

Services during December 2016

December 4th	Nazaret	10:00am	Holy Communion
	Puerto del Carmen	12:30pm	Holy Communion
	Playa Blanca	5:00pm	Holy Communion
December 11th	Nazaret	10:00am	Nativity Play
	Puerto del Carmen	12:30pm	Holy Communion
	Playa Blanca	5:00pm	Holy Communion
December 18th	Nazaret	10:00am	Holy Communion
	Puerto del Carmen	12:30pm	Holy Communion
	Playa Blanca	5:00pm	Carol Service
December 24th	Puerto del Carmen	11:00am	Holy Communion
	Playa Blanca	4:00pm	Holy Communion
December 25th	Nazaret	11:00am	Holy Communion
January 1st	Puerto del Carmen	12:30pm	Holy Communion
	Playa Blanca	5:00pm	Holy Communion

Principal Church contacts

Chaplain	Currently in Interregnum	928 51 42 41
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ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

Our Monthly Newsletter – December 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 Message by Rev Robert Ellis (locum Nov 16)

Say "Yes" this Christmas

I've never lived it down. The whole family were sitting around the dining room table ready for Christmas dinner. I was poised with carving knife and fork ready to attack the bird lying there with its legs in the air. I quite fancy myself with a carving knife - I think it's the frustrated surgeon in me and I'm not one of those who's prepared to pass the job on to someone else. I had carefully removed the wishbone, amputated the leg and started work on the breast.

At first I thought it was the colour of the stuffing, which had leached into the white meat but the more I carved the greener it got. I persevered but slowly my nerve started giving way. This certainly wasn't a turkey for eating. The whole cavity inside was green. It wasn't mould and it wasn't putrid and to this day I don't know what it was but there was no way that I was going to eat it.

Faces fell, knives and forks were put down and we were glad that my sister-in-law had brought two large tins of salmon, which we accompanied with the "roasties" and vegetables. There was no gravy or trimmings. Against all the cookbook rules we'd stuffed the "neck end" with sage and onion stuffing and the "unmentionable end" with sausage meat - so we couldn't take any risks with either of those. As always it was the young who stated the obvious, that the old were studiously avoiding in their state of enforced jollity and Dunkirk spirit. It was my five-year old niece who proclaimed in a loud voice, "Well this is not a very Merry Christmas is it?"

I suppose by our standards the first Christmas wasn't terribly merry either. Mary had had little say in the matter after all. What if she'd said "No", what if she'd been too busy, too afraid or too conventional. There were hundreds of ways of getting out of it and "I'm not that sort of girl anyway". For a moment the consequences of saying, "Yes" ran past her. The stranger saw the panic and confusion in her eyes, "Don't be afraid," he reassured her, "You've found favour with God!" Well, God's favour was one thing - "Thank you very much but I've got to go on living in this village, with these neighbours, a tight knit, traditional, hard-working peasant village - it's OK saying 'yes' to you but what about them?" To be a mother is what most Jewish women want to be - it's what most Jewish jokes are about but what a sour joke, to be an unmarried mother in a Jewish village. I wonder how many other doors the angel had knocked on.

Christmas is not a two thousand year old story because, like the crucifixion, it's happening every day. The question is not what if Mary had said, "No" but what if we say, "No"? "No" to love and "No" to life. It's not a trial run, this is the real thing. If we can keep Christmas in perspective we may find in our busyness that the baby of Bethlehem has one or two clues as to how we really can have a very Merry Christmas and say "Yes" to grabbing life with both hands.

News and Events in December 2016

The Parish is currently in Interregnum.

We welcome back as our locum in December and January the Venerable Geoffrey Arrand and his wife Margaret.

We are delighted to announce that the Rev Peter Ford, currently the sub-Dean and Port Chaplain of Gibraltar, has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of our Parish of St Laurence with effect from 24th January 2017. It is expected that his formal licencing by our Archdeacon will take place in the first half of February.

Time and Talents needed

As important as our Financial giving is the use we make of the gifts and talents which God has entrusted to us. Are you able to offer of your time and talents in further supporting our church?

Some areas in which we are currently

looking for further help are: Publicity distribution, Congregational Worship Leader, Welcomer at Services, Sacristan duties, Musicians, and Parish Visitor.

If you can offer help in any of these areas, please contact either of our Churchwardens or other parish officers.

The Apostles Lunch

The Apostles Lunch in December, which is a monthly informal social occasion to which all are welcome, will be at 1.30pm on Wednesday 14th December at La Barca restaurant in Playa Honda. For further details, please contact Freida Burke on 928 524347.

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.