



7th December 2025



For meditation: *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*
Hebrews: 10: 23

NEWS AND VIEWS

Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we light another candle of the Advent ring. This wreath has its origins in pre-Christian Germany when people made wreaths of evergreens and lit fires as signs of hope for the coming spring and longer hours of daylight.

Christians preserved the custom and by the sixteenth century Advent wreaths were to be found in both Catholic and Lutheran homes. It was only in the middle of the twentieth century that they became a common feature in churches.

This year the Methodist Church's Advent and Christmas campaign is called "Gifted" - it explores what it means to recognise the gifts God gives us and to see ourselves and each other a gifts too. This week the theme is the Gift of Justice. Once again there is a video (link in the email) from the President and Vice President of Methodist Conference.

FOR PRAYER

Let the Spirit clear away what clutters and distracts, and shape you into a holy gift – a tree of life in a world hungry for hope. This is your calling: Bear fruit. Be bold. Be the gift

We remember in prayer today the Bath Methodist church – the congregations at Walcot and Southdown, and the ministers Simon and Philip and Deacon Elizabeth

LECTIONARY READINGS – 14 December

Isaiah 35: 1 -10

Psalms 146: 4 -9

James 5: 7 -10

Matthew 11: 2 -11

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the desert,

*Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight paths for him."*

....People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins they were baptised by him in the Jordan river.

Matthew 3: 1-3, 5,6

DIARY

Tuesday 9th December - CANCELLED

Compass Point 11.00am

Rev Simon leads us as we explore aspects of our faith

Wednesday 10th December

Grace 3.30 – 4.30pm

After school activities, stories and food
Children accompanied by an adult.

Thursday 11th December

Café 9.30 – 12 noon

All welcome to share the warmth.

Sunday 14th December

Morning worship 11.00am

led by Rev Simon (and including Holy Communion)

impossible God, God with a name of nothing,
little God who cannot hold his own
against people,
against their gods of money and violence,
God of Jesus.

What will always happen to him
is what happened
to the powerless man from Nazareth.
He goes the way of every seed,
he is always the least of men.
All poverty is the poverty of God,
everything that is small and humiliated
reminds us of him.

Believing, praying is
enduring with the God of Jesus
or, according to Bonhoeffer,
sharing in the suffering of God
participating in the impotence of God
in this world.

Huub Oosterhuis

*The incarnation began when Mary said,
'Into thy hands I commend my body'; the
incarnation was 'finished' when her Son
said, 'Into thy hands I commend my
spirit.'*

Warburton Lewis

