

Dear friends,

Sunday 28 November

- 9.30 am **Worship at North Hillingdon (with Holy Communion)** led by the Revd Ken Kingston
 11.00 am **Worship at Hayes End** led by Sue Lloyd
 11.00 am **Worship at Hayes** led by members of the congregation

Sunday 5 December

- 9.30 am **Worship at North Hillingdon** led by Majek Kuyoro
 11.00 am **Worship at Hayes End (Praise Service with members of the Boys Brigade)** led by the Revd Ken Kingston
 11.00 am **Worship at Hayes** led by Cathy Smith

For those still unsure about returning to 'face-to-face' worship, you can join Ruislip Manor who stream their service (www.youtube.com/channel/UCjLbCitLuwAJL2wYdzK57EQ) and Christ Church as they share their service on Facebook (www.facebook.com/christchurchuxbridge).

Please continue to take care and stay safe.

Rev Ken

(020 8756 0567) (ken.kingston@methodist.org.uk)

Advent Sunday: Tinsel

Sunday 28 November is fourth Sunday before Christmas. It's the beginning of the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation for Christmas. Many churches mark this by lighting a candle in their advent ring and having a short prayer or liturgy to focus our thoughts and minds. And then on Christmas Day we light the central candle to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

You can join the lighting of candles either in church, or in your own home.

This year our Advent liturgy uses different Christmas tree decorations to think about Christmas. And whenever you look at a tree and see one of the decorations, hopefully that will be a reminder to you.

One of my favourite churches is the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Construction began in 1882 and is still carrying on today.

One side of the church celebrates the birth of Jesus. And it is packed full of sculptures and symbolism. Each inch of space carries a meaning. In the middle is a column which can easily be overlooked (see picture).

Curled around it like a piece of tinsel is the genealogy of Christ (see Matthew 1:1-17), the list of Jesus' ancestors. The names on the pillar literally support the carving and sculptures above it including the one of the nativity. For me, it showed that without these people there would be no Jesus and no Christmas.

When you decorate your Christmas tree or when you see a piece of tinsel, remember the people who have supported you in your faith and discipleship. Without them, you would not know the love of God.

But alongside that, think of those who support and nurture. And make an effort to pray for them each day of Advent.



Every person listed on that column was important, and they are bound together through and by Jesus, even though they would not have known it.

We are bound together in the body of Christ, with others in our churches, and with all Christians throughout time and space. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Give thanks to God for that.

Advent Liturgy - Tinsel

May the Tinsel be a reminder to us that our God is the God of history, the God of the present and the God of the future, the God of grace and love who encircles and entwines the world and all its people and is reflected and shines in our living, in our words and in our deeds.

(We light our first Candle as reminder of God's being reflected through time and revealed in our lives today. *Light candle.*)

Prayer

Advent God,
as we set out on our Advent journey,
let us be aware of the power of your being,
present in all generations and in all peoples,
revealed above all in Jesus.
May we see and know your being entwined,
like tinsel, in all aspects of our living
and our loving and our very being. Amen.

Sundays on the BBC

28 November 2021

8.10 am Sunday Worship BBC Radio 4

Asking to see God face to face – Marking the first Sunday of Advent and celebrating St Andrew's Day.

1.15 pm Songs of Praise BBC 1

Young Chorister of the Year – Boys' Semi-Final

5 December 2021

8.10 am Sunday Worship BBC Radio 4

The Dawn from on High – Recorded in the Chapel of Girton College, Cambridge.

1.15 pm Songs of Praise BBC 1

Young Chorister of the Year (Final) – Six of the best young choristers in the UK perform a Christmas carol before one is crowned the 2021 champion.



Join others in the circuit at the Lighthouse Centre (South Ruislip HA4 0NL) on Sunday 5 December at 4.00pm to sing carols and celebrate Jesus' birth.

Prayers please!

Imagine the Church filled with the Holy Spirit, and completely dependent on the sovereign work of God. Imagine the Church full of people focused on loving God, loving neighbours and loving ourselves.

The theme for the next Methodist Prayer Handbook is 'The Greatest Commandment' (Matthew 22:37-39). You can find more inspiration in Acts 2.

The handbook is looking for prayers for the Methodist Church to be the Church that God desires; and that explore how we should live out *Our Calling*, as we respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ through discipleship, worship and mission. Can you write such a prayer?

Prayers can be posted to Prayer Handbook Editor, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR. Or email:

prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk.

Deadline: Monday 10 January 2022.

Midweek Communion

Before the restrictions caused by Covid in March 2020, we held a Communion Service at Aston House Care Home in Hayes End on the second Wednesday of the month.



We are not yet able to return to the care home, but will be resuming the service at 11.00am on Wednesday 8 December, and then every second Wednesday of the month onwards.