

Parish Directory
The Church of the Holy Trinity – 92 Serpentine Rd, Terrigal, 2260
Parish Postal Address – P.O. Box 167, Terrigal, 2260
Office Telephone – 4365 1115;

Parish Email - admin@terrigan Anglican.org.au
Rector's Study - rector@terrigan Anglican.org.au
Website - www.terrigan Anglican.org.au

Rector – (*The Reverend Canon*) **Brian Gibbs** – 4365 1374
brianandmarg@live.com

Associate Priests

(*The Reverend*) **Roy Hazlewood** – 4393 0114
(*The Reverend*) **Ann Watson** – 4365 1065 or 0427 135 771
(*The Reverend*) **Richard Harvey** - 0422109262

Parish Executive

Wardens

Kyara Newport (4384 3997)
Terry Rowe (4365 0430); **Keith Watson** (4365 1065)

Parish Secretary – **Jeff Thompson** (4385 7562)
Parish Treasurer – **Terry Rowe** (4365 0430)

Parish Ministries

Parish Organist – **Chris Sillince** - 0422 225 849
Sacristan and Mission Secretary - **Coralie Taylor**
Messy Church Convenor – **Rhonda Kiss** – 4367 6981
Pastoral Care - **contact 4365 1115**
Cursillo - **Keith Watson** – 4365 1065

Parish Opportunity Shop

Carolyn Shields / Christine De Gans – 4365 1280
The Op Shop is open Tuesday to Friday from 9.00am to 4.00pm
and each Saturday from 10.00am to 1.00pm

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle
The Parish of Terrigal



Christ the King

24th November, 2013

Welcome to worship at Holy Trinity.

7.30am Sung Eucharist [Rev.Richard/BG]

9.30am – Eucharist [Fr. Roy/BG]

Hymns 7.30am & 9.30am

TONIGHT 6.00PM

PARISH FELLOWSHIP AT TERRIGAL BOWLO

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet socially.
Booking sheet on the noticeboard

NEXT SUNDAY IS ADVENT SUNDAY

... the beginning of our penitential journey to prepare for the Feast of Christmas. You are invited to observe the Advent season in prayer and fasting, Bible study, meditation, joyful worship and intentional good works. May our Advent journey deeply shape our Christmas celebrations.

THIS WEEK

Christ the King

Please note the following in your diary.

Monday to Friday – Morning Prayer at 8.00am

Monday 25th November

This Monday 25 November there will be **no Meditation Meeting**, as the group will be attending a day seminar on Henri Nouwen's *'The Return of the Prodigal Son'* at St Francis Conference Centre Somersby.

Tuesday 26th November

7.00pm - Trinity Band Practice

Wednesday 27th November

From 9.30am - Maestro Possums in Multi-Purpose Room

5.30pm – Bible Study (Sacred Reading)

7.00pm – Advent Study – Holy Trinity Meeting Room

Thursday 28th November

7.00pm – Advent Study – Holy Trinity Meeting Room

Friday 29th November

10.30am - Holy Eucharist - the Founders' Chapel [AW]

Readings – Daniel 7. 2-14, Song of Creation 8-10 (APBA p.427),
Luke 21. 29 - 33

11.45am – Advent Bible Study in Meeting Room [BG]

7.00pm – Trinity Teens

ANGLICAN PARISH OF TERRIGAL

BSB 032-545 ... Parish Westpac Account Number 16-9152

WEEKLY GIVING BY DIRECT DEPOSIT REALLY
HELPS TO SECURE OUR FINANCIAL VIABILITY.

The Anglican Parish of Terrigal warmly welcomes you.

We offer many opportunities for meeting together ...

to worship and pray; to study Scripture and theology; to share fellowship, caring and support; and to celebrate real relationships which are divinely life-giving.

These opportunities normally include ...

Sunday Worship at Holy Trinity

7.30am - Sung Eucharist and 9.30am - Family Eucharist

1st Sunday of the month – Evensong at 6.00pm

3rd Sunday in the month - Messy Church between 3.30pm and 5.30pm.

Weekly Worship at Holy Trinity

Friday at 10.30am – Eucharist

First Tuesday at 2.00pm - Tarragal Glen Eucharist

Second Wednesday at 10.00am - Tarragal House Eucharist/concert

Fourth Wednesday at 10.00am - Eucharist at Matthew John

Fourth Thursday at 10.00am - Eucharist at Maxine Louise

VARIOUS PARISH MINISTRIES

Pastoral Care (2nd Thursday at 10.00am); Bible Study (Friday at 11.30am); Women's Fellowship (2nd Monday at 1.00pm) and Men's Fellowship (3rd Thursday at 10.30am); Gardening (1st Saturday monthly); Coffee and Craft (3rd Tuesday at 1.00pm); Children's Program (9.30am Sunday), Trinity Band (rehearsal Tues. 7.00pm), Trinity Teens (2nd & 4th Friday 7.00-9.00pm in school terms at Holy Trinity); 'Whispers of Love' – a meditation (Monday at 10.00am); Messy Church (3rd Sunday 3.30 - 5.30pm); Parish Council (2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm)

Parish contact - (02) 4365 1115 or mobile 0427 161150

Holy Trinity Opportunity Shop ... contact (02) 4365 1280

Parish Website – www.terrigalanglican.org.au

**CHRISTMAS AT SAMARITANS
EMERGENCY RELIEF, WYOMING**

Other than normal food parcels, we are only providing clients this year with a small hamper of Christmas food.

Therefore we would be most grateful for any donations of these specific foods: Tinned Ham; Christmas cake; Longlife custard; Canned fruit; Sweets. No toys please!

Thank you, *Anna Holt*
Parish Samaritans Contact Officer

**[Hauptwerk System] Virtual Pipe Organ RECITAL
SATURDAY, 7th DECEMBER AT 7.30pm**

Our Organist Chris Sillince is kindly organizing a concert to mark the acquisition, installation and dedication of the 3 manual and pedal Virtual Pipe Organ.

Organists **Pastor de Lasala** and **Chris Sillince**, together with brass and string players, will perform a wide-ranging programme.

Tickets - \$30 & \$20.

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the concert.

Enquiries to Chris Sillince on 0422 225 849.

THIS CONCERT WILL BE A REMARKABLE OCCASION.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO COME ALONG.

CHECK OUT THE CARD SHOP!!!

Advent and Christmas gifts and resources

are now available. Please place money in the box for items purchased.

Margaret Gibbs will be available to take orders.

This is a revenue-neutral parish service aiming to make available to our parishioners various gifts and resources, of the sort not normally commercially available, for the forthcoming Advent and Christmas seasons.

Next Week

First Sunday of Advent

1st December, 2013 – Holy Eucharist

7.30am [BG/Rev Richard]; **9.30am** - [BG/Fr Roy]]

Eucharistic Readings

Isaiah 2. 1 - 5, Ps: 122, Romans 13. 9 - 14

Matthew 24. 36 - 44

Forward Planning

Sunday 1st December – 6.00pm - Evensong

Tuesday 3rd December – 2.00pm - Tarragal Glen Eucharist

Saturday 7th December – Garden Working Bee

Saturday 7th December - 7.30pm – Inaugural Organ Concert

Sunday 8th December - 10.00am –

Whole Parish Eucharist Incorporating the Dedication Service for The

[Hauptwerk System] Virtual Pipe Organ and followed by
a bring and share lunch.

Please note this will be the one and only parish service on this day

Monday 9th December – Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday 10th December – 7.30pm – Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 11th December – 10.00am – Tarragal House Eucharist/Concert

Thursday 12th December – 10.00am – Pastoral Care Meeting

Friday 13th December – 7.00 – 9.00 pm – Trinity Teens

Saturday 14th December – Market Day

Sunday 15th December – 3.30 – 5.30pm - Messy Church

Tuesday 17th December – 1.00-3.00pm – Craft & Coffee

Wednesday 18th December – 10.00am – Eucharist at Matthew John

Thursday 19th November – 10.00am – Eucharist at Maxine Louise

Thursday 19th December – 10.30am – Men's Fellowship Meeting

**A Reading from the book of Jeremiah
Chapter 23, verses 1 - 6**

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

For the Psalm : A Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:
who has come to his people and set them free.

**The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of his servant David.**

`Whispers of Love'

Our Meditation group meets on Mondays at 10.00 am.

Reflection

Gracious God,
Grant us, we pray the will to declare ourselves
Hearers
Bearers
and Dreamers
of your life giving word. Amen.

Prayerfully *Reverend Ann*

Next - "Whispers of Love" 2nd December
from 10.00 am to 10.45 am



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

Once again The Women's Fellowship will be
baking puddings for Christmas.

This was a wonderful financial success for our Parish last year.
It would be greatly appreciated if you could assist us with the
costs by donating the following:

1kg Mixed Fruit, Dates, Crystallised Ginger, Stout

1Kg size \$18.00 – Small \$5.00

A list is on the notice board for your order

A treat to watch for...

Our beloved parishioner Valda Walker will feature in a musical cameo
(singing Silent Night) in the concluding episode of The Phryne Fisher
Murder Mysteries, ABC1, Friday 29th November from 8.30pm.

Advent 2013 - Preparations

There are planning sheets placed near the entrance to the Worship Space. Please take the opportunity to indicate your preferred day and time to be part of an Advent Bible Study group. We will form groups according to expressed need.

Possibilities for Advent Bible Studies may include...

- Wednesday, Thursday including a daytime and/or night time session
- Friday from 11.30am

DECEMBER 14th, MARKET DAY

PLEASE NOTE,
OUR DECEMBER MARKET DAY HAS BEEN MOVED
TO THE 2nd SATURDAY IN THAT MONTH

ABM Philippines Appeal

Our **ABM** has launched an appeal to support relief work throughout the **Philippines**. Specially marked envelopes will be available from this Sunday for parishioners who would like to give to this appeal.

I am aware that there have been a number of occasions recently where this parish has sought your support. Of course it is understood and honoured that each parishioner is free to respond as each person feels. **BG**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Will be Held on 9th December at the

Breakers Club, Dover Road, Wamberal

Time: 12md for 12.30pm

The club has a varied menu and all parishioners are invited, however we do need to advise the club of the number of people coming for their catering purposes, so it would be appreciated if you could place your name on the sign-up sheet on the board.

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

**To show mercy to our forebears:
and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship him without fear:
holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**To give his people knowledge of salvation:
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow
of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen**

SPECIAL NOTE

**Wednesday evening Bible Study (Sacred Reading)
has recommenced on Wednesdays at 5.30pm**

**A reading from Colossians
Chapter 1 verses 11 – 20**

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Please pray for

Brian Ball, Joel, Angela, Catherine Tizard, Desley Cook, Alana, Maureen Hazlewood, Beth, Kim Hinder, families in the Philippines, Gloria Townsend

We prayerfully remember

Dawn Bunce

Parish opportunities throughout Advent 2013...

- **Study groups throughout each week in Advent** (see lists).
- **Morning Prayer in the Founders' Chapel** (8.00am)
- **"Whispers of Love" – a meditation – Monday** (10.00am)
- **Wednesday afternoon Eucharist** (5.00pm)
- **Friday morning Eucharist** (10.30am)
- **Sunday morning Worship** (7.30am and 9.30am)
- **Evensong** – Advent Sunday and Advent 4 at 6.00pm
- **Evening Prayer** at 6.00pm – 2nd and 3rd Sundays in Advent

CHRISTMAS PUDDING ORDERS

Thank you for those who have ordered their Christmas puddings. We have still a long way to go to make last year's total of \$1,200.

Please tell your friends and neighbours about our great puddings.

Brochures available beside order form.

Many thanks Women's Fellowship

PARISH IDENTITY AND VISION

As we consider possibilities for our stated parish identity, ought we include an affirmation that as a faith community **WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST** and that in **God's grace and generosity, in Jesus Christ's call to follow him without yearnings for status, control or personal self-serving power**, that we are experienced in the community at large as **caring gatherers seeking truly and humbly to discern and do God's will** and not as *judgemental scatterers wilfully pursuing personal goals and self-promotion.* (Rev'd Canon) Brian Gibbs

Mission Report - 24th November

Christmas Bowl

Over the years the Parish has supported **Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal** - the International aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia and a member of the global **ACT Alliance**.

The Christmas Bowl began when The Rev. Frank Byatt, in a simple act of compassion, placed a bowl on his dining table during Christmas dinner in 1949, and asked his guests to contribute to help people fleeing the devastation of World War II. Since then, it has become a much loved tradition for many Churches (more than 2,000 from 19 denominations) around Australia to ecumenically work together at Christmas, to support people whose lives had been torn apart by war, and assisting people in some of the world's most conflict effected countries, such as in Afghanistan. The Christmas Bowl supports children in their communities, and enables them access an education, and a chance of a future free from poverty and conflict.

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela.

Act for Peace - endeavours to **reduce poverty, prevent conflict, protect refugees and empower communities**. If you are able to contribute to support the ACT for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal it would be greatly appreciated. Envelopes and receipts are available for your donations.

White Ribbon Day.

Day for The Elimination Of Violence Against Women

Monday, November 25, 2013

The recent Four Corners documentary 'Code of Silence' highlighted that violence supporting attitudes are still prevalent in our society.

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 23, verses 33 - 43.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, '**Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**'

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Worship

Our parish seeks to offer **diversity in worship** leading up to and on Christmas Day. At this stage the following opportunities are being planned and for which help in preparing is sought...

Sunday, 15th December – Messy Christmas from 3.30pm.

This vibrant community has been faithfully serving families in wonderful intergenerational worship throughout this year and beyond. The activities and teaching **focuses upon children however both teens and adults are blessed with opportunities to help young participants and to contemplate the significance of the ageless messages of the Gospel.** *Your help with this exciting ministry is always appreciated.* Rhonda Kiss, leader of the 'Messy Church Team', would be delighted to chat with you.

Tuesday, 24th December Christmas Eve

5.00pm - Christingle and Eucharist

Christingle is a service which was originally introduced by the Church of England's Children's Society and appeals to all generations. This Ministry Group was and still is very active in caring for children, parents and school agencies and especially with the serious matter of bullying. There is an obvious connection between the tragedy of the abuse of vulnerable children and the paradox of almighty God come among us, a completely vulnerable newborn and serving us without status or personal power. Into the darkness of humanity comes Jesus, the light of the world. Those sharing Christingle will be producing a very special candle symbolising Jesus, the light of the world, and then sharing in the act of blessed Communion with and through the same Jesus our Lord.

7.00pm – Christmas Carols at Holy Trinity

11.30am – Vigil Eucharist

Wednesday, 25th December Christmas Day

7.30am – Sung Eucharist with Christmas Readings and Carols

9.30am – Eucharist with Christmas Readings and Carols

Australian men are being challenged about these attitudes and behaviours, so that we can all begin to drive real change in our community. They are challenged to pledge their oath -never to commit, excuse, or remain silent, about violence against women. Please pray especially for victims of violence; those who are called to assist them in their crisis - police, ambulance, counsellors; and also for the perpetrators of violence to recognise their erring ways, and to seek help, and make transformational change in their life.

Coralie Taylor - Mission Secretary

SAMARITANS – CAN YOU HELP?

The Samaritans are looking for a volunteer to be on a roster system, usually one day per month, helping the clients at the Samaritans Wyoming. Ideally they are looking for a replacement from the Parish of Terrigal. Training will be provided and if you are interested, please speak to Ellie Murphy about the work you would be undertaking.

Holy Trinity Men's Fellowship

We have decided to terminate the Thursday Men's Fellowship meetings and experiment with another day and time. In its place we are launching a Gardening and Men's Shed Group to be held, at least initially, on the **1st Saturday of each month at 10.00am and commencing in February 2014.**

The workshop in the shed area is nearly finished and may be suitable to restore items for sale at Market Day. The group could also support the work of Parish Gardening Team (under Jackie Davidson's leadership) and more specifically, develop the notion of a community garden.

It is planned to hold a monthly BBQ to conclude our meeting of that day and to invite guest speakers from time to time, especially in support of projects which we are undertaking.

We look forward to your support for this initiative,
Peter Hancock

Christmas 2013

One of the most effective tools for evangelism and growing the church is personal testimony and personal invitation. And Christmas is one of our God-given opportunities confidently to invite others to worship with us. Below is the present draft of a Christmas flyer which will be distributed next Sunday, 1st December. Parishioners will be asked to take some of the flyers and to distribute them as you invite family and friends, neighbours and others known to you to worship. Comments to the Rector on the draft are invited.

Christmas Worship

The Anglican Parish of Terrigal
Holy Trinity @92 Serpentine Road, Terrigal
(The Reverend Canon) Brian Gibbs – (02) 4365 1374

MESSY CHURCH CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN

Sunday, 15th December

from 3.30pm to 5.30pm

Messy Church Christmas Activities and Story,
Singing and Shared Light Meal

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, 24th December

5.00pm - Christingle and Eucharist

7.00pm – Christmas Carols at Holy Trinity

11.30am – Vigil Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, 25th December

7.30am – Sung Eucharist with Christmas Readings and Carols

[*Virtual Pipe Organ*]

9.30am – Eucharist with Christmas Readings and Carols

[*Holy Trinity Band and Singers*]

(The Reverend Canon) *Brian Gibbs*

From the Rector

Our parish schedule for the month of December contains some very significant and special occasions. Where you are able to attend our gatherings, your presence contributes to the vitality and meaning of each occasion. Further, there are some particular tasks for which help is sought.

Parish Virtual Organ Recital Saturday 7th December from 7.30pm

At the time of writing it can be confirmed that the programme will include the following ...

Internationally Acclaimed Organist **Pastór de Lasala**
& Parish Organist, **Chris Sillince**

Trombonist - **Gregory Van Der Struik**

(Principal Trombone – Australian Opera & Ballet Orchestra)

Elke Hook (Soprano Soloist - Central Coast Chorale)

Members of the **Senior String Ensemble** of Central Coast Grammar School

Between them these musicians they will perform a wide ranging programme from Australian, Canadian, English, French, German and American composers representing the 18th through to the 21st centuries.

Volunteers are sought to assist with the sale of tickets at the door, setting-up for a light supper at the conclusion of the concert; serving tea and coffee; packing up at the end of the concert. **Please record on the sheet provided your willingness to help with one or more of these tasks.**

This concert will be a fitting prelude to our worship and prayers of dedication on Sunday, 8th. Given the quality and potential of our virtual pipe organ and, in particular the Hauptwerk system, this recital may also be the forerunner of many other occasions when we can host concerts and invite the community at large to rejoice in the gift of fine music and the hospitality and warmth of this faith community.

From the Rector – continued

Combined Parish Service – Sunday 8th December from 10.00am

Prior to my Long Service Leave your Parish Council affirmed its support of the practice of our worshipping as a whole parish at least each fifth Sunday of a month when they occur. Whereas December 29th is the fifth Sunday of the month, the opportunity for a monthly combined service will be commuted to the first Sunday in December so that we can gather on the weekend of the Recital. **The Recital will take place on the Saturday 8th** and then the next day we shall share in the corporate act of **Eucharist and the Dedication of our new Virtual Pipe Organ** (with Hauptwerk System).

Accordingly, on **Sunday 8th December** (Advent Two) all parishioners are invited to gather at 10.00am to share in Holy Eucharist. The Right Reverend Richard Hurford, recently retired Bishop of Bathurst and recognised church musician, will preach and the Rector will preside. Bishop Richard has also kindly agreed to lead us in our prayers of dedication which will be informed by and follow our shared Eucharist and which will conclude the liturgy. **This should be a truly memorable and sacred time together.** It is humbling to realize and grasp that when we meet as pilgrims in our own time on Sunday 8th December we shall mark the beginning of the service of our new musical instrument to God's glory and in thanksgiving for the fruits of the faithful Christian journeys of previous generations of parishioners which have rendered this gift possible.

On the day of our celebrations parishioners are asked to contribute towards a **Bring-and-Share Luncheon** which will be served at 12.30pm. From around midday volunteers will be needed to help with setting up tables and placing chairs and to help set out the food which will have been provided by our faith community. We will also need helpers to tidy up afterwards.

Opportunities for whole parish worship; listening to fine music; acknowledging the arrival of a special resource in our midst; giving thanks for the generosity of others; and sharing valuable and extended time for fellowship ...all of this is precious indeed!

Advent 2013

It is not too late to place your name on one of the lists for participants for this year's Advent studies. These sessions will span around ninety minutes and include prayer, times to be still and opportunities to reflect together upon Holy Scripture.

Some of the sessions will use a set of daily meditations and prayers entitled "**In all Senses**" by John Cox (Kevin Mayhew Publisher, Suffolk, 2008). On the cover of this publication the following summary appears...

"Sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste are the five physical senses, but there are more sense we can use to explore the meaning of Christmas – a sense of balance, a sense of justice, a sense of wonder, a sense of mystery, a sense of purpose, a sense of humour, and so on. These meditations for Advent focus on these many senses, making connections though them with the Jesus story and the Christian journey."

Each study contains a Scriptural extract, a reflection, an opportunity for discussion and a topical prayer. By way of an example of the sort of material contained in the text, in the study entitled "Humour" the Scriptural extract provided is Genesis 18.1, 2, 9-15, wherein the Lord announces Sarah's imminent pregnancy and Sarah laughs. The ensuing Reflection begins with this question: How many clergy does it take to change a light globe? The answer – What do you mean – change?

Since **Advent One** falls on **Sunday, December 1st** and Christmas Day falls on a Wednesday that means that groups meeting on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday would normally have only three available opportunities to meet before Christmas festivities begin. Thus, to maximise the opportunity for Advent preparation I wish to suggest that all groups commence next week to make it possible to meet four times. Thus the **Wednesday group will begin on 27th November** at 7.00pm, the **Thursday group on 28th November** at 7.00pm and the **Friday group on 29th November** at 11.45am. If participants cannot start next week then that will not prohibit their starting on the following week because each session is self-contained. The material does not need to be sequential thus participants will be able to participate effectively whenever they can attend.