Box Methodist Church
www.boxmethodist.org

29th November 2026.
We extend a warm welcome to Rev Julian Albrow, and to our members, friends and visitors



For meditation: *O Christ of the dove, grant us the purity of the Spirit.*
O Christ of the sparrow, grant us the Father's protection.
O Christ of the mother-hen, grant us shelter beneath your wing.
St Bonaventure (c1217 – 1274)

NEWS AND VIEWS

Today is the 1st Sunday in the season of Advent – it also marks the beginning of the Church's year. It is a time of preparation, not the time for frantic shopping, parties and decorations – but a penitential time for self-assessment and for confession of failures in order to worthily celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's coming into the world. It originated as fast for 40 days but was reduced to its present length in the ninth century. It is a time to light the first candle of the advent ring – the candle of hope.

This week also brings St Andrew's Day tomorrow – Andrew was a fisherman apostle and is the patron saint of Scotland.

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

As Advent begins, we gather in a season of waiting. The days are short, the trees stand bare, and the future can feel uncertain. Jesus tells us not to be afraid, but to stay awake, to notice what is quietly growing even when it is hard to see. In the midst of winter and worry, God is already at work, holding the future open before us. As we begin this Advent journey together – Don't be afraid: hope is hiding in plain sight

We are remembering the residents and staff at MHA Walcot Court,including their chaplain, Helen, in our prayers this week.

LECTIONARY READINGS – 6th December

Isaiah 40: 1 -11
Psalm 85: 1 -2, 8 -13
2 Peter 3: 8 -15a
Mark 1: 1 -8

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come….Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back-whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone. "Watch!" Mark 13: 32, 33, 35, 36

DIARY

Thursday 3rd December
Café + Soup 9.30 –1.30pm
The meal will be served at around 12 noon. All welcome

Saturday 5th December
Christmas celebration 2.30pm
Carols, readings and festive fun including refreshments
Donations in aid of Missing People

Sunday 6th December (Advent 2)
There will be NO service at the church

Sunday 13th December (Advent 3)
Morning worship 11.00am
led by Mike Honey

Given, not lent,
And not withdrawn – once sent,
The infant of mankind, this One,
Is still the little welcome Son.

New every year,
New born and newly dear,
He comes with tidings and a song,
The ages long, the ages long.

Even as the cold
Keen winter grows not old,
As childhood is so fresh, foreseen,
And spring in the familiar green.

Sudden assweet
Come the unexpected feet,
All joy is young, and new all art,
And he too, whom we have by heart.

Alice Meynell

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*