



'BEING CHURCH'

TADCASTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

Sunday 6th December 2020

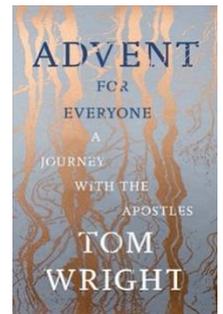
Dear Friends.

Give Thanks

Much discussion has taken place over recent weeks about how important it is to be able to get together over Christmas, but most of this discussion has not taken place with regard to the celebrating of the birth of Christ, but of the bringing together of families to celebrate what many people see as a purely secular occasion.

Now please don't imagine that I am some Scrooge type person who, every time Christmas is mentioned in the media, responds with a 'Bah humbug', because I certainly am not. Christmas has always been, for Sue and I, a time which has been shared with both family and friends alike; celebrating in all the usual ways with food, games, presents, and just giving each other time. This Christmas though it will be very different, Sue, Michael and I shall be spending it alone.

As we move through this season of Advent, looking toward Christmas, the topics of the Advent Course, that we are following using Tom Wright's book – A Journey with the Apostles', resonates so much with the past year, and yet points us firmly in hope for the future. The first week we talked about thankfulness; and over the past nine weeks Sue and I certainly have had so much to be thankful for; from the skill and dedication of the medical staff at Harrogate hospital to the unexpected acts of kindness not only from those whom we know, but also from complete strangers.



In the book, I was struck by one of the questions for reflection - *Have you ever reached the point where you felt like giving up, and how hard was it to get back to God?*

It is true that when everything is going smoothly it is easy to be thankful, but when things go wrong, how much harder does this become? Quite often at those times not only does one find it difficult to pray, but one might not even be able to find the words to do so. But I believe that God knows what is on our hearts; we might not be able to express, in words, our fears and concerns, but he, who knows and loves us more than anyone else ever can or will, hears our cries. And in his grace fills us with his peace and hope - not only just for today, but also hope for the future, so that we can once again move forward, in thanksgiving, for all that our God does for us.

With every blessing, **Rev Steve**



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Advent Bible Study

We are running a Circuit Bible study, over four Tuesdays in Advent, based on Tom Wright's book, *"Advent for everyone - a journey with the Apostles"*.



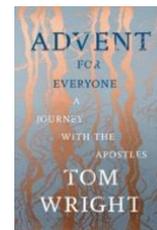
Each session, via Zoom, will run from 7.30pm – 9.00pm.

Week 2 (08/12) - **'Patience'** led by Eileen (Donald to Zoom host)

Week 3 (15/12) - **'Humility'** led by Donald

Week 4 (22/12) - **'Joy'** led by Rev Ann

If you would like to join us please contact the session leader for Zoom details.



Auction of Promises



Wetherby are holding an 'Auction of Promises' by zoom on Saturday 12th December at 3pm.

This will be their first fundraiser by zoom and the proceeds are for church funds as it would normally have been the Christmas Fair at this time. If you would like to take part please contact Andrew Marshall (hilandmars8674@btinternet.com) and he will forward the list of promises and the zoom link.



YEAR OF PRAYER Wetherby, and Tadcaster Churches are hosting weekly Prayer Meetings

Wetherby: Every Wednesday, 7pm – 7.20pm

All are invited to join us. Please contact Revd Ann for the Zoom log on details for the week.

Tadcaster: Every Tuesday, 9.30am – 10am (join from 9.15am)

All are invited to join us. Please contact Eileen Clarkson for the Zoom log on details.

Worshipping Together - Online:

This week we have a Circuit Reflection for Advent 2 brought to us by Stephen Spain



This will be available from 7am Sunday morning, on [Boston Spa MC](#), and [Tadcaster Circuit](#) websites, as well as all of our Facebook pages.

Worshipping Together – Offline Service sheet attached.

Please join us, to feel part of something larger – physically apart, but spiritually together!



On BBC:



Radio 4 Sunday at 8:10 am, Sunday Worship **'Cities of Promise - A place for nature'**

With the Rev Dr Rob Marshall, Rector of Digswell, Welwyn Garden City.

BBC1, Songs of Praise **'Young Chorister of the Year -Final'**

Rev Kate Bottley hosts the final of the BBC Young Chorister of the Year competition, with judges John Rutter, Laura Wright, and Carl Jackson.



If you don't have access to a computer, you can still listen Stephen Spain's Reflection (available from Sunday)