

# **St Francis Anglican Chaplaincy Tenerife South**

**Worshipping in**

**San Eugenio, Playa de las Americas,  
Espiritu Santo, Los Gigantes,  
San Blas, Golf del Sur,  
Swedish Church, Los Cristianos.**



**Diocese of  
Gibraltar in  
Europe**



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

## From the Editor

I have often referred to the fact that in the summer months while I am in the UK I compile the magazine and then, like other British news papers, transmit the material electronically to Tenerife where Lionel Flather prints it and distributes it.

Well this month we have taken our methods a step further in emulating the British press and include with this issue a colour supplement.

During last weekend as the Bishop moved around the Chaplaincy, the paparazzi were very much in evidence. As a result some 112 photos appeared on my computer. I have used a sample of these together with a résumé of the Bishop's visit on the centre 4 pages this month. I further hope to get many of the others onto the web site (tenerifechurch.com) in the coming weeks. If you would like personal copies of any of them you can copy them off the web site or get in touch with me (my email address is on the inside back cover of this magazine) and we will see what we can do.

And there is more! Those of you who worship at San Eugenio will remember Brian Mace and his wife Val who spent several weeks here each winter. On page 20 Brian writes about his reflections on his life with Val.

### *The Editor*

**Deadline for March contributions**  
**13th March**

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## From Our Chaplain

My dear friends in Christ Jesus,

As I sit at my desk and write this letter, having just dropped Bishop Geoffrey off at the airport, I can't help reflecting on what a wonderful weekend we've just experienced and also how lucky we are to have such a talented Bishop leading this vast Diocese forward.

Without going into too many details of what we did (I'm sure they'll be elsewhere in this or the next magazine) I'd like to mention some of, what were to me, the highlights. The Chaplaincy Council prepared to greet him at my home, with a bring and share supper, but unfortunately the Bishop's plane was delayed by an hour and so there was already a good party atmosphere when we finally arrived!

Saturday saw us visiting the new congregation at Los Cristianos followed by lunch at Ann Plummer's house. She greeted us regally in her bed chamber and then her daughter served us with a wonderful home grown and home made sweet potato soup. The afternoon was taken up visiting the congregation at San Blas followed by a visit to the cave of Hermano Pedro – Tenerife's only Saint – a fitting end to a remarkable day.

The pace resumed on Sunday with a well attended Eucharist at San Eugenio celebrated by Bishop Geoffrey, followed by a time of fellowship and lunch.

The evening saw Bishop Geoffrey at Los Gigantes for the Confirmation of four candidates, three from San Blas and one from Los Gigantes. The church was full of atmosphere as Bishop Geoffrey sprinkled the candidates with water to remind them of their Baptism, anointed them with Holy oil and laid his hands on each of them. Finally they were each presented with a certificate, a Bible and a lighted candle to remind them that Christ is the light of the world and they must walk in that light all the days of their lives. We then went over to Shirley Beard's terrace for a lovely night of delicious snacks and drinks.

A visit was made to visit Hilda Thomas in hospital. It was just the lift she needs and the Bishop graciously laid his hands upon her and prayed over her.

It's been an eventful weekend but one that many will remember for many years. It just remains for me to say a huge THANK YOU to all the people who helped to make this visit the success it undoubtedly was.

May God Bless you all and may the love of our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts.

Your Chaplain and friend,

***Fr. Keith***

**The Chaplaincy Annual General Meeting**

**Danish Hotel Callao Salvaje**

**10.15 am Holy Eucharist Said**

**Followed by the Chaplaincy AGM**

**Lent Courses**

We are running 3 Lent courses this year.

**Wednesdays**

**7:30** led by Marisha Carter at Calle Pino in Los Gigantes

**Thursdays**

**10:30** led by Christine Gaunt at her home in Silencio.

**4:00** led by Fr Keith at the Chaplaincy Residence.

For further details speak to the leader.

## Diary for March

1 <sup>st</sup>	Tues		David, Bishop, Patron of Wales	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said Followed by Chaplaincy AGM	– Danish Hotel Callao Salvaje
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
4 <sup>th</sup>	Fri			
5 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	10.30 am	Spring Bazaar	– Los Gigantes
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung Chaplaincy Lunch	– San Eugenio – San Eugenio
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist by Extension	– San Blas
7 <sup>th</sup>	Mon			
8 <sup>th</sup>	Tues			
9 <sup>th</sup>	Wed		Ash Wednesday	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said with Imposition of Ashes	– San Eugenio – San Eugenio
		7.30 pm	Lent Course	– Calle Pino
10 <sup>th</sup>	Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung Chaplaincy Lunch	– Espiritu Santo – Espiritu Santo
		10.30 am	Lent Course	– Christine Gaunt's
		4.00 pm	Lent Course	– Residence
11 <sup>th</sup>	Fri			
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sat			
13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
		10.30 am	Holy Eucharist with Hymns	– Swedish Church
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist by Extension	– San Blas
14 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	3.00 pm	Council Meeting	– Residence
15 <sup>th</sup>	Tues	10.00 am	Guild of St Clare	– Caroline Homer's
16 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
		7.30 pm	Lent Course	– Calle Pino
17 <sup>th</sup>	Thur		St Patrick, Patron of Ireland	
		10.30 am	Lent Course	– Christine Gaunt's
		10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung Chaplaincy Lunch	– Espiritu Santo – Espiritu Santo
		4.00 pm	Lent Course	– Residence

18 <sup>th</sup>	Fri			
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sat		St Joseph of Nazareth	
20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	
		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
21 <sup>st</sup>	Mon		Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tues			
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
		7.30 pm	Lent Course	– Calle Pino
24 <sup>th</sup>	Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
		10.30 am	Lent Course	– Christine Gaunt's
		4.00 pm	Lent Course	– Residence
25 <sup>th</sup>	Fri		The Annunciation of the Lord	
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sat		.	
27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
		10.30 am	Holy Eucharist with Hymns	– Swedish Church
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
		6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist by Extension	– San Blas
28 <sup>th</sup>	Mon			
29 <sup>th</sup>	Tues			
30 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
		7.30 pm	Lent Course	– Calle Pino
31 <sup>st</sup>	Thur	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
		10.30 am	Lent Course	– Christine Gaunt's
		4.00 pm	Lent Course	– Residence

## April

1 <sup>st</sup>	Fri			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sat			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)</b>	
		10.15 am	Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
			Chaplaincy Lunch	
		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 – Trevor Birch  
Bronwen Battye – John Bosley – Fr Peter Brown  
Barbara & Michael Browback – Robert Brumpton  
Keith Burke – Kath Challinor – Trish Chapman – Samuel Coker  
David Cole – Emanuel Cole – Gladys Cole – Lydia Cook  
Corina Cormack – Andrew Crowther – Jeanette Dick – Ann Dobson  
Nicki Duval – Revd. Jeff Engel – Victoria Ford – Gordon & Pearl French  
Steve Furmston – Betty Gilroy – David & Betty Gledhill – Liz Govan  
Kathy Greenhall – Emelia Harmer 4mths – Ian Hubbard  
Mick & Wendy Hulley – Helen Hutt – Revd Malcom Jackson  
Jason – Daniel – Fr. Philip Lamb – Betty Lee-Westworth  
Vicky Lever – Mary Mansell – Peter Mitchenson – Hazel Noble  
Ann Plummer – Jill Pratt – Alan Price – Michelle Radford-Brown  
Harvey Roe – Sinead – Joe Slater 7yrs – Ewen Smith – Amanda Stead  
Revd Robert Sterman – Susan Stratton  
Hilda Thomas – Stephen Thomas – Brian Thornton – Rose Tomlinson  
John & Anne Vaughn – Vance 3yrs – Harry Wilkinson – Roger Withers

## *The Recently Departed*

Audrey Lancaster

## *Years Mind – Anniversary of Passing*

March	4 <sup>th</sup>	Hilda Burgess
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Boyle
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Robert Powell
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Wainwright
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Phyllis Burgin

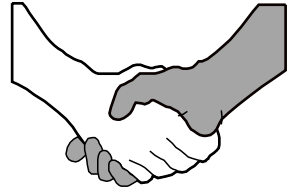
## **Bishop's Lent Appeal 2011**

Each year as Bishop of the Diocese I ask our chaplaincies to give through our Advent and Lent Appeals to those whose needs are greater than ours. Jesus gave us two great commandments – the love of God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, and the love of our neighbour as ourselves. St John in his first Letter reminds us that we cannot say that we love God whom we have not seen, if we do not love our neighbour whom we have seen. Love of God and love of neighbour are bound up together. Over the years the response of congregations throughout the Diocese to these Appeals has been generous and encouraging, and I thank you for that generosity.

This year the Lent Appeal is for our companion Diocese of Luweero in Uganda. Links with Luweero have been maintained over the years by the North-West Archdeaconry, and we are grateful to all in that Archdeaconry for enabling this partnership to be a living link. As you will see from the accompanying materials there are very practical projects in Luweero which our Lent Appeal will be supporting – a maternity wing and laboratory and the Sekamuli Parish Clinic; new motorcycles for the Archdeacons and Diocesan Staff; and a tree planting programme. All of these are about real practical help. Your gift to this year's Lent Appeal can make a real difference. I ask you, as part of your Lenten discipline, to give generously to this Appeal and to our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Diocese of Luweero.

***+GEOFFREY GIBRALTAR***

# Diocese of Luweero in Uganda



Luweero Twinning

## ***The Sekamuli Parish Clinic – maternity wing & laboratory***



Sekamuli Parish Clinic

The support to the Sekamuli Clinic has already made a significant impact on the availability of medical services in the community. Equipping the Maternity Wing and Laboratory should enable effective diagnosis which is not the current situation. The maternity wing will make a

significant impact with reducing neonatal and maternal deaths in the community. The facility will also be used to provide ante and post natal advice and possibly family planning.

Over the last two years the Luweero District has been lobbied by us for the building of a maternity wing and laboratory, the maternity wing is currently under construction and should be completed by the end of May. Our plan is then to provide cots, beds, maternal equipment, window gauzes, and mosquito nets.



Maternity wing under construction

The delivery room in the existing clinic will then be available as a temporary facility for the laboratory. Subsequent laboratory tests will assist effective diagnosis especially malaria, TB, HIV-Aids, STIs, worms,

hepatitis, parasitic and viral infections. All of which are of high incidence and the laboratory will ensure the proper diagnosis and treatment. The equipment budget can be purchased in phases with a total cost of €9,000.

### ***Motorcycles***

Only the few arterial roads in the diocese are metalled. The rest are graded earth. Most of these are in very poor state and some become virtually impassible during the rains. Other than a 4x4 vehicle a motorcycle is the most effective way of giving Archdeacons and Diocese staff access to the Diocese. Currently at least one motorcycle is urgently needed with a cost of approximately € 1,200. Some years ago 6 motorcycles were supplied by Luweero Twinning for the use of Archdeacons. They are now ancient but we are still thanked for them because of the big difference made to accessibility.

### ***Tree Planting***

Deforestation is a major problem in Uganda although there are frequent comments about the seriousness in the press and by the government there is very little effective action. The Luweero Diocese has undertaken to plant as much of its land with trees as possible. Some will be for income generation, others replacing indigenous trees. Already the diocese has planted 50 acres of eucalyptus in a swampy area and 25 acres of pine. There are 3 x 5 acre sites to be planted when the next rains arrive. These 3 sites are funded by the Anglican Archdeaconry of N.W.Europe.

## The Blind Man

I often wonder about people who send messages out to the world on bumper stickers. I've seen bumpers so covered with stickers that there wasn't much bumper left. Last year, I came across a new one: "Forty isn't old - if you're a tree!" I've no idea what age the driver must have been, but I'd guess that he wasn't happy about it. As one who's had a birthday recently the sticker struck home to me. "Forty isn't old - if you're a tree." But we aren't trees, we're people. In today's Gospel we find the story of a man who couldn't tell the difference between the two – at least, not until Jesus touched his eyes for the second time. For once, Jesus' attempt to heal someone isn't immediately successful. The need for a second touch may explain why Matthew and Luke leave this story out. Yet this two-stage healing is the very point of the story in Mark, tying it closely to its context and pointing most clearly to its significance for disciples like us, today.

Mark alone gives us the story of the healing of the blind man at Bethsaida. Bethsaida, which means "house of the fishermen" is important because it was the hometown of at least five of Jesus' disciples - Peter, John, James, Andrew, and Philip. Bethsaida was the village upon which Jesus had pronounced judgment because of its failure to repent, it was the home of five of the disciples - and yet the people there refused to listen to Jesus.

Now, Jesus didn't restore the man's sight within the village - he took him by the hand and led him out of the village. Perhaps the city was sunk in such spiritual darkness that even if the man's eyes were opened there, he still wouldn't be able to see, like opening your eyes in the bedroom in the middle of the night.

Jesus asked the man, 'do you see anything?' and he looked up and said, 'I see men; but they look like trees, walking.' The man's first vision was blurred. But blurred or not, he began to use the sight which Jesus had given him.

When we first begin the Christian life, our vision is blurred. Our understanding is limited. Having begun a walk with Jesus, we don't yet know what the end result will be. At first our spiritual sight is weak and fuzzy, but if we use what we have, new understandings and clarity come.

When people first become Christians, they only know that Jesus Christ "has taken away their sin. They know Jesus as Saviour - but not yet as Lord.

They haven't made the connection that Jesus was calling them to do something more than simply bask in the glory of His presence. Far too much modern popular religion is only the "first touch" of Jesus. People rejoice "I'm saved" but they forget that they're saved to serve. God begins a work in us, but the end isn't us: it's others. If our religion isn't personal, it doesn't get started. If it's never more than personal, it never goes anywhere. That is why when Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, he broke the rules of syntax and said that there were TWO "greatest"- love God AND your neighbour.

At first the blind man saw people: but he saw them "like trees, walking." That's as far as many of us ever get: we see people - but they look like things. They're things to us - consumers, commodities to be used. We see them as pawns on the chessboard of life rather than people to be loved.

A psychiatrist once commented about physicians who see patients only as an irrelevant appendage to an otherwise rather interesting disease – and we all tend to look at others that way. We see them as people who get in our way. Pedestrians on bicycles, other drivers who cut in front of us. People whom we can dismiss with a shrug and a wave of the hand.

The striking detail in this story is that the poor man's vision was only partially restored, he saw people as though they were trees. Many people still see people as things, not as people of infinite worth for whom Christ died.

There is a tendency to see others only as objects in a landscape, with no more emotional impact on us than trees might have. Our first concern is with ourselves. When we see a group picture, the first face we look for, is our own! Many years ago this little bit of gossip was printed in a London newspaper about a famous painter and an equally famous writer: "James McNeil Whistler and Oscar Wilde were seen yesterday at Brighton, talking, as usual, about themselves." When Whistler saw that little tid-bit of gossip in the newspaper, he clipped it out and sent it to Oscar Wilde with a note that said, "I wish these reporters would be more accurate. If you remember Oscar, we were talking about me." Oscar Wilde replied in a telegram that said, "It is true, Jimmy, we were talking about you but I was thinking about myself." Most of us do, most of the time. It is only when Christ comes and touches our eyes that we begin to see others as He sees them. Not as objects to be used, but as persons to be loved.

Then Jesus puts his hands on the man's eyes and then, finally his eyes are opened.

In that beautiful hymn: "Love Divine. All loves Excelling." Mission Praise says: "Let us all in Thee inherit/ Let us find thy promised rest." Wesley's original words were however; "Let us all in Thee inherit/ Let us find that second rest."

The "second rest" refers to John Wesley's notion that God can do more with our sin than just forgive it. God can move into us by the Holy Spirit and change our hearts, give us a "second touch," that, as the hymn says: "Takes away the love of sinning." The reference is to the so-called "second blessing," through which the Holy Spirit transforms the hearts of believers. Many hymn books leave out that verse altogether!

For Wesley, the "second blessing," the "second touch" of God's grace was Perfect Love. The ability to see people not as things, and to love them as Christ has first loved us. I once read somewhere that each of us, as Christians, needs two conversions: The first from the world to Christ; and the second, from Christ back to the world again. Far too many of us seem content to stay with the first one.

I actually heard of a revival meeting in one place where a fellow was trying to "pray his way through" and the evangelist knelt beside him to ask what the problem was. He said that he was hesitant to give his life to Christ, because he was a businessman, and the opportunity had just come to him to destroy his competitor by devious means. And if he gave his life to Christ, he wouldn't be able to do it. "Don't worry about it," said the evangelist, "What we're talking about here is your relationship to Christ. What you do outside of this meeting..well, that's another world. That's your own business." Too many people have that feeling, I am afraid.

The people of Israel left the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the Book of Exodus- so do we all. We don't arrive full-blown. Christ has more to do with us than just touch us for the first time. He is always beckoning us on, to conquer new territory in our lives. To begin to see others as God sees them: people of infinite value.

*Sermon preached by Fr Keith Gordon on the 4th Sunday before Lent 2011*

## **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 over 40 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.

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**The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe  
The Right Reverend Dr Geoffrey Rowell's**

**Visit  
To**

**The St Francis Anglican Chaplaincy  
of Tenerife South**

**And**

**The Confirmation  
Of  
Marjorie Withers  
Ian Anderson  
Dennis Liptrot  
Robert Smith**

**19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011**

## Our Bishop's Visit

The Bishop's Visit to Tenerife South, the most southerly chaplaincy in his Diocese of Europe, did not start well. His EasyJet flight from Gatwick was one hour late in taking off.

However, a true Tenerifian welcome awaited him when he arrived at the Chaplaincy residence in Callao Salvaje where Council members and partners had prepared a buffet meal.



After introductions and some food the Bishop regaled us with stories of his job as Bishop of the largest (in area) of the Church of England's Dioceses.

The following morning the Bishop visited the Swedish Church in Los Cristianos – the latest of our four worship centres. Here he met our Priest Assistant the Revd. Michael Harding and his wife Deacon Revd Elise Harding. Together with Revd Tanja Kamensky the minister of the Swedish Church.



In the afternoon the bishop was introduced to San Blas church by Christine Gaunt, one of our Lay Ministers, and members of its congregation.

The afternoon was rounded off with a cream tea at a local restaurant.



The following day, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February, The Bishop celebrated the Eucharist at the San Eugenio Church in Las Americas before a congregation of 163.



It is not often that we have the honour of receiving communion from our Bishop, indeed this is only the second time in his 10 years as Bishop in Europe that he has been to this Chaplaincy. He does after all have another 278 to visit.

After the service many of the congregation had an opportunity to speak with him before we retired to a local restaurant for lunch and more chat.



Bishop Geoffrey with the Confirmation Candidates.

*Left to Right*

Robert Smith,  
Dennis Liptrot,  
Bishop,  
Marjorie Withers,  
Ian Anderson

## The Confirmation

The highlight of the weekend was the confirmation service before a



packed church at Espiritu Santo in Los Gigantes where the four candidates were first presented to the Bishop by Fr Keith. Our two Lay Ministers, Marisha Carter and Christine Gaunt, were their sponsors.

After the presentation the bishop took the candidates to the font where they professed

their faith in God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and were reminded of their baptism by being sprinkled with water from the font.

Each candidate was then anointed with the oils of Holy Chrism and confirmed by the the bishop by laying on of hands.



The candidates then led the intercessions before the consecration and receiving their first communion.

Finally each candidate received a candle before being sent out to 'Go in the light and peace of Christ'



## So What's So Special About Lent, Anyway?

Lent begins on 9 March with Ash Wednesday, which always falls in the seventh week before Easter. Lent is widely observed by Christians as a time of fasting or meditation.

Why 'Ash Wednesday'? What do ashes have to do with anything? This recalls the Old Testament custom of putting ashes on oneself as a symbol of repentance. (eg. Esther 4.1; Jeremiah 6.26). When the early Church began to observe Lent as a period of preparation for Easter, repentance played a key part. Therefore the wearing of ashes was adopted as a proper external sign of this inward attitude of remorse and repentance.

Especially during the Middle Ages, Christians began Lent by imposing ashes on the heads of the clergy and the people. Nowadays any ashes used come from the burning of the palm crosses from Palm Sunday during the previous year's Lent. Some churches continue this theme of repentance by the symbolic use of purple clerical dress during Lent.

What about the custom of giving up things? Lent is based on the period of 40 days spent by Jesus in the wilderness before the beginning of his public ministry in Galilee. Jesus fasted for 40 days, and so his followers were encouraged to do the same thing. The early Church recommended a fast of two or three days, but by the fourth century, people were encouraged to fast for the full 40 days.

The precise nature of this 'fasting' varied. In general, the western church understood 'fasting' as a reduced intake of food, and encouraged Christians to spend time in devotional reading or attendance at church rather than fasting.

What about the length of Lent? The period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day is actually 46 days. Why not the 40 days that Jesus fasted? In the early Church, every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection of Christ - so fasting was forbidden on a Sunday! So the period of 46 days thus consists of 40 days of fasting, plus the six Sundays which fall between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day.

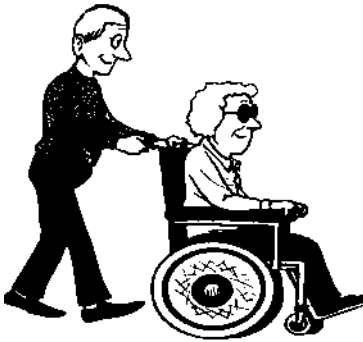
Finally, just before Ash Wednesday, we have Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Tuesday. This reflects the many thousands of Christian housewives down the centuries who cleared out their larders immediately before the fast of Lent. The simplest way of using up all their eggs, flour and milk was to make pancakes. In some countries the day is known as Mardi Gras, and is marked by major carnivals, most famously in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

# The mystery of two becoming one

I had a look at the last edition of En-counter Magazine while taking a rest from designing a website. The article on page 4 caused me to ponder the mystery of a man and a woman becoming one flesh, and, having had a wonderful life with my Val for more than 45 years, I have some reflections to offer.

First, however, I will describe our circumstances for the benefit of the many people who never knew her. We were married in 1964. I was fortunate to take early retirement at the end of 1994, four days before I turned 54.

Val had to use a wheelchair when out of doors for the last 13 years of her life. For several years more than that, she was diabetic. Indeed, the numbness in feet and fingers due to diabetes was well established by 1996. Later, she had to tell herself 'left foot', 'right foot' in order to walk because, as she put it: "My head and my feet do not talk to each other."



She was registered blind in June 2000 (to be registered blind you are unable to read the top letter on the optician's letter chart). When she died in July 2009 her vision was so poor that she could not see the food on her plate – quite often I saw her lift an empty fork to her mouth.

Much independence is given up when you can no longer write a cheque; read a newspaper or a book; see TV programmes; get yourself a drink be it hot or cold; easily recognise money; see colours; prepare your own insulin; put toothpaste on your toothbrush; get dressed by yourself; or get ready for bed.

During the last months of her life she slept no more than two and a half hours at a time, whether in bed or in her armchair.

Grumbles were very, very rare, yet so many times did she say 'thank you', some-times six before breakfast.

My first reflection is on something we were introduced to when we started worship-ping at Guildford Cathedral, and specifically the administration of the bread and wine during communion.

# ning one – some reflections

Peter Croft was one of the canons there. When he came to people at the communion rail who were married and they were side by side (we managed this after Val started using a wheelchair by putting her at the end of the line), he would take two wafers from the patten and give one to each spouse whilst saying the words of administration only once. Simple yet profound.

My other reflection relates to the attitude we adopted which eventually became so important: we shared things 24 hours a day. Val carried the signs and symptoms in her body but we shared dealing with the effects. What she could not do I was able to do for her. I was privileged to support her to the very end, even to holding her half way down the steps at home so that she did not fall to the bottom when she actually died. She had been on her way to the health centre to give blood for tests but it stopped flowing—and the need for tests had come to an end. One of her sayings was that you die when your heart stops. She proved it! And it is only as I write these words that I have realised that the slight dizziness she had mentioned 10 minutes earlier while sitting in her armchair was the first sign that her heart was beginning to shut down. Greater dizziness caused her to sit on the steps, and she rolled towards me when she lost consciousness.

One of the consequences of having been Val's eyes continues. Our son Andrew was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis more than 17 years ago, and has now been confined to a wheelchair for more than five. When I push him round a shop in his wheelchair, I have to bite my tongue and not tell him what is on the shelves. When I forget and do tell him, he often responds "I know, Dad, I can see". (And should you wonder, I have sometimes pushed both Val and Andrew at the same time – side by side.)

It was in November 1979 that Val and I first saw a large banner proclaiming 'Love is a decision'. There has been and still is so, so much in my life that I am grateful for. If I have a regret, it is that I am now on my own, but I cannot wish her back. She has died into life and health, lives not far away, and our love goes on.

**Brian Mace**

# **A Reflection On The Lord's Prayer**

**(Matthew 6:1-18)**

Our Father in heaven, please help us.  
We, your children, learn slowly.  
So often we say nothing when your name is mis-used.  
Often our lives do not reflect your ways,  
Mostly we do what we want on earth,  
And this can make heaven unimaginable.  
We expect so much more than we actually need each day.  
Sometimes we think we don't need forgiveness,  
Sometimes we think we are unforgivable,  
And we forget that other people make these same errors of thinking.  
When it comes to temptation, we find our own ways,  
We are confused about what is and is not evil,  
We are confused about deliverance,  
We are confused.....  
And here is the wonder, the grace and the mystery,  
That you know us completely,  
Our failings, our secrets,  
And love us forever and ever,  
Amen.

## A Letter to God

Our 14 year old dog, Abbey, died last month. The day after she died, my 4 year old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey.. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so she dictated these words:

*Dear God,*

*Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick.*

*I hope you will play with her. She likes to play with balls and to swim. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her You will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.*

*Love, Meredith*

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had got the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey and Meredith and this note:

*Dear Meredith,*

*Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help. I recognized Abbey right away.*

*Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in, so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.*

*Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you.*

*I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much.*

*By the way, I'm easy to find, I am wherever there is love.*

*Love, God*

## Letter from St James the Least of All

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

### **On how to deflect those staff appraisals**

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So, your vicar has introduced staff appraisal for all the officers who work for your church, including yourself. It seems a very dangerous innovation; as far as I am concerned, ministry is only successful when parishioners have no idea what the clergy get up to.

I imagine that he will look at the number of services you take in a year. Funerals can only be increased if you resort to murder, which is likely to be frowned on – although I have often been sorely tempted during endless church council meetings. Perhaps if you take a flask of water wherever you go and if you find a baby unattended, you could resort to a spontaneous baptism. That would get your numbers up, even if returning mothers may marvel at the highly localised and brief shower that seemed to have taken place over the pram.

He is bound to want to see congregations increasing. Get your youth group to make cardboard cut-outs to place strategically in the pews, or maybe some of the local dress shops could loan you their mannequins for the day – preferably clothed, or it may make newcomers think that nudity is an essential part of worship at your church. That would be a shame if it discouraged them, but even worse if it encouraged others. With the electronic equipment your church has, holograms projected around the church would surely not be impossible; that way, it would look even more lifelike if the equipment made their heads appear to droop in sleep during the sermon.

Visiting targets are easily increased. Compile a list of when parishioners will be out and call on those days; a card through their letterbox will prove to your vicar that you were there. Should they happen to be in, mention that you are collecting for the fabric fund or that you want to discuss their prayer lives and they will immediately find a reason why they must excuse themselves for an important appointment. You are then free to move on to clock another visit.

And that brings me to your prayer times. There is a fine line between silent meditation and peaceful sleep. If you learn to take those 15 minute post-lunch naps in a kneeling position, they can then be logged as devotion, thus increasing your daily total. Trying to prove the effectiveness of your prayer life by claiming coincidences as miraculous answers may be a little presumptuous; you could just mention such things and then adopt a look that says you are far too humble to take any credit. That way, you earn double points.

But you must record everything you claim – because next year, further imagination will have to be applied to quantify another year of breathless success.

Your loving uncle,

***Eustace***

### **Do What We Can To Help...**

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her; “We’ll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers.”

“Thank you,” she said. “But, really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can’t do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen....”

## An Awkward Age

I've reached that rather awkward age  
When I dislike things that are strange,  
Some new procedures cause me rage –  
In short, you see, I don't like change!  
My dear wife smiled, and said 'It's true –  
'But hear this tale I tell to you:

A stone age man sat and ate some boar  
And said, at length, to his stone age wife,  
"They've painted pictures on the cave next door,  
I can't think why, to save my life!  
For all my years walls have been plain,  
Why paint them now? It's just insane!"

His wife, she did the same way feel:  
"These modern ways are quite absurd!  
I hear some crackpot's made a 'wheel'!  
It won't catch on, you mark my words!  
What's wrong with legs? They've suited me  
For all my years of fifty-three!"

From that time, to the present day,  
Whenever there's been something new,  
Some older folk felt the self-same way,  
And grumbled, "What a hullabaloo!"  
I smiled – for I had seen the light  
My wife she was, as always, right!

*By Nigel Beeton*

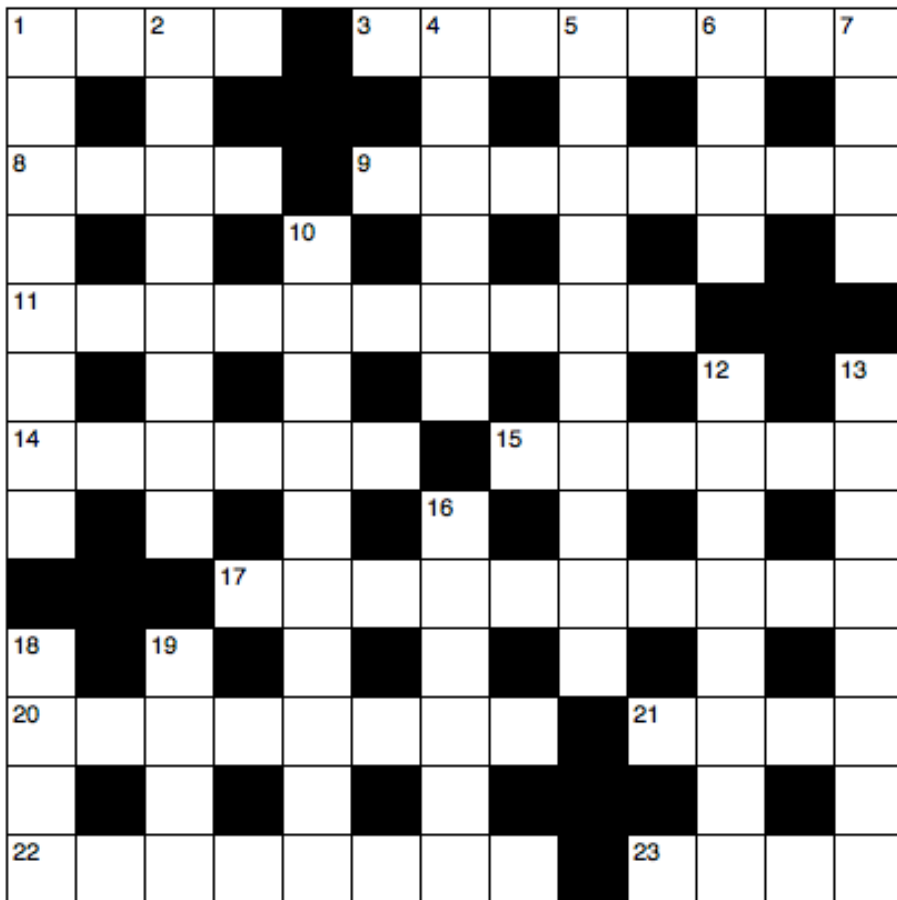
# Sudoku

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

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*Solution on page 31*

# Crossword



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

***Solution on page 31***

# Clues

## Across

### Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12-13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)

## Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

# Cuttings

## True cuttings from British newspapers

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said: "We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house." (Daily Telegraph)

Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the public to know what it looks like. (The Guardian).

A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coastguard spokesman commented: "This sort of thing is all too common." (The Times)

At the height of the gale, the harbour master radioed a coastguard on the spot and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff. (Aberdeen Evening Express).

Mrs Irene Graham of Thorpe Avenue, Boscombe, delighted the audience with her reminiscence of the German prisoner of war who was sent each week to do her garden. He was repatriated at the end of 1945, she recalled, "He'd always seemed a nice friendly chap, but when the crocuses came up in the middle of our lawn in February 1946, they spelt out 'Heil Hitler'."

## 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.



### Counselling & Reiki

Moira Congreve  
SRN, DN, DIP  
Counselling,  
MBACP 564846,  
Reiki Practitioner

#### On line / clinic / home appointment

##### Counselling

- \* Need someone to listen to you?
- \* Clarify your feelings & events?
- \* Focus on specific issues?
- \* Offer a different perspective?
- \* Gain control, manage your life more effectively  
(Counselling is not an advice giving service)
- \* Does your company require a counselling service?
- \* Happy staff remain in employment with some support.

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Marisha Carter (Lay Reader).....	922 85 79 90
Alan Charlesworth .....	922 17 61 10
Moira Congreve .....	922 78 17 02
Ronald Eastwood .....	922 76 40 62
Christine Gaunt (Lay Reader).....	922 78 60 96
Jean Kelly .....	922 78 67 77
Joan Leatherbarrow .....	0044 7854 85 19 99
Norma Martindale .....	922 71 17 12
Keith Nielsen .....	922 72 71 95
Elizabeth Thomas .....	922 39 61 33
Patricia Whenlock .....	922 78 41 74
Ann Plummer (Church Warden).....	648 77 02 65

**Synod Representatives**

Shirley Beard (and Church Warden).....	922 86 19 97
Gwen Furnston (and Assistant treasurer).....	922 74 83 51

Details of services can be found on the back page.

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March 2011

# 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** (From September to April)

San Blas	Sunday	6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist, Sung. By Extension
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## **Los Cristianos** (*Second and Fourth Sundays January to March*)

Swedish Church	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist, with Hymns
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*(See the diary on pages 4-5 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 Chaplaincy 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.