



## Reflection - Advent

It feels like we are waiting a lot at the moment. We have been waiting to find out which new tier we would be placed in; we are waiting for approval of the new vaccine possibilities; and waiting for the roll out of them; we are waiting, to see what Santa might be bringing us for Christmas!

Waiting can be frustrating, but is also a good discipline as it develops our patience, one of the fruits of the Spirit.

And waiting is also the theme of advent. In our Church advent wreaths each of the 4 candles represent a waiting, some longer than others.

**Week 1 - The Patriarchs.** The great Abraham, amongst others, who was promised that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars, and be blessed and be a blessing;

**Week 2 - The Prophets.** So many prophets to remember and most with funny names! They foretold God's plans to Israel, both exile and redemption.

**Week 3 - John the Baptist.** The hairy man with the unconventional diet and dress-sense, proclaiming that the kingdom of God was coming, so repent and be ready.

**Week 4 - Mary.** The innocent and young virgin being told she would bear a son, the Son of the Most High, who will be given the throne of his ancestor David.

For each of those waiting they were waiting for Jesus to come, for the Patriarchs and Prophets this was very long-term, but for John and Mary slightly less so. And each candle on our advents wreath look towards the centre to Jesus, in anticipation of all he has brought and will bring the world.

As we wait through this season both of Advent, but also of pandemic, I encourage you to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus as the centre of who we are, as the centre of our faith and as the centre of our world.

### Advent 1 - Patriarchs Prayer

God of Abraham and Sarah,  
and all the patriarchs of old,  
you are our Father too.  
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Son of David.  
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth  
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit  
to make his home among us.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.  
**Amen.**