



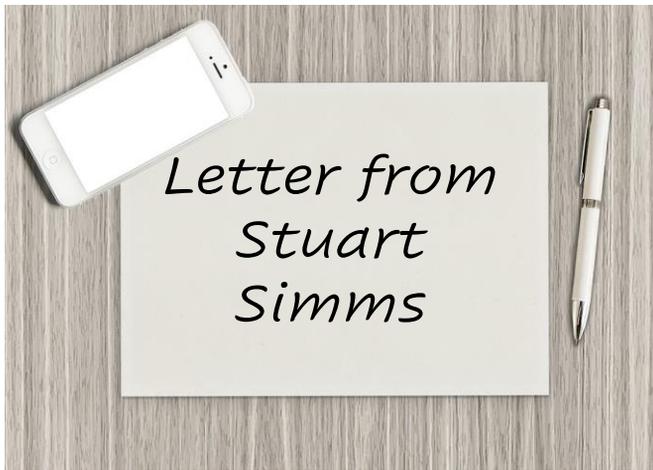
**Kempston East
Methodist
Church
Newsletter
Issue 85
November 28th
2021**

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Advent Sunday

www.kempstoneastmethodist.org



ADVENT

The past 18 months have been stressful and very worrying for many of us, to say the least.

Covid, firstly, is still with us and not going away, climate change which has been affecting our world for a long time causing floods, drought, exceptional heat causing fires all over the world, fuel shortages, higher prices in shops and stores everywhere, long waiting times for doctor's appointments, and many thousands seeking a better life in a different country as refugees or asylum seekers.

Not much to be cheerful about there, but today is the first Sunday of Advent, a time to celebrate when we start counting down to the arrival of Jesus, the greatest and most important day in the Christian calendar. Advent meaning arrival and a time to look forward, a time to prepare our hearts and minds, and show the real meaning of Christmas to family, friends, neighbours and the community we live in.

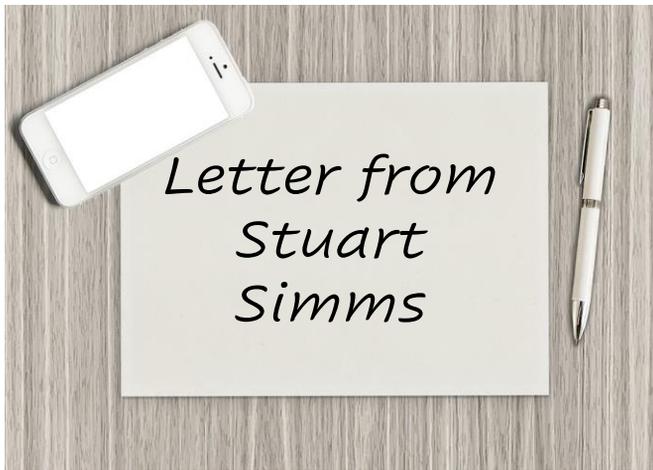
There are many symbols around the world that represent Advent; we may have a fir tree at Church and at home decorated with baubles and lights dating back to 16th century, exalting the value of life, and, for Christians, the tree of life.

Candle wreaths with four candles, one lit on each of the four Sundays in Advent, representing Expectation, Hope, Joy and Purity.

Sending greeting cards as signs of friendship and love.

We may put a wreath on our doors; initially they were thought to stop evil spirits entering the house. Who am I to say otherwise?

I am sure the children are pleased with Advent calendars especially if there are chocolates inside as you open a door each day. This is quite a new idea from the 1970's, well, a new idea from someone my age anyway.



The joy of Advent is celebrated around the world. In China although only 5% of the population are Christians they light lanterns and put lights in their windows. In Mexico there is a 9 day event from the 16th to the 24th December, celebrating the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. In this, a child dressed as an angel leads a procession around the streets where children are given food and drink but denied entry. And, of course, food is a big part of the celebrations all around the globe with mince pies, Christmas cake and pudding, turkey etc. and that is just here at home.

During this season we are busy finding gifts for friends and family, and one thing I like to do is make at least one present (as many of you know I like creating out of wood), to give to someone.

So as we move nearer to the arrival of Jesus through Advent, I like to listen to carols and songs and Singing The Faith 175 is a favourite.

*Light of the world you stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you, hope of a life spent with you.*

Surely this is something we can feel happy about as we celebrate the coming of Jesus with Expectation, Hope and Joy. It does not make the problems disappear, nor solve climate change, but we know that Jesus came for each one of us, that we might have life in all its fullness. So enjoy the lights, the gifts, the food, the giving and especially the giving, but never forget the season of Advent and what it means to each one of us.

Happy Advent

Stuart.

Christmas Coffee Morning

We will be having a Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th December from 10.00 am to 12 noon.

There will be the usual stalls including a Fairtrade stall. As usual Ann is asking for cakes, preserves etc for the Cake stall, wrapped please and with a list of ingredients.

Why not come along and join us for coffee or tea and a mince pie and perhaps to buy a few Christmas presents.



Brigades' Carol Service Monday December 6th at 7.00pm

You really know that the preparations for Christmas have started when it's time for the Brigades' Carol Service, so come along and get in the Christmas mood early!



Christmas Party

The Church Christmas party will be held on Saturday 11th December from 4.30pm to 6pm.

There will be games, food, crafts, bouncy castle and a visit from Father Christmas..

Come and join us in the Church. All are welcome.





Climate Justice for all is a climate focused, youth-led, global campaign which seeks to mobilise the Methodist family on issues of climate justice. Space permitting, This week, we look at Climate Change and its mitigation in Uruguay.

Watch www.youtube.com/watch?v=7h9EblfgSxw

Think about

- Fabian Muñoz mentions that the human is the great modifier of the Earth. Do you agree? What habits would we have to change to stop that?
- Omar Defeo emphasizes that climate change must be addressed now. In what way could we, from our contexts, help address it most effectively?
- As shown in the film, the fishermen's livelihoods are being threatened. Do you know of any job in your context that is also under threat due to climate change? How do you think you would feel being in their place?
- What specific actions can we take to adapt the Centro Emmanuel's motto "for a culture of caring for life" to our own lives?

Written by Camila Ferreiro, Uruguayan CJ4A Worker.

Read: Psalm 65:5-13

Take a deep breath.....

- How much time do we devote to being conscious of the world around us?
- What did your dinner taste like yesterday?
- What do your clothes smell like?
- What did the sky look like last night?
- What can you feel with your feet at this very moment?
- What sounds can you hear as you read this text?
- What have your senses taught you about the place where you live?

Now read the Eco-reflections in <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vaK-QhNTjbWf5V8MAk6YudSCI26t3W0BiJfh-kQJXoI/edit>

Blessing

May God bless you with sensitivity that you may hear the groaning of Creation.

May God bless you with a spirit of justice, that you may stand up for the home of every creature.

May God bless you with enough boldness that you may do what others claim to be impossible. And so may She bless you, the fountain of all life and all love. Amen.

Written by Rev. Jorge Gerhard, Methodist Church in Uruguay.



Our Church Family

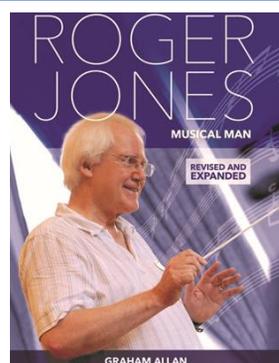


Please remember in your prayers:

- Rosemary H
- Brian F
- Jean B
- Joyce P
- Martin A on the death and forthcoming funeral of his mother

This Week at Kempston East

Monday November 29 th	2.00pm	Funeral of Sylvia Chesters followed by Committal at Bedford Crematorium at 3.15pm
Tuesday November 30 th	2.00pm	Tibbs Dementia Foundation meets in the New School Hall
Wednesday December 1 st	2.30pm	Wesley Guild meets in the New School Hall Devotional led by Pat Lilley
Friday December 3 rd	9.30am	Parents and Toddlers meet in the Halls
Saturday December 4 th	10.00am	Christmas Coffee Morning in the New School Hall



Roger Jones Musical Man biography

The original "Musical Man" biography was published in 2015. This revised and expanded 2021 edition includes an additional 50 pages detailing the years since then. Paperback 313 pages

£8.99 plus p&p

[Order HERE](#)

WORSHIP AT EAST

This Sunday our service at 10.30am will be led by Graham Follett, a local preacher from Oakley Methodist Church. Dom will put a recording of the service on the church website later on Sunday and an audio recording on CD will be available to those who normally receive these.

Forthcoming Services at Kempston East

Sunday Dec 5 th	10.30am	Angela Brydon
Sunday Dec 12 th	10.30am	Rev Michael Giles (Holy Communion)
Sunday Dec 19 th	10.30am	Local Worship led by Sunday Club
Sunday Dec 19 th	6.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service led by Rev Michael Giles

All these services will be held in the Church following the advice and guidelines given in the Stewards' recommendations in earlier newsletters

Christmas Cards

Are you in the middle of writing your Christmas cards? Well, maybe just pause for a minute. Often, we've put your Christmas greetings in the newsletter and encouraged you to send the money you've saved to charity. This year, you will be able to put your greetings card to **all your friends at Kempston East** on the transept notice board and we encourage you to make a donation to TWAM (Tools With A Mission) which is our church charity for this year. It's simple to do – just write one card to everyone you know at church and give this to one of the Stewards. They will then put your card on the notice board.



You can make your donation to TWAM in a number of ways:

By far the easiest is to put your donation in the box that will be available in the church marked TWAM. The stewards will bank this and we will send one cheque for the total collected to TWAM.

Alternatively (and particularly if you want to Gift Aid your donation) you can make a donation using a debit or credit card by calling TWAM on 01473 210220. Or, you can send a cheque, Postal Order, charity vouchers or a standing order forms to:

Tools with a Mission, 2 Bailey Close, Hadleigh Road Industrial Estate, Ipswich, IP2 0UD. And, finally, you can pay directly into TWAM's bank account (Barclays Bank Ltd Account no. 33190994; Sort Code 20-44-51) by a BACS transfer. TWAM would love to acknowledge your BACS donation so please send them your contact details, amount donated and date of donation via [email](#) or post when you've donated directly via BACS (and maybe mention Kempston East Methodist Church).



CIRCUIT ADVENT SERVICE



LANGFORD METHODIST CHURCH

HIGH STREET LANGFORD, SG18 9RU

SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER

4.00 pm



Followed by Refreshments
All Welcome

A Retiring Offering will be taken for
3 Local Food Banks
BEDFORD, PREEN AND NEED PROJECT

Join us this Christmas

Monday 6th December 7pm

The Boys' & Girls Brigade
Christmas Carol Concert

Monday 13th December, 7:30pm

Kempston Concert Band Concert

Sunday 19th December 10:30am

The Christmas Nativity



KEMPSTON METHODIST CHURCHES

Weekly COVID-19 Cases in Bedford Borough

Sorry to say but we've had another week where new Covid-19 case numbers across the Borough have risen from 772 new cases in week ending November 14th to 816 new cases in week ending November 21st. This equates to 467.1 cases per 100,000 population. Yet again there were four deaths reported in the week ending November 12th.

Locally, Wootton again tops the list with 58(!) new cases (up from 35 last week) – and is also in second place in the whole of Bedford Borough. They are closely followed by Kempston Rural with 42 new cases (up from 33). In the remaining Kempston wards it's a bit of a mixed bag with Central and East coming down from 26 to 24 new cases, West went up from 14 to 19, South went up from 11 to 18 while North went down to 7 new cases.

If you have any prayer requests, thanks, how you're passing the time, feelgood items and, indeed, any other items and news that you would like to go into this newsletter then please email these to geofftal@btinternet.com, ideally by Wednesday each week, but we can usually slot short, last minute things in up till Friday morning.

If you know of someone who would like to receive this emailed newsletter could you please send their email address to richard.ward4@btinternet.com. Equally, if you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please let Richard Ward know.