

No. 2  
Easter 2014

FOR THE COMMUNITY  
OF SANTA  
MARGARITA



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# MENORCA ANGLICAN



## Fresh Life

It is spring in Menorca, and the island is abundantly covered with signs of fresh life. Menorca’s fields are green, and each week it seems as though a new wave of colour washes across our landscape as a new flowers burst into bloom. Walking along the old Roman way to the top of Santa Agueda (the second highest point in Menorca), there is an old car, rusting slowly, through which grass, shrubs and even a small tree are growing. It reminded me of a poem, “Ozymandias,” by Percy Bysshe Shelley.

This newsletter is offered to help regular and intermittent members of the Anglican community in Menorca to keep in touch.

*I met a traveller from an antique land,  
Who said—"Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
Stand in the desert ... Near them, on the sand,  
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,  
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,  
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,  
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;  
And on the pedestal, these words appear:  
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;  
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!  
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare  
The lone and level sands stretch far away."*

The poem is ironic, caricaturing human boastfulness: the despair invoked by the traveller's view of a decaying statue is not that of awe in the face of the might of Ozymandias, but rather of the inevitability of decay, and the unremitting passage of human mortality.

The rusting car, similarly, is a reminder that the innovative and creative spirit of humanity, embodied in that quintessential hallmark of modern life, the automobile, is iconically destined to rust and disintegrate.

Yet the fresh, green life that grows up through the rusting remnant shows that life springs up from death and decay. If we place our trust in human endeavour alone, we may indeed face discouragement and despair. But placing our trust in the powerful spirit of divine life offers us the chance to participate in new life beyond human pride. The car may rust, but other life will rise.

This is Easter. It is resurrection: life endowed and restored by God outside the realm of human expectation and understanding. The crucified Jesus is the monument to human pride caricatured in Shelley's Ozymandias; the resurrected Christ is God's answer to that pride and presumptuous power. If you place your trust in human striving and strife alone, look upon it and despair. If you place your trust in something above and beyond human, look upon it and find humility - and hope.

To receive a copy of this newsletter via e-mail, please send a message to [info@anglicanchurchmenorca.com](mailto:info@anglicanchurchmenorca.com).

## JaFfA: Learning about Passover



JaFfA meets monthly, led by Dianne Carter, and provides an opportunity for children (and some parents!) to learn about the Christian faith through art, craft, play and fun. In April, the focus of JaFfA was the Passover meal, which is what we believe Jesus celebrated with his disciples as the last supper.

## Approaching Easter

*This article is reproduced from the April issue of Roqueta, Menorca's English language magazine.*

Kate and I continue to make our way through our first year of life in Menorca, and the last few months have been full of discoveries. We have experienced the celebration of familiar things in new and different ways. We have enjoyed our first Christmas here, and our first Epiphany (Los Reyes). Personally, I have been revelling to live in a place that allows the season of Christmas to stretch over its full extent, rather than being destined to end at about noon on Christmas day. We sang Christmas carols in the plazas of Es Castell and Ciutadella, together with members of the New Life Church. Traditional services of lessons and carols were also held in Ciutadella and at Santa Margarita in Es Castell.

Last Christmas, for the first time, the congregation of Santa Margarita collected food and donations to prepare Christmas bags for 30 local families in need. These were distributed in conjunction with the Social Services department of Es Castell, which nominated the recipients. We plan to repeat the process for Easter.

Now we find ourselves walking through the season of Lent towards Easter as spring unfolds new life on the island. Lent is a season that is a kind of pilgrimage, a spiritual journey of exploration.

On a Monday in February, a month whose reputation for ferocity was somewhat undermined by its performance this year, we walked from Binimel.là to Cala Pregonda. Along the way, I spent some time watching a hermit crab move slowly but steadily around a small tide pool. It occurred to me that this tiny creature's whole life was more than likely to be spent within the confines of its miniature domicile, without the quest for exploration and discovery that characterises much of humanity as a whole, if not all of its individuals. Perhaps this is what sets us apart from other creatures: an intentional desire, sparked by an intrinsic intellectual curiosity, to learn more about the environment that we occupy, and the broader aspects of the universe around us. I remember watching slugs cross the riverside and forest paths in British Columbia, and wondering what motivated them to move from one perfectly acceptable habitat to another, and hoping that what drives human beings to make similar moves is more intellectually driven!

We are creatures of exploration, and the movement of human beings around the world has been a collective journey of discovery. Along the way, this has caused us trouble, as communal rivalries have caused our journeys to collide, resulting in much conflict. Wars and crusades are not glowing examples of accomplishment. The human characteristic of curiosity and inventiveness has, as its

darker side, a desire to possess and to own what we encounter, whether it be property, land or people.



So we progress through the season of Lent, in anticipation of the new life that emerges at Easter. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, reminding us of our mortality, which should engender a spirit of humility within us. The season is framed by recollection of Jesus' time in the wilderness, during which he was subjected to basic temptations that broadly speaking are about material nourishment at the expense of spiritual nourishment, about

seeking attention, and about imposing control and exploiting power. In today's world, these temptations manifest themselves in the form of greed, often masquerading as security; in self-aggrandisement and the deification (and subsequent destruction) of "celebrity" personalities; and in abuse of power in all relationships, personal as much as national or international.

The Christian response to these kinds of temptation is to attempt to place self after God and alongside community. The season of Lent can be a period when we examine ourselves, our lives and our motives, and reflect upon what drives us, and how we deal with greed, self-importance and controlling nature. Wrestling with these demons allows us to be more effective in taking our place in improving the world. This is what the frequent references to, "The kingdom of God has come near," mean in the Christian gospel. It is a time to examine the human characteristics of exploration and curiosity as applied to the journeys of our own lives.

Back in October, I wrote about the question, "Where have you come from?" I left its partner, "Where are you going?" for future consideration. One way to answer the question is to seek new life, in the spirit of resurrection. But the season of Lent reminds us that for resurrection to occur, something has to die. Lent is a time to prepare to allow our hopes, fears, desires, anxieties, dreams and nightmares to go into the tomb with the crucified Jesus, that what needs to die may do so, and what needs to be reborn in fresh life may flourish, and draw us onward on our spiritual journeys of exploration.

*Paul +*

## Counting Blessings

During Lent, a small group has been gathering to share lunch every Wednesday and to read and discuss the Beatitudes, as presented in Matthew's gospel account of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

**Blessed are the poor in spirit;  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.**

**Blessed are the sorrowful;  
they shall find consolation.**

**Blessed are the gentle;  
they shall have the earth for their  
possession.**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst to  
see right prevail;  
they shall be satisfied.**

**Blessed are those who show mercy:  
mercy shall be shown to them.**

**Blessed are those whose hearts are pure;  
they shall see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers;  
they shall be called God's children.**

**Blessed are those who are persecuted in  
the cause of right;  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.**



We covered a lot of ground, such as:

- What exactly does "blessed" mean to each of us? In biblical language, the word used can mean "happy," or, as Tom Wright in *Matthew for Everyone* suggests, "wonderful news."

- How does “poor in spirit” reflect itself in our own lives, as we recognise our own spiritual poverty?
- How is meekness represented in our world today, and how do we live in a spirit of humility?
- Are we able to understand Jesus’ call to see the face of God in the world around us, and to treat one another with the respect and dignity we would accord to Christ, meeting him face-to-face?
- How do we understand the “kingdom of God,” and how do we participate in making it “come nearer” in our world?
- How does “inheriting the earth,” or as more basic understanding of Judaeo-Christian tradition might suggest, “the land,” impose not just ownership, but responsibility?
- How do we approach the challenge of being peace-makers in our world? How do we approach the New Testament view of peace accomplished through justice in a world which, like the imperial Roman culture of the time, has the prevailing understanding of peace accomplished through power, or force?
- Where does Christ lead us towards cleanliness of heart?

Each of the sessions has been lively and productive, and has left us with food for thought, contemplation and reflection in the following days.

## Beatitudes

*Kate Strudwick*

Every year I look forward to a Lenten reflection, wherever that may lead me. This year it is an in-depth look into "The Beatitudes" from Matthew's gospel. As is true of everything in both the old and the new testaments there are a lot of other things that enter into an attempt at interpretation.

First, historical issues ... who was being spoken to at the time, and who were the powers-that-be, looking down their noses. Then there are the translations! Learning that the word Beatitudes, is named after a Latin word meaning "blessing" or "wonderful news" or even better, "perfect happiness" started me out in a warmer place. Also knowing that any guess is as good as mine as to what the opening lines of Jesus's "Sermon on the Mount" actually mean puts it back to me to figure it out for myself. The first four statements are Jesus giving me encouragement, telling me that no matter how down I am, I am blessed and loved.

Each one of us are all of these things at one time or another, poor of spirit or poor, mournful about many things, meek (Greek for "strength being under control"), hungry and thirsty in many ways. The next three Beatitudes are instructions, to be as God wants me to be: merciful to others, pure in heart, a peacemaker, and finally, don't let anything or anyone stand between me and God. I must act and treat justly, and fairly, everyone, even those who may be on my case!

## Archdeaconry Synod

*The Archdeaconry Synod took place at the beginning of February. During the Synod, the retiring Archdeacon, the Ven. David Sutch, was recognised for his dedication and service to the Anglican churches in Spain, Portugal and Morocco (pictured below).*



Santa Margarita again sent Representatives to Archdeaconry Synod in February, Margaret and me, the theme this year being ‘Rebuilding Confidences’.

Menorca is an island but we must not be insular. We are part of the Archdeaconry of Gibraltar, which is part of the Diocese of Europe, which is part of the Anglican Communion worldwide. We must not be isolated.

It was a joy that Revd. Paul, who as we know is the only Anglican Priest on Menorca, was also able to attend Synod, with Kate, to spend time with his clergy peers both in discussion on clergy matters and socially.

We met again Bishop David, the new Archdeacon, Geoff, officers from Diocesan Office in London, contacts we made the previous year and clergy and friends from the many other chaplaincies, sharing worship on a daily basis. We were able to offer prayer and advice to other reps based on our experience of interregnum. We attended all the Synod sessions, where the Reps from all the chaplaincies come together to discuss and learn about matters of importance to us all, practical matters such as safeguarding, finance and FERED, and spiritual matters such as outreach and prayer. There were updates on church rules, church policy and we received the Bishop’s guidance on various matters currently affecting the church.

The key-note speaker was John Bell of the Iona community whose address on the topic “Music in forwarding the Gospel” was entertaining, informative, deeply thought provoking and challenging. A detailed report, written by Revd. Paul, entitled ‘John Bell on Music’ can be found on Santa Margarita website, and there also a review on the Diocese of Europe website. Both are recommended reading.

(See <http://anglicanchurchmenorca.com/archdeaconry-synod-john-bell-on-music/>)

In summary, we are not isolated on Menorca, we belong to the whole Church and through Synod we have friends and we have support we can call upon, can give and can share.

JT/MDJ

## Women’s World Day of Prayer

*The Women’s World Day of Prayer occurs on the first Friday of March every year.*

This year, the service was designed and prepared by the women of Egypt. Since Egypt continues to figure in our news bulletins, there was a special feeling of solidarity with those who have contributed to this year’s Day of Prayer, and as Muriel Chad, of the New Life Community Church,

who was invited to give the address, reminded us, Egypt has not been a safe place for Christians during the last year. 38 churches have been burned, and other violence has been directed at Coptic Christians.

The service called us to remember that water is a vital element for life, and a resource that demands good stewardship. With the reading from John's gospel in which Jesus encountered a Samaritan woman at the well, we were reminded that Jesus described himself as "living water," just as vital for our spiritual life and health.

The service was attended by women representing all of the English-speaking churches in Menorca (and a few men!).

## Santa Margarita Golf Tournament Raffle



**Draw at the golf tournament, 7 June.**

**Star Prize:**

**3 nights for 2 in 5 star London hotel; champagne dinner for 2;  
2 tickets to a West End Show; 4 visits to the spa;  
return flights Menorca-London.**

**Prize to be taken Sep/Oct 2014.**

**12 other prizes, including a flight around Menorca,  
and meals for two at Menorca restaurants.**

**Tickets 5 for €10.**



## Spanish Taxation

*David Green*

It is now possible for persons paying Spanish income tax to be able to increase their offertory or other donations to Santa Margarita. The system is different from that employed in the UK where the church itself claims back the tax element of any donation. In Spain the donor is able to reduce his/her taxable income in a year by the amount of any certified donation to the church in the previous year. This then reduces the amount of tax to be paid. The donor is then able to make a supplementary donation to the church of the amount thus saved. This presumably then can be added to any donation made in the following year thus producing a further tax reduction which will hopefully be passed on to the church.

In order to take part in this scheme it will be necessary to join the planned giving scheme which involves using envelopes each week or each month for your offering. This enables the gift aid secretary to be able to produce accurately the certificate at the end of each calendar year which is necessary to be able to reduce your tax payment. It is also possible to contribute by direct debit into the church's bank account. For those of you not familiar with the system, in order to maintain confidentiality only the Gift Aid (GA) secretary and/or the treasurer is cognizant of the amount of any offering or donation.

Anyone wishing to help the church by joining the scheme should talk to the GA secretary as soon as possible. You will appreciate that the additional income that this can provide for the church will be of enormous benefit.

## FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

<b>April</b>	<b>Celebration of Saint George - worship on Isla del Rey (23 April, boats 10:30 for 11:00); lunch at Samoa in Cala en Porter (13:30)</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Gwent brass band concert in Santa Margarita (24 April, 20:30)</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Sunrise service for Easter at Punta Prima beach, followed by breakfast (20 April, 07:00)</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Binifadet - wine, tapas, raffle (9 May, 19:00, provisional)</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Mike &amp; Rita Young's BBQ - capacity limited! (2 June)</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Santa Margarita Golf Challenge Tournament (7 June)</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Race Night in Es Castell (date to be arranged)</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Harvest Thanksgiving and luncheon (14 September)</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Christmas Bazaar (15 November)</b>

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At the end of May, we will have been in Menorca for one year. As this anniversary approaches, I would like to say how glad Kate and I are to be in Menorca, and to give thanks for the kindness and hospitality of all those who have helped us and made us welcome here – English and Menorquin. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the church and the local community. *Paul +*

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