



WE HOPE you enjoy following our Advent Window trail. The trail follows God's story from the creation of the world to Christmas, when God became man and lived among us. Each window will be unveiled at 6pm and will be lit each evening until at least 1st January 2021. There are a couple of days when two windows will share the same theme.

We are excited to launch our very first **Advent Window Trail** featuring windows decorated by members of our church family around Barton Seagrave and further afield. We know that Christmas is definitely not cancelled this year and we want to encourage our friends and neighbours with something that tells of the hope that Jesus brings, not just at Christmas but on every day throughout the year.

Christmas is a wonderful celebration of God's incarnation, when Jesus became a baby and chose to live amongst us; Immanuel, God with us!

We hope that the theme of the windows will point people to God's big picture; that since the beginning of time God had an incredible plan to save us from the punishment that we deserve and lift us to heaven through his amazing grace!

A guide to where each window will be and a Bible verse to illustrate the theme of the window will be available to download from our website. There will also be some printed copies available outside Church House, which is also where the first window will 'open' on **1st December**.

**A new window will be lit from 6pm each day until 24th December** when the trail will finish at St Botolph's church.

It's up to you whether you go out to see each window as it is unveiled day by day or wait a few days and visit several in one go.

We hope that you enjoy the windows; tell your friends and neighbours and share the most wonderful story of all time!

**CSW everyone free to believe**

Thanks to the generosity of one of their supporters, any gifts to CSW made after 20 November will be doubled! So all gifts to CSW from individuals will be doubled from a fund of £20,000, until the end of the year or the matching funds are used up. Your gift will have double the impact in the lives of those facing injustice for their beliefs. We hope you'll take this opportunity to see your gift go further and shine the light of God's justice this Christmas.

Yours as ever in Christ,  
Mervyn Thomas CMG Founder President

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**St Botolph's Church  
Family News**

**29th November 2020  
The First Sunday in Advent**

Christmas  
Hope

Christmas is NOT cancelled!

See what's going on...  
**stbots.org.uk**




## Collect for The First Sunday in Advent

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

## Message from Andy

### Who knows!!

What will Christmas look like? Who can we visit? How long can we visit for? Who knows? The great thing is God does nothing is out of his control (Ecclesiastes 11:5)! Even better the message of HOPE is still the same and even more important for people to hear as we enter Advent and head towards Christmas.

There is lots to look forward to, our roving advent calendar with decorated windows in different homes each day and also our Christingle service either online or in person and lots more... Keep checking the website! If you are on social media then please use our resources (posted on WhatsApp or I can email them [and@stbots.church](mailto:and@stbots.church)) to get the word out there that St Bots is doing things this Christmas. Also if you happen to walk past church in the next few weeks look out for a bit of a surprise!

## To all DELIVERERS and SORTERS.

Thank you so much for all your help to get the Christmas cards out to over 3000 houses! We were so grateful to have all of your help! Please now pray that God would bring hope to these homes and ultimately that more lives would be saved through Jesus! Thank you once again from the staff team.

Kirsty

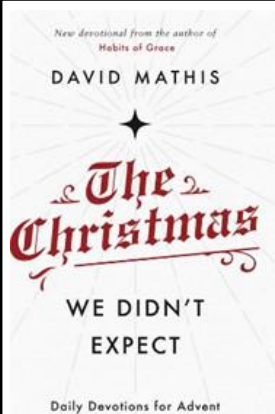
## The Christmas We Didn't Expect

The Christmas story is one surprise after another. But sometimes the details become so familiar that they lose their impact.

These Advent reflections, written by David Mathis, help us to dwell deeply on the most stunning and significant event in the history of the world: that God himself became one of us.

### Visit

[www.10ofthose.com](http://www.10ofthose.com) or [www.thegoodbook.co.uk](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk) or Kindle



## What's happening next week?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sunday 29th November</b><br/>9.15am Family Service (on YouTube)</li><li>• <b>Monday 30th November</b><br/>8.00am Morning Prayer (on YouTube)<br/>9.30am Refresh (via Zoom)<br/>1.00pm Staff meeting</li><li>• <b>Tuesday 1st December</b><br/>8.00am Morning Prayer (on YouTube)<br/>8.00pm Church Meets (via Zoom)<br/>8.00pm Link (via Zoom)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Wednesday 2nd December</b><br/>8.00am Morning Prayer (on YouTube)<br/>9.30am Ladies Bible Study (via Zoom)<br/>10-12noon Private Prayer (in Church)</li><li>• <b>Thursday 3rd December</b><br/>8:00am Morning Prayer (on YouTube)<br/>10.00am Staff meeting<br/>7.30pm 1Eighty (via Zoom)</li><li>• <b>Friday 4th December</b><br/>8.00am Morning Prayer (on YouTube)</li></ul> |
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# Christmas is NOT cancelled!

We are hoping to do as much as we can over Christmas (*safely and within current guidelines*).

As the situation is constantly changing due to Covid-19 all our plans are subject to last minute changes!

Please keep checking the **Christmas Page** of our website for more details of all our events and the most up to date plans.

## Some highlights to look out for...

### Roving Advent Calendar

each day of advent a different window in the area will be decorated and lit up telling the Christmas story. Can you find them all?

### Nativity In the Garden

13th Dec 4.00pm & 6.00pm in Church House Garden (booking required)

### Christingle

20th Dec 4.00pm & 5:30pm in St Botolph's Church (booking required)

### Christmas Eve Service

24th Dec 5pm (on our YouTube channel)

### Midnight Prayer Service at St Edmunds Warkton

24th Dec 11:30pm (booking required)

### Christmas Day Service

25th Dec 10.00am (on our YouTube channel)

**(Remember this programme is subject to change)**