aldwickbaptistchurch

Vision: Loving God, Loving Each Other, Loving Lost People

ABC NEWS

Aldwick Baptist Church



Sunday 11th December 2022

Our Sunday Worship service

"Feet bringing good news"

Isaiah 52:6-10

Simon Downing

TODAY'S SERVICE – In this Sunday's service we will be lighting our third advent calendar which means Christmas is now only 14 days away. The title of Simon's talk this week is "Feet bringing Good News" based on Isaiah 52:6-10. This is a reminder that 2000 years ago, there were no daily newspapers, no TV, no postman (not unlike now) and even no internet. The news was delivered verbally and often by a messenger who came on foot. It is also a reminder that "Good news" is still best shared in person and on foot! Perhaps we all need to take this to heart and realise that sharing the Good news of Jesus is meant to be shared and is the responsibility of us. Food for thought.

Of course, we do hope you can join us for the service in the church but if you can't actually join us, you will be able to access this service from 10.30am by going to: http://www.aldwickbaptist.co.uk/category/current-sermons

IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS DATES AT ABC – make a note in your diary now!

- Sunday, December 18th at 10.30am – Our morning worship service
- Sunday. December 18th at 6pm - Our traditional candlelight carol service followed by hot drinks and mince pies.
- Wednesday, December 21st at 3.30pm – Our midweek carol service followed by tea, coffee and cake.
- Sunday, December 25th at 10.30am – Our Christmas day celebration

Please invite your friends and neighbours to join us

SOMETHING NEW AT CHRISTMAS? – This year will be holding a second (but different) Carol service on Wednesday December 21st at 3.30pm. This is specifically aimed at people who are perhaps reluctant to come out in the evening but, of course you are all invited. We hope you will also invite some of your friends and neighbours to join us. This will be followed by tea, coffee and home-made cakes supplied mainly by my homegroup! Derek.

DON'T SPEND CHRISTMAS ALONE – Sue and Kerry will be organising another free Christmas meal this year at the Newell Centre Chichester starting at 12noon on Christmas Day. Transfer can be arranged and we can also deliver Christmas lunch for those who would prefer this. If you are interested, then do contact Sue or Kerry.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY'S – This week we have two birthdays to celebrate. Firstly, it's Chris Grant's birthday on Monday 12th December and then it's Margaret Raines' birthday on Thursday 15th December. So do remember to wish them both a very BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY – perhaps send a card or even bake a cake! if you want to be included in our birthday list, and receive a celebratory slot in the news sheet, please contact Lynne Allard (265360). If you want details of the BMS birthday scheme, then please contact Brenda.

THIS WEEK'S POEM

This week Arthur's poem reminds us that there will be times when the going gets really difficult. It happens to us all. As Christians, however, there is always a guiding light if we look to the Lord for His strength and perseverance.

The Mountain Track

As I struggled up the mountain track,
the heavy rain and wind pushed me back.
The track was so hard to bear,
but it seemed a light was always there.
Sometimes I felt in stress and pain,
but I soldiered on and got up again.
Then at last I saw the peak and,
so overwhelmed, I could hardly speak.
And when I surveyed that glorious view
Lord, I knew my strength had come from you

Arthur Magee

DONATING FLOWERS - If anyone would like to mark a special date during next year by donating money for the flowers in Church, please contact Brenda. Not only do the weekly flowers look good, they provide a valuable resource, being distributed each week to anyone who is housebound, recovering from an illness or in need of cheering up! They always bring much pleasure to the recipients. So please, sign up for the year ahead.

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR MY GRANDDAUGHTER – Sheila Sargent would like to thank you all for praying for Lara her granddaughter who has now completed her chemotherapy treatment. Lara will still need to be monitored for another 12 months before she can be given the all clear to start trying for a family. Do please do keep praying that Lara remains clear of cancer.

- **Contact and Church office information**

Head of the Church	Jesus Christ
Minister	Simon Downing (Tel. 07508815573)
	email: pastor@aldwickbaptist.co.uk
Church Secretary:	Clive Bennett (Tel: 930756)
	email: secretary@aldwickbaptist.co.uk
Treasurer/Elder	Derek Robinson (Tel: 866238)
	email: contact@aldwickbaptist.co.uk
Deacons	Brenda (265984), Barbara (821789), John (837181)
	Joy (837181), Haze (264233).

… and finally

FIRST RESPONDER - As Simon is currently having to curtail his movement and, as he is still waiting for his scan, I will be acting as first responder for the time being. Please contact me if you have any prayer requests or need of care. Derek

EMILY BROWN - Emily Brown has been back and forth between the Nuffield Hospital and Marriott House over the last week as she has had various complications following her operation. Emily would like to thank you all for your prayers but needs ongoing prayer as her recovery will be delayed. Please continue to pray for ongoing healing and peace of mind.

MORE PRAYER POINTERS – Please continue to pray for Katrina Gould, Sandra Field, David Hanchard, Janet Cartwright and Mavis Eede. Please also pray for Keith Scott, Val Collett and Pam Brown. Pray too for others in the congregation who are in need prayer.

Dear friends at ABC

I was reminded recently to search for Resurrection in this Advent season. It's a search that leads to an encounter with the unexpected, being surprised when we least expect it. The surprise of salvation coming to us.

Amidst all the planning for Christmas, all the services and connection spaces of Advent, there is surprise and an encounter with the totally unexpected.

The surprise of the coming King to be born in a stable; the unexpected preparations of a young woman far from home carrying the most surprising, the most precious, vulnerable gift to the world. Our journey through Advent takes us toward and on and beyond. It leads us to unexpected encounters on the journey of Christ towards resurrection.

There is a resonance, an echo through the years of the unexpected voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." And in this cry we too offer a surprise for our world today, singing, lifting our voices together, "Behold, your God".

Our prayer for you this Advent is that you encounter unexpected joy in moments of resurrection hope. And may some of the things we share in this update be a surprising blessing.

Wishing you a peace-filled Christmas in the most surprising ways.

Every blessing

Diane, Hilary, Jane, Mary, Mat, Mike, Paul, Sharon, Steve and Wale (Faith and Society Team)