

**No. 9
Lent/Easter
2017**

FOR THE EXTENDED
COMMUNITY OF
SANTA MARGARITA



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MENORCA ANGLICAN



The Alcalde and the Caixers of Es Castell greeted worshippers at the beginning of the fiesta of Saint James, which fell on a Sunday in 2016.

This newsletter is offered to help regular and intermittent members of the Anglican community in Menorca to keep in touch. This issue also serves as a review of the past year for the annual meeting of the chaplaincy.

A Year In The Life Of Santa Margarita

By a quirk of the calendar, the annual meeting of the chaplaincy this year is taking place before Easter; in 2016 it was after Easter. This means that we will have met twice without celebrating the resurrection - at least in a way. I made a comment at one of our Lenten discussions that we are, as Christians, meant to be Easter people: the core essence of our faith is rooted in the resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. The remark was met with raised eyebrows by a few; perhaps this is an aspect of Christian faith and tradition that deserves more explicit mention. Anyway, the remark was in the context of why there are 46 days between Ash

Wednesday and Easter, rather than 40 - because all Sundays, even those during the penitential season of Lent, are “feast” days - they are meant to be “little Easters,” reminding us to celebrate the resurrection. So while we may not have had the major celebration of resurrection and new life between our annual meetings, we are meant to have been giving thanks regularly for the new life that God bestows upon us.

We may not have celebrated Easter between our two meetings, but the chaplaincy has been customarily active. Worship continues its seasonal pattern of serving residents, “swallows” and visitors.

The church has a life beyond its use for worship on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. During the summer, thanks to several volunteers, the church is kept open during weekdays for at least a couple of hours each day. We are very pleased to welcome those who grace our building and its very accommodating acoustics with musical ministry: the Gwent Brass Band (in April), the Coral Mitjanit de Sant Lluís (in May), a recital after one of the Sunday services by a local choir of retired people (who turned out to be in remarkably good voice), and on Boxing Day, we are pleased to be able to accommodate a concert by a collection of choirs of various ages from the local community. We should not

forget that in September, thanks to Richard and Alison Sharpe, we repeated our “Sponsored Songs of Praise.”

On a tangential note, most of our regular worshippers are aware that the church was originally built as a chapel for the adjacent school, run by Carmelite sisters. There are still a few graduates of the school who appear when the church is open to remember and reminisce about their time there. One day last May, a group of visiting

Carmelites came to the church while it was open, and after briefly talking about its history, they burst into impromptu song - a completely unplanned and yet uplifting experience!

Saint George’s day was celebrated on 25th April with a service of Holy Communion in the chapel of Saint George on the Isla del Rey and a well-attended and satisfying lunch at the Taj restaurant in Addaia.

In May, the island was visited by a number of American dignitaries for the annual



commemoration of Admiral Farragut and his connection with Menorca. I was pleased to be able to participate in prayers at the English/American cemetery at Cala Llonga - drawing upon a connection with the Episcopal Church of the USA.

I believe that it is important for an island community to have strong connections outside its own boundaries. In this regard, the participation of the synod delegates in the annual archdeaconry synod serves as a point of communication with the representatives from all of the Anglican chaplaincies in Spain, Portugal and Morocco. As chaplain, I am pleased to be able to meet with the clergy from Anglican chaplaincies in northern Spain and the Balearics twice each year (and Menorca will be hosting the clergy in early June). We were graced by a visit from our Archdeacon, Geoff Johnston, and his wife Carol, in October.



One of the by-products of the gathering of clergy was the weekend with the writer, broadcaster and musician John Bell in Barcelona last April. Not only was John Bell in fine form, but the weekend was greatly appreciated as an opportunity to meet Anglicans from other parts of our region by those who participated.

The life of the congregation continues to have its social as well as its religious aspects. We have been treated to several opportunities to gather together, including a wine-and-cheese event at the home of Richard Lewartowski in June; a most satisfying lunch at the home of Penny and Keith Hargrave in August; and a

p l o u g h m a n ' s

lunch (very gratifying for the cheese-loving, vegetarian chaplain!) hosted by Dolly and Mike Martin in September - all of these also helped to raise funds for the church, for which we are most grateful. Our Harvest Festival was celebrated both in worship and with a lunch at the Samoa restaurant in Cala en Porter.

The annual golf tournament not only raised funds for the church, but allowed us to continue to promote the church and its work in the wider community.

The congregation of Santa Margarita tries to live out its ministry as a community of faith through outreach ministry. This includes collection of non-perishable food for the needy of Es Castell (and a few others), in conjunction with the social services department of the Ayuntamiento and (at Christmas) the Roman Catholic parish of El Roser. We do this at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.



Our partnership with the parish of El Roser and our representation within the local community is not limited to food parcels. In July, we celebrated the patronal feast of Santa Margarita of Antioch with ecumenical worship. The church was also richly decorated with flowers for the fiesta of Saint James, which fell on a Sunday, and the traditional procession of the Alcalde and Caixers that visits business and institutions to invite participation in the fiesta arrived at Santa Margarita just before the beginning of our 11:00 am worship.

The Women's World Day of Prayer takes place every year on the first Friday of March. It is prepared and arranged by the women of a different country each year. Organised by Dianne Carter , this year's day of prayer, prepared by the women of the Philippines, was held at Santa Margarita on 3 March.



One of our responsibilities as a congregation is to take care of the building which we rent for a very nominal amount from the Roman Catholic church, and to exercise good stewardship both of our resources and the environment. Last summer, thanks to donations from members of the congregation, and a couple of very generous contributions, we were able to replace our old, noisy air conditioners with a new, energy-efficient

heater and air conditioner that is matched to the needs of our building. We have been cooled in summer, warmed in winter, and our electricity bills seem to have benefited. We have also sealed several leaks around the church building and greatly improved the appearance of the patio area in the process. The one remaining challenge is going to be the church roof, which is beginning to show its age and succumb to the excesses of the more severe storms and wind by leaking.

The year was not without its personal tribulations. In January, returning from a visit to see her daughter, Emily, graduate from fashion design studies in Vancouver, Kate broke a rib. In May, while running, I tripped and fractured my arm. In August, Kate slipped when the heel of her shoe broke, and fractured a bone in her foot, which meant that our holiday in Andalusia was marked by crutches and wheelchairs. And in November, Kate slipped while hurrying for a bus in Es Castell, and did what our kids call a "face plant" on the cobblestones, which meant that she embarked on her annual visit to California for Thanksgiving with a striking black eye. We both hope that this series of little tribulations is over. We have been well looked after by the Spanish health service, but enough is enough!

We have said goodbye to some good friends during the year. Mike Young, of "Mike and Rita," died in April. He had been a consistently generous supporter of



Santa Margarita. Christina Heigh, wife of Richard, died in September. Greta Sheavyn, wife of Bob, died in December: the Sheavyns have been associated with Santa Margarita for more than two decades. And very recently we learned that Yvonne Tweed, who has come to be well-loved by the congregation of Santa Margarita, died peacefully in her sleep in England, where she and Dudley moved in 2016.

We said a less permanent, but still rather sad farewell to Violet and Dick Bruce at the beginning of March. Violet was a very visible face of welcome to those who entered the church, and the two of them hosted the coffee and tea time after worship on Sundays. They have moved to Northamptonshire in the UK.

Although funerals are a part of church life, we have also welcomed new members of the body of Christ. In May, Lola Mae Leonard was baptised during the monthly communion service in Ciutadella. There were also twelve wedding blessings in 2016.

It has been encouraging to be able to share some significant milestones in the lives of our church family during the year. Margaret and Colin Guanaria celebrated fifty years of marriage in May, as did Lorraine and Ron Payne of our Ciutadella community in April, and in June, Ann Hanson and Ken Horne celebrated forty years of marriage. Dolly and Mike Martin celebrated their golden wedding anniversary from August to October - and why not?! - with their anniversary falling in October. During the year, there were some quite significant birthday celebrations as well.

These are some of the highlights of a year in the life of Santa Margarita's community of faith. As the author of John's gospel concludes: "there are also many other things," but at least these give a flavour of our journey together as "Easter people." We are very blessed to be associated with this beautiful and (mostly) peaceful island - especially those of us who live here. The life of the church community is richly blessed in many ways. Let us be thankful for what we have, appreciative of our responsibility to exercise good stewardship of it, and ever mindful of the needs of others.



Paul +

The Diocesan Lent Appeal

The Menedékház, founded in 2005 on the outskirts of Budapest, helps homeless families with children reintegrate into the workplace and society at large. The name signifies a shelter. It currently serves about 160 people. Helen, Bishop Robert's wife, visited the Foundation last year, and was impressed by its work - but also by the primitive conditions and surroundings. This year's Lenten appeal is for a wonderfully tangible and pragmatic project: to provide modernised washrooms and toilets. The cost of the renovation is expected to be about £15,000 - to provide three large bathroom areas; 10-12 cubicles in each washroom, with doors and locks for individual and family use; at least one bay-changing and washing station; sinks; toilets; new walls and flooring; ventilation; showers; windows; and upgraded electricity and plumbing. Those who wish to make a donation may do so through the diocese, or by giving donations, clearly marked "Lent Appeal," through Santa Margarita. As ever, Gift Aid can be applied.



The Scripts of Our Lives

Rev. Paul Strudwick

The scripts of our lives are more often written for us than by us. There are times when life reminds us, bluntly, that whatever degree of control we believe that we have is an illusion.

On a cloudy Wednesday afternoon in Buxton, Derbyshire, in early January, my mother died quietly, while I was flying from Menorca to England. It is not the script that I would have written. In that version, I arrive on Thursday morning, pray with her, and hold her hand while she quietly slips away. Instead, she decided to depart while I was still in transit. But my father and sister were there together, which is somehow deeply comforting: she was not alone - and they were not alone afterwards. And I had been able to spend time with her in the preceding weeks.

I have been with quite a number of people at their death - enough to know that there is no point in writing a script, because people seldom follow it. Sometimes, if they can, they choose the moment of departure, with a startling manifestation of just how strong our minds and spirits can be even when our bodies seem to be at their weakest. Sometimes they don't have the choice. Death can steal upon us like a thief in the night - or sometimes like daylight robbery.

It seems such a cliche to say that someone is at peace after they have died. I am not sure how often I have used the expression; I try always to use words with sincerity. But

faced with this death, I find that these words do have truth and value. My mother was always very much in control of things - and was palpably distressed to find herself with less and less control of anything, even her own body. So there is peace to be found in the end of it. Beyond that, we find ourselves in the area of faith.

The Christian attitude towards death comes into sharp focus at Easter and during the weeks that lead up to it. The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus at Easter is a counterpoint of hope to the sadness, suffering and death that precede it. During the week before Easter, the church commemorates the events that culminated in the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples (with the exception of a few women), and his arrest, abuse and execution by the Roman authorities, aided and abetted by the leaders of his own people. We spend six weeks before that, during the season of Lent (*Cuaresma* in Spanish), preparing ourselves for Good Friday and then Easter.

This cycle of commemoration and reenactment draws us into the events that largely define Christianity. Nevertheless, it is ultimately about faith. When we speak of death, and what comes beyond, there are times when I feel like a travel agent selling tickets to a destination that I have never visited. I am aware that I shall ultimately be making this journey, no matter which quote from Woody Allen may apply, such as, "I'm not afraid of death; I just don't want to be around when it happens." The message of Easter is that death does not have the final word, even if we don't know exactly what the final word is. This is not a script that we can write for ourselves.

Shortly before my mother's death, I found myself reading John Donne's poem, "Death, Be Not Proud," and pondering on its final lines:

"One short sleep past, we wake eternally
And death shall be no more, death, thou shalt die."

And the punctuation of that is important, as anyone who has seen the film, "Wit," from 2001, will know. (See <http://anglicanchurchmenorca.com/death-be-not-proud/> for a fuller explanation.)

Death is probably the ultimate reminder that the control that most human beings crave in life is largely an illusion. There are some scripts that we cannot write for ourselves. At Easter, we celebrate the reassurance that it doesn't matter if we don't have control; there is a larger and more hopeful script that God writes than we could ever write for ourselves.

"Lord, Bless Them, Change Me"

Kate Strudwick

This is a simple little mantra, a simple little prayer and it had a profound impact on me when I first came upon it. I can't even remember where I saw it originally, or who uttered those simple, but powerful words.

I have a very pretty, spiral, hard-backed journal, that I refer to as my "spiritual notebook." It is here that I paste things that inspire me. Photos from magazines, cards

I have been sent, photos I have taken, a photo of my daughter just born. The first photo I took of my true love, before I was his true love. It is here, the phrase “Lord, Bless Them, Change Me” holds a prominent position. The hope of this “notebook” is that it will help me connect to, and recognise, my spiritual self, that still, small voice within GOD. The connection can be shadowy and thin at any given time ... (oh how I admire those with unfaltering faith!).

I remember when “Bless them Change Me,” began to sink in, my reaction as the words and the possibilities unfolded. So simple, yet mind-boggling like some of the zen phrases I had come upon. No criticism, no blaming, no judging. It is instead pure, unadulterated acceptance of another, and complete responsibility for my own thoughts.



Young Families in Church

Dianne Carter

JaFfA (Jesus a Friend for All) CLUB

A Few Statistics

In January 2017, JaFfA celebrated its fourth birthday - we are now into our fifth year!

We started 2016 with six families; and four new ones joined during the year. In total there are 21 children on our attendance register, whose ages ranged, during 2016, from 11 years to 1 year.

There were 13 meetings of JaFfA during 2016; the average attendance at each session (children and adults) was 13.

THEMES COVERED IN 2016

January - Reflecting the Light

Recalling the Christingle theme of the previous month, we explored how we can reflect Christ’s light in our lives. One of the activities for the afternoon was making our own candles from beeswax sheets.

February - Preparation for Lent

We looked at things we could take up, rather than give up for Lent; also exploring the section of the Lord’s Prayer “forgive us, as we forgive others”; and that true repentance can wipe the slate clean.

March - Mothering Sunday

Based on an extract from Psalm 91 “[God] will shield [us] with his wings; he will shelter [us] with his feathers”, we likened God’s loving care to that which we can receive from,



and also give to, others in our daily lives (homes, schools, work). Lots of feathers were involved in making beautiful mother hens. The children (and adults) also decorated little boxes in which to put Mothering Sunday thank you gifts to give to the carers of their choice.

March - Good Friday

The title for our Good Friday service was “God’s Peace, our Peace” - it was a reflective, multi-sensory time to survey the depth of God’s love, not only on Good Friday, but always and forever.

April - Easter

The children (and adults) wove palm leaf fridge magnets, and each family mounted a collage of the complete Easter story (with moveable “stone”, sleeping Roman soldiers and angels with very fluffy wings).

May (held in April) - Ascension and Pentecost

After a craft activity that had Jesus ascending through the clouds back to his Father, we got really messy with handprints on fabric squares - that are to become our new Pentecost banner. In preparation for the feast all the children made flame-inspired headbands, which they wore for a red-themed repast.

June - David - shepherd, musician, soldier, poet and king

After looking at various short extracts from the life and times of David, the children compiled their own biography of him.



July - The Story of Esther

After the children had made models of a Torah scroll, and “Hamaan’s ears” (ready for cooking at home), we prepared finger puppets of the characters of the Esther story. This we then acted out, with much noise from the groggers and shouting, to drown out the name of Hamaan each time it was read.

August - Joseph

The long tale of Joseph’s life was interspersed with craft activities, to reflect on the story at its various stages, culminating in the reunion and reconciliation of Joseph’s family.

September - Abram/Abraham and Sarai/Sarah

We explored the journey that Abram/Abraham and Sarai/Sarah made with God: their faithfulness and God's promises.

October (held in September) - The Great Flood

The children were willing participants in moving the animals in and out, and about the ark as the storyteller attempted to bring to life the tale of Noah.



the candles were lit, and some sort of wonder filled the space - the Christ-light was shining.

November - For all the Saints

What makes a saint? What can we learn from them? Do we too have saintly qualities? And how can we use them?

December - Christingle celebration

At top-speed the children prepared their Christingle oranges. Then, with our trusty hand puppet Nativity set, and with lots of extra angels and shepherds, we acted out the story of the birth of Christ. Once again,





JUNIOR CHURCH At Santa Margarita

Junior Church is offered every Sunday, during the 11:00am Eucharist; the theme is nearly always related to the Common Worship Lectionary readings for that day. It is a delight that seven families who holiday regularly in Menorca return to visit us: through the wonders of the internet we keep in touch and can be prepared for them.



JUNIOR CHURCH At the church of Sant Francesc, Ciutadella

Junior Church has been available during the monthly evening Eucharist.

It has transformed itself into:

SMALL SAINTS IN CIUTADELLA

Small Saints meets on Saturday morning once a month. There are four families who have attended.

It is a time for learning and craft, following by a simple family Eucharist.

We are truly grateful to the Carmelite sisters for allowing us to use their chapel for this.

Worship for Holy Week and Easter in Menorca

Sunday, 9 April

09:00 Holy Communion
 11:00 Blessing of palms, procession, Passion narrative, Holy Communion

Monday, 10 April

11:00 Morning Prayer
 17:30 Evening Prayer – reflections on stations of the cross (1-5)

Tuesday, 11 April

11:00 Morning Prayer
 17:30 Evening Prayer – reflections on stations of the cross (6-10)
 20:00 Procession, *Via Crucis*, the Way of the Cross, in Es Castell.

Wednesday, 12 April

11:00 Holy Communion
 17:30 Evening Prayer – reflections on stations of the cross (11-14)

Thursday, 13 April

11:00 Holy Communion with foot washing
 17:30 Tenebrae service with Holy Communion followed by stripping of the altar

Friday, 14 April

12:00 Good Friday vigil of reading, hymns and silence – Words from the Cross
 17:30 Family service

Saturday, 15 April

12:00 Family worship in the Chapel of the Carmelitas in Ciutadella
 20:30 The Great Vigil of Easter and service of light

Sunday, 16 April

07:00 Sunrise Communion at Punta Prima beach
 09:00 Holy Communion at Santa Margarita
 11:00 Holy Communion at Santa Margarita

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

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.

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