

# 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**



REMEMBER THEM

Issue 54

**November 2010**

Minimum Donation €1

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

## From the Editor

Along with many other ‘Swallows’ I have now returned to this welcoming island after a rather soggy summer in the UK .

As I write this it is the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> October and it has just dawned on me that at ten past eight the date and time will be 20,10,2010 20:10. Isn’t that fun?

I referred above to this ‘welcoming island’ and it is our hope and part of our objective that the Chaplaincy of St Francis is also welcoming; and just like the date it should be fun.

Our main fundraising activity in the Autumn is our Christmas Bazaar (see page 11) This is our biggest event of the year and without the funds it usually raises we would have even bigger financial difficulties. The event also requires a large number of people to put in a great deal of effort to make it a success but at the end of the day ‘it is fun’. If you are here during the build up to this event and can offer you time and services please do have a word with Gwen who is the Bazaar coordinator this year, you will be very welcome. I can promise you that IT IS FUN!

***The Editor***

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

### Contents

From Our Chaplain.....	2
Saint Francis Gift Day 2010.....	3
Diary for November .....	4
Intercessions.....	6
Sermon (The ten lepers).....	7
Guild of Saint Claire.....	10
Christmas Bazaar.....	11
Remembrance – 70 years on.....	12
The Royal British Legion.....	13
Remembrance Services .....	14
Signs and Symbols: The oil before Baptism.....	15
Gift Day Photographs.....	16
Magazine Subscription Rates.....	17
The Train Journey.....	19
God in the Arts .....	20
Whose fault is it, anyway?.....	22
Anglicans and Friends Having Fun.....	22
Growing with Others.....	23
Letter from St James .....	24
Remember Them.....	26
Sudoku.....	27
Crossword.....	28
Puzzle Solutions.....	30

## From Our Chaplain

My dear friends in Christ Jesus,

It's been a long hot summer but in our Chaplaincy, it's now that the pace really heats up. The 'swallows' are back, the winter sun-seekers are here and the great seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany are just around the corner. In the UK the month of November is normally associated with the onset of winter, shorter days, dark, long nights, fog and frost and even a bit of snow. But in the Church's calendar we are given hints of the wonders to come. We are tempted by the November feasts to explore our faith more deeply and prepare ourselves for the great festivals to come.

November starts off with the wonderful and celebratory feast of All Saints (this year celebrated a day early on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October!) which starts us off towards Advent. But, no sooner are we celebrating the Saints in Glory, than the mood quickly changes to one of remembrance. All Souls Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> November (The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed) is complementary to All Saints in that it is a more reflective and personal remembering of those we love but see no more. This year, because of the way these two festivals fall, we will be reading the names in the Remembrance Book on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> in San Eugenio and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> in Los Gigantes.

Then we're off again on the theme of Remembrance with the secular but traditional Bonfire or Firework Night on 5<sup>th</sup> November quickly followed by Remembrance Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> which this year falls on a Thursday and so, together with the British Legion we will be celebrating the occasion in Los Gigantes. As usual, we will be celebrating Remembrance Sunday (14<sup>th</sup>) with a Eucharist in San Eugenio at 10:15am with Last Post and two minutes silence at 11am. In the evening we will be holding a Remembrance Service at 6pm in San Blas.

November goes out with a loud blast of celebration to bring the Church's year to a close with a bang; The Festival of Christ the King. It's a good time to think about what Christ's kingship really means to

us – to offer our total obedience; to pray that others will come to see the value of doing the same, and pray for the building of his kingdom here on earth. My favourite image of Christ isn't the broken and suffering crucified Jesus, but Jesus wearing a kingly crown and robes on the cross – celebrating his victory over death – and it's because of this that we hail him as our king today.

May God Bless you and all those whom you love.

Your Chaplain and friend,

***Fr. Keith***

## **Saint Francis Gift Day 2010**

For the first time all three churches celebrated the feast of St Francis individually with a Gift Day. This took different formats in each location.

San Blas celebrated on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October with an open day. The church was brightened considerably by a demonstration of flower arranging by Marisha Carter.

On St Francis Day, October 4<sup>th</sup>, Los Gigantes got into the spirit with a morning of free coffee and yummy cake and a sales table of gifts.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, San Eugenio opened its doors for an 11.30 am Sung Eucharist together with a party from all Saints, Puerto de la Cruz including their new Chaplain Fr Mike and his wife Sam. The Church was beautifully decorated with flowers arranged by Betty Fletcher. This was followed by a delicious lunch nearby.

Great ways to celebrate our Patronal Festival with the promise of more next year.

*See photos on page 16*

## Diary for November

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mon		All Saints Day. Visit to All Saints, Puerto de la Cruz	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tues		All Souls' Day	
			<i>The names in the Remembrance Book will be read at each midweek service.</i>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
4 <sup>th</sup>	Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
5 <sup>th</sup>	Fri			
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sat		Afternoon Teas at Shirley Beard's	
7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent</b>	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
			Chaplaincy Lunch,	– San Eugenio
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist by Extension	– San Blas
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	3.00 pm	Council Meeting,	– Res Sonia
9 <sup>th</sup>	Tues	10.00 am	Guild of St Clare	– Caroline Homer's
10 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
11 <sup>th</sup>	Thur		Remembrance Day	
		10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
			with the presence of The British Legion	
			2 minutes silence at 11.00 am	
			Chaplaincy Lunch	– Espiritu Santo
12 <sup>th</sup>	Fri			
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	10.00 am	Book Sale	– Charlesworth's
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> <b>(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent)</b>	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
			2 minutes silence at 11.00 am	
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist by Extension	– San Blas
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	3.00 pm	Council Meeting	– Res Sonia
16 <sup>th</sup>	Tues			
17 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
18 <sup>th</sup>	Thur			
		10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
19 <sup>th</sup>	Fri			
20 <sup>th</sup>	Sat			

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday****Christ the King**

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

22<sup>nd</sup> Mon23<sup>rd</sup> Tues24<sup>th</sup> Wed 10.15 am Holy Eucharist Said – San Eugenio

11.00 am Advent Course led by Marisha Carter  
– Shirley Beard's

25<sup>th</sup> Thur 10.30 am Holy Eucharist Sung – Espiritu Santo

10.30 am Advent Course, – Christine Gaunt's

4.00 pm Advent Course – Res Sonia

26<sup>th</sup> Fri27<sup>th</sup> Sat 10.30 am Autumn Bazaar – Los Gigantes**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday****Advent Sunday**

10.15 am Holy Eucharist Sung – San Eugenio

6.00 pm Holy Eucharist – Espiritu Santo

6.00 pm Holy Eucharist by Extension – San Blas

29<sup>th</sup> Mon30<sup>th</sup> Tues Andrew The Apostle, Patron of Scotland.**December**1<sup>st</sup> Wed 10.15 am Holy Eucharist Said – San Eugenio

11.00 am Advent Course led by Marisha Carter  
– Shirley Beard's

2<sup>nd</sup> Thur 10.30 am Holy Eucharist Sung – Espiritu Santo

10.30 am Advent Course, – Christine Gaunt's

4.00 pm Advent Course – Res Sonia

3<sup>rd</sup> Fri4<sup>th</sup> Sat Afternoon Tea at Shirley Beard's**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday****2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

10.15 am Holy Eucharist Sung – San Eugenio

6.00 pm Holy Eucharist Sung – Espiritu Santo

6.00 pm Holy Eucharist by Extension – San Blas



# *Intercessions*

## *The Power of Prayer*

THE SICK FOR WHOM WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PRAY:

Baby Jamie – Eileen Baldwin – Cian & Joan Barry  
Bronwen Battye – John Bosley – Laura Brown – Robert Brumpton  
Keith Burke – Kath Challinor – Samuel Coker – Lenna Cole  
Emanuel Cole – Gladys Cole – Lydia Cook – Corina Cormack  
Andrew Crowther – Doris Dendy – Jeanette Dick – Ann Dobson  
Mary Dudfield – Nicki Duval – Revd. Jeff Engel – Victoria Ford  
Gordon & Pearl French – Lauren Gaunt – Betty Gilroy  
David & Betty Gledhill – Peter Goldsmith – Liz Govan – Kathy Greenhall  
David Grove – Paul Hazelby – Ian Hubbard – Mick & Wendy Hulley  
Helen Hutt – Revd Malcom Jackson – Jason – Daniel – Fr. Philip Lamb  
Audrey Lancaster – John Mcgee – Mary Mansell – Peter Mulloch  
Hazel Noble – Simon Norman-Ballantyne – Brian Norris – Jacquie Parks  
Jill Pratt – Alan Price – Mary Roe – Rita Selbie – Sinead – Joe Slater 6yrs  
Ewen Smith – Amanda Stead – Revd Robert Sterman – Susan Stratton  
Dudley Thomas – Hilda Thomas – Stephen Thomas – Rose Tomlinson  
John & Anne Vaughn – Harry Wilkinson

## *The Recently Departed*

Patrick Dove – Hens Fulda – Rachel Hopkin – Chris Whitmore

## *Years Mind – Anniversary of Passing*

November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Christine Laing
7 <sup>th</sup>	Kenneth Whenlock
15 <sup>th</sup>	Jessica Rason
23 <sup>rd</sup>	John Davies
25 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Taska

## Sermon (The ten lepers)

Then one of them, when he saw he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice ... giving Him thanks. (Luke 17:15-16)

If you ever doubted the importance of saying “thank you” to someone when a “thank you” is due, consider the story in today’s Gospel.

Luke tells us that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem and as He passed near Galilee and Samaria, He was met by ten lepers. They called out to Him, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” Jesus sent them on to the priests and as they went there, the lepers were healed.

There were ten lepers healed that day, yet only one came back to say “Thank you”. Only one out of ten! The other nine lepers were healed, but they still weren’t healthy in the whole sense, since none of them had a thankful heart.

Let’s look for a moment at the disease we’re talking about. Leprosy is still a problem in India, where Mother Teresa worked with lepers for many years. It’s still a problem in parts of Africa and Asia. But leprosy has largely disappeared from the Western world, so we tend to forget what a terrible and terrifying disease it really is.

You can carry the disease for years before the symptoms appear – nodules on your skin which grow larger and larger, until they force deep wrinkles all over your body. Then your lips, nose and ear lobes grow thicker, until your face begins to resemble an animal’s. You get ulcerations everywhere, which cause your arms and legs to be horribly mutilated. You start losing your fingers and toes and as the disease continues to progress, you are left blind.

As if the disease itself wasn’t cruel enough, there was also the social ostracism. Even in the Bible, there were strict rules given for dealing with lepers; their situation was even worse than what happens to many AIDS victims today. When you were diagnosed a leper, you were completely cut off from the community. You had to wear mourning clothes, as if you were dead. You kept your head covered, your lips veiled and everywhere you went, you had to cry, “Unclean, unclean!” in order to warn others from getting near you. You lived outside the village, in caves or open pits reserved

for lepers. You spent your days begging for food and your nights waiting to die.

That's why it's hard to understand why all ten of the lepers didn't come running back to Jesus – the Man who had freed them from this merciless disease and thanked Him face to face.

We like to be thanked for the things we do for other people. Even Jesus Himself wanted to be thanked! He said to the one leper who did return: "There were ten men who were healed; where are the other nine? Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?" Even if our own problems aren't as severe as a leper's, the Gospel makes us think about the ways we're not as thankful as we should be.

I think most of us are like the nine lepers in the story. Our hearts aren't thankful enough. We don't say "thank you" often enough for the kindnesses, large and small, which are given to us every day.

You can even be thankful during the most difficult of circumstances in life. We see an especially inspiring example of a brave and thankful heart in the story behind one of the church's most popular hymns, our first hymn today "Now Thank We All Our God."

This hymn was written during the Thirty Years War in Germany, in the early 1600s. Its author was Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor in the town of Eilenburg in Saxony. Now, Eilenburg was a walled city, so it became a haven for refugees seeking safety from the fighting. But soon, the city became too crowded and food was in short supply. Then, a famine hit and a terrible plague and Eilenburg became a giant morgue.

In one year alone, Pastor Rinkart conducted funerals for 4,500 people, including his own wife. The war dragged on; the suffering continued. Yet through it all, he never lost courage or faith and even during the darkest days of Eilenburg's agony, he was able to write this hymn:

***"Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom the world rejoices ...[So] keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills, in this world and the next."***

Even when he was waist deep in destruction, Pastor Rinkart was able to lift his sights to a higher plane. He kept his mind on God's love when the

world was filled with hate. He kept his mind on God's promises of heaven when the earth was a living hell. We should try and do the same – we whose lives are almost trouble-free, compared with the man who wrote that hymn.

Look back on your life and think of the people who helped you along the way; the people near and dear to you who are helping you today, the people in your own home or family – the very people you might be taking for granted. There is no such thing as a “self-made man” or a “self-made woman.” Everyone has people to thank for helping them in their lives day to day.

We do have a lot to be thankful for and a lot of “thank you’s” to give away, when we think about our lives like that. We also have a larger lesson to remember – a larger reason to give thanks – because every time we receive a gift of caring or concern from someone else, we also receive that gift from God.

The friendly smile from the stranger, the cheerful service at the crowded checkout, the doctor who goes out of his way to make you feel at ease, the loved one who makes an important sacrifice for you – these and a hundred other kindnesses are all examples of the love and kindness of God. They are all reasons for us to “Thank We All Our God,” because God expresses His love to us through the love of others.

But, God also expresses His love and care directly to us, without any help from anyone else, solely by the Presence of the Spirit of His Son, Jesus Christ, and if that isn't something to be thankful for, I don't know what is!

It's easy to take the goodness of our loved ones for granted, just as it's easy to take our Lord's goodness for granted. That's what happened with nine lepers who met Jesus as He walked to Jerusalem one day.

They received a priceless miracle, yet they went on their way without saying thanks.

We don't want to be like that. We want to be like the one leper who came back to Jesus – our minds set on our Lord; our eyes seeing His love. We mustn't be satisfied until we can find Him and praise Him to His face, but in the meantime, He has given us the grace to live the rest of our lives in the fullness of joy and with thankful hearts. Amen

*Sermon preached by Father Kieth on 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

## **Guild of Saint Claire**

If you are fascinated or inspired by any kind of needlework, patchwork etc., you might like to visit the Guild which will be meeting at the home of Rev. Caroline Homer for a day's work, 10:00 am –3:00 pm, on the dates below.

As a visitor, you can drop in for a cup of coffee and a chat on any day.

It is a chance to relax with time and space for doing your favourite crafts. We tend to inspire and encourage each other too.

Tenerife has a unique and beautiful form of needlelace (not bobbins!). If you would like to learn the craft, teaching and materials will be available on Guild Days. (Cost 5 euros)

### **DATES:**

**November 9<sup>th</sup> UFO DAY**

If you have an UnFinished Object, a piece you've been meaning to finish but..... bring it along. Prize for the best / funniest excuse and later in the year if you manage to finish it!

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Be inspired by angels?**

Swap ideas for Christmas decorations.

### **2011**

**January 11<sup>th</sup> February 8<sup>th</sup> March 8<sup>th</sup> April 12<sup>th</sup> May 10<sup>th</sup> June 7<sup>th</sup>**

All meetings from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

VENUE: AIXIN, Calle Finlandia

(10 minutes walk from San Eugenio church)

Further information: Caroline Homer 922 788 717

**St Francis Anglican Chaplaincy  
of Tenerife South**

# *Christmas Bazaar*

**Los Gigantes Plaza**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**Opens at 10.30 am**

**Stalls will include**

**Books, Jigsaws, CDs & DVDs, Clothes,  
Bric-a-Brac, Cards, Produce, Tombola,  
Gifts and a Grand Raffle**

**In aid of good causes and much needed  
Chaplaincy Funds.**

**We still require people to assist on the day  
and more bottles for Tombola prizes.**

If you are in a position to assist will you please contact

<b>Fr Keith Gordon</b>	<b>922 74 20 45</b>
<b>Elizabeth Thomas</b>	<b>922 39 61 33</b>
<b>Marisha Carter</b>	<b>922 17 61 10</b>
<b>Gwen Furmston</b>	<b>922 74 83 51</b>

## Remembrance – 70 years on

This year is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain – when the horrors of the Luftwaffe bombs were heavy over British skies. On this Remembrance Day we can only imagine the terror of living in Coventry, in Liverpool, in London during these months 70 years ago. It must have seemed like the beginning of the end of the world.

It is a good time to stop and thank God that in the end, evil did not prevail. Hitler did not win the battle to dominate Europe. His expected 'rule of a 1000 years' lasted a mere 12 years (1933 to 1945). And we can thank God for the courage and endurance of our fathers and grandfathers, our mothers and grandmothers, in the midst of such towering darkness and destruction.

70 years on, the world is still at war. Man's greed and arrogance and desire for domination have not gone away. There are still battles to be fought for our land, major problems to be solved. Economic uncertainty, terrorism, climate warming... the threats are different, but our need for courage, endurance and perseverance is the same. It is a good time to pray for our nation and ourselves, to turn to God in repentance and in faith, to 'walk more nearly' and 'follow him more clearly'. It is a good time to be ready to serve our God and serve our neighbour in whatever way lies opens before us.

Different things can add up in different ways whilst reaching an identical solution, just as 'eleven plus two' forms an anagram of 'twelve plus one'.

( *Margot Gleave, A Classical Education* )

# The Royal British Legion

Yes! It is that time again!

Yes! We want your money, please, as much as possible!

The boxes of poppies and collection tins will be distributed as from the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and collected as from the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

Any amount gets you a poppy, but please be as generous as possible.

Boxes have been distributed, here, in Tenerife, by the Royal British Legion, for more than twelve years, with a very good response by the people on the island. The 2009 Appeal, here, in the south of Tenerife raised €8,272.62, which we hope, with your help, to surpass this year.

All monies collected go to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. This helps to do the welfare work, not only in the UK, but all over the world, including, here, in the Canary Islands.

The Royal British Legion has been in existence since 1921 and has always been there to help those ex-service personnel and their dependents in need. Wars of all ages have seen so many hurt and injured. That is where we come in.

Please give generously and wear your poppy with pride.

Thank you

Kelly

Poppy Appeal Organiser

and all my helpers.

Should you require poppies and a collection tin please contact Kelly on 922.786777 or the Branch Chairman Don on 922.739486

# **Remembrance Services 2010**

## **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

Espiritu Santo Church, Los Gigantes

Service of Remembrance

At 10.30 am.

Followed By A Eucharist Service

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

### ***The Royal British Legion Service Of Remembrance***

Westhaven Bay, Costa Del Silencio at 10.30 am.

(You Are Advised To Bring A Sunhat And A Bottle Of Water)

### ***Anglican Church Services With Acts Of Remembrance***

Chaplaincy Of South Tenerife (With Eucharist)

San Eugenio, Pueblo Canario, Las Americas at 10.15 am.

Espiritu Santo, Los Gigantes at 6.00 pm.

San Blas, Golf Del Sur at 6.00 pm.

### ***Anglican Chaplaincy Of North Tenerife***

All Saints Church, Puerto De La Cruz at 10.50 am.

### ***South Tenerife Christian Fellowship***

Apollo Centre, Los Cristianos at 10.50 am.

Coral Mar Square, Costa Del Silencio at 10.55 am.

## **Signs and Symbols: The oil before Baptism**

*The Rev Dr Jo White continues her series on the many Christian signs and symbols in our churches.*

When you think of oil being used in a Christian context, it is often used for anointing people for whom you are praying for healing. Each year the Bishop of a diocese, or his equivalent in non-Anglican denominations, usually blesses such oil during Holy Week. But there is a second oil which is used in Christian initiation in various traditions of the church.

At the time of the Reformation the use of oil was abolished, as they saw no requirement for yet more symbolism within a baptism service – the prayers, water and signing of the cross being all sufficient.

Today many churches within the Anglican body and in other denominations have brought back the use of oil both for adults (young and old) during their time of preparation for baptism and for babies and young children immediately before immersion or pouring of the baptismal water. So why do we use it?

The oil used is usually pure olive oil and takes us back to the times of athletes preparing to compete in the games by rubbing and massaging oil over their bodies. In other words, it symbolises that we are ‘getting ready’; preparing ourselves, and / or being prepared. We’re not there yet – but we’re on our way.

In a baptism service the priest (if oil is used) will dip his/her right thumb into the oil and make the sign of the cross on the person’s forehead. So two symbols joining together – the candidate being prepared to follow ‘the way of the cross’.

*This month:* If you get the chance, take part in a baptism service and have a look and see whether this oil – the Oil of Catechumens – is used. What do you think are the likely ‘contests’ that we are likely to meet as we follow the cross of Christ? Perhaps John Bunyan’s story, Pilgrims Progress, will also give you some ideas.

## Gift Day Photographs



Marisha Carter Flower  
arranging at San Blas

Fr Keith and Fr Mike  
concelebrate at  
San Eugenio



Fr Keith and Fr Mike  
with some of our visitors

## **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?

It now costs 40p to post a copy to you, including packing, 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 £1.30 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

# 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 £1.30 per copy.

We plan nine issues per year.

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

Name .....

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 Tenerife South .)

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

## **The Train Journey**

**The following story was told by the well known Christian Brother Andrew...**

A few years ago a pastor was travelling by train in the Soviet Union. He got talking to the man sharing his compartment, and soon the conversation turned to God. The pastor listened patiently as the other man extolled the logic of atheism and mocked his faith in God. When the pastor tried to talk about Jesus, the atheist grew very angry.

The pastor then left the compartment for a few minutes, and on his return found that his Bible was missing. The atheist was just closing the window. The pastor was deeply hurt to lose his Bible, and the journey concluded in stony silence.

A few months later, a stranger from a little distance away called on the pastor. He wanted to be baptized. Startled, the pastor asked why his own church had not baptized him. "There are no Christians and no church in my village," said the man. "But I have read my Bible and I know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and I want to be baptized and follow him."

The pastor was astonished. "If you know no Christians, how did you even get hold of a Bible?"

The man paused. "You aren't going to believe this," he said, "but God sent it to me direct. Some months ago I was working as a builder near a railway track when, as the train went by, a book came flying out the window and landed in the dust near to me. It was a Bible! I started to read it out of curiosity, and then I could not put it down. Through it I have found God."

The pastor had no trouble in believing that a Bible had flown out of a train window. He rejoiced that it had landed at the man's feet. He baptized the man, who returned to his village brimming with enthusiasm. He shared his faith with his neighbours. Soon a little group of believers was formed, and began to grow. And all because of a thrown-away Bible. The atheist on the train would have been mortified to find out that he had planted a church.

## God in the Arts

*The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'St Francis in Ecstasy' by Giovanni Bellini. It is now housed in the Frick Collection in New York. For copyright reasons we have not included a copy of this on our website, but you can see a copy of this painting at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St.\\_Francis\\_in\\_Ecstasy\\_\(Bellini\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Francis_in_Ecstasy_(Bellini))*

### Become what you behold

Archbishop Rowan Williams once compared prayer to sunbathing when he said that you don't get a better tan by screwing up your eyes and concentrating. The important thing is to turn up and sit there. It is the same with prayer: turn up and then life will begin to change. 'You simply have to be there where the light can get at you.' That moment of turning to God's light is celebrated in this month's painting of 'St Francis in Ecstasy' by Giovanni Bellini. On 4<sup>th</sup> October we shall give thanks to God for one of the most popular and much loved saints of the Church. There are many stories, some legend, some fact, that tell of St Francis' love and goodness to all creation. He poured out that love in his hymn of praise, 'The Canticle of the Sun.'

He also composed a meditation on the Lord's Prayer in which he wrote, 'Thy kingdom come that thou mayest reign in us by thy grace.' To many of his followers and contemporaries it did seem that the kingdom of God's grace had come to reign in St Francis, so that he seemed himself to be clothed with the sun. The joy and peace of God's glory shone through his life. To those around, this life of deep communion with God seemed to transfigure his body. It was also a deep communion with his crucified Lord and Saviour for he received the marks of the stigmata, the marks of the passion, on his own person.

That moment is captured in this painting by Bellini. He came from a family of Renaissance artists in Venice and was taught by his father, Jacopo. This work dates from 1480 and is one of the earliest paintings of oil on wood. With this new technique Bellini went on to create some of the most beautiful paintings of the western world. Here the saint has stepped out into the dawn of a new day. There are no sandals on his

feet for, like Moses, he is standing on holy ground to greet his brother the sun. For he is looking up not just to the light of the morning, he is looking up to the light of God's glory. His arms are stretched out as his eyes look to the heaven above.

In the painting St Francis is surrounded by many things that are symbolic of the Christian life: the donkey is a sign of humility and obedience; the laurel tree leaning in at the side is the wood of the cross; a skull on the desk is a sign of death; the stream marks water and life; and peeping through the wall we can spot a little rabbit eyeing the saint up and down. The marks of the stigmata are very subtle as we look for them for Bellini is stressing this moment of ecstasy as a moment of transfiguration. Both the saint and the setting are bathed in glory and light.

When he received the stigmata on Mount Alverna, St Francis prayed for two things: first, that he would know as far as possible the pain our Lord suffered for humanity, and secondly, that he would know the love which moved him to bear it. The glory of that love worked in the saint to transform and transfigure him, so that even in his last years, when his health was broken and his eyes blinded by disease, the love and glory shone out to those around. This month's painting marks the dawn of that new stage in the life of St Francis. He walks into the light of a new day. Like the saint we begin each new day with thanksgiving and trust as we look out onto the world. We see the light scattering the darkness of the night and hear God calling us, as he called St Francis, to become what we behold.

### **Bible Knowledge**

A minister was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I finally figured out what the Bible means!" The minister thought of his extensive theological library and smiled indulgently. He asked his young son what he thought the Bible meant.

"It's easy, Daddy...", the young boy replied excitedly. "It means 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth'."

## **Anglicans and Friends Having Fun**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> September an evening of Social Drama and “Dated” parlour games was held in the candle lit garden of Church Warden Ann.

Thirty church members and friends had great fun and over 200€ was raised for church funds.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> October we commemorated Fr Keith’s 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Chaplain with a celebration of the Eucharist and a shared picnic in the forest at Chio. It was not the hottest day but at least it did not rain and reminded us all that although it can be hot by the coast, at a height of 1,500 meters it can be a different story.

*There are some photographs recording these events but they were not available to include in this issue. I hope to reproduce some of them in the next issue.*

## **Whose fault is it, anyway?**

In a small town a businessman put in planning permission to build a nightclub complete with dancing girls. The local church started a vigorous campaign to block it from opening. The church launched a petition and held prayers in public. Work progressed, however, right up until the week before opening. Then one night a bolt of lightning strike hit the nightclub and it burned to the ground.

The church members were rather smug after that, until the nightclub owner sued them all – on the grounds that they were responsible for the fire. Loudly protesting their total non-involvement and innocence, the church members were all taken to court.

As the case began, the judge looked over the paperwork and observed: “I don't know how I'm going to decide this. It appears that we have a nightclub owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that doesn't!”

## Growing with Others

General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was once invited to give 'a very short word' at a public gathering, so he stood up and preached a one word sermon: 'Others...'

That word, of course, sums up the whole ethos, direction and amazing impact of the ministry he led, but it also goes to the very heart of what it means to be Church. The New Testament writers, for instance, use the word 'saint' 62 times. In every case bar one they use the plural form 'saints', and even the singular use of the word says 'greet every saint'.

In other words, the concept of a solitary Christian was as foreign to New Testament writers as it has been ever since in the writings of Christian Leaders. John Wesley once wrote, 'God knows nothing of solitary religion. No man ever went to heaven alone.' No wonder then that the whole story of the Church's growth is also very much the story of 'growing with others in order to serve others'.

Perhaps we all have a natural tendency to equate growth and success with the individual gifts of larger than life leaders, but the Booths and Wesleys of this world were only successful because they understood that in God's economy, growing with and through others is not just a good plan, but his only plan.

A story is told of the moment that Jesus returned to heaven and the angels asked him what was now planned to follow his amazing life, death and resurrection. Jesus replied that he'd left a small group of his disciples to spread the Gospel and grow his Church. When the angels asked 'What else?', he replied, 'There is nothing else', and the angels were stunned and amazed and awe-struck at the idea that a few weak and fallible human beings, living and working with each other, could actually give birth to a movement that in time would grow the Church and change the world.

Perhaps you have a dream of growing something significant in your own church, community or organisation, or even simply in your own life. Whatever your vision for growth, be it personal or very public, make sure that a profound connection and commitment to 'others' and for 'others' is at the very heart of all your plans.

# Letter from St James the Least of All

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

## **On the perils of 'passing the peace'**

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

In some religions, women are obliged to sit on one side of the building and men on the other; would that there was a similar division between those who wish to "pass the peace" and those who do not. Separate buildings may be even better – preferably on different planets.

I was genuinely grateful when you came to help at our special Service last week, but when I bawled from the safety of the sanctuary "peace be with you" I did not expect you to gallop down the nave embracing everyone in sight. Certainly, a few of our weaker brethren were enchanted, but the sturdy majority were quite traumatised. A generalised "good morning" to no one in particular when entering church and then a noncommittal nod to the sidesman when you leave is all that is required. That is more than enough familiarity.

While you continued down the aisle like a galleon in full sail, Admiral Thomas, being an early recipient of your bonhomie, found it necessary to resort to his hip flask long before we even got to the sermon and others stood rigid in shock; after decades of attending church, someone had not only spoken to them but actually touched them. Several members are considering bringing a joint action against you for grievous bodily harm and Mr Parsons, who never attends church, is busy asking round the village, with a hint of menace, who assaulted his wife during divine worship.

I know that in your own church, this period of communal groping forms an essential part of worship, generally lasting slightly longer than

your half-hour sermons, but at St. James the Least, the peace remains firmly un-passed.

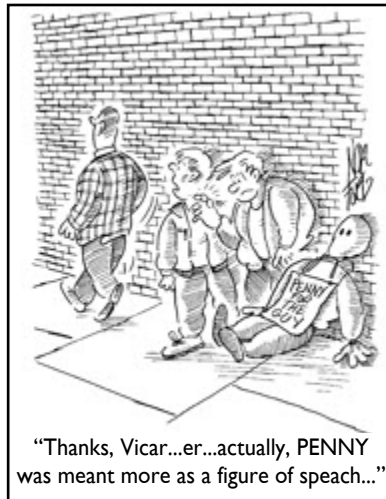
You have also created a dangerous precedent. Dear Miss Timmins now waits at every service, ready to throw herself into the arms of any unfortunate who may so much as catch her eye. Others are on a hair-trigger, ready to drop to their knees and make it look as if they are in intense prayer, should anyone look as if they might approach with ulterior motives.

It has also significantly reduced our collections. Many now suspect that someone approaching them with a plate may be using it as a ploy and once they get near, discard it to throw their arms around unsuspecting worshippers. Diversionary tactics such as rooting in handbags for handkerchiefs, bending down to check for mice droppings, or intense examination of the roof beams, mean that the collection plate remains empty.

Perhaps next time, when you hear those fatal words, you keep your hands firmly in your pockets and your feet glued to the floor. It will come as a great relief to us all.

Your loving uncle,

***Eustace***



## Remember Them

With leaves of green and petals red  
We think of those now long since dead  
This Remembrance Sunday let us pray  
For the young soldier who will die today

In far off lands in fields of war  
Does he know what he's fighting for?  
A young man whose life has just begun  
And now he stands behind a gun

He knows now, that war's no game  
There's only death, no glamour, fame  
He's fighting men and fighting fears  
He's seen enough of blood and tears

Another day, will he survive?  
That he may come home still alive  
Or will he in a casket return  
How many more, before we learn

That there's no glory in a war  
Only shattered limbs, and blood, and gore  
Today another man will die  
A grieving wife and mother cry

A bomb explodes a man is killed  
His beating heart now silent, stilled  
No more future, no more life's plan  
Of being a husband, father, man

At his graveside prayers are said  
A brave young soldier, sadly, dead  
In his short life he gave his best  
In peace, we lay his body to rest

In war there is no victory  
War's gifts are pain and misery  
For only when All wars do cease  
Can our heroes, truly, rest in peace.

*Remember them, buy a Poppy.*

***Elizabeth Thomas***

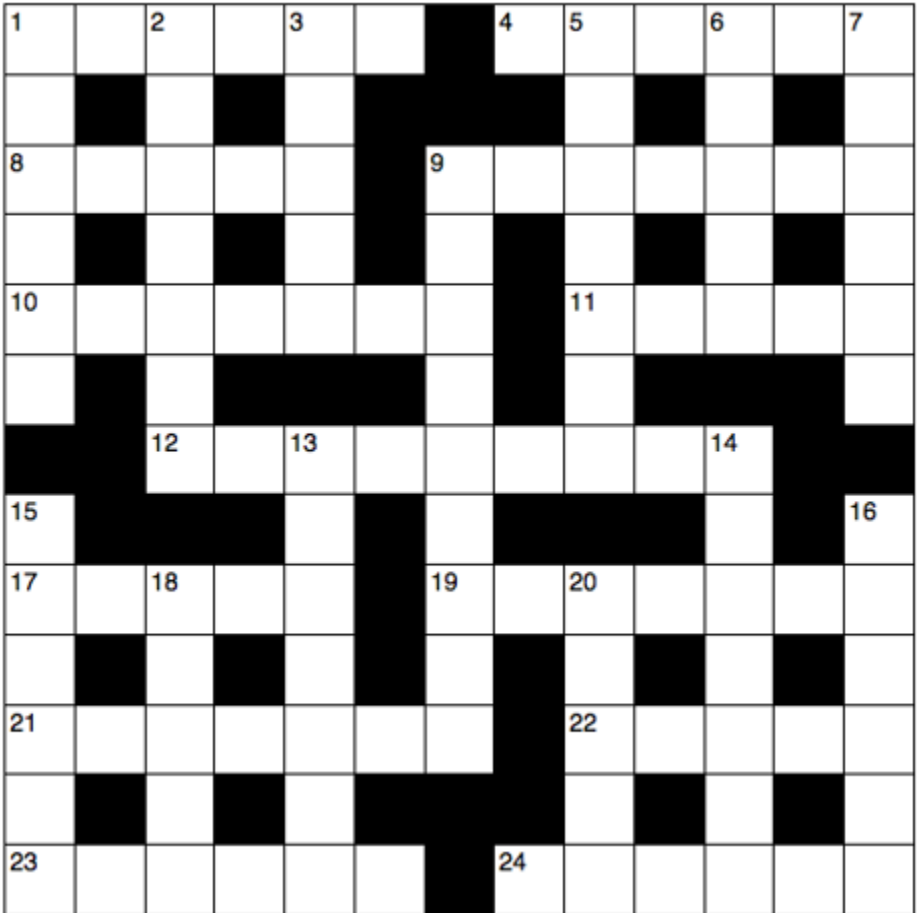
# Sudoku

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

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*Solution on page 30*

# Crossword



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

## Clues

### Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when he had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

### Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

**Solution on page 30**

# 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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