

Thought for the Week

The Church year has come full circle and here we are again at what used to be called 'Stir Up Sunday', the day on which we stir up the Christmas pud, and hopefully begin to stir ourselves up again to receive the Christmas message. Why do we need to stir ourselves up? Because none of us will ever quite grasp the truth that God became one of us. It's too big, too mysterious and too wonderful. If we stumble into Christmas without giving it much thought ('stirring') we are just going to see the coloured lights and perhaps mourn the fact that Covid restrictions have stopped us being with our family and friends in the way we would like.

The Church calls the 4 weeks before Christmas 'Advent' (from the Latin word for 'coming') and hopes it stirs us up for Christmas. In normal years that would involve special church services for all ages. This year, at this stage, we just don't know how much will be possible. So whether in church or not, there is quite a bit to help stir us. Have a look at the Advent page with this newsletter. Hopefully there is something there for everyone.



This Sunday is now also known as 'Christ the King' Sunday. This reminds us that in the season of Advent we ponder on the mystery that although Christ was born in a stable to ordinary parents, he is none other than the King of the Universe. At the end of his earthly life he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. So although a king, he 'emptied himself' and lived a life that no earthly king would recognise. The readings through Advent will explore this mind-boggling theme. All in all, there's quite a bit there to stir us up!

Ray