

Family time on a Sunday

29th November 2020 - 1st Sunday in Advent

There are probably lots of things starting to happen in your house to get ready for Christmas. You might have an advent calendar you're looking forward to opening next week. Maybe you've made a cake or pudding or perhaps you're starting to think about getting decorations out. This year some streets in St Albans are getting ready window displays as part of [Festive Streets](#). There has been a lot of discussion of fairy lights on our street Whatsapp group...

In Church we're thinking about how we prepare for Christmas too.

This week is the first Sunday of Advent and the first one of the new year in the Church.

In our reading, Jesus tells a story about servants waiting for their master, to teach us how we need to wait for his return.

Bible reading (from Roots based on Mark 13: 24-37)

'Keep watching,' said Jesus. 'Nobody knows when the Son of Man will come back to earth. Not even the angels, or the Son. The Father knows, though, and he will send clues.'

'Keep watching. There will be days of suffering; after that the sun will be darkened; the moon will stop shining; stars will fall and the powers in heaven will be shaken. Then the Son of Man will come in the clouds. He'll gather his chosen people from everywhere on earth.'

'Keep watching,' Jesus said. 'I'm telling you all this so you'll be ready. When you see new shoots growing on the trees, you know summer is coming. When you see the things I've described, you'll know that the Son of Man is coming. Heaven and earth will come to an end, but my words will last for ever.'

'Keep watching. Be ready. Imagine a man going on a trip and leaving his servants in charge of his house. They don't know when he's coming back, but they know when he gets home he'll want something to eat and expect the house to be in order. The doorkeeper will have to stay awake because the man may return in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows in the morning. If the

servants doze off, he'll come home and find them asleep. 'That's why I say keep watching,' Jesus repeated. 'Keep awake.'

Questions to think about

- How do you think the disciples felt when they heard Jesus' warning?
- Have you ever had to stay awake when you were really tired? What did you do?
- What are some of the things we could do to keep our faith awake and ready for Jesus?

Ideas for activities

Glasses to keep watch

Here's a [template](#) for some cardboard glasses you could make and decorate in purple (the colour of Advent), to help us keep watch for signs of God coming.

Advent Wreath

An Advent wreath is one way you could remember to pray with your family over the next few Sundays. There's a sheet this week to colour in with an Advent wreath, showing the four candles that stand for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

If you've got some birthday candles and playdough, you could make a wreath of your own, like this one here: <https://brightandbusykids.com/creative-diy-dough-advent-wreath/>

Here are some things you could think about as you light your candles each week.

Week 1: Hope

What do you hope for?

Light the candle and ask God to bring His light and hope to people who are finding life hard.

Week 2: Love

Who do you love?

Say thank you to God for all the people you love and who love you.

Week 3: Joy

What brings you joy?

Ask God to help those who are sad to feel His joy.

Week 4: Peace

The wise men followed the star to search for Jesus. Pray all those who are searching for peace in a troubled world.

Christmas Day - Jesus Light of the World

Thank God for sending Jesus to be a light in the darkness and trouble of the world. Pray that God will help us to be like 'light' to others and that we will be able to help people find out who Jesus is.

The Comfort and Joy Advent Calendar

This year although lots of us are excited about Christmas we also know some people are really struggling too and this can be sad time. The Church of England have created a different advent calendar on the themes of Comfort and Joy. There are prayers for all the special Sundays and dates coming up over the next month that you might like to print out and use with your family.

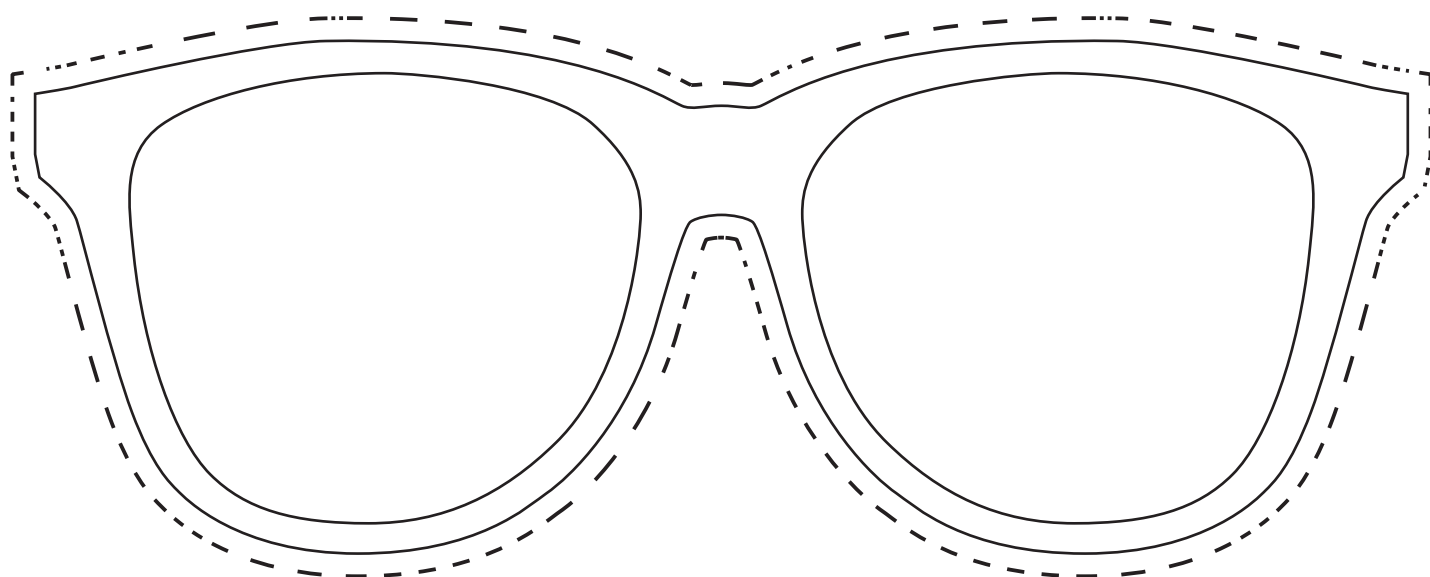
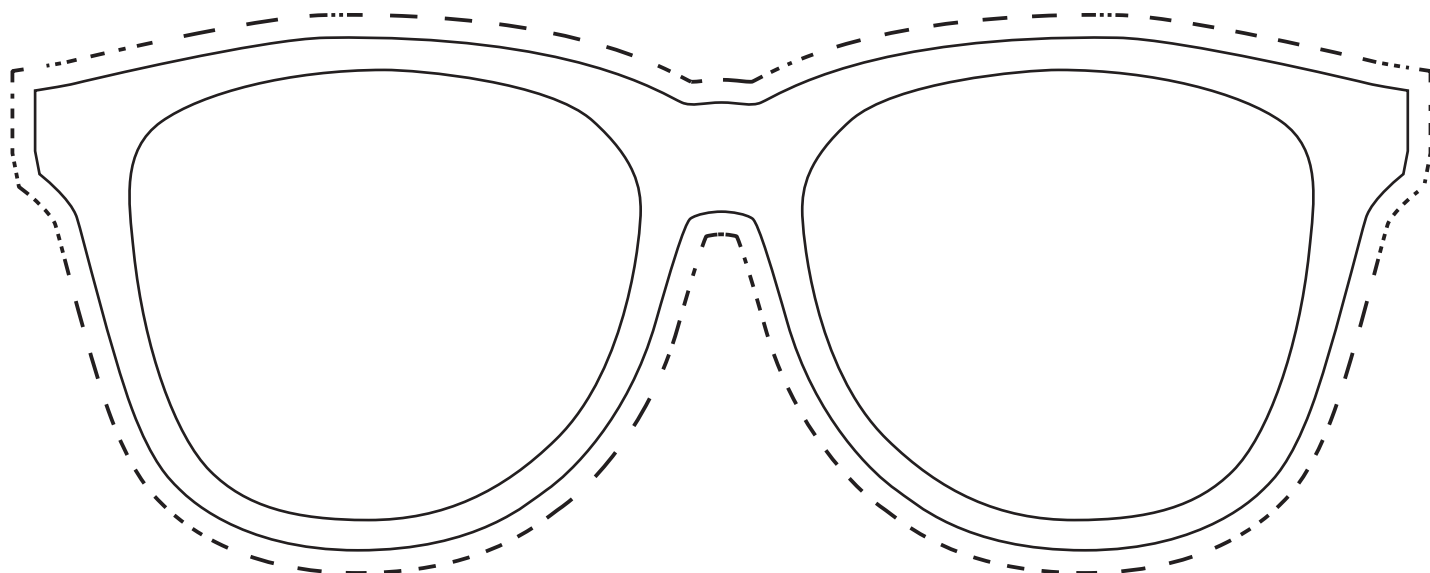
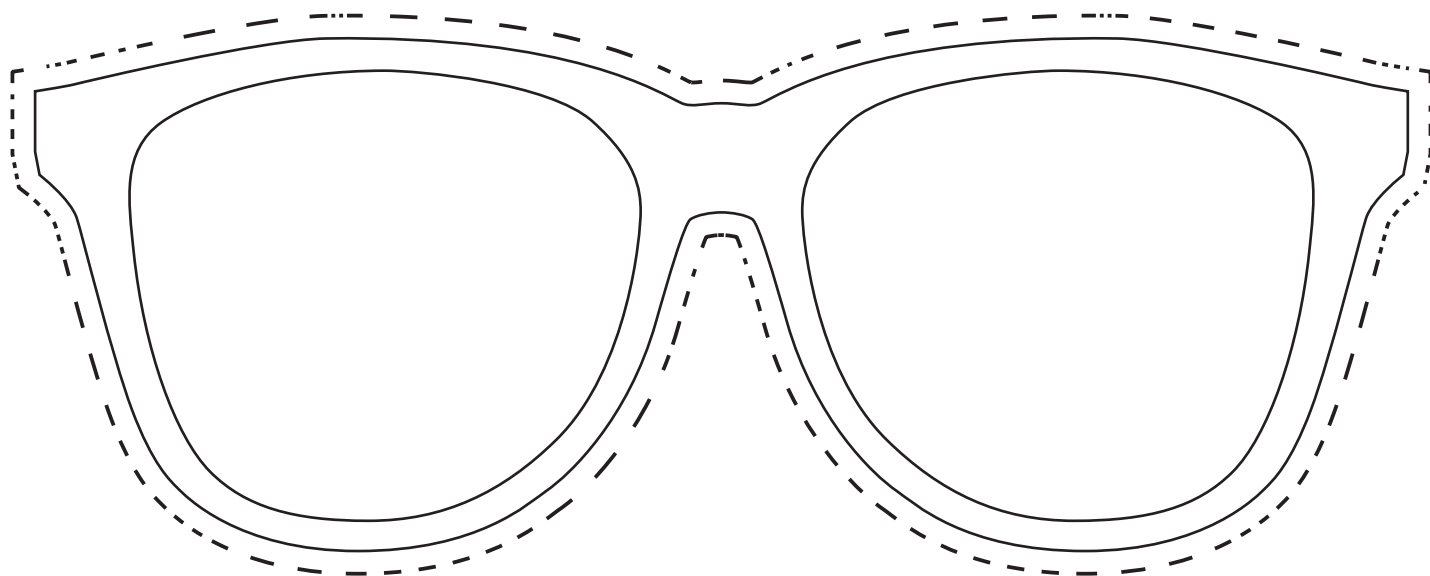
<https://churchsupporthub.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/AdventCalendar-ComfortandJoy.pdf>

Reverse Advent Calendar

In our last Family Time, Alex mentioned the St Albans Foodbank 'reverse advent calendar' where you collect an item to donate to the foodbank each day. You can find the list of what to give each day here: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Albans-and-District-Foodbank-1477988969120708/photos/pcb.27081toChr57652770494/2708125909440335>

A prayer to end

Lord of the light, Lord of the darkness,
Lord of the day, Lord of the night,
call us to you,
whether we are happy or sad,
whether we are ready or not,
call us to you. Amen.



Name _____



Name



Mark 13.24-37

Jesus tells a story of servants waiting for their master, to teach us how we need to wait for his return.



Family time

Talk How do you think Jesus' friends felt when Jesus said this to them?

Do Each morning this week, read Mark 13.32-35 and talk about how you can be ready for Jesus that day.

Pray Dear God, help us to be ready in our words and actions for Jesus coming back, even on the days when this is really hard. On those days, may we really know that you love us. Amen.

Activity time



Draw a person doing something in this room to get it ready for an important visitor. Add other things into the room that would help to make it look special.



Read the passage again and circle the words which describe how you feel as you read Mark's Gospel. Think about why that might be.

worried

ready

scared

excited

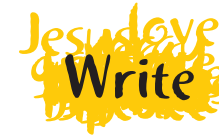
nervous

hopeful

happy

ROOTS children's Sheet

29 November – 5 December 2020



Read through the sentences and be on the lookout to fill in any missing words.

'Keep watching.

Be _____.

Imagine a man going on a trip and leaving

his _____ in charge of his house.

They don't know when he's _____ back

but they know when he gets _____ he'll want

something to _____ and _____ the

house to be in order.

Answers to write activity: ready servants coming home eat expect