

# Advent



O Lord, raise up your power and come to deliver us, that we who are oppressed by temptations may be defended by your power, that the hosts of the enemy may never prevail against us. Hear us in your mercy, O Lord Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Adapted from Mozarabic liturgy for Advent*

O Lord our God, make us watchful and cheerful as we await the coming of your Son, Christ our Lord, that when he comes and knocks, he will find us not sleeping in sins but awake and rejoicing in his praises; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Gelasian Sacramentary, c750AD*

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

*Henri J.M. Nouwen*

## Stockwell Good Neighbours

### 44

Advent for Christians all over the world is a four-week window in life, giving time to reflect and prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world today. It starts on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, and ends on the 24<sup>th</sup> December. It's very near St Andrews day, so we wish our Bring Me Sunshine partners at St Andrews Church a very Happy Saints Day. It is a time to remember the true meaning of Christmas - this I think can be seen through good deeds to others, through prayer and time connecting with friends and families. It is with joy that I hear of people meeting up with people before Christmas. One friend is trying to clear the Christmas card writing and present buying and most of the food worries ahead of advent so she can concentrate on preparing herself spiritually for Christmas, avoiding the frenzied chaos of the commercialism. Another starts putting her five trees up in different rooms with different colour themes in preparation for an open house family Christmas. Another friend lights her advent candles each day quietly, and my son, even at 22, can't manage to not open all the doors on his advent calendar before about the 10<sup>th</sup> December, and of course eat all the chocolates! Others are giving their time to help with the many charitable ventures that step up at Christmas, giving their time at food banks, soup kitchens, and present giving to needy families.

However you're preparing this advent - and for many it's a difficult time - let's do it with *hope, peace, joy and love*, which are represented in the four weeks of Advent. They are Important words and feelings, which I think we all need, and let's try and bring these to others however we can, through our thoughts and prayers, and, most importantly, through our deeds.

Delighted that there are a few in person events to invite you to: on Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup> November, 12noon until 2pm, at St James Church Park Hill, we shall have a service of thanksgiving with songs from supporter Katie Milton followed by refreshments at the back of the hall. Huge thanks to Rev Kit and Jim for hosting this.

Our own big event is Stockwell Good Neighbours Christmas Party at the West Indian Association of service personnel, 161-167 Clapham Manor Street, London, SW46DB on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> December at 12 -4 PM with our in-house DJ Noel. There will a three-course festive lunch and some drinks on the table, but also a bar selling drinks. We shall have a Christmas raffle and Father Christmas will be making an appearance delivering small gifts. I do hope, Stockwell Good neighbours, that you will come to this get-together - if you've been nowhere else since COVID19 struck please join us, we would love to see you, I have missed you.

Please keep your stories, Poems, articles coming, we would love to hear about what you're up to.

Have a blessed Advent.

Monday Zoom- ID 86847562052, Passcode 424690, Monday the 22 November and 6<sup>th</sup> December at 11am.

Please join us for night prayers each day apart from Saturday on Zoom from Holy Cross at 9pm ID 7578777461 passcode 20212021

Also welcome to join the Lewisham Irish Community Centre zoom on Fridays at 10.30 with music, Qi Gong and Bingo- ID 84242003523 passcode Pg76XN



More news from our regular contributor, local sixth form student Sophie, who is undertaking her Duke of Edinburgh Award:

Dear All,

I hope you are all having a relaxing autumn season! As we are beginning our Christmas preparations, my school has encouraged us all to take part in different charitable events to give back during the holiday season. One of these events is run through the chaplaincy, and includes fundraising with The Refugee Café, by selling their uniquely flavoured jams and sauces, such as pumpkin jam and chilli paste. The money raised from this fundraiser is invested into hospitality and employability training for local refugees.

My volunteer group at 'WASSUP Greenwich' has also encouraged me to take part in different fundraising events, and I have now been given the opportunity to help organise a charity run, as well as bake sales and other awareness raising events. My mum and I have taken part in many charity runs together, and it is what started my passion for running, as well as my eventual goal of hopefully completing the London Marathon one day!

The Volunteer group has also given a group of us the opportunity to direct, cast and edit our own documentary, which I'm really excited about. My group has chosen to use our documentary to educated young teens on mental health and different relationships. We will get to talk to a range of different people and record their stories, and I'm hoping that it will prove to be a fun and educational experience.

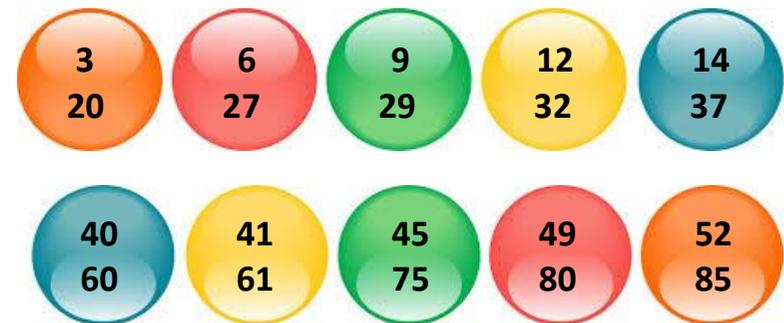
I hope you all have a pleasant month! Sophie



Hyacinth recently celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday with friends and family at her home. She has 18 grandchildren, many of whom were with her on the day. Lots of her family said how proud they were of their much-loved mum and grandma. If you look closely below you can see her little cup which says 'mother' which she has treasured over the years, having bought it for her own mum soon after coming to England. She was grateful to receive a similar cup and saucer donated by a reader who read about the saucer being broken.



*Your Bingo Numbers this month are:*



## Thanks for People

God of Love,

I thank You for the people in my life who are easy to love

I thank You for my family and friends

Who understand my actions,

Who support me in my decisions,

And whose presence can lift the burden of a thorny day.

Help me with those who are difficult to love.

When they come at me with criticism and wild expectations,

When they ignore me or try to bend me to their will,

Let me recognise their flaws and their dangers.

But then let me remember your attitude towards them,

And lead me to see them in the light of Your love.

Amen

## Flavour

E	M	A	N	G	O	V	A	N	I	L	L	A	B
E	H	E	V	E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C	L
F	N	A	C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	L	A	U
F	C	N	Z	A	A	N	I	S	E	E	D	A	E
O	F	L	I	L	F	S	B	L	H	A	E	E	B
T	R	Y	R	R	E	B	K	C	A	L	B	M	E
U	O	N	A	E	E	N	L	T	N	O	A	I	R
C	L	N	O	E	T	E	U	A	L	E	N	N	R
O	N	E	L	R	Y	G	B	T	Y	S	A	T	Y
N	F	A	M	H	R	N	Y	A	A	O	N	E	N
C	E	B	O	O	O	A	R	L	H	R	A	N	I
A	N	E	L	N	N	R	Y	B	E	F	B	G	N
O	E	C	E	R	U	O	N	C	O	F	F	E	E
L	I	Q	U	O	R	I	C	E	C	B	A	L	R

ROSE  
LEMON  
HAZLENU  
VANILLA  
ORANGE  
MINT  
ANISEED  
BLUEBERRY  
LIQUORICE  
MANGO  
CHOCOLATE  
TOFFEE  
BLACKBERRY  
COFFEE  
BANANA  
CINNAMON

Stockwell good Neighbours organiser: Lesley  
email [lesleyaallen@btopenworld.com](mailto:lesleyaallen@btopenworld.com) Tel. 07729 785843

To make SGN original contributions

(your words, **not** your money!): Amy

email [1000AQ@googlemail.com](mailto:1000AQ@googlemail.com) Tel. 07847 799791

## QUIZ

## What's in a Name?

1. What is the word for a false name?
2. Why did 49 year old Tim Price from Leicester change his name to Tim Ppppppppprice?
3. Which evil Roman Emperor was known by a nickname meaning 'little boots'?
4. Who changed his name from Michael on his birth certificate aged 28 to that of a Reformation church leader, a name his father had called him from the age of 5?
5. Moses changed Hosea's name to what in the Bible?
6. Which jazz musician was known as Satchmo?
7. Who wrote 'That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet'?
8. What did the country of Kampuchea change its name back to in 1989?
9. Which footballer was nicknamed Black Pearl?
10. Singer Rihanna uses her middle name – what is her first name?
11. What do Booker T Jones, Michael J Fox and Harry S Truman have in common?
12. Where is the place with the longest name in the UK?
13. Caryn Elaine Johnson said she chose her first name as a short version of a practical joke sounding like flatulence – how is she now known?
14. Who said: 'When I joined the Nation of Islam and became a Muslim, they gave me the most famous name because I was the champ'?
15. How is the Powhatan princess, who was called Amonute at birth and went by the name Matoaka, better known?

1. Alias; 2. To deter cold callers as is difficult to pronounce (he refers to himself as Tim 10Price); 3. Calligula; 4. Martin Luther King; 5. Joshua; 6. Louis Armstrong; 7. William Shakespeare (in Romeo and Juliet); 8. Cambodia; 9. Pelé (Edson Arantes do Nascimento); 10. Robyn; 11. Their middle initial did not stand for anything; 12. In Anglesey, Wales; Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch is also the second longest one-word place name in the world; 13. Whoopi Goldberg; 14. Muhammad Ali; 15. Pocahontas

*Children have never been very good at listening to  
their elders, but they have never failed*

*to imitate them*

*James Baldwin*



# THE EVENING IS THE TIME TO PRAISE THE DAY

*Vladimir Nabokov*

Evening you gather back  
all that dazzling dawn has put asunder:  
you gather a lamb, gather a kid,  
gather a child to its mother

*Sappho*

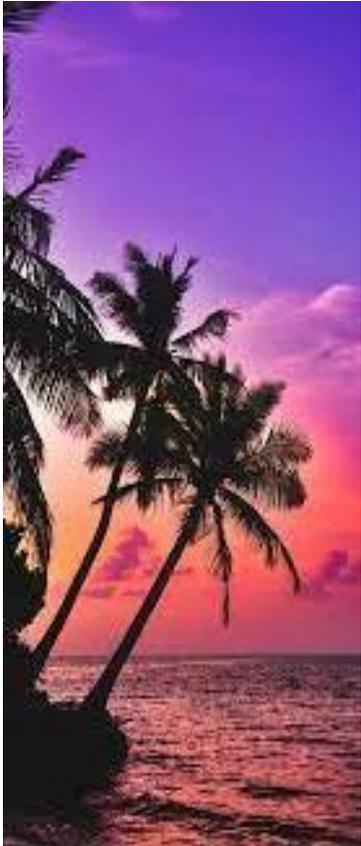
Now stir the fire, and close the shutters fast,  
Let fall the curtains, wheel the sofa round,  
And, while the bubbling and loud hissing urn  
Throws up a steamy column and the cups  
That cheer but not inebriate, wait on each,  
So let us welcome peaceful ev'ning in

*William Cowper*

Carib Nightfall

In the Caribbean  
at the end of day  
sun drops suddenly  
like a fire ball  
behind forested hills  
and into the sea  
Steam clouds  
of red and orange  
shaped like monsters  
float up into the sky  
and for an instant  
hover there.  
Kisskadees  
and sici-yea birds  
in awe of the sky  
and the dark rushing in,  
leave night music to  
bull frogs' croaking bass,  
high octaves tunes  
of mosquito violins,  
and crickets' twitterings

*John Lyons*

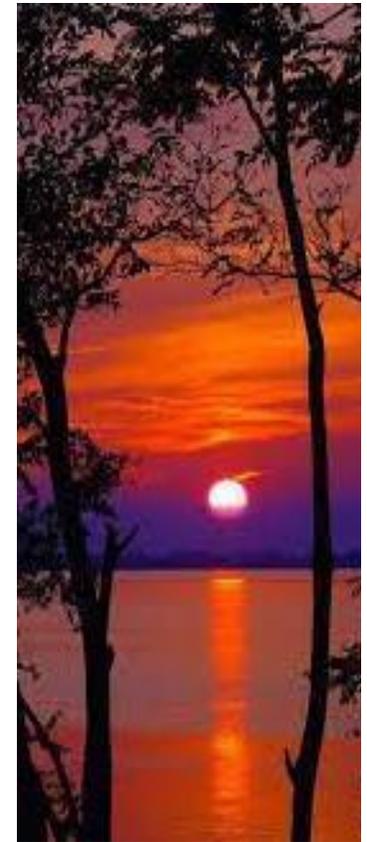


Evening  
The bleak fields are asleep,  
My heart alone wakes;  
The evening in the harbour  
Down his red sails takes.  
Night, guardian of dreams,  
Now wanders through the land;  
The moon, a lily white,  
Blossoms within her hand.

*Rainer Maria Rilke*

The wind tonight  
Seems full of echoes  
Wind in the pine, fireflies,  
lamplight from a  
hydro-electric station  
All reminding me  
of a distant dream.  
My memory is like  
a small overloaded  
wooden bridge  
Spanning the banks of time

*Shu Ting*



O Lord my God, I thank Thee that Thou  
hast brought this day to a  
close; I thank thee that Thou hast giv'n  
me peace in body and in soul.  
Thy hand has been over me and has  
protected and preserved me.  
Forgive my puny faith, the ill that I this  
day have done, and help me to forgive  
all who have wronged me.  
Amen

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

O God, come to our aid. O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the  
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is  
now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia

*Introduction to Vespers*

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of  
anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep

*Ps 127:2*

O Lord our God, keep us in peace  
during this night and at all times. Keep  
our hearts and thoughts secure in holy  
reverence for you, so that we may be  
protected at all times from the snares  
of the enemy. And let us offer blessing  
and glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever  
and unto the ages of ages.  
Amen.

*Armenian Prayer*