

ADVENT: BE PREPARED



WORD OF THE WEEK



Isaiah 40: 3-5

"A voice cries out:

**"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a path for our God.**

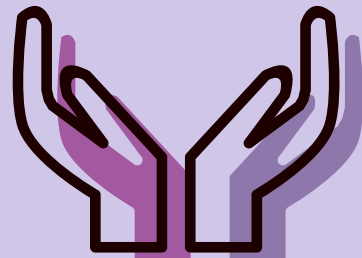
**Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.**

**Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."**

A great way to prepare for the coming of Jesus is to make sure we know something about him. The book that tells us all is the Bible. That's why every week we have a reading from the bible to help us get to know Jesus better.

The Gospel of Luke has 24 chapters, if you read a chapter a day for the whole of Advent by Christmas day you will have read the whole life of Jesus.

We aren't that far into Advent so why not catch up. You can find the Gospel on Luke online or see Kate for a Bible.



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Jesus, as we prepare to welcome you again this Christmas, speak your words into our hearts and lives, that by our preparation for your birth, we might proclaim what still needs to be made ready if our world is to become more like your Kingdom. Soften our hearts, calm our fears, and give us courage to proclaim your coming into our broken world.

Amen.





AN UNEXPECTED GUEST

Unexpected guests who arrive on our doorstep can be occasions of joy or panic- it all depends on how prepared we are. If the house is tidy, the fridge is full of food, and a guest room ready then there is no problem when the surprise visitor arrives. However if the house is not ready, the cupboards empty, guests may feel unwelcome and we will be embarrassed.

During advent we prepare for the coming of the Lord.
If we prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus' birth we will appreciate Christmas all the more.

Advent is our time for preparation, we should aim to be ready so that Jesus will find a welcome reception in our hearts and in our world.

But how do we prepare for Advent?
Talk to the person next to you about ways you think we can prepare properly for Christmas.

This week's word of the week speaks of making straight the path for God-
What paths have to be made straight in our lives in order to welcome Jesus?
How can you get ourselves ready to welcome him?

Well Advent is a time of hope, joy, peace and love but we can only really experience these if we are open to experience them. That means letting go of the things that might be stopping us feeling hope, joy, peace and love. Letting go of any worries, troubles or anything that is bothering us.

If we have fallen out with someone, Advent is a great time for making up and offering friendship.
If we have done something wrong, made a mistake, Advent is a perfect time to say sorry.

Take a moment of quiet now to think about those things that are bothering us at this moment. How can we make them better so we can prepare for a Christmas full of hope, peace, joy and love?

PEACE
LOVE
& JOY

Empty our your pockets or bag or pencil case and sort everything into these piles- things I want, things I need, things I don't need.

We carry with us so much that we don't need, not just physically but in our minds and hearts too. We carry jealousy, we carry hate, we carry sadness. What else can you get rid of from your life this Advent to make room for Jesus?



COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS
(CLICK HERE)

PREPARE HIM ROOM
(CLICK HERE)

WHAT IS ADVENT? GANGNAM STYLE
(CLICK HERE)



ADVENT APPEAL

Our Advent appeal is another great way to prepare properly for Christmas. By writing your Christmas cards to older and isolated member of our community you are doing something to make the world a better place, you are bringing hope, peace, joy and love into the lives of those people and helping to create a world that Jesus would want to see.

We only have a week and a bit left of our appeal so make sure you are getting your cards written.

Also have a think how else you could help others this Advent. For example, donate some of your pocket money to charity or donate some Christmas chocolate to a local food bank.

All this helps to create God's Kingdom here on earth, ready for his arrival.



"At Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."