

DECEMBER  
2018

# The Wave....

... Waveney Valley Ecumenical Partnership



## PREPARING FOR HIS COMING

As I write these notes we are getting ready to celebrate Christ the King on the last Sunday before advent. This particular Sunday marks the end of the church lectionary year, and Advent Sunday begins the first of a new one. The little pause in the latter part of November is ended and it's full steam ahead for all the Christmas activities, and special services.

The season of Advent is one that always appears to get hijacked by Christmas as a celebration, and we lose sight of the fact that it is a season of preparation as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.



It's time to dust off the Advent Crown, but before we do, how many of us are aware of the significance of the different coloured candles. Most Advent wreaths tend to use red candles with a white one in the middle, but you also may see Advent Crowns which use three colors – purple, pink, and white. However, some may use blue in place of the purple. I thought it might be good to look at the meaning of these different candles and reflect on whether when you are buying new candles you might like to consider a different way of presenting the crown.

**1st CANDLE** – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. **Read** Romans 15:12-13.

**2nd CANDLE** – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD. **Read** Luke 3:4-6

**3rd CANDLE** – (purple) **THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! **Read** John 3:16-17

**4th CANDLE** – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY sometimes also thought of as MARY'S CANDLE** – The angels sang a message of JOY. **Read** Luke 2:7-15

**5th CANDLE** – (white) **“CHRIST CANDLE”** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! **Read** John 1:29.

There are lots of different variations about regarding the significance of the candles and some churches choose to have red candles rather than purple ones, but it is the purple candles which link us to a season of penitence, we only start to celebrate when the candle changes colour to pink. I don't know about

you but I can't see anyone keeping their celebrations just to the Sunday before Christmas, after all you wouldn't have a complete week – only a few days!

However you choose to celebrate the Advent Season I wish you joy and blessings,

*Jacquie*

### Dates for your diary

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Emmanuel Church Bungay – 10 – 2 Church Rooms and Green Room Café** – Christmas Fayre – Proceeds in aid of Going Green campaign

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - 10.30 Pulham Market Methodist Church - Advent Partnership Service with Holy Communion followed by Bring and Share lunch.**

**AND**

**6pm Wortwell URC** – Partnership Choir presents “When He comes” – music and readings for Advent.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December – 5.30** – Christmas Market – **Denton Village Hall**

**Friday – Sunday 14-16 December - London Road Church Harleston - “Festival of Nativity Scenes”** A warm welcome to view the varied exhibits there will be on display. The Church will be open on **Friday from 2pm – 6pm; Saturday 10am – 4pm; Sunday 2pm – 4pm** with tea & coffee, mince pies & biscuits available in the Church Hall. On the Saturday, there will be the regular monthly **Coffee Morning** with home-made cakes, mince pies and biscuits.

All donations received over this weekend will be for the work of the **Harleston & District Forget-Me-Not Café**.



### **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES:**

Denton URC 10am Gill Hipwell; Emmanuel 10am Pat Williamson; London Road 10am Rev'd Katie Jackson and Pulham Market Methodist 9.30 Rev'd Jacquie Evans.

(Please see the Winter preaching plan for details of other services over the Advent and Christmas period.



