

Vol: 43 - No 15

Sunday 13th December 2020– Sunday 20th December 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Dear TaB friends,

Once again, we are back in church. We missed the first Sunday, but I am praying that we will be able to light all the Advent candles before the next lockdown!

Despite the uncertainty about how Christmas 2020 will turn out, I can detect a growing sense of optimism in the people I meet. It's beginning to feel like Christmas! It would be nice to think it has quite a lot to do with the Advent season and the coming New Year, which usually generates a feeling of new beginnings.

It is said that the night seems darkest just before dawn; maybe, just maybe, we are on the cusp of a new dawn. We should dare to dream of a future where even if COVID19 does not disappear, it would become a 'managed' disease like other diseases in the past.

One of the hymns suggested by the Lectionary for this week is StF188:

There's a light upon the mountains, and the day is at the spring,
When our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory of the King;
Weary was our heart with waiting, and the night-watch seemed so long,
But His triumph-day is breaking, and we hail it with a song.

Thank you all and may the Lord continue to bless us.

Charles Dadey
Senior Steward

LECTIONARY REFLECTION

By Gladys Chingoka

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 61 v 1-4 ,8-11, Psalms 126, 1 Thessalonians 5 v 16-24



Season of Hope and Expectation

When the Lord brought back his exiles to Jerusalem, it was like a dream! They were filled with laughter and sang for joy. The onlookers said what an amazing thing, the Lord has done for them.

Brothers and sisters as we wait in expectation that Coronavirus will go away one day, let us not give up being thankful. As these times have raised our anxiety, brought distraction in our day-to-day operation, change of work lives, and change of family interactions however one thing for sure God is at work.

Time is coming when streams of strength within us will be renewed. Though some are in tears due to lack of income, lack of peace, the almighty God is creating a way, all it takes is for us to believe that when God's ultimate power comes by, He will not leave us the same.

As we continue in our lives remember you are the mouthpieces of God to pronounce Good news, child of God full of anointing to bring good tidings to others who are waiting in expectation. You have been anointed to comfort others. You have been anointed to refresh others. In this season do not stiffen the Holy Spirit of love in you, go out and make a difference.

A woman I know cooked meals and went out to the school gate and started issuing meals to mothers and during the process a family took at least meals for three days saying they were waiting for pay day and did not have any food, for the children. It is the acts of kindness that makes the difference.

The worship team created songs of praise and started sharing them via you-tube saying due to COVID-19 this is our way to encourage the public to stay connected in worship. There was an amazing response and many people started using their songs to start a day. What good tidings they brought to others.

On this day I am encouraging everyone not to give up but praise and find an act of kindness that brings a smile to someone else.

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 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.

Wake us up Lord!

God of Salvation,
Wake us up Lord! The night is nearly over.
Let us begin our Advent journey.
Move us from our lives of greed and selfishness,
From our globalised world of inequality and exploitation,
To your kingdom of righteousness and mercy.
To a transformed world,
Where peace is built on understanding not weapons,
The poor are empowered to live their lives to the full,
Businesses are built on need not greed
And your Creation is nurtured not abused.
Wake us up Lord!
Let us live as people of the light.
Amen.

Source: Sue Cooper/CAFOD <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-prayers>

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Happy Birthday
Theo Hercules 9th
Angela Padzorima 12th
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.

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Pastor John is a highly endorsed book written by **Rev Brian Tebbutt**, a former Minister of Trinity-at-Bowes Methodist Church and ongoing friend. See flyer below and support this publication if you can.

PASTOR JOHN – A Practical Interpretation of St. John’s Gospel

Puzzled by John? This exciting book illuminates the Gospel in a fresh way. In *Pastor John*, Brian Tebbutt mines the text for gems of insight to offer a rich resource for personal discipleship, for preachers, and for training in pastoral care, by using a combination of reader response, literary criticism and insights from a psychodynamic approach to explore the first four chapters of the Gospel of John.

Through careful engagement with the biblical text, the reader (whether as an individual or as a group studying John’s Gospel together) is invited to reflect on how and why they react to the text as they do, to enable their understanding of the text and themselves to develop, fellowship to deepen, and skill in pastoral care to grow.

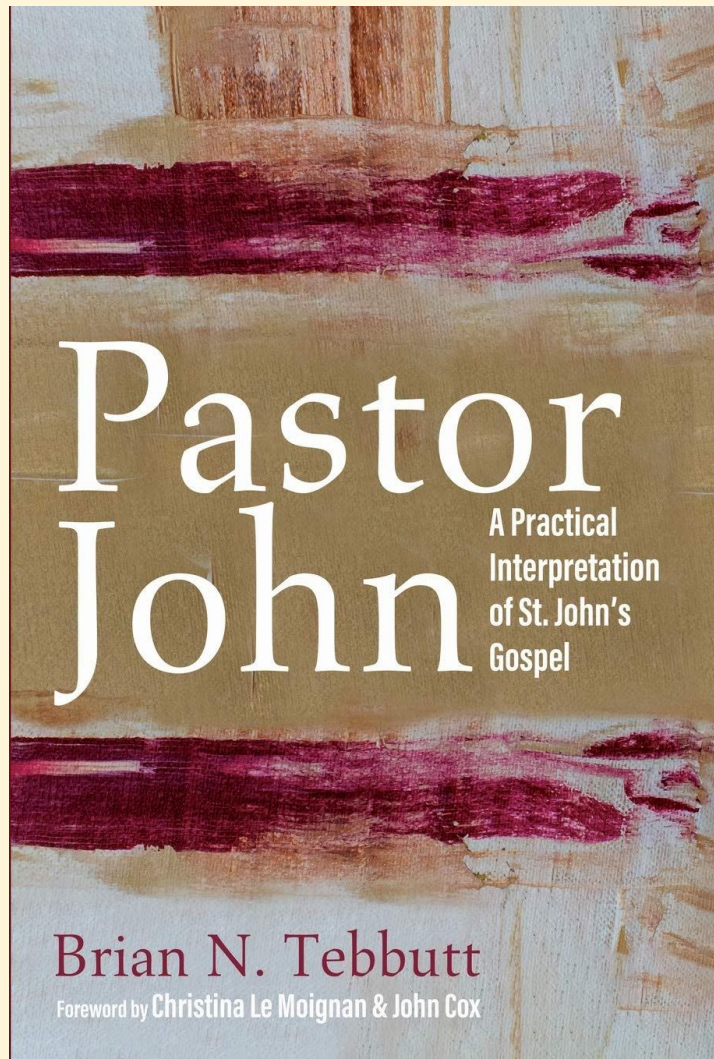
“Exhilarating! Refreshing! Illuminating! This book is the product of a lifetime of working with small groups and reflecting on John’s Gospel. Tebbutt has given an invaluable resource, particularly for those who are involved in pastoral care and counselling.”
– *Kenneth Cracknell, President Emeritus, Cambridge Theological Foundation*

“... the author writes as a preacher, teacher, pastor, and scholar, and above all as enthusiast for the Gospel – as both canonical text and good news. Readers will profit from a work structured to enable the reader to engage existentially as well as intellectually both with the detailed scholarship presented and with the fruits of practical pastoral encounter.”
– *Clive Marsh, Principal of The Queen’s Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham*

“Brian Tebbutt ... encourages his readers to engage radically with the text, through engaging with others in sharing groups, to seek self, others, and God. It is a rich mix.”
– *Jane Craske, Director of Methodist Formation, the Queen’s Foundation*

“This is a book to engage with rather than merely to read. It not only lives up to its claim to cross the borders between therapy and theology, it fuses the deepest insights of both. Holistic? Yes. Demanding? Yes again. Worth it? A thousand times yes.”
– *Leslie Griffiths, Member of the House of Lords; former President, the Methodist Conference*

Published by Wipf & Stock, Eugene, Oregon 2020: <https://wipfandstock.com/pastor-john.html>. RRP £24.00. A competitive discount of £20.00 to include postage is available from btebbutt@btinternet.com.



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Church News and Centre Plus

Theo Hercules

1. **Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church is open for regular worship. Restrictions will still apply. There will be no afternoon or evening service during the month of December.**

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

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

Streaming Schedule for New River Methodist Circuit Online Church

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**

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

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 TaB Church Special Sundays/Services Dates for your Diary**

Date	Time	Event
13 th December	10:30 am	Sunday worship- Advent 3
20 th December	10.30am	Carol Service - Advent 4
25th December (Friday)	10.30am	Christmas Day Service
27 th December	10.30 am	Sunday Christmas Service

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

8.1) **Advent Worship & Study- *Watching and Waiting*** – 6pm on Sunday's – 29th November, 6th December, 13th December, and 20th December via Zoom Meeting. **Zoom Meeting ID: 826 0879 0544 Passcode: 291120**

On 13th December Rev Jennifer Smith – Superintendent of Wesley's Chapel will be participating.

8.2) **Collection** – Many of our Churches are collecting food/toiletries/children's toys for distribution over Christmas. Contact your minister for more detail.

8.3) **Church Buildings Reopening** – We rejoice that some of our circuit churches have reopened for worship. Contact for minister for details. The Circuit staff are committed to continue with the Sunday on-line worship.

8.4) **Circuit on-line Worship** –
20th December – Carol Service 10.30 am
24th December – Messy Church 3pm
25th December – Christmas Day 10.30am

If you would like news items, prayer requests and or celebrations to be included in the NewsNotes
Please send an email to newnotes@trinityatbowes.co.uk before 10.00am every Thursday.

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