

## Services during June 2018

### Nazaret

Church of Nuestra Señora de Nazaret June 3, 17 **10:00 AM**

### Puerto del Carmen

Church of Nuestra Señora in the harbour, Old Town June 3, 10, 17, 24 **12:30 PM**

### Playa Blanca

Church of Nuestra Señora del Carmen June 3, 10, 17, 24 **5:00 PM**

**After the 12.30 Sunday service, you are invited to coffee** (or any other beverage) and fellowship at Restaurante la Sirena in Puerto del Carmen.

## Principal Church contacts

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ANGLICAN PARISH  
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

## Our Monthly Newsletter – June 2018



**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 congregations and services and visit our website on [www.lanzarotechurch.com](http://www.lanzarotechurch.com)

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



## **Monthly Message by our Locum Fr. Richard**

It is only in St Luke's Gospel, and the Acts of the Apostles that we have any indication of where the Ascension of Jesus took place. In both it refers to Bethany on the Mt of Olives, but it is not an easy place to find. The pilgrim is directed, not to a Christian site, but to the courtyard of a small mosque. In the centre of the mosque is a circular tower, but the diameter is so small that only 5 people can be accommodated, and in the centre is a bare rock with what looks like a footprint. This, the pilgrim is told, is the place from which Jesus ascended. There is surrounding evidence to confirm that this site has been revered since the first century. The Muslim community have accepted that it is an important Christian shrine, and as such, enables Christians to visit and celebrate the Ascension on the appropriate date. Whether or not this is the actual spot is not important. What is important is that we have a focus for the event. The feast of the Ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, the final departure from his friends, and his return to the mystery of his Father. During his ministry in Galilee Jesus prepared his disciples for the work they were to do after his departure. The disciples have received a vision of the scope of their commission, which was to go out to the whole world and announce the good news about Jesus Christ. The Ascension is a way of saying that Jesus, no longer here in the flesh, has entered a new form of existence, and is enjoying the presence of God. His departure marks a turning point in his relationship with his close followers, and also a significant turning point in Jesus' relationship with us. He is returning to the Father so that he can be presented to the church in a more accessible manner. While on earth his ministry was limited to Israel. After the Ascension Christ, in his glorified state, has a power whose outreach is universal. The disciples have received words of assurance that they will be supported in their work by Jesus through the Holy Spirit that will give them the gifts, the talents and the skills needed to continue his work. It is human nature to place things we revere, respect, love and honour on a pedestal. Celeb status is part of the human psyche. It is therefore not surprising that reading the scriptural descriptions of Jesus' returning to his father after the earth-shattering experience of his resurrection, that the opportunity for us all to attain eternal life with him that we all should, in the words of scripture, look heavenwards. Raising Jesus to celeb status just confirms that we love and adore him and what he stands for and we look forward with anticipation to his return. With the power of God on our side, we have been entrusted with the greatest message the world has ever known. While we keep our thoughts fixed on heaven, we must have our feet firmly planted on the earth and not be afraid to involve ourselves in this world. To sit back and do nothing is to forget that we have a mission to perform. In a real sense as members of his body, we are an extension of Christ in the world today.

## **News and Events in June 2018**

The Ascension is a call to service, to be more energetic in living the gospel, to make a good deal more out of life, to tackle it positively and with enthusiasm. We have to make Christ present to the world and recognizable by the quality of our lives. This means confronting evil in its many forms, caring for the sick and bringing healing to those suffering in body and wounded in spirit. The times when we experience real happiness and genuine satisfaction are those which find us completely absorbed in caring for others or supporting worthwhile causes. To sum up then, this is a festival of joy and hope, as it focuses on heaven as our journey's end and longed for destination. For the present we are entrusted with the task of being the visible presence of Christ's saving love in the community within which we live. Of course, we will have God's help in our devolved mission to carry on Jesus' work. However, although it is right to pray for help and guidance, we need to use our God given gifts and get to work. Once we get on with our mission, in whatever way we are able we will know his peace has touched us and we are on the right road to establishing a community of justice, truth and peace in our own small corner of life. The Ascension announces the good news that Christ is with us always. He has not left us. He has simply taken on a new role.

### **Apostles Lunch**

Our Apostles' Lunch is a monthly, informal, social occasion to which everyone is welcome. The Apostles Lunch in June takes place on June 13, 2018. Please contact Polly Price ([polly@apafin.com](mailto:polly@apafin.com) / 636 832458) for further details.

### **Copper Collection**

Copper Collection - Please leave your copper donations in the collecting cap at the end of the service and help to provide food through CARITIS for those in need.

### **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.

### **Sale in aid of church funds**

We are planning to hold another sale in aid of Church funds at Tahiche and anyone who has anything to donate to contact Bill Mowbray (contact details overleaf).

### **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.