

Report for Archdeaconry Synod from All Saints' Church, Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife.

2022 has been a year of loss, change and challenge in North Tenerife. We started the year with the expectation of Chaplaincy Council Vision Days, working with St Francis in the South of the island. However by February our Chaplain, Revd Ron Corne had been admitted to hospital and subsequently was given a terminal diagnosis. Returning to Winchester to his family it was a great shock to the chaplaincy to learn of his death on 29th March.

Time to grieve, celebrate Ron's life and give thanks for his work in Tenerife was central to our life for some months. Subsequently after our AGM the newly convened Council, working with the Archdeacon, was challenged to consider how we move forward in ministry and mission in North Tenerife. Working with the Diocesan Office our wardens managed to secure locums until the end of February 2023. Each has brought a different perspective and their own gifts to the chaplaincy.



Revd Philip Harbridge, one of the locums who supported us so well in 2022



Back to normal! Setting up the Car Boot Sale, October 2022

Car Boot Sales which are the highlight for many of the local Canarian, German and English population. We also have a good working relationship with the English library which is just down the road from the church.

Splitting roles and responsibilities across the council, a team looked at how we could make our chaplaincy house more homely and have managed various projects within the flat. Without exception the locums have commented on how the work that has been done has been appreciated.

On Easter Sunday our children's group grew by 2 new members, a 3 and an 11-year-old boy and through the year their family have become a large part of our community. They are a family who have fled Kyiv and whose father is still working as an Orthodox priest there. They have been supported through the year by All Saints in conjunction with our local German RC priest. Initially they were part of the Red Cross Emergency project but chose not to be moved to mainland Spain,

After prayer and study of our situation It became apparent that although we had lost a full-time chaplain we would be unable to replace him with another full-time chaplain. Covid, Brexit and an ageing congregation has meant that over this year many "Swallows" and others who have lived here for many years have left the island. Tourism has increased once again and we have seen numbers on Sundays fluctuate. However we have managed to restart our popular quiz afternoons, occasional celebration church meals and our monthly



Children working during Sunday Eucharist

which was when All Saints took on actively supporting them. More recently they have been accepted onto another refugee program which offers them rent and money for living expenses for the next 6 months. Many of the congregation have been deeply affected by their story and have generously supported them. It has been lovely watching the children grow in their grasp of Spanish and English as they work and play alongside the other children on Sunday mornings..



Clergy, the British Vice-Consul and other dignitaries at the Memorial Service for Queen Elizabeth II

Tenerife sites too. This has enabled us to connect with locals, in a way which a letter in a newspaper might have done in the past. Facebook has been a significant way to develop links with tourists, residents and others who have left the island but who wish to remain connected.

We move into 2023 praying for the Visa System to be kind to our preferred candidate as we await their arrival and working alongside the German Lutheran Pastor and congregation who rent our church and an office in the parsonage.

Towards the end of 2022 the chaplaincy was in a position to offer a part time post. Each of us were encouraged to pray for the person God was calling to ministry with us. We were excited when we learnt that 11 clergy had applied for the post. 4 were shortlisted and we await the arrival of the preferred candidate in 2023. We are actively considering how to increase our financial giving, how to use our church plant effectively and how to encourage each one to grow in their Christian discipleship – something that appears to be intertwined.

Our midweek letter which was instigated during Covid has continued and is posted on the All Saints' Facebook page and website and is shared on Residents of

Judith Rigby