

Services during January 2019

Nazaret

Church of Nuestra Señora de Nazaret January 6, 20 **10:00 AM**

Puerto del Carmen

Church of Nuestra Señora in the harbour, Old Town January 6, 13, 20, 27 **12:30 PM**

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 January 6, 13, 20, 27 **5:00 PM**

Principal Church contacts

Chaplaincy House	Chaplaincy House Calle Los Sabandenos 37 35510 Puerto del Carmen	928 51 42 41
Churchwarden	Bill Mowbray bill.mowbray@btconnect.com	928 52 30 93
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Electoral Roll Officer	Brenda Hargreaves farobrenda@hotmail.com	928 51 88 41
Safeguarding Officer	Robin Wardle robinsilvesterw@gmail.com	928 51 13 05

The Parish is currently in Interregnum.



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

Our Monthly Newsletter – January 2019



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



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DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Monthly Message by Revd. Richard Costin

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany

The new church year began with the season of Advent with the four Sundays before Christmas. During this time our churches were adorned with the Advent Wreath. Four candles placed in special holders and surrounded by greenery. The tradition began in Germany, but nobody can agree how far back it stretches. Some say it is pre-Christian, and that the four candles represent the four seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter. According to this theory, it was hung up in wintertime so that the greenery can remind us that the barren winter-cold does not last all year. However, wax candles were unknown in Europe until the Middle Ages and light came from oil lamps. It has been said that candles were introduced by Christians around the sixteenth century. Recent research indicates that the wreath, with four candles on it, was made by a Johann Wichern, a minister in Hamburg, when children kept pestering him to know: 'Is it Christmas yet?' In 1839 he hung up a wooden cartwheel, and placed round the rim four white candles to be lit on Sundays, and red ones for the weekdays in December. As the custom spread, the wreath was made smaller, and only four candles remained usually coloured red. However, in the 1920's there were variations and today many churches have either four purple candles, the colour of the penitential season, or three purple and one rose-coloured for the third Sunday when the solemnity is relaxed a little. Advent is a penitential season to give Christians the opportunity for the repentance of sins as they prepare themselves both for the coming of Jesus. both as the baby, and His return in triumph at the end of time. There are usually no flowers in church, and the 'Gloria' is omitted. Often a fifth white candle is lit at Christmas. One candle is lit on the first Sunday and two on the second and so on. Prayers are written and said as they are lit. The themes are the coming of Jesus to forgive those who repent; John the Baptist and those who prepared his way; the coming of justice on earth; and the announcement of the coming birth of Jesus.

Before Jesus was born, people didn't know that we shall all go to heaven when we die; they thought that God was a fierce judge who sent bad people to hell. But Jesus brought the good news that God loves us and reminds us of that love when he says; 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' So, every time we light a candle we can think how much brighter and happier our lives have been since Jesus came to us.

Advent ends with a blaze of light and joyful celebration. It is a feast full of hope. What we celebrate is no less than God's entry into the world in human form. Despite our familiarity with the happening, the simple gospel story strikes a chord and invokes a response in every Christian. Our minds go back to the birth of a tiny baby, in a humble shepherd's sheltering place, somewhere in the hills near Bethlehem. Christ came quietly, without any fuss, born into a poor family in dire circumstances.

News and Events in January 2019

There was no royal fanfare to announce his arrival. The first to know were the ordinary people in the form of the shepherds on the hills around Bethlehem who came without hesitation bringing what they could as a mark of respect and love for the saviour of the world. Today we mark this momentous occasion with feasting and celebration. We sing familiar carols which relate aspects of the event.

Then we come to the next momentous celebration, that of Epiphany, when we remember the arrival of the Magi bearing gifts. The message of Epiphany is that God wants to show his love for all without exception. His mercy, forgiveness and compassion are not restricted to an exclusive elite but are offered to everyone. No one is excluded, and in this respect throughout the season of Christmas and Epiphany we need to remember those who are less fortunate, just as the Holy Family, and share what we can with them; and the need to work for Christian unity.

A Happy New Year to all our congregations, visitors and friends!

Our locum from the 8th to 29th January is Canon Peter Cavanagh.

Ecumenical Service

To celebrate the Week of Christian Unity, there will an ecumenical service in Puerto del Carmen, together with the Catholic, German Lutheran and Norwegian churches, at 7 pm on Tuesday 22nd January.

Apostles Lunch

Our January apostles lunch, to which everyone is welcome, will be at 1.30 pm on 15.01.2019. The venue will be announced at all services. Please contact Freida Burke (Freida.Burke@gmail.com) for further information or to sign up.

Mothers' Union meets on 14th January at 2.30pm with a talk by Bill Mowbray at the home of Marilyn Forder.

For further information, please contact Marilyn at 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.