 61 33

Jean Nielsen 922 82 71 65

Bea Gallagher.....

Continued on inside of back cover

From the Editor

During the winter months Fr Keith's sermons are heard each week by around 250 people and I have often heard visitors say "he is one of the few preachers that don't send me to sleep". During the summer with much smaller congregations many of us miss his words of wisdom. As a result each month we will be including one of his recent sermons in this magazine (see page 7). I hope you will find this useful. Perhaps you could drop me an email with your comments.

As I write this, England is in the middle of World Cup fever. Can we beat Slovenia and Algeria? Will we meet Germany in the next round or going home? Yes it is all good fun but when all is said and done, dare I say, it is only a game? There are many more important things in life and what a pity it is that we do not give them as much attention. Having watched a few games, the thing that saddens me most of all is that so many of England's representatives do not seem to know our National Anthem, and how many do not know which way up they should fly the British flag? It is a good job the St Georges flag is symmetrical!

The Editor

STOP PRESS

A DRAW with Algeria.

Why do we have to make things so difficult?

Deadline for September / October contributions 15th August

Contents

From Our Chaplain.....	2
Diary for July	3
Diary for August.....	4
Intercessions.....	6
Trinity Sunday Sermon.....	7
What's the Big Idea?	11
What's the Big Idea?:	12
Magazine Subscription Rates.	13
Signs & Symbols : oils.....	15
Are you a Crack-pot?.....	16
Why Some People Don't Do DIY.....	17
23rd Psalm For The Hard- pressed Student	18
Volcanic Ash.....	19
Miscellaneous Observations Of Modern Life In Mind.....	19
Letter from St James	20
Say Goodbye.....	22
Sudoku.....	23
Crossword.....	24
Puzzle Solutions.....	26

From Our Chaplain

My dear friends in Christ Jesus,

The heat of the summer is truly upon us now and most of our ‘swallow’ friends are now in the UK enjoying the English summer. It’s a time when those of us remaining here can stand back from the winter rush and bustle and take a long look at what we’ve achieved (or not) over the past months and what we need to do to put our house in order.

Last year was a difficult year for many, and like those people and businesses, the Chaplaincy too suffered financially. Despite this, we must never forget our faith and what it stands for.

The great former Archbishop of York, David Hope once said:

“The Church’s first priority should not be to aim for ‘bums on seats’ and ‘pounds on the plate’. But if, through helping others we let them glimpse something of the love of Christ, who shared our joys and bore our grief, sometimes the other things may perhaps follow too.”

In other words, everything we do and say in our lives should be Christ based (WWJD – What would Jesus do or say). So let’s embrace together the “Gamaliel principle” (Acts chapter 5 verses 34-39) that “if this plan or undertaking is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop it”. Let us therefore pray daily for this Chaplaincy and be guided by God as to how we can best help it not only survive, but flourish well into the future.

This season of the Church’s year is often referred to as ordinary time. It may be ordinary in the sense that there are no major festivals during it, but certainly not ordinary in the sense that it gives us an opportunity to examine the basics of our faith and our lives and, through it to become more Christ-like in everything we do or say.

May God Bless you wherever you may be and may the love of our Lord Jesus fill your hearts with love to overflowing, to be shared with all those who we encounter.

Your Chaplain and friend,

Fr. Keith

Diary for July

1 st	Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
2 nd	Fri			
3 rd	Sat		Thomas the Apostle	
4 th	Sunday		5th Sunday after Trinity	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
			Chaplaincy Lunch	– San Eugenio
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
5 th	Mon			
6 th	Tues			
7 th	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
8 th	Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
9 th	Fri			
10 th	Sat			
11 th	Sunday		6th Sunday after Trinity	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
13 th	Tues			
14 th	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
15 th	Thur			
		10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
16 th	Fri			
17 th	Sat			
18 th	Sunday		7th Sunday after Trinity	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
19 th	Mon			
20 th	Tues			
21 st	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
22 nd	Thur		Mary Magdalene	
		10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
23 rd	Fri		St. Bridget, Religious, Patron of Europe	
24 th	Sat			

25th Sunday	St James the Apostle		
	8 th Sunday after Trinity		
	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
	6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist	– Espiritu Santo
26 th Mon			
27 th Tues			
28 th Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
29 th Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
30 th Fri			
31 st Sat			

Diary for August

1st Sunday	9th Sunday after Trinity		
	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
	6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
2 nd Mon			
3 rd Tues			
4 th Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
5 th Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	
6 th Fri		Transfiguration of Our Lord	
7 th Sat			
8th Sunday	10th Sunday after Trinity		
	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
	6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
9 th Mon			
10 th Tues		St. Laurence, Deacon and Martyr.	
11 th Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
12 th Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
13 th Fri			
14 th Sat			

15th Sunday**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**11th Sunday after Trinity

10.15 am Holy Eucharist Sung – San Eugenio
 6.00 pm Holy Eucharist Sung – Espiritu Santo

16th Mon

3.00pm Council Meeting – Residence

17th Tues18th Wed

St. Richard of Chichester

10.15 am Holy Eucharist Said – San Eugenio

19th Thur

10.30 am Holy Eucharist Sung – Espiritu Santo

20th Fri21st Sat**22nd Sunday****12th Sunday after Trinity**

10.15 am Holy Eucharist Sung – San Eugenio
 6.00 pm Holy Eucharist Sung – Espiritu Santo

23rd Mon24th Tues

St. Bartholomew the Apostle

25th Wed

10.15 am Holy Eucharist Said – San Eugenio

26th Thur

10.30 am Holy Eucharist Sung – Espiritu Santo

27th Fri28th Sat

St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor.

29th Sunday**13th Sunday after Trinity**

10.15 am Holy Eucharist Sung – San Eugenio
 6.00 pm Holy Eucharist Sung – Espiritu Santo

30th Mon31st Tues



Intercessions

THE SICK FOR WHOM WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PRAY:

The Power of Prayer

Baby Jamie – Eileen Baldwin – Cian & Joan Barry
Bronwen Battye – John Bosley – Laura Brown – Keith Burke
Marisha Carter – Samuel Coker – Emanuel Cole
Gladys Cole – Lydia Cook – Rhoda Copeland-Phillips
Corina Cormack – Andrew Crowther – Doris Dendy
Jeanette Dick – Ann Dobson – Revd. Jeff Engel – Victoria Ford
Gordon & Pearl French – Lauren Gaunt – Betty Gilroy
David Gledhill – Peter Goldsmith – Kathy Greenhall
Paul Hazelby – Jason – Daniel – Fr. Philip Lamb
Audrey Lancaster – Colin Lee-Carter – Betty Lee-Westworth
John Magee – Mary Mansell – Garry Morris – Peter Mulloch
Hazel Noble – Simon Norman-Ballantyne – Brian Norris
Jill Pratt – Alan Price – Mary Roe – Rita Selbie – Sinead
Sue Shapland – Joe Slater 6yrs – Ewen Smith
Amanda Stead – Susan Stratton – Rev Robert Sturman
Hilda Thomas – Dudley Thomas – Stephen Thomas
Rose Tomlinson – John & Anne Vaughn – David West
Harry Wilkinson – Frank Winpenny

The Recently Departed

Mike Ashcroft – Bryan Goulding

Years Mind – Anniversary of Passing

July	24 th	Ron Molock
	25 th	Peter Seward-Jones
August	1 st	Lee Thomas
	25 th	Fred Walsh

Trinity Sunday Sermon

There's an old story about God that goes like this:

God had worked for some time at a fiddly job but finally succeeded in separating light from dark. One of the heavenly host saw all this and commented, "Say, God, that's really great. What are you going to do now?"

After a pause, God answered: "Oh, I think I'll call it a day."

To dissect something is to kill it. We know that's true about jokes and it's true about many other things as well.

Some things you just have to understand where you are in your heart and in your guts, rather than in your head and on the cold hard table of philosophical analysis.

And this is probably no more true than when it is applied to the doctrine of the Trinity; that doctrine which tells us: "Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – One God, forever and ever."

Blessed be the Father who made it all! Amen

Blessed be the Son who saved it all! Amen

And Blessed be The Spirit which gives life to it all! Amen

The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most important of all the teachings of the church; so important in fact, that each year the Sunday after Pentecost is set aside to it. So important, that at one time the whole season that stretches from now till Advent was called Trinity.

Jesus told us to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

The doctrine of the Trinity asserts that we know God, and God reveals himself in three persons. Three persons – one God.

How that works is one of those things, one of those mysteries, that defies dissection. But it's a glorious mystery, one that describes the

nature of God and which describes the nature of the wonderful relationship God has with us and with all creation.

The mystery begins, of course, before creation itself begins.

It begins with God living in community with himself before time - before matter, before energy itself.

It begins before every marvel that we see about us came to exist, and before every wonder that our science has discovered and is yet to discover came into being.

And the mystery continued when God decided to take nothing and make something of it!

And so the story of creation unfolds.

And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

You know – it's not like something Science would say.

Words like “good” and “very good” are not used in the hallowed halls of academia. But they resonate with all who have eyes to see the wonders of the universe and to know that it is all a marvel and a mystery. The marvel and mystery of a love that is wildly free and abundantly creative and generous beyond measure!

Thanks be to God, our Father, our Maker for that love. Amen.

But while God, like a loving parent, is angry and disappointed about what we have done, about the choices we have made that have caused sin and death to rule in our world, he has chosen not to be angry forever.

Rather God has chosen to bless us even though we have not sought his blessing; he has chosen to forgive us even though we have blamed him for all our faults, he has chosen to love us with a love that will change us and save us from ourselves even though we have not loved him and even though we need a lot of saving.

God decided he would rescue us from ourselves by becoming one of us, and by revealing the fullness of himself in Christ Jesus and, being

in human form, by taking upon himself the burdens we lay upon ourselves and our world by our forgetting.

The Father made us – the Son saves us.

Jesus, the second person of the Trinity reveals God to us

- the God who creates and who is the Father of all living things
- the God who watches over his people and calls them to a closer walk with him,
- the God who is just and loving – and forgiving and tender
- the God who can calm any storm and feed any crowd and heal any who are sick
- the God who seeks out the lost and who desires that all living things might live closer to him.

Jesus reveals God to us because he and the Father are one, because he is the eternal Son of God – the Word which became flesh and dwelt among us.

So, Praise be to God, to the Father and to the Son! Amen.
and, sorry, Praise be to the Spirit too! Amen!

Praise be to the Spirit – who hovered over creation and who gives breath to all that lives, the Spirit who is poured out on all who choose to follow the Son, making the Son their Lord and believing in all that he said and did. Praise be to the Spirit who is given so that we might proclaim to the ends of the earth what God has done and what God is doing and will God will yet do in our lives.

Praise be to the Spirit - the Spirit who speaks in our hearts and who reveals to us the power of God and the word of God and the love of God.

Praise be to the Spirit – because it is the Spirit of God – the Spirit of Christ that moves us and touches us and speaks to us.

Praise be to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Amen!

In Christ, with Christ, and through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit we are made one with God the Father.

This insight, this truth, this revelation is a great mystery, one that makes us different from all other people, all other religions, all other ways.

We proclaim that the God who made all things has reached out to those he made through a Son, his Son, the Word of God, the Power of God, made flesh, and that all who turn to him and who obey him are filled with his Power, his Spirit, and made new both in this life, and in the next!

The Trinity is a doctrine and a mystery but it is a doctrine that points to a living reality that is full of truth: to a truth and a power and a way, like no other truth or power or way.

And Christ calls us, the Spirit calls us, the Father calls us, to share it! To share it by speaking of it. And to share it by living it.

What a universe this is! What a wonder life is! How awesome it all is!

Spread the word about our Glorious God.

Let his light shine in the darkness and his song of love be heard throughout the whole world.

Blessed be God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, One God.

Blessed be God The One Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer.
Amen!

Sermon given by Fr Keith Gordon on Trinity Sunday 2010

What's the Big Idea?

An introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Numbers

The book of Numbers takes its name from the census of the people with which it opens. It records the 38 year period of Israel's wandering in the desert, on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. Traditionally the book has been ascribed to Moses, although it was probably added to by editors in later periods.

Numbers tells the story of Israel's journey from Mount Sinai to the plains of Moab, across the Jordan from Canaan. They are coming to terms with their identity as God's people and call to be his servant people. It's a very honest account of a group of people learning what it means to become a community together, which is always a slow and messy business. So jobs have to be assigned, leaders appointed and lists maintained.

However, the people who had been rescued from slavery in Egypt responded not with faith, gratitude and obedience but with unbelief, ingratitude and rebellion. Therefore, the book is also about God's judgement upon a disobedient people. As a result of their refusal to undertake the conquest of Canaan (ch 14), they were condemned to live the rest of their lives in the desert. Only their children would actually enter the Promised Land.

However, God in his grace doesn't give up on his people. Through a series of oracles Balaam, a pagan prophet from Moab, proclaims God's blessings on his people. So God demonstrates that he has ongoing purposes for his people, and is still willing to bring them into his land of promise.

The book is a powerful reminder that even when we disobey God, his purposes for us remain. We can find ourselves in a company of men and women who sin a lot, but God can use our experience to show us what it means to be the people of God in our own generation and enter into his life. Numbers reminds us what it means to be included within the people of God - ie a community that honours God, lives out love and justice in daily affairs, learns how to deal with sin in ourselves and others, and follows God's commands into a future of blessing.

In the words of Aaron's blessing: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.' (6:24-26).

What's the Big Idea?:

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: John

‘I like the comparison of John’s Gospel to a pool in which a child may wade and an elephant can swim. It is both simple and profound. It is for the beginner in the faith and for the mature Christian.’ (Leon Morris).

The Apostle John is usually credited with the authorship of the fourth Gospel, writing in Ephesus (Asia Minor) at the end of the First Century. John writes ‘that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.’ (20:31). He stresses the deity of Christ, and presents Jesus as the Son of God. His gospel is quite different in character from the three synoptic gospels, with different stories, but highly literary and symbolic.

The prologue (1:1-14) brings together the gospel’s major themes, like an overture in a musical work. John proclaims Jesus as the pre-existent and incarnate Word of God revealed by the Father to us. Throughout the gospel many references are made to Jesus’ deity. Most notably Jesus declares, ‘Before Abraham was born, I am!’ (8:57-58), referring to Exodus, where God describes himself as ‘I am.’ John also presents the contrast of darkness and light; Jesus has come as light into the world so that those who believe in him will not remain in darkness (cf 12:46).

The heart of John’s narrative contains seven signs or miracles, which demonstrate who Jesus is and show his creative and transforming power over creation and in people’s lives:

- turning water into wine at Cana (2:1-11)
- healing of the royal official's son (4:46-54)
- healing of the paralytic at the pool (5:1-18)
- feeding of the 5000 (6:1-14)
- walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee (6:16-21)
- healing of the man born blind (9:1-41)
- raising of Lazarus (11:1-44).

After these signs, Jesus ‘hour’ arrives, and the story moves into the discourses in the upper room that interpret the meaning of the death, and resurrection narratives that follow. The whole gospel is a progressive revelation of the glory of God’s only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father.

It can be well summed up in its most famous verse: ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.’ (John 3:16).

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

Alan Charlesworth

Editor

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Signs & Symbols : what about the oils?

Oil has been used from the very earliest times and in the Bible God instructs Moses and his people, to use oil for light, to cook with, as offerings and to pour over people or their clothing as signs of blessing and anointing.

Oil is used in the church today, apart from lighting, for three specific tasks: Healing, Baptism and Confirmation. In recognition of this, a church usually keeps aside three different oils for each task. The oils are prepared and then consecrated or blessed by the Bishop, or someone of an equivalent standing in a different denomination, before being distributed throughout his / her diocese, or area of supervision. In many churches this will take place at a special service in the Cathedral often during Holy Week, just before Easter.

The oil is essentially no different from any other olive oil, but it is made special by being set aside specially for God's purposes. Just like the water used at Baptism is set aside and blessed for that task so the oils are being set apart for their work.

The oil used today is normally good quality Olive Oil. As the oil is carried to the front of the Cathedral in glass containers it is clear that the colours of each are slightly different. This is normally deliberate to distinguish one from another rather than any symbolism being intended. The oil used at Confirmations, Oil of Chrism, normally has a fragrance added to it such as Friar's Balsam or something similar.

Hearing

A man went into a church and asked the minister to pray for his hearing. "Ah, certainly," said the minister, somewhat taken aback. The man knelt, and the minister placed a hand carefully on each ear. In a loud voice he asked God to help the man with his hearing. "I hope that will help," he shouted to the man.

"Well, we won't know for a while," the man replied softly, "it isn't until next month".

Are you a Crack-pot?

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water to the house. The cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishment, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of spilling water, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

In life, we're all cracked pots. But our weaknesses need not destroy our lives. God only ever has imperfect people to use. Despite our flaws, God can still bless us and make us fruitful for him.

Discretion:

When a husband is sure he is right and then asks his wife.

Why Some People Don't Do DIY

Are you hopeless at DIY? Does the sight of flat-pack furniture fill you with dread?

Don't let your loved ones mock you – it is not your fault. You simply don't carry the DIY gene, that's all. In fact, it seems that two in three Britons lack the necessary spatial awareness needed to complete DIY tasks, according to recent research.

While overall men scored higher in the experiment, one psychologist explained: "Some people simply do not have the mental equipment necessary to manipulate shapes, and will always struggle to complete DIY tasks successfully."

The research, by Halifax Home Insurance, came up with one scary statistic: damage costing £400 million was caused last year by people who lack any genetically pre-determined DIY ability, but who thought they'd have a go, anyway...

The Bible tells us that DIY aptitudes are God-given. "...I have filled him with ... skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts – to make artistic designs... to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship..." (Exodus 31: 3-5)

So, thank God, if you can do it! And pray for help, if you can't.

No, Not Any

The manager of the garden centre came out of his office to hear Jenkins, one of his most trusted assistants, saying to a lady customer: "No madam, we certainly haven't had any for some time, and who knows when we will get any."

When the customer had gone, the manager tackled him: "I heard that, Jenkins," he remonstrated, "and I must say that I am surprised at you. Never, never admit to a customer that we can't get them something. That's what we're here for. If it's out of stock, tell her you'll get it for her soon. Now, what was it the lady wanted?"

"Rain," said Jenkins simply.

23rd Psalm For The Hard-pressed Student

The Lord is my real instructor and I shall not want.
He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.
He gently reminds me to pray before I speak and to do all things without murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that he is my Salvation and not my school.
He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions that I might honour him in everything I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of homework, quizzes, tests, unrealistic deadlines, shortages of funds, gossiping students, discriminating teachers, and a sleep-deprived body that doesn't cooperate every morning, I will not stop - for he is with me!

His presence, his peace, and his power will see me through.
He raises me up, even when they fail to give me good grades.
He claims me as his own, even when the class threatens to flunk me.

His faithfulness and love are better than any A+.
His eternal reward beats every degree there is.
When it's all said and done, I'll be working for him a whole lot longer than I'll be in school (even when it doesn't feel like it) and for that, I bless his name!

Author unknown

Walk out

After church, the woman at the door was embarrassed before the minister. "I hope you didn't take it personally when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher admitted.

"It's not a reflection on you at all," she assured him. "Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

Volcanic Ash

I know it's a bit early for Iceland volcano jokes and we should wait awhile for the dust to settle but I could not resist it. (Ed)

- It was the last wish of the Icelandic economy that its ashes be spread over Europe.
- Iceland goes bankrupt, then it manages to set itself on fire. This has insurance scam written all over it.
- Iceland, we wanted your cash, not your ash.
- Waiter, there's volcanic ash in my soup. I know, it's a no-fly zone.
- Volcano in Iceland. What next Earthquake in Safeway?

Miscellaneous Observations Of Modern Life In Mind...

Government expert: one who complicates simple things.

Gentleman: one who holds the door open while his wife carries in the groceries.

Friend: what you call a person who dislikes the same people you dislike.

Reformer: one who makes his associates feel miserable about their pleasures.

Prosperity: something private citizens create, for which politicians take credit.

Politician: the fellow who shakes your hand before the election and shakes you after the election.

Do not confuse a reckless driver with a wreckless driver.

Letter from St James the Least of All

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

Beware the spell-checker on your special service sheets!

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

As you discovered at your Sunday School Anniversary Service last week, special service sheets can be a mixed blessing. It was unfortunate that the front page welcomed your diocesan “Nishop” (although perhaps a good thing you hadn’t been welcoming a neighbouring “Vicar”) and it was a shame that one of the hymns contained one verse fewer on the sheets than the book the organist was playing to, obliging your congregation to sing the last verse twice – although since in your tradition you seem to repeat choruses endlessly, probably no one noticed anyway. But the regrettable misprint which meant that ranks of primary school children sweetly lisped an obscenity really was too much.

Having said that, computer spell-checkers can cause their own problems. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and on the night found ourselves obliged to sing “away in a manager”, mangers apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers - that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidesmen scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won’t be enough of them anyway and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

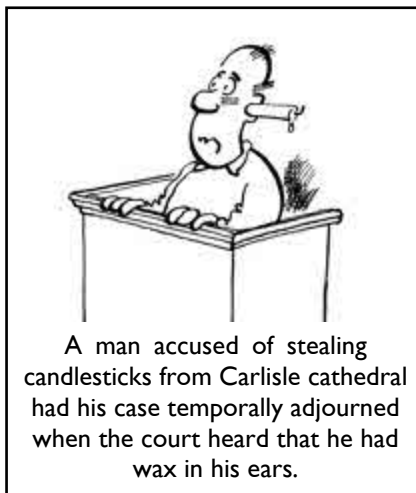
Never, ever, print on them “Do not take home” as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction “Take this sheet home for reference” would ensure that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice resolve the problem.

No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Say Goodbye

Don't weep for me when I am gone
For we have loved a lifetime long
Remember the good times we've had
So please don't mourn please don't be sad
We were so young, reckless maybe
And yet your loving set me free
Free to grow, to life explore
You were the key that unlocked my door
From the loving cup we've sipped
Sweet sweet words like honey dripped
Those whispered words so full of love
My fluttering heart soared like a dove
Your kisses rich like good red wine
Sent shivers running down my spine
You kissed my throat which I adore
They left me wanting so much more
In your embrace I did delight
So gentle, yet you held me tight
Passion filled, yet tender too
Oh how I've loved being loved by you
We've had our share of ups and downs
You've shared my laughter, tears and frowns
A sea of calm in my unrest
In loving you I've been so blessed
Too fast the years they've rolled away
I thank you for each single day
You've been my lover husband friend
A rock on which I can depend
So now it's time to say goodbye
One last sweet kiss before I die
Please hold me in your arms once more
Then turn the key and close the door

Elizabeth Thomas

26th May 2010

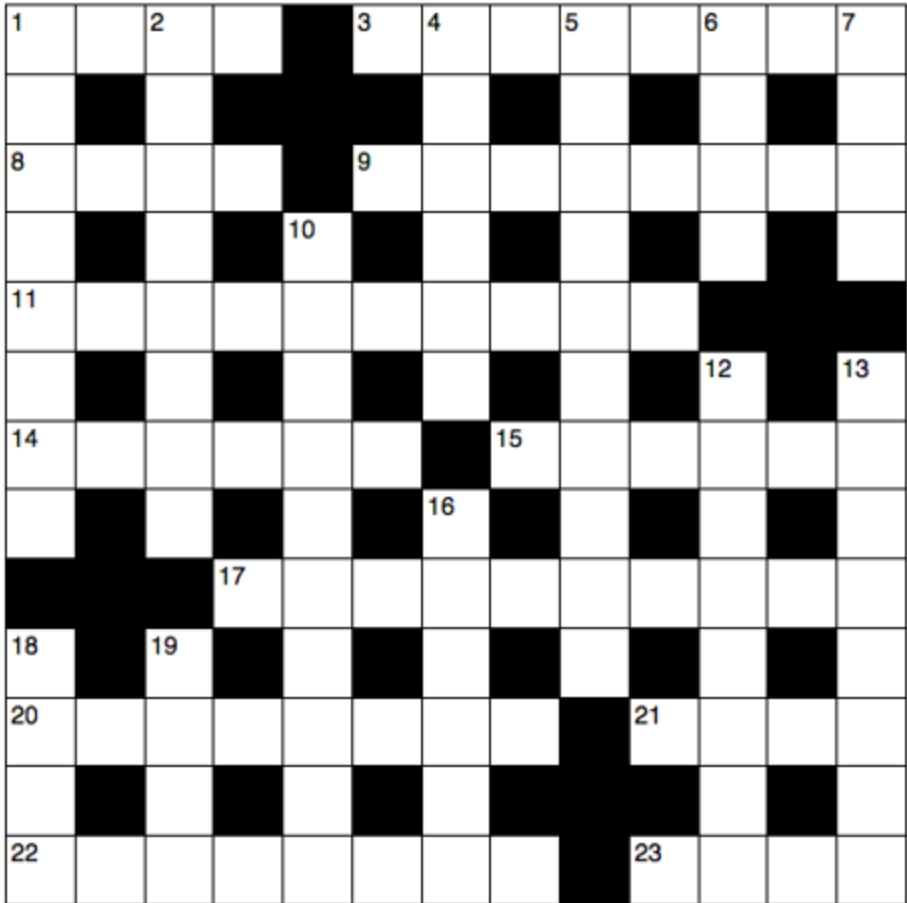
Sudoku

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

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Solution on page 26

Crossword



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

Clues

Across

- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
- 3 See 1 Across
- 8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
- 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
- 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

Solution on page 26

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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Joan Leatherbarrow	0044 7854 85 19 99
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Elizabeth Thomas	922 39 61 33
Patricia Whenlock	922 78 41 74

Synod Representatives

Shirley Beard	922 86 19 97
Gwen Furnmston	922 74 83 51

Details of services can be found on the back page.

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

Chaplaincy website: *www.tenerifechurch.com*

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