

Dear Friends,

I write to you at we enter December and the beginning of advent, the four weeks of active waiting before Christmas.

This time is a gift, a call to reflection and action as we prepare to hear again the song of the angels announcing the birth of a King who would overturn all expectations and bring a reign of justice and peace through his love for all people. This is the Good News that we have to share as we spend time with friends, family and each other. This is the Good News we proclaim to all who enter Wesley, whether they are seeking a quiet space to pray, a coffee, an opportunity to connect with others, enough food to see them through the next few days

or help from the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Sharing this Good News requires us to become vulnerable and tell our stories. The young people of the Methodist Church have challenged us by naming 2019/20 the year of testimony. We are all encouraged in our Sunday worship and in our everyday conversations to tell others where God is in our story. Our confidence to do this well with those we don't know, is developed by beginning with those we do know, those we trust to listen well. Listening to others is essential is valuing and honouring each other, listening to God – through prayer, study, and sharing with others is essential in discerning who we are and the direction we are called

to follow.

As we cast our votes on the 12th December, I would encourage us to prayerfully ask of God, of ourselves and those who are standing for election, "What does the Good News that Jesus brings look like for our communities and our country today?" And then let's act on it together, for that would be truly an active time of advent waiting.

Resolutions do not have to wait for the New Year and below are a few suggestions of ways in which you can be involved or commit to active ways of participating in worship, learning, caring, service and evangelism as we live as followers of Jesus in the Methodist traditions at Wesley. For those of you

who live at a distance and receive this letter, know you are in our prayers and we ask you to hold us and the work at Wesley in yours.

Your Sister in Christ
Christine



PRAY

At the heart of advent is the prayer that we would prepare ourselves, not just our homes and our church for the coming of Jesus. I find these words of Alison Adam a really helpful advent pausing prayer.

*God of time and space,
In this moment,
we acknowledge
our need of your waiting time.
We ask your forgiveness
on all our lack of care –
for you, for ourselves
and for others.
God, who speaks to us
in angels' words
and a baby's cries,
speak to us this advent.
We will be still and wait,
and we will praise you.
Amen*

If you would like to be part of a prayer network at Wesley then contact me either directly or through the office.

READ

This advent I will be reading a chapter of Luke's gospel every day from **December 1st to the 24th**. If you do not already have an advent devotional this year, I invite you to join me. Just find some quiet time at a hour of the day or night that suits you and we will see how passages such Mary's song, the birth of Jesus and the visit of the shepherds which are familiar to us in our carol services and nativity form the beginning of Luke's telling of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus.

WORSHIP

This year as you think about which services you will attend, pray that God will show you someone you could invite to come along with you. This is more than information sharing, this is about the vulnerability of

sharing our story, and the opportunity to explain why the Good News of Immanuel, God with Us, is at the heart of our celebrations. Wouldn't it be amazing if we doubled our congregations in December because sometime over this season we had taken the risk to be intentionally invitational?

VOTE

Ahead of the general election of December 12th, hold all who stand for election in your prayers. Churches Together and Link Up are hosting a hustings on Tuesday December 3rd at Queen's Park High where all the candidates for Chester will be present. Please attend if you are able and bring your questions.

GATHER

Our community nights continue during Wednesdays during

December as we meet to eat (6pm), pray (7pm) and study and reflect (8pm). Our focus will be on stopping and waiting during our prayer time, and we will read Luke's gospel together during our study time, as we journey towards Christmas. Don't forget to sign up on the sheet at the bottom of the stairs, or ring or email the office if you want to book in for supper. (Suggested donation of £2 towards Christian Aid).

GIVE

At a time of the year when giving to others is part of our tradition, we offer opportunities for you to respond to need by helping charities that we support as a church. If you are not able to do this in person at Wesley, please speak to our treasurer David J who will gladly receive any donations and add them to collections to be sent in the New Year.

ALL WE CAN

As a partner church we are committed to raising £500 to support the work of some of the poorest communities around the world. A collection for this work will be taken during our carol service at 6.30pm on the 15th December. Extraordinary gifts from All we Can are available through <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/>

CHRISTIAN AID

An opportunity to give to the work of Christian Aid can be made through the Advent Footsteps project. Please see Pete V to participate or donate.

KIMBILIO

You can find our more and support the work of the Congo Childrens' Trust by buying cards from Mark G following worship on the 1st and 8th December.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Our Christmas Day collection will be given to the important work

of Action for Children which supports children and families across the UK through a range of projects. More information about how you can make a difference at <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

WEST CHESHIRE FOODBANK

Consider a 'reverse advent calendar' by putting aside one item a day during December and bring it into the collection point near the coffee bar. If carrying items is difficult for you, then you might consider a cash donation which helps with transport and storage costs. Details of items needed at <https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/>

SHOP

A huge thank you to the volunteers at the Fair Trade shop who have opened the shop after worship. Please continue to support

them and encourage others to do so.

VOLUNTEER

Our work as a centre is not possible without the devotion of all our volunteers as we serve our congregation and wider community. Please accept my thanks on behalf of the church for all you do. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, then please speak to Andrew Herbert, Linda T or one of the leadership team. We recruit in line with the Safer Recruitment policies of the Methodist Church to ensure that we work for a truly safe space where all may see and experience God's amazing grace.

May your advent journeys be blessed and I look forward to sharing with you as we celebrate together.

News from the Church Family



**We remember and give
thanks for the lives of:**

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Congratulations!

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*Any family news for
future newsletters
to be passed to
Linda Tudor
in the office.*

Wesley Centre & Coffee Bar opening times over Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE
9.30 am - 1.00 pm
*(Menu: Bacon or Sausage
sandwiches and cakes)*

CHRISTMAS DAY,
BOXING DAY & NEW
YEAR'S DAY : CLOSED
Friday, 27th - Tuesday,
31st December:
9.30 am - 3.30 pm:
*(Menu: Bacon or Sausage
sandwiches and cakes)*
NEW YEAR'S DAY :
CLOSED