

Services during August 2016

Nazaret

Church of Nuestra Señora de Nazaret August 7 **10:00 AM**

Puerto del Carmen

Church of Nuestra Señora in the harbour, Old Town August 7, 14, 21, 28 **12:30 PM**

Playa Blanca

Church of Nuestra Señora del Carmen August 7, 14, 21, 28 **5:00 PM**

Principal Church contacts

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ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

Our Monthly Newsletter – August 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 Reflection from our Locum: 50 years on

In 1966 England won the world cup and I was ordained. The team are now elderly gentlemen and their achievement remains unequalled.

But so much was about to change. We were on the brink of the age of permissiveness. The pill had arrived, followed by the lowering of the age of majority from 21 to 18 years, the reform of abortion law, divorce law and homosexual law – all of which I supported.

But who could have predicted that divorce would reach over 40%, that there would be over 200,000 abortions per year, same-sex marriage and a drop in the European birth rate so large as to cause serious problems. We have seen the growth of Feminism, our 2nd woman Prime Minister, and a woman contending for the leadership of the Labour Party.

The industries that put Britain on the map – coal, steel, ship-building all disappeared. The Iron Curtain which looked permanent also disappeared. In 1966 European Union was a life dream and terrorism unimagined. Since then, life-expectancy has leapt; everybody has a mobile and the computer is king. There have been huge advances in medicine and other scientific fields. Who would have predicted it? Not me! 25 years ago I said that East Enders would not run for more than eight episodes and have only one series.

Only a brief visit to Lanzarote reveals substantial and valid change as in so many other places. In the modern world fast and effective communication means that there is no escape. The title of the TV programme ‘Escape to the Country’ is entirely misleading!

At the end of my first year in ministry I was convinced that the biggest problem facing the Churches was ignorance. Now it is worse; and other challenges have increased. Despite the internet and ‘virtual’ friends, recent research has shown that loneliness is a major social problem. There’s been a serious decline in the number of full-time clergy; but a growth in the non-stipendiary ministry, the ordination of women, and in effective lay ministry. I remain convinced of the need for the Church, its ministry and pastoral care; but we need to make more and faster progress ecumenically. There has been a growth in European chaplaincies to meet the retirement population, holiday makers and business communities, but the last 20 or so years has seen an explosion of converts (millions) in China. Come on Europe!

Rev Neville Griffiths

News and Events in August 2016

The Parish is currently in Interregnum.

We welcome the Rev John Draper as our locum, and his wife, from 27th July to 31st August.

Tony and Jean Newman.

Very sadly, we have been informed by Jean that Tony is in Bournemouth hospital and has been found that to have an inoperable brain tumor. Please hold them both and their family in your prayers.

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 10th August at the Restaurant Mirador de las Salinas, just off the road to Playa Blanca, between El Golfo and Las Brenas. If you would like to attend, please contact Freida Burke on 928 524347, or Polly Price on 629 959493.

Mothers’ Union

There will be no Mothers’ Union meeting in August.

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.

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody would not do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Everybody could have done.