



## Congresbury Methodist Church News Week beginning 28th November 2021

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Circuit Website-[www.somersetmendmethodists.org](http://www.somersetmendmethodists.org)



Please Note we have a Facebook Page  
@ CONGRESBURY  
METHODIST CHURCH



### Church Events for Week Beginning 28th November 2021



**Advent Sunday 28th 11.00am** Morning Service led by Rev. Meg Slingo  
**Tuesday 16th 9.30am-12noon** Coffee Morning' Drop In' for the 0 to 90's plus in the Methodist Hall.

*The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live its discipleship in worship and Mission*

### Church Events for December 2021

**Sunday 5th 11.00am** Morning worship led by Eric Small  
**Sunday 12th 11.00am** Gift Service and Holy Communion led by Rev. Robert Channon  
**Sunday 19th 11.00am** Morning Worship led by Ken Hill  
**4.00pm** Carol Service led by Rev. Meg Slingo followed by refreshments in our hall  
**Saturday 25th 10.00am** Christmas Day service led by the Worship Leaders  
**Sunday 26th** There is NO service in our church

**Yatton Men's Society** The Yatton Men's Society meet in the Methodist Church, High Street, Yatton every fortnight on Monday Mornings 10.30 to 12.00

#### DATES FOR NOVEMBER

Mon. 29th Nov. Bristol's Lost City **Clive Burlton**

#### DATES FOR DECEMBER

Mon. 13th Dec. Advent Hope **Jill Flowers**

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**Gift Service** Our Gift Service will be held on Sunday 12th at 11.00am. Gifts required will be any Christmas foods i.e. biscuits, chocolates or sweets etc. They will be taken to the Food Bank the following week. Please leave the gifts in the Porch. Thank you.

### 'DROP IN' coffee mornings-0 to 90 plus

Come and join us for refreshments and a chat:-

**Tuesdays every fortnight**

9.30am to 12 noon **In the Methodist Hall**

**Everyone of all ages are most welcome**

### Bra Bank-The Appeal is now closed

Very many thanks to all who supported the Bra Bank Appeal for the used bras. The response was wonderful, and we ended up with 2 large boxes of bras which have been taken to Street Methodist Church for distribution. Thank you again Ladies

----- November dates are :-**30th**

December dates are:-**14th & 21st \***

January 2022 dates are:- **11th & 25th**

**\*(There will be carol singing on 21st Dec)**

### Ladies Friendly Circle

**22nd Dec.** Christmas Party organised by the Committee !! **Everyone Welcome**

**CATCH UP AND PRAYER AND ALSO BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM** Friends, I am asking in January and February 2022 would anyone like to have reinstated Catch up and Prayer on Monday afternoons and also Bible Study on Tuesdays? This may have to move to Tuesday afternoons. Both of these would be on zoom. Please email me. God bless Meg

**St. Andrew's Day Christmas Sale** and Coffee morning on Saturday, November 27. 10 a.m. – noon in the Methodist Hall. Local craftspeople will be selling pictures, cards, wooden and fabric items, with cakes, including individual Christmas cakes, White Elephant stall, plants and raffle. Entry £1 to include tea/coffee.

### Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 64: 1-9. Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19.  
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9. Mark 13: 24-37.

**PRAYER** Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year. May we pause to remember that we have **hope** in you. You know the end of our stories, and we give thanks because you have promised that it will be a victorious ending. Give us the grace we need to wrap up this year joyfully. We invite your Spirit into this beautiful Advent season. Renew our sense of holy anticipation! Let us be those who are waiting eagerly for Jesus to come again. More than anything, we ask that you be glorified in this season of expectation. Amen.

Each week either our minister, Meg, Pastoral Worker, Mike Bewick, or a Local Preacher, Worship Leader, Steward from our church writes a few words of personal reflections for our Notices . This week it is Mike

**My Thoughts** "The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come." ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"God of hope, I look to you with an open heart and yearning spirit. During this Advent season, I will keep alert and awake, listening for your word and keeping to your precepts. My hope is in you." ~ Matthew Kelly

**What Is Advent? History & Meaning**

For many Christians unfamiliar with the liturgical year, there may be some confusion surrounding the meaning of the Advent season. Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ’s birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there’s more to Advent.

The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming,” which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God’s incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (, his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist), and his first miracle at Cana (During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the “coming” they had in mind was not Christ’s first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ’s first coming at Christmas.

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these “last days” as God’s people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God’s past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ’s coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” perfectly represents the church’s cry during the Advent season:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ’s first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.

**Advent Liturgy and Practice**

To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent (through December 11th) look forward to Christ’s second coming, and the last two Sundays (December 11th – 19th) look backward to remember Christ’s first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ’s return in judgment to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ’s arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

While it is difficult to keep in mind in the midst of holiday celebrations, shopping, lights and decorations, and joyful carols, Advent is intended to be a season of fasting, much like Lent, and there are a variety of ways that this time of mourning works itself out in the season. Reflection on the violence and evil in the world causes us to cry out to God to make things right—to put death’s dark shadows to flight. Our exile in the present makes us look forward to our future Exodus. And our own sinfulness and need for grace lead us to pray for the Holy Spirit to renew his work in conforming us into the image of Christ.

One describes Advent as spirituality beautifully: “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor’s birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: ‘He must increase, but I must decrease.’”

**Pastoral Worker, Mike Bewick**

**Thought For The Week**



**Come thou long expected Jesus.  
Born to set thy people free**



Please note that most previous notices are kept in a folder in the Vestry if anyone wishes to see them-or I can email you one-John