

Sketchboard for Christmas 2023

Write up **ADVENT**

Christmas is on the way and we call this the season of Advent. Advent is made up of two words, two Latin words, Latin is the language the Romans used.

Ad and **Ven** [] Ad = to, Ven = come

Just as we have admit, advance, admission advise or advertise, and in if you do grammar you will remember connected to a verb we have the 'adverb'

So Advent is about expecting something or someone to come – but who is coming?

Just as there are road signs to show you, - or warn you - that there's something ahead, so also with Christmas there were many signs to say 'look for something is ahead'. Look out, look ahead – not something - but someone was coming.

I remember at school - when I was a little older than you - we all knew a special person was coming because the school was making preparations. Parts of the school were painted, areas made clean, gardening work was done and we were all told what we should wear, what we should do, where to stand and to make ourselves ready for this special visitor.

See the **pic** can you guess who that is? Yes the queen came to the school, in fact she came more than once.

We knew months before because of all the preparations being made for her arrival.

So God was saying through the writings in books written many hundreds of years before **Hold up Bible** that someone special was coming into the world.

How would we know who it was? So many are born into this world every day. How can we tell who it was to be? God wanted to show clearly, he didn't want us to get this wrong!

Think of yourself, do you know when your birthday is? Yes of course you do, do you know where you were born? Now think of the house you live in. Now think of the job you would like to do.

So it was with Jesus, his birth place, where he would then live, plus who He would be, what He would do, and even how He would die – and even what would happen to Him after that!

Show list: All these things and in fact 65 more things were written down hundreds of years before – so we would not get the wrong man.

It was predicted that he would be born in - **Bethlehem**, and in a stable – **draw in stable**.

It was predicted he would live in a place called Nazareth, and that he would go round not only teaching people but also healing people.

It was predicted that he would be a king - but a very different kind of King. He would come into town on a **donkey**. **Add picture of a donkey.**

As he entered the capital city crowds gathered round him. A bit like when we saw crowds cheering King Charles. But this king comes into the city riding on a Donkey

A week later crowds gathered round him shouting: “kill him” or “crucify Him”

No-one could find anything wrong with him, but they made up some false charges and sent Him to die. He was treated like the worst criminal, beaten, hit, spat upon, mocked, and finally as predicted - taken to die on a **Cross**.

‘ I ’ This King came to serve, he chose to die.

But why? Even that was explained hundreds of years before. That he would be a sin carrier, that is he would take the punishment for all the bad things I have done.

Yes - Sin is doing wrong. Being selfish, lacking love, being greedy, being proud, using bad language, disrespecting parents, cheating, stealing, and so on. The Bible says that is something everyone is guilty of doing. Sin separates people and families, but more importantly it separates me from a Holy God, the God who made me.

One day I know I will have to explain all I have done to God – it is called the Day of Judgment, He will Judge me, and the Bible says He will judge everyone.

But the great news is that on the cross Jesus saved me from punishment – the judgment that was to come to me – he took instead.

The two dots represent my separation from God. Now through what Jesus did I can be at peace with God, I can be His friend and actually call Him my Father in Heaven.

How do I know God the father accepted it? **Alive**. By raising Jesus to life again.

And Yes it was even predicted that after he died he would be buried in a rich man’s tomb, - but not for long – he only needed it for a short weekend – then he would come ALIVE again - forever.

Yes on Easter Sunday morning He was seen alive again. He never died a second time, he is alive now and many people have turned to him and looked to Him to forgive them.

Yes that was predicted to - and the Bible says it is only in Him that anyone can be forgiven.

Many people from around the world can say “He has changed my life, from inside out, a complete 180”. I know for he has done it for me. I now live for Him in this life before I go to be with him forever in heaven. What each person will make of Jesus is life’s big question.

That is why there were so many predictions, so now one would miss the real celebration of Christmas.

What does Advent mean? Can your remember? ‘To come’

Let us sing - Come and join the Celebration

Prayer