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Please visit our website and blog:
www.holytrinitychurchmadeira.com
<http://holytrinitychurchmadeira.wordpress.com>



Autumn Rains—New Blooms

Autumn 2020
Funchal



Chaplain's Notes

The Parsonage, Holy Trinity, Funchal.

October 2020

My dear friends,

Greetings from Madeira, I trust you and yours are safe and well.

At Holy Trinity here in Funchal, we continue every Sunday with one service at 11.00 a.m. and the number of attendees has increased gradually over the past three months.



Next Sunday, for the first time since the lockdown, the service for Harvest Festival will be held inside the Church, because the weather is becoming a little less reliable. For those who attend that service, we are not receiving gifts of food as usual, because of the pandemic, and instead we are asking people to increase their giving on the plate, the monies from which will be donated to a homeless shelter in Funchal.

For those who are reading this letter and are not in Madeira, may I suggest that this Harvest Thanksgiving time you take a moment and, in your prayers, thank God for all of the gifts and bounties He has bestowed upon you.

I must confess that I am a bit worried about those people who are waiting for things to return to 'normal' before getting on with their lives. I believe we must accept that things will not be the same as they were before the Pandemic ever again or at least for an exceedingly long time. It is time for us therefore to live our lives to the full in the new 'normal' to get on with living but taking the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of this dreadful virus.

You may recall that during the full lockdown, nature had a brief chance to recover, rivers and seas became cleaner and the planet's ecology healed itself. This is part of the new normal we must all strive to maintain.

Individually, I believe that now is a good time to review our lives and perhaps create a new normal for ourselves, spiritually in our relationship with God, each other and the world. If we look back over our lives, I am sure we all can identify events with which we are not entirely happy. As with the Pandemic, let us learn from the past and not make the same mistakes in the future.

I have been asked on several occasions whether this Pandemic is a punishment from God. My answer is that it is not. God is a loving and compassionate God who only wants what is good for His children. When humanity was created, it was given a free will and the power of reasoning to know what is right and what is wrong and to make its own decisions. The Bible is full of stories of humanity making mistakes and then blaming God for the predicament in which they find themselves.

We are stewards of this planet, we don't own it! We must therefore take our responsibilities seriously.

As always with my love and prayers

Fthr. Michael

Prayer of Renewal

Lord, no matter what I need, the wisdom that will enrich my life and make me whole is found in

Your word. Renew me with Your love and strength so that I may grow closer to You. My life is

Yours, Father. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CONCERTS

HELD AT
THE ENGLISH CHURCH

RUA DO QUEBRA COSTAS, 18 - FUNCHAL



Monday 11am Classical Violin Concert

Tuesday 6pm Jazz Concert

Wednesday 11am Gypsy Violin Concert

Thursday 11am Classical Quartet Concert

Thursday 6pm Orchestra Quartet play the Beatles

Please note that The Church does not accept any responsibility for changes that the musicians may make to their weekly concerts.

All of Madeira's Anti-Covid Regulations shall be observed

Please see posters for further details of these concerts

Concerts at the English Church

Our very popular church concerts resumed during the summer with a limited programme. At first only a handful of listeners but this has steadily grown, as has the number of concerts, as the numbers of tourists returning to the island increases. All concerts are held in the garden at the moment, so that we can easily comply with the covid regulations. To be honest it is an absolute delight to hear classical music being played in our wonderful garden surroundings. The two meld into something very special which is appreciated by both the musicians and their audience.



The Mission to Seafarers

"For more than 150 years, we have had one mission; to provide compassion, care and support to Seafarers around the world when they need it most."



At the beginning of the Pandemic when all flights stopped and no ships were allowed to dock, it felt like the island of Madeira was like a ship that had been cut adrift with its mooring ropes in tatters. Gradually a few ropes were re-attached but flight numbers are down and no cruise ships have returned. Here on the island the "new normal" is not too restrictive and with care things aren't too bad. So we would like you to think about the changes that seafarers have had to endure, especially those on cruise ships.

Acting on Behalf of Seafarers

"The Mission to Seafarers now has a presence in 200 ports in 50 different countries worldwide. This makes us the largest sea port based welfare organisation in the world. We provide support to seafarers 365 days per year, regardless of their rank, nationality, gender or religion. "

The Advocacy element of our work is even more important in these troubling and uncertain times. The team has recently helped more than 100 stranded Indian seafarers in the UK who were unable to get home, by working with the Indian High Commission on repatriation and providing vital food to seafarers' families in India and the Philippines, where the seafarer is no longer able to get a job. With 250,000 seafarers struggling to get home or unable to get to their ships, this remains a problem and escalating daily.

The Mission to Seafarers income this year and next will invariably be impacted by COVID-19, just when we need to help seafarers most. We are always incredibly grateful to our supporters for giving that extra bit during these difficult times. If you can spare that extra gift to help us achieve our target, we would be forever thankful to you so that we can serve seafarers, who are a vital key worker, in the coming months and years. <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/>

In Praise of Seafarers

There is an old Merchant Navy saying of “One Hand for Yourself and One for the Ship”. The meaning is that you should look after your own welfare whilst achieving your task or goal in equal measure, for if you give your all to one or the other then ALL MAY BE LOST.



A seafarer will change their course to meet the storm head on. They will adjust the engine speed to enable the ship to ride the waves. They will maintain a constant watch to assess the situation. In today's jargon it would be called Risk Assessment and Risk Management and seafarers are experts at it. Their lives depend upon it.

REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

Recently at our Council meeting we discussed the worth of trying to become an ECO CHURCH. This idea came from the last Synod meeting . It is an idea derived



by AROche, an International Christian Organisation, which uses questionnaires to help churches address their existing approaches to the Environment and how they can improve these ways in the light of the answers to the questionnaire.

It was agreed to go ahead and the first questionnaire was about LAND

owned or at least used by the church. It was good to be able to answer YES to the question `we grow plants on our land that benefit birds, bees and butterflies` (and we are even making a Bug Hotel) and YES to the question `The church actively encourages members (and visitors) to use church land for recreation and contemplation.` But we decided we needed to find out more about establishing a Management plan and undertaking a Wildlife survey. We also discussed a possibility of holding a workshop on finding out our individual carbon foot print.

I am encouraged by the interest and enthusiasm of the Council members and am sure the church and visitors will come on board. More next time!

More information see www.aroche.international; www.climatestewards.org

Jean Faulkner

ed correspondence. So you see, it was a mighty task. ABM have digitized thousands of individual component papers that make up the archive documents, at their own cost, in some cases carrying out restoration to the original documents where needed.

Public Access to ABM archives—Going Forward

ABM is composed of many archives from many institutions on Madeira. They offer two methods for acquisitioning. Some institutions simply donate their archives. Others utilize the process of deposit. The later has the advantage of the institution retaining ownership.



This second method would require a bespoke contract between both parties. At the last church council meeting I made the proposal to deposit the entire church archive with ABM as part of our preparations for our 200 year anniversary. HTC would retain ownership, access, ongoing deposition, with ABM guaranteeing security, public access via website to digitized files and serious academic research via original documents when necessary. I am delighted to say that these proposals were unanimously

agreed. The church council will formally visit ABM for a guided tour by Dr Nuno Mota (newly awarded the ABM directorship) in November to see for themselves the resources and provisions available to ABM in their purpose built centre. It is envisaged that the move will take place in 2021 at no cost to Holy Trinity, and ABM have agreed to produce a public exhibition of the Historical Archive of the Anglican Church of Holy Trinity Funchal in October 2022, held in the exhibition hall of ABM, as a mark of respect and celebration of the Bicentenary of the church.



An aerial view of ABM next to the Olympic swimming pool in Funchal

Cefyn Embling-Evans, church archivist

Arquivo Regional e Biblioteca da Madeira Project Update



The Arquivo Regional e Biblioteca da Madeira project with Holy Trinity church archive began on 15th March 2017 with a meeting of representatives of the ABM at our archive suite in Holy Trinity. ABM was represented by the then director Dra. Fatima Barros and Dra Maria Paredes, along with their colleague Dr Nuno Mota, and myself representing HTC as archivist. On inspection of our archive, so cleverly conceived and collated by Bill Weston in 2016, ABM presented us with a proposal for the free digitization of a selection of documents to add to their Madeira archive for public access. Thus began a three year project with a formal contract signing event covered by local newspapers and television with the Regional Director of Culture Dr Natércia Xavier and Dr Eduardo Jesus signing on behalf of the Regional Secretariat of Economy, Tourism and Culture, with Jonathan Pestana-Calvert as legal representative for Holy Trinity Church.

For those readers who are not aware of our archive, Holy Trinity church archive is composed of hundreds of primary and secondary source documents pertaining to both the church and the British cemeteries dating from 1803 until the present day. Documents prior to 1803 were lost in a huge flood in that year that engulfed Funchal and the British Consulate.

It gave me great pleasure to be able to report to the last meeting of the church council that this project was reaching its conclusion and we were awaiting redelivery of the last batch of documents which would conclude matters. All that is now necessary is a final review by Dr Mota and myself and the archive will then go live for public access via ABM's website - <https://abm.madeira.gov.pt/en/resources/archives>.

Included in this online archive will be all registered deaths, births, marriages and baptisms since 1803 as well as every annual report and accounts up to 1950, and all record-

SEASON OF MIST AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS- NOT HERE!

As we approach the time of harvest, I am always reminded of the days of harvest in the UK and comparing them with Madeira. We have just had the grape harvest here and everyone with a vine is smiling that they have this year's supply of "home-made" nearly ready and some cash in the pocket for grapes sold to the cooperative for the Madeira wine production. A few weeks ago the passion fruit and fig harvest meant every which way you turned you could buy these scrumptious things, but now, as Madeira remains seasonal in its production of food, according to nature, we have mangoes and avocado pears and mandarins ...

But back to the UK, and I think of the plums and apples.... so I thought I would try out a few apple recipes to share. Incidentally apples are available here at most times during the year, fresh picked because the trees are so confused they have flowers and fruit on at the same time and bees are buzzing in the clement climate all year round.



APPLES

Firstly Apple Amber:

Puree 2lbs of apples, add 4 dessertspoons sugar, 1 spoon butter and 2 spoons apricot jam. Place in serving dish and cover with caramelised brown sugar (heat sugar in a pan slowly until it starts to colour) which will set hard. Decorate with whipped cream

Apple Brown Betty:

Melt 2 dessert spoons of butter and stir in 10 tablespoons muesli. Add grated rind and juice from 2 large oranges and 2 tablespoons water. Layer three times in a dish with six sweetened pureed apples and 10 chopped dried apricots.

Cook 35 mins at 180 degrees.

APPLES



Somerset Apple Cake : Prepare 4 cooking apples and slice wafer thin. Toss in lemon juice. Cream 6 oz. margarine with 6 oz. brown sugar. Add three egg yolks, 1 tsp baking powder and 6 oz ground almonds. Whisk egg whites and fold in the apples. Put in greased baking tin with thinly sliced apples on top sprinkled with sugar. Bake 180 degrees 1 hour 15 minutes. *Jean Faulkner*

They say—Travel Broadens the Mind by Barbara Moore

The Church of St. Barbara , Island of Saõ Jorge, Azores

(*St. Barbara was a 3rd C. Christian Martyr tortured and then killed by her own father's sword.*)

This small church on top of a cliff in Manadas on the island of Sao Jorge was built between 1510 and 1770 and has been described as '*one of the most important in the Azores*'. Consequently during the 17th century, when the parish was one of the most important on the island, a lookout and fortification were built alongside the church with the aim of protecting its riches and the local population from attack and looting by foreign invaders or pirates.



The main facade and bell tower date from the 18th century and look similar to many of the churches in the Azores with dark stone framing white walls. However it is the inside of the building that sets it apart from most others by being richly decorated in various styles relating to the different construction eras and with artistic influences from North Africa, Spain and Arabia.

The beautiful, ornate ceiling in the nave is a testament not only to the skill of the craftsmen



who created it in the 18th century but also to the local company who have carried out its restoration in recent years. The central section above the aisle is made from intricately carved cedar wood with painted and gilded

frames around three octagonal panels depicting the Holy Spirit in the form of a white dove, Saint Barbara and Saint George.



The earlier wooden ceiling in the chancel has been overlaid with large painted wooden panels showing the life of Jesus and the Virgin Mary using an unusual and limited colour range of predominantly bright blue, red and brown. The lower walls of the chancel are filled with a number of large blue and white tile panels showing events in the life of Saint Barbara in graphic, gruesome detail.

The sacristy was built on the south side of the church in 1680 and still retains some of its original features including an ingenious cupboard and desk built into the wall.



There are also 2 very old bibles and a 17th century book of canticles with pristine pages inside covers that are steadily falling apart as the church authorities have not yet handed them over to the museum service to allow for them to be restored.

The church is managed by the Regional Directorate of Culture through one of the local museums and the enthusiasm and

knowledge of the young attendant employed there was a credit to the service they provide. The cost of admission was €1 per person/pensioner including an illustrated information leaflet that was extensively supplemented by conversation with the attendant.

A most interesting, inspiring and worthwhile visit if you ever go to the island.

The Saint Barbara Prayer

Saint Barbara, your courage is much stronger than the forces of hurricanes and the power of lightning. Be always by our side so that we, like you, may face all storms, wars, trials and tribulations with the same fortitude with which you faced yours.