

Services during December 2018

Nazaret

Church of Nuestra Señora	December 2, 16	10:00 AM
de Nazaret	December 25	11:00 AM

Puerto del Carmen

Church of Nuestra Señora in the harbour, Old Town	December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	12:30 PM
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After the Sunday Service you are invited to coffee (or any other beverage) and fellowship at Restaurante El Asador in Puerto del Carmen.

Playa Blanca

Church of Nuestra Señora del Carmen	December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	5:00 PM
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Principal Church contacts

Chaplaincy House	Chaplaincy House Calle Los Sabandenos 37 35510 Puerto del Carmen	928 51 42 41
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The Parish is currently in Interregnum.



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

Our Monthly Newsletter – December 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



DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Monthly Message by Revd. Robert Ellis

Queuing, shopping and spending.

Advent is one of those seasons, like Whitsun, that everybody once knew about but is now in danger of being forgotten. You're far more likely nowadays to hear a certain date described as the day when there are just 22 shopping days left to Christmas than as the second Sunday of Advent!

December is about queuing, shopping and spending. Yet, for all that, there is something of Advent left in that kind of Christmas preparation; there is a sense of expectancy, of anticipation. The religious meaning of "Advent" is there in the word itself. Its root lies in the Latin word for "coming", and the season commemorates the waiting of the world for the coming of Christ, for the incarnation of God in the world. And as the candles of the traditional Advent wreath are lit, one by one, on the Sundays in December, they symbolise Christ as a light in the darkness.

For early Christians, Advent had a particular significance, for they thought that Christ would soon return to the world. Today, the anticipation and hope of the season is focused more on God becoming incarnate among us, and us being transformed. The Nativity story tells us much about those whose lives are changed profoundly by the coming of Christ to the world. There is nothing exclusive about those drawn to Bethlehem. The shepherds, simple, rural workers, are the first to be called. The three kings are to be as reverent as any others coming to see the newborn child. Indeed, the rich must make a long and arduous journey to the stable. There they find God incarnated not into an imperial family of Rome nor an influential one of Jerusalem.

Mary is pregnant at her betrothal, a woman who became the mother of a condemned criminal and who outlived her child. But she was someone who uttered a wholehearted "yes" to God and whose son urged us not to wealth or power but to compassion.

In part of Luke's Gospel, in a passage that is a popular reading for Advent, Christ warns his followers to stay awake, to be on the alert. "Watch yourselves," he says, "or your hearts will be coarsened with the cares of life." And in his encyclical on hope, published a few years ago, the Pope writes of people yearning for the material, but finding, he says, "when these hopes are fulfilled, it becomes clear they were not, in reality, the whole". Advent is a season when we can all ask ourselves whether we're overburdened, with the rush to consume, with the desire for power and success. It's a time to put the cares of life to one side, to pause, to take stock and to wonder.

Christmas is coming and there's nothing we can do to stop it. We know it's coming because the lights are already up, the trees are in, and because a certain number of doors on the Advent Calendar have been opened.

We know it's coming because the prophets of anxiety are predicting a difficult time for the shoppers and retailers of our over-stretched, debt-ridden land. We feel the imminence of Christmas in the mincemeat sensations of excitement and dread; of wishing it would never end and wanting it over with now. Of the need to be at home - with family and friends - and the desire to escape it all and get as far away as possible.

Advent means the arrival - or coming - of an important person or thing.

But break it down into its compound words: 'ad' and 'vent' and it looks alarmingly like something to do with advertising and windows - it sounds like a big commercial wind up. Which of course it is. And has been, and probably always will be. Which is why self righteous -like, seasonal rants about the commercial aspect of Christmas will do nothing to change it.

Priests asking us not to throw out the baby Jesus with the bath water should save their breath. If they want us to question anything at Christmas it should be the baby: Do we need the baby? Do we want the baby? What is this baby for? It's easy to see that Christmas 'doesn't come from a store. Isaiah, a prophet who lived before Christ, framed our need in this way:

News and Events in December 2018

'O that you would tear open the heavens and come down.' There was an ache for a Saviour long before one appeared. As to what this saviour is for - Isaiah put it in these startling terms: 'for those living in darkness, a light has come,' and later 'he will be pierced for our transgressions and by his wounds we are healed.'

For Isaiah it took 600 years and a thousand Advent Calendar windows before the double doors opened on the baby in the manger he predicted would be 'the saviour of the world.' That's a kind of patience - a kind of expectation and waiting - that's hard to grasp. In theory, for us, the waiting is over. The baby - whether we like it or not - is here - Immanuel or God with us.

As we know only too well we can't stop Christmas from coming, 'Somehow or other, it comes just the same! The challenge for us this Advent is finding the space to think about why it came at all in the first place.

Christmas

Our annual celebration of carols and readings for Christmas

will be at 5pm on Sunday 16th December in the Playa Blanca church.

Christmas Voices will be presenting their carol concerts in aid of the Calor y Cafe charity in Playa Blanca church at 4pm on Tuesday 18th December & in Puerto del Carmen church at 6.30pm on Wednesday 19th December

Christmas Day Service

Tuesday, the 25th December: Holy Communion service in Nazaret at 11am

Apostles Lunch

Our Christmas apostles lunch, to which everyone is welcome, will be at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 12th December at the Treat Cafe Bar close to the ferry port in Playa Blanca. Please contact Polly Price (Polly@apafin.com) for further information or to sign up.

Mothers' Union meets on 10th December at 2.30pm with a talk by Jackie on the Holy Land at the home of Marilyn Forder.

There is also a Mince Pie and mulled wine evening on the 20th December. Tickets at 5 euros. Please contact: 928 513480.

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. We comply fully with the requirements of the Diocese's Safeguarding Policy.

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.