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Please visit our website and blog:
<https://holytrinitychurchmadeira.org/>
<http://holytrinitychurchmadeira.wordpress.com>



A New Dawn – A New Year

Winter 2024 - 25



Chaplain's Notes

The Parsonage, Holy Trinity, Funchal January 2025

Dear All,



I take this opportunity to thank you all and share how much I have appreciated serving you as your Locum in this Chaplaincy of Holy Trinity Church, Funchal, Madeira. 88 days is nearly up and soon I will be returning to Aberystwyth with my continued prayers for you.

It's been a real privilege to be here and loved sharing with you all in the Lord's ministry.

The warmth and support of all church members especially the residents have been most encouraging. Keep doing your good deeds for the Lord. May He bless you. So pleased how much care and welcome you give to visitors throughout the world. How amazing.

This Chaplaincy has so much wonderful potential. Continue your commitment to Christ as Saviour and Lord. May you all work, through prayer and witness of your faith in Christ. Keep serving the Lord to build the Church into a really live, vibrant and true fellowship of believers in the Lord Jesus.

Jesus came to set us an example of how to live and to die and be raised to life again- defeating the power of death once and for all. Because of Jesus, we can personally know the awesomeness and holy God, and He too can have that intimate relationship with each of us.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says **"Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and he will direct your paths"**

Let us walk with faith, seeking God's wisdom in our plans and allowing his Word and Spirit to lead us. Let us renew our commitment to love God with all our heart, soul and mind, to love His creation unconditionally, to share the gospel, and to live out Christ's love in our community of Funchal and Madeira.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with all of you in Christ
Jesus (1 Corinthians 16:23,24)

Canon Michael Lloyd Rees

(Locum for November, December 2024 and January 2025)



At the English Church
Tuesdays 5.30pm
ORCHESTRA QUARTET
PLAYS
The Swinging 60s
- Violin solo
- Electric Guitar
"Sound of 60s" PROGRAMME
Tickets 20€
Pay at arrival or book by QR-code

- Simon & Garfunkel
- Monkees
- Rolling Stones
- Johnny Kidd & The Pirates
- The Temptations
- The Shadows
- Fleetwood Mac

We are always sad when the musicians take a break from their musical programme but it is always tinged with expectation as they invariably return with something new for our delectation. You won't be disappointed to learn they have a whole new programme of Sixties Music to delight the ears.

They do say if you can remember "The Swinging Sixties" you weren't really there. As a 5 year old I certainly can remember listening to The Shadows on my brothers portable record player. So this is a particular treat for me. Hank Marvin of The Shadows went on to inspire a whole raft of British Rock Guitarists of the 60's and 70's including Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Brian May and Mark Knopfler. An arrangement of The Shadows Wonderful Land starts the show followed by a kaleidoscope of 60's Pop and Rock. Even if you can't remember the Sixties, there is definitely something here for you.

The musicians play their normal programme during the rest of the week, so even if the "Swinging Sixties" isn't your scene. There is a concert to suit you.
Graham Faulkner

Please note that The Church does not accept any responsibility for changes that the musicians may make to their weekly concerts.

Celebrating Nicaea



Seeing afresh the faith which holds us together



An introduction from Bishop Robert;

“In 325, hundreds of bishops – some from rich and influential cities, others from poor and obscure regions - gathered in Nicaea on the frontier of the Empire’s Greek-speaking East and Latin-speaking West. They were the first fully ecumenical council. Their gathering marked the transition of Christianity into a properly international religion with public impact. It was this gathering which produced the Nicene Creed. This succinct statement articulates the radical, biblical insight that Jesus is both truly God living among us and truly human, living and dying in human history. In 2025, we celebrate that momentous Council and ponder afresh the world-changing beliefs which it articulated. In 2025, we know more than ever the world’s deep need for healing. That is why I am excited this anniversary year to be declaring with Christians across the globe God’s saving intent for humanity as expressed in our ancient creed.”

1700 years ago this year, the foundations of the Nicene Creed that we say in church each Sunday were written in Nicaea (now called Iznik) which is in our Diocese, in Turkey. This gives us even more reason than most to celebrate this special anniversary and to learn more about this ecumenical creed. To that end, our Diocese has a number of special events planned and resources being made available .

There is a dedicated web page <https://www.europe.anglican.org/celebrating-nicaea> where you can find information and links to resources. You can also view the wonderful video filmed in Iznik by Revd James Buxton, chaplain of Izmir .

Special Lent Course

The materials for this specially produced Lent Course, written specially for our Diocese, will be ready to download on our website very soon.

This year Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, falls on 5th March. You therefore might like to run this course during the weeks beginning March 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, and April 7th.

If you are considering leading it, the author, the Revd Dr Donald McFadyen, will be running two briefing workshops on Zoom to help you prepare:

10am (CET) on Friday 7th February: <https://zoom.us/j/97978278547>

Meeting ID: 979 7827 8547

7pm (CET) on Monday 10th February: <https://zoom.us/j/99472642113>

Meeting ID: 994 7264 2113

Please note that you only need to attend one session as the content will be the same. We will also ensure there is a recording available.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025
Friday 7 March

A service for everyone!

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Rua Quebra Costas, 20, 9100-34 FUNCHAL

In the garden or in the Lady Chapel

World Day of Prayer

FRIDAY 7th March 2p.m.

Further details (Jean Faulkner)
shallomhouse@freeul.co.uk

Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*



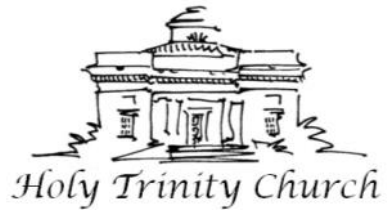
INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

wwap.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

**Unity Service at the
Church of Santa Clara
18th January 2025**



The week of Christian Unity this year was between 18th and 25th. January.

Priests from three denominations and the Bishop of the Catholic church of Funchal were all invited along with their congregations to attend a service on the evening of 18th January in the Santa Clara Church.

A number of people attended from HTC and Canon Michael Rees (The locum at the time) joined Pastor Gomeiro from the Presbyterian church and Pastor Lise from the Lutheran Church and, of course, Bishop Nuno. Each church Leader spoke about the reading of Lazarus and his Resurrection and leading to Jesus Resurrection. Although all but Father Michael's was in Portuguese, it was a good test for us. There was a lovely choir and a great sentiment of Unity throughout.

Afterwards we shared some coffee and cakes, and a chat.



Holy Trinity Church
Igreja Inglesa
Rua do Quebra Costas, 18



Please join us for our

CARNIVAL DINNER

Friday 28th February 2025

at 6.30 pm

Donation 20.00€

contact

Tina Mongor - 96 3675358
by Tuesday 25th February

Illustrated Talk on “Portsmouth and the Three Ships”



On Saturday 25th January around 30 people gathered in the Trinity Room for the first of our Organised Talks of the year, with the theme of “Portsmouth and the three ships” —“Mary Rose”, “Victory” and “Warrior”.

A Quiche Supper was followed by the talk starting with the Mary Rose. A common misconception is that she sank on her maiden voyage. She was ordered within months of Henry VIII coming to the throne but had undergone an extensive refit (almost total rebuild) a few years before the tragic event. Her sinking was due to the extra gun ports not being closed whilst the ship was heeling during a manoeuvre. Also her exact position was known and some smaller articles were recovered but over time and with changes to the seabed the wreck was covered with silt and lost. After many years painstaking work she was recovered and can be seen in a dedicated exhibition hall within Portsmouth Dockyard.

HMS Victory sits within her dry-dock and is the oldest commissioned ship in the Royal Navy and the world. Her Dining Room is still used to entertain dignitaries to this day. Built between 1759-1765, she first saw service in 1778 against the French, who had sided with the American Revolutionaries that year. She became Nelson’s Flag Ship in 1803 until his death at Trafalgar 21st Oct 1805. Nelson never lost an eye but partially lost sight in one eye. He lost his right arm in battle off the island of Tenerife in the Canaries. Nelson also suffered terribly from seasickness.

HMS Warrior was the first Iron Clad warship in the Royal Navy (built between 1859-1861) of 40 guns and steam powered. Within 10 years she was obsolete.



AnthonyRoll- Mary_Rose

(Public Domain)



By the Mary Rose Trust, CC BY-SA 4.0



CC HMS Victory By Ballista BY-SA 4.0



HMS Warrior By geni CC BY-SA 4.0

In the Garden

The Gardening Team have a couple of projects that will come to fruition in the next few months. The first is the placing of new remembrance plaques on the benches in the garden and the other is the making of a “Sensory Garden” in one of the quieter corners of the garden.

Despite the introduction of Bug Hotels, Water Butts and Bird Baths, we didn’t quite make the exacting standards for the Eco-church Gold Award. Having been successful at the Bronze and Silver Standard, it was always going to be extremely difficult to get the top award. After all, we don’t need to change to a more efficient heating system, as we haven’t got one, or install triple glazing for that matter. So we now have to start on the Gold Award all over again.

It is hoped with the sensory garden and the planting of specific types of plant to encourage the likes of Monarch Butterflies and other endangered species, we can make Holy Trinity their home.



A Tale of Woe

Very sadly Rob and I are still in England rather than having flown to Madeira as planned last Monday. So we shall not be coming to the English Church just yet. My tale of woe is attached below. You're most welcome to share the Ballad of Royston Station in any way you think might raise a smile.

Writing it was truly therapeutic, as it forced me to piece together the exact train of events, from which certain rhymes came easily and I had to search a bit harder for others. My day passed very speedily and it helped me work through a puzzling & scary experience, so no flashbacks.

love & best wishes,

Janet 25th January 2025

The Ballad of Royston Station

Tuesday night's choir night, the best in the week
With laughter and song, each rehearsal's unique.
This one was special, Open House to new guests,
I had wine, I had nibbles to meet their requests.

I drove to the station with hope in my heart,
And neatly parked parallel, such a good start
To my journey to London; excitement was high
Climbing over the bridge, my ticket to buy.

All of a sudden, I lurched, fell, and found
Myself on the platform, aligned with the ground.
A bag on each arm, no hand for the rail,
My descent of the stairway was fated to fail.

The platform's gold stippling merged with the last stair,
Whose edge, also yellow, signalled, "Walker, beware!"
It was dark, all below me was lustrous with salt,
I'd stepped forward, trusting, so was it my fault?

That I landed full length with a twisted left leg
And lay still as hands gathered. I thought fast to beg
Them not to uplift me, but attend to my shout,
"Let me play dead ants so's not to pass out!".

Kindly they listened and drew back instead
As I lay with all limbs stuck up over my head.
Station staff soon arrived in full strength with a chair,
Gently raised me and wheeled me to the Waiting
Room, where

I warmed and rebooted my traumatised wits
To wait for an ambulance. What? 4 hours? Nix!
Call home and seek help, that's what to do,
Leave the car and go home, where there's supper
for you.

Our carer came quickly and, despite my pain,
Kind staff eased me in for the ride to Stone Lane.
Ibuprofen and arnica were all I could take
Till Addenbrooke's looked and confirmed, "There's
a break!"

A split proximal fibula was seen in my calf.
"Just wear this boot for a month and a half!
And here are some crutches to see you don't fall.
Go crutch, bad foot, good foot to walk up the
hall."

For stairs the gait's special, leading feet must take
turns
Good up to Heaven, bad down to Hell, one learns.
"Avoid bearing weight and keep the leg raised."
Officially a couch potato, heaven be praised!

And all praise to those who have taken on each
task
That took up my days, what more could I ask?
Than the love of our children and their thoughtful
ways
Of bringing us safely through these testing days.

Janet Kitchen Searles
Kimbolton, 20th January 2025

Presépio de Natal in Madeira

The definition of a Presépio is a spontaneous creation that represents the birth of Jesus Christ. It has become an icon in Madeira's Christmas. Every village, and most districts in every town, have a Presépio.

They are often built under churches or municipal buildings and the bigger ones not only have life sized Nativity models and animals but literally hundreds of

additions of models of any size and anything brought out from the attic to decorate the Nativity scene. We know of villages that have gone out and bought up to 100 dolls which they have dressed in clothes of the village (i.e. beekeepers; farmers, householders etc.) and they all seem to have a marriage at a church and a water feature (sometimes several feet long with a water wheel or fountain!)



The village in the pictures focussed on automaton figures doing traditional things like rolling barrels, sawing timber, or building houses. The one we saw even had a young girl swinging her legs above a pool. Enchanting!

The villages open their Presépio to the public charging just 1 or 2 euros to go round and there is always a local honey, orange and rum drink called a Poncha, to revive you after your walk round!



The first time we saw the life sized Nativities it was wonderful to think that the real story of Christmas is not overlooked and is in fact revered .



Whether it is the full size Nativity at Ribeira Brava or the Presépios at Porto da Cruz or Curral das Freiras, Madeira has some fascinating spectacles to enjoy over the Christmas period between 1st of December and the 15th of January.



During January and February four different student groups, each consisting of around twenty students and teachers, visited the English Church of Holy Trinity to learn the history of this particular church and discover the differences and similarities between the Anglican and Roman Catholic traditions



Christmas at Holy Trinity Funchal



*Christmas Carols & Musical Evenings
Christmas Flowers and Cribs*

