



Dear Parent / Carer,
here is an electronic version of our Prayer Bag
for the first week of Advent

Celebrating Advent

Please take some time over the next few days
to come together, as a family, in prayer.

The **first** Sunday of Advent is celebrated on **28th November.**



A Message from Bishop David



Advent is the beginning of a new Church year. New Year celebrations are always time for looking back and looking to the future. Advent is no different. We look back through history, to see what the Lord has done for his people. We look forward as pilgrims involved in a journey deeper into the Gospel.

During the coming Church year, we will be listening to the Gospel of St Luke. Luke was a doctor, and so very interested in Jesus' healing miracles. Reading his Gospel, we see other themes. Luke is passionate about the poor and those on the margins of society.

He is concerned with the role of women within the early Christian community. He is fascinated by the Holy Spirit and the work of the Spirit in the proclamation of the Kingdom of God. Reflecting on these themes, I think we have much to learn this year about the Kingdom of God.

We join Luke's Gospel this week as Jesus is talking about the future. Perhaps these words are also about the here and now. We always live in difficult times, and our own time is no different. Jesus invites us to look forward with confidence. And to do this, we have to stand firm in our faith. Ask Jesus to help you to be a faithful disciple today.

✠ David

**Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley
Bishop of Northampton**



Find a comfortable place to sit,
light a candle
and begin with the Sign of the Cross

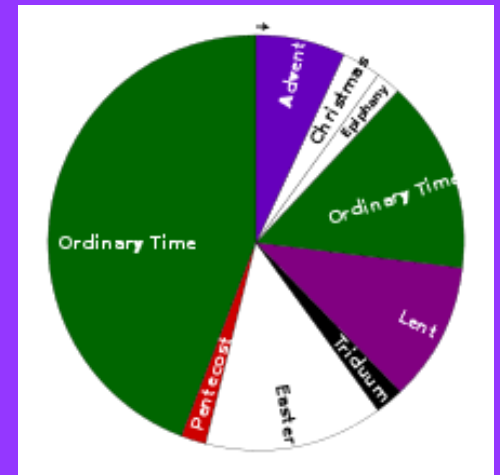


In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Happy New Year!

Advent is the beginning of the Church's Year.

We call it the Liturgical Year.
It marks the days and weeks and seasons
of our celebrations together, as Church,
to help us reflect on God's love in our lives.



Advent



Week 1

Waiting



What are you
waiting for?



What does it feel like to wait?





Advent is a time of waiting.....



**Waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus
over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem**

**Waiting for Jesus to
come and be born in our hearts
this Christmas**



**Waiting for Jesus
to come again in glory**

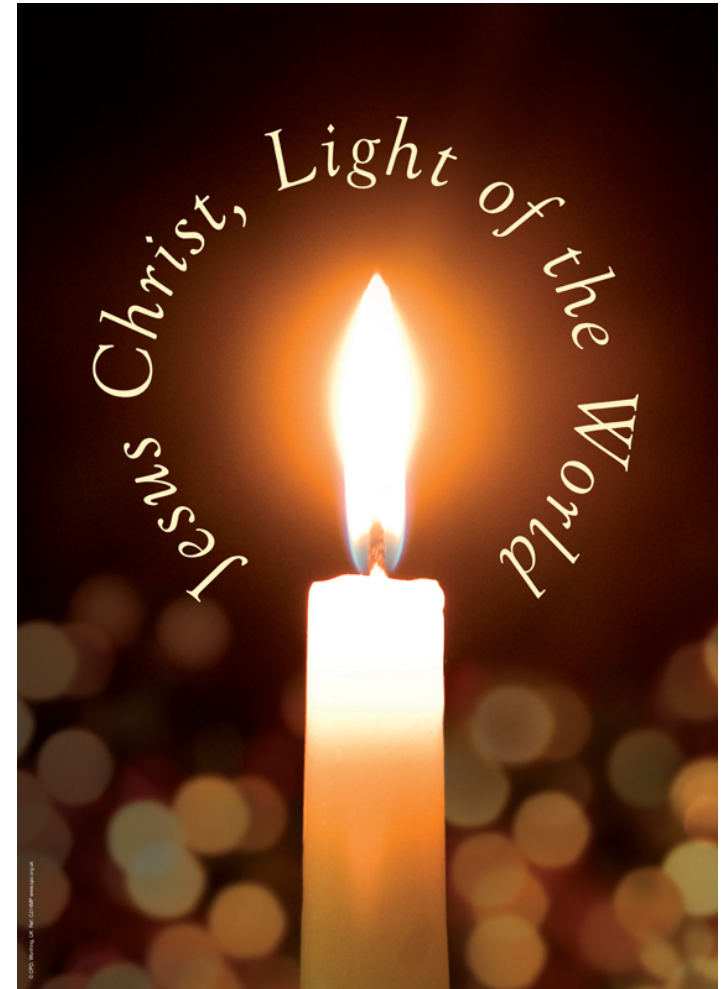
**We look back, to the Old Testament
God's people waited for a savior**

**God promised that the savior would be born
of David's house and line**





**Jesus, the promised one, was born
on Christmas Day**

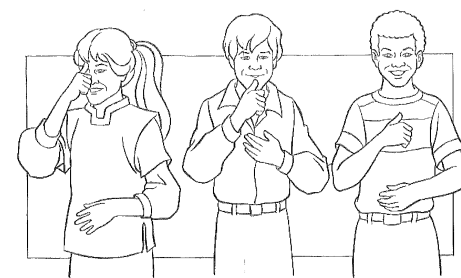
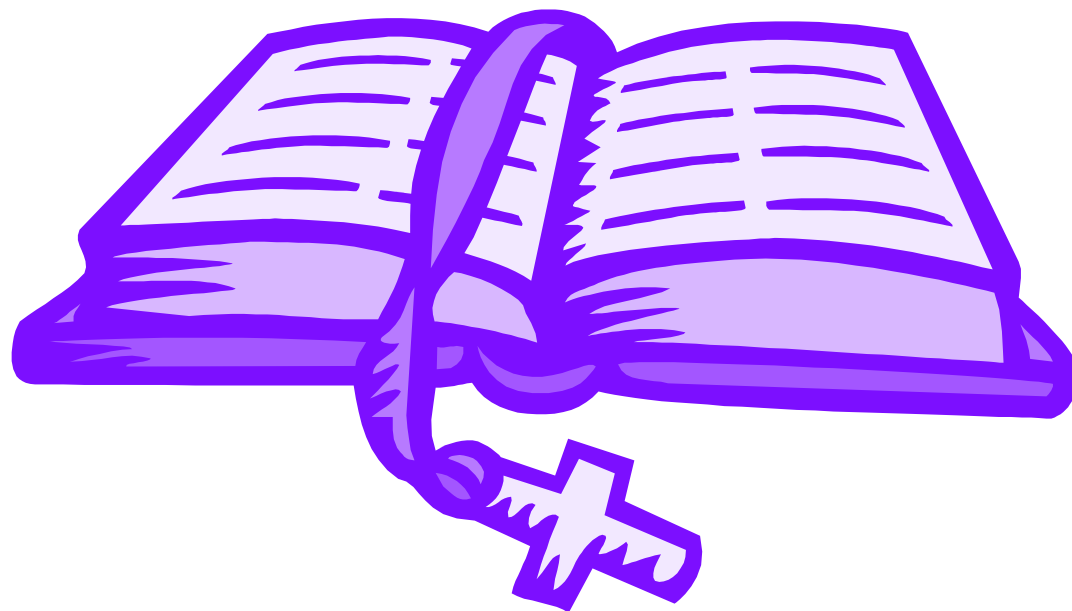


Jesus promised he would return at the end of time



Just as the people of God, in the Old Testament,
waited for the coming of the Messiah
we too wait for the time when Jesus will come again

A Reading from the Gospel of St Luke
Glory to you O Lord





Stay Awake!

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand. 'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will become hardened. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'



The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Let us pray:

For all those who are waiting

'Come Lord Jesus, come again'

For all those who are waiting for healthcare

'Come Lord Jesus, come again'

For all those who are waiting for peace

'Come Lord Jesus, come again'



For all those who are waiting for a visitor
'Come Lord Jesus, come again'

For all who wait for in joyful hope for the coming of
Jesus at the end of time
'Come Lord Jesus, come again'

For ourselves that we will wait in anticipation
for the coming of Jesus at Christmas
and into our lives each day
'Come Lord Jesus, come again'



Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.



**Open our eyes Lord
To look for the good in others**



**Open our hands Lord
To make the world a more beautiful place**

**Open our ears Lord
To hear the joy and sorrows of of others**



**Open our mouths Lord
To speak kind words to others**



**Open our hearts Lord
To welcome you in love**

Amen

**What can I do to stay awake
for Jesus
coming again?**



**God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
A gift of love
Help us walk in that love
during this first week of Advent,
as we prepare for his coming.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
your gift of love,
Amen.**



**We end our prayer time together
by making the Sign of the Cross**

**In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit
Amen**

