



## NewsNotes. *.Connecting . . . Faith & Life*

**Vol: 43 - No 13**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Dear Members and Friends of TaB “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”.

Today marks the first Sunday of Advent for 2020, and our Sanctuary is still closed because of Covid-19. Many of us over the past nine months have endured several challenges because of this Covid-19 pandemic. As we are now in a time of severe disruption, it is expedient for me to refer to a period when God’s people were also troubled.

In Ezekiel Chapter 34; we read of God’s words to Ezekiel, concerning the shepherds of Israel failure to look after God’s people, his sheep in a proper manner. It is interesting, however, to note verse three “You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool... but you do not feed the sheep”. In this period of covid-19, when many of our members are in isolation, we can all do our little bit to ensure that our members are feeling loved, cared for and safe.

We are aware that the present “lock down” will end on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and that further guidance will be given by the Government on what measures will be taken leading up to Christmas and beyond. Some measures already announced include, Churches opening again for worship. Trinity at Bowes reopens on 6<sup>th</sup> December with the service including Holy Communion.

We heed God’s words in Ezekiel 34: 11; “I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out”. Sisters and brothers God himself has sought us out and has protected us over the past eight months from this Virus. All praise and glory to His name for his redeeming Grace. He will protect and guide in the months ahead. Let us gather on the 6<sup>th</sup> December to render praises to his holy name.

**Theo Hercules**

# LECTIONARY REFLECTION

By Charles Dadey

*Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 & Mark 13:24-37*



29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 is the first Sunday of Advent, and therefore it is not surprising to see a common reference to The Coming of The Lord in all the four readings.

In Isaiah 64, one can observe that The Lord is being called upon to pardon his chosen people and come down to save them. Again, Psalm 80 echoes the same plea:

*Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.*

The passage from 1 Corinthians has a more direct message:

*Therefore, you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Then in Mark 13, we are told:

*In the days after that time of trouble the sun will grow dark, the moon will no longer shine, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers in space will be driven from their courses. Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in the clouds with great power and glory. He will send the angels out to the four corners of the earth to gather God's chosen people from one end of the world to the other.*

Maybe we can take comfort that this transition into Advent is particularly relevant today, and should give us hope for the future as we attempt to survive and thrive in the prevailing circumstances.

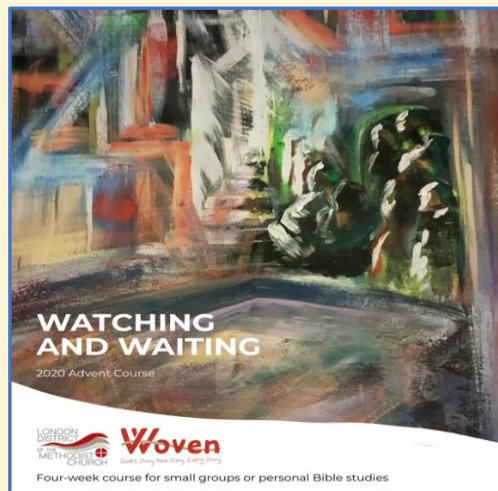
I will end here with some words from a modern hymn by Laurence Wareing.

*And I will wait now,  
and in the waiting  
feel still more closely  
your love for me.  
For I'll be patient  
and I'll be gentle,  
touched by your steadfast  
humility.*

Contact:

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# 2020 Advent Course



Dear Friends,

As I wrote last week the circuit are holding a time of Worship & Study for Advent - Watching & Waiting.

This will be on each of the 4 Sunday evenings during Advent beginning this Sunday 29th November at 6.00pm

It will be held on zoom and the link is below. People can ring in on their landline as well as through laptops, ipads, mobiles etc.

The details are below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81273468682?pwd=MFBxeEIMWGtFa2FKSnRmNDc3WWdsUT09>

Meeting ID: 812 7346 8682

Passcode: 291120

or Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 812 7346 8682

Passcode: 291120

Watching & waiting is a 4 week devotional and study guise produced by the London District and can be seen on their website [methodistlondon.org.uk/adventcourse2020](http://methodistlondon.org.uk/adventcourse2020)

Please come and join us.

Every Blessing,

**Revd Stephen Poxon, Circuit Superintendent on behalf of the circuit staff**

*Contact:*

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## PASTORAL

Tony Addo & Pastoral Leaders

Our thoughts and continued prayers are with our TaB Family and Friends during the current pandemic and the isolation, loneliness and other difficulties this has created. Pastoral contact is an ongoing part of our support. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your concerns.

### **Prayers for TaB Members & Friends**

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the many blessings seen, unseen and those that we so often take for granted in our lives. Teach us to pray with faith in your willingness to supply all our needs, that we might receive the generosity of your love and your power of healing: *We pray for all who are unwell, all those who are homebound or in residential care and for all those who have recently been bereaved.*

*Remembering especially:*

Elizabeth Arnold, Robert Barker, Catrina Basse, Joyce Beaumont, Barbara Biggs, Iris Branch, Frances Branch-Thomas Christina Cabrera, Dorothy Campbell, Chrissie Godfrey, Lynette Heaven, Yvonne Jordine, Rhona Knight, Beverly Watkins-Kowa, Ken Kowa, Yvonne Obeng, Elizabeth Osei, Margarete Prater, Hope Siwela, Priscilla Mbape and Elizabeth Takaedza.



### **Prayer for Advent**

**Father in this season of Advent we prepare our hearts for your coming.  
You are the vine, we are the branches. Come and tend us, prune us, clean us.  
Discard in us everything that does not bear fruit,  
Nourish in us everything that bears much fruit.  
As we celebrate your coming as a vulnerable baby,  
Our hearts await your glorious return as the eternal King.  
Nurture in us expectant hearts, O Lord.  
Cultivate in us a deep longing for more of you.  
Until that Day when you burst through the heavens,  
And flood our horizons with your glorious splendour.  
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, throughout all ages and generations.  
Amen**

Source: [https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/advent\\_prayers.html](https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/advent_prayers.html)



## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**



**Happy Birthday  
to All who have Birthdays this week.**

May God grant you overflowing joy, abundant opportunities, and a shower of blessings. Happy Birthday!

**To all who have Anniversaries this week.**

May your marriage continue to be blessed with love, joy and companionship all the days of your life.

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# Church News and Centre Plus

Theo Hercules

1. **Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church will be opened on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 for regular worship including Holy Communion. Restrictions will still apply. There will be no afternoon or evening service.**

## 2. **New River Methodist Circuit - Online Church**

**On Facebook: New River Methodist Circuit OR via YouTube: <https://youtu.be/kjbhavh5r28>**

<b>Streaming Schedule for New River Methodist Circuit Online Church</b>			
<b>Day(s)</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Online Event</b>	
Monday - Saturday	8.00 am	Thought for the Day	<i>Pre-recorded</i>
Monday - Saturday	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	<i>Live</i>
Saturday	10.30 am	Virtual Coffee Morning	<i>Live</i>
Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday Circuit Service	<i>Pre-recorded</i>

## 3. **Wednesday 5pm TaB Zoom Meeting - 40-minute Bible Study & 20-minute Business**

All members are invited to participate. Website connection:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9928297354?pwd=a0RYWHlvTG1vWUYyV3pwbDdFcmYxdz09>

4. **TaB Website & TaB Church Face Book** -Our TaB website <https://www.trinityatbowes.co.uk> and TaB Facebook: **TaB Church** are frequently being updated. Please contact Peter Godfrey with your ideas and with offers of help. **Email: [petergodfrey@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:petergodfrey@blueyonder.co.uk)**

5. **TaB Sunday School Resources**- Resources for Sunday school families can be found on our TaB home website using the following link <https://www.trinityatbowes.co.uk/sunday-school> Peter Godfrey- TaB Sunday School Superintendent is the contact for Sunday School resources

**Email: [petergodfrey@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:petergodfrey@blueyonder.co.uk)**

6. **Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church Bank Account Details**-Should you wish make a donation by bank transfer to Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church. Our bank account details are as follows:

**Account Name: [Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church](#)**

**Account no: [92883701](#) Sort Code: [09-01-55](#)**

*Account held at the Santander Commercial Bank Please ensure you use your name as the payment reference*

## 7. **Upcoming Special Sundays/Services Dates for your Diary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	Sunday Advent 2 Service & Holy Communion
13 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	Sunday Advent 3 Service
20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	Sunday Advent 4 & <b>Carol Service</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> December (Friday)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	Sunday Christmas Service

8. **Christmas Tree Festival** - The TaB Christmas Tree festival 2020 is going online 28.11.20. Festive music and pictures of beautifully decorated trees will provide an hour of light hearted entertainment that will be **broadcast via YouTube and Facebook, using the New River Circuit links, 7pm, Saturday 28th November**. This is the first weekend of Advent.

## 9. **New River -Circuit-35/22News**

9.1) **Our Churches** – Our 9 Churches are closed during the current Lockdown. TaB are reopening for worship on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am. There will be no afternoon 4pm Sunday Service. We are continuing to offer online worship on our Church Circuit Facebook Page and YouTube Channel.

9.2) **Church Online**– Our online worship will continue until 2021. We are hoping to plant a Digital Church within the Circuit. All who are interested are invited to a meeting on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Please email Rev Lunn [revmlunn@gmail.com](mailto:revmlunn@gmail.com) for more information.

9.3) **3Generate Elections** - Voting opens on 21 November for the Youth President (until 11pm Monday 21 December) and 3Generate Reps (until 11pm Monday 14 December). Our candidate is **Zariel Konadu**. More details can be found at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/3generate/elections-voting/>

If you would like a news item to be included in the NewsNotes send your request via email to [newnotes@trinityatbowes.co.uk](mailto:newnotes@trinityatbowes.co.uk)

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