

St Francis Weekly News for THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 29th November 2020



This bulletin may have come to you by email or through your letterbox, if you received it on paper but are happy to receive an email in future please email deborah.lechmere@ntlworld.com If you know anybody else who would like this delivered or emailed please contact Deborah or Revd Janet: revdjanetwyer@outlook.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ST FRANCIS CHURCH?

A NEW CHURCH YEAR!

So here we are poised on the brink of a new church year. This Sunday we light the first candle in our Advent Wreath and begin the journey toward Christmas – the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Before we arrive at Christmas though we spend these four Sundays in Advent thinking about the gift that Jesus is to us – Light in the darkness; and taking a look at ourselves to make sure that all is well with our soul...

Advent is divided up into two parts – the first part we think about Jesus promise to return as king of the world and to bring about the kingdom of heaven on earth; the second half after 16th December, we prepare for the joy of the incarnation – Jesus coming to us as the babe of Bethlehem.

Advent, just like Lent, is a penitential season – a spiritual 'spring clean' just as we like to get our homes ready for the big celebration on Christmas Day, this is the opportunity to not only make sure we are ready to receive the Christ child into our hearts but that we are ready to welcome Jesus when he comes again.

So, the four candles of Advent, the first of which will be lit this Sunday – these represent all the people throughout Holy Scripture who were told to prepare for the coming of the Christ – God's Son,



and also remind us of promises God made to them – the promise that the Christ child would bring with him Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

The St Francis Advent Wreath and the church clothed in purple – the colour of Advent.

REVD WINNIE'S WINDOW DISPLAY

Revd Winnie and Brother Eeyore are picking up the Advent theme and making their own Advent Wreath. Each week they'll make their own candle and pop it on display, just to make sure everyone gets the message!

This week Revd Winnie has lit the Candle of Hope.



Revd Winnie says: 'Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus'

THE ADVENT TREE

In the window we have a tree that looks very wintry. It's bare branches are a reminder of the circle of life – that it is inevitable that we will at some point in our lives find ourselves feeling bereft and vulnerable, but no matter what has happened no matter how bleak and cold the situation we find ourselves in, the promise of new shoots of life are never far away. Spring will come eventually.

Every day through December until Christmas Day we are hoping to place a little homemade bauble or ornament on the tree as a reminder that we are not powerless in the face of wintry times,. That by taking little steps of hope we can make a difference.

We already have some pretty trimmings for the first few days in December – please help dress the tree so by the 25th it is bursting with signs of hope and love



Many thanks to Margaret and Maureen for Starting us off!

If you would like to add a decoration to the tree, please either bring it to the church any weekday between 10am – 12pm, or pop it through the vicarage door: 100 Rider Haggard Road.

HELLO TO OUR FRIENDS AT WOODSIDE HOUSE

This last Wednesday Fr Tracy and I had the great pleasure of zooming in to Woodside House!

Following on from a request from Samantha the Activities Co-ordinator at Woodside House, we are now hoping to broadcast a simple 'Songs of Praise' service for the benefit of the residents every Wednesday afternoon at 2.30pm.

It has seemed a very long time since we were able to meet up with everyone at Woodside House, so this is a wonderful way to catch up with old friends and maybe make some new ones.

I know that this newsletter goes into Woodside House, so just a little reminder – if there is a particular hymn or worship song you would like to hear please let Samantha know [or speak up when we get together] and we'll do our best to include it.



St Francis all set up for the Woodside zoom service

ST FRANCIS CYCLES

In October I was delighted to announce that we had taken possession of a garage on Rider Haggard Road as part of the City Council 'StuffHub' project.

We had secured the garage not only to launch a hub for passing on good quality unwanted household goods – but as a permanent base for our St Francis Cycles venture.

Working in conjunction with Richard Andrews our local CycleUK co-ordinator we are well on the way to re-launching the accompanied bike rides that were very popular last year along with 'Bike Doctor' sessions at least twice a month.

As you will see a lot of work is currently underway making the garage fit for purpose - and it's all looking really good! Many thanks to Danny and Richard for all their hard work.



LIVE BROADCAST OF SUNDAY SERVICE

Last week saw our first attempt at broadcasting live via the St Francis YouTube channel.

As ever with any attempt at using new technology there were one or two hiccups – at least some of you had difficulty using the link we published in the newsletter.

Many apologies to those of you who found themselves confronted with a mass of incomprehensible gobbledygook - hopefully this week the problem has been solved!

I have had lots of positive feedback from folk who have appreciated the opportunity to tune into the past couple of week's sermons - it's wonderful when a vision bears good fruit.

I think it's only fair to say that none of these technological advances could have happened without Fr Tracy's expertise. I extend my deep thanks to him for all his hard work

The new YouTube live link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1QUyfYL2vyjLZygNBjzV3w>

DECEMBER TIER TWO RESTRICTIONS

As from 6th December St Francis Church will once again be open for Sunday worship.

10.30am - Advent Holy Communion

5.00pm – BCP Evening Prayer

We look forward to seeing you!

As ever we will be taking every possible measure to ensure that we adhere strictly to the Covid hygiene regulations – and we ask that you bear with us in terms of asking you to sanitize your hands as you enter the church and if you are able to wear a mask at all times.

As well as rejoicing in sharing Holy Communion one with another in the church building we will continue to broadcast via the St Francis YouTube channel.

Especially as we now have followers who tune in from Australia!

THE REAL ADVENT CALENDARS

A big thank you to those who donated so generously to our Advent Calendar appeal.

I'm very happy to report that by the 1st December many little people in the Heartsease will have received their very own fairtrade countdown to Christmas calendar – and the included Christmas Story book.

Hopefully by next week we'll have some pictures to share with you.

SALVATION ARMY

TOYS & TINS
appeal

St Francis is once again supporting the Salvation Army Christmas Toys and Tins appeal

If you would like to drop off a donation of any non-perishable Festive Foods for the hampers or a new gift for a child or young person, the church building is open every weekday morning between the hours of 10am and 12pm.

The suggested gift list is as follows:

Board Games and puzzles
Craft and modelling kits
Action figures
Dolls and teddy bears
Educational toys
Pens and Pencils
Baby toys
Toiletries for teens
Hats and gloves
Books

There is an 'Amazon Wish List' if you would like to have a look - the link is: <https://amzn.to/2Gqiucd>

Please ensure that you donations reach us before 7th December to allow us plenty of time to get them where they need to be.

Many thanks to all the kind souls who have already popped some amazing gifts into the hamper in the Church doorway.

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER DURING ADVENT

St Francis Church building will be accessible for quiet individual prayer [or for people in a household bubble to pray together] in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

The church space will open every weekday morning 10am – 11.30pm. There will also be resources available and you will be able to light a prayer candle if that is something you would like to do. If you would like to arrange to come at a particular time, or would like to talk to us about guided prayer or asking for prayer support please feel free to call Revd Janet [07368 832294] or Fr Tracy [07834 845623]

ST FRANCIS ZOOM ROOM HOUSEGROUP

Do you fancy an online get together to catch up with each other, share a Bible passage and pray?

Our new home zoom group meets every fortnight and the next get together is on Monday 30th November.

The group starts at 7pm and finishes around 8pm.

All are welcome – please contact Jim Green via email: jimpiecrust@gmail.com or simply zoom in:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83340751619?pwd=dnNMV015R2I2RlE2T1R3VWhUblRzQT09>

Meeting ID: 833 4075 1619

Passcode: 460998

PASTORAL CARE MATTERS

Although we are now nearly out of the November social lockdown, we find ourselves living with Tier Two Restrictions. These restrictions may well be presenting many people with all sorts of difficulties - so never has it been more necessary for us all to treat one another with kindness.

And never before has it been so vital for us to look and listen out for folk who might be struggling.

Please, if you would like the opportunity to have a chat, or if you need some assistance of any kind please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We are very happy to talk with you if that would be helpful.

We are also able to offer help if you or someone you know needs support with emergency basic food provision.

Please do not feel that you are alone - help and support is always available, whatever may be troubling you.

Revd Janet [07368 832294]

Father Tracy [07834 845623]

Eleanor [07840 206716]

Also, there is always someone available in the church building weekdays 10.00am – 12.00pm; please feel free to knock at the door, it will open to you.



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Childline: 0800 1111

Samaritans: 116 123

Domestic Violence Hotline: 0808 2000 247

[If you hear a neighbour in distress please do not hesitate to call this number or 999; you could save a life]

Mind: 0300 123 3393

Age UK: 0800 169 6565

Norfolk Assistance Scheme: **01603 223392**

CHURCH FUNERAL NOTICES

1st December at 11am – Betty Brittain

2nd December at 10.30am – Beryl Farrell

We regret that all available seats are taken, but should you wish to pay your respects you may stand outside the church so long as you adhere to social distancing regulations.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Betty and Beryl's families.

THE CURATE'S CORNER

Hopefully you will know that this Sunday is Advent Sunday, the start of the season of Advent in the calendar of the church, and the start of the church year.

Every Sunday and indeed, every day if you were to go to services on weekdays, scripture readings from the bible are read in church. These scripture readings are not random and are set for out for us in in a set of lists that are called the lectionary. The lectionary is a long list of readings that stretches out across three years. This means that we read a set of scripture readings across three years and when we get to the first year, the whole sequence starts all over again.

The list is properly called the 'Revised Common Lectionary' and you may be surprised to learn that it is used by the Church of England (that's us) and the Anglican Communion throughout the world, the Roman Catholic Church, all the various flavours of Methodism, Lutherans, Baptists and many other churches. So many millions of Christians are all reading the same passages, thinking and praying about them, applying that teaching and inspiration to their lives all at the same time.

The three years are labelled, A, B and C. We have just finished year A and so year B begins on Sunday 29th of November. Each year we are provided with a set of Sunday readings based on three of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. Each Gospel is allocated to a year:

Matthew in Year A

Mark in Year B

Luke in Year C.

Through the course of each year, a reading from the appointed Gospel is read at Sunday worship. The fourth Gospel, John's, is used to supplement this as well.

In this coming year we will be reading and hearing a lot of the Gospel of St Mark, so this week I'd like to give you a quick overview.

There are four Gospel stories in the bible, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They all tell the story of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from slightly different perspectives.

It's great fun to think of them as being printed in different kinds of newspaper. Mark is short and to the point; so rather like the version you might read in the Metro free newspaper, or the Daily Mirror. Matthew on the other hand is more detailed and a bit judgemental in places, so we might expect to find it printed in the Daily Mail. Luke uses finer language, contains a greater overview and is sympathetic and socially aware – the Guardian version.

John's version, on the other hand, isn't a newspaper article at all. It's the movie! It even has the trailer at the beginning (read it and you'll see exactly what I mean!). John thinks in pictures and cuts like a film maker, and he uses light and darkness, colour, warmth and emotion in a very cinematic way. And like a typical film director, John leaves the carefully shot 'last supper' bread breaking sequence on the cutting room floor (because, hey, everybody's done that) and uses the foot washing scene that wasn't going to make the final cut (because nobody else bothered to mention it).

Back to Mark, then, which we begin to read on Sunday. As I've already said, Mark is short and to the point. There are only 16 chapters, so a really nice thing to do is to sit with three other people and read through it chapter by chapter, each person in turn. In this manner, each person only reads four chapters. As long as you have a supply of drinking water it's not difficult and deeply moving. Do remember we are in tier 2, so no mixing of households!

Mark, the writer of this Gospel, travelled with Paul and Barnabas and later on helped the elderly Peter: he is actually mentioned in the bible at the end of the first letter of Peter (1 Peter 15:13). Tradition tells us that he used the memories and teaching of Peter to write his Gospel; it is easy to imagine the young Mark faithfully writing down the anecdotes and contemplations of a wise old man.

We aren't sure when it was written. Peter ended up in Rome, so presumably so did Mark; this connection, combined with the fact that there appears to be no awareness of the destruction of

the Jerusalem temple in AD 70, suggests that it was written very early on. Many people believe that this was the first of the gospels to be written, but others (including me) think that they were written in the order they are arranged in the bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The major theme of Mark is Jesus Christ as servant and sacrifice. So Jesus, despite clearly possessing power and authority is at the same time a suffering servant and messiah (see 8:27-33). He has come to us to serve us and to act as a sacrifice for many (10:45). Mark is perfectly clear that Jesus is the Son of God (1:1, 1:11, 9:7, 14:61-2). Jesus also has power over demons, is able to heal the sick and forgive sins (1:23-25, 2:10-11). At the same time, Jesus is fully human. This is expressed in the story of the agony in the garden and His suffering on the cross.

Mark also tells us that Jesus seems to have tried to keep His identity under wraps. He often commands people, demons and even His disciples to keep quiet about His identity, waiting to reveal himself before the court (14:62). Only after the resurrection do the disciples fully comprehend who Jesus really is (16:14).

It's interesting that the word 'disciple' never appears in Mark. Nevertheless, it is clear that Jesus expects His followers to be seriously committed, and, if necessary, to suffer for His sake (8:34:38).

When people ask me where to begin in reading the bible, I always suggest to start by reading Mark. It's short, simple, fast moving – and is the best summary of the Christian Way.

Every blessing

Fr Tracy

A WORD FROM THE VICAR

Just a very quick thought from me this week – and it's all to do with the difference between the ways of the world – it's only by having the so called 'best of everything' and spending lots of money that true happiness can be found; and the true happiness that can be found following Jesus.

Jesus came into the world to be our light in the darkness, to bring hope, love, joy, and peace to God's beloved creation.

How interesting then that the materialistic world acknowledges that spending money and acquiring stuff is of the dark side by calling it's biggest spending day of the year 'Black Friday'...

God bless you and yours

Revd Janet

FOR OUR PRAYERS

We pray for those who are in acute need of prayer at this time: John P; Scott, Alison, & Millie S; Stephen C; Margaret T; David & Cynthia S; Darren L; Maegan; Tom; Riley & his mum and family; Jeanette, David & Grace; Paula; Pete; Lauren; Fr Brian; Hazel; Ben; Frazer.

We continue to pray for all those in our Church, friends and family who are managing long term health issues including Doreen; Rosemary; Sheila; John; Joy; Shirley.

We remember with love Yvonne Lemmon; Barry S; Betty Brittain; Kathleen Kelley; Beryl Farrell and all those who have died in recent days and pray for their family and friends.

PRAYER FOR THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Church of St Francis
Heartsease**

**Heavenly Father
We ask your blessing upon us.
Hold the Heartsease Community,
and all the world,
in your arms of love.
Be with us.
Give us your strength,
peace, and healing grace.
Watch over us,
protect us from harm;
and keep in safety
all those who care for the sick
and attend to our needs,
in Jesus name we pray.
Amen**

PRAYERS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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. Amen

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that,
when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ISAIAH 64:1 - 9**



O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
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!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

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.

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.

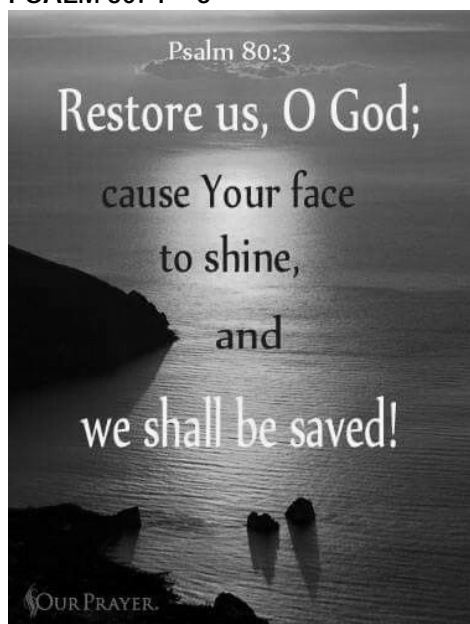
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

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.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

PSALM 80: 1 – 8



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦
you that led Joseph like a flock;
- 2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ♦
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
- 3 Stir up your mighty strength ♦

and come to our salvation.

4 Turn us again, O God; ♦
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

5 O Lord God of hosts, ♦
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

6 You feed them with the bread of tears; ♦
you give them abundance of tears to drink.

7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ♦
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

8 Turn us again, O God of hosts; ♦
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen

1 CORINTHIANS 1: 3 - 9

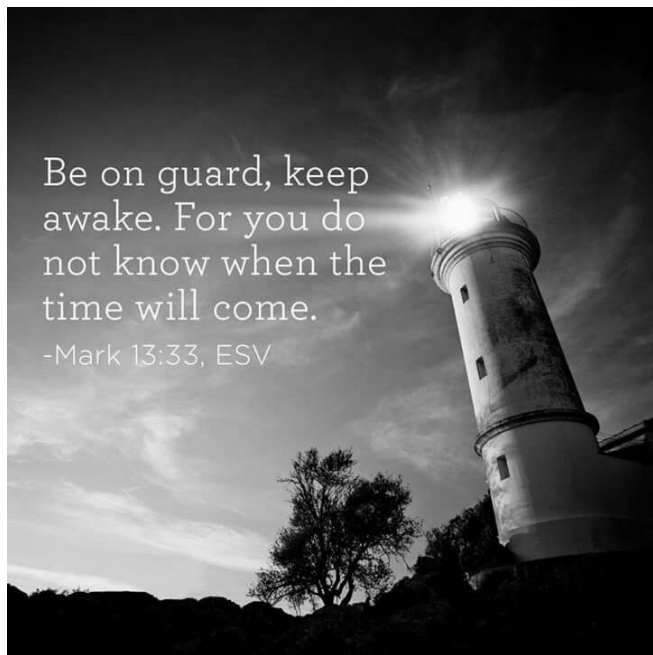
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

@FaithGauge





Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

-Mark 13:33, ESV

'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. 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.

'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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We will begin our worship on the first Sunday in Advent by lighting the first of the five candles in the Advent Wreath, the candle that speaks of hope.

The remaining three on the outer ring of the wreath symbolise the people throughout God's salvation history who were promised hope, peace, joy and love through the coming of God's Son – the founding mothers and fathers of our faith, the Old Testament Prophets, John the Baptist – and Mary the mother of Jesus.

The fifth candle, the white one representing Jesus will be lit on Christmas Day; the day we celebrate the true light coming into the world.

A burning candle has for centuries indicated the presence of Jesus in a place of worship. Look around most places of worship and you'll see candles are an accepted part of the day to day life of the church.

They are also an important expression of prayer for many people of faith – including people of the Jewish faith.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn was sent to Auschwitz as a very young child. In the midst of the concentration camp, the death and horror many Jews held onto whatever shreds of their religious observance they could.

One cold winter's night Hugo's father gathered the family in the barracks as it was the first night of Chanukah...the feast of Lights.

The little boy watched in horror as his father took the family's last piece of butter and made a makeshift candle using a string from his ragged clothes.

As he took a match and lit the light, little Hugo could contain himself no longer "Father, no!" he cried. "That butter is our last bit of food! How shall we live?"

Very gently his father drew him close, and turning him to face the small flickering light he said: "We can live for many days without food, my Son, but we cannot live for single minute without hope.

This is the fire of hope. Never let it go out. Not here. Not anywhere."

The flickering flame of hope – it burns in this house of God even as I speak – right here in St Francis Church, Heartsease.

It burns there in our beautiful advent wreath.

The first candle we lit this morning is the one that reminds of us of the here and now hope that we have been given through the steadfast faithfulness of the patriarchs, the founding mothers and fathers of our faith who speak to us from Old Testament times.

It also helps us to look to the hope that has been gifted to us by Jesus.

A tiny fire of hope burning among us – tiny, fragile, so easily extinguished.

But there are other small flickering flames burning here, and out there in the world, that are not so easily snuffed out - once we know they are there.

Each and every one of us is born with a tiny flickering flame of God's love that burns within us.

We were made to be bearers of God's light – every single one of us is capable of bringing the light and warmth of God's love into the darkest of places.

Carrying the flickering flame of the good news of God's love within us we can be hope on legs. As we move from place to place, God's love and peace and hope can go with us wherever we go – we can hold it up for all to see, just like a lighted candle.

But a warning!

Just like a candle flame, hope can be a fragile, fragile thing – especially when life gets dark and stormy – when sadness, fear or anxiety blows into our lives.

That's why it is so important that we keep our flame of hope burning, through prayer, reading scripture – opening ourselves to God's will; spending time with God.

We have to fuel the flame, make it a blazing fire – not just because we need to feel the warmth of it in our own lives, but more importantly, so that we can share the fire of our hope with others whose hope has grown pale – or even been snuffed out.

And talking of snuffed out, the reading from Mark's Gospel sounded pretty alarming didn't it?

Scary stuff, but actually in amongst all the scary stuff that Jesus is talking about there is great hope.

Even as Jesus is speaking of dark times to come, he is telling his disciples that it is in those dark times that he will come again.

Jesus is saying, 'do not be alarmed – wait – and I will be there.

Be ready and wait in hope – wait' Advent is all about waiting – for some it is about waiting for their glitzy, razzmatazz Christmas to come.

For those of us who believe in Jesus it's about reminding ourselves that we are waiting for him to come again as well as waiting for the celebration that marks our joy at his coming among us as a fragile baby.

Just like the disciples we still wait for Jesus' second coming – we don't know when that will happen, but we look to the day with great expectation.

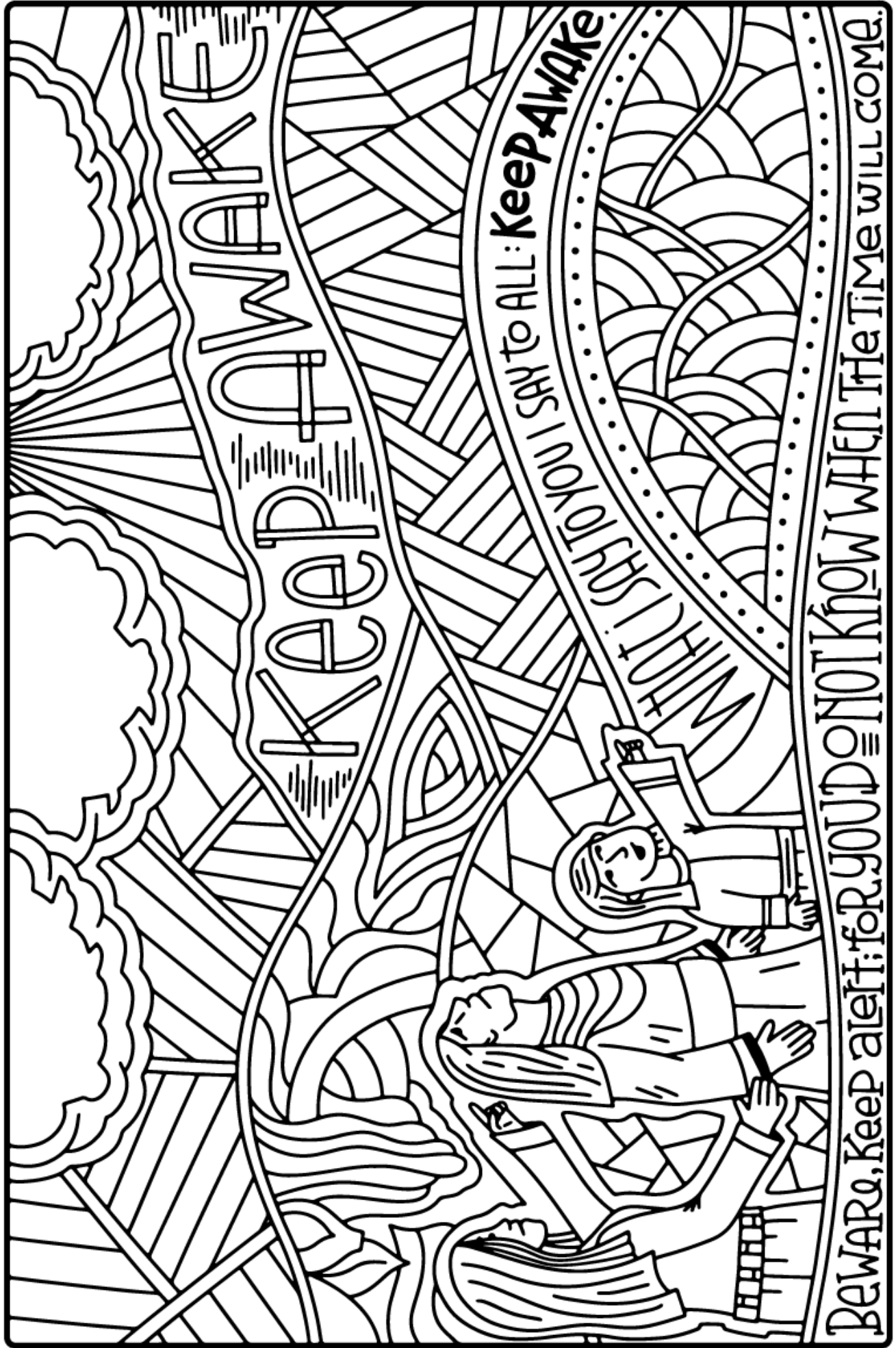
In these strange times we are living through we may not know what Christmas Day will be like, but we do know that Christmas day will come; December 25th will arrive – we have no need to hope; there is no challenge in waiting and preparing for the dawning of that day

The real challenge is keeping the hope within us that the day when Jesus comes again will soon dawn and that we will be ready to greet him when he comes – that we've helped others to do that too

So, as we wait this Advent, let's fan the tiny flame of our hope and pass it on to others, so that when Jesus comes again he is greeted with the blazing heat of innumerable hearts filled with the fire of hope fulfilled.

Revd Janet
Vicar, The Church of St Francis, Heartsease





Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.



Keep watching,' said Jesus. 'Nobody knows when the Son of Man will come back to earth. Not even the angels, or the Son. The Father knows, though, and he will send clues.

'Keep watching. There will be days of suffering; after that the sun will be darkened; the moon will stop shining; stars will fall and the powers in heaven will be shaken. Then the Son of Man will come in the clouds. He'll gather his chosen people from everywhere on earth.

'Keep watching,' Jesus said. 'I'm telling you all this so you'll be ready. When you see new shoots growing on the trees, you know summer is coming. When you see the things I've described, you'll know that the Son of Man is coming. Heaven and earth will come to an end, but my words will last for ever.

'Keep watching. Be ready. Imagine a man going on a trip and leaving his servants in charge of his house. They don't know when he's coming back, but they know when he gets home he'll want something to eat and expect the house to be in order. The doorkeeper will have to stay awake because the man may return in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows in the morning. If the servants doze off, he'll come home and find them asleep.

'That's why I say keep watching,' Jesus repeated. 'Keep awake.'

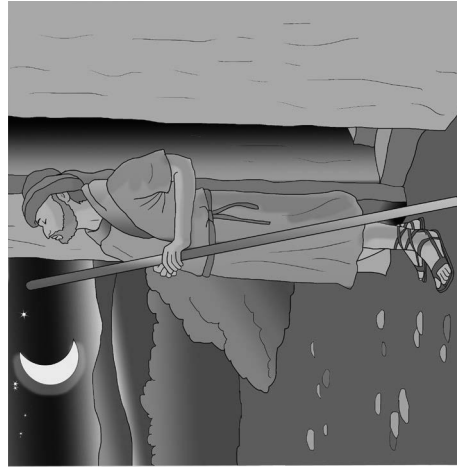
Activity time

Name



Mark 13.24-37

Jesus tells a story of servants waiting for their master, to teach us how we need to wait for his return.



Family time

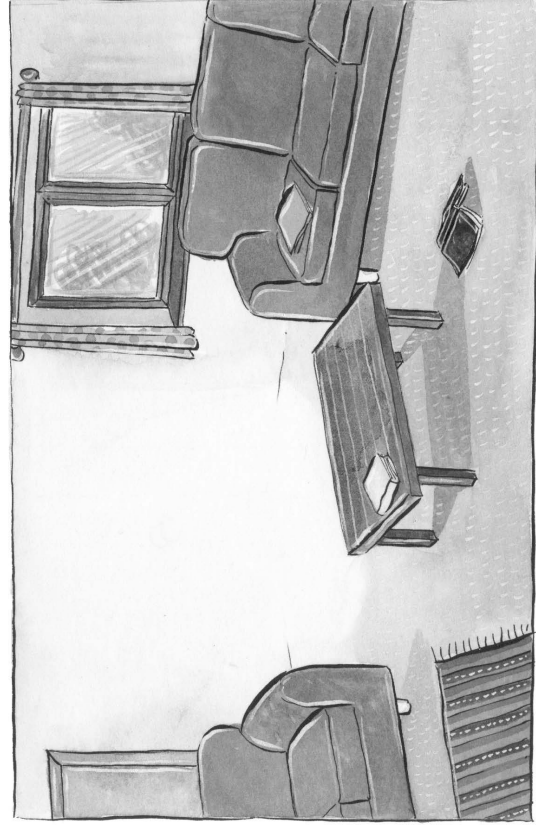
Talk How do you think Jesus' friends felt when Jesus said this to them?

Do Each morning this week, read Mark 13.32-35 and talk about how you can be ready for Jesus that day.

Pray Dear God, help us to be ready in our words and actions for Jesus coming back, even on the days when this is really hard. On those days, may we really know that you love us. Amen.



Draw a person doing something in this room to get it ready for an important visitor. Add other things into the room that would help to make it look special.



Puzzle

Read the passage again and circle the words which describe how you feel as you read Mark's Gospel. Think about why that might be.

worried

ready

scared

excited

nervous

hopeful

happy

ROOTS children's Sheet

29 November – 5 December 2020



Read through the sentences and be on the lookout to fill in any missing words.

'Keep watching.

Be _____.

Imagine a man going on a trip and leaving his _____ in charge of his house.

They don't know when he's _____ back

but they know when he

gets _____ he'll want

something to _____

and _____ the

house to be in order.

Name

Colouring time

We need to keep watch for Jesus.

