

Advent Sunday Newsletter

27th November, 2022

St. Ninian's, Castle Douglas & Christ Church, Dalbeattie
SC011079 & SC010918

<https://dcdchurches.org.uk/> tel: 01556 505894



PAX

Dear friends in Christ

Advent will soon be upon us: The pressures, in anticipation of the Christmas Season, I suspect, are already upon us. This will be an Advent and a Christmas like no other. For some of us just putting food on the table or keeping warm will be a real issue this year. All before we consider buying present. Perhaps, there will be no possibility of presents at

all!

Advent is the dark season in the Churches year. The weather has turned bitter and cold. It's particularly noticeable after our amazingly warm summer and autumn. The recent rain has soaked us and the land is boggy, but we must still journey on! Are your spirits low? It can be so hard to be motivated at times like this. However, we struggle on...

The darkest part of the night is just before the Dawn. Advent is the season before the coming of the Dawn. It is the season of walking by Faith, in Hope. It is the time when we must journey and share the '*Love of God*' with those we meet. Particularly, those less fortunate than ourselves. It is the season for self-awareness, returning to God, self-discovery.

Last Advent I discovered Alfred Delp S.J. a German Jesuit priest who was martyred by the Nazis in 1945. He wrote:

Advent is a time of being deeply shaken, so that man will wake up to himself. The prerequisite for a fulfilled Advent is a renunciation of the arrogant gestures and tempting dreams with which, and in which, man is always deceiving himself. Thus he compels reality to use violence to bring him around, violence and much distress and suffering.¹

In many ways this explains the world we have inhabited since February with the invasion of Ukraine. Many of us though will have lived with fear for much longer than that though, because of their gender, ethnicity, or because they are just different. Difference produces fear. If we do not understand someone or something it is easy to be frightened of it or to use it as a scape goat – ‘this is why my world is not perfect’. This is how the Nazis treated the Jews.

I find this Haiku so true for Advent:

Dark waiting:

we make

our own magic

by Kelly Belmont

This Sunday we will light our first Advent candle – a glimmer of Hope in a dark world. And so we wait for the coming of the light of Christ... and pray: Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

To help you navigate this Advent Season there are two opportunities you may wish to join in. Please see below.

Yours in Christ

Christopher

Rector

¹ p.23 Advent of the Heart ,Alfred Delp, Ignatius



An iceberg is a floating ice mountain, and what enables them to float is the fact that 90% of their mass is below water. So it's an obvious symbol of the unconscious. The unconscious can be a source of fear. But what is universal about icebergs is that they float. And floating requires balance and equilibrium of forces. So there will be some part

of our consciousness of ourselves which will always be unconscious, out of sight. What is un-conscious is unconscious. And there are good reasons for some things to be unconscious. Being unconscious, doesn't mean that we've necessarily repressed something, it means may mean that we simply suppressed it for good reason, for practical reasons, so that the conscious mind can operate more freely and more creatively and not be overwhelmed by the forces of the unconscious. But in any case, there needs to be an equilibrium between the forces of the of consciousness and the forces of the unconscious.

([The Unconscious and Grace](#) by Laurence Freeman OSB)

Dates for the Diary

November

27th

Advent 1 Sunday

8.30am Eucharist, St. Ninian's

10.30am Sung Eucharist, Christ Church

30th

Wednesday 11am Travelling Through Advent in Hope
Zoom Course No 1

December

- 1st St. Charles de Foucauld 10am Thursday
Eucharist Christ Church
- 4th **Advent 2 Sunday**
8.30am Eucharist St. Ninian's
10.30am Sung Eucharist St. Ninian's
- 7th Wednesday 11am Travelling Through Advent in Hope
Zoom Course No. 2
- 8th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday 10am Eucharist Christ Church
- 10th Saturday 10.30 to 12pm Coffee Morning Christ Church
Dalbeattie for Dalbeattie Churches Together
- 11th **Advent 3 Sunday**
8.30am Eucharist, St. Ninian's
10.30am Sung Eucharist, Christ Church
- 14th Wednesday 11am Travelling Through Advent in Hope
Zoom Course No.3
- 15th Thursday of Advent
10am Thursday Eucharist Christ Church
11am Barlochan Advent Eucharist
- 18th **Advent 4 Sunday**
8.30am Eucharist St. Ninian's
10.30am Sung Eucharist St. Ninian's
4pm, Lantern Walk & Carols, Dalbeattie Woods,
Dalbeattie Churches Together
- 19th Bothwell House 11am Monday Advent Eucharist
- 22nd Thursday of Advent
10am Eucharist Christ Church
4pm, St. Ninian's & Christ Church Joint Carol Service at
Christ Church Dalbeattie. Mince Pies and Refreshments
in the Hall.

24th Christmas Eve,

11.30pm Midnight Mass with Blessing of the Crib
St. Ninian's, Castle Douglas

25th Christmas Day

9.30am Sung Eucharist, Christ Church

11.00am Sung Eucharist, St. Ninian's

28th The Holy Innocents, 11am Bothwell House Eucharist

29th St Thomas Becket, 5th Day of Christmas
10am Christ Church Eucharist
11am Barlochan Eucharist

2023

January

1st **New Year's Day - Sunday**

8.30am Eucharist, St. Ninian's

10.30am Sung Eucharist, St. Ninian's

4th Wednesday 11am Travelling Through Advent in Hope
Zoom Course No.4 (Christmas)

5th No Service at Christ Church

6th **Epiphany - Friday**

10.00am Said Mass, Christ Church

8th **Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

8.30am Eucharist, St. Ninian's

10.30am Sung Eucharist, Christ Church

13th St. Kentigern (Mungo) 10am Eucharist Christ Church



Travelling through Advent in Hope: An opportunity to Share on Zoom

This year Advent is the longest it can be. It gives us the opportunity to travel in Hope and to look forward to the coming of the Christ

Child. Life is difficult and many of us are walking into what we feel to be an uncertain future. Faith gives us Hope! We do not walk alone anymore. Someone cares for us: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. They Love us and will make sure that all is well.

**Over four sessions starting at 11am, Wednesday 30th
November.**

We will be looking at aspects of our Advent journey and exploring the spirituality of Advent with the opportunity to share our Faith, thoughts and experience. This will all take place over Zoom.

Bp. Hugh of Aberdeen writes:

“we remain addicted to hope. Our God-given orientation to good breaks through again and again like smiles after tears and greenness through cracks in concrete.

Advent – Lady Advent dressed in purple – takes our threatened, flickering, often misplaced hopes, and re-frames them, re-directs them. In Advent, the prophets of Israel fulfil their mission to the world more effectively than they ever could in their lifetimes.

Grace, according to St Thomas Aquinas, both purifies and elevates. Advent does this with our hope. It converts and enlarges us. It clears out our idols and throws open a horizon of cosmic, social and personal salvation. And finally, like Mary, delivers the

surprise of the Child in whom all things hold together and God is with us.”²

With every prayer and good wish for Advent and the Christmas season. Here is the Zoom link:
Christopher Ketley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85445435910?pwd=ell3UWNBRUxRZ3hzdnpFTWRMMkZLUT09>

Please let Christopher know you will be attending
cg.ketley@zen.co.uk



ADVENT WORD

Advent Word is a way of deepening your Advent preparation. This activity is sponsored by the American Episcopal Church, and it has garnered a worldwide following. Everyday of Advent, starting this Sunday, 27th November, a particular word has been chosen from the readings in the Lectionary. You are

encouraged to use the word as a catalyst in your prayer life, and to share it with others. You might connect the word to an image, poem, phrase, or something else of meaning to you. And all those personal reflections can be shared on the Advent Word website, and on social media with the #adventword (and the word).

You are invited to participate in this initiative. We are going to post images each day on our website

² Bp Hugh Gilbert, Bp of Aberdeen The Tablet, Advent 2022 issue

(<https://dcdchurches.org.uk/>). Please send me (Mary Collins) your image, poem, etc along with the particular word, and I will do the rest! You can email me (marylouisecollins@gmail.com), text me, or WhatsApp me (07857767992). The calendar of Advent Words is below, and here is a link for you to learn more. <https://adventword.org/en/home/>



BBC Broadcasts on Faith to Look Out For

Rowan Williams's Reith Lecture on the freedom of worship will be broadcast on 7 December on Radio 4 as part of the BBC's wider religious schedule for Advent.

The corporation also announced that it has commissioned a second series of *The Archbishop*

Interviews, in which the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, speaks to four public figures about their interior lives.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds>



St. Ninian's Charitable Giving 2022

Each year we nominate 10 charities to receive a donation of £350.00. The

nominations come from you the congregation and are then considered by our Vestry in the New Year when the monies will be distributed.

You are invited to send or give your nominations to Fred Coulthard (St. Ninian's Treasurer) wgcoul@sky.com



IMPORTANT
Please Take Action

Updating of rolls at St
Ninian

The Vestry have decided to update our membership and communicants rolls and, at the same time, ensure that we are fully compliant with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulations. The declaration forms for completion and return either to the Rector or to Keith Gordon (the Vestry Secretary) if you wish to stay on our membership and/or communicants rolls.

The forms are attached electronically to this Newsletter and are also available at the back of church.

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Regards

Keith



## **Advent Calendar**

### ***Rowan Williams***

He will come like last leaf's fall.  
One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.