

The WWRT 2020 Advent Course

Monday evenings 30th Nov, 7th, 14th 21st December on Zoom at 8.00 pm (Led by Jill Smith)

Wednesday evenings 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd December on Zoom at 7.30 pm (Led by David Sherwin)

If restrictions allow in Clifton Church – Thursday 3rd, 10th 17th and Tuesday 22nd December at 11.00 am

Contact Zoom host anne.wwrteam@gmail.com if you wish to join us and let us know to which session you would like to be sent an invite.

Introduction

During the four weeks of Advent we will, together, explore the challenges and changes to everyday life we have experienced this year, and look towards the new year with hope in Jesus.

Each of the four sessions take the context and characters from the Christmas story and invite us to make connections with life during the pandemic. We can reflect on our feelings and response to what's happened and come alongside the people in the Christmas story with fresh insight and understanding. 'Now' and 'then' Each scene contains a passage from Luke's or Matthew's account of the Christmas story. The connection between 'now' and 'then' is brought to life through a monologue where a voice talks about an aspect of life in the pandemic, and then switches to a voice from a character in the Christmas story. Questions, prayer, and a song to listen will offer different ways into conversation and reflection.

Over the four weeks you are invited to build a nativity scene, in your home whether you are attending through Zoom or socially distanced in person (lockdown permitting), with traditional nativity set figures and symbols representing aspects of life today. This is an optional extra and not part of the actual course.

The four scenes are:

Week 1 Rules and regulations Our response to directives from central authorities alongside life under Roman rule; Nativity: stable and/or empty crib and animals. Mask and pen

Week 2 Unsung heroes The contribution of key workers and the shepherds' key role in telling the Good News; Nativity: the shepherds and angels. Made or drawn rainbow

Week 3 Travelling light Migrants' search for a safe home and the magi's journey to an unknown destination; Nativity: The Wise Men. A glass of water

Week 4 At a distance Family life in lockdown and the Holy Family's isolation at the time of their son's birth; Nativity: Mary and Joseph (and the baby Jesus, unless your tradition is to keep him hidden until Christmas morning). A candle and a family photograph, to add to the nativity scene.

If you don't have a nativity set, there are many templates on the internet with figures to cut out. Do a search on 'nativity set templates' and view it through the Images option.