

All Saints, Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife

We began the year in All Saints with the news that we were expecting our new chaplain, Fiona Jack, once all the documents required for her living and working in Tenerife had been arranged and her visa from the Spanish Embassy had been granted. Post Brexit this process was longer and more challenging than any of us expected. Fiona speaks fluent Spanish yet despite this we waited until the end of September for her arrival. Her licensing in November was a time of rejoicing for us all.

During the year we relied on a number of locums each bringing their own gifts and talents to the chaplaincy, alongside Rachel Ganney, our associate priest..



Christmas Car Boot Sale

highlight of the year and we saw over 1400 adults through the gates, not to mention the children and the stall holders: A heaving hive of activity in the December sunshine.

Musicians comment about the excellent acoustics within our church building. We have always had concerts but this year there have been times when we have had 2 in a week, given by different groups of musicians, soloists and the newly formed Puerto de la Cruz Philharmonic orchestra and choir. That last concert saw over 200 inside and outside the church – standing room only!



A visitor remarked “It is wonderful to see children *Beethoven concert* inside

the church and not hidden away” and his generosity has enabled us to plan for extending our children’s ministry space within the church. At the Christmas Car Boot sale we started children’s craft, with the theme of the real meaning of Christmas, within the church and we plan to extend this at future car boot sales. Seeing parents and children reading stories and painting together and listening to one Dad translating the Christmas story he was reading into Swedish for his toddler and 5-year-old was heartwarming.



Mtr Fiona's Licensing

We don’t need an excuse for food and drink here but this year the Coronation, Fiona’s licensing and a wonderful celebration of our patronal festival gave us even more opportunities for

coming together with a great spread. One Sunday after church we realised that around one table we had congregation members from Sweden, Switzerland, Scotland, Chile, Tenerife, England and Ukraine.

During Lent this year we engaged in the Environmental Course which had been recommended at our last Archdeaconry Synod. It prompted us to consider our responsibilities as a church community to caring for creation. As well as engaging with eco church we are currently investigating the possibility of solar panels within our footprint. With the proceeds from our Lent lunches we chose to support a young woman from Peru, Roxanna, in her higher education studies and we are looking forward to hearing from the archdeaconry group who will visit her this coming trip.

In November we participated for the first time in Día Vecinal – Neighbourhood Day. The Town Hall invite all to learn about and participate in activities to enjoy Neighbourhood Day in the main square in Puerto de la Cruz. There we were able to show through photos and leaflets the use of our buildings and grounds and the welcome afforded to many.

Another first was an invitation to participate in the Agatha Christie Festival. She has a tenuous link with the island but it is well celebrated. In All Saints we welcomed visitors to enjoy a “Tea-rific morning” – English tea and knitting!

We have been blessed by a generous legacy which we will be grateful to receive in the coming months and enable the council and chaplaincy consider how we can take forward the mission and ministry here within North Tenerife.



Agatha Christie Tea-rific Morning

So we end this year as a buzzing hub for both the sacred and the secular in the centre of Puerto de la Cruz, working towards becoming an inclusive church and welcoming all those willing to join us in our love of Christ and each other.