

Parish Newsletter 20th November 2020
From Kate Wydra, Lay Reader in Training

Dear Friends,

On Sunday I shall be leading a service of Morning Prayer from St George's at 9:30 am. We shall be celebrating the festival of Christ the King. If you do not have a copy of the Book of Common Prayer at home, it can be found on the Church of England website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/book-common-prayer/order-morning-prayer>



In 'church' terms, the festival of Christ the King is quite new, being less than a hundred years old. It was inaugurated by Pope Pius XI in 1925 in an attempt to counteract the growing ultra-nationalism and fascism emerging in Europe after World War I and Russian revolution of 1917. Pius held that true peace can only be found under the Kingship of Christ as "Prince of Peace". "For Jesus Christ reigns over the minds of individuals by His teachings, in their hearts by His love, in each one's life by the living according to His law and the imitating of His example."

Looking forward to Advent

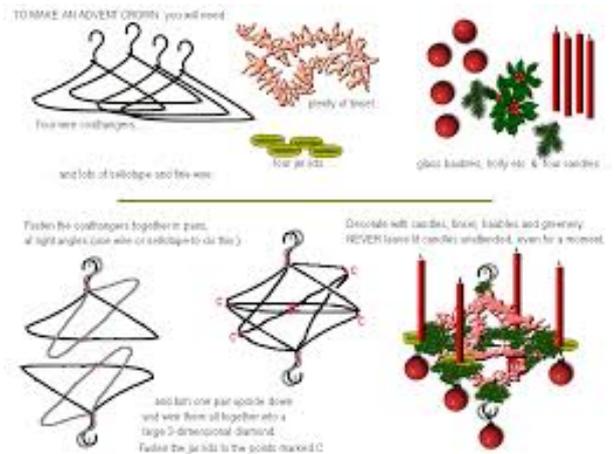
Christ the King is the last Sunday in the ecclesiastical year and next Sunday will be Advent Sunday. It will be strange to have no Advent Market and Evensong this year. However, we have to remain positive and prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas in the best way we can. Advent is derived from the Latin word 'adventus', meaning coming. We have four weeks to pray and prepare for Christ's coming. Each Advent we have beautiful Advent wreaths in our churches. The four candles symbolise Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. The fifth candle, lit on Christmas day, symbolises the light of Christ in our lives.

As a child I always enjoyed the run-up to Christmas: learning new carols, the nativity play and making an advent crown. Every year the children's TV program *Blue Peter* would show the



viewers how to make an advent crown out of wire coat hangers and tinsel. In the sixties we had real candles to light, but in the more health and safety conscious present times, candles have been substituted with baubles. Not as much fun, but probably less likely to set the house on fire!

You could have a go at making one of these, in readiness for Advent Sunday, but wire coat hangers are quite difficult to come by these days.



Last year I started knitting a nativity set and, as you can see, I have only got as far as Mary and Baby Jesus. Hopefully, this year I can complete Joseph to keep her company. Who knows? If I do a figure a year, I may have the complete set by 2030!

A prayer for Advent by Michael Perham:

May God the Father who loved the world so much that he sent his only son give you grace to prepare for eternal life.
May God the Son who comes to us as Redeemed and Judge reveal to you the path from darkness to light.
May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness.

Amen

Coffee on Zoom

As it is the 4th Sunday in the month, we will be meeting on Zoom for coffee and a chat. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8920380158>

On Advent Sunday, the 29th November, Alison will lead our service from St Michael's church at 9:30 am. Hopefully, this will be our last one in lockdown. Despite these difficult times when we are separated from our families and friends and unable to live as we wish, let us remember the message of the Advent candles: Hope, Peace Love and Joy.

Love and blessings to all our friends,

Kate Wydra