

From the Superintendent

Rev Steve Day

Dear friends,

By the time you read this article we will be in the season of Advent. Yet, even as I write I can hear a radio playing non-stop Christmas pop songs. Christmas is still a month away and yet there is pressure to be in the festive mood. Within the next couple of weeks we will be singing Christmas carols. It is a reminder about how hard it can be to value Advent as a season of preparation for celebrating the birth of Christ at Christmas.

I find Advent a helpful season of preparation as it sets the coming of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour within the context of the hopes, expectations and fears of God's people and encourages me to consider what it means to celebrate Christmas in today's context. Advent also challenges me about how I live in the present with the hope and expectation of Christ's return. I wonder what Advent means to you. I wonder how observing Advent helps you to value the meaning of Christmas.

This year, the Methodist Church in Britain has developed resources around the theme Hush the Noise: Join the love song this Christmas. These resources can be found here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/christmasresources/>. Within the resources it is possible to sign up for a daily reflection to guide us through Advent. These resources, together with what is offered in our churches during Advent, will help us to hush the distracting noise around us and focus on preparing for the birth of Christ. May this season of preparation enable us to truly appreciate this Christmas the joy and wonder of God coming among us in the precious gift of the Christ-child born in the manger in Bethlehem.

I wish you and your family a blessed and joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year!



Hush The Noise, the short Christmas film from the Methodist Church, can be viewed here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/videos/hush-the-noise-christmas-2024-film/>