



CONNECTED

28th November 2021

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God..”
Isaiah 40. 1

A very warm welcome to St Swithin's today.

Advent 2021



Today we begin our 2021 Advent journey. Are you excited or daunted?

This Advent offers us all a wonderful opportunity. As the council have lit up the outside of the church building again this year, so will we ask God to light us up on the inside too? Our world, the city of Bath, Walcot and ourselves really do need God's Presence and power this Advent. Who can you invite or share the good news with, this Christmas, that God is with us?

Date	Passages	The Ever-present God
28 th Nov	Is 40. 1-8 Ps 24	Ever-present COMFORT
5 th Dec	Gen 3. 8-18 Rom 15. 4-13	Ever-present HOPE
12 th Dec	Is 11. 1-10 Is 9. 1-7	Ever-present PEACE
19 th Dec	Luke 1. 46-55	Ever-present JOY
25 th Dec	Luke 2. 1-20	Ever-present GOD

*“As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. Amen.”*

Tim



NOTICES

The shape of our Sunday gatherings over the next month will continue broadly as before and is shown in the table below. We would love you to join us. Each morning will begin with Café at 10, worshipping either together or upstairs/downstairs for 45 minutes and on the 5th we'll share communion together after our groups.

In the evenings there is a wonderful mix of opportunities to gather and worship together. Please do check online if you need further details before you book.

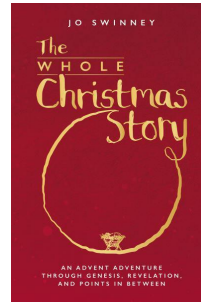
Date	10 am	6 pm
28 th Nov	All-Age Worship	Taize
5 th Dec	Morning Worship inc. Communion	Informal Worship
12 th Dec	Morning Worship	Evening Communion
19 th Dec	Morning Worship	Carols

There will be no service on Boxing Day this year. Please do look at the website for further details of Christmas services.

Christmas Donations

This Christmas we would love to be able to give Morrison's vouchers to St Andrew's School to share with some of their families who struggle over the Christmas period. If you feel able to donate towards this gift, please can you give directly into the St Swithin's bank account making it clear where you would like your donation to go or bring a cheque/cash to the Church Office. Thank you so much.

Advent Book



Would you like some Bible-based reflections for each day as you journey through Advent towards Christmas? Local author, and A Rocha communications

director, **Jo Swinney** has written a new Advent book called **The whole Christmas story**.

Starting in Genesis and ending in Revelation it places Christmas as part of God's bigger story. Jo also helps us face into our own real-life challenges of dealing with brokenness and living with hope. We have some copies to give away so please speak to Tim if this would be a help and encouragement for you this Advent.

A Christmas Celebration!

a Christmas Celebration
for all ages

Saturday 11th December
St. Swithin's Church

you are very welcome to join us for some or all of the event

12.00 - 12.30 simple lunch

12.30 - 1.30 papercraft, salad spinner
baubles & tree decorations
using natural materials

1.30 - 2.00 a turn up and join in
instant nativity, come
dressed as Mary, Joseph,
Shepherd, Animal or Wise Man

Sign up at for free at www.stswithinswalcot.org.uk

I am looking to hold a Christmas Celebration for all ages on Saturday 11th

December. It would be lovely to gather for a couple of hours to celebrate in a variety of ways – perhaps

through food, craft, nativity/drama, music. I would love to talk to you if you would like to be involved in shaping this event. However big or small you think your offering may



be and whatever age you are, it would be wonderful to hear your thoughts.

Please speak to Pip Tel: 07788975174 email: pipwynne@gmail.com

Hark! the herald-angels sing



We will be hosting community Carol singing in the Church north garden on **Tuesday 14th December from 7 pm**. It will be a lovely opportunity to welcome our local neighbours to join in our Christmas celebrations.

Please contact Nicola and Keith Stuffins (nicola.stuffins@btinternet.com) or David Holden-White (djholdenwhite@gmail.com) if you would like to help serve refreshments, welcome visitors, or provide musical accompaniment.

Message from Yein Pang

Dear St Swithin's church family,

Hope you are well and greetings from Hong Kong!

First of all, I want to say a massive thank you for all the kindness and generosity you've shown me. I'm so grateful for your big financial gift, and I also hope to get better at drawing, since one of the

gifts the youth group gave me included a book on how to draw and a sketching set!!

Yet I am also incredibly grateful for your kindness and generosity over the past three years, through the ways you've encouraged, supported and prayed for me. There's still much to reflect on, but I know i've had some awesome opportunities to learn, serve and grow during my time with you, and there have been many valuable things that I'll take forward as I continue to serve in different ways. Even as I think of you all now, I am becoming increasingly aware of how thankful I am to have been a part of your community, and I have such precious memories that I will not forget!

Please continue to pray for me now as I quarantine in a hotel room over the next three weeks. I hope it will be a time of spiritual and emotional renewal as I prepare for the adventure ahead!

I miss you and I look forward to seeing you some time in the future, but for now, I will be keeping you in my thoughts and prayers!

With all my love,

Yein

Prayer Chain - URGENT PRAYER

Do you have an urgent prayer request/need?- over 20 people can be praying in minutes. TEXT 07974387782.



PCC Jottings
7.30pm on Wednesday 24th November 2021 at St Swithin's Crypt

Present: Tim Gleghorn, Catherine Harrison-Smith (Secretary), Alastair Gibson, Amanda Aston, Brenda Carter, Mike Banner, Fran Youngs, Laura Gracey

Apologies/absent: Melanie Wortham, Rebecca Armstrong

In attendance: Nicola Stuffins, Wendy Judd

Mike led the devotions on the theme of Jesus' power, referencing the story of raising Lazarus and our need of Resurrection.

Yein's last Sunday with us went well, and we wish him all the best for his time in Hong Kong in the immediate future and his longer-term plans. Electing Alastair as Churchwarden on the 21st of November was encouraging, and we are grateful to him, Penny Gibson and Nicola who have all stepped in to help us through this period. Our series on Galatians ended well, and our theme for Advent is The Ever-Present God. We look forward to seeing you and any guests you invite over the festive season!

We have looked at the Finances for next year and we should be able to fund our plans for the Church Community, including new staff members to help fulfil our vision, particularly in relation to children's and youth work. This will, however, necessitate using some of our reserves and we plan to invite the fellowship to contribute to this provision in the New Year. There are also some new Diocesan training requirements in relation to the hugely important area of Safeguarding, which will necessitate more people undertaking relevant courses online. If you have any questions about Safeguarding or are interested in doing some training on the subject, please get in touch with our Safeguarding Officer, Wendy Judd.

We have been discussing plans for Children and Youth, Use of the Church Building, Snow Hill/Gateway Centre, Evangelism and Justice – you will be hearing more about these plans in the coming months. For now, we ask for your prayers at this time and look forward to sharing ideas with you, including how you can get involved.

Tim closed the meeting in prayer.