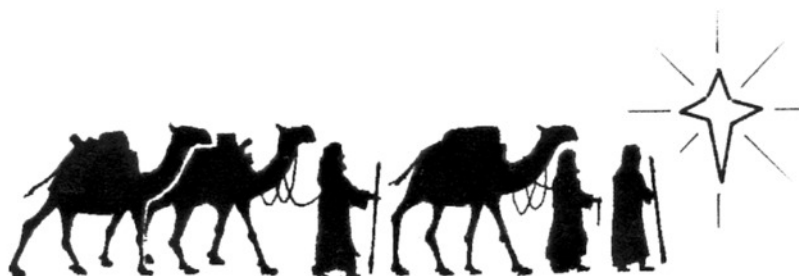
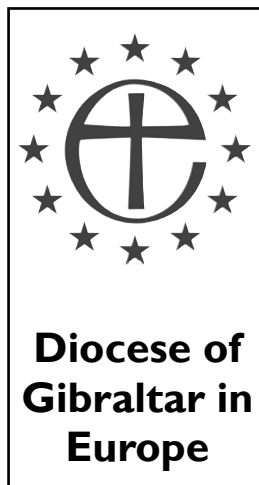


# St Francis Anglican Chaplaincy Tenerife South

Worshipping in

San Eugenio, Playa de las Americas,  
Espiritu Santo, Los Gigantes,  
San Blas, Golf del Sur,  
Swedish Church, Los Cristianos,  
Jesu Cristo, Redentor, Callao Salvaje.



# EPIPHANY

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**January 2012**  
Minimum Donation €1

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*Continued on inside of back cover*

# From the Editor

Welcome to a New Year. A time of reflection on the year that has past and optimism for the year to come.

As I write this late in December it is not clear how the Chaplaincy finances will finish by the end of the month. My gut feeling is that we will just about break even. This is due to tremendous efforts by a hard working group at the core of the Chaplaincy who between them undertook at least 5 tremendous fund raising activities – organising two Bazaars, two Iceland bag packing sessions and opening a Chaplaincy Charity Shop. Without them and their commitment we would be struggling to exist. So to them all we owe a great debt of gratitude. We hope to have a more detailed report ready for next month's issue.

Christmas is over but I have included in this issue the Christmas letter from our Bishop. Unfortunately it missed our December copy deadline by a few days and the magazine had been printed before it arrived.

Finally may I wish all our readers

***A Very Happy  
New Year***

***The Editor***

**Deadline for February  
contributions  
18<sup>th</sup> January**

## Contents

From Our Chaplain.....	2
Intercessions.....	3
Diary for January 2012.....	4
Bishop's Christmas Message, .....	6
Fr Keith's Christmas Sermon.....	9
Hope for 2012.....	12
Signs & Symbols: Becoming a Christian.....	13
Heaven's Grocery Store.....	14
Magazine Subscription Rates....	15
Book Sale.....	17
The Way I See It: .....	18
Making a Good Journey of It....	20
Keeper of the Spring.....	21
The Dying Minister.....	22
Quotes of the month.....	22
Thoughts for Appraisals.....	23
Letter from St James .....	24
From the Heart.....	25
See, Amid the Winter's Snow. 26	
Sudoku.....	27
Crossword.....	28
Puzzle Solutions.....	30
In Case of Emergency.....	32

## From Our Chaplain

My dear friends in Christ,

First I would like to wish you all a very Happy & Holy NEW YEAR 2012.

I wonder what 2011 was like for you? Certainly it's been a year fraught with warnings about the break-up of the Euro and Europe, but so far it's all been a lot of hot air. And that's why we as Christians are told by Jesus in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew: Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

[\(Matthew 6:33-34\)](#) There's nothing we can do to alter what's going to happen to either the Euro or Europe – so don't worry about it! Worry instead about how you conduct your own daily life – are you a beacon to others that Christ lives in you. Do you, by your example represent Christ to others?

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. [\(Matthew 6:27-29\)](#)”

First and foremost we are God's children and we owe it to Him, our maker and redeemer to live up to the expectations he has for us. Europe and the Euro may or may not founder, but God's love is for ever.

We must always remember that the New Year starts right after Christmas and Christmas is a reminder that as we face a new year and all the challenges that are going to come up, that we are not going at it alone. What Christmas reminds us is that God himself became one of us and that God is with us now, Emmanuel, God with us.

***A happy and holy New Year 2012 to you all!***

Your Chaplain and friend,

***Fr. Keith***



# *Intercessions*

## *The Power of Prayer*

THE SICK FOR WHOM WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PRAY:

Angie – Joan Armitage – Wayne Ayote – Baby Jamie  
Eileen Baldwin – Barbara & Michael Browback  
Robert Brumpton – Keith Burke – Alan & Marjorie Burrows  
Angela Callaghan – Joan Caselton – Kath Challinor – Lydia Cook  
Corina Cormack – Jeanette Dick – Ann Dodson – Revd. Jeff Engel  
Victoria Ford – Pat and Harry Foxton – Clive Francis  
Gordon & Pearl French – Patrick Gardiner  
David & Betty Gledhill – Liz Govan – Revs Michael & Elise Harding  
Ian Hubbard – Fiona Henderson – Joan Leatherbarrow – Vicky Lever  
Mary Mansell – Monty Niller – Parveen & Carl Mardel  
George Matta – Bill Nash – Aaron Neill – Hazel Noble  
Brian Norris – Ava Grace Petigrew – Jill Pratt – David Richman  
Harvey Roe – Pastor Roland – David Roughead – Samuel  
Joe Slater – Steve Smith – Ewen Smith – Moira Smithson  
Amanda Stead – Revd. Robert Sterman – Susan Stratton  
Hilda Thomas – Vance

## *Recently Departed*

Jillian Rason, Wayne

## *Years Mind – Anniversary of Passing*

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Frances Allen	19 <sup>th</sup>	Sandy Paterson
8 <sup>th</sup>	Garnet Allen	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sheila Blocksom
12 <sup>th</sup>	Aiden Reed-Cormack	25 <sup>th</sup>	Martha Rusby
14 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Warren	25 <sup>th</sup>	Grace Kirby
17 <sup>th</sup>	Douglas Gordon	27 <sup>th</sup>	Alfred Thomas
17 <sup>th</sup>	Glenda Everitt	28 <sup>th</sup>	Julius Jameson
18 <sup>th</sup>	Beth Anderson	31 <sup>st</sup>	John Finegan

# Diary for January 2012

<b>1st Sunday</b>	<b>Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</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
3rd Mon		
3rd Tues		
4th Wed	10.15 am Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
5th Thur	10.30 am Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
	6.00 pm Holy Eucharist Sung	– Callao Salvaje
6th Fri	Epiphany	
7th Sat		
<b>8th Sunday</b>	<b>Epiphany Sunday</b>	
	10.15 am Holy Eucharist Sung	– San Eugenio
	10.30 am Holy Eucharist Sung	– Swedish Church
	6.00 pm Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
	6.00 pm Holy Eucharist by extension	– San Blas
9th Mon	3.00 pm Standing Cmte Meeting	– Residence
10th Tues	Guild of St Clare	– C Hommer's
11th Wed	10.15 am Holy Eucharist Said	– San Eugenio
12th Thur	10.30 am Holy Eucharist Sung	– Espiritu Santo
	Chaplaincy Lunch	
	6.00 pm Holy Eucharist Sung	– Callao Salvaje
13th Fri		
14th Sat	10.00 am Coffee & Book Sale	Charlesworth's
<b>15th Sunday</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</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
16th Mon	3.00 pm Council Meeting	– Residence
17th Tues		

**18th Wed                    Beginning of the week of Prayer for  
   Christian Unity**

St. Peter

10.15 am Holy Eucharist Said                    – San Eugenio  
19th Thur                    10.30 am Holy Eucharist Sung                    – Espiritu Santo  
   6.00 pm Holy Eucharist Sung                    – Callao Salvaje

20th Fri  
21st Sat

**22nd Sunday                    3rd Sunday of Epiphany**

10.15 am Holy Eucharist Said                    – San Eugenio  
10.30 am Holy Eucharist Sung                    – Swedish Church  
6.00 pm Holy Eucharist Sung                    – Espiritu Santo  
6.00 pm Holy Eucharist by extension                    – San Blas

**23rd Mon**

24th Tues  
25th Wed

Conversion of St Paul

Holy Eucharist Said                    – San Eugenio

26th Thur

St Timothy & St Titus

10.30 am Holy Eucharist Sung                    – Espiritu Santo  
6.00 pm Holy Eucharist Sung                    – Callao Salvaje

27th Fri  
28th Sat

**29th Sunday                    Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

4th Sunday of Epiphany

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

30th Mon  
31st Tues

## Bishop's Christmas Message, 2011

Just under a century ago, in 1918, Eric Milner-White, the Dean of King's College, Cambridge, devised the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which has since become the most widely known of all Anglican services. The 'carols' which were and are so much part of this are now closely linked with Christmas, but were originally what was sung as joyful dancing songs, so perhaps the mediaeval carol 'Tomorrow shall be my dancing day' in which Jesus tells of his life as a dance in which we are invited to share reaches back to the original meaning. An early Christian hymn also echoes this theme, speaking of divine grace dancing; and Greek Christian thinkers spoke of the communion of love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the Trinity as *perichoresis* - one of the meanings of which is a round dance.

At Christmas our carols catch us into this dance of divine grace, and the meaning of that dance is set out in Luke's story of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, in the muck and straw of a cave for animals, and yet whose praises was sung by the angelic hosts of heaven; in St Matthew's account of the three astrologers from the east, who come guided by a star to worship the child in Mary's arms with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh; and in St John's speaking of the Word of God becoming flesh in whom we see and know the Divine glory.

One of my favourite carols, 'See amidst the winter's snow', written originally as 'A Hymn for Christmas Day', by the nineteenth-century priest, Edward Caswall, echoes in the mind and heart because of the wonderful tune to which it was set by Sir John Goss, the contemporary organist of St Paul's Cathedral. The tune is appropriately called 'Humility'. One of the verses speaks of the wonder and mystery of God coming among us in the child of Bethlehem:

*Sacred Infant all divine,  
What a tender love was thine,  
So to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this.*

Our Christian faith is said to be ‘a religion of the incarnation’, and it has also been said that Easter is *the* festival for the Orthodox, Good Friday for Lutherans, but it is Christmas and the Incarnation that is *the* festival for Anglicans. Certainly there has been a significant stress on the incarnation in much Anglican theology, and carols and Christmas are a popular expression of this. Yet the reality of incarnation takes us beyond the tinsel and the trimmings, to harsh reality. I often like to remind people that Christmas cribs, which go back to St Francis wanting to have a visual aid for poor, illiterate Christians at Greccio, never smell. There may be straw, but there is no dung! I treasure an Ethiopian illumination which shows the ox and ass leaning over the manger, and the artist has written ‘the ox and ass warm the child with their breath.’ The child of Bethlehem was born into a world of oppression and occupation. St Matthew records King Herod’s slaughter of the children of Bethlehem, which we commemorate on Holy Innocents Day, just three days after Christmas – as the day after Christmas (our Boxing Day) honours St Stephen the first martyr. The world is nasty, brutish and horrible in so many ways, and the God who made us and the whole vastness of the universe, did not stand aside from the mud, the muck and the mess. Lady Julian of Norwich, that remarkable mediaeval mystic, says in a wonderful phrase that ‘the goodness of God is our highest prayer, and it comes down to the lowest part of our need.’ St Paul in his Letter to the Philippians writes of the Christ who did not think equality with God a thing to be grasped at or held on to, but he ‘emptied’ himself, poured himself out in the love that goes to the uttermost. It is for this reason that a great preacher of the seventeenth century said to his Christmas congregation, ‘by this day’s emptiness we all were filled.’

‘Down to such a world as this’ – the God who meets us at Christmas, is a God who does not stand aside, but reaches out into the darkness of the world, even in the end to the darkness of our human dying. He redeems a fallen world by remaking that world which he loves from the inside. If we as Christians share that life, if in our Christmas communion we feed on that life, then we are called to live that life. We are to be ‘christophers’ – literally Christ-bearers in our world. That means, as another great Anglican preacher and teacher, Henry Scott Holland put it, ‘you cannot believe in the incarnation and not be concerned about

drains!' Nor about the hungry in the Horn of Africa, the victims of land-mines and the casualties of war, those suffering from HIV/AIDS; about justice and the right ordering of the economic life of the world; about the environment – deforestation in the Amazon, the melting of ice-caps, polluting industries, the multifarious consequence of human selfishness. The child of Bethlehem was not born into a never-never land; the Christmas story is not a fairy-tale, but is of a love which comes down to the lowest part of our need – your need and mine, and the need of every man and woman whom we meet.

Christina Rossetti's words sung as another well-loved carol sum it up:

*Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas:  
Star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, love divine,  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith the sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token;  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and to all men,  
Love for plea, and gift and sign.*

The grace given to us is a life and love to be lived – for Jesus gave us two commandments, the love of God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, and the love of our neighbour as ourselves. That in the end is what human life is about, and it is the grace that makes this possible that we celebrate Christmas by Christmas as we come to worship and adore Mary's child, born at Bethlehem, Christ your Lord and mine. May each and every one of you know the peace and the joy of this great Feast of the Incarnation.

**+ GEOFFREY GIBRALTAR**

## Fr Keith's Christmas Sermon

Let me begin with a beautiful old Christmas legend – the ancient legend tells of how God called the angels of heaven together one day for a special choir rehearsal. He told them that he had a special song that he wanted them to learn, a song that they would sing at a very significant occasion. The angels went to work on it. They rehearsed long and hard, with great focus and intensity. In fact, some of the angels grumbled a bit. but God insisted on a very high standard for his choir. As time passed, the choir improved in tone, in rhythm, and in quality. Finally God announced that they were ready, but then, he shocked them a bit. He told them that they would sing the song only once, and only on one night. There would be just one performance of this great song they had worked on so diligently. Again, some of the angels grumbled. The song was so extraordinarily beautiful and they had it off pat now, surely, they could sing it many, many times. God only smiled and told them that when the time came, they would understand.

Then one night, God called them together. He gathered them above a field just outside of Bethlehem. “It’s time,” God said to them and the angels sang their song. “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will toward men.” And as the angels sang, they knew there would never be another night like this one, and that there would never be another birth like this birth in Bethlehem.

When the angels returned to heaven, God reminded them that they would not formally sing that song again as an angelic choir, but if they wanted to, they could hum the song occasionally as individuals. One angel was bold enough to step forward and ask God why. Why could they not sing that majestic anthem again? They did it so well. It felt so right. Why couldn’t they sing that great song anymore? “Because,” God explained, “my son has been born and now earth must do the singing!”

Once each year, Christmas comes around again to remind us of that God’s Son has come to earth and now we must do the singing!

Without question, one of the best and most beloved parts of the celebration of Christmas is the music! The good news of Christmas is so awesome, so full of wonder, that it’s not enough to just talk about it. We have to burst forth in song. We have to sing it.

Amongst all the singing though, we must find peace and the place to find that is in the miracle of Bethlehem. When we go back to Bethlehem, we discover that real peace means being set right in all our relationships. It means being right with God, right with ourselves, and right with other people.

First, if we want to find the peace of Christmas, we need to be right with God. That's the starting place because that's what Christmas is all about. Jesus Christ came into this world to set us right with God. Jesus Christ came into the world to save us and to bring us back to God.

Remember the old story about the elderly couple driving down the street one day. They were listening to the radio as the man drove the car through the busy Christmas streets. As they listened to the beautiful music of Christmas, the wife became nostalgic and she said, "Herbert, do you remember how when we were younger we used to sit so close together as we drove along? It was so wonderful back then. What happened?" "I don't know about that," said Herbert, "All I know is that I haven't moved."

Well, Christmas comes each year to remind us that God is not the one who's moved away from us. No! We are the ones who move. We are the ones who drift away from Him.

Christ has come down to this earth to help us get back together with the God who made us and who loves us. That's what the word Emmanuel means – God with us! God comes in the Christ Child to seek and save the lost. That's what Christmas is all about. This is the only way we can have the peace of Christmas. The only way is to let the Christ of Christmas bring us back to the Father who loves us and set us right with the One who made us.

Second, if we want to find the peace of Christmas, we need to be right with ourselves. More and more psychologists are telling us that we can't feel good about life and other people until we feel good about ourselves. They call it a healthy self-esteem which is simply another way of saying that we need to be right with our "selves."

A man wrote a letter to the Inland Revenue. It read:

*Dear Sirs:*

*I underpaid my tax bill for last year. I can't sleep at night and my conscience is bothering me. Enclosed please find £600 .*

*P.S.: If I still can't sleep, I'll send the rest.*

We must know and act out the meaning of integrity and honesty if we're to feel good about our lives. The only way we can be at peace with ourselves is to welcome the Prince of Peace into our hearts and lives. The only way we can be right with ourselves is to be made right by Him.

One of the best gifts we can give our loved ones at Christmas this year is to be at peace. If we want to find the peace of Christmas then first we need to be right with God, and second, we need to be right with ourselves.

Third and finally, if we are going to find the peace of Christmas we need to be right with other people.

The custom of kissing under the mistletoe came from the Druids in Northern Europe. They believed mistletoe had curative power and could cure lots of things including separation between people. So when two enemies happened to meet under an oak tree with mistletoe hanging above them, they took it as a sign from God that they should drop their weapons and be reconciled. They would drop their animosities and embrace one another under the mistletoe.

When the missionaries moved into northern Europe they saw this mistletoe custom as a perfect symbol for what happened to the world at Christmas. At Christmas a new age dawned, it was a time of peace, a time of healing, a time of reconciliation, a time for embracing one another.

If you want to have a "peace-full" Christmas, go in the spirit of love and fix those broken relationships in your life. If you are alienated or estranged or cut off or at odds with any other person, go in the spirit of Christmas and make peace. Don't put it off any longer, drop your pride, drop your resentment, drop your grudges, and set it right. Go and God will go with you. That's what mistletoe is really about and that's what Christmas is about.

God comes to us in the Christ Child so that we might be set right with God, set right with ourselves, and set right with other people.

## Hope for 2012

*'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'* (Isaiah 9:6)

As the start of this New Year we are all aware of the uncertainties which we face, especially in terms of our finances, jobs and economic prospects. We have to face the big questions of life: *what shall I do?; who can help me?; who cares for me? and what do I say?*

The familiar words of the prophet Isaiah were also given by God in a time of political and economic uncertainty. The Assyrians had just conquered the northern kingdom of Israel, fulfilling Isaiah's warnings to the people, who had turned their back on God and his ways. However, Isaiah also brings a word of hope, *'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.'* For Isaiah, it felt as if the future had already arrived! However, after 700 years the promised child was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. For us, facing a New Year, he continues to be an answer to both our needs and questions:

*Wonderful Counsellor:* he will give us the wisdom we need, when we have difficult decisions to make at work or home, or in dealing with our finances or future direction.

*Mighty God:* he will provide the help and strength to face the difficult diagnosis, the family crisis or relationships breakdown, as we trust his plan and purpose for our lives.

*Everlasting Father:* he cares for us as a father cares for his children, so we can come to him when we feel alone or we are really struggling, knowing that he hears and will answer our prayers.

*Prince of Peace:* he has secured peace by his cross and resurrection, and so we can find in him true acceptance, forgiveness and peace for our lives, relationships and future.

Therefore at the start of 2012, may *'our joy be increased'* as for the people in Isaiah's day. For only Jesus can truly turn our sorrow into joy and save us from the vicious spiral of sin and death. Whatever the mess and mistakes we have made over the past year, he can deal with them. With him both our present and future are secure. This is no pipe-dream, for *'the zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.'*

## Signs & Symbols: Becoming a Christian

When does one become a Christian? How about, ‘When is a person made?’ In England there’s legislation about when a group of developing cells becomes a human being, but that notwithstanding when is s/he made?

Many of us think it was on ‘the night’ but apparently it can take up to forty-eight hours for the first cell division to take place. Nothing’s simple, is it!

So in a similar way, can we speak of an exact moment for becoming a Christian? Baptism is the outward visible sign, but it usually comes some time after the person has requested it, and that application will probably have followed a time of exploration and discovery. Even if we are talking about infant baptism, the parent(s) will have undertaken these same steps in some form.

In some countries, at a baptism service the candidate changes their clothes immediately after their immersion; or for babies they may be naked and are then dressed in brand new clothes afterwards. Visible signs of a change in their lives.

When a new Pope is elected, he puts on new robes in a room just off the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican. So, in 2005 Joseph Ratzinger entered the ‘Room of Tears’ as the Dean of the College of Cardinals and left it as Pope Benedict XVI.

*This month:-* Have a think about the time you became a Christian – did it happen gradually, in an instant of change, or are you perhaps not ever conscious of having made that choice?

If you could begin today – this very moment – the life of a Christian, what changes would you make in your appearance, to where you live, or in your behaviour as signs to those around you of that decision?

## Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.

One day, I saw a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store",

As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,

And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere.

One handed me a basket and said; "My child, shop with care".

Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,

And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.

First, I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row,

Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that everywhere  
you go.

I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH.

I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this  
race.

By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered some GRACE.

I did not forget SALVATION for SALVATION is free,

So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,

For I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S will.

As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in,

For I know when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.

PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.

SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"

He just smiled and said "Just take them everywhere you go".

Again, I said, "How much do I really owe?"

He smiled again and said:

"MY CHILD , JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!"

## **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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# **Chaplaincy of Tenerife South**

**Alan and Janet Charlesworth**

**Invite you all to a**

**Book Sale**

**with a**

**Coffee Morning**

**at**

**Sotavento II, El Médano**

**on Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup>**

**from 10 am**

**Phone 922 176110 for directions**

## **The Way I See It:**

### **Ring Out the Old, Ring in the New**

It's probably because I'm just a Grumpy Old Man, but I do find it hard to see the point of 'celebrating' New Year. For me, the event has all the stupendous excitement of the milometer in the car clicking over from 39,999 to 40,000. It isn't the solstice or equinox. Nothing actually happens. It doesn't commemorate anything, except that we're all that much older, that much nearer a pension or the great retirement home in the sky.

Nevertheless, whatever the weather, New Year always sees vast crowds on the streets of our great cities, cheering, getting drunk and dancing in the fountains of Trafalgar Square. Dark men for some obscure reason carry bits of coal into neighbours' houses, and people who have no idea what the words mean, sing 'Auld Lang Syne'. So what is it that they're celebrating?

Surely not 2011 and its miserable economic news, recession and unemployment? Surely not, either, the remorseless tread of time. I suspect in fact most of them have simply turned up for the party, or perhaps it's not 2011 at all that they have in mind, but the new year, 2012 - hope triumphing over experience.

Of course the gloom of 2011 was lightened by personal highs - the birth of a child or grand-child, perhaps, a marriage, a new friend. But reason (and in my case long experience) tells me that 2012 will be very much like 2011, but, hey, hope springs eternal.

So is it stupid, or pointless, or even wrong to celebrate the New Year? No, of course not. Time is too serious, too important for us to take it lightly. The Old Preacher in the Bible assures us that 'for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven'. He sees the passing of time as part of the way the Creation works - 'God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into our minds' (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Humans, in other words, have an understanding of past, present, future: we live in a world

with *tenses*. And he has done this ‘so that all should stand in awe before him’. Time, a gift of God, is awesome, and its passage deeply significant.

No reason, then, not to mark the passing of the old year and the birth of the new one, but every reason to recognise that we too are part of the process, carried along by time’s tide but not helpless to make choices. Some of those choices may change us, or our families, or our neighbours during the coming year. Some may eventually change the world.

In God’s purpose, there is no reason at all why 2012 has to be like 2011. Let the old year go, with all its memories, joys and hurts. And turn to the new one with faith and prayer and - yes - hope. For myself, definitely no freezing fountains, excess alcohol or lumps of coal. But even this Grumpy Old Man will raise a glass, say a prayer, and watch the clock tick past midnight into a brave new year.



## Making a Good Journey of It

At the start of the New Year a man was going on a journey to a distant country. He spent hours looking at maps, wanting the most scenic route. Should he go by plane, train or car? He spent days looking into the comfort of the seats provided, the leg-room, the restaurants he would be able to use, the entertainment on offer, and especially important to him, would the other passengers be good enough company?

In every way the man made sure that his journey would be perfect: a scenic route by good transport in total luxury, with great entertainment, superb food, accompanied by people he was happy to be seen with.

The trip itself would take two weeks at most – even by car. It was a one-way journey: the man would spend the rest of his life in the distant country.

Yet in all his preparations, the man concentrated solely on the trip itself. He never took thought of what he would do when he arrived. What about Passport Control in the distant country? Would he even be allowed in without a visa? Would he be suitable for life there?

Our life can be a bit like that. As we hurtle through the years, we can spend all our time trying to get an ‘upgrade’ on our careers, our homes, our cars, our social opportunities. We may indeed make our journey a fantastic trip – but what happens when we arrive? Are we ready for what comes after?

Jesus said: “I am the resurrection and the life: he who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.” John 11:25-26

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I told my psychiatrist that everyone hates me.  
He said I was being ridiculous – everyone hasn’t met me yet.

## Keeper of the Spring

The following story was a favourite of the late Rev Peter Marshall, who for several years served as the chaplain of the US Senate.

An old man who lived near an Austrian village high in the Alps was hired by his village council to clear away the debris from the pools of water high up in the mountain crevices. These pools fed the spring that flowed through the town. So with faithful regularity, year after year, the old man patrolled the pool, removed the leaves and branches, and wiped away the silt.

In time the village became a popular attraction. Swans and ducks floated along the sparkling spring, the mill wheels of various businesses turned day and night, farms were irrigated, and the view of the spring from restaurants was picturesque beyond description.

Then one evening the town council met to review the budget. Someone queried the salary paid to the obscure keeper of the spring. Others joined in: "He is a waste of money. Drop him." And so they did.

For several weeks, nothing changed. Then in early autumn, the trees shed their leaves. Small branches snapped off and fell into the pools. Down in the village, they soon noticed a slight yellowish-brown tint in the water. Soon a slimy film covered sections of the stream. The mill wheels got entangled with twigs. Soon the stench of rotting vegetation in the water drove away the swans and ducks and the tourists.

In a panic, the village council met. Quickly they set off to visit the old man, and pleaded with him to keep the spring clean again. Within a few weeks, the village's 'river of life' began to clear up. The water ran pure and clear, the birds returned, the mill wheels turned, and even the tourists came back.

Are there leaves of anger, twigs of resentment, or a silt of unforgiveness clogging your spring of living water? Just as little by little the stream became contaminated by debris, so our spirits can become obstructed by the 'small sins' of daily life. Let's allow our Keeper of the Spring to do his job in renewing and cleansing us, so that we can 'run free' and bring blessing to others.

## The Dying Minister

An old minister lay dying. He sent an urgent message for his accountant and his solicitor to come to the hospital. When they arrived, they were ushered up to his room. As they entered the room, the minister held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed. The minister grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled, and stared at the ceiling.

For a time, no one said anything. Both the accountant and the solicitor were touched and flattered that the old man would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled because the minister had never given any indication that he particularly liked either one of them. Finally, the solicitor asked, "Why did you ask the two of us to come here?" The old minister mustered all his strength, and then said weakly, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I want to go."

## Quotes of the month

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. *John F Kennedy*

Wealth is not only what we have, but what we are. *Anon*

Many come to bring their clothes to church rather than themselves.

*Anon*

Churches in cities are most wonderful solitudes. *Thomas Merton*

Those who dance are considered insane by those who cannot hear the music. *George Carlin*

Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else.

*James M. Barrie*

Everywhere is within walking distance if you have the time. *Steven Wright*

Remember that Triumph is just a little "umph" added to "try."

## Thoughts for Appraisals

- Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.
- A room temperature IQ.
- Got a full 6-pack, but lacks the plastic thingy to hold it all together.
- A gross ignoramus – 144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus
- A prime candidate for natural reselection.
- Gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.
- So dense, light bends around him.
- If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week.
- The wheel is turning, but the hamster is dead.
- His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.
- I would not breed from this officer.
- He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.
- He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
- This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- Since my last report he has reached rock bottom, and has started to dig.
- She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
- He has the wisdom of youth, and the energy of old age.
- Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.
- This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

## Letter from St James the Least of All

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

### On parish accounts, teapots and Labrador retrievers

The Rectory  
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Your annual accounts – all 146 pages, bound in their plastic covers and laid out in faultless detail – are really most impressive. I was rather envious to note you have a clergy 'discretionary fund'; were I given such a thing, my cellar of claret would improve immeasurably – although that is perhaps the reason why I am not given one.

The size of your office expenses makes me wonder if you have a staff rivaling that of the European Community. I suppose that at least you are doing your bit for job creation. Our dear Miss Marigold, who spends two hours a week randomly filing pieces of paper, mistyping rotas and failing to re-order stationery, is only rewarded by being the first to find out who are booking marriages and having their babies baptised – and if they do not happen in that order, that will be another piece of information remembered for future use. All this is information beyond the price of jewels in village communities.

Our accounts have more by way of charm than they do of accuracy, generally consisting of one sheet of handwritten paper. There are only ever three copies for circulation, as that is the limit of Colonel Denster's carbon paper. It seems to be an unalterable tradition that they never balance, until we find the following year that the missing £20 was found months later under the teapot on the mantelpiece. One footnote to this was the occasion when the Colonel suspected an unaccountable £5 had been eaten by his Labrador. Our greatest expenses by far are

categorised as ‘miscellaneous’, which is a catch-all for everything that our treasurer is unable to recall where it really went.

The thousands paid on church maintenance and diocesan fees are nodded through without comment – but if the money spent on Easter lilies or packets of tea for the Summer Fete increases by anything more than 50 pence, there will be much agonised debate and speculation about whether this is an indication of money laundering.

I see that your accounts were professionally audited. Fortunately, it does not matter too much about the accuracy of our own, as I have an arrangement with our auditor who lives in the village: if he refuses to sign them off, then I refuse to baptise his grand-children.

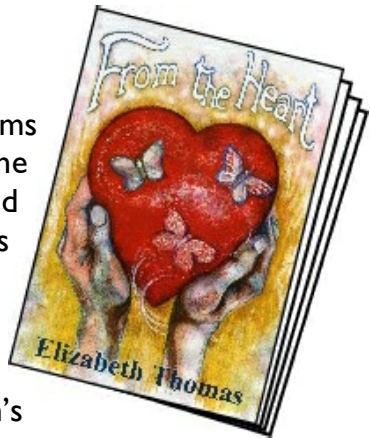
## ***Eustace***

### **From the Heart**

‘From the Heart’ is a book of poems written by Elizabeth Thomas, the Chaplaincy’s own poet Laureate and is now on sale at all the Chaplaincy’s church bookstalls.

If you have bought previous copies of our magazine then you have already seen some of Elizabeth’s work.

Now you can have your own copy of part of her collective works for just 5€.



## **See, Amid the Winter's Snow**

See, amid the winter's snow  
Lots of cars that just won't go;  
It is not the drivers' fault –  
Councils have run out of salt!  
    Here, we sit the whole night long!  
    Where have all the snowploughs gone?  
    If we'd known we'd be delayed  
    We'd perhaps have brought a spade!

Say, ye cheerful children, say  
Why aren't you in school today?  
We are skating round and round  
Cos the heating's broken down!  
    Yes, the heating's gone berserk!  
    Mum has missed a day at work!  
    Though she's cross and seems on edge,  
    We can ride upon our sledge!

Sages on the Weather Show  
Said the sun would surely glow,  
And, said they, we may be sure  
Of a glorious day in store!  
    But they missed a detail, small  
    And the snow did thickly fall!  
    But the met-men feel no shame –  
    Their computer takes the blame!

***Nigel Beeton***

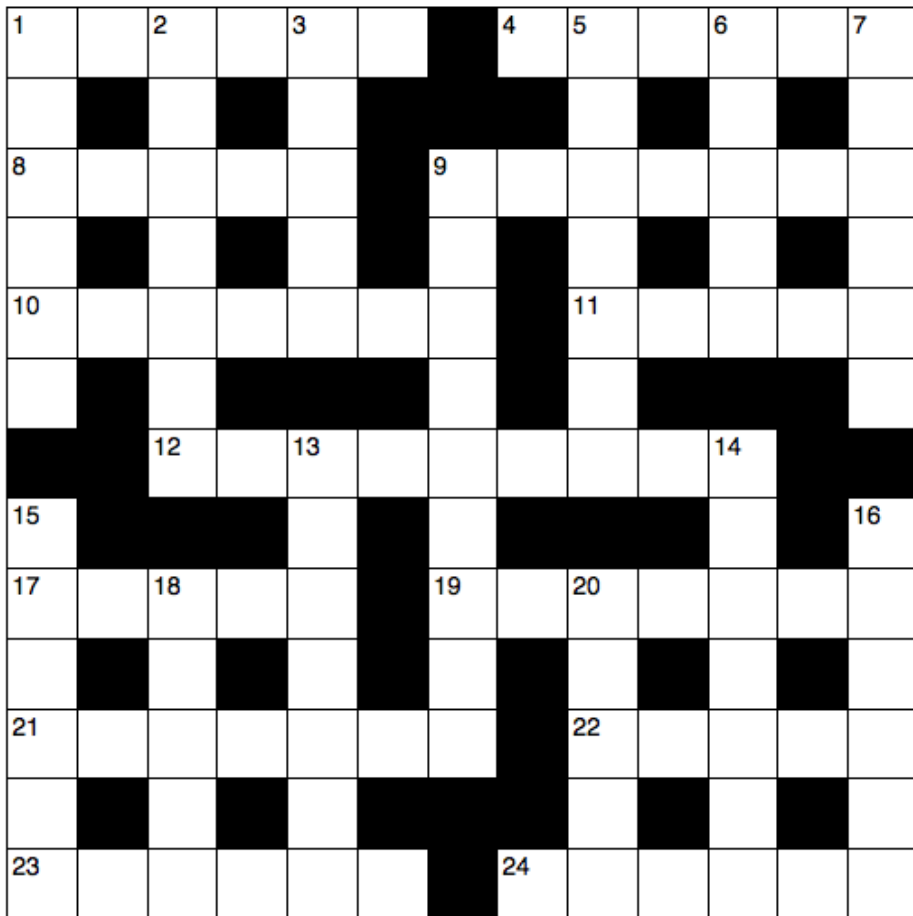
## Sudoku

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

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*Solution on page 30*

# Crossword



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

***Solution on page 30***

## Clues

### Across

- 1 Protective covering recommended to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:11) (6)
- 4 The number of apostles (Matthew 10:2) (6)
- 8 Tenth-century Bishop of Augsburg for 48 years, who became the first saint to be canonized by a pope (5)
- 9 'Do not — what is evil but what is good' (3 John 11) (7)
- 10 Reading desk in a church (7)
- 11 'He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like — walking around"' (Mark 8:24) (5)
- 12 One of the qualities that Paul exhorted Timothy to pursue (1 Timothy 6:11) (9)
- 17 One of the meaningless pleasures acquired by the Teacher (Ecclesiastes 2:8) (5)
- 19 'Like — babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation' (1 Peter 2:2) (7)
- 21 Jesus said that Moses allowed this only because men's hearts were hard (Matthew 19:8) (7)
- 22 Girl's name (5)
- 23 Most sagacious (Judges 5:29) (6)
- 24 How Stephen, the first Christian martyr, died: after being — (Acts 7:59) (6)

## Down

- 1 A Jew whom Paul met in Corinth, whose wife was Priscilla (Acts 18:2) (6)
- 2 For example, turning water into wine, feeding the five thousand, walking on water (John 7:21) (7)
- 3 Abram's relationship to Lot (Genesis 14:12) (5)
- 5 'Jesus answered, "It is —: 'Man does not live by bread alone.'"' (Matthew 4:4) (7)
- 6 'Peace I — with you; my peace I give you' (John 14:27) (5)
- 7 'May the Lord deal with me, be it — — severely, if anything but death separates you and me' (Ruth 1:17) (4,2)
- 9 Lack of knowledge (Acts 17:30) (9)
- 13 This woman 'followed Paul and believed' after his words to the Areopagus in Athens (Acts 17:34) (7)
- 14 Or noise (anag.) (7)
- 15 'Even though I walk through the valley of the — of death, I will fear no evil' (Psalm 23:4) (6)
- 16 ' — Christian soldiers, marching as to war' (6)
- 18 Saver (anag.) (5)
- 20 'Unless a grain of — falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed' (John 12:24) (5)

**DOT SCHOFIELD**  
**MOBILE HAIRDRESSER**

Your place or mine

Tfno: 922 788935

Movil: 669 335996

I am currently seeking employment as a carer/home help in Tenerife South. I nurse at an auxiliary level and am more than capable with associated domestic duties. I also enjoy decorating, gardening, needlework and cookery. I am also a qualified hairdresser.

I have been a carer in Tenerife for the past 18 years for both ladies and gentlemen. I am 52 years of age and a car owner. If you are interested please 'phone Dot on 669335996. Live in or out, references available.

## 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.

М	И	Э	Е	Л	Э	Л	О	И	Е	Д
О	Е	Л	Э	Л	О	И	Е	Д	Э	Л
Д	Л	О	В	С	Е	В	Л	С	У	С
У	У	У	С	Н	Э	М				
Н	У	В	Е	Н	И	Е	М	В	О	В
Э										
	Е	И	Д	Л	У	И	С	Е		
У	Г									
Г	Е	С	Л	Е	В	И	В	Е	Э	
Л	У	Г	В	Л	А	В				
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У	В	О	В							

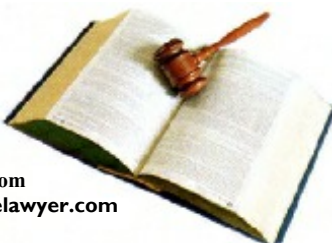
0	0	1	0	1	4	5	2	3		
3	1	2	0	5	8	4	0	1		
0	5	4	2	1	3	1	0	0		
0	1	0	5	4	1	0	3	2		
1	2	2	1	0	0	0	5	4		
4	0	5	0	3	2	1	1	0		
2	0	1	4	0	0	2	1	5		
1	3	0	1	2	5	0	4	0		
5	4	0	3	0	1	2	0	1		

# Michael Rhodes

## Legal Services

*Spanish conveyancing  
Wills and trusts  
NIE and Residencia  
Company Formations*

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Legal Website: [www.tenerifelawyer.com](http://www.tenerifelawyer.com)



## *Michael Rhodes Lawyer*

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Tel: +34 922 79 67 44  
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## Property Division

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property Email: [alangton@tenerifelawyer.com](mailto:alangton@tenerifelawyer.com)

## *Alan Langton Property Sales.*

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## **In Case of Emergency**

### **Canary Islands Emergency 112**

There has been a 112 emergency call centre (equivalent to 999 in the UK) in Santa Cruz de Tenerife since May 1998. It is a cost free number that enables access to all safety and emergency services involving illness, accidents, etc. It operates 24hrs a day throughout the year, covers the entire Archipelago (land and sea) and has interpreters who can receive calls in English, German, French and Italian, and of course in Spanish!

Essential to know... For emergencies, phone 112...

For nuisance problems phone 902 102 112. There will be English interpreters who will advise and help you.

### **British Consulate (new telephone number)**

Consularline is the first point of contact for our customers who call the Tenerife British Consulate by telephone and will provides a consistent service, answering enquiries or putting customers in touch with the department who will best be able to deal with their query.

The number for local calls is

- 902 109 356
- +34 91 334 2194 (alternative number)

The Contact Centre opening hours for Tenerife are 08:00 to 16:00hrs Monday to Friday. Please note that the British Consulate in Tenerife will maintain the same opening hours to the public - 08:30 - 13:30 Monday - Friday.

Out of office hours customers should call the above numbers and they will be given details of the 24hr emergency response centre which is based in the UK.

## **Chaplaincy Information** *(continued from front cover)*

### **Council Members**

Marisha Carter (Lay Reader).....	922 85 79 90
Gwen Furnston (Assistant Treasurer).....	922 74 83 51
Christine Gaunt (Lay Reader).....	922 78 60 96
Julia Henderson (Secretary).....	620 03 85 88
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
Ann Plummer (Church Warden).....	648 77 02 65
Elizabeth Thomas .....	922 39 61 33
Patricia Whenlock .....	922 78 41 74

### **Synod Representatives**

Shirley Beard .....	922 86 19 97
Alan Charlesworth (and Gift Aid Treasurer).....	922 17 61 10

Details of services can be found on the back page.

***Magazine email & contributions***

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

***Chaplaincy website: www.tenerifechurch.com***

***This magazine is published by the  
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***Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the  
Council.***

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January 2012

# 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 October to April)

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

Swedish Church	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist, with Hymns
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## **Callao Salvaje**

Jesus Christ, Redeemer	Thursday	6.00 pm	Holy Eucharist, Sung
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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.