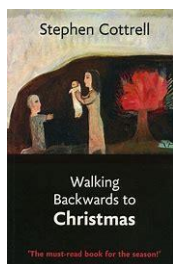


Advent reflections – books you may like.

There are several fabulous advent reflection books which offer you something short to read every day through the season. These are just a few that you might wish to try.

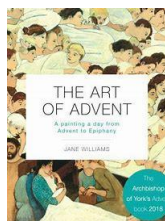


Walking backwards to Christmas,
Stephen Cottrell



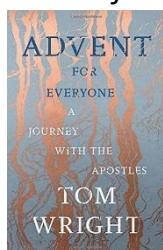
Let it slow, Stephen Cottrell.

The art of advent, Jane Williams



The meaning is in the waiting: The spirit of Advent, Paula Gooder

Advent for everyone: a journey through Matthew, Tom Wright



Advent for everyone: a journey through Luke, Tom Wright.

Some Questions to Reflect on:

- What promises has God given to you?
- What has your experience of waiting been?
- As you read the promises of Isaiah about who Jesus will be, where do you see those promises fulfilled in the New Testament?
- What other promises do you find in the Old Testament about Jesus?
- What gives me confidence in God's faithfulness?



Advent: a deeper dive.

We have a problem with waiting. As a culture, we want things done faster. Click and collect, microwaves, fast passes, on demand watching.

But, the Bible is filled with waiting. And God always used it. He spoke through it. And people grew to walk more closely with Him as they waited and trusted and



hoped. Advent is all about Waiting. Waiting for what? Or is it waiting for who? This advent we are thinking about how for

generations people waited for the Messiah as we delve into who Jesus was promised to be.

When is Advent?

The season of Advent is the 4 Sundays leading up to Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'. It is a season of waiting in anticipation for the Coming of Christ.

Not just the coming of Christ at Christmas as a baby in a manger, but the second coming of Christ when he will come and make all things new. This dual meaning of the waiting of Advent has been part of Church tradition from the 6th Century.

This year, with Christmas Day on a Sunday we have a wonderful opportunity to relish in the fullness of Advent. May it be a time of blessing for us. For deepening faith, journeying together through this waiting, learning, praying, sitting, listening.

How will our worship gatherings look different in Advent?

There will be an **advent wreath with 5 candles in** – one for each Sunday and one for Christmas day to help us track our journey.



There will be **special bible readings**.

During Advent we will journey through some of the Old Testament prophecies about who Jesus is, who the promised Christ was to be. These promises were what the people of Israel held on to for hundreds of years, hoping, waiting for the coming Christ.



Together in Advent we will consider who Jesus was to the prophet Isaiah – speaking words of hope in a Christ who had not arrived yet.

Things to do in advent.



Advent is a time of fasting and feasting, of waiting and trusting. A time of preparation.

Here are some different ways you might want to mark advent – to help you to wait, hope and trust in Jesus – the coming King.

Read it, write it, say it, pray it.

During Advent why not engage with the gospel of Mark. You could get a notebook and write the gospel out by hand. Or you could read it aloud into voice notes on your phone. Or find a friend and suggest you read it through together, meeting regularly to simply read the gospel together. The gospels were written to be read aloud, reading it together can bring it to life in a new way. There are 16 chapters

of Mark, so that is 4 chapters each week for the 4 weeks of Advent.

Advent Word



#Adventword is a global, online advent calendar. You can sign up at www.adventword.org and you will receive a short meditation each day in advent. There is a calendar as well with a word for each day throughout advent to ponder on through the day. People around the world take a photo and post a simple thought and photo online with the hashtag #adventword. Slowly, through the day, a global advent calendar of thoughts, reflections and prayers emerges.