

# St Clement's Monthly News

## December 2025

### Advent Calendar

Rev'd Matthew writes:

I love Christmas, and I love Advent too! Advent helps us to explore the depth of what we celebrate at Christmas. Tinsel and carols alone could ring a bit hollow. Christmas brings great 'comfort and joy' but the birth of Jesus has a strangeness about it too. A poem that explores this theme, and will be read at our Advent Carol service on 30<sup>th</sup> November at St. Clement, is called Advent Calendar by Rowan Williams.

Like a good friend, it's worth spending some time with this poem. It has some beautiful images which speak to us about the ways Jesus comes to us. In the first three stanzas Jesus comes silently: 'like last leaf's fall', 'like frost' and 'like dark', but then, in the last stanza, he comes 'like crying in the night'. Jesus's birth is not neat and tidy (or cosy), just as our world is not neat and tidy (or cosy). The birth of Jesus includes blood, sweat and tears - as does his death - but in his coming among us, we see how much God longs to be with us.

As we wait like expectant parents through Advent, we are reminded that Jesus can speak to all the seasons of our lives. He is with us through thick and thin. He doesn't protect himself from the pain of the world. Jesus comes among us as a crying child, as one of us, to set us free, to renew the whole creation through earthy, bodily love.

### ADVENT CALENDAR

By ROWAN WILLIAMS

He will come like last leaf's fall.  
One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to the bone,  
and earth wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.



# Diary for December

<b>Sun Nov 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Advent Sunday Eucharist Parish Church</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Worship Branch Church</b>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Advent Carol Service</b>
<b>Mon 1<sup>st</sup></b>	9.00am	Walking for Health
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm	Advent Course 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 4 St Mary's
<b>Wed 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
	7.00pm	Men's Group Meal
<b>Thur 4<sup>th</sup></b>	7.00pm	Choir and Handbell Ringers Meal
<b>Fri 5<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Flixton Band Concert
<b>Sun 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Eucharist Parish Church</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Worship Branch Church</b>
	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Singing in Chassen Park</b>
<b>Mon 8<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Walking for Health
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
<b>Tues 9<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Handbells at De Brook Court
	7.30pm	Advent Course 3 of 4 St Mary's
<b>Wed 10<sup>th</sup></b>	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
	7.30pm	Urmston Choral Concert
<b>Fri 12<sup>th</sup></b>	7.00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sat 13<sup>th</sup></b>	1.00pm	Church Meal Davyhulme Golf Club
<b>Sun 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Eucharist Parish Church</b>
	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service Manor Hey Care Home</b>
<b>Mon 15<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Walking for Health
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
<b>Tues 16<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm	Advent Course 4 of 4 St Mary's
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup></b>	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
<b>Thurs 18<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30pm	Mothers' Union Carol Service
<b>Fri 19<sup>th</sup></b>	7.00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Eucharist Parish Church</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Branch Church Carol Service</b>
<b>Mon 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.00am	Walking for Health
<b>Tues 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service by Candle-light</b>
	<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS MASS</b>
<b>Thurs 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION</b>
<b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Eucharist Parish Church
<b>Mon 31<sup>st</sup></b>	9.00am	Walking for Health

## THE BRANCH CHURCH HUMPHREY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Morning Worship  
10.30am Sun 7<sup>th</sup> December  
**Brownies** 6.00pm Every Tues  
Meeting in the Parish Hall  
Contact Samantha  
[Surmstonbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:Surmstonbrownies@gmail.com)

## THE ADVENT COURSE CONTINUES TUE 2<sup>ND</sup> 9<sup>TH</sup> 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 7.30pm at St Mary's, Davyhulme

The 4 session Course entitled  
Embracing Humanity  
continues and gives opportunities for  
Bible study, discussion, prayer and  
reflection.

## CAROL SINGING in CHASSEN PARK Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2.30 – 3.00

St Clement's and St Mary's choirs are  
joining to sing Favourite Carols at a  
Christmas Family Fun Day in the Park.

There will be train rides and a Santa's  
Grotto from 10.30.-3.30 and other  
activities including Flixton Band at 2.45

Christmas lights  
and a Woodland Walk from 3pm  
Mince Pies at the Snack Stop from 3pm  
Christmas hot drinks & snacks

Come and join in with the singing  
and enjoy the fun of the day.

If you wish to donate  
to St Clement's  
Church please scan the  
QR Code and follow  
the instructions

