

# Advent Sunday — November 29<sup>th</sup> 2020



## A Service for all the Church Family

The online services are a combination the service sheet with links to readers, hymns and music etc. (This can be activated directly from the document sent to you by email, or on the internet at <https://e-voice.org.uk/bradwellchurch/>) and used as normal or 'save' the service document, open it afresh and the links can be activated with the service sheet remaining in place). Alternatively, you can open two browsers on your screen, one to keep the service sheet visible and the other to activate the links.

Playlist for all the hymns and readings at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlshvHjBxQ&list=PL-v3HHJqZACwpnz2MuicAdcR4xDicYAU4>

### Advent Sunday

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

The **Advent Wreath** has four red in a ring around a white candle. Alternatively, there may be three purple candles, reflecting the liturgical colour for Advent, with a pink candle for the Third Sunday, when rose-pink vestments are traditionally worn. The first candle is lit on Advent Sunday; additional ones are lit, one on each Sunday, and the white one on Christmas Day.

There are several traditions about the meaning or theme of each candle. The scheme that accords best with the Common Worship Principal Service Lectionary is:

Advent 1	The Patriarchs
Advent 2	The Prophets
Advent 3	John the Baptist
Advent 4	The Virgin Mary
Christmas Day	The Christ

Each of the four Sundays then reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. 'The Patriarchs' naturally focus on Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born. 'The Prophets' gives an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'. John, who proclaimed the Saviour, and Mary, who bore him in her womb, complete the picture.

### **For Children and Families**

The Church of England Advent and Christmas #FaithAtHome Collective Worship episode for schools explains the meaning of Advent by exploring how Christians prepare for Christmas, click below for this excellent film.

[Collective Worship for Primary Schools - Advent & Christmas | The Church of England](#)

## **Advent Sunday Service**

*Hymn 1: Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlszhvHjBxQ>

*We say together the words printed in bold.*

## **Gathering to worship God**

### **Greeting**

Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All** and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**All** We will rejoice and be glad in it.

*Welcome to our all age this All Saints Sunday Service.*

### *Opening Prayer*

**All** Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.

Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Hymn 2: Jesus, Where'er Thy People Meet*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK1sN\\_v\\_jbw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK1sN_v_jbw)

*Silence is kept and the Collect, the prayer of the day, is said.*

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living  
and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**All** Amen.

*Lighting of the Advent Ring:* by Ella Hand <https://youtu.be/dZMBrYfEVrA>

We have this Advent Ring to remind us of  
the coming of Jesus, the light of the world:

We light this candle to remind us of God's  
people who in every age watch for his  
coming.

*The first Candle is lit:*

God of Abraham and Sarah,  
and all the patriarchs of old,  
you are our Father too.  
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Son of David.  
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth  
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit  
to make his home among us.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.  
**Amen.**

Saying sorry to God

*Confession*

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.



Turn to us again, O God our saviour,  
and let your anger cease from us:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*God's forgiveness.*

May the God of love and power forgive *us* and free *us* from *our* sins,  
heal and strengthen *us* by his Spirit,  
and raise *us* to new life in Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*Praise*

Blessed is the Lord

**All for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**  
therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

**All and in our song we will praise our God.**

*Hymn 3: Hills of the North, Rejoice*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufsfurSpPmM>

# Hearing and responding to the Word of God

## *Readings*

### **The first reading is from Isaiah 64.1-9**

#### **The First and Second Readings by Julian and Cassandra May**

<https://youtu.be/KjAzqxhg-gk>

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —  
<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
<sup>3</sup> When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup> From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup> You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
<sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
<sup>8</sup> Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup> Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**

**The second reading is from 1 Corinthians 1.3-9**

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Anthem: Advent Anthem by Harold Chaplin*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Z915Kuf9Os>

**The Third reading is from Mark 13.24-37 by Ella Hand**

[https://youtu.be/6\\_QhUtVRBOo](https://youtu.be/6_QhUtVRBOo)

**The Coming of the Son of Man**

<sup>24</sup> 'But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

## **The Lesson of the Fig Tree**

<sup>28</sup> 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

## **The Necessity for Watchfulness**

<sup>32</sup> 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** By Diane Lystor

Sermon 1st Sunday in Advent 2020

May my words be in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

"God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful."

How good it is to be with you, so I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year! Because the Lectionary makes it quite clear, the Church year begins with Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas – just as the hours of darkness get longer than those of light!

We have not had an easy time this year. As I write this we are still in lockdown with some uncertainty as to whether we can have large family celebrations over the Christmas period, and our much loved traditional Christmas Services will certainly be muted. So, nothing about this new year points to celebration.



Yet wherever we are, whatever we do, as Christians, Jesus Christ will be born again in our hearts on Christmas Day. That miracle, the greatest gift to humankind – Emmanuel, God with us - will come to us and abide with us.

This joy will come, but our readings for Advent begin as always with a solemn warning – “keep watch.”

We have left that great feast of teaching in Matthew to go helter-skelter through the life of Jesus with Mark’s account. This short Gospel brings us Jesus the man, striding out of nowhere to be baptised by John the Baptist (who Luke tells us is his cousin.) No beautiful birth scene, no mysterious visitors, no family history, just Jesus the man proclaiming the Good News of God, calling people to repent and inviting a motley crew of followers to leave their previous way of living and follow him. And follow him is what they do: BUT Mark makes it quite clear that most of the time they do not understand what he is teaching them.

As chapter 13 begins, the disciples are dazzled by the magnificence of the Temple; I find myself asking would I have been any different? The rest of the chapter does not make easy reading either as Peter, James, John and Andrew ask Jesus privately for an explanation for his prediction of the destruction of this glorious building.

“Watch” says Jesus, firstly that no one deceives you - i.e. false prophets, and then to keep watch for His return, the date of which is known only by God.

Mark does not bring us their reaction to this astonishing piece of teaching, instead plunges straight on to the Passover celebration, the Last Supper and the horror of the trial and crucifixion.

We are so fortunate! We know what happens, the Resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit which will transform that motley crew into fervent evangelists travelling, preaching, converting, baptizing and healing. Even the Christ hating Pharisee Saul will be knocked off his feet and blinded by the risen Christ who asks simply “Saul, why do YOU persecute ME?”

For the rest of his life Paul will, in all his teaching, hold the cross proudly aloft triumphantly proclaiming its salvation. “We preach Christ crucified” he tells the Church in Corinth. But he also comforts them with the knowledge that they are held in love by our faithful God who has enriched their lives through their knowledge of Jesus Christ.

So, let us allow these words of Paul to uplift us: let us go into this Church New Year and this period of uncertainty with Thanksgiving for this great gift God has bestowed on us. Above all, let us keep watch, that is keep faith in Jesus Christ our Saviour, our Lord, our King and our friend, who guides and walks beside us wherever we go and whatever we have to face.

And my dear friends, let us live that same love that he has bestowed on us, taking it into the world, bringing it to those who need it most.

In the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

*Hymn 4: Thy kingdom come O God*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oe-Vy5LkYEs>

### *Affirmation of Faith*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## *Prayers of Intercession*: By Zanny Laurence

### **Let us Pray**

Heavenly Father we thank you that this current \lockdown is coming to an end and we will once again be able to see our friends in Church and share our Worship. We do think of all those who cannot Worship openly and without fear. Lord we ask you to be with these people and let them feel your love.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

As we approach Advent, we thank you Lord for the Christmas Story which brings so much to excitement to all your children. We thank you Lord for this most wonderful time of the year. Although we are going through Covid 19 we can never cancel Christmas and we must do all we can to make this the best Christmas ever in whatever circumstances we are in. Help us Lord not to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Let this Christmas bring comfort and joy with God shining in our hearts. In Jesus name Amen

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Strengthen and guide Arch Bishop Justin, Arch Bishop Stephen and our Bishops Peter and John, and Arch Deacon Elizabeth. We especially ask you Lord to be with Arch Bishop Stephen as he takes on extra duties as Arch Bishop Justin is taking a year out for special studies. We ask your blessings Lord on our Steven here keeping us altogether through services, services on zoom and Bible Study. We thank you Lord for our PCC, Church Wardens and all those who help with the upkeep of our Churches.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Almighty Father we pray for all those countries who are in conflict, for homeless people here and abroad for countries where there is famine. Let these people know your love and may there be peace throughout the world. We pray for our own local communities, and ask for your blessings

Lord on us all. We also think of all the people in this country who are struggling to survive through lack of money, food etc., Our local Food Pantry has been so needed and we thank all those who contribute to such a worthwhile cause.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless and guide our Queen; give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace that we may honour one another and seek the common good. Lord we especially ask you to guide the Government at this time with so many difficult decisions to agree on.

Give grace to us, our families and friends who are very dear to us are needed more than ever at this time, and our neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. We especially bring before you Lord: -

Matt Batt

Irene Johnson

Beryl Dixon

Sarah Maher

David Garlick

Tony Gibson

Jean Webber

Jean Winn

Andrew Jackson

Cally Thorpe

Josh Pitman

Sue Wilson

Georgia

Andy Smith

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Hear us when we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

We remember Wendy Cole who passed away last weekend, we pray for David and all family and friends at this difficult time.

We pray for the family of Henry Rolph whose funeral service is on the 3rd December at St Lawrence followed by Cremation

Lord we also ask that you be with those whose Anniversary of their loved ones approaches and trust they will take comfort that the Angels came for their loved ones at the most wonderful and magical time of the year.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of Thomas, Lawrence, Nicholas, James, Peter, Cedd and all the Saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

# Going out to serve God

*Hymn 5: Long Ago, Prophets Knew*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeLA1LhqFA4>

*This prayer may be said*

May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
and the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us now and for evermore.

**All Amen.**

Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Advent Music:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRi1GDoaQu4&list=PLm5tazl5b\\_JiEeT2nNlItfCGx3aXmIfjC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRi1GDoaQu4&list=PLm5tazl5b_JiEeT2nNlItfCGx3aXmIfjC)

A service from New Patterns for Worship. Compilation copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002. Closing prayer Ray Simpson, painting by kind permission of Jen Norton, photo David Thorpe.

**Next Week**

**9am Zoom Communion**

**10am Morning worship at the Church Centre**

**10:30am Morning Communion at St Lawrence Church**

**Online Communion Service with the lighting of the Advent 2 Candle**

## Notices

1. These **Online Services** will continue for those wanting to continue worshipping at home.

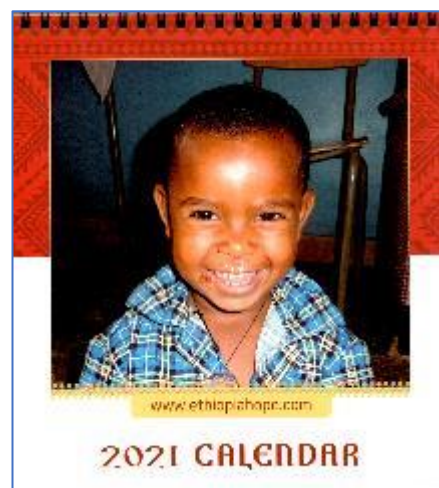
(To view this service playlist, click below, come back to this sheet for the sermon and the prayers for today)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIszhvHjBxQ&list=PL-v3HHJgZACwpnz2MuicAdcR4xDicYAU4>

## Ethiopia Hope Calendars

<http://www.ethiopiahope.com/>

Mike and Angie have produced these 2021 calendars in aid of the charity we support at St Thomas'. If anyone would like a wall or desktop calendar for £3 each please contact **Theresa Reed** on **776247** or Mike and Angie:



## Christmas Toy Present

Normally this time of the year we collect toys for the Salvation Army to distribute at Christmas to families going through difficult times. Last year our toys went to families in East London and were much appreciated.

If you would like to donate a toy, (with a piece of wrapping paper separate), please give them to the **Steven** or the **Churchwardens** for **Theresa Reed** to collect and take them to the Salvation Army.



**Christmas PRESENT appeal**

Could you help us make Christmas special for families who would have little or nothing under the tree on Christmas Morning?

If so we have the following ways to donate new, unwrapped gifts in a COVID secure way:

- in store at Tesco, Maldon or Morrisons, Maldon
- Choose a gift from our Amazon Wish List with United in Kind
- Give directly to our appeal on our Just Giving site

For more information find us on Facebook, email: [Maldon@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:Maldon@salvationarmy.org.uk) or call 01521 846 008

With your help we can make this Christmas as safe and special for more families in the Maldon District.

**The Salvation Army** In Maldon, Working with **United in Kind**

Registered Charity No. 214175 and in England 10208688 - Thank You! Registered Charity No. 102074 and in Scotland 10220891 - Thanks a million! Registered Charity No. C194268

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**The First Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 - Salutation

Mark 13: 24 - end - The Coming of the Son of Man

### **Notices**

### **Weekly Sermon for this Sunday by Bishop Peter**

[Weekly Sermon - Advent Sunday 29 November by Bishop Peter - YouTube](#)

### **Advent Reflection By Dr Jane Williams – Professor of Christian Theology**

[Advent Hope | St Mellitus College](#)

### **Pastoral Care Course**

If anyone is interested in joining a course on pastoral care, an online 10 week course via zoom, will begin in January. Please contact Revd Steven if you are interested.

### **Spiritual Communion – Live via zoom at 10am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81480565371?pwd=akRaRjZ3QzBhcGVzeHVoNHVQNWVh6dz09>

Meeting ID: 814 8056 5371

Passcode: 715508

### **Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 25 and 26 / Time: Monday Nov 30, 2020 07:30 PM London**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73652030603?pwd=OUxuaDk3enBPenRmZW9hNmoyQ2ZOdz09>

Meeting ID: 736 5203 0603

Passcode: Vt59MF





### **Virtual Messy Church**

Join us for our Virtual Messy Cathedral for Christmas! To book places please email [gillian.bunn@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:gillian.bunn@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk) by Thursday 3 December.

### **Advent Course**

I am looking to hold an Advent course on Wednesday evenings in December via zoom on Wednesday 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 7.30pm-9pm. To register, please let Revd Steven know. For more information visit:- [4- Session Course for Advent 2020 or any season Living in Hope written by Catherine Fox](#)

### **Join Bishop Peter and contributors from across the diocese at 3 pm on Advent Sunday, 29th November 2020, for a special online service to launch Generous God, Generous Disciples.**

Find out more at [Chelmsford Diocese - YouTube](#)

### **Diocesan Synod 21 November 2020, Presidential Address by Rt Rev Peter Hill**

[Diocesan Synod 21 November 2020, Presidential Address by Rt Rev Peter Hill | Chelmsford Diocese \(anglican.org\)](#)

### **Advent Webinar Series from York Minster Apocalypse Now (and then): Stories from the Great East Window**

Spectacular stained glass panels contained within York Minster's Great East Window – the renowned medieval masterpiece created by John Thornton in the 15th century – will be the focus of a new webinar series of Advent Reflections to be hosted by York Minster in November and December.

Four outstanding speakers will each take one panel of the medieval window to explore the traditional Advent themes of Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – known as The Four Last Things - challenging contemporary views of the Advent and Christmas season.

#### **Thursday 26th November at 3pm - Death**

Professor John Swinton, Professor in Practical Theology & Pastoral Care; Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies, University of Aberdeen.

#### **Thursday 3rd December at 7.30pm - Judgement**

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell.

#### **Thursday 10th December at 7.30pm - Heaven**

Dr Paula Gooder.

**Thursday 17th December at 3pm - Hell**

The Bishop of Hull, the Right Reverend Alison White.

Access to this webinar series is by free booked ticket via the York Minster website. To book go

to: <https://tickets.yorkminster.org/webstore/shop/viewItems.aspx?CG=BESE&C=ANAT>

**Recommended Books for Advent**

[The Coming of God – Maria Boulding](#)

[Haphazard by starlight – Janet Morley](#)

[Waiting on the Word – Malcolm Guite](#)

[Frequencies of God – Carys Walsh](#)

**Ten Ways To Celebrate Advent At Home**

[Ten ways to celebrate Advent at home | Pathways to God](#)

**Christmas promotion**

The Message version of Isaiah 9:6 is: 'His names will be: Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness.' HOPE Together will be leading the [Church of England's online Advent](#) service on 6 December on this theme of wholeness and wellbeing as we introduce The Wellbeing Journey. Wellbeing is the subject of the moment and Dave Smith's new book '[God's Plan for You Wellbeing](#)' expertly tackles it from God's perspective; the Wellbeing Journey film series is based on the book. We're encouraging churches up and down the country to run The Wellbeing Journey online or in person from January, inviting all those who attend their Christmas services, both virtually and physically, to join them on this journey. The series can be used to run as a centralised group (Alpha-style) or in small groups or Sunday services, whether online or physically. The material is suitable for interested non-Christians and would make a great introduction to your church. Find out more at [wellbeingjourney.org](http://wellbeingjourney.org) and sign up to be notified when all the resources are ready.