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



Off the Beaten Track — A Quiet Afternoon Drive

August 2026



This past Sunday, 9 August, was my last Sunday to be with you at Holy Trinity save perhaps an occasional drop-in. I've very much appreciated the opportunity to be with you, and I hope our paths will cross again.



Instrumental musicians being unavailable that morning, I preached about silence and prayer. I saw that a handful of us regularly engage in practices of meditative or contemplative prayer, so here's a brief introduction for those who would like to experience more.

Contemplative prayer calls for time alone and space in which to experience as much silence as possible. It is particularly useful, however challenging, to set aside a time of day and commit a specific length of time to prayer. Beginners should start with a short time. Five minutes or so is enough as you're gaining experience. Sitting upright, adjusting the body to a

comfortably still position with feet on the floor and head and shoulders relaxed, helps with breathing. Contemplatives learn to pay attention to their breathing so that it becomes regular and deep.

Many beginners find themselves distracted by their thoughts. It is nearly impossible to "empty the mind" – a more practical attitude is to let our random thoughts come and go without seizing on any one of them, and when we notice ourselves becoming distracted, to simply return attention to the breath. The inward repetition of a phrase of scripture or music can help us maintain focus.

Western Christianity has a rich tradition of contemplative prayer. Some books I can recommend include *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis, and *Mysticism* by Evelyn Underhill. Thomas Merton wrote extensively on prayer and contemplation. Masters from outside the Christian tradition include Tich Nhat Hanh, Pema Chodron, and John Kabat-Zinn. The internet also offers many resources such as daily meditations from Richard Rohr – find him at The Center for Action and Contemplation, cac.org.

Prayer is a vast category. There are multiple methods and styles that can be adapted to one's own best use. Seeking advice from friends whom you know to have an intentional spirituality is a good place to start. A spiritual director, guide, or companion can be helpful. The trick is making the decision to begin. Our brothers and sisters the Muslims tell us that God says: "Take one step towards me and I will take ten towards you." (*Hadith Qudsi*).

Love, blessing, and peace, and again many thanks to you all.

The Rev. Reid Hamilton

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FUNCHAL

Rua da Carreira 20

THEMED MEAL AND FILM REVIEW

November 7th 6.30p.m.



An engaging Romantic Fantasy. A recent widow rents a home by the ocean, which is haunted by cantankerous sea captain

MENU: Feta and pumpkin pasta with side salad

Apple tart and cream

20 euros each

Names to (friendssecretaryhtc2026@gmail.com) by 4th November

The Musicians are on holiday. They plan to return on September 8th with a new programme of music. Check our website for details <https://holytrinitychurchmadeira.org/>

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FUNCHAL

Rua da Carreira 20

THEMED MEAL AND FILM REVIEW

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS **NONE** OF ABOVE IN THE MONTH OF
AUGUST

The next is on 26th SEPTEMBER 6.30P.M.

MUFASA THE LION KING

This is the story of the older and cunning Mustafa the Lion King and how he meets the hair Taka, also known as Scar. It follows how they want from brother to rival



MENU: Slices of beef roast potatoes and broccoli
Tropical Fruit Salad

20euros each

Names to (friendssecretaryhtc2026@gmail.com) by 23rd September

Baptism at HTC 2026

As a congregation at Holy Trinity we celebrated together the Baptism of Mia and welcomed her into the Church Family Worldwide.

When war disrupts lives and scatters people far and wide, we are happy to bring people together in such a beautiful celebration. When the parents and child live in Northern Ireland and the God-Parents live in Canada, it doesn't seem quite so strange that they should choose Madeira for the Christening and everyone at Holy Trinity felt privileged to witness quite a rare event for our Church here in Funchal.



Holy Trinity Church



Planned Talk Fund Raiser — The Bayeux Tapestry — 2nd or 3rd October

Contact Jean Faulkner for details friendssecretaryhtc2026@gmail.com



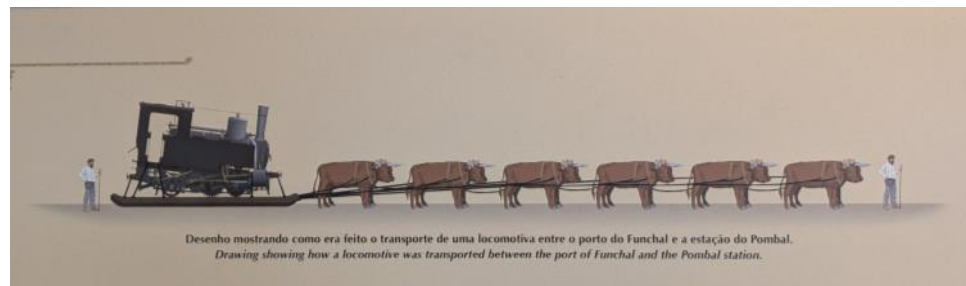
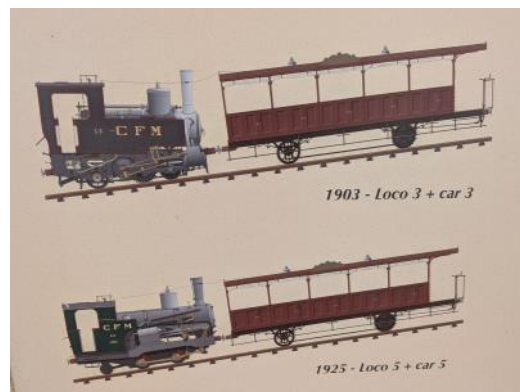
On 13th May we received a phone call from the British Embassy in Lisbon inviting us to attend a very special Garden Party at the British Ambassador's residence in Lisbon. We were told that there would be important VIP's in attendance and that we would represent an Anglo Portuguese connection from Madeira. We were not told who the important guests would be for security reasons, and we were asked not to share the invitation with anyone.

Before attending we were asked to send a small resumé of Holy Trinity and its activities, and to nominate a spokesperson.

At our own expense (I hasten to add !) We booked our return flights to Lisbon and also an overnight stay at a centrally located hotel. Full instructions were sent by the Embassy, just three days before we travelled. It was only then that we knew that the visitors would be members of the Royal Family. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh were coming to Portugal on an official visit to commemorate the 640th Anniversary of the Treaty of Windsor, the oldest Diplomatic Alliance in the world. They



in stock. At that point I would normally have "cut my losses" but the railway museum at Monte has the very little steam engine and carriage required that would actually run on those tracks. So if I make the model for the museum, that would work! BUT knowing my luck after building it all that little electric engine probably wouldn't work and then I would be "Back to Square One".



The Monte Railway Part 2 –Back to Square One

When a modeller decides to make an exact copy of a particular railway—someone should really take them aside., and say `You really should think this through. “Don’t bite off more than you can chew”. Wise words indeed`.

So after 3 and a bit months of research, what have I got? “Not a lot” is the answer!!



The Austrian model manufacturer started selling models of the Monte Railway about 4 to 5 years ago. This included a small steam engine; a carriage; a wagon for luggage; an Austrian Emperor and entourage and various pieces of track (including the rack , it was after all a rack railway) So what have I managed to find? - the carriage and the luggage wagon. I even contacted a specialist dealer in

the USA but he had only one item in stock and was going to charge something like 60 US dollars to ship it to Madeira. I then resorted to eBay, something I have not used since Brexit . I could not log on. My account was blocked. A code number was sent and I had to Phone the “Help Line”.

The problem was the eBay site was the Austrian variant and although I actually got to talk to a human being , the conversation was in German. Although I know hello, please and thank you AND can order a beer AND can count 1 to 10 in German , it didn’t help



Aspeto geral da estação do Monte.
General aspect of the Monte station.

much. But miraculously after about 20 minutes, I did manage to sign in, search for the required items and bid. GREAT. Then reality hit when a message popped up telling me the vendor didn’t ship to Portugal or Ireland or The UK for that matter.

So Back to Square One. - The Austrian manufacturer. They have the Austrian Emperor and entourage and some small pieces of track

would be visiting Lisbon on Monday and Tuesday , and then travelling up to Porto. Various organisations with Anglo Portuguese connections from all over Portugal were invited, and Holy Trinity had been chosen to represent Madeira. We were naturally very honoured, and very proud to represent our church.

The event was held in the extensive gardens of the Ambassador’s official residence, and English sparkling wine was served in addition to many hot and cold canapés. The Duke and Duchess arrived promptly one hour after guests had gathered, and proceeded to circulate amongst the guests showing great interest in the different organisations present. They were both very charming and naturally polished. A splendid and understated couple representing the Crown.

It turned out to be an extra special occasion for me as I was happily reunited with many members of the British Embassy staff with whom I had worked closely during my 14 years as Consul here in Madeira.

Joy Menezes

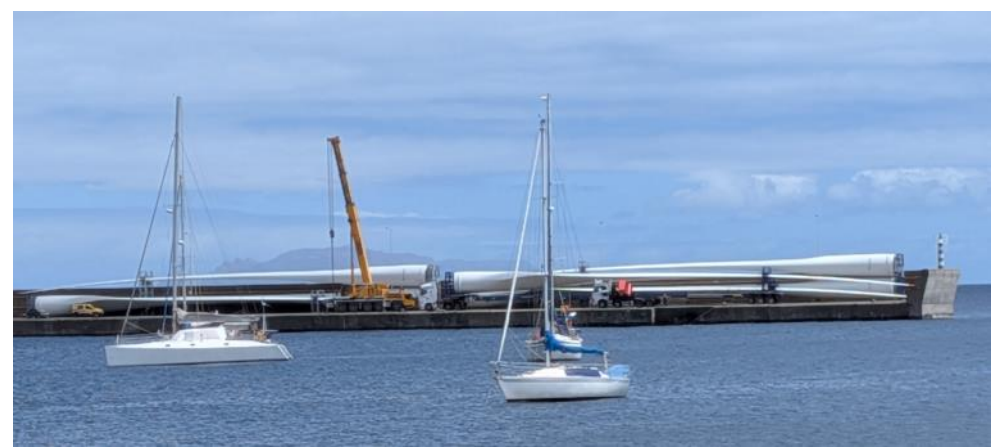
(Photos from 1/6/26)





It is only right that we at Holy Trinity should show our appreciation to this amazing couple.

The Library is a wonderful place for fine dining with friends in celebration of a job well done at the end of Brian and Gill's last tour of duty at Holy Trinity.



Turbine Blades Await Transportation from Caniçal

The transportation of large wind turbine components to Paul da Serra may cause temporary traffic disruption until the end of September. The operation will carry turbine blades, tower sections and other equipment to the Loiral III and Paul wind farms.

Two new wind turbines, with a combined capacity of 7.6 megawatts, will be installed at the Loiral III Wind Farm. At the Paul Wind Farm, an existing turbine that has reached the end of its operational life will be replaced by a new 3.8-megawatt unit.

ENEREEM said the components would be transported at night whenever possible to limit the effect on traffic and nearby communities. However, schedules may change depending on operational requirements, weather conditions and safety considerations.

Drivers are advised to observe temporary road signs and follow instructions from police and other personnel accompanying the convoys. The last time such an occurrence took place was in 2020 when the roads were much quieter.



Off The Beaten Track

When you are fed up queueing at the famous tourist attractions perhaps a visit to one of the many big and small museums out of Funchal can satisfy your curiosity, no matter what your interest.

The Whale Museum, Caniçal <https://museudabaleia.org/>

The village of Caniçal has had a small whaling museum for many years but in 2011 a large purpose built museum opened on the edge of the village, close to the sea.



By bus:

SIGA bus, route no. 113

By car:

Take the Funchal-Caniçal expressway, exit "Caniçal Oeste", turn right towards Caniçal center, and then right again at the first exit, following the sign for "Museu da Baleia" (Whale Museum).

GPS coordinates: 32.735911, -16.740579

The Banana Museum, Lugar de Baixo bam-centrodabanadamadeira.pt

There are over one thousand different varieties grown throughout the world. See how many are grown on Madeira. It's not just one or two.



Estrada Regional 101 – VE3,
N.º 2 Lugar de Baixo
9360-592 Ponta do Sol
GPS 32.680026 -17.086764

Rota da Cal limestone quarry museum

<https://sites.google.com/site/rotadacal/>

Learn how to make Slaked Lime at the only Limestone Quarry on the island. **Open from Tuesday to Saturday, from 10am to 5pm**

Achada do Furtado do Barrinho, Lameiros, Sao Vicente, Portugal





Summer Flowers to Brighten Your Day

