



WORD OF THE WEEK Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God:

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”



John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”



For lots of people, the four weeks of Advent are just a countdown of shopping days to Christmas.

For Christians, Advent is a special holy time leading up to the birth of their saviour Jesus Christ.

The word Advent means “coming”. When someone special is coming to visit, it is usual to prepare and get ready.

During Advent Christians prepare themselves for the coming of the infant Jesus.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

This is a very special time – the first week of Advent and we have started the countdown to Christmas. There are many things that people do to get ready for Christmas - we have to put up our Christmas tree, lights, and decorations. We have to get our Christmas cards addressed and mailed. We have a lot of shopping to do to buy gifts for our family and friends. There is a lot of cooking that must be done - we must buy all of the food for Christmas dinner. The list seems endless! While we are getting ready for Christmas, there is something else that we must be prepared for as well. Jesus promised that he would come again and the Bible tells us that we must be watching and be prepared for his return. We all know when Christmas is coming, but when will Jesus come again? The Bible says that no one knows the hour of his return. Not even the angels who announced his birth know when he will come again. If we don't know when he is coming, how can we be prepared? If we want to be prepared for Jesus' coming, we must always be busy doing the things that he told us to do. We must be loving God and loving one another. It is fun and exciting to prepare for Christmas, but we must also be prepared for that day when Jesus comes again.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- Think about the last time you welcomed a special guest – what preparations had to be made?
- If Jesus were to come back today, what would you want to say to him?
- Our scripture passage speaks of making 'his paths straight' – are you prepared to welcome Jesus into your life? What paths have to be straightened in order to welcome him?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

*Lord, help us to be on the look-out for your coming,
as the people and events of the season crowd in.*

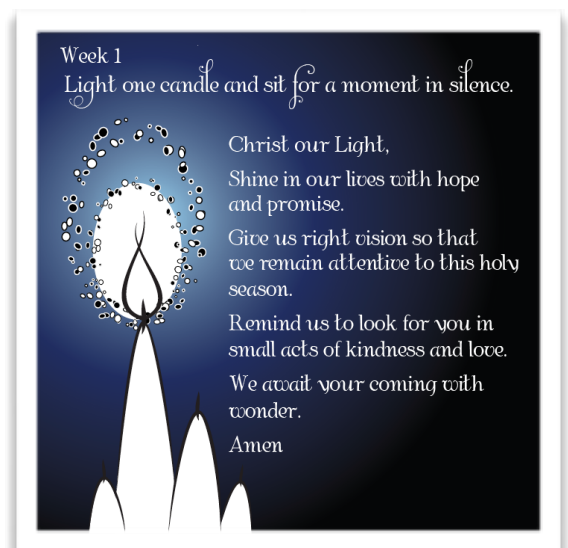
Open our eyes to see you in the guise of friend and stranger,

Whatever the path, wherever the place,

However you come to us,

May there be recognition.

And joyous welcoming. Amen



SOMETHING TO DO

We are asking each form class if they would be generous this Advent and donate items to make three parcels.

One should contain gifts for a homeless male at Fox Street.

One should contain gifts for a female at a local woman's refuge.

The third box should contain food for a local family struggling financially.



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

On Wednesday some of our pupils will be representing All Hallows at the annual Christmas Carol Concert at Liverpool Cathedral.

Chapel Cafe is on Friday at lunchtime. Come along for hot chocolate.

