

## Message from the Vicar : ADVENT is coming - some suggestions how not to miss it!

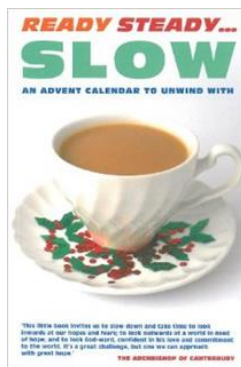


**Advent**, like Lent, is a season of preparation to be in touch with our longing for God and to ponder the amazing gift of God coming into the world as a baby to share our lives and reveal a God who loves us, is with us and offers hope and meaning. Our

Christmas celebrations and customs are about celebrating that good news, expressing our love for God and one another. It is a celebration of light in the darkest season of the year, and for many people this season holds much darkness. That's why it can be especially important to make space for prayer, bible study and reflection, to receive the hope and good news of God with us. God's coming happens on three levels: God coming in Jesus over 2000 years ago; God's coming into our hearts, here and now, especially at Christmas, God's coming at the end of time. The bible readings for Advent urge us to be awake and ready. Making space to prepare 'our hearts', amidst all our practical preparations for Christmas, is very rewarding.

**The Monday lunchtime 'Silent Prayer group'** (12.30-1 pm, followed by soup lunch), started last Advent and still meets in the Hervey de Stanton Chapel (MH), offering a space for God in a busy city. All are welcome.

with



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**Ready Steady SLOW ... An ADVENT Calendar to unwind**

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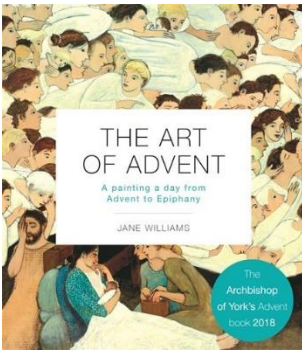
the title of a fabulous little Advent book, for anyone, who would love to carve out a bit of space for some spiritual nourishment in the run-up to Christmas, to ponder what God's hope and purpose for us and our world might be, readily available online. [\\_ \(chpublishing.co.uk\)](http://chpublishing.co.uk)

With prayers and best wishes for a Holy Advent,

*Jutta*

*Canon Jutta Brueck, Vicar*

**More suggestions for Advent reading over the page, books I have found especially rewarding, as well as an invitation to donate Christmas treats to the food bank.**

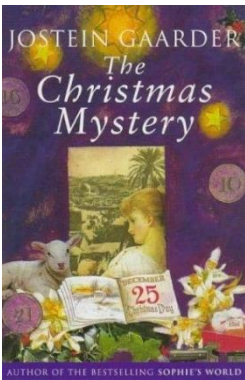


### **The Art of Advent- by Jane Williams:**

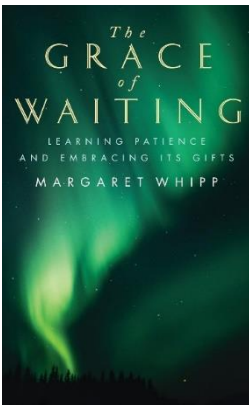
A painting a day from Advent to Epiphany: a wonderful book, with paintings ranging from early Renaissance to Julia Stankova, HeQi and Greg Weatherby with inspiring reflections by Jane Williams, a thoughtful and accessible theologian.

### **For adults and with children: An Advent calendar for reading together:**

**The Christmas Mystery by Jostein Gaarder:** *In the corner of a dusty old bookstore, a boy named Joachim discovers a magic advent calendar. When he opens the first door on 1st December, a small piece of paper falls out: on it is the beginning of a story about a little girl named Elisabet...*



*Little Elisabet has been missing ever since the day she ran after a lamb and found herself travelling right across Europe to Palestine, and back through 2000 years to meet the Holy Family in Bethlehem. There she met angels, shepherds and wise men who joined her on her pilgrimage.*



**The Grace of Waiting by Margaret Whipp,** a wise and beautiful book that draws on the experience of unchosen waiting – in sickness, in old age, and in the struggles and frustrations of everyday life – to explore the challenges of waiting and the skills it demands.

A lifeline for anyone who finds themselves in a time of waiting, chosen or unchosen, or accompanying others through such times, it shows how the paradoxical gifts of patience point to the God who kindly waits for us.

### **Donate Treats to the Foodbank in time for Christmas on Sundays 3 and 10 December:**



During the first two Sundays of Advent, we invite the donation of Christmas treats for the Foodbank e.g. sweets, chocolates, mince pies and Christmas puddings!

Everything must be pre-packaged and have a good shelf-life i.e. a packet of mince pies from a shop, but **not** bakery fresh food packed on site. Sadly, homemade food is **not** acceptable. Chocolates should not contain alcohol. (Some mince pie or Christmas puddings may contain a small amount of alcohol and that is all right as they have been cooked.)