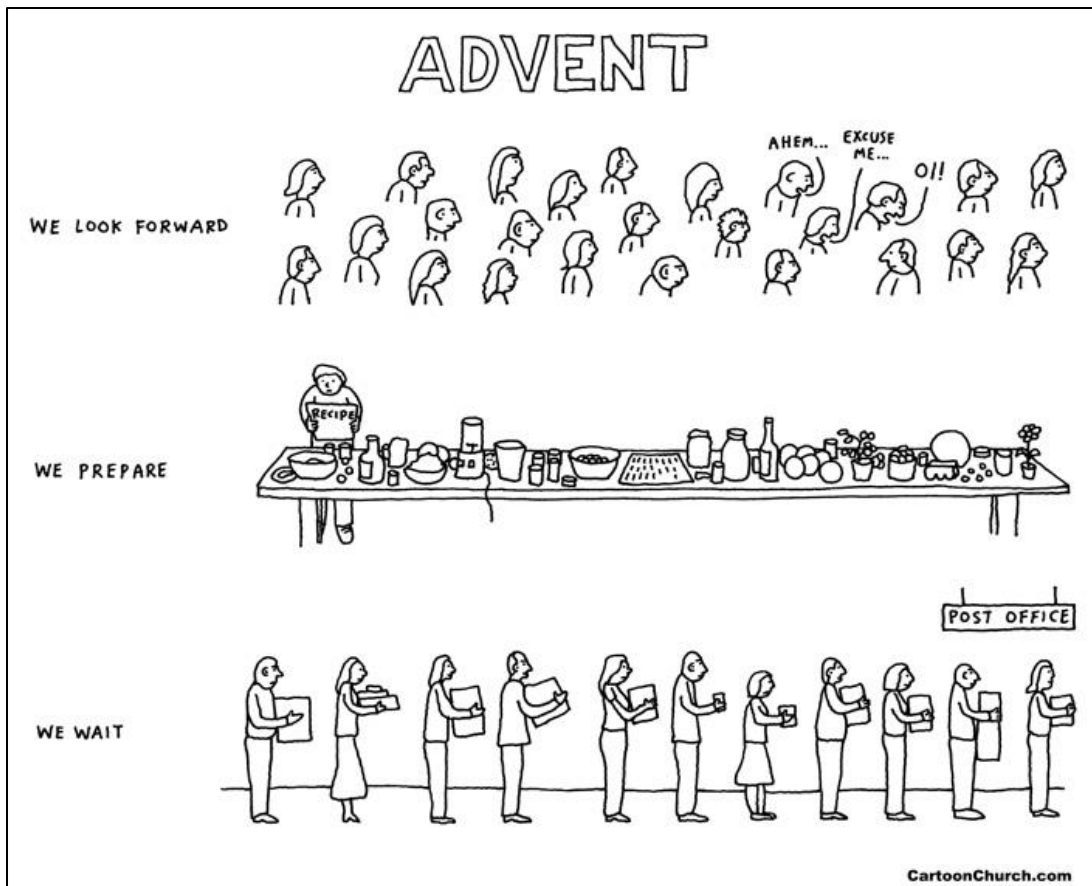


*Weekly Newsletter No 37 - Sunday December 6 2020*

Well, we got it wrong last week. We thought Seoras was away last Sunday then shortly before the Service started, in he walks and the Service led by Margaret King was live-streamed. Apologies to those who didn't catch the on-line because of the misinformation in last week's newsletter. We are going to try a new way of achieving better communications – speaking to each other! So, our little Gremlin didn't have a week off after all!

One great thing about last Sunday's worship was the introduction of Loopy the little lion. I suppose he could be introduced to Hamish the theological coo but he may just see Hamish as 'lunch' – we'll think about that one.

**Next Sunday** – if you haven't already booked your place at Bellie Church or Speymouth Church for Sunday 13 December 2020 but wish to attend worship, please advise me by THURSDAY tea time as I am away next weekend and need to have the lists prepared before I go.



## More Advent

Some of us may have been following the daily reflections for Advent on the Church of Scotland website. The prize this week goes to Rev John Chalmers who managed to knit the forthcoming European Cup football match of Scotland v Czech Republic (Monday 14 June 2021) at Hamden into his message (it's about the hope of the supporters who have waited 23 years for this match!)



However, the daily reflections are worth taking a few minutes to read and then think about during the day as we approach Christmas.

You may also consider a wee read of Luke's Gospel Ch 1 which is the lead up to the birth of Jesus. It places the birth of Jesus in a biblical/historical setting. When this Gospel speaks of Zachariah and his wife Elizabeth as 'being old' we wonder what 'being old' means in this context. Given that 2,000 years ago people didn't live nearly as long as today, does this mean they were in their 30s or even their 40s? (When I was a youngster 40 years old was ancient!)

## Reverse Advent Calendar.



Donations are still coming in for the foodbank to hand out to those less fortunate. This is Christianity in action, not just words.

Next Sunday (13 December 2020) is the last day for the Advent giving. Let's make this a bumper day for giving different things— let's say toiletries, baby goods/foods and women's sanitary products rather than tins of soup and beans!

If necessary, we can fill the back seat of Lisa's car as well as the boot.

Thanks to all who gave and still give.

## Drive-in Christmas Carol Service

There are still places available for the Drive-in Christmas Carol Service next Sunday evening (13 December 2020). The Service will be held in the car park at Christies Garden Centre and admission is free.

The gates will open at 6.00pm and the Carols start at 6.30pm. The Service will last about half an hour – we can sing lots of Carols in half an hour!

So come along – bring a flask of cocoa or hot chocolate with you and have a great evening.

This is going to be the 'coolest' event this Christmas so don't miss it.

Just send an email to [jmconnachie78@gmail.com](mailto:jmconnachie78@gmail.com) to reserve a place. (Could you include the number of folk in the car, the make and type of car eg Rolls Royce Silver Ghost and the registration number. We need this for 'track and trace')

By coming along, it means on Monday a conversation could be,

*"What did you do last night?"*

*"Oh, we stayed in all evening and watched telly."*

*"Well, we went to a fabulous Drive-in Christmas Carol service in Fochabers and had a great time!"*

*"Grumph – no big deal" (actually really quite jealous)*



Yeh, I know, we have to stay in our cars.

### Can you find the angels?



Apparently, some angels are visiting Fochabers. If you look carefully, you may see some of them in the shop windows. Some may be trying to hide so you will have to look carefully. See how many of them you can find and you never know, you may be in for a surprise. More information next week.



### Christmas Birthdays.

Those who have birthdays near Christmas sometimes miss out on parties or other birthday festivities as it's too near Christmas. Well, this year it's the same for everyone so now 'they' know what it's like. But whether you have big parties or little celebrations, just be aware that your church family is wishing you every blessing and



*Have a great Day*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

### Christmas Meals.

We now have a final list of 15 people who will be alone on Christmas Day and will now receive a Christmas lunch on that day. Thanks to Ann Raffan, Joan Kirkpatrick and Gillian Innes who have organised things in Fochabers and Mosstodloch. The recipients of the meals who all live by themselves would probably have no visitor on Christmas Day due to the COVID restrictions. However, the lunches will be delivered with smiles and cheerful wishes. The Delivery Team is poised for action.



We can see all this as a reminder to pray for those who will spend Christmas Day, as well as other days, alone, for those in hospital, for those in prison, for those far from home and families.

And while we are thinking of others – a couple of our church family are undergoing surgery this week. Pray that all will go well for them and we will see them dancing or golfing soon (even though they didn't dance or golf before). Pray also for all others who will have similar surgery this week and those receiving treatment for other ailments; for those in hospital where at present they can receive no visitors and for those who wait at home - it's a tough time for them all.

18 sleeps to go!

**In Whose Name we do all this.**

As we start to wind up the excitement for Christmas with all its festivities, let's not forget why we celebrate this time of year. For those who wish to celebrate the return of the sun or the winter equinox, that's fine but for us Christians it is much, much more. We will celebrate the birth of a son, the Son. Have a read of Ann's poem:-

**Light of the world.**

Ivy for the springtime with winter holly leaf,  
All entwine together to make the Advent Wreath.  
When I light the candles and see them burning bright  
My thoughts turn to another time and to another light.  
A time so very long ago a star shone down on earth  
More brightly than a candle flame, it heralded a birth.  
So when I think of Christmas, I remember if I can,  
The baby born of Mary who was The Son of Man.

(with thanks to Ann Raffa)



Be blessed this week and bless others with unexpected acts of kindness. Do something silly like take an ice-cream to someone on a cold day. Go for a winter picnic or even have a fire at the beach and cook some sausages – have some fun.

**Bye!**



**Christmas Lego 2020**