

## PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS - ADVENT

**Advent** is a season of four weeks designed to help prepare us to celebrate the mystery of God breaking into our world in the birth of Jesus.

Each of the four Sundays reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. One of the ways we do that is by lighting one of four candles on the Advent Wreath each Sunday during Advent.



### **Advent 1 – Sunday 2 December – 8.30am and 10am**

We focus on the ADVENT HOPE longing for the day when God will make all things new.

**At 2.30pm You are invited to CAROLS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**  
A Concert to Launch the **Christmas Bowl Appeal**

### **Advent 2 – Sunday 9 December – 8.30am and 10am**

We focus on promise of the PROPHETS who spoke of God raising up a Messiah to deal with injustice and restore harmony.

### **Advent 3 – Sunday 16 December – 8.30am and 10am**

We focus on JOHN THE BAPTIST the forerunner announcing the coming of God's Messiah.

### **Advent 4 – Sunday 23 December – 8.30am and 10am**

We hear about MARY who bore the Christ Child in her womb and sang with joy about the wonder of God's coming. Being so close to Christmas we will be singing Carols.

## CHRISTMAS

### Christmas Eve – 24 December at 5pm – Crib Service

This service is especially designed for children and young families and we invite people to come dressed as Angels, Shepherds, Wise Ones or as Mary or Joseph.

### Christmas Day – 25 December at 9am

Christmas Day is a service of joy and gladness as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

### Sunday 30 December – Worship at 10am only – No 8.30am worship

## EPIPHANY

In January our colour moves from White to Green as we celebrate the **Season of Epiphany**.

### Sunday 6 January – Worship at 10am only – No 8.30am worship

This service is wonderfully rich in so many ways because we remember the coming of the wise men, who remind us that God's coming in Jesus is for all the world.

### Sunday 13 January – Worship at 10am only – No 8.30am worship

This is the Sunday when we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus.

### Sunday 20 January – Worship at 10am only – No 8.30am worship

We really should have Holy Communion on this day because we hear the story of Jesus' first Miracle which took place at a wedding where he added to their joy by turning water into wine.

### *Our regular practice of worship at 8.30am and 10am resumes on*

### Sunday 27 January – Worship at 10am and 8.30am worship

This is a Sunday where we hear Jesus' first sermon outlining his mission to bring good news to the poor. It would be appropriate that we celebrate the Covenant Service on this day.