

St Edmund's Roundhay

Sharing God's Generous Love

Churches - Together - In - Roundhay

*Sending you sincere greetings
of Peace and Goodwill this
Christmas season*

Lidgett Park Methodist
The Methodist Church
<https://lpmc.uk/>

St Edmund's Roundhay
Sharing God's Generous Love
www.stedmundsroundhay.org.uk

Quakers In Leeds
www.leedsquakers.org.uk/meetingsroundhay

Immaculate Heart of Mary
(Parish of St John Mary Vianney) - Leeds
www.stjohnvianneyleeds.org.uk

St Andrew's Roundhay
www.standrews.cc

Dear friends,

At the end of November or, as it falls this year, the beginning of December, we enter the season of Advent. This season, the word of which is derived from the Latin 'adventus', is a time of waiting and responding to the 'coming' or 'arrival' of Christ. Of course, it is also a time when we can dig out our Advent calendars and give ourselves an excuse for starting each day with a chocolate treat! Well, there's nothing wrong with that. Eating chocolate every day is the easy part. What is often much more difficult is the waiting. Waiting can bring a range of experiences and emotions: frustration, anxiety, anger, and annoyance. It can also conjure up feelings of excitement, anticipation, and joy. Consider the difference between waiting for test results following a health scare and the waiting for the appearance of a loved one at the arrivals gate of an airport or at a train station. We can all recall instances of waiting, under differing circumstances, when we will have known such emotions.

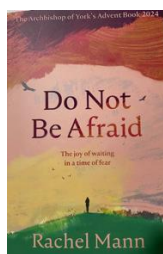
Are you good at waiting? I am pretty rubbish – I am impatient and easily distracted, and I often want things done yesterday. Perhaps this tendency is exacerbated by the current cultural norms which allow us to immediately access information about events on the other side of the world, have a meal delivered to our door in under an hour or to indulge all our consumerist needs instantly at the touch of a button. Waiting is no longer fashionable, and we are becoming out of practice, which is why, in recent years, I have committed to reading an Advent book in the lead up to Christmas. The structure of Advent books usually comprises 4 weeks' worth of reading, reflection, discussion, and meditation and tends to be written in such a way that the content is broken down into shorter, more manageable sized, accessible daily reflections, prayer suggestions and questions to ponder. They can be read alone or as part of a family unit or group.

In recent years, I have found that an Advent book helps me to pause, focus and listen more carefully for the small, still voice of God when everything around me is screaming busyness. An Advent book can bring comfort and inspiration but, if it's a good one, then it also brings gentle personal challenge. The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell often recommends an Advent read. He is no stranger himself to writing and publishing books. In one of his own Advent books, 'Walking backwards to Christmas,' he narrates how he is often asked how he finds the time to write so many books. His reply to such a question is that he always finds the time to do the things that bring him joy.

This was a prompt for me to ask myself the question: what brings me joy?

Of course, there are many things. People bring me joy. I enjoy spending time with different people, among them my children, husband and other family and friends. I am energised by being outside, walking my dog in the countryside or by the sea. I look forward to visiting new places, learning about different cultures, appreciating the Arts, especially the theatre. And I find joy in meditation, reading and sharing the love and good news of Jesus.

And as we hurtle towards Christmas, we look for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus through our own loving example and by welcoming and inviting neighbours, friends and family to our many Christmas services and events and to our private and collective festivities. I wonder do we also, in amongst the busyness, manage to carve out some space to be still and quietly prepare for all that this season brings; to fix our gaze upon the coming of Jesus and to find joy in the waiting.



This year I am planning to read The Archbishop of York's 2024 Advent book entitled 'Do Not Be Afraid' by Rachel Mann. If you haven't already decided on an Advent book, or you've never tried one, then you might like to give this one a go too. It encourages us to experience the joy of waiting in a time of fear – to remember the trustworthiness of Jesus who invites each of us to wait both for the Lord and on the Lord – the one who at Christmas reminds us he is our Emmanuel God with us and who will one day come again in glory.

Perhaps the psalmist says it best:

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
(Psalm 130.5-6 NRSV)

Wishing you all a joy-filled Advent and Christmas.

Love in Christ, Michelle

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Services in December

Sunday 1st December ADVENT SUNDAY	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Communion 6.30pm Advent Carol Service
Wednesday 4th December	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 8th December ADVENT 2	8am Holy Communion 10am Gift Service and Parade (No HC) 6.30pm Evensong
Wednesday 11th December	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 15th December ADVENT 3	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Communion with Baptism 6.30pm CANDLELIT CAROLS
Wednesday 18th December	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd December ADVENT 4	8am Holy Communion 10am Parish Communion 6.30pm No evening Service
Tuesday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE	4pm CRIB SERVICE 6pm CRIB SERVICE 11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS
Wednesday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY	8am Holy Communion 11am FAMILY SERVICE
Sunday 29th December CHRISTMAS 1	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Carols by choice (No HC) 6.30pm No Evening Service

THE MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP meets on Monday 9th December at the back of the Church from 10.30am till 1pm. We start with a chat and coffee with the main meeting starting at 11am. Come along if you are interested or speak to Penny Gray.

THE JULIAN GROUP meets on Thursday 12th December in church at 2pm. We begin with a short guided reflection and time of contemplative prayer followed by a cup of tea. All welcome.

Gift Service Sunday 8th December

This year we are collecting new unwrapped toys for Leeds Children's Charity at Lineham Farm, bedding and pyjamas for Zarach and toiletries and baby items for LDVS (Leeds Domestic Violence Service). If you can't make the Gift Service and would like to donate please get in touch before 8th December.

St Edmund's Flower Group

There will be no flowers in church during Advent.

We are meeting to arrange flowers in church on Monday 23rd December from 9.30 am.

The theme for this year's arrangements is 'Follow The Star ...Calm & Bright'.

Donations towards the cost of flowers in church are always welcome.

Anyone who would be interested in joining the flower arranging group should contact Christine Hinchcliffe 07870528450 or email christinehinchcliffe@gmail.com.

St
Ed's



Christmas Fayre 2024

Saturday 7th December
10.30am - 2.00pm

Tombola	Gifts & Toys
Cakes	Kids Games
Plants	Books
Nativity Inn	Refreshments
Christmas Music	Raffle
Bric a Brac	Bouncy Castle

We look forward to seeing you at any of our Christmas Services & Events



Lidgett Park Road, LS8 1JN
www.stedmundsroundhay.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1131904



Leeds Festival Chorus

Saturday 14th December at 7.30pm

Carols at Christmas

**Enjoy an evening of festive music including
the chance to sing along to well known carols**

Further information <https://www.leedsfestivalchorus.co.uk>

This month's Green Tip

Find ways to make your Christmas festivities both a joyous celebration of Christ's coming and environmentally conscious.

Dim the lights but not the joy! LED Christmas lights help to save energy and money. You could make your table festive with some candles, scented ones perhaps. Use eco-friendly candles made from beeswax, soy or other vegetable alternatives – avoid paraffin-based candles. And empty jars with some ribbon make beautiful DIY candle-holders.

Since more waste ends up in landfill over Christmas than during the rest of the year, it's a great time of year to review and improve your own recycling set up at home.