

No. 7
Advent 2015

FOR THE EXTENDED
COMMUNITY OF
SANTA MARGARITA



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MENORCA ANGLICAN



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

Peace and Reconciliation

Christmas is a time that is often associated with peace. Many of our Christmas cards, especially sent by those who aver religious profession, simply say "Peace." It seems better than "Happy Holidays," or "Season's Greetings," but apparently less overtly religious than "Happy Christmas." In religious parlance, Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Christ, or Messiah, who is known as the Prince of Peace. We all know that from Handel's Messiah.

I must say that some of my own happiest memories, as both child and adult, are of Christmas times when that sense of tranquility and peace really does seem to descend upon both world and household. Nevertheless, we live in a world that is often troubled,

riddled with violence, some of it carried out in the name of religion, and where peace, even at Christmas, seems a rare commodity.

Peace is hard to accomplish without effort. Reconciliation is a prerequisite for peace. It takes work to let go of things, whether deliberate or unintentional, that others have done to harm, annoy or offend us. As a result, one characteristic of the “human condition” seems to be that we load ourselves with negative feelings, we avoid or ostracise those with whom we have disagreements, and we let these situations persist not just for months, but sometimes for years. This spills over into our communal life, and as communities, congregation and nations we harbour bitterness, dislike or even anger. None of this is particularly constructive in improving the quality of human life.

Carrying resentment, or a grudge, or the remembrance of a slight is only a burden for the one carrying it. It might distress or even offend those on the receiving end, but theirs is in many ways the lighter load.

The spirit of Christmas is meant to engage us in examining what it is that leads to peace. Christmas is not a solitary event. It is the memorial of the beginning of the life of one who went on to teach, by word and example, ways in which human life can be improved, and in which peace might be accomplished. If Christmas is about peace – which it is – then a full celebration ought to challenge us to consider that the one known as the Prince of Peace taught about peace being accomplished not through force or strength, and certainly not through violence, but by reaching out to one another in compassion, involving ourselves in the work of healing a broken and troubled world. A key ingredient in the recipe for peace is the call for reconciliation. The birth of Jesus, in Luke’s gospel, is associated with angels singing, “Peace on earth, good will to mankind.” It would be well within the spirit of Christmas to think seriously about how we might participate in ways to make the world more peaceful through work for justice and compassion. It would also be within the spirit of Christmas to seek to be reconciled with anyone with whom we are at odds.

So, rather than a New Year’s resolution, we could each give ourselves a gift of a Christmas resolution to consider and let go of at least one resentment or grudge that we carry, thus lightening our lives’ burdens. I am sure that with each one released, the feeling of inner peace will increase. Who knows, if enough people were to let go of resentments and grudges, and reach out to one another, especially to those with whom we are not at ease, peace might spread around us. Since we celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace at this time – it is what underlies this festive season – perhaps he would like such a birthday present.

Kate and I wish you all happy and peaceful seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Paul +

To receive future copies of this newsletter via e-mail, please complete one of the yellow cards in church, or send a message to info@anglicanchurchmenorca.com.

John Bell



Entertaining. Informative. Deeply thought provoking. Challenging. This is how we, in our report as Synod reps, described Revd. John Bell and the keynote address he gave at Archdeaconry Synod in 2013. We did not do him justice. There are many superlatives we could have used and many more ways we could have expressed the sheer joy he brought to all of us privileged to have been there.

The great news is that there is to be a new opportunity for anyone to hear John speak, preach, sing, teach, entertain, and to be spiritually challenged and uplifted.

But firstly, who is Revd. John Bell? John is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland and a member of the Iona Community. He preaches, lectures and leads workshops and has done so in the UK, Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and Australia. He is also a liturgical composer having shared in the writing of words and music of well over a hundred hymns and songs for adults, youth and children. John has a unique method of convincing people that we can sing, whether or not we have knowledge of music, and showing people that we can and should worship with music from around the world because we are part of the worldwide family of Christians. He can demonstrate just how much our beliefs can be based on the poetic words of well-loved hymns / carols which our minds retain more easily than sermons based on the Gospels. "Silent Night" in a crowded Bethlehem with no room at the inn is an example. John provides an interactive and lively experience of theology and song. All this he does apparently without a mobile 'phone, iPad, camera, driving licence or wife!

This little article is a very brief taster of what / who is on offer. Clearly, John is a man of many talents, many experiences and strong in the gifts of the Spirit.

Margaret & I will certainly be going and hope that you too might book a place.



The opportunity to hear John arises in April 2016 from 22-24th.

The location is to be the Josep Manyanet Spiritual Retreat Centre in Begues near Gavà. There is private en-suite accommodation (shared rooms with 2 single beds, and some triples) and meals are included. There is a lovely garden on the property, a paved 'pista' (sports courtyard) behind the property, and a quiet neighbourhood for walks.

The cost for the full weekend per person, board and workshops, is €120. For partial attendance (Saturday morning until after lunch on Sunday, or Friday evening and all day Saturday), it will be €95. For Saturday only, meals and workshops, €45. Single supplement for the weekend is €35. A deposit of €50 with registration is requested (less for single-day attendance).

The programme on offer is:-

Friday, 22 April

Session 1, 6.00-7.30 pm - Workshop: Ten things they never told me about Jesus

Supper, from 8.00 pm

Compline, 9.00 pm

Saturday, 23 April

Morning Prayer, 8.30 am

Breakfast, from 9.00 am

Session 2, 10.00 am-12.30 pm - Workshop: Improving congregational song

Lunch, from 1.30 pm

Session 3, 4.00- 6.30 pm - Workshop: The engaged spirituality of Jesus

Supper, from 8.00 pm

Compline, 9.00 pm

Sunday, 24 April

Eucharist, 8.00-8.45 am

Breakfast, from 9.00 am

Session 4, 10.00 am-12.00 noon - Workshop: Songs from the Iona community

Lunch, from 1.30 pm

For more information, please see the church website, or speak to Revd. Paul or Margaret Jones.

Trevor Jones

Congregational Life



Since the previous edition of the newsletter, in July, life at Santa Margarita has continued to experience our customary mix of social and spiritual vitality.

Overlooked in the previous newsletter was a mention of the performance by Coral Mitjanit on 9 May. The choir performs primarily a cappella, although a keyboard made a brief appearance for a couple of songs. The choir will be returning to

Santa Margarita in January 2016 - probably on 17 January to celebrate Saint Anthony.

The broad definition of “church” was underlined during July when we were graced by the visit of a young composer and musician, David Rose, who shared his musical talents with us at a recital in Santa Margarita. He is a very talented young man (who just happens to be the grandson of Wendy and David Green, of our congregation), who plays the piano with an easy virtuosity, and chats about his compositions with a comfortable grace. David entertained us with a combination of well-known pieces, variations on themes and a selection of his own compositions. As I said to those who came to listen: “We have just been given the opportunity to say in the future, ‘I knew David Rose when he was 18.’” As with the other musical renderings whom we have been pleased to offer through the church, we are reminded that it should be a place not just for worship but for sharing within our community the many talents and gifts with



which God endows us. We hope that David Rose may visit us again and share his blossoming musical gifts.

The wedding blessing season has been busy in Menorca. This year, we have held a dozen blessings around the island, from various agrotorisme establishments, to Monte Toro, to Punta Prima beach. In addition, several couples have renewed their



marriage vows, half of them in the church, as well as at locations around the island that have a special meaning for them. Menorca is a beautiful setting for a blessing or a renewal of vows, which is itself a meaningful way to mark a special anniversary of marriage.



In August, on the feast of the Transfiguration, a time to celebrate the revelation of the glory of Christ to his followers, the gift of grace was celebrated in the baptism of Mila in the sea at Punta Prima. There is something mystical about blessing the water of the sea, which itself blesses humanity, but especially this island of Menorca, as part of worship.

Mila's family come from

Belgium and Croatia, and are living and working in Menorca; baptism within the encompassing fold of the Anglican Church seems very fitting. It would be nice to consider that the water of baptism can dissolve boundaries and barriers more effectively than any legislation can. We give thanks for Mila, and wish her well on her life-long journey of spiritual discovery, nurtured and guided by loving parents Iva and Jan, and her godmother, Marijeta.



In September, at the Iglesia de la Concepción on Mahón, Jack and Sofia were baptised. The local Roman Catholic clergy continue to be generous in allowing us to use their churches for worship.

In July, the retirement of Deborah Hellyer as honorary British Consul was marked by a celebration on the Isla del Rey to give thanks for her 23 years of service. Amongst other items presented to Deborah was the promise of a tree and bench to be planted in the new park adjacent to the restored windmill in Es Castell. This is within walking distance of Carlos and Deborah's home, and the Ayuntamiento of Es Castell has given its enthusiastic

approval. The plans for planting the tree were deferred until the appropriate season. At the time of writing, we are considering 17 January - an opportune time for planting trees, and also the feast day of Saint Anthony the Abbot.



Our harvest festival celebration was quite remarkable, with a church overflowing with 115 people for the 11:00 am service of Holy Communion. Even the seats on the balcony were full! Afterwards, many of those who came to worship joined for a celebratory lunch at Pedro's, in Cala Torret, Binibequer. We were also able to distribute food parcels to more than 30 families - those identified by the Social Services department of Es Castell as being in need.



On Friday, 30 October, Tony Hatch shared an evening talking with Kate Strudwick about his experience in the music industry (spanning more than 50 years) and playing his music. The evening raised more than €1000 for the church. We are enormously grateful to Tony for sharing his talent, for a very entertaining evening (who knew that he's shifted to composing new songs that are 'age appropriate!') and for raising a significant amount for church funds. It was also good to see Kate reprising a role that she undertook for more than 15 years as a radio host in California.

All Saints Day was marked by a service of thanksgiving for those who have given us an example of Christian living through the ages. Afterwards, we retired to Samoa restaurant in Cala en Porter for lunch. The evening marks the eve of All Souls, when we remember all those who have died who are near and dear to us. A special service of evening prayer with candle-lighting for those whom we love but see no more was offered; this is especially for those who have experienced bereavement recently, but certainly not exclusively so; it can also be an opportunity to commemorate and give thanks for all those who have influenced and shaped us through our lives.



The Anglican community based at Santa Margarita has witnessed baptisms, a thanksgiving for the birth of a child, wedding blessings, renewal of marriage vows - all parts of the passages of life. Sadly, we have also had to mark the passing of some of our members, as well as members of the broader community in Menorca. Those who have died include Brenda Hyatt and Edward Lewis. Brenda Hyatt, the wife of Don, died quite unexpectedly after a very short illness while on holiday in England during July. She was known to all those who

frequented the animal rescue shop, as well as for her participation in other voluntary activities in Menorca.

23 September was a particularly sad day in the life of Santa Margarita. Edward Lewis, who with Marjorie has been a pillar of this congregation for 30 years, died peacefully in the Orfila Hospital. His life is a fascinating catalogue of adventure and enterprise, all wrapped a devout and steadfast faith. Despite the frailty of his last year, the twinkle in his eye persisted until very near the end. He is greatly missed, and our hearts go out to Marjorie and the rest of Edward's family as they come to terms with their loss - in which we share.

Events for 2015 and early 2016

- 5 December: 12:00 to 16:00, Christmas Bazaar in Es Castell.
 12 December: 16:00, JaFfA Christingle.
 13 December: 18:00, festival of lessons and carols at Santa Margarita.
 16 December: 13:00, Advent lunch at the Bar España in Es Castell.
 19 December: 12:00, Christmas Carol service in Ciutadella.
 24 December: 18:00, Christmas Eve family service of prayer, preceded by children's time.
 24 December: 23:00, midnight Christmas Eve service of Holy Communion.
 25 December: 10:30, Christmas Day service of Holy Communion.
 31 December: 17:00, service for the New Year, with reflection time and Holy Communion.
 9 February: 13:00, Shrove Tuesday pancake lunch.
 10 February: Ash Wednesday. "Ashes to Go" around the island at various times, including Ash Wednesday service of Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes at 11:00 in Santa Margarita.
 17 April: following the 11:00 service of Holy Communion, the annual meeting of the parish.

Golfers, mark your calendars! The next Annual Santa Margarita golf tournament is planned to take place at Son Parc on Saturday, 11 June 2016. There is going to be a major raffle in conjunction with the event, which will have as a main prize a trip for two to London in September or October, including a stay in a premium hotel, tickets for a show, meals, and so on. Tickets will go on sale in January.

Details of events taking place at Santa Margarita can always be found on the church web site: <http://anglicanchurchmenorca.com>, where there is a "News" section (top, right-hand corner). You can also follow us on Twitter: @anglicanmenorca.

Sponsored Songs Of Praise

After months of voting by members of the congregation of Santa Margarita, the following hymns were the nineteen that garnered the most votes. The top 15 were sung at the Songs of Praise event on Wednesday, 17 September, thanks to the flexibility of our guest organist, Richard Sharpe. The top 15 hymns were:

<i>What a friend we have in Jesus.</i>	<i>O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder.</i>
<i>Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine.</i>	<i>Dear Lord and Father of mankind.</i>
<i>And did those feet in ancient time (Jerusalem).</i>	<i>Guide me, O thou great Jehovah/Redeemer.</i>
<i>Glorious things of thee are spoken.</i>	<i>I, the Lord of sea and sky.</i>
<i>I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above.</i>	<i>God of Abraham, Lead Us.</i>
<i>Amazing grace (how sweet the sound).</i>	<i>Make me a channel of your peace.</i>
<i>To God be the glory, great things he has done!</i>	<i>Praise, my soul, the King of heaven.</i>
<i>Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.</i>	

The PCC has asked that we repeat this event - and we will. It was fun, we enjoyed the pizza afterwards, and it raised more than €300 for the church.

JaFfa



JaFfa gathers indoors or outdoors, covers numerous biblical subjects, such as the Good Samaritan, or the healing of a paralysed man through the help of his friends, and celebrates important events, such as birthdays.

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done, to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Regular Worship in Menorca

At Santa Margarita

Sunday (Holy Communion): 09:00 & 11:00; Wednesday (BCP): 11:00;

Friday (Communion & Healing): 11:00

Worship in Sant Francesc church, Ciutadella, last Sunday of each month: 17:00