Newsletter Christmas 2021





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

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

Christmas Dreams

The thing about this Christmas is, strange though it may seem, it's not really about this Christmas 2021. We may think as we hang up the decorations or get the tree out that it's about this year. That may be so to a degree, but the reality is I'm remembering all the many Christmases in my past from the time I was a wee lad through adulthood to today. From when my Mum and Dad gave me my Scalextric racing set to the football I never wanted at my Dad's works' Christmas party. From kid to adult all these Christmases are stored up in our memories, both the excitement and the great disappointments and they build in us expectations. The bad Christmas dinner or the family upset can seem much larger at Christmas because we want everything to be perfect, and hey we realise whether its Christmas or not, life still produces bad and good and nothing much can stop that.

In the midst of all the happenings, the parties, the presents and the celebrations a small child cries out of the darkness, newly born in a poor family without much comfort. The child is weak and vulnerable, like the refugees living in makeshift tents, a vulnerable human being is born. Like us he has feelings and pain, and like us he carries in his tiny frame the cares and the needs of the world, for it is our Lord Jesus Christ born to Mary and Joseph. He calls us to look and listen to him, to have a heart of flesh instead of stone, to walk the extra mile, to give to those most in need, to learn to be like him, both caring and compassionate, as well as full of abundant life. The gift to us at Christmas is Jesus, God's Son, and now when we call out into the darkness there is a hand that clasps ours as we worship and pray. Christmas is about then. Jesus transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary, as God calls us to be his adoptive children of light, following him and learning in the darkness to live a life worthy of our calling as Children of God.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a

Happy New Year.

Revd Ron



<u>Church Services – December</u>

Weds 1st Dec Holy Communion 10am followed

by coffee in the church café every Wednesday. All Welcome

Bible Study 11.15am

Sun 5th Dec Sung Eucharist 11am – 2nd

Advent Sunday

Weds 8th Dec Holy Communion 10am

Bible Study 11.15am

Thurs 9th Dec Musical Evening 7pm

Sun 12th Dec Sung Eucharist 11am

3rd Advent - Poinsettia Sunday

Weds 15th Dec Holy Communion 10am

Bible Study 11.15am

Thurs 16th Dec Carol Service 6pm

Sun 19th Dec Sung Eucharist 11am - 4th Advent

Weds 22nd Dec Holy Communion 10am

Bible Study 11.15am

Fri 24th Dec Christmas Eve Sung Eucharist

11am

Sat 25th Dec Christmas Day Sung Eucharist

11am

Sun 26th Dec Holy Comm. by Extension 11am

Weds 29th Dec Morning Prayer 10am

Sun 2nd Jan Sung Eucharist 11am

Weds 5th Jan Morning Prayer 10am

Sun 9th Jan Sung Eucharist for Epiphany

CHURCH EVENTS

Sat 4th&18th Dec Car Boot Sale

Tues 7th Dec Christmas Quiz 2pm

Sat 11th Dec Christmas Lunch Orchid

Garden 1pm

Thurs 23rd Dec Christmas Concert Trio

Ateneo 7pm

Thurs 30th Dec Concert Reyes Bartlet

7pm

Sat 1st Jan Concert Reyes Bartlet

7pm

Tues 11th Jan Epiphany lunch

If you would like to read a copy of the All Saints newsletter online, please download the pdf from either our Facebook page or our website: https://allsaintstenerife.org

BIBLE STUDY GROUP NEWS

The Bible study group recommenced over the past few months thanks to covid restrictions being reduced. Here are some comments from Norma Wright, one of the group's "Swallows":

"During our recent visit to Puerto de la Cruz we were privileged to attend Bible Study under the amazing leadership of Françoise.

We were studying Paul's journeys in Acts and she led us on a journey of our own.

Why did Paul go here? Who did he take with him? Why did the apostles split and go to different destinations? Under Francoise' guidance we found the answers in the text of the bible.

We went from chapter to chapter, gospel to gospel and what looked like random trips and visits suddenly became completely logical.

Our fingers flew through the pages on a trip of their own and we left our final session not wanting to miss out on the next few weeks.

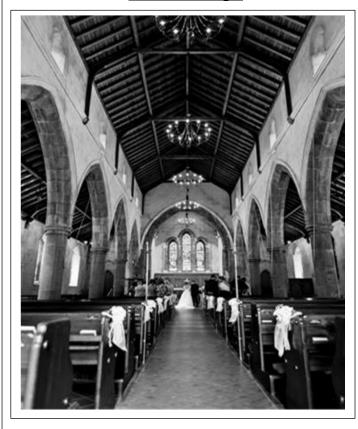
The discussion is lively and not above anyone's head. The small number of regulars are friendly and would gladly welcome a few more bodies. Come along, you will be challenged, taught, but above all gain a greater knowledge of God's Word". Norma Wright.

Why not come along to our next session and join our Bible study group? You will be assured of a warm welcome, some stimulating discussions and Christian Fellowship.

We meet at 11.15am in the refreshments area on a Wednesday.



Bodas & Bautizos – Weddings & Christenings



La Iglesia Todos Santos de los está disponible para los Bautizos las Bendiciones del Matrimonio. No hay que ser miembro de la Iglesia Anglicana para recibir una misa de bendición o bautizar a sus hijos en nuestra Iglesia. Es una opción para las parejas y padres que buscan una boda o bautizo con un aire internacional, o las que vienen de diferentes religiones etc. Por favor, no duden en ponerse en contacto con nuestra Sacerdote sí piensan que esto podría ser una opción para ustedes.

Todos son bienvenidos en nuestra Iglesia

All Saints Church is available for christenings and wedding blessings, and you do not have to be a member of the Church of England to have your marriage blessed or your children christened here. It's an option that is particularly popular with couples and parents who are from different religious backgrounds or who are looking for a service with an international flavour. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the chaplain if you think this might be a possibility for you.

Recent Baptism News

Reverend Ron was delighted to recently baptise Andrélio. The ceremony was well attended by the congregation and enjoyed by all. The children in the congregation had a front row seat for the occasion, and were fascinated by it. Andrélio later went to San Telmo for a ritual baptism in the sea.

Ron was assisted by Kit Urch and Peter Lockyer during the ceremony. Andrelio was presented by Kath Delgado Cabrera and Judith Rigby.

Here are a few photos from the ceremony.









Of Saints and Angels by Krysia Claxton



Angels were seen traditionally as' Beings'of light' in almost all religions. Their roles were varied and include looking after planets, people, animals, water, plants, flowers, birds, fish, and all movement of the stars in our universe.

Angels have been spoken of reverently in the Bible from the beginning in the Old Testament: In Genesis one appeared to Hagar who was the handmaid to Abraham's wife, informing her about her son Ishmael. Exodus mentions the Angel of God who was present prior to Moses stretching out his hand over the sea when the waters divided and the land became dry for the Israelites to walk on. In Judges an angel appeared to Manoah to inform him his wife would give birth to a boy to be named Samson, and in 1 Kings Elijah had an angel appear to him twice.

The New Testament also makes reference to angels in Luke, Zechariah a priest was visited by an angel who told him his name was Gabriel and informed him that his ageing wife would have a son who became known as 'John the Baptist'. The Angel Gabriel appeared to the virgin Mary six months later and said to her "The Lord is with you. You shall bear a son and name him Jesus!" The birth of Christianity.

Archangels - the ultimate saintly wings of time.

Saint Michael is known as head of the heavenly armies, strong and powerful with a sword. Gabriel: is the messenger in charge of communication. Raphael is the healer who works with doctors nurses and healers of all kinds, and Uriel, the least known, is the healer of the earth, helping to bring order after chaos, earthquakes, floods, fire and volcanic eruptions.

Archangels and angels belong to the heavenly realm of God and the Holy Trinity.

May your Christmas be "Merry and Bright." Embraced with angelic hugs. Krysia xx





Prepare through Prayer

"Can'tyou stay awake with me for just one hour?"

Matthew 26:40

In Gethsemane, Jesus came back and found his disciples sleeping. So, he said to Peter, "Can't any of you stay awake with me for just one hour? Stay awake and pray that you won't be tested. You want to do what is right, but you are weak" (vv. 40-41 CEV). Jesus was just hours from the cross, and He asked His disciples to pray for Him. Imagine His disappointment when He found them sleeping! Perhaps they didn't get enough rest the night before. Maybe they were worn out from a hard day's work. We have all been victims of drowsiness, so we shouldn't be surprised that they fell asleep, but we are! We're shocked because it was such an important night. This night, more than any other, required the discipline of prayer. But the disciples missed a great opportunity to encourage and strengthen Jesus in His hour of need. They missed an opportunity to strengthen themselves as well. Satan knows if he can keep you from prayer, you will be powerless. He is the master of distraction. Think how often he has robbed you of your quiet time with God by using things like TV, the telephone, the internet, a messy house, your to-do list, your wandering mind, your heavy eyelids. Your quiet time with God isn't something you try to 'fit into' your schedule; it must be something you prioritise, or it won't happen. The King James Version says, 'Pray, that ye enter not into temptation' (v. 41). You don't know what each day holds, but through prayer and spending time in God's Word, you can prepare your heart for whatever life throws at you.

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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 and our website.

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.

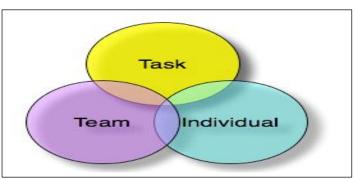
At a recent Chaplaincy Council Meeting we agreed a safeguarding action plan to implement each aspect of our policy statement. Part of my responsibility as safeguarding officer is to ensure that all within it is actioned over the coming weeks and months.

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 rigbyjudith59@gmail.com or on +34 711 042 849.

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 2021 during Covid and we must 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 were placed on hold. Hopefully, the recommencing of the Car Boots this December 2021 will start to bring some desperately needed funds.

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.

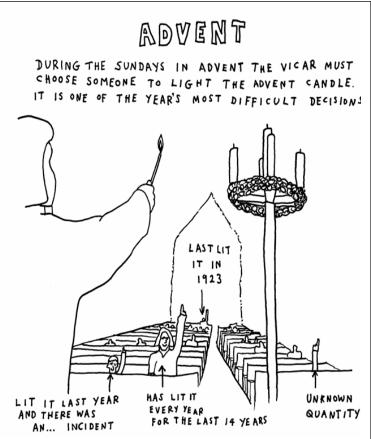
2021 has been a particularly difficult time financially and I estimate All Saints will make a loss this year of around 60,000€, despite the very generous donations of one or two of All Saints most enthusiastic supporters.

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, Jenny Wilson on jennytenerife21@gmail.com

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. Assistant Treasurer.







Christmas Eve Service – Friday 24th December 11am

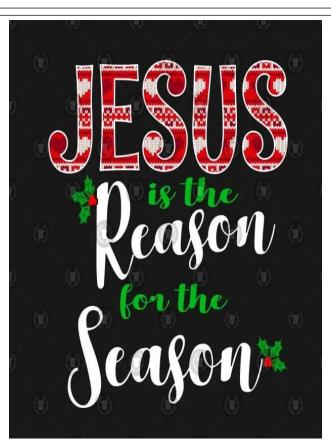


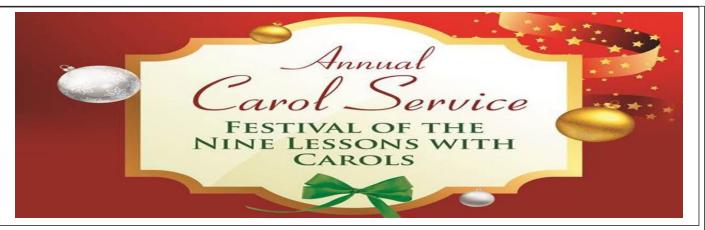
The Christmas Eve service will be held at 11am on Friday 24^{th.} There will be no midnight mass this year. Come and join us for a special Christmas Eve morning service followed.

Christmas treats and coffee will be available.

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







All Saints Christmas Carol Service – 16th 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 hot mince pies, cava or orange juice served in the refreshments area. Everyone is welcome.





Poinsettia Sunday Service 12TH 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 hews of Christmas poinsettias.



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 our 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.







Musical Evening & Concerts



All Saints is excited to be hosting a **Musical Evening** and **three concerts** with the spirit of Christmas in mind, on the 9th, 23rd and 30th of December and another on New Year's day.

The evening of the 9th promises to be a delightful musical event with audience participation in parts. Songs will be sung in English, Spanish and German by our visiting soprano Qingmei Liao-Wormer and Rayco Gonzalez our church organist and tenor. All are Welcome – Entrance is Free.

Reyes Bartlet will hold concerts on both Thursday 30th December and on Saturday 1st January at 7pm.

Trio Ateneo will be holding a Christmas concert on Thursday 23rd December at 7pm.

It promises to be a busy month musically for us all her at All Saints.

All Saints Environmental Corner

Over the last few months many of you will have noticed earthworks and planting taking place around the gardens and grounds. These have been made possible by the generosity of one of the church's neighbours, and form part of the church council's commitment to improve All Saints carbon footprint and gardens generally. This work is ongoing.

Three large bins have been placed in the refreshments area for recycling. You are respectfully asked NOT to put general rubbish in them. These bins are emptied regularly by one of our volunteers and it is inconsiderate to expect him to have to rummage through general refuse in order to do the recycling. Your cooperation is appreciated.

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

Children's Sunday School

The children are currently learning about Advent and have been having a fun time with Judith, All Saints' Children's Leader, and with Jessica, one of their parents. Here are a few photographs of activities underway during the 2nd Advent Sunday Eucharist.













Letter from Alan, CWL in La Palma

Hi Everyone,

This year and 2020 have been exceptional in respect of so many problems here in La Palma. Our lives have been hurt by the loss of close family, loved members of our fellowship, with our personal freedom constricted by Covid. Forest fires have destroyed homes, then volcanic action which has caused numerous houses lost, plus jobs and employment for many. Even members of our church have seen their homes and possessions burnt out and submerged in metres of lava. This understandably has seen our fellowship reduce as people have relocated for safety in other countries, while others haven't been able to return because of properties cut off by the volcanic action.

One of the things I love about the Bible is its honesty. As well as passages of miracle, worship, wonder and praise it also has doubts, anger and frustration expressed towards God. If you think I'm risking a thunder bolt from heaven for saying this, just check out Job, Ecclesiastes and the story of Thomas. So, if you will allow me to be honest with you, despite of all my prayers to bring peace and stability and an end of this situation I feel worn down, lost and confused.

This morning I was walking Sandy my dog. It had been raining overnight and the clouds still hung dark and heavy and the road wet underfoot. As I turned into the lane leading home the sun broke the darkness and shone its light on the wet trees, the pavement making everything shine and bright. I could feel its warmth on my back. It was one of those moments when you can physically sense hope. So, during these difficult times if that's all I've got. I'm going to hang on tight to it. And if you feel the same, hold on to hope too!

Wishing everyone at All Saints a wonderful Christmas and please accept my sincere thanks for all your prayers and support you have given for us.

Much Love, Alan.

San Martin de Porres, La Palma

Notes from Wendy Sanderson, Churchwarden of All Saints

Church activities continued to suffer through the pandemic during most of this year. As Covid levels reached higher we were unable to apply for the restart of the car boots so had to think of alternate ways of fundraising. During Lent I decided to do a sponsored slim which would be beneficial for both the church and my health! I persevered, raised €1045 and lost 7 kilos! This was followed by a Summer Raffle which was drawn after the Wednesday service on the 18th August. This raised €568 for church funds.

We have also seen the reintroduction of concerts in the church which are always a pleasure to host. On 18th November we held our first Music Service which was attended by 100 people and raised over €500 for church funds. This is to become a regular monthly service to encourage more people to come to our beautiful church.

As the year progressed, we were pleased to see new people attending the Sunday services, both young and old and of different nationalities. However, the numbers attending have fallen due to the Brexit rules limiting the stay in Tenerife to 90 days for "Swallows". We are now seeing the return of some of our "regular" congregation whilst others will wait until January 2022 before returning.

As the effects of the pandemic started to slow down and Tenerife was finally placed in Level 1 category, we decided to plan to restart the car boots in December. Permission has been obtained from the Health Department of the Canarian Government and 2 dates have been set − 4th and 18th December. Strict regulations continue to apply including the wearing of masks, maintenance of safe distancing and use of hand gels. We are looking forward to welcoming our regular pitch holders and faithful bargain hunters. We are also promoting our Annual Grand Christmas Raffle which will be drawn on 18th December. Tickets are being sold for €4 for a book of 5 tickets. Prizes include breakfast for 2 at the Orchid Garden, a special prize from My Bestcare based at Hotel Taoro Garden and the star prize is a large hamper filled with festive goodies. You must be in the draw to win it so get your tickets now!

A list of the church services over the Christmas period will be displayed in the church noticeboard at the entrance to the church grounds. We look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with you. Thank you everyone for your continued support throughout 2021. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Wendy Sanderson





A Potted History of Mistletoe

A popular Christmas tradition in modern times is kissing under the mistletoe. A sprig of the plant is hung, and those who stand beneath it invite a kiss. How did this plant's association with Christmas and kissing come to be?

Mistletoe, whose botanical name is Viscum Album, is a parasitic plant which grows amongst the branches of trees and shrubs. It is an evergreen featuring small, yellowish flowers and white berries. Druid priests held the plant sacred and used it in their winter celebrations 200 years before the birth of Christ. The plant was revered since it remained green year long — even through cold, harsh winters — despite the fact that it is not rooted in soil. It was seen as a symbol of fertility and used as a medicinal cure for various ills.

Other ancient cultures also attributed mystical powers to the plant. Celtics believed mistletoe to have magical healing powers and used it as an antidote for poison, infertility, and to ward off evil spirits. Among Romans, the plant was viewed as a symbol of peace and friendship. According to legend, enemies who met under mistletoe would lay down their weapons and embrace.

The custom of kissing under the mistletoe may have sprung from Norse mythology and the story of Frigg, Norse goddess of love and fertility, patron of marriage, and wife of Odin. When Frigg's son Baldr dreams of his impending death, she exacts an oath from all things in creation to do no harm her beloved son. But Frigg fails to ask this promise of the young mistletoe plant, and Baldr is killed by an enemy's arrow made of mistletoe.

In one version of the legend, to ease her grief Frigg proclaims mistletoe the symbol of love so it may cause no more harm. In a happier telling of the story, Frigg weeps over the body of her son Baldr, and as her tears drop upon the mistletoe arrow, they are transformed to small, white berries. Baldr is miraculously brought back to life and Frigg vows that anyone standing beneath mistletoe will come to no harm, but instead receive a token of love... a kiss.

Mistletoe was the magical ingredient in the kissing ball or kissing bough in Victorian England. Made of a round frame trimmed with ribbons and ornaments and often holding a tiny nativity, mistletoe was affixed to the bottom and the ball was the hung from rafters or the ceiling. Guests at holiday parties, weddings and other festive occasions then played kissing games beneath the ball and a kiss beneath the decoration was said to bring good luck and lasting friendship.



All Saints Christmas Fun and Events

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

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CARPENTER OBEY SAVIOR GOD MYRRH JUDEA GOLD **JESUS**

SON PROMISE GABRIEL NAZARETH SHEPHERDS STAR BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS HUMBLED HOLY SPIRIT messiah JOSEPH WISEMEN TREASURES KING HEROD

TRUST **IMANNUEL** ANGEL FRANCKINCENSE MANGER GIFTS MARY



Saturday 11 December 2021 **1pm for 1.30pm**





Tickets €26 (payable in advance)





Maximum Capacity 46 so reserve early! Contact Wendy Sanderson on 605 48 67 92





All Saints Church Parque Taoro, Puerto de la Cruz









Tuesday 7 December at 2pm





(payable in advance)

Including finger buffet and a glass of mulled wine



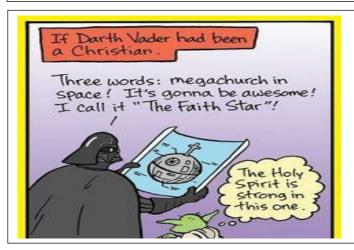
To reserve a table and submit your team name (max 6 per team) contact Wendy Sanderson on 605 48 67 92



Masks must be worn at the bar & buffet



Holy Humour at Christmas





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Contact: Juan Antonio Quintero Pérez

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All Saints Church Parque Taoro, Puerto de la Cruz

Invite you to join us at our

EPIPHANYBUFFET LUNCH

Tuesday 11 January 2022

Ipm for 1.30pm

Apartamentos Masaru

Tickets €17

(payable in advance)

Price includes wine or water Raffle with Excellent prizes

Contact Wendy Sanderson on 605 48 67 92