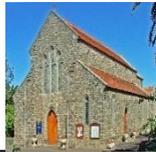


All Saints Anglican Church

Puerto de la Cruz



Come and join us in Christian Fellowship. All are Welcome.

Notes from the Parsonage by our Chaplain, Revd. Ron.

Christmas 2020 is surely going to be like no other? I pose this as a question rather than a statement! There is a sense in which every Christmas is unique, and in many cases special. No matter how much I would love to do it, I cannot go back to opening my first Scalextric when I was ten, being with my Dad, Mum, Sisters and Rex our dog. That time is sadly long gone. As a clergyman Christmas has always been for me an exhausting time. Giving all to the services means that once you get in on Christmas morning you are drained, but I always tried to make sure the children were given quality time, plenty of attention and were loved. We all opened our presents after lunch even though we were full of turkey and Christmas pudding! These are very precious moments which can never be regained, but they are held in our memories. We are to a degree full of past Christmases and their recollections.

But what is our task this Christmas as we seek again to remember the birth of the Saviour Jesus Christ? I think it is to remember who the Chief Guest at our Christmas party is. It is the Word made flesh. As a priest friend of mine always said, it is the most important celebration in the Christian Year, because God became one of us. That's the game changer, that's the moment when creation was transformed for ever. Jesus knew what it was to be alive, to live, to love and even to be betrayed. He was real not just an idea of a god that knew nothing of the human experience. Jesus Christ is Lord because he became one of us. Otherwise there would be no authenticity.

Our task this Christmas is to make it the best we possibly can with what we have; to make sure that people who have no one to love or to hold them are held in our Christian family of love. Let us make the effort to ensure no one is left on their own except by choice, and to guarantee they get a little gift. You see, at the heart of Christmas is a baby who looked through a child's eyes at the world. He felt the love of Mary and Joseph as they held him. This is our Lord, this is our King, and he is the head of the table in the Kingdom of the Resurrection.

Blessings this Christmas, *Ron*.

Chaplain: Revd Ron Corne - Tel: 922 38 40 38

CHURCH SERVICES

- Sun 22nd Nov Sunday Service 11am
- Weds 25th Nov Holy Communion 10am
followed by Coffee Fellowship in the church café every Wednesday. All Welcome
- Bible Study 11.15am
- Sun 29th Nov Advent Sunday Service 11am
- Weds 2nd Dec Holy communion 10am
Prayer Group 11.15am
- Sun 6th Dec Sunday Service 11am
- Weds 9th Dec Holy Communion 10am
Bible Study 11.15am
- Thur 10th Dec Christingle Service 6pm
- Sun 13th Dec Poinsettia Sunday Service 11am
- Weds 16th Dec Holy Communion 10am
Prayer Group 11.15am
- Thurs 17th Dec Christmas Carol Service 6pm
- Sun 20th Dec Sunday Service 11am
- Thurs 24th Dec Holy Communion 10am
Christmas Fellowship Breakfast 10.30am
- Fri 25th Dec Christmas Day Service 11am
- Sun 27th Dec Sunday Service 11am
- Wed 30th Dec Holy Communion 10am
Bible Study 11.15am
- Sun 3rd Jan Sunday Service 11am



All Saints Bible Study Group

Each Wednesday after our communion service we meet for either prayer or bible study.

There are various ways to study the bible. One is by taking a theme, for example love, and following that through various books and letters. A second is by looking at characters – getting to know the heart, attitude and personality of an individual or importance of a particular location. A third way is to study the order in which the events of the bible took place – chronologically – and not necessarily how they were written in the bible itself. The fourth way is what we have been doing: Studying a book of the bible.

This past few months in our time of bible study we have been looking at the letter of Paul to the Romans. We have read it in small chunks and discussed the meaning, context and what it says to us today. To date we have reached chapter 11. Working through the letter of Paul has been challenging, informative and caused us to question and wonder together – although it's perfectly acceptable to sit quietly and listen.

To this point we have discovered that Paul presented the facts of the gospel and declared his allegiance to it. He continued by building an airtight case for the lostness of humanity and the necessity for God's intervention. Then Paul presents the good news – salvation is available to all, regardless of a person's identity, sin or heritage. We are saved by grace (unearned and undeserved favour from God) through faith (complete trust) in Christ and His finished work. Through Him we can stand before God "not guilty". With this foundation Paul moves directly into a discussion of the freedom that comes from being saved. Speaking directly to his Jewish brothers and sisters Paul shares his concern for them and how they fit into God's plan.

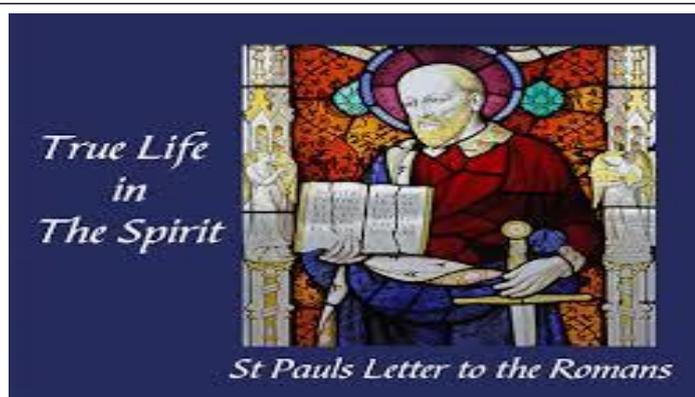
We will continue to explore this as we resume with chapter 11 in the coming week. We have been challenged to consider our commitment to Christ and our relationships with others. We have enjoyed discussing what the passages have meant or the confusion that we have been challenged by! We have been grateful for the Life Application Study Bible which has helped us on our journey of discovery.

Advent begins at the end of November and throughout Advent we will be looking at a study with prayer called "Light to the Nations." The 5 sessions are based on the 5 main sections of the task laid upon the Spirit-filled and anointed servant, of the Isaiah passage that was read out by Jesus in the Nazareth synagogue and which were understood to be fulfilled in His ministry and person:

1. Bringing Good News to the poor
2. Proclaiming release to the captive
3. The recovery of sight to the blind
4. Freedom to the oppressed
5. Proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour.

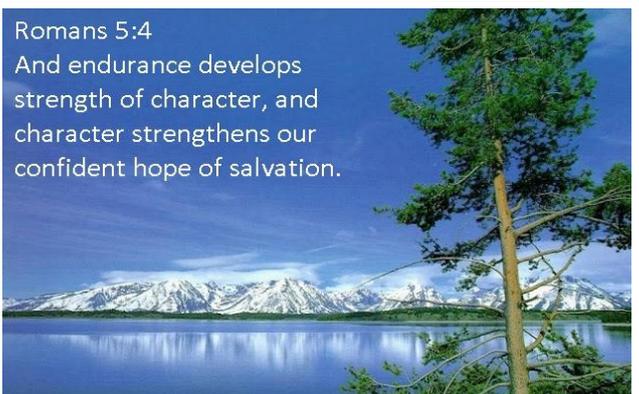
Each session follows a similar pattern: gathering together, sharing the word, exploring the message and going out. Do come and join us.

We don't have all the answers but we are enjoying exploring together.



Romans 5:4

And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.



A Call to Prayer by Judith Rigby



This November the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, along with several senior church leaders, are inviting Christians to participate in a month of prayer.

In response to a question “Is there anything else we can do to halt the spread of this virus?” Archbishop Justin’s response was “Yes. Yes, there is. We can pray.” Prayer changes things.

Here in All Saints we have been praying together fortnightly on a Wednesday morning at 11:15 and have seen God answer our prayer by changing situations and strengthening and healing the sick. Each week we have used a different way into praying. We’ve prayed with pictures, with objects, with music, with scripture, with a map of the world and using the theme of seasons.

All are welcome to come and join us as we pray. We remember our local community, our host nation and our home nations. We pray for specific requests so if there is someone or something that you would like us to pray for please let Ron or Judith know. It’s like going to the well when we gather together. Whether we speak or are silent we drink and fill up from the source and fountain of living water.

At this challenging time when so many are fearful about debt, bills, feeding their family, unemployment, loneliness and ill health we can bring these concerns to God, who loves, hears and holds our world and ourselves.

In the invitation to pray issued by the church leaders there will be a collective moment of prayer each day at 6:00 so wherever we are we can pray at that time, remembering a specific group of people each day.

Sunday: Family, friends and loved ones

Monday: Schools, colleges, children and young people

Tuesday: The elderly and those who are isolated and vulnerable

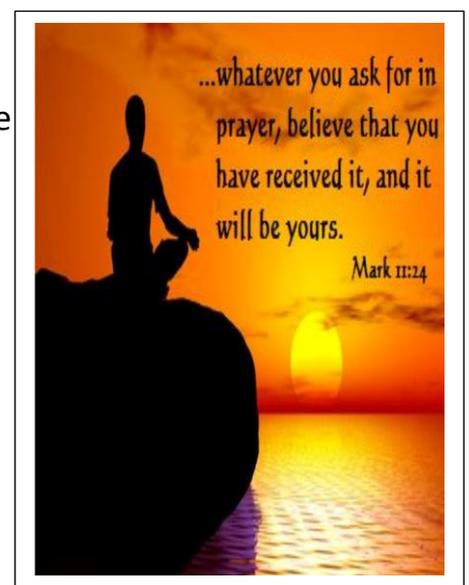
Wednesday: Business, the workplace and economic wellbeing

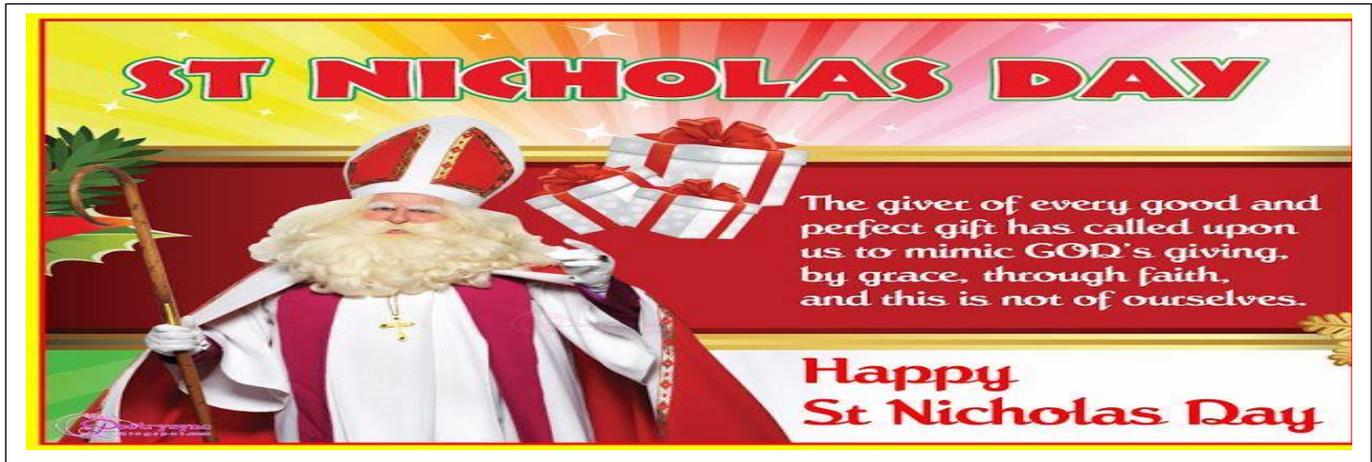
Thursday: The NHS and other keyworkers

Friday: National and local governments

Saturday: All who are grieving and those suffering with physical and mental health.

To find out more information and resources for prayer visit:
churchofengland.org/PrayerForTheNation





Lives of the Saints by Krysia Claxton

Saint Nicholas

We must all have our own fond memories of Father Christmas, whether this was during infancy, Parenthood or as adults. This jolly old fat man wearing bright red clothes and ringing a noisy old bell in stores or streets, usually with a large red nose and half frozen. How often do we stop to think of the legend of this dearly beloved character? Where he came from? Or why was he so cheerful?

Bishop Nicholas of Myra in Asia Minor, dates back to the 4th century AD, during the time of the Roman Empire. He was born in Lycia; Turkey and his feast day is traditionally December 6th. He is the patron saint of Russia, several countries in Europe and the Christian middle East. He is also patron saint of Children, brides, travellers, and sailors.

Saint Nicholas showed deep devotion while listening to the sermons of his uncle, the local bishop, and attended the church's first general council in Nicaea in 325CE. One of the many legends associated with Saint Nicholas was that he rescued three young girls due to become prostitutes through poverty by giving three bags of gold to provide marriage dowries for them. Another legend depicts him as a strong, virtuous, chivalrous man, rescuing sailors from drowning and he also saved condemned men from execution. He was considered an honourable man, which gained him the reputation as a 'Giant' amongst men!

In 1095 the relics of Saint Nicholas were given to the church in Bari, where they still remain today. Images of this saint are all over Russia, the Christian Middle East and Europe, where many churches are dedicated to him. The Europeans took his name to the New World and gave each other presents on his feast day, thus starting the Santa Claus traditional, although the Dutch settlers in USA called him 'Sinte Klaas'.

How gloomy our lives and winters would have been without Christmas.
Cheers to a Happy Christmas everyone from Krysia.





Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable —if anything is excellent or praiseworthy— think about such things.

Philippians 4:8



Murphy's Law or God's law?

“Don't ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile”. Philippians 4:8

It's reported that in 1949 Captain Edward Murphy, an engineer working on a project for the United States Air Force, became angry because of a wrongly wired transducer. Scolding the technician responsible, Murphy said, 'If there's any way to do it wrong, he'll find it!' Over time such thinking became known as Murphy's Law. Basically, it states, 'Nothing is as easy as it looks. Everything takes longer than you expect, and if anything can go wrong, it will – at the worst possible moment.' How negative! Who would enjoy life if they lived it according to that philosophy? Because they always expected the worst – they'd get it! God's law disagrees completely with Murphy's Law. The world may expect Murphy's Law to operate in their lives, but as a redeemed child of God, you need to resist that kind of thinking and embrace God's law. In essence, here's what it says: 'If anything can go right, it will. Nothing is as difficult as it looks. Everything is more rewarding than it appears, and if anything good can happen to anybody, it'll happen to me.' Think how much more you could you enjoy life if your thoughts agreed with God's law, and not Murphy's. The fact is, God has a great life for you – one He wants you to enjoy to the fullest. So instead of blowing everything out of proportion and contradicting God's Word, stand on this promise: 'We know...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose' (Romans 8:28 NKJV). That's what it means to live by God's law – not Murphy's!

Bible in a Year: [Isaiah 5-6, 2 Corinthians 13](#)

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The UCB Word For Today is written by Bob and Debby Gass.

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Safeguarding News

I wonder what comes to mind when you hear the word Safeguarding?

The protection of children and vulnerable adults from any aspect of abuse continues to be never far from the news headlines these days.

As a church we open our doors to everyone. It is imperative that the church is a safe place for all and that we in All Saints are committed to the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, each person. Our vocation as Christians is to reflect the character of God. Safeguarding good practice is concerned with the development of safer expressions of care for all and underpins the love and welcome of God.

In the Diocese of Europe, we have clear safeguarding policies and procedures and our All Saints Policy Statement is found on our church notice board, behind the front door.

Clear robust safeguarding procedures are essential; however it is important to remember that above all it is people who protect, not procedures.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We aim to create an environment which is welcoming and respectful and enables safeguarding concerns to be responded to openly, promptly and consistently.

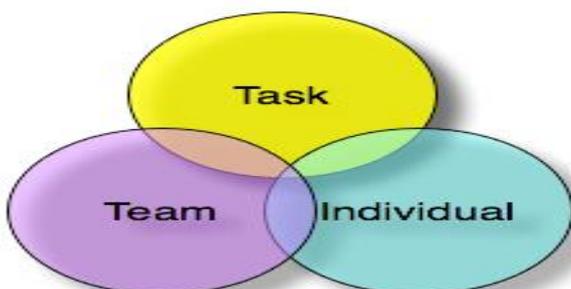
At our last Chaplaincy Council Meeting we agreed a safeguarding action plan to implement each aspect of our policy statement. Part of my responsibility as safeguarding officer is to ensure that all within it is actioned over the coming weeks and months.

Thank you to those who are completing the safeguarding basic awareness course online via the Diocese of Europe's website: www.europe.anglican.org Please do take a look under the safeguarding section to update your knowledge.

Should you have any questions or concerns relating to any aspect of safeguarding please don't hesitate to get in touch, either in church or via judithrigby@sky.com or on +34 771 042 849.



Judith Rigby – All Saints Safeguarding Officer



All Saints Parish Finances

All Saints, like many other parishes across the Diocese has not been left unaffected by the economic changes in 2020 and we have to give serious consideration to the financial situation of the parish here in Tenerife. Much of our income is now coming from weekly offerings through collections taken at services, together with the contributions of those who give on a regular basis via our online DonorBox app on our website, by direct debit and those who are willing to Gift-Aid their giving. We are not supported financially by the Diocese or any outside organisation and in times of covid-19 our other fund-raising activities have been placed on hold. How much we are all missing our Car Boot sales, particularly at Christmas.

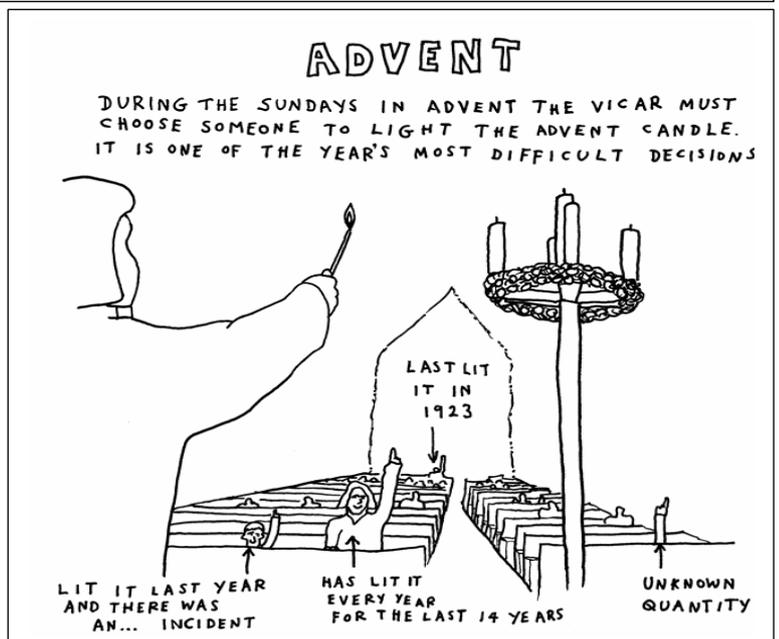
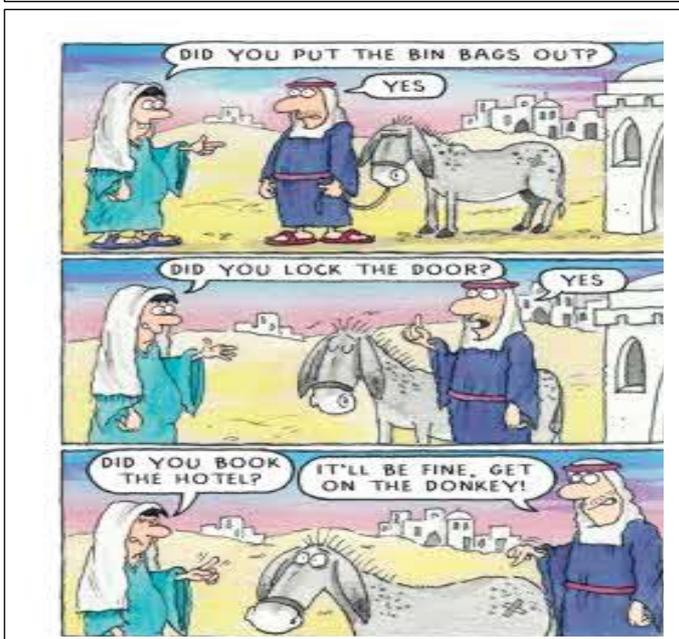
Over recent years, we have sometimes managed to break about even on income and expenditure; other times we have ended with a deficit which eats into our capital reserves: precious reserves needed both for future contingencies and for the development of our ministry on this island.

2020 has be a particularly difficult time financially and I estimate All Saints will make a loss this year of around 20,000€, in spite of a legacy and the very generous donations of one or two of All Saints most enthusiastic supporters.

If you would like to help us ensure a forward looking and financially viable Church now and for the near future, please get in touch with the church treasurer.

For all those who have donated generously this year to help All Saints in these financially trying times, thank you so much. Your support is appreciated very much indeed.

May you be Blessed this Christmas. Cheryl Douglas. Treasurer.





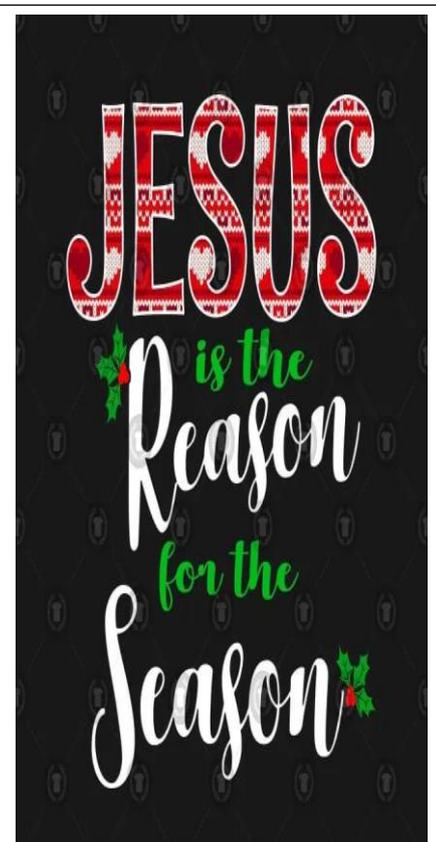
Christmas Eve Service – Thursday 24th December 10am

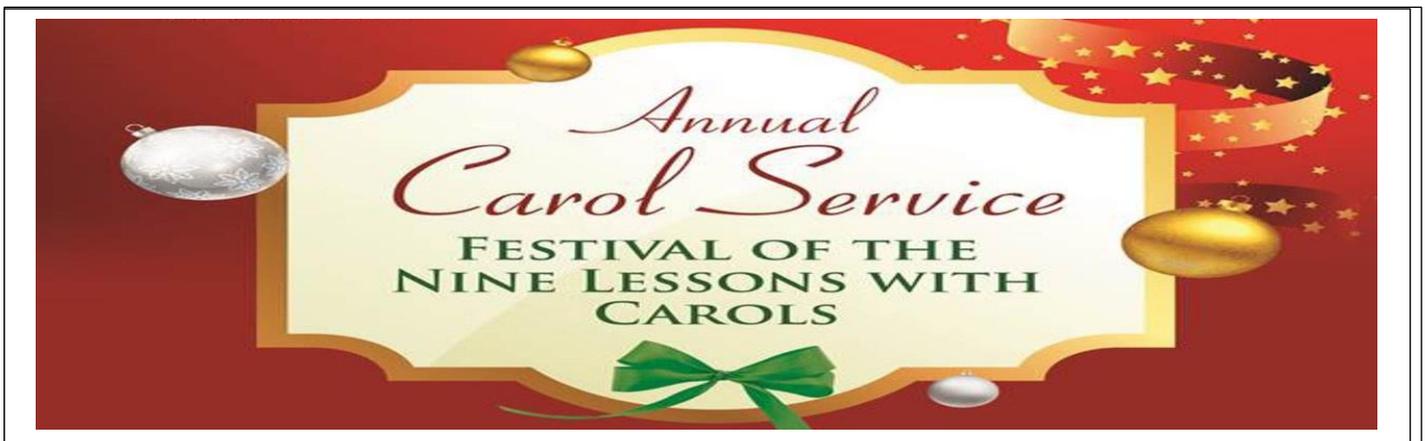


As part of All Saints Christmas celebrations the Wednesday Holy Communion service is being moved to Thursday 24th. There will be no midnight mass this year. Come and join us for a special Christmas Eve morning service at 10am followed by a festive Christmas Breakfast fellowship.

Christmas treats, tea and coffee will be available.

Please put your name down for the service. Thank you.





All Saints Christmas Carol Service – 17th December

Come and sing with us this Christmas at our Festive Carol Service for all the family. A feast of Christmas joy and fellowship, as we sing and listen to some of our most beloved and beautiful carols. Join us praising and celebrating with heartfelt jubilation, the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The service will be followed by mince pies and wine. Everyone is welcome.



POINSETTIA SUNDAY SERVICE 13TH DECEMBER

Come and help us fill the church with glorious colour and Christmas cheer this year again. Bring a poinsettia to the Sunday service and form part of the now traditional Sunday Poinsettia procession. Revd Ron will bless the procession, whilst we fill the church with the spectacular and diverse hues of Christmas poinsettias.

The church council would like to express their gratitude to Geoff, who kindly made the window stands for the church.



What Is Advent?

Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming, or birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Celebrating Advent typically involves a season of prayer, fasting, and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope, and joy. Many Christians celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of the age. In Western Christianity, the season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through to Christmas Eve, or December 24.

Advent Meaning

The word advent comes from the Latin term *adventus* meaning "arrival" or "coming," particularly the coming of something having great importance. Advent season, then, is both a time of joy-filled, anticipatory celebration of the arrival of Jesus Christ and a preparatory period of repentance, meditation, and penance. Advent is primarily observed in Christian churches that follow an ecclesiastical calendar of liturgical seasons to determine feasts, memorials, fasts and holy days.

Advent Origin

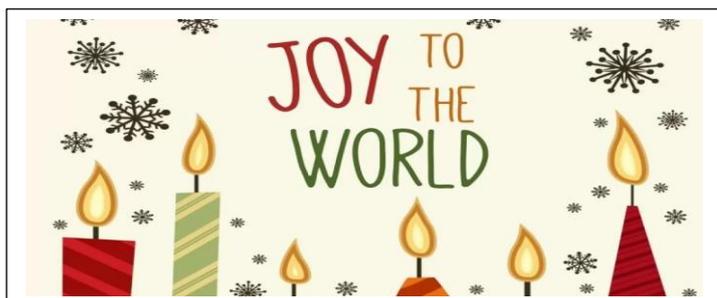
According to the Catholic Encyclopaedia, Advent began sometime after the 4th century as a time of fasting and preparation for Epiphany, rather than in anticipation of Christmas. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ by remembering the visit of the wise men and, in some traditions, the Baptism of Jesus. Sermons focused on the wonder of the Lord's Incarnation or becoming a man. At this time new Christians were baptized and received into the faith, and so the early church instituted a 40-day period of fasting and repentance. Later, in the 6th century, St. Gregory the Great was the first to associate this season of Advent with the coming of Christ. Originally it was not the coming of the Christ-child that was anticipated, but the Second Coming of Christ. By the Middle Ages, four Sundays had become the standard length of the Advent season, with fasting and repentance during that time. The church also extended the meaning of Advent to include the coming of Christ through his birth in Bethlehem, his future coming at the end of time, and his presence among us through the promised Holy Spirit. Modern-day Advent services include symbolic customs related to all three of these "advents" of Christ.

Symbols and Customs

Many different variations and interpretations of Advent customs exist today, and some Christians choose to incorporate Advent activities into their family holiday traditions. They do this as a way of keeping Christ at the centre of their Christmas celebrations. Family worship around the Advent wreath, Jesse Tree, or Nativity can make the Christmas season all the more meaningful. Some families may choose to not put up Christmas decorations until Christmas Eve as a way of focusing on the idea that Christmas is not yet here.

Advent Wreath

Lighting an Advent wreath is a custom that began with Lutherans and Catholics in 16th-century Germany. Typically, the Advent wreath is a circle of branches or garland with five candles arranged on the wreath. During Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the corporate Advent services. The traditional structure involves three purple candles and one rose pink one, set in a wreath, and often with a single, larger white candle in the centre. One more candle is lit each week of Advent. The advent candles and their colours are packed with rich meaning. Each represents a specific aspect of the spiritual preparations for Christmas. The three main colours are purple, pink, and white. Purple symbolizes repentance and royalty. (In the Catholic church, purple is also the liturgical colour at this time of year.) Pink represents joy and rejoicing. White stands for purity and light. Each candle carries a specific name as well. The first purple candle is called the Prophecy Candle or Candle of Hope. The second purple candle is the Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation. The third (pink) candle is the Shepherd Candle or Candle of Joy. The fourth candle, a purple one, is called the Angel Candle or the Candle of Love. And the last (white) candle is the Christ Candle.





Christingle Service

10th December at 6pm



We hope to hold another enjoyable evening of Christian Fellowship with our Lutheran and Catholic Brothers and Sisters in Christ, celebrating an evening Christingle Service on 10th December at 6pm. Everyone will receive their Christingle orange with sweets and a candle to light. It promises to be a lovely evening of Worship and Fellowship.

All are Welcome. Details to follow

The Orange represents the world.

The Red Ribbon indicates God's love wrapped around the world and the blood Christ shed on the Cross.

The dried fruits and sweets are symbols of God's gifts. For many people, they also represent the four seasons.

The lit candle symbolises Jesus, the light of the world, who brings hope to people living in darkness.

All Saints Environmental Corner

Over the next few weeks many of you will notice some earthworks taking place around the gardens and grounds. These will form part of the church council's commitment to addressing two issues:

1. Improve All Saints carbon footprint in line with CoE environmental guidelines.
2. Tackle the issue of water costs as discussed at the AGM.

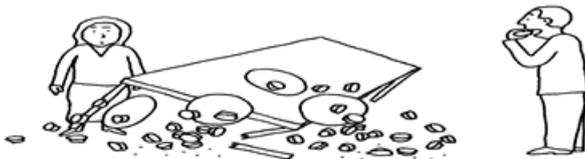
The works involved will be the renewal of the dilapidated watering drip system; much of which leaks or drips in the wrong places.

It is hoped that the new system will allow All Saints to reduce wastage of water, a precious resource, whilst reducing the cost of our water bills.

Once the new system is installed bills will be closely monitored to judge any relative savings. When this has been achieved, the issue will be reconsidered by the CC. Any necessary or further action will be taken as required.

If you have any environmental queries, please discuss them with Carin Lindstrom, All Saints Environmental Officer, or a member of the CC.

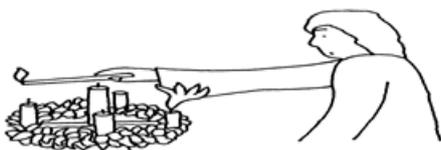
ADVENT HAZARDS



TABLES BUCKLING UNDER SHEER WEIGHT OF MINCE PIES



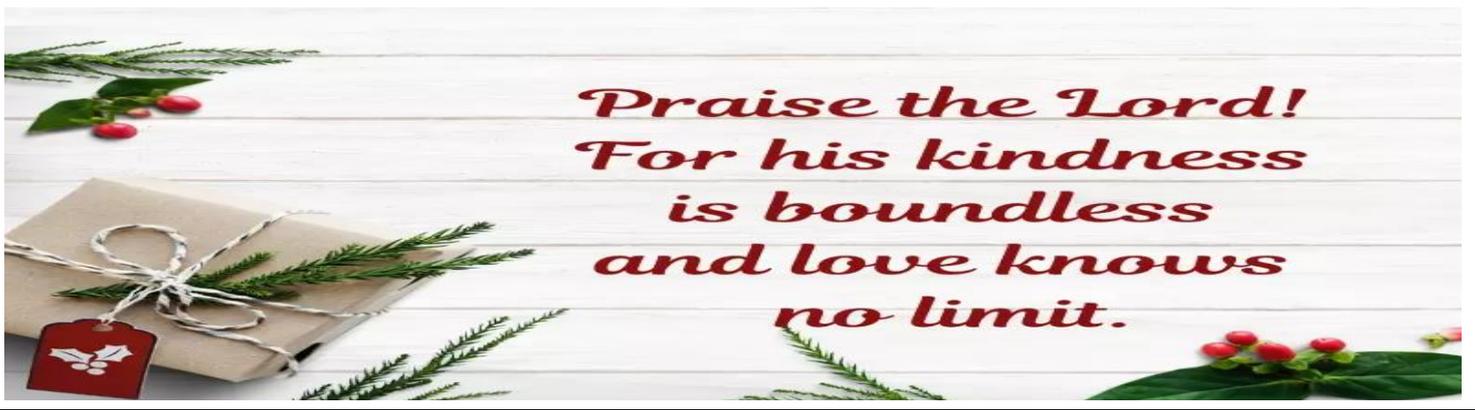
UNREST OVER THE CORRECT WEEK TO LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE



ADVENT WREATH FIRES



SUPERMARKETS RUNNING OUT OF ORANGES



*Praise the Lord!
For his kindness
is boundless
and love knows
no limit.*

Letter from Alan, CWL in La Palma

Hi Everyone,

Greetings from us all here in La Palma. I thought I would start with some bible verses from Psalm 150 v 3-5

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and the lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

I love those words; they are instructions to worship and praise the Lord, something that at our little fellowship really tries to do. Of course, this year circumstances have been difficult, but I rejoice in the fact that we have been able to worship with music even if the sounds have been muffled by facemasks. As infections are so low in La Palma, I've suggested that for our Carol service we attempt to play "In the bleak Midwinter" on the recorder. Now for those of you who do not know our fellowship here please understand we are exceedingly small in numbers; we have plenty of space and act responsibly. So, put away any visions of Count Basie and his big band, it will be five or six of us puffing away with plenty of social distance between us.

Already it has brought joy and laughter as recorders have been purchased, sounds have been produced that remind me of our tom cat's disappointment after surrendering his crown jewels at the vets! Wobbly video instructions made, and practice sessions arranged before Sunday worship. Most of us have not played the recorder since we were young children at school, so it's also been a nostalgic time, finding the right notes while eliminating squeaks and odd noises until the whole tune is completed. Even though it's a simple tune and task it's also been uplifting doing something creative after being unable doing so many things for such a long time. I do hope we will be successful in playing together at the carol service, even though I know in my heart that James Galway won't be signing us up for a tour, but even better it will be good that we who have breath can praise the Lord.

God bless you, take care and much love,

Alan (San Martin de Porres La Palma)

[Notes from Wendy Sanderson, Churchwarden of All Saints](#)

This year's Carol Service will be held on Thursday 17th December and will start at 6pm. As in previous years we will be following the theme of 9 Lessons and 9 Carols, although we will probably still be singing behind our masks! Our customary tradition of serving a mince pie and drink will continue so we can celebrate together. However, instead of being at the back of the church they will be served to you whilst still sitting in your pew so we can maintain social distancing. Not quite the same, but definitely worth it! To add a touch of excitement to the proceedings, the annual Christmas Raffle draw will be held after the carol service whilst we all partake of our mince pies and wine.

A collection will also be taken as you leave the church with proceeds being donated to **Cruz Roja** in the form of food and household goods. All Saints has been supporting Cruz Roja with food donations and cash throughout the pandemic, and I have been told that we are the most prolific donor in the area at present. We have also been informed by the Cruz Roja in Puerto, that all donations in cash they receive are banked and sent to the Madrid central office. This is why we are now converting donated cash to specific food stuffs and household goods requested by our local Cruz Roja in Puerto de la Cruz.

Many people have been unable to support themselves during the crisis and Cruz Roja have been constantly supplying food whilst families have found themselves with little income. There has also been an increase in the number of immigrants arriving in all the Canary Islands. Many are being looked after in hotels and tourist apartment blocks. Thank you so much on behalf of All Saints Church and Cruz Roja to everyone who has generously donated foodstuffs. The crisis appears to have no end in the near future, so please continue to be generous and give the poorer families in our community a bit of hope at Christmas.



We may not be able to hold our Christmas Car Boot this year but we will still be having a Christmas Raffle. The first prize will be a hamper with a value of over €100 - that is a lot of Christmas goodies! There will also be a selection of smaller hampers and a variety of good quality prizes. If you would like to donate a prize please give it to Cheryl or myself or a member of the Church Council. Tickets will be sold at €1.00 each or a book of 5 for the bargain price of €4.00! If you are willing to sell raffle tickets please speak to Cheryl or myself. Our aim is to raise as much money as we can to compensate for the loss of income from the car boots and lack of social functions. So, enter into the spirit of Christmas and buy your tickets. You never know you could be a lucky winner!

EPIPHANY LUNCH

We are still discussing the possibility of holding an Epiphany Lunch, depending on COVID regulations. The proposed date is Wednesday 13th January after the 10am service. We are considering either a brunch at El Monasterio, (if it is open midweek at that time), or a lunch at the Masaru. More details will be given nearer the date as we follow the restrictions imposed by the Canarian Government strictly. Thank you for your support during 2020. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happier 2021!

Wendy Sanderson

A potted history of carols by Graham Taylor

So, you think you know all about Christmas Carols? Well, you might not know as much as you think!

Christmas Carols, as we know them now, are largely a 19th Century Victorian invention, but more of that later.

First, just a few historical facts:

- Carol, a very old word dating back at least to 1300, originally meant a “circle dance”, and came from Old French “carole”. Beyond that, its origin is obscure.
- Following the English & Scottish reformations in the 1500s, the only hymns sung by congregations in church, for the next couple of hundred years, were metrical versions (i.e. turned into poetry or verse) of the psalms. Perhaps the most popular of these still sung, is “The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want” (Psalm 23 – from the Scottish Psalter of 1650).
- One of the few Christmas hymns from the 18th Century is “While Shepherds Watch their Flocks by night” (a metrical version of Luke 2:8-14), published in the Supplement (1700) to “A New Version of the Psalms of David” by Nahum Tate and Nicholas Brady.
- Even one of the most prolific hymn writers of the 18th Century, Charles Wesley, wrote very few Christmas hymns. “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” is one of his.
- Christmas songs (many of them secular) were popular since before the 1400s. “Make we joy now in this Fest” (1450), or the Wexford Carol “Good people all this Christmas time”, would have been sung, not in church, but by “wassailers”, groups of singers who went singing from house to house or pub to pub!

It was during the 19th Century that carols began to be written specifically for Christmas and for use in church. Some were newly written by poets and authors, such as “Once in Royal David’s City” written in 1849 by Mrs C F Alexander. Others were translations of Christmas hymns from other countries, such as “O come, all ye faithful” (from the Latin hymn “Adeste Fideles”) or Silent Night, Holy Night (from the German “Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht”). Interestingly, this hymn has been translated into no fewer than 140 different languages from Afrikaans to Zulu! Here are just two unusual examples, in Papua New Guinea Pidgin and Korean:

Gutpela nait, ho-oli nait,

Lukim nau, bikp'la lait Raunim nupela Pikinini

, Em i Ki-ing bilo-ong glori.

Lukim, e-em i sli-ip Lukim e-em i slip.

고요한 밤 거룩한 밤

고요한 밤 거룩한 밤
어둠에 묻힌 밤
주의 부모 앞에서
감사 기도 드릴 때
아기 잘도 잔다
아기 잘도 잔다

Coming closer to the present day, the Bishop of Truro, Edward White Benson (later Archbishop of Canterbury) invented what is perhaps one of the most well-loved Christmas traditions, the “Service of Nine Lessons and Carols” first used in Truro Cathedral at 10pm on Christmas Eve in 1880. His aim, partly, was to have a means of attracting revellers out of the pubs and into church by offering a religious celebration of Christmas. In 1918 the Dean of King’s College Cambridge, the Revd Eric Milner-White, produced a revised version of the service, partly as a way of attracting people back to worship, following the end of World War One. This service was first broadcast by the BBC in 1928, and apart from one year, has been broadcast every year since, even during the Second World War.

In recent years, modern composers such as John Rutter have added substantially to the Christmas repertoire.

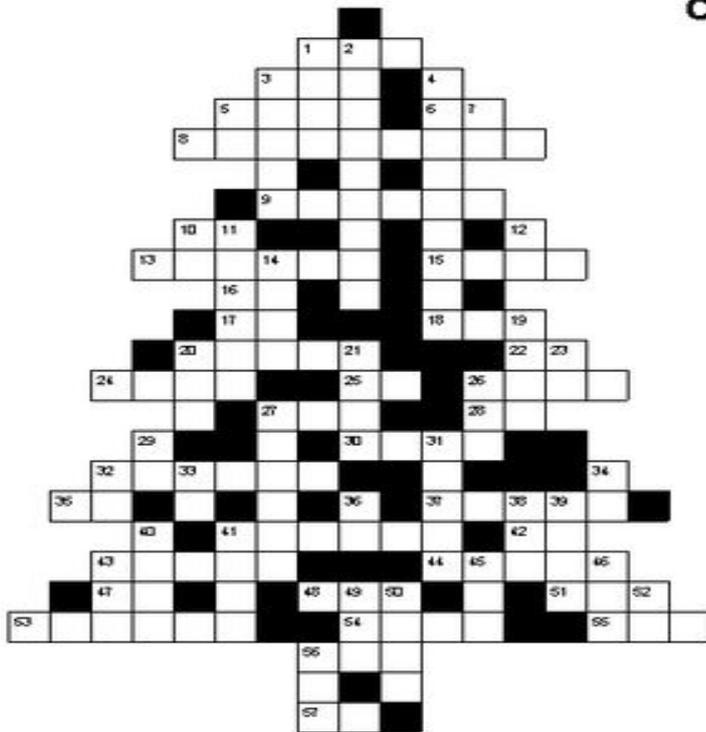
In this article, I’ve just scratched the surface of this fascinating subject, but I hope provided you with some interesting thoughts.

Graham Taylor



All Saints Christmas Fun and Games page

Christmas



Across

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President 3. Observe 5. Discuss 6. "And _____ shall reign over the house of Jacob..." 8. Flock watchers 9. Satisfy 10. The great I _____ 13. Mary's resting place 15. Mother of Jesus 16. Negative 17. "_____ and search diligently for the young child" 18. Jesus is the _____ of God 20. The baby 22. "...and shall be called the Son _____ of the Highest:" 24. Destitute 25. "...and laid Him _____ a manger" 26. Bearded nanny 27. "And she brought her first born _____." | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 28. "...and _____ earth peace, good will towards men." 30. Wiseman gift 32. "And _____ him with all the heart" (two words) 35. "...what have we to _____ with thee, thou Jesus..." 37. What the wisemen brought 41. Stepfather 42. Either 43. More accurate. 44. "And all went to be _____, every one into his own city." 47. "For unto you _____ born this day 48. No room here 51. Consume 53. Singing Cherubs 54. Present decorations 55. "For unto you is born, this _____ in the city..." 56. Pro 57. Way to win in boxing |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Down

1. Jump
2. Birth city
3. Shepherds flock
4. The Holiday we observe
5. Brand of suger
7. Mr. McMahon
10. "Hee shall be born of Mary, _____ Jerusalem..."
11. Baby's bed
12. Northwestern state
14. Hisses
19. Mid day
20. Happiness
21. What the angels did
23. "_____ la la la la la la la"
26. Jehovah
27. Redeemer
29. "His name was called Jesus, which was _____ named of the angel"
31. Illumination
32. "and it came _____ pass..."
33. "... and _____, the star which they saw in the east..."
34. "When _____ his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph,"
36. "Master what shall _____ do?"
38. Sly canine
39. Decorated pine
40. "...behold, there came _____ men from the east."
41. Not Gentiles
43. Parable of the _____ tree
45. Mary's transportation
46. Father
49. Broadcast TV network
50. Christmas carol
52. Instructor's helper
56. Inquire



Christmas Word Scramble

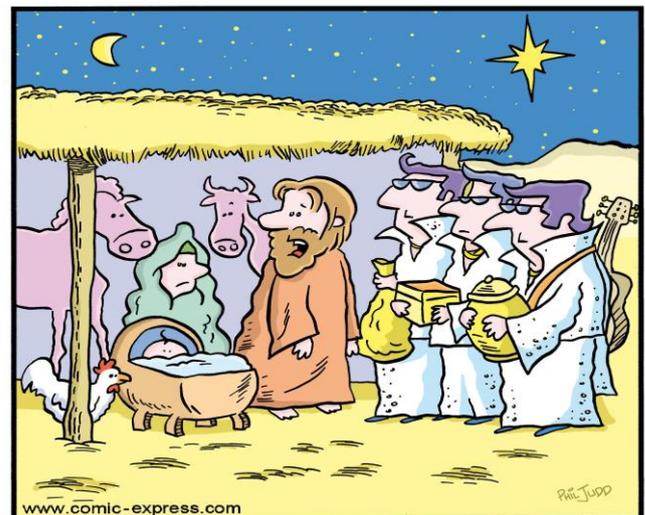
Unscramble the letters to find words which have to do with Christmas.
Some of the words have religious meanings, others are secular in nature.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Groceos _____ 2. Naclorig _____ 3. Rats _____ 4. Scunttshe _____ 5. Porduhl _____ 6. Naast _____ 7. Skagceap _____ 8. Dressephh _____ 9. Gramen _____ 10. Galen _____ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Limesotte _____ 12. Vaniyitt _____ 13. Gotscink _____ 14. Virasou _____ 15. Traweh _____ 16. Gisehl _____ 17. Wamsonn _____ 18. Ejuss _____ 19. Stranneom _____ 20. Scamsthir _____ |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



Holy Humour at Christmas

It was coming up to Christmas and John asked his mum if he could have a new bike. So, she told him that the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus. But John, having just played a vital role in the school nativity play, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. John went to his room and wrote 'Dear Jesus, I have been an exceptionally good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas.' But he was not happy when he read it over. So, he decided to try again and this time he wrote 'Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas.' He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either. He tried a third version. 'Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike.' He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go out for a walk while he thought about a better approach. After a short time, he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote this letter. 'Dear Jesus, If you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike.'



"They say they are three kings."

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