



Growing Faith

26 - Winter | 18 December 2024

Advent

Written by Miss Davies

**"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way a voice of one
calling in the wilderness, Prepare the way
for the Lord, make straight paths for him."
- Mark 1:2-3**



Saturday 30th November brought the Church year to an end, and the 1st of December marked the beginning of the new one with the First Sunday in Advent. Advent signifies a period of waiting as we wait for Christ to bring light into the darkest places of our lives and the world.

Advent is not Christmas; that is still to come. Advent, a time of waiting and reflection, requires us to answer the question 'What am I waiting for?' We mark the season each Sunday by lighting a candle on our Advent wreath. Each candle represents a different theme and each week, as we light another candle, more light is added to the darkness. On the First Sunday in Advent, we light the candle for hope, on Advent two, the candle of peace, Advent three is Joy, Advent four the candle representing Love, and finally on Christmas Day we light Christ's candle for the light he brings to our world in darkness.

In Advent we are waiting, and this period of waiting requires us to examine our own hearts and ask ourselves if we need to make any changes in our lives and our hearts. Is there something we need to change to make our hearts ready to receive the light the Christ child will bring on Christmas Day? Advent offers us time to reflect and pray; to think about things that we need to, or can, change. Is there something we could do that would make a difference, small or large? Is there something we could do for others? Often a simple gesture of kindness at this time of year can bring light and hope to another. Advent offers us the opportunity to clear out the darkness in our hearts and minds so that we can become Christ's light in our World.

The world around us is troubled and whilst we can't solve wars, famine, and desperate situations by ourselves we can commit to small changes that will bring light to someone in difficulty. By so doing we demonstrate Christ's love to others.

Christmas is about the birth of a baby. A Messiah. Emmanuel. God with us. It is so easy to become entangled up in the commercial side of Christmas and to lose focus on the One who can transform lives and bring hope. Let us focus on the Christ child, born to save, and to seek to have Him at the centre of our lives where he brings hope, purpose and peace.



**"Today in the town of David a Saviour has
been born to you; he is the Messiah, the
Lord."**

- Luke 2:11

A Prayer

By Form 9B

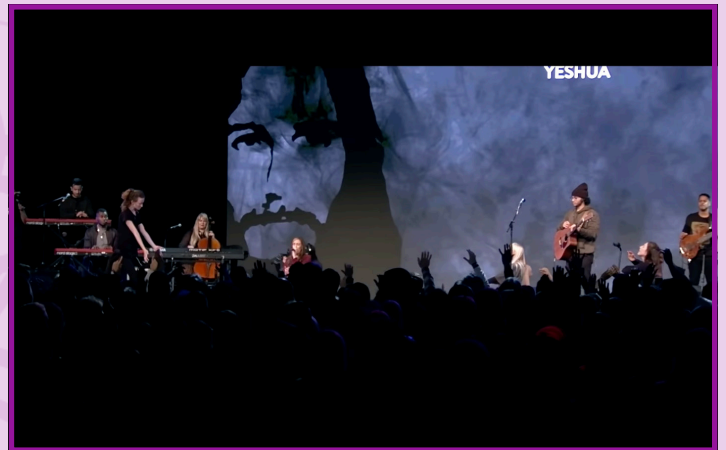
Dear God,

In the Season of Advent let us remember to pray
for people who may be struggling:

- For families who may be finding it financially difficult at this time
- For all the care workers who support people in their own homes, in residential homes or in the hospitals
- Anyone who is feeling lonely at this time, or anyone who is struggling a little
- For anyone suffering from war in the world

Amen

Song for reflection



Yeshua | Jesus Image | Michael Koulianos

Church Support

Church Services

Below is a list of Christmas services taking place over the coming weeks:

Sunday 22nd December:

- Life Church kids' Christmas special is at 11am.
- Brave Church family service starting at 10:30am. Everyone is always welcome. We will have a fun, busy and engaging service, for all ages to enjoy. Games and activities for children will be available afterwards. Feel free to come earlier for a brew or some breakfast.

24th December:

Brave Church - Join us from 3-4pm for some Carols and to celebrate Jesus on Christmas Eve!

Every Friday night from 7-9pm we have a Brave Youth Group (free of charge) for ages 11-16. We have fun, play games, chill and have some free hot chocolate whilst listening to a short message about life from a Christian perspective!

To find us at: Brave Church, Watson St, Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, BB5 3HH, UK.

Please visit these church websites to see when their services are taking place:

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship: [Website](#)

St John's and St Augustine's Church, Huncoat: [YouTube channel](#)

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Rishton: [Facebook Page](#)

St. John's Church, Baxenden: [Website](#)

Peel Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

Ernest Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

All Saints Church, Clayton-le-Moors: [Facebook Page](#)

St James' Church, Clitheroe: [Website](#)

Burnley Life Church: [Website](#)

St Mary Magdalen's Church, Accrington: [Website](#)


St Andrew's Church, Accrington: [Website](#)

St Peter's Church, Accrington: [Website](#)

Brave Church: [Website](#)

Trinity Church, Great Harwood: [Website](#)



 **Queens Road West
Accrington
Lancashire
BB5 4AY**

 **01254 232 992**
 c.pountain@st-christophers.org

 www.st-christophers.org

