

THE CHAPTER LETTER



Sunday 10 December to Saturday 23 December 2017

Christine Wilson, Dean **Sal McDougall, Precentor** **John Patrick, Subdean** **Philippa White, Succentor**
‘Doing’ Advent.

“How am I supposed to *do* Advent?” Someone asked me this question during the week. Two things were behind the question. One was the knowledge that advent is significant enough to warrant special attention. The other was a sense of helplessness about that in the face of the seemingly relentless march towards us of the heavily commercialised and perfect Christmas. Faced with that, how do we do Advent?

A good place to start would be to give ourselves permission *not* to try to produce the perfect Christmas - if such a thing exists beyond our television screens and supermarket advertisements. Instead, let’s allow ourselves to step away from that and do things a bit differently for the next couple of weeks.

Some of you might recall seeing a fridge magnet a few years ago which said, ‘Jesus is coming! Look busy!’ During the Advent season, as Christians we proclaim our hope that Jesus is indeed coming. But instead of rushing around being frantically busy, we would do well to remember that one of the things Jesus did most often was to get away from it all; to spend time on his own, reflecting, praying, recharging his batteries so that he had the energy to engage with the world again when he needed to. Yes, Jesus is coming: so let’s do as he did and try *not* to be too busy.

Not being busy is harder than it sounds, but it’s oh so good when we manage to do it. If, like me, you’re not very good at relaxing, here are some suggestions to help you slow down during Advent.

Listen to some music every day. Not the endless Christmas playlists on the radio – there’s plenty of time for that later – but music specifically for the season of Advent. Need some help choosing? Ask any of our musicians.

Light a candle. The cathedral shop has a good selection of Advent candles. If you don’t have one already, it’s not too late to start. Set aside just five minutes each day to light your candle and use the time to stop and reflect.

Advent Calendar. How about having a reverse advent calendar, based not on receiving something for yourself every day but on giving to others?

These are just three ways we might ‘do’ Advent. There are lots more. But the key thing is to remember that the illusive perfect Christmas probably doesn’t exist, and nor does the perfect Advent. The important thing with each of them is to make time to prepare ourselves, in whatever way we can, to welcome the Christ-Child into our hearts and into our lives.

Lord God, oil the hinges of our hearts’ doors, that they may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.

Advent Prayer from New Guinea

Sal McDougall, Precentor

Advent Giving: Christmas Help Hamper, the Christmas ‘Help Hamper’ will be situated at the west-end of the Cathedral ready to receive; practical gifts and treats to be distributed through The Lincoln Larder and NOMAD Trust. In date food stuffs and confectionary welcome – no fresh products please, packets of sugar particularly welcome.

Ceremony of Carols - Saturday 16 December, 7pm in The Chapter House. A seasonal favourite as the Cathedral Choir performs Benjamin Britten’s Ceremony of Carols in the Chapter House of Lincoln Cathedral, with Thea Butterworth as harpist under the direction of Aric Prentice. The 7pm performance will include drinks, canapés and a lantern light tour of the Cathedral. The 2pm performance has now – sold out, but tickets are available for the 7pm performance – priced at £25 and to include a glass of Gluhwein or squash and Christmas biscuits. Tickets are available from the Lincoln Cathedral Shop – 01522 561644 and the website. For further information please visit www.LincolnCathedral.com.

Santa Fun-Run Sunday 17th December 2017, this year’s Santa Fun-Run will take place up-hill Lincoln 17th December. There will be some road closures and parking restrictions around the Cathedral not least Minster Yard South. It is expected that roads will re-open by 1pm.

Christmas Eve Carol Service, at 4.00 p.m. Cathedral congregation tickets: A limited number of tickets for the Cathedral congregation, for seating in the crossing, will be available from Sunday 10th December. Tickets may be collected in person from the Vergers' Vestry. Please note tickets cannot be pre-reserved.

Volunteers needed for the Cathedral Choir, the Director of Music, Aric Prentice is looking for more volunteers to drive the Cathedral Choristers at the following times; 8.30-9.30am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings OR 3.15-4.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. We are also looking for drivers for the Choir minibus (17 seats) with the appropriate driving licence. All individuals must be willing to undertake an enhanced DBS check. For insurance purposes volunteer drivers would also need to be under the age of 70. If you would be willing to help or would like to discuss the role, please contact Rachel Woodward, Volunteer & HR Officer on 01522 561618 or volhrofficer@lincolncathedral.com or Shirley Jordan music@lincolncathedral.com 01522 504398.

Bible Readings

Sunday 10 December

Sung Eucharist

Mattins

Evensong

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40.1-11; 2 Peter 3.8 – 15a; Mark 1.1-8

Baruch 5.1-9; Luke 1.5-20

1 Kings 22.1-28; Romans 15.4-13

Sunday 17 December

Sung Eucharist

Mattins

Evensong

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8 19-28

Isaiah 12; Luke 1.57-66

Malachi 3.1-4; 4; Philippians 4.4-7

Sunday 24 December

Sung Eucharist

Mattins

Carol Service

Midnight Eucharist

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16; Romans 16.25-end; Luke 1.26-38

Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7

See Service Sheet

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