

**Vol: 43 - No 14**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020– Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



Dear members of TaB,

In the midst of Advent TaB wish you all a happy Advent time. Yes, time is important. Yet the most important things in life are timeless. Love is timeless. Hope is timeless. Joy is timeless. Christmas is timeless as well.

Was it really that long ago when Mary and Joseph walked through the streets of Bethlehem looking for a place to spend the night, a place for their child to be born? It seems like it was only yesterday. That is because each time we celebrate Christmas, it comes alive for us anew. But Christmas is more than celebration of Jesus' birth. It is the celebration of the whole of Jesus - his life, his teachings, his death on the cross and his resurrection.

We are getting ready for Christmas. Christmas trees are being decorated in living rooms. Government just announced the shops are going to be opened every day for longer hours. No doubt someone will ask you in the coming days, "Are you ready for Christmas?" We smile at the person who asks us this question and answer with, "Almost" or "Not quite yet" and we continue our busy preparations.

To rediscover the joy of Christmas we need to make an effort to change our selfish, worldly ways. This Advent we should find more time for prayer, more time for worship, more time for reading our Bibles, more time for doing the things we should be doing. If we are able to make these changes, we will discover a new sense of joy in our lives.

This joy is so special that it will never leave us. No matter what situations we might find ourselves in we can still experience the joy that comes from knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. But you better hurry, the Messiah is about to come. He will soon be here. Get ready! Amen.

God Bless You

**Rev Sam**

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# LECTIONARY REFLECTION

By Suzy Godfrey

*Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8*

There is a saying, fail to prepare, prepare to fail! Those who know me know I am a great believer in preparation.

Advent has begun. The tree festival is a great success, the shoe boxes are ready to deliver to Samaritan's Purse, our home is decorated inside and out, many other Christmas preparations are underway.

We are expecting my daughter Angela to come to stay soon. The spare bedroom must be made ready, my summer clothes off the beds and put away, clean sheets, hoovering, dusting, it hasn't had a proper clean since March!

In a recent TV programme, I learned of a visit from King James the first of England to a castle; no expense was spared in the preparations, even new paving in the courtyard, still there today. But the owners were happy to give all they could, for the honour and privilege of having their king to stay. So how should we prepare for the coming of the King of Kings?

Mark chapter 1, with more detail in Luke chapter 1, tells of John the Baptist, the one sent to prepare the way of the Lord.

Zachariah and Elizabeth had a son in their old age, a cousin of Jesus, who grew up to give a message of repentance and tell of the coming of the long awaited Messiah.

This is a familiar story, but Luke 1 v 24 really struck home: Elizabeth was isolated from society for 5 months! How similar to the first lockdown. We can relate to her situation a little better from our own experience. And how wonderful it must have been for her to break that isolation to meet up with her cousin Mary and share the amazing news of both pregnancies.

There are lots of preparations involved when expecting a baby, my daughter had planned carefully. Pram bought, family cot out of our loft, nappies and clothes ready, bag packed for hospital. It was going to be a peaceful experience, low lighting, music, candles but no. Marcus arrived at home, surrounded by paramedics and midwives, no music or candles but safely welcomed into the world nonetheless. Mary may have hoped for a peaceful birth not preceded by a long journey, trudging from inn to inn looking for a place to stay and ending up among the animals. Our own experiences give a better understanding of the bible story in the first chapters of Luke.

John's message of preparation wasn't about the practical ways of getting ready, washing, hoovering, dusting, tidying but a message of the spiritual cleaning of our hearts and lives, getting rid of the barriers between us and God, those things that get in the way of relationships.

Resentment and distractions must be replaced by a focus on God's love and showing that love to others. Replaced by prayer and practical support, making a phone call, a visit, a card. And time set aside to listen, and enjoy the assurance that Jesus has come, is here with us now and will be with us in the future whatever challenges we face.

Prayerfully consider the following questions:

What preparations have I made for Christmas? How has COVID changed plans? How can we support each other through these changes?

Dear God,

During this time of an Advent like no other, help us to prepare our hearts for Jesus. Forgive us for the things done or not done that didn't show your love. Help us to do better in future, with clean hearts, filled with your love, strength and wisdom.

Let us thank you for all that is past and trust you for all that's to come.

In Jesus name we pray

Amen

*Contact:*



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

## **Prayer and Praise during Advent**

Dear Heavenly Father, at this time of the year when the Church remembers the first coming of our Lord and Saviour into the world, we want to lift up our hearts and voices in prayer and praise to You, for sending the Lord Jesus Christ into the world to be our Saviour, so that through his blood we may be brought back into a right relationship with Yourself and receive the gift of eternal life – by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

At this time, our thoughts are especially drawn in remembrance to the wonderful time, so long ago, when God in His grace sent the eternal Son of His love into the world to become the propitiation for our sins. How we rejoice when we recall that He set aside His glory and great majesty to take on the form of a man and be born into this world as a tiny baby, in such humble circumstances.

Lord, in a world that is become more secular, I pray that the people of God who are called by Your name would take time to reflect with awe and wonder on this amazing truth, and to prepare our hearts for the time when Jesus Christ will return again in power and great glory at His second Advent.

Purify our hearts we pray, and sanctify our lives so they we may serve you in newness of life, not only in this special season of Advent but every day of our lives, until You come to take us to be with You forever. In Jesus' name we pray

**Amen**

Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-for-Advent#682>



## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**



**Happy Birthday**  
**Cathy Riley, Iris Gosling**  
**And 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.

Contact:

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# Church News and Centre Plus

Theo Hercules

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

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

**On Facebook: New River Methodist Circuit OR via YouTube: <https://youtu.be/kjhbhavh5r28>**

<u>Streaming Schedule for New River Methodist Circuit Online Church</u>			
Day(s)	Time	Online Event	
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- Advent Theme & 20-minute Business** All members are invited to participate. **Zoom Meeting ID: 8335 183 4056 Password: 849433**

**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**

Date	Time	Event
06 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30 am	Sunday worship- Advent 2
13 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30 am	Sunday worship- Advent 3
20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Carol Service - Advent 4
<b>25<sup>th</sup> December (Friday)</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	Sunday Christmas Service

**8. TaB Christmas Tree Festival** - The TaB Christmas Tree festival 2020 is still available for you to view via YouTube and Facebook, using the New River Circuit links. It is also on the TaB Facebook page. [https://youtu.be/JfaYySt10\\_Q](https://youtu.be/JfaYySt10_Q) **A BIG THANK YOU and WELL DONE! to Suzy and Peter Godfrey** for all the hard work they put into planning & arranging it. We would also like to thank all contributors to TaB Christmas Tree Festival both here and abroad.

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

9.1) **Circuit 4-week Advent Course-*Watching and Waiting*** – 6pm on Sunday's – 29<sup>th</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 13<sup>th</sup> December, and 20<sup>th</sup> December via Zoom Meeting. **Zoom Meeting ID: 812 7346 8682 Passcode: 291120**

9.2) **Church Buildings Reopening** – Communal Worship is allowed in all the three new Covid 19 Tiers from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.

9.3) **Circuit online Meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7pm** – Look out for Zoom joining details.

<p>If you would like news items, prayer requests and or celebrations to be included in the NewsNotes Please send an email to <a href="mailto:newnotes@trinityatbowes.co.uk">newnotes@trinityatbowes.co.uk</a> before 10.00am every Thursday.</p>
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