

Services during July 2016

Nazaret

Church of Nuestra Señora de Nazaret July 3 **10:00 AM**

Puerto del Carmen

Church of Nuestra Señora in the harbour, Old Town July 3,10,17, 24 and 31 **12:30 PM**

Playa Blanca

Church of Nuestra Señora del Carmen July 3,10 and 31 **5:00 PM**

There will be no service in Playa Blanca on 17th and 24th July due to public celebrations of La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora del Carmen.

Principal Church contacts

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ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

Our Monthly Newsletter – July 2016



**A very warm welcome
to everybody!**

Our mission is to serve the Anglican and English speaking people – both residents and visitors – in Lanzarote.

Please spread the word about our churches and services and visit our website on www.lanzarotechurch.com

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



A Message by Rev Paul Skirrow

Why Pray?

The answer is simple: to put ourselves in the way of God.

“Putting ourselves in the way of God” has at least three meanings.

First, it means being where God is and, in a sense, knowing that you are noticed by God. Some people refer to those who pray as “God botherers”. A reasonable description in that praying does, in some cases, involve addressing God directly. This might be to seek help, look for recognition, find reassurance, offer praise, ask for a better understanding, or a deeper peace.

Next, it can mean placing ourselves in the *space* of God, a place not from this world. Prayer is somewhere our perspective is transformed and we are led to see things as they really are through the eyes of the God of truth. It takes time, trust, faithfulness, patience, humility and openness. It is about being, listening and keeping quiet. It can and should be disturbing because “the real world” is not the real world. In other words, the descriptions of the world we receive from the media, the politicians, the advertisers and culture which pretend to be “the real world” are mythological constructions designed to make us see things from a point of view; usually, if not always, the point of view of the dominant, the most powerful people. These myths, these false views, shape our understanding of what it means to be human and our notion of the Gospel. Our individualistic consumerism is not the Gospel, but we can be led to think it is by the effects of the constant bombardment of false myths. So we pray to stand in the way of God and, in proper humility, have the misconceptions we have learned from the world overturned and shown to be false. It involves silence and listening. However, it is not an escape from the world but a proper and careful engagement with the world from the place of God. God is truth and being in the truth increases our responsibility towards our world and our neighbours.

Third we put ourselves in the way of God as a movement into the future, caught up in God’s activity in the world. This is not a simple process either. To identify God’s way in the world means being open to the fact that God does a lot more in the world than we expect, and God does it in ways, places and with people which will always be surprising. God is just as active in the world as God is active in the church, and the world and the Kingdom of God is much, much more than the church. So prayer is about listening to the God who redeems the world constantly so we can see where and how that work of redemption is happening, and become part of it. The practice of deep, attentive prayer is out of fashion. It is not apparently productive. It is not a technique to achieve something. It is not a quick fix. It involves weakness and being vulnerable. There are consumer versions of prayer, which are about “me”, and about “my experience” and about “my wants and needs”. These do not constitute putting ourselves in the way of God. Prayer is far from easy and not something which, for most of us, comes naturally. God, however, does not step aside when we put ourselves in God’s way and makes up for our feeble efforts in ways we can barely imagine.

News and Events in July 2016

The Parish is currently in Interregnum.

We welcome back the Rev Peter Cavanagh as our locum from 28th June to 7th July, and we look forward to the arrival of Rev Neville Griffiths who will be with us as locum from 7th to 28th July.

Churchwarden

It has been a sad shock to us all that Tony and Jean Newman have had to make the decision to return to live in the UK, due to Tony's illness.

As a consequence of this, Tony has withdrawn his nomination as a Churchwarden of St Laurence, and the Council have elected Robert Good, currently the Deputy Churchwarden, as Churchwarden in his stead.

The Apostles Lunch

The next Apostles lunch, which is a monthly informal social event to which all are welcome, will be held at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 13th July. If you would like to attend, please contact Freida Burke on 928 524347 or Polly Price on 636 832458 before July 8th.

Mothers’ Union

There will be no Mothers’ Union meeting in July.

Regular monthly meetings will begin again in the Autumn.

For more details please contact Sylvia Couchman on 928 5184 42.

Gift Aid Scheme

As a Parish we are self-sufficient and do not receive any grants or help from the Diocese. If you are a UK tax payer, please consider giving your collection in one of the Gift Aid envelopes available at the door at each service. This increases your gift to us by some 25% at no cost to you. Thank you.

Safeguarding

The protection from harm of children and adults who may be vulnerable is of paramount importance to us. We will not tolerate abuse in any form. As a chaplaincy within the Diocese in Europe, we comply fully with the requirements of the Diocese's Safeguarding Policy.

Before you leave

please take a look at the crafts and booklets at the back of the church, they are all hand made by Parishioners on Lanzarote.