

ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL of the GOOD SHEPHERD
Lima, Peru

Advent and Christmas 2025



Oh come, let us worship Him

The congregation of the Good Shepherd wishes you a very
Blessed and Happy Christmas

Inside this bulletin individual church members would like to share some of their experiences and others giving details of our church activities.



Events taking place at the Good Shepherd over the Advent and Christmas season.

November 29. Christmas Bazaar

November 30. Sights/Sounds/Smells of Christmas--a family friendly event with crafts and foods to welcome the season of Advent. 10am

December 7. Hanging of the Greens Service 10 AM

Dec. 7. Strings of Christmas-Family event with members of the symphony 3pm

December 14. Advent/Eucharist Service 10 AM

December 16. Lessons and Carol Service by candlelight. 7 pm

December 21. Advent/Eucharist Service 10 AM

December 23. Christmas Eve/Eve Eucharist and Service 7 pm

December 24. Christmas Eve Prayer Vigil. 7 - 8pm

December 25. Christmas Day Service and Eucharist. 10am



Isaiah 9:6: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

A Christmas message from our Vicar and Dean of the Cathedral.



Welcome to Advent the Season of Hope and Expectation and to the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical year and is a season of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." Traditionally observed during the four weeks before Christmas, Advent invites believers to reflect on both Christ's first coming in Bethlehem and His promised return in glory.

During Advent, Christians focus on themes of hope, peace, joy, and love—often symbolized by the four candles on the Advent wreath. Each week, a new candle is lit, representing the growing light of Christ entering a world of darkness. Here at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd we mark the season with prayer, Scripture readings, and acts of kindness, cultivating a spirit of anticipation and renewal.

More than just a countdown to Christmas, Advent is a sacred time to pause amid the busyness of life and open one's heart to God's presence. It reminds us that waiting is not passive but an act of faith—trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled in His perfect time.

It is my prayer that you will join us at the Cathedral as we share together this season with family friendly events and activities designed to help us focus on the "Reason for the Season".

God bless you and your family; may they draw closer together in the coming days and weeks.

Fr. Bliss R. Spillar III, BS, MDIV. Dean/Vicar, Anglican Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Lima.

May we introduce ourselves? Five members of our congregation would like to share something with you.

Andrew King



"Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love
He sought me, And on His shoulder gently laid, and
home, rejoicing brought me."

Based on Psalm 23, these words describe how my
life felt before I was saved by the Good Shepherd
and give tangible meaning to my Christian faith.

Hearing this hymn sung in church I am reassured
that my soul has been ransom and that even in the

worst of times I will want for nothing if I am His and He is mine forever.

Greg Mitchell



I moved to Peru from the U.S. in 2011 and have
been here ever since!

I'm originally from Connecticut, went to college in
Texas, and after serving the US Peace Corps in
the Dominican Republic, I decided on a
professional career focused on finance in Latin
America.

I met my wife Bea shortly after arriving in Lima.

We now have two children, Teddy and Hortensia,
who attend Sunday School at Good Shepherd. Last year, I received my Peruvian
citizenship.

For the last 10 years, I have worked with technology entrepreneurs in Peru's
startup ecosystem, bridging gaps of capital and connections, as well as proposing
public policy initiatives.

I started attending Good Shepherd a few years ago and quickly found a
welcoming, supportive, and active community - it was easy to feel a sense of
belonging. I enjoy being in the cathedral's sanctuary and am inspired by the
tireless prayers of the church's members.



Jesus Chirinos



My name is Jesús Chirinos, I am 34 years old. I am from Venezuela, and I arrived in Peru in 2018 due to the complex political and economic crisis in my country. Peru has been a land of opportunity for me, allowing me to grow both personally and professionally, and providing the stability I was looking for. I am a violinist and music teacher

— I play and sing in different orchestras and ensembles in Lima, and I teach privately as well as at Cambridge Lima School.

I first came to Good Shepherd Church in 2018 through its social program offering helped me improve my fluency in English. I began attending Sunday services, where I found a kind and welcoming community — something that was very meaningful in my adaptation process as a migrant. I currently lead the music ministry for the English-speaking congregation, and I am grateful to be able to give back all the support I have received through my gifts and skills.

Victor Araujo



My name is Victor Araujo, and I've been attending the church for over ten years. I first learnt about it through the English classes. I remember requesting a Bible during one class and was given one with a white cover which I still cherish.

My ministry in the Good Shepherd is being the CRUCIFER for the Sunday services. I process the cross at the beginning and end of the services,

which for me is an honour, I do it with respect and gratitude to God. I also assist Fr. Bliss during the actual Holy Communion.

I have also helped with several book sales, arranging the books for display, and I serve at the coffee table after the Sunday morning service. I must say that

the church is a beautiful community where one truly feels the love of God and learns to know Jesus Christ through the testimonies of its members.

Lisa Schmit



This year has been an especially hard one for my husband and I. He was medically evacuated to the USA in July and spent several months there, recovering from a serious illness. In August, I returned to Lima to continue our work. Being alone after 25 years of marriage was difficult and isolating.

My son attends an Anglican Church in the United States and is planning to visit soon. I decided to attend the Good Shepherd, just to see if it would be a good place for us to attend during my son's visit. I came to the Good Shepherd for him, but the family of God was so very welcoming that I couldn't help but stay. After 3 Sundays, I joined the choir. Raising my voice along with other lovers of Jesus has been a balm to my soul. Helping to lead others to the foot of the cross has brought joy and meaning in a time of great challenges.

I'm so thankful for this place and this dear community. God has truly blessed me during my short time at the Good Shepherd.

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Was it the Squirrel? – by Jean Samaniego

A squirrel regularly visits our garden in search of food. When the plum tree is in fruit he fills up with plums. He takes several lucumas, peeling them delicately. It gobbles the hibiscus leaves and gorges on fruit peelings in the compost. But little else did we know what went on.



Suddenly one Friday I had no internet. Claro came on Monday so I could not see the Sunday service. On Monday a man came from Claro to see what was wrong. He left and later two more men investigated further. I was told the cable was damaged, but they could do anything as they only worked inside, and others did outside. Again, no Sunday service. Three others came the following Monday, they began at 1pm changing the cable, but by 7pm there was neither sight nor sound of them. The next visit was programmed for Monday, so once again no service. I was spitting fire by this time. On Wednesday a new man came with an assistant, after a brief investigation he pronounced the culprit to be a squirrel that was biting through the thin cable! "The squirrel runs along the thick phone cable and cannot balance on your thin one, so I will lift it higher so he cannot reach it" he said. Hallelujah, said I.

Internet was back. But when I got up the next day that red light was on again. Had the squirrel really got up at 5am and started acrobatics? This time the same technician re-appeared, saying he knew why; his assistant had fitted a piece in the router and had not done it correctly. And so, it was. Now we can enjoy our squirrel once again and thank God for an intelligent, lateral-thinking technician.



And the squirrel had a droll last word: its tail stood over its back in the shape of a question mark!

Well, was it the squirrel or an incompetent phone technician?

The different aspects that make up the life of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

(a) Holy Eucharist (Communion):



This is the **main service of the week**, every Sunday at 10am in English and at 11.30am in Spanish. The traditional Anglican liturgy.

(b) Bible Studies:

These are held on Sundays at 12.30pm after the tea/coffee time in the parish hall. The Bible studies are held in the upper classroom. They are topic based. Details of each topic are announced during the Sunday services.

(c) Silent Prayer: Every Wednesday 7- 8pm. The church is open every Wednesday between 7 - 8pm for prayer.



Martin King writes: As a recently confirmed member of the Good Shepherd Cathedral, I attend the **Hour of Silence and Prayer** on Wednesday evening listening to Chant Music because it creates a sense of peace within me. With no cell phone, no loud music from cars, I focus on my Creator who makes my life on this earth possible for a purpose.



(d) **Sunday School for young children.** Sunday mornings at 10am.



Every Sunday morning children leave the main church service after the singing of the first hymn and follow their own tailored Sunday school programme. **Amy Hestilow** devises a series of practical activities based on Bible stories. Children return to their parents in the church just before the Holy Communion part of the morning service.

Children preparing materials for the Bible story.

(e) **The Church Choir by Sofia Doig**



Sofia writes..... Music plays a fundamental role in our life of faith, and many of us cannot conceive praising the Lord without song. Whether through traditional Anglican hymns or more contemporary worship tunes by composers both great and small, past and present—but all inspired by the Holy Spirit—our choir at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, accompanied by our faithful **organist Rocio Cancho**, strives to create a space where

Christians can gather and praise God freely and without reservation. To paraphrase Paul in his letter to the Colossians, our choir seeks to share the message of Christ through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in our hearts.

Anybody interested singing in our choir please contact Sofia - 954 783 574



- (f) **English Classes**. Every Saturday morning 10am - 12noon. Entrance through the church side door in Av. Santa Maria.

Classes are free of cost and organized by our church members and are open to all. The classes have been operating for many years. At the moment, we have a Beginners class taught by **Monica Franchy** and an Intermediate level class taught by **David Nash**. In the future, we hope to restart an Advanced conversation group.

Comments from two current students:



My name is **Rosa Manrique**. I live in Pachacamac and travel to the English classes every Saturday. They are free and available to anybody who wants to learn and speak English. We practice speaking, listening and learning a little grammar; all in English. We always end the lesson singing an English song from "pop" days. It's good fun. Of course we practice our English over coffee, tea and biscuits.



My name is **Zack Ricra** and I have been participating in David's class since the end of 2019. Actually, his class is more than English lessons. It's a friendly community and open to everyone.

- (g) **Prison Ministry by Ellie Zuniga**

Lucha Fallaque has been faithfully leading the Anglican Prison Ministry and Cadena de Amor for 45 years, teaching handicrafts to women at the three prisons in Chorrillos, including the maximum-security prison. With the sale of the handicrafts, the women can cover some of their expenses including toiletries. Lucha — who is loved and known as Mama Lucha by the inmates and

the prison staff— continues to help many of them once they have completed



their sentence and are released. Her ministry also includes children up to the age of three who live in prison with their mothers. There are currently 36 children — 26 children in the Santa Monica prison and 10 in the annex, and their care and play area is largely equipped thanks to Lucha's efforts.

Donations can be made of toiletries and baby and toddler diapers and clothing, and Lucha also welcomes pieces of fabric and arts and crafts materials. She exhibits and sells the handicrafts at the Good Shepherd on the first Sunday of the month, or for donations you may contact the church office.

(h) Student Support Programme - a report by Jean Samaniego

Financial support of students who have been forced to abandon their studies because of financial difficulties. This year one student graduated as psychologist and is in fulltime work, another graduated as a nursing technician and is also working and a third one has been a top student in computing science, our social worker Esperanza, checks on their progress monthly.

We obtain funding for a blind woman who was adopted by a couple in Villa Maria after being abused by her family as a child.

Lucha Fallaque has been working with prisoners in Santa Monica prison in Chorrillos for 45 years, teaching a variety of handicrafts which she then sells for them. She can use wools, sewing materials and all types of fabric, old jeans etc. She sells at church on the first Sunday of each month, Christmas boxes have been prepared to give to low-income families, containing a toy, toiletries, school supplies and sweets

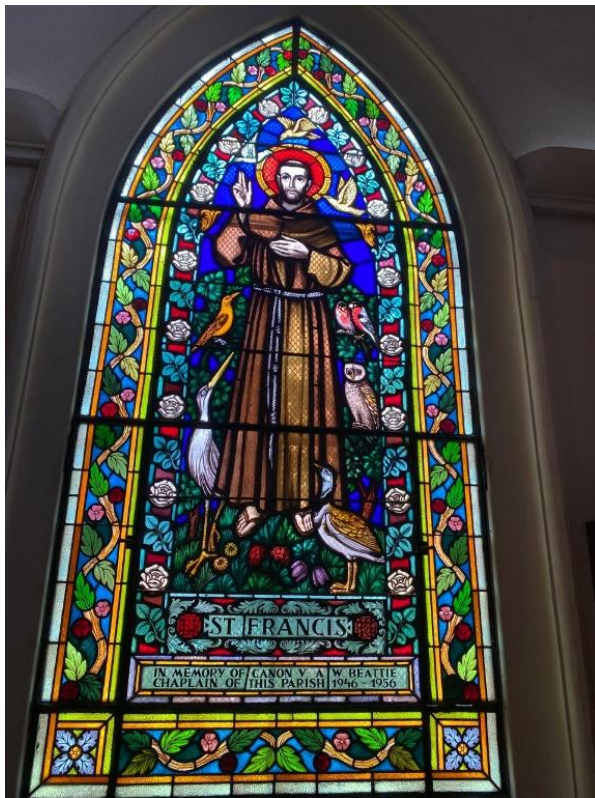
Also please support our arpillera table at the bazaar, work sewn by women in Pamplona

Alta, With the income they have improved their homes, installed bathrooms and educated their children.

If you would like to support these projects, especially the students, please contact the church office.

Interesting things
to look for in and around the church.

1. One of our Stained-Glass Windows.



We have some very old stained-glass windows in the church which were originally in the old Anglican church in central Lima. These can be seen from inside the church. One is of St. Francis of Assisi plus animals but alas no cats or dogs! Another window depicts St. Agnes the saint of purity, and another window of Dorcas a Christian, known for her charity.

To see this and the others in their full glorious colour you will have to come into the church, perhaps on a Sunday morning!!

Our church warden, **Valerie Vexler** writes: "Our church's stained-glass windows are not only works of art — they are storytellers of faith, hope, and community. Over the years, time and weather took their toll, and it became necessary to restore them to their original beauty. This renovation helps preserve the sacred history of our church, protects the structure of the building, and honours the gifts of past generations who helped bring these windows to life. Most importantly, it allows the light of God to shine once again through colours made vibrant and new — a symbol of our own spiritual renewal and continuing faith."



2. The tree in the front garden.



As you approach the main entrance to the church you will notice a tree to the right in the garden. This is an **OAK TREE** which is native to the British Isles. It has been said that this was grown from an **acorn nut** brought from the UK. Beyond that, a myth has seeded, which is difficult to confirm, in which it is said the acorn was planted to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953. Is this the only oak tree

in Peru?

3. The Celtic Cross



At the very top of the entrance to the Good Shepherd is a cross with a distinctive design: the Celtic Cross. It has a ring that connects the vertical and horizontal strands of the cross. This type of cross started to appear in Ireland and the British Isles at the beginning of the Middle Ages, i.e 500AD. Legend says it was designed by the Irish saint St. Patrick. Reasons for this type of cross range from the ring represents the halo of Christ or a symbol of endless love. Whatever, we have one on the top of the cathedral.



4. Three historic plaques



to cultivation of cotton.

The first plaque - if you enter into the church patio by the side entrance in Av. Santa Maria you can see two plaques on the outside wall directly under the main stained-glass window. The upper plaque is the original one laid at the founding of the Anglican church located in central Lima in 1846. The consecration was by the Bishop of the Falklands, who was then the Anglican bishop of South America.

The second plaque was laid when the church moved to its present site in 1946. At that time the land around the church site was mainly devoted



The third stone was only re-discovered a few weeks ago. It can be seen now on the left as you enter the church by the main door. A large plant which had obscured was removed to expose the stone. This stone is dated 1947 and appears to be the foundation stone of the church.

May we share with you our favourite
Christmas songs? Four church members
write....



"O come, all ye faithful" chosen by SANDRA HOLMES

My favourite Christmas carol is "O come, all ye faithful". Its lyrics are a call to all to joyfully worship Jesus, as he is surrounded by angels, shepherds and all of us who believe in Him. The lyrics also tell us that Christ was sent by God the Father to save us sinners.

I also find this carol moving, as the congregation and choir sing the refrain, low at first, and then building up in volume to the final verse, with the choir harmonizing. Singing this carol in our Carol Service at the Cathedral is very special, a beautiful hymn with moving lyrics and music, our stained windows shining in candlelight and the wonderful acoustics. Above all, this carol feels timeless, and I can imagine several generations rejoicing and singing in worship to the newborn King.

You can find it on YouTube video:-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1wHyMR_SCA&list=RDl1wHyMR_SCA&start_radio=1

"Deck the Halls" chosen by ISAAC JEFERSON.

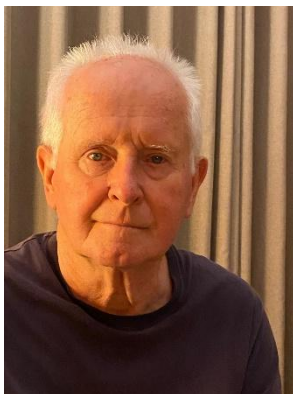


"Deck the halls ", it could sound annoying to some, but it brings back so many memories from my childhood and it reminds me to be cheerful and happy at Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

You can find it on YouTube:-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPCXMTnO2Yw&list=RDRPCXMTnO2Yw&start_radio=1

"Hills of the north Rejoice" chosen by DAVID NASH



This hymn takes me back to the late 1940's after World War2 in my London primary school where we regularly sung it at the daily morning assembly. I liked the tune very much, but at that young age, I had no idea what the words were about. The words mention areas north, south, east and west in the far corners of the world which were to me magical. It is interesting that later in life I became a geography teacher!

Some years later the "penny dropped", and I realized this was an ADVENT HYMN. The hymn proclaims Christ's arrival with the promise of salvation to those who believe in Him and His message being taken to the four corners of the world.

I also like interwoven in the lines references made to the Second Coming of Jesus, and the future and eternal home for all believers. However, one sobering line can be found, (which is not included in all hymn books), "though absent long, your Lord is nigh, He judgement brings and victory", which is in stark contrast to the tone of most carols we sing relating to the first coming of the meek and mild Jesus to the crib in Bethlehem.

You can find it on YouTube video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufsfurSpPmM&list=RDufsfurSpPmM&start_radio=1.

"Little Drummer Boy" chosen by WILL CROOKSHANK



It is really difficult to pick just one favourite Christmas carol. So many beautiful ones, some stand out for their lovely melody, some for their meaningful lyrics, some for both reasons. But there is one that always brings back a sweet feeling of nostalgia when I reminisce about my childhood Christmas with my parents.

That song is *Little Drummer Boy*. There is something very unique about that song, whose drumbeat can make it sound almost like a military march in some renditions. If you haven't heard it played on bagpipes and (obviously) drums, it's time for you to do it. And aside from all that, the lyrics, that tell the story of a poor boy worshiping our newborn King with his humble instrument is, in itself, a reminder of what Psalm 150:5 encourages us to do: "Praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals." Happy Christmas to you all!

You can find it on YouTube video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aq4_Z6DsTsc&list=RDag4_Z6DsTsc&start_radio=1

A symbol of the Advent season leading up to Christmas.



The advent wreath with candles is part of our services at the Good Shepherd during the Advent season. Five candles, representing *hope, peace, joy and love*, are lit each week with an appropriate prayer. The central white candle is lit on Christmas day: Christ has arrived, the light of the world

The wreath in which the candles are embedded are meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to his believers through Christ.

REMEMBER- The traditional Anglican service of **LESSONS** and **CAROLS** by **CANDLELIGHT** on TUESDAY, 16th. DECEMBER at 7pm.



ANOTHER REMINDER:

Every Sunday at 10am Holy Eucharist (Communion) in English. All newcomers say they have found it a warm and welcoming service.

A similar service is held in Spanish at 11.30am.