

Services suspended – Online Services instead

Our regular services, which are suspended for the time being, usually take place in Puerto del Carmen and Playa Blanca on Sundays.

Please check our website www.lanzarotechurch.com regularly for updates on when and where our services will recommence.

We provide a lot of information on our website and have added „food for thought“, prayers and reading suggestions for Lent.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us – by email, prayer request or a call. If you are on the island and need help, we will be there. You are not alone.

We now provide our Services online on youtube.

Simply search for „Anglican Parish Lanzarote“.

Please make sure to worship and pray with us!

Prayer Shawls

The Mothers' Union is very happy to be taking part in the Prayer Shawls. This was an initiative on the part of Reverend Stan in Lanzarote when one of his parishioners sent him a prayer shawl and it had given her so much comfort he wondered if we at The Anglican Church could help out. Of course Mothers' Union was very happy to engage with parishioners who were good at knitting. They stepped forward and Jackie completed a prayer shawl in record time. These two prayer shawls have been given out by Reverend Stan and the two ladies on the receiving end were extremely grateful to be remembered. Another shawl is being knitted at this moment but sadly in Lanzarote the wool shops are now closed and we haven't any more wool at the moment. However as soon as the shops open we will all be inspired to knit again.

Lily
Bent



Pauline
Field



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

Our monthly Newsletter – April 2020

LOCKDOWN IN SPAIN

From our Information Officer:

At the time of finalizing this month's newsletter, we can't reliably communicate service times or confirm any of the activities planned for the next weeks or even months.

Since March 15 and at least until April 12, Lanzarote as well as the rest of Spain is in lockdown in order to reduce the spread of COVID 19 significantly and keep ourselves, those around us and especially the vulnerable people as safe as possible.

This edition is the first one to only be distributed digitally and has a different focus. We want to overcome the physical distance and be even closer to you, pray with you and spread HOPE in these challenging times. Wherever you are – and wherever we are.

Speaking about HOPE – We were thinking about giving our newsletter a name - and HOPE is what came to our minds. What do you think?

HOPE

HEAR OUR PRAYERS EVERYWHERE

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Message from our Chaplain

Dear friends,

When I wrote my message for the March newsletter I had just returned from an uplifting Synod and we were looking forward to our time together during Lent. Our minds firmly fixed on a wonderful Easter celebration.

Just a short time into the month however we were faced with the most devastating news – news that no-one could have envisaged or forecast. The news from China of this terrible Coronavirus – death and pain, but of course at first I am sure most of us thought it would be dealt with quickly. How wrong we were. Alongside our neighbours in Christ we found ourselves unable to worship safely and then once the lock-down came we began to realise the threat of this pandemic. Our PCC and our APCM postponed; weddings, baptisms unable to go ahead, and if a death took place the mourners unable to share their grief.

Incredible scenes as our communities realised the tsunami of pain and suffering was on its way. This pandemic was for real.

Here on Lanzarote we thank God for those who care and have managed to continue to serve us in the most amazing way. Our hospitals, and health services; our public sector workers; the incredible staff across the island who are making sure we have food supplies and so many others operating at risk to themselves so that we might have a quality of life even in these lock-down days. We thank them all.

It is my privilege to be here to serve and try and bring the resurrection Hope to those in my care. So many are frightened and anxious. As markets crash and currencies depreciate, so many face hardship never envisaged. Businesses across the island are forced to close. Airlines cancel their schedules and visitors are left stranded.

The heartbreak of Mothering Sunday where families could only gather around on social media with travel impossible. Tears on screen as sons and daughters greeted mothers. How could we respond at such a time as a Church?

I decided that with the help of a small team to put together a service (not of course in church) but using whatever means we could to bring people together with an online service. The outcome was very rewarding as so many appreciated our efforts and some 300 viewed our first service on YouTube. Then we were advised that the lock-down would go beyond Easter**so will we!** Our online services will continue and it has been so rewarding to have such encouraging feedback. Please access our website – www.lanzarotechurch.com – and click on the service link. This is a new and exciting way of ‘doing Church’ by bringing people together wherever they are. Our friends who visit so regularly are now thrilled to be invited to log in to our Church – it is giving young and old a new HOPE, and that is our focus at this time.

Our task as Christians is to love and care for our neighbours, our families and those in need. It is our calling to bring Hope to those who are suffering and alone; the anxious, the homeless and those who are frightened.

A Prayer of Hope

This Lent preparation has been very different; many will long for that Easter dawn when we pray we will face a new and brighter day.

***Jesus said ‘And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’
(Matthew 28: v20)***

So, do not be afraid, we are in this together and we will wake to a new dawning.
All will come good – and perhaps we will cherish life and each other more when all this is over.

God bless you all. Keep well. Keep safe.

Fr Stan Evans, Chaplain

A PRAYER OF HOPE FOR HARD DAYS

***“Father, hear my prayer.
Grant me HOPE in the midst of this hard day.
Help me to cling to your grace, your wisdom and your strength.
Help me to see that you are in this and that you are with me.
AMEN.”***

We all have hard days. Challenging days. Days that stretch us, sometimes beyond what we can bear. Sometimes these days appear as a series of little irritating events that build up to one terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. Other days we wake up to find one huge unexpected event that lands like a bomb in our life.

Sometimes those hard days find us busy and distracted as we try to fix everything that has gone wrong. Or we get so caught up in our thoughts and feelings about our circumstances that it consumes us. Or perhaps we attempt to hide away from struggle of the day in the hopes that if we don't think about it, maybe it will all go just away.

Instead of such responses, hard days are opportunities for us to draw near to God. They are opportunities for us to rely on him, depend on him, and receive more of his grace. Such days remind us how desperate we are and how much we need our Saviour. When we face hard days, we need to turn to God in prayer, seeking his help, strength, wisdom, salvation, and grace.