

PARISH STAFF AND OFFICERS

Chaplain: (Interregnum)
The Parsonage
Rua da Quebra Costas no.20
Funchal 9000 - 034
Madeira Portugal
Tel: Tel. 965653280
Email: htcchaplain@gmail.com

Church Warden: Joy Menezes
joymmenezes@gmail.com

Church Warden: Jonathan Pestana-Calvert
(& Congregational **Tel.** 961 080 555
Worship Leader) calvertgray1957@gmail.com

Church Admin: htcmadeira@gmail.com

Council Treasurer: Ian Norris

Organist:

Friends Association: Jean Faulkner
friendssecretaryHTC@outlook.com

Please visit our website
<https://holytrinitychurchmadeira.org/>



Unity Service, Santa Clara

February 2026



CHAPLAIN'S NOTES — "LIFE WITH BRIAN..."

February 2026

I've just heard from my brother-in-law in Co Kildare that the temperature there has gone up to a balmy 6 ° while I'm basking in a comfortable 20 ° here in Funchal! It's the end of January and mathematical spring starts on the 1st of February in the Northern Hemisphere. The 1st of February is also St Brigid's Day in Ireland.



Brigid is associated with Kildare (Coill Dara) where she founded a nunnery where she became Abbess towards the middle of her life. She is Ireland's second Patron Saint after St Patrick who had brought Christianity to that country in 432AD. She was born in 450AD and died in 525AD. Like many of the ancient saints, she is surrounded with legends and stories which are more or less true and carry significance anyway!

Although of a pagan family, Brigid became a Christian and dedicated her life to follow Christ and be the best she could be in her daily life. When she was born, a ray of sunshine shone on her face and her father named her after the Norse goddess of the sun, Bridget, and she grew up with beautiful legends surrounding her. Wherever she walked, spring flowers sprang up in her footsteps, so the first day of Spring is very appropriate for her Feast Day.

She was a servant (slave) to the King who liked her but insisted that she renounced her beliefs. Brigid was clever and although she was denied any of the symbols of her faith, she came up with an ingenious solution. She fashioned a cross woven from the straw which was her bed and hiding it wasn't a problem, She just tucked it into the mattress! You can still buy a St Brigid's cross made of straw, but it won't go into your mattress when the boss is coming. It also has a tradition of protecting your house from fire and illness if you hang it above or near the door. See the picture...

By the way, the king fell in love with her and all was forgiven. Her faith and courage continue to be an example for us to follow, especially when it's not easy to share our journeys of faith today. God bless her.

Your servant in Christ,

Brian.

(June the 9th is St Columba's Day and my birthday so stand by for more!)

<https://www.irishcentral.com/culture/how-make-st-brigid-cross>



CONCERT PROGRAMME AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

15.02.26 Sunday Piano Romantic Miniatures with A. Hennel at 4pm

5.02.26 Sunday Special Beethoven Night with Olga Samara - violin at 6pm

16.02.26 Monday Violin Serenades and Sibelius Violin Concerto with Olga Samara - violin at 5.30pm

17.02.26 Tuesday Swinging 60s Program with ORCHESTRA - Quartet at 5.30pm

18.02.26 Wednesday Musicals with Gal Nussen - soprano at 6pm

19.02.26 Thursday The Beatles in a Classical Way with ORCHESTRA TRIO at 5.30pm

20.02.26 Friday Morning Classical Concert in the Garden at 11.00 am

20.02.26 Friday Legendary ROCK Program with ORCHESTRA QUARTET at 5.30pm

21.02.26 Saturday Ragtime & Old Jazz concert in the garden at 2pm

At the English Church
Tuesdays 5.30pm
ORCHESTRA QUARTET
PLAYS
The Swinging 60s
- Violin solo
- Electric Guitar
- Simon & Garfunkel
- Monkees
- Rolling Stones
- Johnny Kidd & The Pirates
"Sound of 60s" PROGRAMME

BROADWAY Musicals
& Songs made famous by Barbra Streisand
ENGLISH CHURCH Wednesday 6pm
Les Misérables, My Fair Lady, West Side Story, The Phantom of the Opera, Sunset Boulevard, The Wizard of Oz, Yentl, Cats
WALK YOUR DREAMS HERE

Violin Serenades
Mondays 5.30 PM
BEETHOVEN Moonlight Sonata
BRUCH Concerto, 1-2 mvt
DEBUSSI Clar De Lune
WALTZ Number Two
The Lark Ascending
ELGAR Salut d'Amour
Olga Samara - Violin Tickets 17.50 €
Andrei L-Man - piano
English Church Funchal, Rua do Quebra Costas, 18
TICKETS 17.50 €

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

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FUNCHAL

Rua da Quebra Costas 20

THEMED MEAL AND FILM REVIEW

FEBRUARY 28th 6.30pm



"Swimming with Men" is a 2018 British sports comedy-drama film that explores themes of masculinity and personal redemption through the lives of a male synchronized swimming team.

MENU

Fish pie, peas and sweetcorn. Pears in Wine and Icecream

Tickets on night 17.50 euros

PLEASE **BOOK** with Jean (friendssecretaryhtc@outlook.com)
by 25th February 2026

MEETING WITH PUPILS OF EXTERNATO DA APRESENTACAO DA MARIA FUNCHAL

We were very pleased to welcome two groups (and others to come) of year 8 students to Holy Trinity with their teachers. They were following a project comparing different sections of Christianity. They mainly were used to attending a Catholic church and none had visited a Protestant church before! They seemed very relaxed and full of questions. They impressed us by their understanding of English conversation but Father Brain McAvoy who talked to them confused us all by welcoming them in Irish!

The young people discussed the word faith and listened attentively to a short history of the church, they were very interested in the possibility of 6 Napoleonic gold coins being buried in the foundations!! Father Brian was keen to talk about the similarities between the churches and the services.

The children had many questions on ecumenism and had a session of taking photographs and looking around. It was a mutually enjoyable and interesting time.



In Loving Memory of Sriyamalee Anoma Nilkamal da Silva (10 October 1943 – 18 January 2026):



Thus says the LORD:

Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless;

clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

Sriyamalee Anoma Nilkamal da Silva — known to all as Sriya — was born on 10 October 1943 on the island of Sri Lanka, and passed away peacefully following a period of illness on 18 January 2026. Her memorial service was held on 24 January 2026 at Holy Trinity Church, Funchal, a place that reflected her deep, enduring Christian faith.

Sriya was the beloved wife of Rui da Silva, with whom she shared 58 years together, including 55 years and seven months of marriage.

She was a devoted and loving mother to Tamara Moreira, a caring and supportive mother-in-law to Pedro, whom she loved as her own, and a deeply cherished grandmother to Elijah and Indigo, whom she adored and delighted in. She was also a loving mother to Rico da Silva and her late son Jose (Josh) da Silva.

Family was always at the heart of Sriya's life. She was one of four siblings, Her siblings meant the world to her, and she carried those bonds with her wherever life took her.

Sriya's early life was shaped by both learning and loss. Her mother, Dulcie, was a teacher, and her father was a respected journalist and statistician, responsible for compiling Sri Lanka's first national census following the Second World War. When Sriya was just ten years old, her father fell ill and lost his sight. Even as a young child, she cared for him, reading aloud to him — including his beloved Homer's The Iliad — offering comfort through words when he could no longer see. His death when Sriya was only eleven left a lasting mark, and she and her siblings were raised by their mother with the support of extended family.

Sriya was educated at Bishop's College, one of Sri Lanka's leading girls' schools, and she possessed a remarkable memory and love of learning.

In 1964, she travelled to Ghana to work at the Sri Lankan Embassy, an opportunity she always appreciated deeply. In 1965, she joined her mother and elder brother in the United Kingdom, beginning a new chapter of her life. No matter the distance life created between family members, Sriya worked tirelessly to keep relationships close, nurturing bonds across countries and generations and eventually all siblings were together in England.

Sriya worked at the Hilton Hotel in central London, initially in the telecommunications department. It was there, during night shifts in 1968, that she met Rui da Silva, who worked as a receptionist. Their love story was not without challenge — an arranged marriage had been planned for Sriya in Sri Lanka — but true love prevailed, and they married on 4 July 1970.

Together they built a warm and welcoming home in Mitcham, Surrey, filled with memories of birthdays, anniversaries, christenings, Christmases, and Easters.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

Nigeria 2026

AT

14.00 HRS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Rua da Quebra Costas 20

(In the garden if possible)

(Further details contact

Jean Faulkner 965733057)



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

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

wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



PRESS RELEASE



“I will give you rest”

World Day of Prayer 2026 Nigeria

Our sisters in Nigeria invite us to join them for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 6 March 2026. The service they have prepared reflects on the theme, "I will give you rest."

The World Day of Prayer is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the globe. Each year, women from a different country craft a service, sharing their unique spiritual journey and culture. For 2026, the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

The preparation for this day is extensive. The writing country and theme are chosen years in advance, and the service then travels to the international committee in New York for translation and dissemination to national committees in over 120 participating countries. From there it is adapted and shared locally, culminating in gatherings at hundreds of churches every March.

This day is a powerful demonstration of global solidarity. It begins in Samoa and moves across the world in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa. It truly is a worldwide day of prayer!

For further information and resources, including details of services in your area, please visit the World Day of Prayer website: wwdp.org.uk

Sriya always spoke with gratitude of Rui's generosity in opening their home to her extended family, and hospitality became a defining feature of their life together. At the centre of that home was Sriya's Christian faith, which guided her actions and sustained her through life's challenges.

Sriya continued working in the hotel industry, later joining the Royal Lancaster Hotel in central London.

Alongside raising her family and working long hours, she pursued higher education through the Open University, studying late into the night after her children were asleep. She graduated with pride, supported and celebrated by her family — a testament to her determination and quiet strength.

In 1990, Sriya and her family moved to Funchal, Madeira, the birthplace of her husband, Rui. The move represented significant challenges for her—adapting to a new, hostile environment, settling the two youngest children into a Portuguese medium school and establishing a life for herself often centred around the activities of Holy Trinity. These challenges she met with her usual grace and she quickly gained the affections of the church community, creating a loving home in Madeira.

She was an enthusiastic and valued participant in the life of the church—involved in flower arranging, the church council (performing the secretarial duties at one stage), altar serving and many fund raising activities, including providing Sri Lankan delicacies at Christmas Fairs. Sriya generously supported many different charities, both at home and abroad. She and Rui often provided pastoral care for members of the congregation. They had an open house for those in need, visiting the elderly and often providing accommodation where required. Her Madeiran friends came to love her dearly for her warm nature, her loyalty to friends and her care for those in crisis.

Sriya was known for her joyfulness — even in difficult times, she rarely revealed the burdens she carried. She was a wise and devoted mother, always guiding Tamara with care, lovingly supporting Josh throughout his life, and stepping in without hesitation to help Rico whenever he faced challenges, particularly during his university years.

Each time her daughter welcomed a new baby, Sriya was there — present at their births and offering practical love and support to her grandchildren. Elijah and Indigo brought her immense joy and she treasured every moment spent with them. The greatest sorrow of her life was the loss of her beloved son Josh, a grief she bore with dignity and grace. It brings comfort to know that she is now at peace, reunited with him in the loving arms of God.

Sriya's generosity extended far beyond her family. She cherished her friends deeply, offering them the same love, loyalty, and support that she gave so freely to those closest to her. She had an extraordinary capacity to give of herself — with time, care, encouragement, and prayer — and those who knew her felt seen, valued, and welcomed. What Sriya gave of herself to both family and friends truly knew no bounds.



Sriya lived a life defined by love, kindness, faith, and service. As her grandson Elijah so simply and beautifully said, "Granny always had time for other people." Words that capture her spirit perfectly.

She will be deeply missed, but her presence lives on

Unity Service

As part of Unity week, a well attended ecumenical service took place on the 18th January at Santa Clara Church. Participating churches included the Portuguese Presbyterian Church, the German Lutheran Church, our own Anglican Church at Holy Trinity, all presided over by the Bishop of Funchal, Bishop Nuno of the Roman Catholic Church.



CARNIVAL & HTC

CARNIVAL DINNER

For this years fundraiser, a Brazilian themed dining experience was chosen to echo the Samba Theme of this years Main Parade in Funchal. Over 40 people attended our very popular event just to get everyone in the mood for the carnival weekend.



Plant Hunters

At the beginning of January one of the regular visitors to Madeira, Francis Farrer Brown agreed to make a talk about Plant Hunters as a fundraiser for the church. We made the pictured food with plant theme of potato wedges and dips sandwiches and fruit on sticks.

45 people crowded into the Trinity Room and were amazed by some of the stories of all sorts of intrepid people, some even on the Cook voyages of discovery. Some got chased by various animals and some died in pursuit of that elusive unusual plant. Many of the plants ended up in Kew Gardens or the gardens of big houses around England. Many now are household names, like the camelia and the rhododendron.

We raised over 400 euros and had a very enjoyable evening together.

Many thanks to those who helped especially moving furniture around.



TV screen computer and seating for 45 at the diner table — a tight squeeze

Jean Faulkner

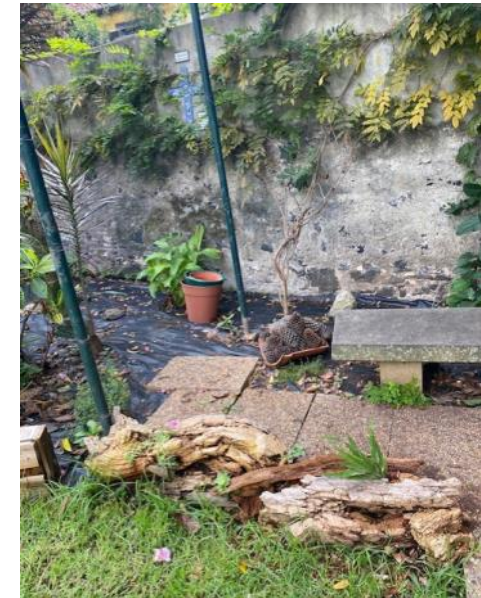




The Flower Parade

The Flower Parade, a highlight of the Flower Festival, will, starting this year, take place on two Sundays, the Regional Government announced that the parade will take place on May 3rd and 17th.

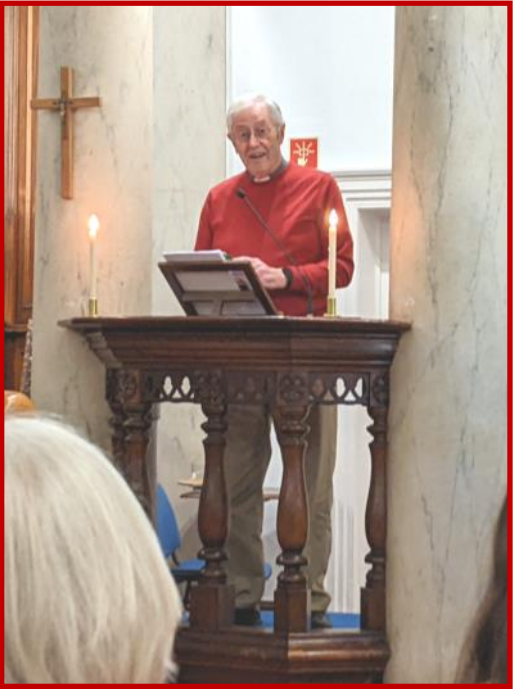
The Garden



The Sensory Area continues at pace with the addition of a membrane for weed control and water retention, planters made from old pallets (recycling don't you know) and the purchase of lavender and Thyme. Our friend Owen has come up trumps yet again with a beautifully carved sign.

And by the way, anyone for BANANAS, should be ready at the beginning of March





Our Theme For Christmas

Whilst our Flower team were busy with themed decorations of angels, the congregation as a whole were busy with 9 lessons and carols, Midnight mass and the Christmas Day Service. At this Christmastide, we collected for Sopa do Cardoso, the soup kitchen of Funchal and also along with members of the Chapel Pena da França, collected items that were made into hampers for distribution to needy families and individuals in the Funchal area.

We should also mention that the church at Nazaré helped greatly with the distribution of the gifts in time for Christmas.

