

Services during December 2019

Nazaret

Church of Nuestra Señora de Nazaret Dec 1
(last service in Nazaret) **10.00 AM**

Puerto del Carmen

Church of Nuestra Señora in the harbour, Old Town Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 25, 29 **12.30 PM**

After the Sunday Service you are invited to join us for a beverage and fellowship at the Asian restaurant opposite the church in Puerto del Carmen.

Playa Blanca

Church of Nuestra Señora del Carmen Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 24, 29 **5.00 PM**

Principal Church contacts

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ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

Our monthly Newsletter - December 2019



Welcome to the Anglican Parish of St Laurence's Lanzarote!

Our mission is to serve the English speaking residents and also the many visitors to this beautiful island. Our local congregations work hard to ensure that those who visit and share in our worship return to their home churches refreshed and renewed.

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.

Please visit our website – www.lanzarotechurch.com – and follow us on Facebook for the very latest news: *Lanzarote Church of England Parish of St Laurence.*

For those planning their wedding – we would be delighted to welcome you to the island and help in arranging that very special Blessing of your Marriage in these idyllic surroundings.

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Christmas Message from our Chaplain



News & Events in December 2019

This Christmas will be our first on Lanzarote and so for us as a family there will be many changes. We are excited at the thought of having our grandchildren come to us the only problem we face is that we have limited space for the reindeers ...but I am sure we will overcome!

These past eight months has been a roller-coaster for the Chaplaincy, and I pleased to say that we can look forward with optimism and confidence to the new year.

As we enter Advent to 'prepare the way of the Lord' we hope and pray that we will experience and celebrate the greatest gift to us all – Emmanuel – God with us. I pray that you will know the central message of that first Christmas event. That is all that matters.

At the heart of the Christmas Gospel narrative is the understanding that things are not always going to work out as we would like them to. But at the heart of the message is that God is always with us.

Yet all is not calm in our world, in Europe, Lebanon, Hong Kong, Africa and the Middle East. As I write, the election campaign in the UK has commenced with all the bitterness that contradicts any Christian message. If only people would listen to the words of Jesus – *Love one another, as I have loved you*'.

This Christmas time, when the world is a cold, frightening and uninviting place for so many, the first task of the Church must be to bring hope where there is fear, love where there is no peace, and that we give rather than receive.

The good news that, the promise that God's plans for humanity and for creation are brighter than the darkness of their night: *'do not be afraid – for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people'*.

But where is the good news for the homeless, the migrant, the unemployed, the elderly? Where is the joy for people around the world denied democracy and human rights, the migrants and for those who live in poverty and under oppression?

The hope lies in the manger in Bethlehem. Christ came that we could have life and life in abundance to face the future without fear. In his poem – *Christmas* – John Betjeman dismisses the commercialisation of Christmas and challenges us to return to the truth of the Christian message:

And it is true, This most tremendous tale of all... The maker of the stars and the sea... became a child on earth for me?

May each and every one of you have a happy and wonderfully joyous Christmas and may 2020 be a happy and peaceful year for us all.

Fr Stan and Rosemary – Chaplaincy House

Apostles Lunch

Our October Apostles lunch will be on Tuesday, 10/12/19 at 1.30pm.

The venue will be announced at all services.

Everybody is welcome for fellowship and a nice lunch.

Please let Polly Price (polly@apafin.com) know if you are able to attend by Friday 6/12/19.

Nazaret

At the Council meeting on 8th December, Fr Stan explained that the move of the Christmas Day service from Nazaret to Puerto del Carmen had been necessitated by the greater demand for the service there, particularly following the cessation of the midnight communion. Discussion then centred on the feasibility of monthly services in Nazaret, given the very low attendances, the termination of the children's ministry, the availability of alternative services elsewhere, and the disproportionate consumption of time and energy to minimal effect. A new approach was needed if we were to optimise the impact of our resources, human and otherwise, in that area. After further discussion, particularly concerning the effect on those members of the congregation affected, it was agreed that St Laurence services should cease at Nazaret after the Advent Sunday service on December 1st.

Christmas Services

December will be busy!

Shortly before Christmas, on Sunday, December 22nd, we will have a **Carol Service** in Playa Blanca at 5.00pm – it's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the spirit of Christmas together with friends and family.

On **Christmas Eve**, December 24th, we will be holding a Holy Communion Service in Playa Blanca at 5.00pm.

Our **Christmas Day** Service on December 25th will take place in Puerto del Carmen as a United Service at 12.30pm.

A list of all Sunday Services can be found on the back of the Newsletter.

Mothers Union December dates

Dec 9, 2.30 pm – Visit Belen

Dec 16, 5.00 pm - Social event with Carols, Canapés, Cava & Cerveza.

Tickets 6 Euros.

Please get in touch with Marilyn (marilynford@yahoo.co.uk).

From the Registers

Marriage blessings

November 11th at Hotel Costa Calero - Orla McGuirk and Sean Brannigan