



Esgobaeth  
Bangor  
The Diocese  
of Bangor

# A Bydd yn Cael Ei Alw'n Emaniwel

## They Shall Name Him Emmanuel

Myfyrdodau a Gweddiau  
ar gyfer Adfent 2018  
Reflections and prayers  
for Advent 2018

Cyhoeddwyd y llyfrynn hwn â chymorth ariannol yr Allchurches Trust. Paratowyd y myfyrdodau, gweddïau ac addasiadau beiblaidd gan Janet Fletcher, gyda chymorth golygyddol gan Mollie Barker ac aelodau eraill Tîm Deiniol. Paratowyd y fersiwn Gymraeg gan Dafydd Timothy. Cysodwyd y llyfrynn gan Carwyn Lloyd Jones a chydweithwyr eraill o Hoffi. Mae'r dyfyniadau beiblaidd Cymraeg o'r Beibl Cymraeg Newydd Diwygiedig; mae'r dyfyniadau Beiblaidd Saesneg yn dod o'r New Revised Standard Version of the Bible; addaswyd cynifer o'r salmau.

The book is published thanks to financial support from the Allchurches Trust. The reflections, prayers and biblical adaptations have been prepared by Janet Fletcher, with editorial assistance from Mollie Barker and other members of Tîm Deiniol. The Welsh-language version has been prepared by Dafydd Timothy. The booklet has been typeset by Carwyn Lloyd Jones and other colleagues from Hoffi. Welsh-language biblical extracts are from Y Beibl Cymraeg Newydd Diwygiedig; English-language biblical extracts are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible; a number of the psalms have been adapted.

## Cynnwys Contents

---

2

**Cyflwyniad**  
Introduction

---

6

**Diwrnod Cyntaf Rhagfyr**  
The First Day of December

---

8

**Wythnos Gyntaf yr Advent**  
The First Week of Advent

---

32

**Ail Wythnos yr Advent**  
The Second Week of Advent

---

56

**Trydedd Wythnos yr Advent**  
The Third Week of Advent

---

80

**Pedwaredd Wythnos yr Advent**  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

---

94

**Dydd Nadolig**  
Christmas Day

---

100

**Y Dyddiau'n dilyn y Nadolig**  
The Days after Christmas

---

108

**Gŵyl yr Ystwyll**  
The Feast of the Epiphany

---

114

**Beth Nesaf?**  
What Next?

## Cyflwyniad

# A Bydd yn Cael Ei Alw'n Emaniwel

Mae'r tymhorau wedi symud yn ddisymwth yn eu cylch blynnyddol a dyma ni unwaith eto â'r Adfent ar riniog y drws, yn disgwyl yn eiddgar am y Mab - yr Un sydd i'w enwi yn Emaniwel, 'Dyw gyda ni'. Dyma'r Duw sydd gyda ni rŵan, yr un y mae'n hirymaros amdano i ddychwelyd eto. Fe fyddwn ni'n gwyllo ac yn cadw golwg am yr adeg anhysbys honno pan 'ddaw Crist mewn gogoniant', wrth inni weddio yn ein Eucharist. Ym mhennod gyntaf Mathew (1:23) fed down o hyd i'r geiriau hyn yn dyfynnu o lyfr y proffwyd Eseia (7:14):

**'Wele, bydd y wyrif yn beichiogi, ac yn esgor ar fab, a gelwir ef Emaniwel.'**

Daeth y geiriau hyn at Joseff mewn breuddwyd, gyda'r canlyniad iddo beidio â chefnu ar Mair, ond yn hytrach ei chymryd yn wraig iddo'i hun; ac felly dyma stori'r Geni'n cael ei ddatgelu a'i ddatblygu. Mae'n hanes a ddechreuodd mewn gwirionedd yn nyddiau'r Hen Testament, gyda'r broffwydoliaeth mae Mathew'n ei ddyfynnu allan o Eseia.

Mae Jean Vanier, sylfaenydd L'Arche Communities, yn sgwennu yn ei lyfr *The Broken Body* (tudalennau 30, 35):

**Roedd gan Duw gynllun rhyfeddol i ddatgelu'r cariad sy'n llosgi o fewn y Drindod... wrth wraidd calon y cynllun hwnnw mae dymuniad Duw i ddod yn gnawd... ac roedd cyflawni'r cynllun hwn am olygu gwraig a fyddai'n esgor ar y Gair a ddaeth yn gnawd... Fe ddaeth y Gair yn gnawd a'i enw'n Iesu... daeth yr hollalluog yn blentyn diymadferth yn gwbl ddibynol ar berthynas gyda gwraig, perthynas o gariad.**

Mae'r Adfent unwaith eto'n ei dwyn i fyfyrto ar y cariad sy'n cael ei dywallt ar y greadigaeth gyfan wrth i Dduw ddod fel baban bregus. I ddechrau, mae Duw'n cael ei gynnwl yn dyner yng ngwres y growth, ac yna ym mreichiau Mair, ei fam. Mae'r enw a roddwyd i'r plentyn hwn, a roddwyd i Mair adeg y Cyfarchiad, yn enw sy'n chwalu unwaith ac am byth unrhyw ymdeimlad o agendor rhngddon ni â Duw, gan fod Duw bellach gyda ni ym mherson Iesu. Fel mae Vanier yn egluro yn ei lyfr: 'Mae'r enw Iesu yn golygu Duw sy'n achub, Duw sy'n iacháu, Duw sy'n cyfannu' (tudalen 35).

Mae datgan ein henw wrth rywun arall, a chael clywed a gwybod eu henw nhw, yn agor cyfrwng perthynas; bellach nid rhywun 'arall' ydyn nhw ond 'rhywun'. Rhannu ydyn ni rhywbeth o'n hunaniaeth, os nad y cwbl amdanon ni, wrth inni ymgysylltu trwy sgwrs wedi cyfnewid enwau.

Yn Efengyl Mathew, cawn ddarllen, 'Fe'i gelwir yn Emaniwel', ac yn Luc 1:31, 'gelwi ef Iesu'. Yn yr Adfent, mae enw Duw nid yn unig yn cael ei rannu ond yn cael ei wreiddio yn ein dynoliaeth ac yn ein calonnau trwy ffydd. Mae'n enw y gelwir arnon ni i'w ddefnyddio mewn gweddi. Yn enw sy'n ein cymell i'n dwyn yn ddyfnach fyth i berthynas. Yn enw a fydd ar ein meddyliau ac yn ein myfyrdodau dros yr wythnosau nesaf.

## Introduction

# They Shall Name Him Emmanuel

The seasons have moved in their yearly cycle and have brought us once more to Advent, to the Son we await – the One who is to be named Emmanuel, 'God with us'. This is the God who is with us now, and whose coming again we still await. We watch for that unknown time when 'Christ will come in glory', as we pray in our Eucharist.

In the first chapter of Matthew (1:23) we find the following words quoting from the book of the prophet Isaiah (7:14):

**'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'**

These words came to Joseph in a dream, with the result that he didn't discard Mary, but took her to be his wife; and so the story of the Nativity begins and continues to unfold. It is a story that really began in the days of the Old Testament, with the prophecy that Matthew quotes from Isaiah.

Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche Communities, writes in his book *The Broken Body* (pages 30, 35):

**God had a marvellous plan to reveal the love that burns within the Trinity ... At the centre of that plan is God's desire to become flesh ... And the fulfilling of this plan involved a woman who would mother the Word made flesh ... The word became flesh and his name is Jesus ... The almighty became a helpless child utterly dependent on a relationship with a woman, a relationship of love.**

Advent brings us once again to ponder the love that is poured out upon all creation as God becomes a vulnerable baby. At first, God is cradled in the warmth of the womb, and then in the arms of his mother Mary. The name for this child, given to Mary at the Annunciation, is a name that ends any sense of distance between God and ourselves; for God is with us in Jesus. As Vanier explains in his book: 'The name of Jesus means God saves, God heals, God makes whole' (page 35).

Telling another person our name, and hearing their name, opens up a way of relationship; no longer are they 'other' but 'someone'. We share something of our identity, if not the whole of who we are, when we engage in conversation having used our names.

In Matthew's Gospel we read, 'They shall name him Emmanuel', and in Luke 1:31, 'you will name him Jesus'. In Advent the name of God is not only shared but is also grounded in our humanity and in our hearts through faith. It is a name we are called to use in prayer. It is a name that seeks to draw us ever deeper into relationship. It is a name that sends us out in discipleship. It is a name that saves, heals and makes us whole. It is a name we shall ponder over during the coming weeks.

## Sut i Ddefnyddio'r Llyfr Adfent Hwn

Yng nghwrs yr wythnosau sy'n dilyn, fe fyddwn yn archwilio geiriau o deitl Llyfr Adfent eleni – mewn modd tebyg i Lyfr Grawys 2018. Fe fydd y Suliau yn Adfent yn cynnwys myfyrdod ehangach, a myfyrdod ar hanes y Geni. Gellir defnyddio'r rhain wedyn ar gyfer Cwrs Adfent.

Ceir myfyrdod dyddiol ar gyfer pob dydd o'r wythnos. Cymerir y darlleniedau o'r rhai a osodwyd yn y llithiadur ar gyfer Eucharist y diwrnod hwnnw. Mae'n bosib y byddai'n ddefnyddiol i ddarllen y darnau cyn edrych ar y meddyliau a luniwyd ar gyfer myfyrdod.

Mae'r llyfr wedi'i sgwennu mewn modd y gall pobl gartref wrth eu hunain ei ddarllen a'i ddefnyddio'n hawdd. Os mai dyma ydy'r sefyllfa, mae'n bosib y byddai hi'n haws meddwl dros fyfyrdodau'r Sul trwy gydol yr wythnos, yn hytrach nag ar un diwrnod yn unig.

Gellir hefyd defnyddio'r deunydd yma gan Arweinwyr Addoliad, sy'n gallu cynnig myfyrdod ysgrifenedig ond nid pregeth. Gellir hefyd defnyddio rhannau o ddeunydd y Suliau yn lle pregeth os nad oes Cwrs Adfent yn cyfarfod.

## Y Gweddiau

Mae'r holl weddiau wedi'u sgwennu yn y person cyntaf unigol. Wrth weddio mewn grŵp, hawdd fyddai newid 'fi' i 'ni', neu mae modd eu gadael fel ag y maen nhw.

Mewn Grŵp Adfent, efallai yr hoffech oleuo cannwyll ar ddechrau'r gweddiau agoriadol a defnyddio gweddi'r gannwyll – y gellid ei ddefnyddio hefyd ar y Sul wrth oleuo'r canhwyllau, wythnos ar y tro, ar dorch yr Adfent. Wrth weddio mewn grŵp, bydd pawb yn gweddio'r geiriau mewn print bras.

Gellir gweddio awgrymiadau ar gyfer y Calendr Gweddi 'grŵp' ynghyd â'r weddi i gloi.

## Bod yn Greadigol

Mae gan lawer o bobl Galendr Adfent ar yr adeg yma o'r flwyddyn, yn aml yn cynnwys siocledyn fach i'w fwynhau pob dydd! Y syniad ar gyfer yr Adfent hwn ydy gwneud eich 'Calendr Gweddi' eich hunan. Pob dydd, ar ddarn o bapur neu gerdyn, sgwennwch enw rhywun rydych yn ei nabod neu ddigwyddiad yn y byd, neu fater lleol y gellir ei ddwym gerbron mewn gweddi; un ai hynny, neu gwnewch ddefnydd o'r awgrymiadau sy'n cael eu cynnig pob dydd. Gellir cynnig y person neu'r pwnc mewn gweddi wrth ichi ei gofnodi ar y papur, neu ei gadw at amser arall o weddi yn ystod y dydd.

Byddwch mor greadigol ag y gallwch: defnyddiwr wahanol liwiau a siapiau (gwelir isod), tynnwch luniau, neu dorri allan a gludo erythgl neu air allan o gylchgrawn neu bapur newydd. Os oes plant ganddoch chi, fe allen nhw lunio eu Calendr Gweddi eu hunain.

Efallai yr hoffech ddefnyddio gwahanol siapiau Adfent ar gyfer gwahanol agweddau o weddi, er enghraifft:

### **Seren – ar gyfer teulu a ffriندiau**

**Cannwyll – ar gyfer unrhyw ran o'r byd, pell neu agos, sydd mewn angen goleuni tangnreffed Crist**

**Peli sy'n addurno coed Nadolig – ar gyfer yr eglwysi a'r bobl yn eich Ardal Weinidogaeth**

Gellid dal y cardiau hyn ar beth-dal-cardiau Dolig.

## How to Use This Advent Book

Over the coming weeks, the words from the title of this year's Advent Book will be explored – in a similar way to the 2018 Lent Book. The Sundays in Advent will include a longer reflection, and a reflection upon the Nativity story. These can then be used for an Advent Course.

There is a daily reflection offered for each weekday. The readings are taken from those set in the lectionary for the Eucharist of that day. It may be helpful to read the passages before looking at the thoughts offered for reflection.

The book is written so it can easily be read and used by people alone at home. If this is the case, it may be easier to ponder over the Sunday reflections through the week, rather than on just one day.

The material here can also be used by Worship Leaders, who can offer a written reflection but not a sermon. Parts of the Sunday material could also be used in place of a sermon if there is no weekly gathering on an Advent Course.

## The Prayers

All the prayers are written in the first-person singular. If praying in a group, it will be easy to change 'I' to 'we', and 'me' to 'us'; or pray them just as they are.

At an Advent Group, you may wish to light a candle at the beginning of the opening prayers and use the candle prayer – which could also be used on a Sunday when lighting the candles week by week on the Advent wreath. In a group, everyone prays the words in bold.

Any suggestions for the 'group' Prayer Calendar can be prayed along with the closing prayer.

## Being Creative

Many people have an Advent Calendar at this time of year, and sometimes with a chocolate to enjoy each day! The idea for this Advent is to make your own 'Prayer Calendar'. Each day on a piece of paper or card, write the name of someone you know, or an event in the world, or a local concern which you can bring into prayer; or use the suggestions offered each day. This person or topic can be offered in prayer at the time you write it down, or during another time of prayer in the day.

Be as creative as you like: use different colours and shapes (see below), draw pictures, or cut out and glue an article or word from a magazine or newspaper. If you have children, they could build up their own Prayer Calendar.

You may wish to use different Advent shapes for different aspects of prayer, for example:

**A star – for family and friends**

**A candle – for any area of the world, local or far away, in need of the light of Christ's peace**

**A bauble – for the churches and people in your Ministry Area**

These prayer cards could be hung up on a Christmas card holder

## Sadwrn, Rhagfyr 1

# O Dewch!



## Salm 95

*Dewch, canwn yn llawen i'r Arglwydd, rhawn floedd o orfoledd i graig ein hiachawdwriaeth!  
Down i bresenoldeb Duw –  
yn ei law ef y mae dyfnderau'r ddaear,  
ac eiddo ef yw uchelderau'r mynyddoedd.  
Dewch, addolwn ac ymgrymwn, plygwn ein gliniau gerbron yr Arglwydd a'n gwnaeth.  
Amen.*

'O dewch!' ydy galwad yr Adfent. Heddiw ydy diwrnod cyntaf mis Rhagfyr, ac mae'r byd yn dechrau cyfri'r dyddiau tan y Nadolig gyda blychau i'w hagor ar ein Calendrau Adfent a rhestrau i'w sgwennu, siopa mawr i'w wneud. Mae peryg i'r alwad i ddod i ganu mawl i'r Arglwydd a dod i bresenoldeb Duw, os nad ydyn ni'n wyliadwrus, gael ei wthio o'r neilltu wrth i brysurdeb y dyddiau sy'n dod llwyr feddiannu'n bywydau.

Efallai yr hoffech sgwennu eich enw ar y Calendr Gweddi. Gwediwch am ras Duw i fod gyda chi trwy gydol yr Adfent. Os oes modd, gwnewch adduned i ddod yn weddigar pob diwrnod i bresenoldeb Duw.

Yn Luc, cawn alwad arall yr Adfent. Dyma'r alwad i fod yn effro ac felly'n wyliadwrus, yn barod am yr adeg pan ddaw Iesu'n ôl drachefn. Mae'n anogaeth i wyliau a bod yn fythol barod! Rwan ydy'r amser i benderfynu

## Gweddi

*O tyrd, Iesu, i 'nghalon a'm bywyd i.  
Arllwys ar fy niwrnod, a'r dyddiau sy'n dilyn,  
balm iachâd dy gariad a'th dangnreffed.  
Boed imi fod yn effro i'th bresenoldeb gyda mi.  
Boed imi fod yn effro i dy alwad i mi.  
Boed imi fod yn ymwybodol o'r iachâu sydd ei angen arna i ar yr adeg yma.  
Helpa fi i'th ddilyn di gyda chariad a ffydd.  
O tyrd, Iesu, i 'nghalon i a'mywyd i.  
Amen.*



## Saturday 1 December

# O Come!



## Psalm 95

*O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into the presence of God  
who holds both the depths of the earth and the heights of all mountains.  
Let us come, and kneel before God our Creator.  
Amen.*

O come! is the call of Advent. Today is the first day of December, and the world begins its countdown to Christmas with doors to open on our Advent Calendars and lists to write, shopping to do. The call to come and sing to the Lord and to come into the presence of God may, if we are not careful, get pushed to one side as the busyness of the coming days takes over our lives.

On your Prayer Calendar you may wish to write your own name. Pray for God's grace to be with you throughout Advent. If you can, make the promise to come each day prayerfully into God's presence.

In Luke, we find another call of Advent. This is the call to be alert and therefore ready for the time when Jesus will come again. It is the exhortation to watch and to be on our guard!

Now is the time to decide how and when we can (and will?) put time aside to be with God in prayer, so we do not miss the chance to be alert to God's call to us.

Putting time aside for quietness and prayer can bring to us a sense of renewal and healing. The passage from Revelation and the image of the trees and leaves of healing which line the river of life may help us through Advent. This image reminds us of areas in our lives, and in the lives of those we will encounter in the coming weeks, where healing may be needed. This image reminds us, too, of our need to come and sit prayerfully with God.

---

*The call is for us to 'come' and watch and wait, and to be alert. What does this mean for you?*

---



## Prayer

*O come, Jesus, into my heart and life.  
Pour upon my day, and the days to come,  
the balm of your healing love and peace.  
May I be awake to your presence with me.  
May I be alert to your call to me.  
May I be aware of the healing I need at this moment.  
Help me to follow you with love and faith.  
O come, Jesus, into my heart and life.  
Amen.*

**2 Rhagfyr  
2 December**  
Sul yr Adfent  
Advent Sunday

---

**Dyma Fi...  
Boed yn Ôl Dy Air  
Here Am I...  
Let It Be**



## Gweddi'r Gannwyll

Wrth inni gynnau golau'r gannwyll gyntaf hon, boed i hynny ein hatgoffa i fod yn effro a disgwylgar yn ystod wythnosau'r Adfent hwn.

O Dduw,  
wrth imi edrych ar y gannwyll hon,  
agor fy nghalon i'th alwad  
a'm llygaid i oleuni dy bresenoldeb.  
Arwain fi yn llwybrau cyflawnder  
a sodro fy nhraed yn ddyfnach fyth yn nhir ffydd  
ac ar eiriau yr Un y mae disgwyl amdano'n awr, Iesu Grist.  
Amen.



## Salm 25:1-10

O Dduw, dwi'n dyrchafu f'enaid atat ti oherwydd mod i'n dy drystio di.  
**Paid gadael imi gael fy nghywilyddio am unrhyw beth a wna i**  
**a boed i'm gelynion beidio cael gorfoleddu drosofffi.**  
Arwain fi yn dy ffyrdd, O Dduw, a dysga fi bopeth sydd angen imi ei wybod.  
**Disgwyliaf amdanat ti trwy'r dydd, O Dduw,**  
**gan mai ti ydy fy ngwirionedd a'm hachubiaeth.**  
Cofia, O Dduw, dy drugaredd a'th gariad cadarn.  
**Gyda'r rhain rwyt ti'n dod â maddeuant a chariad imi**  
**gan mai ti, O Dduw, sy'n tywallt dy ddaioni arna i.**  
O Dduw, rwyt ti'n dda ac y chywir.  
**Ti sy'n datgelu imi sut i fod yn wylaidd**  
**a'm dysgu sut i gadw dy gyfamod gyda chariad a ffydd.**  
Amen.



## Gweddi

Mae'r dydd yn nesáu pan gaiff Duw ei ddatgelu ar ffurf ddynol:  
**Disgwyliwn dy ddyfodiad i'n plith, Emaniwel,**  
**rŵan ac am byth.**  
Amen.



## Candle Prayer

As we light this first candle, may it be a reminder to us to be awake and alert during these weeks of Advent.  
O God,

*as I look upon this candle,  
open my heart to your call  
and my eyes to the light of your presence.  
Guide me in the paths of righteousness  
and plant ever more deeply my feet in the ground of faith  
and upon the words of the One now awaited, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*



## Psalm 25:1-10

O God, I lift up my soul to you because I trust in you.  
**Let me not be put to shame for anything I do**  
**and may my enemies not exult over me.**  
Guide me in your ways, O God, and teach me all I need to know.  
**I wait all day long for you, O God,**  
**for you are my truth and my salvation.**  
Remember, O God, your mercy and steadfast love.  
**With these you bring me forgiveness and love**  
**because you, O God, pour upon me your goodness.**  
O God, you are both good and upright.  
**You reveal how I am to be humble**  
**and teach me how to keep your covenant with love and faith.**  
Amen.



## Prayer

The day is coming when God will be revealed in human form:  
**We await your coming among us, Emmanuel,**  
**now and always.**  
Amen.

## 'Ac Fe Wnaen Nhw Ei Alw'n Emaniwel'

Gellir dehongli'r gair 'nhw' mewn sawl ffordd. Gall fod yn cyfeirio at grŵp; fel lluosog, mae'n golygu mwy nag un. Mae modd ei ddefnyddio fel cwestiwn: 'Pwy ydyn nhw?' Gellir ei ddefnyddio mewn cyd-destun negyddol, yn cyfeirio at y rhai hynny sy'n wahanol, yr 'eraill', nid un ohonon ni; gall greu'r ymdeimlad o 'ni a nhw'.

Wrth inni ddarllen y gair 'nhw' yn nheitil y Llyfryn Adfent hwn, gellir meddwl am 'nhw' fel cyfeiriad, nid yn unig at Mair, ond hefyd at Dduw a roddodd yr enw 'Emaniwel' i Eseia fel iddo ddod yn rhan o'i eiriau proffwydol – ac yna fe'i rhoddwyd i Joseff mewn breuddwyd.

### Darlleniadau



Os oes amser ganddoch chi, darllenwch trwy'r darnau yn llawn:

**Jeremeia 33:14-16** Yma fe gawn glywed datgan fod y dydd yn dod pan fydd addewid yr Arglwydd i'w bobl yn cael ei gyflawni. Yr adeg honno, bydd Jwda'n cael ei hachub, fe flagura gangen gyflawn allan o dŷ Dafydd; fe elwir y gangen hon 'Yr Arglwydd yw ein cyflawnder'.

**1 Thesaloniaid 3:8-13** Mae Paul yn sgwennu am yr angen i sefyll yn gadarn mewn ffydd. Mae'n gweddio y bydd ffydd a chariad pobl tuag at Dduw a'i gilydd yn tyfu ac y caiff eu calonau'u hatgyfnerthu mewn sancteiddrwydd a dieuogrwydd.

**Luc 21:25-38** Soniai Iesu am yr amseroedd yn newid, a hynny gydag ymdeimlad o wae. Fel Paul, ceir galwad i barhau'n gryf yn y ffydd. Mae Iesu hefyd yn sôn am y geiriau na fydd byth yn pasio heibio, waeth beth a digwydd ar y ddaear neu yn y nefoedd. Daeth yr amser i wyllo, i fod ar ein gwyliadwriaeth, i fod yn effro ac i weddîo.

---

*Beth sy'n dod i'ch meddwl wrth ichi fyfyrion ar y darlleniadau hyn, a beth allen ni ei ddysgu oddi wrthyn nhw ynglŷn â'r gwahanol ystyron i'r gair 'nhw'?*

---



---

*Beth mae'r darlleniadau hyn yn dweud wrthon ni wrth inni agor drws ar y tymor Adfent hwn?*

---

## 'They Shall Name Him Emmanuel'

The word 'they' can be interpreted in a number of ways. It can refer to a group; as a plural it means more than one. It can be asked as a question: 'Who are they?' It can be used in a negative context, referring to those who are different, other, not one of us; it can carry a sense of 'them and us'.

When we read the word 'they' in the title of this Advent Book, 'they' can be seen to refer not only to Mary, but also to God who gave the name 'Emmanuel' to Isaiah so that it became a part of his prophetic words – and then it was given to Joseph in a dream

### Readings

If you have time, read through the passages in full:

**Jeremiah 33:14-16** Here we are told that the day is coming when the Lord's promise to his people will be fulfilled. At that time, Judah will be saved, and a righteous branch will come forth from the house of David; this branch will be called 'The Lord is our righteousness'.

**1 Thessalonians 3:8-13** Paul writes about the need to stand firm in faith. He prays that people's faith and love for God and one another will grow and that their hearts will be strengthened in holiness and blamelessness.

**Luke 21:25-38** Jesus speaks of changing times, and with a sense of foreboding. As with Paul, there is the call to remain strong in faith. Jesus speaks, too, of the words which will never pass away, regardless of all that may happen on earth or in heaven. The time has come to watch, to be on guard, to be alert and to pray.

---

*What are your initial thoughts on these readings, and what may we learn from them about the various meanings behind the word 'they'?*

---



---

*What do these readings say to us as we begin this season of Advent?*

---

## Datblygu'r Thema

O'r tri darleniad, cawn ymgysylltu â'r gair 'nhw' mewn sawl ffordd. Yn gyntaf, mae'n ddefnyddiol i ystyried y gwahanol grwpiau o bobl y down ar eu traws ymhob hanesyn.

### **Pwy ydy'r 'nhw' a phwy ydy'r 'ni'?**

**Mae'n hateb ni i hyn am ddibynnu lle rydyn ni'n gosod ein hunain a sut fyddwn ni'n dehongli'r gair 'nhw'.**

Mae Jeremeia, Paul a Iesu'n llefaru gydag eraill, ond maen nhw hefyd yn siarad â ni. Felly, os am ddysgu go iawn oddi wrthyn nhw, rhaid dod yn rhan o'r grŵp 'nhw' trwy berthynas bositif. Eistedd mewn grŵp negyddol fyddwn ni os ydyn ni'n credu nad ydy eu geiriau'n berthnasol i ni, dim ond iddyn 'nhw' – pwy bynnag ydy'r 'nhw' bondigrybwyl yma!

Yn ail, mae'r darleniadau yn galw arnon ni i ystyried sut allwn ni blethu ein ffydd Gristnogol i mewn i'n bywydau pob dydd.

### **Faint mae eich ffydd Gristnogol yn cyfarwyddo a chufeirio yr hyn a wnewch a sut ewch chi o'i chwmpas hi?**

Pryd bynnag bydd grŵp o bobl yn cyd-gyfarfod, fe fydd rhwng nodwedd gyffredin yn ddolen gyswllt rhwng yr unigolion. Enghrefftiau o hynny fyddai timau pêl-droed, gweithle, gweithgaredd hamdden, y gymuned leol, eglwys. Dydy hynny, wrth reswm, ddim yn golygu y bydd pawb yn cytuno â'i gilydd o fewn y 'grŵp' hwnnw. Fel meidrolion, mae hi'n naturiol inni gydnabod nad ydyn ni ddim am hoffi pawb byddwn yn cyfarfod â nhw ac y cawn ein denu at rai ac ymwrthod â rhoi eraill.

Pan ddaw nifer o bobl at ei gilydd, fe geir myrdd o wahanol grwpiau 'ni' a 'nhw' yn ôl diffiniad, a hynny am fyrrd o wahanol resymau! Mae'r cyflawnhad dros y grwpiau hyn yn bennaf yn gyfrifoldeb unigolyn (neu un unigolyn sy'n perswadio eraill); daw'r grwpiau hyn i fod ar sail rhyw system o gredo neilltuol lle bydd pobl yn beirniadu a gwneud penderfyniadau.

Efallai bod y cwestiwn cyntaf yn yr adran hon wedi gwneud inni feddwl pwy fydden ni'n eu galw'n 'nhw' a phwy fydden ni'n eu galw'n 'ni'. Wrth inni gymryd golwg ar ein cymuned eglwysig , y gymuned leol a'r gymuned fyd-eang, pa rai ydy'r 'nhw' a pha rai ydy'r 'ni'? A fase'r grwpiau hynny'n cytuno gyda'n categorïau ni?

Unwaith eto, mae'r ffordd y byddwn ni'n categoriiddio pobl yn dibynnu ar le rydyn ni'n gosod ein hunain. Mae Iesu'n sôn am amseroedd newidiol, heriol ei ddydd, a dyddiau tebyg iawn ydy'n dyddiau ninnau heddiw – dydy'r byd byth yn newid nac yn peidio newid! O'n cwmpas ymhob man fe welwn heriau cydraddoldeb, camdriniaeth, traus, troseddau torfol, camwahaniaethu, masnachu pobl, ceiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid, rhyfel, newyn; pobl o wahanol gred; y digartref... mae'r rhestr yn ddihysbydd. Eto fyth, mae i'w weld yn ein bywydau ninnau hefyd. Pwy a wyddoch chi amdanyn nhw (bosib chi'ch hunan) sy'n teimlo ar y cyrion, heb anogaeth i ymuno â grŵp penodol, yn methu cynnig cyfoeth eu doniau, ac yn dioddef hyn oll heb reswm o gwbl? Mae hyn yn gallu digwydd yn y gweithle ac o fewn yr eglwys fel ei gilydd.

### **Beth sy'n dod i'ch meddwl wrth ystyried hyn?**

## Opening Up the Theme

From these three passages we can engage with the word 'they' in a number of ways. First, it is helpful to consider the different groups of people whom we meet within each story

### **Who are the 'they' and who are the 'us'?**

**How we answer this will depend upon where we place ourselves and how we interpret the word 'they'.**

Jeremiah, Paul and Jesus are speaking to others, but they also speak to us. Therefore we enter into a positive belonging in the 'they' group if we really want to learn from them. We sit in the negative group if we think their words don't apply to us, but only to 'them' – whoever 'them/they' might be! Second, the passages call us to consider how we interweave our Christian faith within our day-to-day lives.

### **How much does your Christian faith inform what you do and how you do it?**

Wherever a group of people meet together, there will be a common denominator which will be the connecting point between all the individuals. Examples are a football team, a place of work, a leisure activity, the local community, a church. This doesn't mean of course that we will agree with everyone else within that 'group'. As human beings it is both natural and normal to acknowledge that we are not going to like everyone we meet and that we will be drawn towards some and away from others.

When a number of people come together, there will be a myriad of 'us' and 'they' groupings defined and put in place for a myriad of reasons! How those groups are justified often comes down to the individual (or one individual who persuades others); the groupings are brought about based on a particular belief system from which people judge and make decisions.

The first question in this section may have brought to light many thoughts about those we call 'they' and those we call 'us'. As we look out at our church community, local community and the global community, where are the 'they' and the 'us'? Would those groups agree with our categories?

Again, how we categorise people will depend on where we place ourselves. Jesus speaks of the changing, challenging times of his day, and we live in similar conditions in the world of the present day. All around us we see the challenges of inequality, abuse, violence, gang crimes, discrimination, human trafficking, asylum seekers and refugees, war, hunger; people of other faiths; the homeless; and the list could go on. Yet, we see it too within our own lives. Who do you know (or is it perhaps yourself?) who feels excluded, not encouraged to join a particular group, unable to offer the wealth of their gifts, and suffering all this for no real reason at all? This can happen both in the workplace and in church.

### **Any thoughts on this?**

Adfent ydy'n hamser ni i ddisgwyd dyfodiad Duw fel baban diamddiffyn a fydd yn estyn allan i'r 'nhw' mewn cymdeithas a'u croesawu i'w freichiau. O fewn ein ffydd a gyda'n ffydd Gristnogol, rydyn ni i wneud yr un peth hefyd; i ddatod y rhwystrau sy'n ein gwahanu - waliau na ddylai fod wedi'u codi yn y lle cyntaf. Mae'r Duw yn Iesu, yr un y mae'r aros amdano rŵan, ydy'r Duw, fel ag y dyfynnwyd yn y Cyflwyniad, sy'n achub, iacháu a'n gwneud ni'n gyflawn. Gallwn ddadlau bod yr holl syniad yma o gael ein hachub a'n gwneud yn gyflawn yn ymneud â bod mewn perthynas dda ac iawn gyda Duw a'n gilydd.

Yn ei llyfr Adfent, *The Advent of Peace*, mae Mary C. Grey yn sgwennu am y 'bererindod tuag at y Nadolig', gan ddadlau nad oes yr un ohonon ni'n ddiniwed pan ddaw hi'n fater o'n cydberthynas ag eraill (tudalen 48):

**Rydyn ni i gyd yn cael ein dal ym meddylfryd gwrthdrawiadol ein hoes ac mae gan bob un ohonon ni faterion o ddiffyg cymod o fewn ein teuluoedd a gyda chyberthnasau personol. [Gallwn ychwanegu yma holl agweddau ein bywyd, gan gynnwys yr eglwys a digwyddiadau'r byd.] Rydyn ni'n ei chael hi'n amhosib, o un ochr i wrthdaro, i 'weld sefyllfa trwy lygaid un arall', i fentro rhoi clust ac ystyried gwirionedd y llall gydag empathi a dealltwriaeth.**

Mae hyn ynglŷn ag edrych ar ein bywydau ein hunain i weld pa newidiadau y gallwn eu gwneud i fod yn fwy croesawgar a derbyn eraill. Gydag empathi a dealltwriaeth o wahaniaethau a gwirionedd person arall (a ninnau hefyd), efallai bod modd inni ddysgu llawenhau ymhob dim sy'n achosi'r 'ni' a 'nhw', gan na fyddai'r gwahaniaethau hynny bellach yn ein gwahanu nag yn rym negyddol.

#### **Unrhyw sylwadau ar hynny?**

**Sut mae modd ichi sefyll yn gadarn mewn ffydd i'r oll rydych yn credu ynddo?**

**Pa mor hawdd ydy hi i gael eich dylanwadu gan farn neu awgrymiadau rhywun arall?**

### **Stori'r Nadolig – 'Dyma Fi ... Boed yn Ôl Dy Air' (Luc 1:26-38)**

Wrth inni edrych ar y gair 'nhw' yng nghyddestun hanes y Geni, ac yn arbennig wrth ystyried ymwelliad Gabriel â Mair, mae sawl cwestiwn yn debygol o ddod i'r meddwl.

Pam mai Mair a ddewiswyd gan Dduw? Roedd Mair wedi dyweddio â Joseff, ac fe allai'r newyddion a dderbyniodd hithau ac iddi orfod dweud wrtho fo fod wedi achos problemau di-ri iddi, gan gynnwys cael ei gwrthod neu hyd yn oed ei llabyddio.

Pam dewiswyd merch o Nasareth? Fel dywedodd Nathanael wrth sôn am Iesu, 'A all dim da ddod o Nasareth?' (Ioan 1:46).

Fe fyddai Mair, fel merch ddibriod, er yn ddyweddi, wedi bod yn y grŵp cymdeithasol 'nhw' - y rhai hynny oedd i wneud dim ond bod yn gwbl uffff i'r dynion o'u cwmpas. O ran Nasareth, efallai ei fod yn le pwysig, ond yn agwedd Nathanael, fe welwn ddrych o'n hagweddau plwyfol ninnau: gogledd/de - 'ni a nhw'!

Yr hyn sy'n ddiddorol yn y fan hyn ydy bod Mai yn cwmpasu y 'ni' a'r 'nhw' fel ei gilydd. Mae'n bosib ei hystyried fel person bregus, ac fe fyddai hynny'n wir, ac efallai mai gwraig o gymeriad addfwyn a thyner oedd hi, chwedl ambell garol Nadolig. Ac eto, mae llawer mwy iddi na hynny. Roedd yn meddu ar y dewrder a'r penderfyniad, a'r doethinéb i beidio â rhuthro i ateb yn fyrbwyl pan ymwebddo yr angel.

O'r darn yn Luc 1: 26-38, mae'n anodd dweud faint o amser aeth heibio. Mae Mair yn cwestiynu Gabriel, ac mae'n holi am y ffeithiau er mwyn iddi allu deall yn llawn maint cyfrifoldeb yr hyn a ofynnir ganddi cyn penderfynu.

Roedd yn rhaid i Mair gael ei hargyhoeddi a'i llais ei hun yn ymateb o'r galon cyn i Dduw allu rhoi ar waith holl rym a rhyfeddod Ei Ysbryd. Doedd wiw iddi ddweud eu bod 'nhw' wedi'i pherswadio, neu datgan 'y dywedwyd wrtha i bod yn rhaid imi gyflawni hyn'.

Advent is our time to await the coming of God as a vulnerable baby who will reach out to the 'they' of society and welcome them all. In and with our Christian faith, we too are to do the same, to bring down the barriers that separate us – walls which should never have been erected in the first place. The God in Jesus, whom we now await, is the God who, as quoted in the Introduction, is the God who saves, heals and makes us whole. This idea of being saved and made whole, we could argue, is about being in a good and right relationship with God and with one another.

In her Advent book, *The Advent of Peace*, Mary C. Grey writes about the 'pilgrimage towards Christmas', saying that none us are innocent when it comes to our relationships with others. She writes (page 48):

**We are all caught up in the confrontational mentality of our age and have areas of unreconciled issues in our families and personal relationships. [We could add in here all aspects of our life, including church and world events.] We find it impossible, from one side of a conflict, to 'see with the eyes of another', to enter and inhabit the truth of another with empathy and understanding.**

This is about looking at our own lives to see what changes we can make to become more welcoming and accepting of others. With empathy and an understanding of another person's difference and truth (and our own), maybe we can learn to rejoice in all that causes an 'us' and a 'they', for no longer will these differences separate us or be a negative force.

#### **Any thoughts on this?**

**How do you stand firm in faith to all you believe?**

**How easy is it to be swayed by another's opinions or suggestions?**

### **The Nativity – 'Here Am I ... Let It Be' (Luke 1:26-38)**

When we look at the word 'they' in the context of the Nativity story, and particularly as we consider Mary being confronted by the angel Gabriel, a number of questions may come to mind.

Why was Mary chosen by God? Mary was betrothed to Joseph, and the news she receives and then has to tell him could have caused many problems for her, including being put aside or being stoned to death.

Why was a girl from Nazareth chosen? As Nathanael says in regard to Jesus, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' (John 1:46).

Mary as an unmarried, albeit betrothed, girl would be in the 'they' social group – those who were simply supposed to do as the men around them said. As for Nazareth, it may have been an important place, but in Nathanael's attitude we see something resembling our own north/south divide: 'they and us'!

What is interesting here is that Mary encompasses both 'they' and 'us'. She may be regarded as vulnerable, and she would have been, and maybe she was indeed the meek and mild woman described in some Christmas carols. Yet she is also far more. She has courage and determination, and the wisdom not to rush her answer during the angel's visit.

From the passage in Luke 1:26-38, it is difficult to tell how much time passes by. Mary questions Gabriel, and she wants the facts so she can fully understand what is being asked of her before making her decision.

Mary had to let her own voice be heard before God could unfold the power and wonder of the Spirit's overshadowing. She could never say 'they' persuaded her, or 'I was told I had to do this'. The decision had to come from her heart of faith. Mary herself had to bring forth the words, 'Here am I ... let it be' (Luke 1:38).

Roedd yn rhaid i'r penderfyniad ddod trwy'r ffydd yn ei chalon hithau. O'i gwirfodd roedd Mair i yngan y geiriau, 'Dyma fi... boed yn ôl dy air' (Luc 1:38).

Mae dweud 'Iawn' wrth Dduw yn y ffordd yma yn datgan yn ddwfn unigrywder Mair ei hun. Mae'n cyfleo, hefyd, gallu Mair i siarad drosti hi'i hun. Mae'n rhoddi iddi rôl a gweinidogaeth yng nghynllun dadennol Duw ar gyfer y byd a dyfodiad Ei deyrnas

*Beth mae'r geiriau hyn o eiddo Mair, 'Dyma fi... boed yn ôl dy air', yn gofyn ganddoch chi?*

*Sut all Mair gynnig dod ag anogaeth i ferched a dynion sy'n teimlo wedi'u dieithrio yn ein byd heddiw?*

## Gweddi

*Dduw holl drugaredd,  
sydd â'i gariad yn cofleidio popeth yn y greadigaeth,  
gwendïaf rŵan am... Ychwanegwch y rhai hynny y dymunwch weddîo drostyñ nhw'n arbennig.  
Boed i'r holl fyd deimlo eu bod yn cael eu cynnwys  
a phrofi cyflawnder a heddwch, cariad a chroeso.  
Amen.*

## Gweddi i Gloi

*Dy enw di, O Dduw, ydy Emaniwel.  
Rwyt ti gyda mi a'r holl bobl.  
Bydd gyda mi trwy natur gyfnewidiol y byd,  
fel y gallaf ganfod fy lle yn ddo  
a cheisio gwneud yr hyn y'm galwyd gen ti i'w gyflawni.  
Helpa fi wrth imi ddatgan rŵan, 'Dyma fi'.  
Helpa fi wrth imi ddatgan rŵan 'Boed yn ôl dy Air'.  
Rho imi'r dewrder a'r ffydd  
i beidio byth â gwyro o'th ymyl di yn ystod y tymor Adfent hwn  
a thrwy bob dydd o 'mywyd.  
Gofynnaf hyn yn enw Iesu, Emaniwel.  
Amen.*

*Meddyliwch am sefyllfa lle bu'n rhaid ichi wneud penderfyniad anodd. Sut wnaethoch chi ei ddatrys? Pa ran a chwaraeodd Duw yn hynny? Efallai bod hwn yn gwestiwn yr hoffech ei ystyried wrth eich hunan adref os ydych chi'n rhan o Grŵp Adfent.*

## Calendr Gweddi

P'un ai ar eich pen eich hunan neu fel rhan o Grŵp Adfent, meddyliwch am un neu ddau grŵp o bobl, materion neu ddigwyddiadau y gellwch eu cynnwys yn eich Calendr Gweddi o'r sesiwn hon.

Dewch â hynny at Dduw yn nhawelwch eich calon, neu ei ddatgan yn uchel ar lafar.



Saying 'Yes' to God in this way speaks deeply of Mary's own uniqueness. It tells us, too, about her ability to speak out for herself. It gives to her a role and ministry in the unfolding plan of God for the world and the coming of his kingdom.

*What do these words of Mary, 'Here am I... let it be', ask of you?*

*How can Mary offer and bring encouragement to women and men who feel excluded in today's world?*

*Think about a situation where you have had to make a difficult decision. How did you come to an answer? What part did God play within that? This is a question you may wish to ponder over at home alone if you are a part of an Advent Group.*

## Prayer Calendar

Whether alone or as an Advent Group, think of one or two groups of people, issues or events that you could include in your Prayer Calendar from this session.

Bring that to God in the silence of your heart, or aloud.



## Gweddi

*Dduw holl drugaredd,  
sydd â'i gariad yn cofleidio popeth yn y greadigaeth,  
gwendïaf rŵan am... Ychwanegwch y rhai hynny y dymunwch weddîo drostyñ nhw'n arbennig.  
Boed i'r holl fyd deimlo eu bod yn cael eu cynnwys  
a phrofi cyflawnder a heddwch, cariad a chroeso.  
Amen.*



## Prayer

*God of graciousness,  
whose love embraces all within creation,  
I pray now for ... Add in those you wish to pray for particularly.  
May all in this world feel included,  
and know justice and peace, love and welcome.  
Amen.*



## Gweddi i Gloi

*Dy enw di, O Dduw, ydy Emaniwel.  
Rwyt ti gyda mi a'r holl bobl.  
Bydd gyda mi trwy natur gyfnewidiol y byd,  
fel y gallaf ganfod fy lle yn ddo  
a cheisio gwneud yr hyn y'm galwyd gen ti i'w gyflawni.  
Helpa fi wrth imi ddatgan rŵan, 'Dyma fi'.  
Helpa fi wrth imi ddatgan rŵan 'Boed yn ôl dy Air'.  
Rho imi'r dewrder a'r ffydd  
i beidio byth â gwyro o'th ymyl di yn ystod y tymor Adfent hwn  
a thrwy bob dydd o 'mywyd.  
Gofynnaf hyn yn enw Iesu, Emaniwel.  
Amen.*



## Prayer

*Your name, O God, is Emmanuel.  
You are with me and with all people.  
Be with me in the changing nature of the world,  
so that I may find my place within it  
and may seek to do as you call me to.  
Help me as I say now, 'Here am I.'  
Help me as I say now, 'Let it be.'  
Give me the courage and the faith  
to never waver from your side during this Advent season  
and through each and every day of my life.  
This I ask in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel.  
Amen.*



## Dydd Llun, Rhagfyr 3

# Ymddiriedaeth



### Salm 122

*Yr oeddwn yn llawen pan ddywedasant wrthyf, "Gadewch inni fynd i dŷ'r Arglwydd."*  
*Yno y gosodwyd gorseddfeinciau barn, gorseddfeinciau tŷ Dafydd.*  
*Er mwyn fy nghydnaabod a'm cyfeillion, dywedaf, "Bydded heddwch i ti."*  
*Er mwyn tŷ yr Arglwydd ein Duw, ceisiaf ddaioni i ti.*

Mewn gwahanol ffyrdd, mae'r darleniadau a neilltuwyd ar gyfer heddiw'n siarad am yr angen i drystio. Gall hi gymryd amser i berthynas ddatblygu a thyfu mewn ymddiriedaeth. Mae gofyn iddi hefyd fod yn berthynas ddwyffordd, gyda'r ddwy ochr neu'r holl bleidiau'n ymddiried yn ei gilydd, neu'r naill yn y llall. Gall ymddiriedaeth mewn rhywun hefyd chwalu'n hawdd a phan ddigwydd hynny, fe gymer hi amser i ailadeiladu'r tryst hnwnw unwaith eto.

Er mwyn gallu moli Duw, roedd yn rhaid i'r salmydd yn gyntaf ymddiried yn Nuw, gan gredu y deuai heddwch a ffyniant, waeth pa mor hir y cymry hynny. I bobl Israel, roedd rhaid i'r ymddiriedaeth hnwnw fod wedi'i seilio ar eu ffydd yn Nuw, gan eu galluogi i gredu y deuai adeg o ogoiant ymhen hir a hwyr. Roedd gofyn iddyn nhw drystio y byddai Duw yn darparu cysgod ac amddiffyn, lloches a noddfa.

**Pam mor anodd, neu hawdd, ydy hi i chi ymddiried yn Nuw?**

Mae'r darn allan o Mathew yn agor haen arall o dryst. Yma fe welwn ddyn mewn awdurdod

### Gweddi

*Dwi'n dy drystio di, O Dduw, gyda'm holl galon;  
 dyfnha f'ymddiriedaeth a'm ffydd ynot ti ac yn y ddynoliaeth.  
 Pan fyddaf yn cwestiynu, synnu a siomi wrth weld digwyddiadau o'm cwmpas,  
 dyfnha f'ymddiriedaeth a'm ffydd ynot ti ac yn y ddynoliaeth.  
 Hyd yn oed yn nyfnderoedd f'amheuon,  
 dwi'n credu ac yn ymddiried ac yn gwybod dy fod ti gyda mi.  
 Tyrd, Dduw'r Advent, tyrd.  
 Amen.*



## Monday 3 December

# Trust



### Psalm 95

*I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'  
 For there the thrones for judgement were set up, the thrones of the house of David.  
 For the sake of my relatives and friends, I will say 'Peace be within you.'  
 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.*

In different ways, the readings set for today speak of the need for trust. It can take time for a relationship of trust to develop and grow. It also has to be a two-way relationship, with both or all parties trusting in the other, or others. Trust in another can of course be easily broken and when this happens it can take time to rebuild that trust once more.

To be able to praise God, the psalmist had to trust in God first and believe that peace and prosperity would come, no matter how long a time this might take. For the people of Israel there had to be trust based on their faith in God, enabling them to believe that a time of glory would eventually come. They needed to trust that God would provide shade and protection, shelter and refuge.

**How difficult, or easy, do you find it to trust in God?**

The passage from Matthew opens up another layer of trust. Here we see a man of authority who is not Jewish, placing all of his trust in Jesus to heal his servant. The centurion's trust is not misplaced, and no wonder Jesus is amazed at his faith. The Roman officer also has to trust in his own belief that Jesus could help.

**Who are the people you trust?**

As we move through these Advent days, we have the time to ponder on our faith and our general day-to-day lives. We have time, too, to rebuild or strengthen the bridges of trust with God, and with those who have hurt us, or those we have hurt.

On your Prayer Calendar you may wish to write the name of a person you trust, someone who may have broken your trust, or someone whose trust you have broken. If you don't feel able to write their name, draw a stick person to represent them. What will be your prayer?



### Prayer

*I trust in you, O God, with all my heart;  
 deepen my trust and faith in you and all humanity.  
 When I question and wonder at the events I see around me,  
 deepen my trust and faith in you and all humanity.  
 Even in the depths of my doubting,  
 I believe and trust and know that you are with me.  
 Come, Advent God, come.  
 Amen.*

## Dydd Mawrth, Rhagfyr 4

# Cyflawnder



### Salm 72

*Tywllt ar dy bobl, O Dduw, degwch a chyflawnder.*

*Dyga ffyniant a gwaredigaeth rhag gormes.*

*Boed i gyflawnder flodeuo a heddwch lilo fel afon.*

*Boed i bawb ddod i d'adnabod di, O Dduw, o'r Afon hyd derfynau'r ddaear.*

Mae'n darlleniad allan o Eseia yn un cyfarwydd i'r Adfent, yn arbennig felly adeg gwasanaethau'r Naw Llith a Charol. Mae Eseia yn dwyn aton ni, trwy e broffwydoliaeth, yr addewid am gyfnod sydd i ddod, pan geir barn, cyflawnder a heddwch i bawb ei fwynhau. Fe ddaw pobl Dduw at ei gilydd, gan groesawu'i gilydd, a bryd hynny, bellach fydd dim mwy o sôn am y 'ni' a 'nhw', ond yn hytrach, 'pawb ohonon ni', fel un.

Wrth inni edrych ar ein byd heddiw, hawdd ydy anobeithio a chredu na ddaw adeg fyfth lle cawn fyw ochr yn ochr yn ddi-ofn, heb gasineb yn ein gwahanu.

**Beth mae'r geiriau 'cyflawnder', 'teguch' a 'heddwch' yn eu golygu i chi?**

**Lle mae gweld eu hangen, a sut mae eu gweithredu, yn fydd-eang, yn eich milltir sgwâr, yn eich eglwys ac yn eich bywyd chi eich hunan?**

### Gweddi

*Dduw'r greadigaeth oll, tywalltaist fendithion lu arna i, ac ar y byd hwn.*

*Pan na fyddaf yn ceisio ffyrdd cyflawnder, cyfeiria fi'n ôl.*

*Pan na fyddaf yn gweithredu gyda thegwch a heddwch yn fy nghalon, maddau imi.*

*Pan fyddaf yn anghofio bendith fy ffydd, dysga fi.*

*Pan fyddaf yn anghofio dy bresenoldeb yn fy mywyd, cara fi.*

*Gofynnaf a gweddi a hyn yn enw'r Hwn a ddisgwyliaf, Iesu Grist.*

*Amen.*



## Tuesday 4 December

# Righteousness



### Psalm 72

*Pour upon your people, O God, justice and righteousness.*

*Bring prosperity and deliverance from oppression.*

*May righteousness flourish and peace abound.*

*May all know you, O God, from the River to the ends of the earth.*

The reading from Isaiah is one familiar at Advent and particularly at a service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Isaiah brings to us, through his prophecy, the promise of a time to come when there will be justice, righteousness and peace for all to enjoy. Everyone will come together, welcoming one another, and no longer will there be any idea or thought of 'them and us', but rather 'all of us', as one.

As we look out to the world today, we may feel that this time will never come when we can live side by side without fear or hatred to separate us.

**What do the words 'righteousness', 'justice' and 'peace' mean to you?**

**Where are they needed, and how are they enacted, in the wider world, in your local area, in your church and in your own life?**

We still await the fulfilment of that prophecy, as we still await the time when Jesus will come once more, so that earth and heaven may truly know righteousness and peace. Jesus says a time will come when all shall be revealed, and then, speaking privately to the disciples, he tells them that they are blessed. Blessed because they have seen and heard far more than the prophets ever did.

On your Prayer Calendar, you may wish to write something you have been blessed with in your life.

We have been blessed with these Advent weeks which call us to think beyond the busyness of life and to reflect upon our participation in the world around. How can we share the blessings of faith with others?



### Prayer

*God of creation, you have poured many blessings upon me, and upon this world.*

*When I do not seek the way of righteousness, redirect me.*

*When I do not act with justice and peace in my heart, forgive me.*

*When I forget the blessing of my faith, teach me.*

*When I forget your presence in my life, love me.*

*This I ask and pray in the name of the One I await, Jesus Christ.*

*Amen.*

## Dydd Mercher, Rhagfyr 5

# Digonedd



## Salm 23

*Mae bwrrd wedi'i arlwyd o'm blaen gyda phopeth sydd ei angen arna i,  
gan imi ddilyn Duw fy Mugail ar hyd dyfroedd tawel,  
ac wedi gorffwys mewn porfeydd gwyrdigion,  
ac wedi cerdded trwy'r tywylaf o ddyffrynnoedd.  
Cefais gysur ac wedi clywed yr alwad i fyw yn nhŷ'r Arglwydd am byth.*

Mae'r darleniad o Eseia unwaith eto yn ein hannog i edrych ymlaen at yr hyn sydd eto'i ddod. Ar y diwrnod hwennw fe ddown at fynydd, at wledd o ddanteithion helaeth a'r gwinoedd gorau – sy'n sowndio'n fendigedig a pherffaith! Ond mwy iddo fo na hynny hefyd. Er mwyn cyrraedd y dydd hwn o loddesta, llawenhau a iachawdwriaeth, mae gofyn inni aros mewn cariad a dilyn ffodd Dduw mewn ffydd.

Ceir sôn pellach am ddarpariaeth helaeth o fwyd yn y darn ym Mathew. Yma, fe gawn hanes bwydo'r pedair mil a ddaeth ynghyd i wrando ar Iesu am dridiau. Cymer Iesu saith torth o fara a gyflwynwyd iddo, rhoi diolch amdanyn nhw, torri'r bara, ac yna ei rannu i'r bobl. Maen nhw'n cael eu digoni i'r graddau fel bod saith basgedaid o friwsion yn weddill – mwy na digon o fwyd.

## Gweddi

*Bugail dy braidd,  
tywys fi trwy ddyddiau anodd i lecyn llonydd, tawel.  
Helpa fi i lawenhau yn helaethrwydd dy gariad  
ac i gymryd yr amser i orffwys o'i fewn.  
Hyn ydy fy ngwedi – rho imi ddigon o fara beunyddiol i fyw  
a'r maeth ysbrydol sydd ei angen arnaf  
i dy ddilyn di pob un dydd.  
Amen.*



## Wednesday 5 December

# Abundance



## Psalm 23

*There is a table spread before me with all I need,  
for I have followed God my Shepherd by still waters,  
and I have rested in green pastures,  
and walked through the darkest of valleys.  
I have been given comfort and heard the call to dwell in God's house for ever.*

The reading from Isaiah once more encourages us to look to all that is yet to be. On that day we will come to a mountain, to a feast laid out with the richest of foods and the best of well-aged wines – which sounds both wonderful and perfect! There is more to it, though. To reach this day of feasting, rejoicing and salvation, we have to wait with love and follow the way of God in faith.

There is more abundance of food in the passage from Matthew. Here, we find the story of the feeding of the four thousand people who had gathered, and listened, to Jesus for three days. Jesus takes the seven loaves of bread presented to him, gives thanks for them, breaks the bread, and then gives it to the people. They are fed and the leftovers fill seven baskets – an abundance of food.

There is no shortage of food and wine in the Bible! Yet in this story we see an echo of the Eucharist, where bread is taken, prayers of thanksgiving are offered, the bread is broken and the bread shared out. This is the abundance of food to nourish us spiritually.

**What does the Eucharist, the Holy Communion, mean to you?**

The coming of the Christ-child reveals an abundance of love coming to us from God, a love of which there is no end. We need to be fed and nourished for our physical well-being, but we also need to be fed spiritually if we are to continue to follow the voice of the Shepherd.

On your Prayer Calendar you may want to write something about your experience of the Eucharist, or people you have shared a special meal with.



## Prayer

*Shepherd of your flock,  
guide me through the difficult days to a place of peace.  
Help me to rejoice in the abundance of your love  
and to take the time to rest within it.  
Give me, I pray, enough daily bread to live by  
and the spiritual nourishment I need  
to follow you each and every day.  
Amen.*

## Dydd Iau, Rhagfyr 6

# Cadernid



### Salm 118

*Agorwch y pyrth... a dof innau i mewn a diolch i'r Arglwydd!  
Fe wnest ti wrando arna i a dod yn waredigaeth imi, yn gonglfaen.  
Dy waith di ydy hyn i gyd; mae'n rhyfeddol yn ein golwg ni.  
Gorfoleddaf a llawenhau, canys dyma ydy'r dydd y gwnaethost ti.*

Mae cerdded trwy giatiau agored i roi diolch i Dduw yn galw am ffydd, a ffydd sydd wedi'i wreiddio ac yn gadarn. Mae'r gair 'cadarn' yn un sydd i'w weld yn aml yn y Beibl, ac fe geir sawl ffordd o ddisgrifio'i ystyr, o 'diysgog, digyfnewid neu ddi-ildio', i 'ffyddlon, triw, penderfynol, a dibynadwy'.

#### Beth mae cadernid yn ei feddwli chi?

Dywed Eseia wrthon ni mai'r rhai hynny sy'n cael mynd i mewn i ddinas Duw ydy'r rhai sydd â meddwl cadarn ac sy'n cynnal heddwch. Iddyn nhw, Duw ydy'r Graig dragwyddol, ddigyfnewid. Ac eto, gydag Emaniwel, Duw gyda ni yn Iesu, mae Duw yn hebrwng newid aruthrol (a newid heriol – i Dduw ac i ninnau!). Daw Duw aton ni yn ein dynoliaeth a holl symudiadau cyfnewidiol diwylliant, cymdeithas, safbwytiau a digwyddiadau'r byd ein dyddiau ni. Mae cadernid i'w gael yn y cariad sy'n dod i lawr i'n daear, aton ni, ac eto mae'n ddigon hyblyg a newidiol i ymgryraedd at y bywydau rydyn ni'n ei fyw heddiw.

### Gwedi

*Dduw digyfnewid? Dduw newidiol?  
Fe wn dy fod yn gadarn yn dy gariad tuag at ai,  
ac mai ti ydy'r graig gadarn dan fy nhraed.  
Boed i bopeth sydd eisoes wedi newid, ac yn dal i newid yn fy mywyd,  
fyth leihau'r cariad y ceisias ei roi i ti.  
Boed i'm cariad a'm ffydd fod yn fythol gadarn.  
Amen.*



## Thursday 6 December

# Steadfastness



### Psalm 118

*Open up the gates so I may enter and give you thanks, O God!  
You answered me and have become my salvation, my cornerstone.  
All this is your doing; it is marvellous to behold.  
I will rejoice and be glad, for this day you have made.*

To walk through the open gates to gives thanks to God requires faith, and a faith that is deeply rooted and steadfast. 'Steadfast' is a word we often come across in the Bible, and there are a variety of ways to describe its meaning, from 'firm, not changing or yielding', to 'loyal, true, tireless, determined, and dependable'.

#### What does steadfastness mean to you?

Isaiah tells us that those who can enter God's city are those who are of a steadfast mind and keep the peace. For them God is the everlasting and unchanging Rock. Yet, with Emmanuel, God with us in Jesus, God brings about an enormous change (and challenge – for God and us!). God comes to us in our humanity and the ever-changing movement of culture, society, viewpoints and world events. There is steadfastness in the love that comes to earth, to us, but it is also fluid and changeable enough to reach into the lives we live today.

In the parable of the house built on sand and the house built on rock, it is the house built on rock that is the steadfast one, as we see when the house on sand is easily destroyed. Our faith too needs to stand fast and be built on rock.

Advent is a time to rebuild and build upon the steadfastness of our faith. This means accepting that as we mature – in age and in faith – our understanding of God and how God works within us will also change over the years and through our day-to-day experiences.

*In the busyness of the coming weeks, where, when and how may you need to remain steadfast?*

On your Prayer Calendar, you may wish to write your answer down, to help you bring it into prayer



### Prayer

*Shepherd of your flock,  
guide me through the difficult days to a place of peace.  
Help me to rejoice in the abundance of your love  
and to take the time to rest within it.  
Give me, I pray, enough daily bread to live by  
and the spiritual nourishment I need  
to follow you each and every day.  
Amen.*



## Dydd Gwener, Rhagfyr 7

# Gobaith



### Salm 27

*Yr Arglwydd yw fy ngoleuni, fy ngwaredigiaeth a chadernid fy mywyd, rhag pwys yr ofnaf?  
Bydd fy ngwrthwynebwyr a'm gelynion yn baglu ac yn syrthio, sefyddaf innau'n aros yn hyderus.  
Un peth dwi'n ei geisio, sef cael byw yn nhŷ'r Arglwydd, i edrych ar ei hawddgarwch.  
Disgwyliaf yn gryfa gwrol. Disgwylwnaf am Dduu.*

Heddiw rydyn ni gam bach arall yn nes at gyflawni'r addewid o obaith i ddynolryw. Amser lle bydd y byddar yn clywed, bydd y rhai addfwyn yn gorfoleddu, y dall yn gweld a'r gormeswyr yn cael eu diorseddu. Amser o obaith fydd hwn, ac amser i obeithio. Gyda'r gobaith hwn, daw i ben y gwahaniaethu a'r didoli rhwng pob 'nhw' ac fe fydd pawb yn unol ac fel un.

**Beth sy'n eich llenwi â gobaith ar hyn o bryd?**

**Beth ydy eich gobaith wrth i'r Nadolig nesáu?**

Ceir proffwydoliaeth Eseia yn adleisio yng ngeiriau a gweinidogaeth Iesu: Duw'n gweithredu'n rymus yn y byd. Mae Iesu nid yn unig yn addysgu ond yn iacháu – yn iacháu'n gorfforol, a hefyd, trwy'r cariad mae'n ei ddwyn gydag ef, yn iacháu clwyfau mewnol y bobl a'r greadigaeth oll.

Yn y darleniad o Mathew, gwelwn hanes y ddau ddyn dall. Maen nhw'n credu y gall Iesu eu hiacháu ac nid gobaith gwag oedd hynny 'chwaith: rhoddyd eu golwg yn ôl. Fel canlyniad

### Gweddi

*Dduw goleuni a gobaith,  
edrych gyda thosturi ar dy bobl a'th fyd.*

*Tyrd ag iachâd i gymunedau sydd wedi'u rhwigo gan wrthdaro a chynnen,  
gan gynnig gobaith am well dyfodol.*

*Gweddi a heddiw dros... Ychwanegwch unrhyw bobl neu leoedd sydd mewn ag angen iachâd  
a gobaith.*

*Boed i minnau fod, y dydd hwn, yn berson o obaith a chysur.  
Amen.*



## Friday 7 December

# Hope



### Psalm 27

*God is my light, my salvation, my stronghold; whom shall I fear?  
Those who seek me harm will stumble and I will remain confident.  
I seek only to dwell in God's house, to see the beauty of God.  
I will wait with strength and courage. I will wait for God.*

Today we edge ever closer to the future promise of hope for all. A time when the deaf will hear, the meek will know joy, the blind will see and the tyrants will no longer rule. A time of hope and a time for hope. With this hope, the different classes of 'they' will come to an end, and all shall be united as one.

**What fills you with hope at this moment?**

**What is your hope as Christmas draws closer?**

The prophecy of Isaiah is one we find echoed in the words and ministry of Jesus: God acting powerfully in the world. Jesus not only teaches but heals – he heals physically, and also, through the love he brings, he heals the hurts of the people and all creation.

In the passage from Matthew, we read of the healing of two men who are blind. They believe that Jesus can heal them and their hope in him is not unfounded: sight is given.

Along with their sight they are reunited with the wider community, and with the whole movement of creation. Even though they are told to keep the origin of this healing to themselves, they go and tell as many people as they can. This is good news; this is hope for all!

We do not have to be literally blind to be blind to the people around us, and to various events in the world. It can be easy when looking at and hearing the daily news to wonder where hope is, and so to be 'blind', to ignore what is happening. The news then asks little from us. Yet the Good News of Jesus' birth is one of hope in action, of engagement with the world, if not physically then certainly in prayer.

On your Prayer Calendar, you may wish to write down an area of the world where hope is needed, and also what you hope for in your own life – generally and in relationship with God.



### Prayer

*God of light and hope,  
look with compassion on your people and world.  
Bring healing to communities torn apart by conflict  
and give them the hope of a better future.  
I pray this day for... Add in any people and places in need of healing and hope.  
May I be, this day, a person of hope and healing and comfort.  
Amen.*

## Sadwrn, Rhagfyr 8

# Iachâd



### Salm 147

*Molwch yr Arglwydd! Cenwch i'n Duw graslon, sy'n casglu ynghyd rhai gwasgaredig Israel.  
Y Duw sy'n iacháu'r drylliedig o galon  
ac yn codi'r rhai gostyngedig,  
ond yn bwrrw'r drygionus i'r llawr.  
Molwch yr Arglwydd! Canys mae pawb sydd â gobaith yn sefyll yn gadarn yng nghariad  
diwyro Duw.*

Down at ddiwedd wythnos gyntaf yr Advent gyda  
geiriau sy'n ein hatgoffa y bydd Duw yn rhwymo  
briwiau ei bobl ac iacháu'r archollion mewnol,  
ac allanol, a achoswyd inni. Bydd Duw yn  
darparu. Bydd Duw yn iacháu. Dyma Emaniwel,  
Dyw gyda ni.

#### *Beth sy'n dod i'ch meddwl wrth glywed y geiriau 'iacháu' neu iachâd'?*

Gall iachâd gyfeirio at iachâd corfforol neu  
feddygol rydyn ni'n ei geisio. Gall olygu derbyn  
ein cyfyngiadau a'r angen am faddeuant.  
Mae angen iachâd ar bob un ohonon ni. Gall  
ei fod yn cyfeirio at yr iachâd sydd ei angen  
wedi anghytundeb, neu anghydfod. Gall olygu  
ymwybyddiaeth ddyfnach o'r ffordd mae'r  
ddynoliaeth wedi rheibio'r ddaear neu wedi  
dod â dinistr trwy wrthdaro; gwelir cymaint o  
sefyllfaedd lle mae angen cynnig gweddïau taer  
am iachâd a heddwch.

## Gwedi

*Dduw iachâd a thrugaredd,  
maddau imi pan fydda i'n brifo eraill, mewn gair neu weithred,  
maddau imi pan na fydda i'n gweithredu mewn cariad a heddwch.  
Adnewyddfa fi trwy dy gariad.  
Anfona fi i fod yn gyfrwng dy bresenoldeb iachaol yn ein byd.  
Anfona fi i rannu Newyddion Da dy Fab, Iesu Grist.  
Amen.*



## Saturday 8 December

# Healing



### Psalm 147

*Praise God! Sing to God who is gracious, who gathers together the outcasts of Israel.  
God who heals the broken-hearted  
and lifts up the downtrodden,  
but casts out the wicked.  
Praise God! For all who have hope stand firm in God's steadfast love.*

We end this first week of Advent with the reminder that God will bind up our injuries and heal the inner, and outer, wounds inflicted upon us. God will provide. God will heal. This is Emmanuel, God with us.

#### *What do you think about when you hear the word 'healing'?*

Healing may refer to a physical and medical healing that we seek. It may mean accepting our limitations and need of forgiveness. We all need healing. It may refer to the healing needed where there has been a disagreement, or a falling out. It may mean a deeper awareness of how humankind has ravaged the earth or brought destruction through conflict; there are many places where prayers for healing and peace need to be offered.

#### *As Christmas approaches, where may the need of healing be required?*

Advent reminds us that God has called us to be a people of compassion and love towards all. This we are to give freely, as Jesus tells his disciples. They are to do as he has taught and shown them. They are to go out and reveal the hope and the healing of the Shepherd who gathers all into the sheepfold. We all have a part to play; as we read, Jesus says the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

As disciples today, how can you go out and reveal the hope and healing of God, and share the story of the Nativity?

On your Prayer Calendar, write down your own need for healing, or that of someone you know, or an area in the world in need of healing.



## Prayer

*God of healing and compassion,  
forgive me when I hurt others,  
forgive me when I do not act with love and peace.  
Renew me through your love.  
Send me out to be a channel of your healing presence in this world.  
Send me out to share the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*

**9 Rhagfyr**

**9 December**

Ail Sul yr Adfent

The Second Sunday of Advent

---

**Fe'i Gelwir yn**

**Fab i Dduw**

He Will Be

Called Son of God

## Gweddi'r Gannwyll

Wrth inni oleuo'r ail gannwyll hon, boed i hyn ein hatgoffa  
 i fod yn barod, yn ysbrydol ac yn weddigar, yn ystod wythnosau'r Adfent hwn.  
 O Dduu,  
 wrth imi edrych ar y gannwyll hon,  
 agor fy nghalon i gael fy nghoethi yng ngwres tân dy gariad.  
 Cyfeiria fi ddydd wrth ddydd i ymbaratoi ar gyfer dyfodiad Mab Duw,  
 fel na fyddaf yn baglu ar hyd llwybrau anwastad,  
 ond yn hytrach cerdded gyda sicrwydd ffydd  
 yn yr Un y mae disgwyl amdano bellach, Iesu Grist.  
 Amen.



## Cantigl: *Benedictus*

Bendigedig fyddo'n Duw, sy'n edrych yn ffafriol ar yr holl bobloedd.  
**Y Duw fu'n llefaru trwy'r proffwydi eiriau i'n dyrchafu,**  
**ein hadfer, a'n dwyn i iachawdwriaeth.**  
 Bendigedig fyddo'n Duw, sy'n dangos trugaredd ar yr holl bobloedd.  
**Y Duw a gofiodd y cyfamod wnaed gydag Abraham,**  
**ac sy'n ei galw i was'naethu'n ddi-ofn ond mewn sancteiddrwydd a chyflawnder.**  
 Bendigedig fyddo'n Duw, sy'n cynnig maddeuant i'r holl bobloedd.  
**Y Duw a alwodd broffwyd i baratoi'r ffordd**  
**a sôn am iachawdwriaeth a maddeuant trwy edifeirwch am bechodau.**  
 Bendigedig fyddo'n Duw, sy'n tywallt tosturi tyner ar yr holl bobloedd.  
**Y Duw sy'n rhoi inni oleuni mewn amseroedd tywyll**  
**ac a'n tywys ein traed i deithio llwybr tangnefedd.**



## Gweddi

Mae'r dydd yn dod pan fydd Duw'n datguddio'i hun ar ffurf dyn:  
**Disgwyliwn dy ddyfodiad i'n plith, Emaniwel,**  
**rŵan ac am byth.**  
 Amen.



## Candle Prayer

As we light this second candle, may it be a reminder to us  
 to be prepared spiritually and prayerfully during these weeks of Advent.  
 O God,  
**as I look upon this candle,**  
**open my heart to be refined in the fire of your love.**  
**Guide me day by day to be prepared for the coming of the Son of God,**  
**that I may not stumble along uneven paths,**  
**but walk with a surety of faith**  
**in the One now awaited, Jesus Christ.**  
 Amen.



## Canticle: *Benedictus*

Blessed be God who looks with favour upon all people.  
**God who spoke through the prophets words to raise us up,**  
**to redeem us, and to bring us salvation.**  
 Blessed be God who shows mercy to all people.  
**God who remembered the covenant made with Abraham,**  
**and calls us to serve without fear but in holiness and righteousness.**  
 Blessed be God who offers forgiveness to all people.  
**God who called forth a prophet to prepare the way**  
**and tell of salvation and forgiveness through the repentance of sins.**  
 Blessed be God who pours tender mercy upon all people.  
**God who gives us light in the dark times**  
**and will guide our feet to travel the path of peace.**



## Prayer

The day is coming when God will be revealed in human form:  
**We await your coming among us, Emmanuel,**  
**now and always.**  
 Amen.



## 'Fe Fydd yn Cael Ei Enw'n Emanniwel'

Beth ydi ystyr y ferf 'fydd' yn y datganiad hwn? Ai dyletswydd neu orchymyn ydyw – rhwbyth sy'n rhwymo?

Wrth edrych ar yr hyn a 'fydd' yng nghyddestun y Llyfr Adfent hwn, down i ddeall mai datganiad sydd yma o'r hyn sydd i ddod. Dyma addewid, efallai, yn hytrach na gorchymyn – addewid y bydd Duw gyda ni.

### Darleniadau

Os oes amser ganddoch chi, darllenwch trwy'r darnau'n llawn:

**Malachi 3:1-4** Mae'r proffwyd yn sôn am yr amser pan anfonir negesydd i baratoi'r ffordd. Bydd yr Un ddaw ar ei ôl fel tân sy'n puro, purwr arian. Yr adeg hynny fe fydd popeth a offrymir i Dduw yn plesio Duw.

**Philipiaid 1:3-11** Mae gweddi Paul am gariad sy'n gorlifo, ac am y ddealltwriaeth a'r ddirnadaeth mewnwelediad sydd i'w ennill. Bryd hynny, fe fydd pawb yn byw bywyd pur a di-fai o ogoneddu a moli Duw.

**Luc 3:1-16** Mae Luc yn dyfynnu'r proffwyd Eseia a'r addewid am yr un a fydd yn dod i baratoi ffordd yr Arglwydd. Wrth baratoi, fe fydd y dyffrynnoedd yn cael eu llenwi, a'r mynyddoedd yn cael eu lefelu ac fe wneir y llwybrau'n llyfn.

*Beth sy'n dod i'ch meddwl chi gyntaf wrth ddarllen y darnau hyn, a beth allen ni ei ddysgu oddi wrthyn nhw ynglŷn â'r gwahanol ystyron sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gair 'fydd'?*

*Beth mae'r darleniadau hyn yn dweud wrthon ni yn y tymor Adfent hwn?*

## 'They Shall Name Him Emmanuel'

How do we differentiate between the word 'shall' and the word 'will'? Both seem to overlap, and the dictionary defines them both as expressing a promise or obligation that will be fulfilled. 'Shall' may be included in a question or a request; it could be an expectation or a possibility, or something that will definitely happen.

When we look at 'shall' in the context of the title of this Advent Book, we see that 'shall' is the proclamation of what will/shall come to be. It is perhaps a promise, rather than an obligation, that the name to be given shall be the name Emmanuel.

### Readings

If you have time, read through the passages in full:

**Malachi 3:1-4** The prophet speaks of the times when a messenger will come to prepare the way. The One who comes after him will be like a refining fire, a refiner of silver. At that time all that is offered to God shall be pleasing to God.

**Philippians 1:3-11** Paul's prayer is of a love that overflows, and of knowledge and insight that shall be gained. Then, all shall live a pure and blameless life in giving glory and praise to God.

**Luke 3:1-16** Luke quotes the prophet Isaiah and the promise of the one who will come to prepare the way of the Lord. In preparation the valleys shall be filled, the mountains lowered and the rough pathways made smooth.

*What are your initial thoughts on these readings, and what may we learn from them about the various meanings behind the word 'shall'?*

*What do these readings say to us in this season of Advent?*

## Datblygu'r Thema

Mae cael hyd i bwysigrwydd 'bydd' o fewn y darlenniadau hyn yn ymddangos yn anodd i ddechrau – efallai bod yr ystyr braidd yn rhy guddiedig. Yn ail wythnos yr Advent, down i ffocysu ar y proffwydi a lefarodd am bopeth a oedd a phopeth fydd yn digwydd. Gan Dduw y cawson nhw'r geiriau i'w llefaru, yn taflu golwg gobeithiol at amser anhysbys yn y dyfodol. Mae Paul, yn ei lythyr at y Philipiaid, yn taflu golwg yn ôl i ddatgelu'r broffwydoliaeth am bopeth a oedd i ddigwydd; mae'r 'oedd' wedi'i wireddu'n 'fydd' ym mherson Iesu, meddai.

**Beth ydy ystyr cael eich puro fel arian yn eich tŷb chi?**

**Beth a ofynnir ganddon ni pan fo Paul yn datgan y dylen ni fyw bywyd pur a di-fai?**

**Beth mae'n ei feddwli ddal ati i baratoi'r ffordd am ddyfodiad Iesu?**

Cawn fyfrio ai gorchymyn neu addewid a glywir yn y gair 'bydd'. Mae rhywbeth amwys yn y ferf yma, a daw'r gwir ystyr yn sgil y modd y byddwn ni'n ei glywed, ei ddeall a'i ddadansoddi.

Pan fyddwn yn ystyried unrhyw ddarn o'r Beibl, mae'r un amwyster ar waith. Gellir clywed a dehongli geiriau mewn gwahanol ffyrdd, a bydd dealltwriaeth un person yn wahanol i ddealltwriaeth person arall. Mae'r arlliwiau o ystyr hefyd yn dibynnu ar y ffordd yr ydym yn teimlo ar y pryd, yr hyn sy'n ei taro ni, a ffactorau eraill, megis pa mor gyfarwydd ydi'r stori a'i chefnidir inni. Bydd darllen stori a mynd ati i ddadansoddi pob gair yn magu dealltwriaeth wahanol i'r hyn y gallwn ei brofi pan fyddwn yn defnyddio'r union un stori, a'r union eiriau, i fyfrio neu weddio.

Er hynny, mae neges bendant bob amser i'w darganfod.

### **Beth, tybed, ydy'r neges o'r darlenniadau uchod?**

Un neges ydy gobaith, un arall ydy ymddiriedaeth, ac un arall ydy addewid: i ymddiried a gobeithio yn yr addewid y bydd geiriau'r proffwydi, un dydd, yn cael eu gwireddu'n realaeth. Dros yr Advent, aros byddwn ni am yr addewid, Mab y Dyn, a'r realaeth sy'n dod i'n daear trwy ei eni ar y Nadolig. Adeg yr Advent hefyd, fe edrychwn ymlaen at yr amser addawyd yn y dyfodol pan fydd Iesu'n dychwelyd.

Ond mae llawer mwy na hynny: rhyddid a chymuned. Mae Luc yn dyfynnu'r proffwyd Eseia (40: 3-5) a darn sy'n datgan gobaith a rhyddid i gymuned Israel – darn a fydd hefyd yn cael ei uniaethu ag Ioan Fedyddiwr. Mae geiriau Eseia'n gosod allan y paratoi angenrheidiol ar gyfer un sy'n dyfod adref, Duw'n dod i fod gyda ni yn Iesu. Bellach ni fydd pobl Israel yn alltud: fe fyddan nhw'n dod adref! Fyddwn ninnau 'chwaith ddim yn alltud, canys mewn ffydd, mae inni groeso adref trwy'r Un sydd i'w alw Iesu, Mab Duw.

Yn ei lyfr, *Hopeful Imagination: Prophetic Voices in Exile*, mae Walter Brueggemann yn sgwennu am natur wyrdroadol y dychymyg bardol. Nid cyfeirio y mae o at y math o farrdoniaeth sydd â math penodol o odl neu rythm iddi; yn hytrach, dyma farrdoniaeth sy'n ysgogi delweddu, meddyliau a chanfyddiadau mewnol. Yn Luc, fe welwn Eseia sydd, trwy ei eiriau bardol, yn cymhell dwyn i gof 'hen atgofion a datganiadau mewn ffordd ryfeddol sy'n rhoi ysgytiad i holl faes canfyddiadol Israel, gan achosi dirnadaeth o realaeth sy'n gyfangwbl newydd' (tudalen 96). Gelwir ar y bobl i gofio, ac wrth gofio, fe ddaw gobaith newydd i fod.

Meddai Brueggemann ymhellach: 'mae'r farrdoniaeth yn treiddio'n ddyfnach

## Opening Up the Theme

To discover the importance of 'shall' within these readings may at first seem difficult – the meaning may be a little too well hidden. In this second week of Advent we come to focus on the prophets who spoke of all that was and all that shall come to pass. The words they spoke were given to them by God, and looked ahead to an unknown future time. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, looks back to reveal the prophecy of all that shall come; this, he says, has come in the person of Jesus.

**What does it mean to you to be refined like silver?**

**What is being asked of us when Paul says we are to live a pure and blameless life?**

**What does it mean to continue to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus?**

The word 'shall' appears and sounds less aggressive or forthright than the word 'will'; what do you think? Meaning is, however, a matter of how we understand a word and interpret it, and then use it; and as we have seen, both words can be defined in the same way.

When we approach a passage from the Bible, then, in a similar way the words may be interpreted or be understood as giving a particular meaning to one person and a slightly different meaning to another. The shades of meaning also depend on how we feel at the time, what jumps out at us, and other factors, such as how familiar we are with the story or background story. Reading a passage to analyse each word will bring us something very different from what we may experience when we use it for reflection or prayer.

Yet, there is always a definite message to be discerned.

**What might that message be from the readings above?**

One message is hope, another is trust, and another is promise: to trust and hope in the promise that the words of the prophets shall one day be a reality. In Advent we await the promise of the Son of God and the reality which comes to earth and to birth at Christmas. In Advent, too, we look ahead to the future promised time when Jesus will come again.

There is more, though: freedom and community. Luke quotes the prophet Isaiah (40:3-5) and a passage which speaks of hope and freedom for the community of Israel – a passage which shall also come to relate to John the Baptist. The words of Isaiah set out the preparation required for a homecoming, for God coming to be with us in Jesus. No longer will the people of Israel be in exile: they shall come home! Neither shall we be in exile, for in faith we too have a homecoming in the One to be called Jesus, the Son of God.

In his book, *Hopeful Imagination: Prophetic Voices in Exile*, Walter Brueggemann writes about the subversive nature of the poetic imagination. He isn't referring to the type of poetry that has a particular rhyme and rhythm to it; rather this is the poetry which evokes inner images, thoughts and perceptions. In Luke we see Isaiah who, through his poetic words, provokes a remembering of 'old memories and affirmations in an astonishing way to jar the perceptual field of Israel and to cause a wholly new discernment of reality' (page 96). The people are called to remember, and with remembering there shall be a new hope.

Brueggemann continues: 'the poetry cuts underneath behaviour to begin to transform

nag ymddygiad i ddechrau trawsnewid yr hunanddelwedd, y ddelwedd gymunedol a delwedd posiblwydd hanesyddol... fel bod modd ystyried ffurfiau newydd o bosiblwydd cymunedol' (tudalen 97). Mewn geiriau eraill, roedd yn rhaid i bobl Israel, fel ninnau, wynebu'r syniad y gall ac y bydd newid yn dda inni! Nid yn unig hynny, ond mae'r mynegiant barddonol yn gymorth inni ymwrthod â'r canfyddiad camarweiniol rydyn ni'n aml yn ei greu o'r gorffennol; mae'n gymorth inni edrych gyda ffydd go iawn a gwir obaith yn addewid Duw.

**Sut all cofio ddod ag ymdeimlad newydd o realaeth a gobaith am y presennol a'r dyfodol?**

**Bath a all hynny ei olygu i chithau, y gymuned leol, yr Eglwys a'r byd yn ehangach?**

Yn Iesu fe welwn barhad o'r dychymyg barddonol hyn yn y damhegion, sydd hefyd yn ceisio arwain y bobl o'u halltud ac i wlad yr addewid: teyrnas Dduw. Maen nhw'n ein galw ni i ymgysylltu â nhw er mwyn inni wedyn ddod i ddeall mwy am y Duw o'n mewn, a'r ffordd adref. Oherwydd 'ymhle bynnag yr ydyn ni', meddai Brueggemann, mae'n 'le o alltudiaeth a dieithriad' ac mae'n calonau ni'n aflonydd, ac felly 'mae' straeon yn cynnig gwir orffwys, adref' (tudalen 97).

Dyma beth sgwennodd Awstin, esgob o'r bumed ganrif: 'Fe'i th gwnaethost ni er dy fwyn dy hun, O Arglwydd, ac mae'n calonau'n aflonydd hyd nes eu bod yn gorffwys ynot ti.' Yn y geiriau hyn, fe welwn fod Awstin wedi deall yr ymdeimlad hwn o alltudiaeth a'r daith rydyn ni'n ymgymryd â hi, mewn ffydd, i ddod yn y pen draw at deyrnas Dduw, a chyrraedd adref o'r diwedd.

**Sut ydych chi'n dehongli geiriau Awstin?**

**Pa mor aflonydd ydych chi ar hyn o bryd ac ydy'r ymdeimlad hynny o aflonyddwch yn ymwnneud â'r holl firi sy'n arwain at y Nadolig?**

**Sut fedrwch chi wneud y gorau o'r Advent hwn er mwyn ichi allu treulio mwy o amser yn gorffwys yng nghwmni Duw?**

## Stori'r Geni – 'Ac Fe Fydd yn Cael Ei Alw'n Fab Duw'

Mae'r darn yma, fel yr un a welson ni'r wythnos ddiwethaf, yn deillio o'r Cyfarchiad – ymwelliad yr angel Gabriel â Mair. Dywedwyd wrth Mair y byddai'r plentyn roedd am ei geni yn cael ei alw Iesu, ac y byddai'n Fab i Dduw – hyn oll cyn iddi gytuno i unrhyw beth mae Duw'n gofyn ganddi! O leiaf does dim rhaid treulio amser yn meddwl am enw i'r babi!

Fel y gwelson ni'r wythnos ddiwethaf, mae Mair yn datgan 'Gwnaf' wrth yr angel, a thrwy hynny i Dduw. Yn ei lyfr, *The Broken Body*, meddai Jean Vanier: 'pan roedd yr amser yn briodol, dewisodd Duw merch ifanc o Iddewes, Mair, dyweddi i Joseph, a datgelu, trwy gennad angel, y deuai hi'n fam i Grist' (tudalen 34).

Yn y cynllun hwn gan Dduw, fel mae Varnier yn ei ddisgrifio, mae Duw'n fodlon ymwnneud â dynoliaeth sydd nid yn unig yn ffaoledig ond yn fregus hefyd. Fel y sgwennai: 'O eiliadau cyntaf ei eni, yr unig amddiffyn a diogelwch a oedd gan Iesu oedd breichiau ei fam, Mair a phresenoldeb Joseff, ei dad' (tudalen 35). Bydd Mab Duw'n dod i mewn i'r byd fel baban ag angen ei amddiffyn, gwres, lloches a bwyd – yr union un anghenion corfforol ac emosiyonal â phob babi arall.

**Sut deimlad, dybiwch chi, ydy teimlo'n fregus a diamdiffyn?**

**Pwy ydy'r bobl fregus hynny o'n cwmpas yn ein cymdeithas a'n byd heddiw?**

**Sut mae modd i ni, yr Eglwys, gynnig cymorth a chefnogaeth i'r rhai bregus?**

the self-image, communal image and the image of historical possibility ... so that fresh forms of communal possibility can be entertained' (page 97). In other words, the people of Israel, like us, had to confront the idea that change can and shall be good for us! Not only that, but the poetic expression helps us to remove the rose-coloured spectacles we often wear when thinking of times past; it helps us to look with real faith and with true hope in the promise of God.

**How may remembering bring a new sense of reality and hope for the present and the future?**

**What may this mean for yourself, the local community, the Church and the wider world?**

In Jesus we see a continuation of this poetic imagination in the parables, which also seek to lead the people out of exile and into the promised land: the kingdom of God. They call us to engage with them so that we shall then come to understand more of the God within us, and the way home. For 'no matter where [we are]', says Brueggemann, it is 'a place of exile and alienation' and our hearts are restless, and so 'these stories are an offer of genuine rest, at home' (page 97).

The fifth-century bishop, Augustine, wrote: 'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.' In these words, we see that Augustine understood this sense of exile and the journey we undertake, in faith, to come finally to God's kingdom, at home at last.

**How do you understand these words of Augustine?**

**How restless are you at this moment and is that sense of restlessness associated with the run-up to Christmas?**

**How shall you make the most of this Advent so that you can spend more time resting in the presence of God?**

## The Nativity – 'He Will Be Called Son of God'

This passage, as with the one we looked at last week, is taken from the Annunciation – the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary. Mary is told that the child she shall bring to birth will be called Jesus, and that he will be the Son of God – and all of this before she agrees to anything God is asking of her! At least she won't have to spend time wondering what name to choose for the baby.

As we also saw last week, Mary gives her 'Yes' to the angel, and to God. In his book *The Broken Body*, Jean Vanier writes: 'when the time was ripe, God chose a young Jewish woman, Mary, espoused to Joseph, and revealed through the message of an angel that she would become the mother of Christ' (page 34).

In this plan of God, as Vanier describes it, God is willing to take on not only our humanity but also our vulnerability. He writes: 'At birth, Jesus had no security but the arms of Mary and the presence of Joseph' (page 35). The Son of God shall enter the world as a baby in need of protection, warmth, shelter and food – the same physical and emotional needs of all babies.

**What does it feel like to you to feel vulnerable?**

**Who are the vulnerable people around us in the world today?**

**How can we, the Church, offer help and support to the vulnerable?**

Mae'n rhaid bod Mair, hefyd, yn teimlo'n fregus iawn wedi iddi roi'i hateb a chydsynio i ddo yn fam i Grist. Gosododd ei bywyd mewn peryg: yn wynebu cael ei gwrthod gan Joseff a'r eithaf fyddai cael ei llabyddio i farwolaeth am gludo babi nad oedd yn blentyn i'w dyweddi. Fodd bynnag, gallwn ddarganfod rhywfaint am ei ffydd a'i chryfder mewnol. Fe gofleidiodd ac fe ymgorfforodd Mair ei galwad gan Dduw i fod yn ddisgybl uffff Iddo. Mae'n rhoi i ninnau'r anogaeth hefyd i ymddiried yn Nuw a cheisio ein llwybr ninnau o fod yn ddigybllion.

*Beth ydy'ch dehongliad chi o'r gair  
'disgyblaeth' neu 'bod yn ddigybll'?*

*Beth mae'n ei olygu i chi i fod yn ddisgybl i Jesu?*

*Sut ydych chi'n mynegi hynny yn eich bywyd?*

## Gweddi

*Dduw pob graslornwydd,  
y mae dy gariad yn cofleidio popeth o fewn dy greadigaeth,  
gweddïaf heddiw dros... Ychwanegwch unrhyw un yr hoffech weddö drostyn nhw'n benodol.  
Boed i bawb yn y byd deimlo eu bod yn cael eu cynnwys,  
a phrofi cyflawnder a heddwch, cariad a chroeso.  
Amen.*



## Gweddi i Gloi

*Dy enw di, O Dduw, ydy Emaniwel.  
Mewn ffydd, fe ddisgwyliaf arnat ti.  
Pan fydda i'n teimlo'n anniddig,  
rho dangefedd imi;  
pan fydda i'n teimlo'n fregus,  
tyrd â chysur imi;  
pan fydda i'n teimlo'n ansicr am dy alwad i mi,  
rho ddirnadaeth deall imi;  
pan fydda i'n dy deimlo di'n bell oddi wrtha i,  
tynn fi'n nes atat.  
Mewn ffydd, disgwyliaf arnat ti yn wythnosau'r Adfent hwn.  
Gofynnaf hyn yn enw Iesu, Emaniwel.  
Amen.*



Mary, too, must have felt very vulnerable after giving her answer and agreeing to become the mother of Christ. She placed her life in danger: she faced being put aside by Joseph and at the worst being stoned to death for carrying a baby that was not the child of her espoused partner. We can, though, discover something of her inner faith and strength. Mary embraced and embodied her discipleship and calling from God. She gives us the encouragement to also trust in God and to seek out our own way of being a disciple.

*What do you understand by the word 'discipleship'?*

*What does it mean to you to be a disciple of Jesus?*

*How do you express your own discipleship?*

## Prayer Calendar

Whether alone or at an Advent Group, think of one or two groups of people, issues or events that you could include in your Prayer Calendar from this session.

Bring that to God in the silence of your heart, or aloud



## Prayer

*God of graciousness,  
whose love embraces all within creation,  
I pray now for... Add in those you wish to pray for particularly.  
May all in this world feel included,  
and know justice and peace, love and welcome.  
Amen.*



## Prayer

*Your name, O God, is Emmanuel.  
You are with me and with all people.  
Be with me in the changing nature of the world,  
so that I may find my place within it  
and may seek to do as you call me to.  
Help me as I say now, 'Here am I.'  
Help me as I say now, 'Let it be.'  
Give me the courage and the faith  
to never waver from your side during this Advent season  
and through each and every day of my life.  
This I ask in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel.  
Amen.*



## Dydd Llun, Rhagfyr 10

### Maddeuant



#### Salm 85

*Bydded imi glywed geiriau heddwch Duw'n cael eu cyhoeddi i'w bobl,  
ac i'r rhai â chalonau ffyddlon iddo.  
Mae achubiaeth gerllaw a chyflawnder a heddwch yn cusaru'i gilydd.  
Bydd ffyddlondeb yn tarddu fel ffrydiau o'r ddaear,  
Yr Arglwydd fydd yn darparu'n hanghenion ynghyd â phob daioni.*

Dim ond pan fo parodrwydd i faddau y daw cyflawnder a heddwch ynghyd i gusanu, pan osodir o'r neilltu popeth all ein gwahanu neu'n brifo ni. Mae achubiaeth neu waredigaeth, hefyd yn gofyn ein bod ni'n gwneud ein rhan wrth geisio maddeuant Duw ac asesu'n bywydau'n gyson barhaol wrth inni ymdrechu i ddilyn ffordd y ffydd.

Yn ein darllenidiadau heddiw, cyflwynir dwy ddelwedd dra gwahanol; un sy'n datgelu'n fyw iawn yr hyn a all ddigwydd pan nad oes maddeuant; y llall yn datgelu sut mae pechod – a'r awch am faddeuant – yn cael eu camddeall.

Mae Eseia'n cyflwyno darlun tywyll o ddialedd Duw. Mae'n ddarlun sy'n hawdd inni unioni â hi wrth inni wylio'r newyddion a gweld delweddua gwrthdaro a chynnhen a gwledydd yn dioddef gwewyr rhyfel. Efallai nad ydy pob gwrthdaro ein dyddiau ni wedi deillio o ddialedd, ond yn hytrach trwy'r awydd sydd yn rhai pobl i reoli a gormesu eraill. Mae hi'n ymddangos nad oes lle i faddeuant... na chyflawnder a heddwch, mewn rhai sefyllfaeodd yn ein byd.

#### Gwedi

*Dduw holl gyflawnder a heddwch,  
arwain fy nghalon i ddod yn nes atat ti,  
i osod o't flaen bawb y mae angen imi ofyn am faddeuant... y rhai hyn dwi'n eu henwi yma rŵan.  
Yn dy Fab, Iesu, boed imi deimlo maddeuant  
a chael f'adnewyddu i barhau fy nhaith gyda thi  
trwy wythnosau'r Advent hwn.  
Amen.*



## Monday 10 December

### Forgiveness

#### Psalm 85

*Let me hear God's words of peace to all who are faithful in their hearts.  
Salvation is at hand and righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
Faithfulness will spring up as water from the ground.  
God shall provide all that is needed and all that is good.*

Righteousness and peace can only come together and kiss where there is a willingness to forgive, and put aside all that may separate us or cause us hurt. Salvation, too, needs us to do our part in seeking God's forgiveness and making a continual assessment of our lives as we do our best to follow the way of faith.

In the readings today, we have two very different images brought to us, one which graphically reveals what can happen when there is no forgiveness, and the other which reveals how sin – and the need for forgiveness – is misunderstood.

Isaiah presents a dark picture of God's vengeance. It is a picture we can often relate to as we watch the news and see images of conflict and war-torn countries. These present-day problems may not have come about through vengeance, but rather through a need in some people to control and have power over others. In some areas of our world, it seems, forgiveness has no place; nor does righteousness and peace.

#### Prayer

*God of righteousness and peace,  
guide my heart to draw near to you,  
to bring before you all I need to ask forgiveness for... these I now name before you.  
In your Son, Jesus, may I know forgiveness  
and be renewed to continue my journey with you  
through these Advent weeks.  
Amen.*



Dydd Mawrth, Rhagfyr 11

## Chwilio



### Salm 96

*Canaf i Dduw gân newydd o fawl a bendithiaf enw sanctaidd fy Nuw.  
Cân i ddyrchafu'r Duw a wnaeth y nefoedd,  
ac sy'n barnu'r bobloedd yn uniawn a chyda gwirionedd.  
Caned a gorfoledded y ddaear oll ar ei ddyfodiad ef.*

Mae'r delweddau a geir gan Eseia heddiw yn gwahaniaethu cymaint o'r rhai a ddarluniwyd ddoe. Dyma gyflwyno cysur a gobaith a newyddion da am bopeth sydd i ddod. Duw ydy'r Bugail sydd, o glywed cri ei braidd, yn mynd allan ac yn eu casglu ynghyd yn dyner.

Mae Iesu hefyd yn defnyddio delwedd y bugail, gan gyfeirio ato'i hun wrth ddweud, 'Myfi yw'r bugail da' (Ioan 10:11). Y bugail da ydy'r un sy'n gofalu am bob un yn ei braidd, ac felly fe gawn ddameg y ddafad golledig: mae gweddill y defaid yn cael eu gadael yn ddiogel yn y lloc wrth i'r bugail chwilio am yr un sydd ar goll... hyd nes cael hyd iddi, a'i bod bellach ddim ar goll.

**A oes rhywbeth rydych yn chwilio amdano yn eich bywyd ar hyn o bryd?**

**Am beth ydych chi'n chwilio yn eich perthynas â Duw?**

Mae'r ddameg yn stori i ni. Does ots pa mor golledig rydyn ni'n teimlo, na pha mor aml fyddwn ni'n crwydro, mi wnaiff y Bugail chwilio amdanon ni ac ni fydd yn gorffwys tan iddo gael hyd inni; yna fe fydd llawenydd mawr. Mae hon hefyd yn ddameg i'n byd heddiw, lle mae cymaint ar goll ac eto'n chwilio; sut allwn ni wneud newyddion da stori geni'r Nadolig yn berthnasol iddyn nhw?

**Sut fasech chi'n gallu helpu a galluogi eraill sy'n chwilio am ddealltwriaeth ddyfnach o Dduw yn ac ar gyfer eu bywydau?**

**Pwy ydy'r 'bugeliaid' yn eich bywyd chi?**

Ar eich Calendr Gweddi, efallai yr hoffech gofnodi rhywbeth rydych yn chwilio amdano a rhywbeth rydych wedi darganfod neu ddod o hyd iddo a rhoi diolch am hynny.

### Gweddi

*Dduw fy Mugail,  
rwyt ti'n fy chwilio fi allan pan fydda i'n teimlo ar goll ac yn unig,  
rwyt ti'n rhoi cysur a chariad imi.*

*Dduw fy Mugail,  
helpa fi fyth i grwydro o'th ymyl di,  
ond bob amser i chwilio amdanat, ddydd a nos.  
Amen.*

Tuesday 11 December

## Searching



### Psalm 96

*I sing to God a new song of praise and I will bless God's holy name.  
A song to give honour to God who made the heavens,  
and judges all peoples with equity and truth.  
Earth shall sing and rejoice at the coming of God.*

The images from Isaiah today are very different from those we encountered yesterday. These are ones of comfort and hope and good tidings of all that shall be. God is the Shepherd who, hearing the cry of the flock, will go out and gather them close with gentleness.

Jesus too uses the image of the shepherd, and relates this to himself, saying, 'I am the good shepherd' (John 10:11). The good shepherd is one who cares for every single one of the flock, and so we have the parable of the lost sheep: the rest of the sheep are left in the sheepfold as the shepherd searches for one that is lost ... until it is no longer lost, but found.

**Is there something in your life at this moment that you are searching for?**

**What are you searching for in your relationship with God?**

The parable is a story for us. No matter how lost we feel, or how often we stray, the Shepherd will search us out and will not settle

### Prayer

*God my Shepherd,  
you search me out when I feel lost and alone,  
you give to me comfort and love.  
God my Shepherd,  
help me never to stray from your side  
but to always seek you out, day and night.  
Amen.*



## Dydd Mercher, Rhagfyr 12

# Dydd Cytgor (1)



### Salm 84

*Mor hyfryd yw dy breswyl, O Dduw; mae hyd yn oed aderyn y tô yn gwneud ei chartref yno. Mae'r cyfan ohonof yn hiraethu amdanat, ac fe ganaf yn llawen gan fod fy noddfa ynot ti. Mae 'nghalon yn dilyn y llwybrau id y gynteddau di; O Dduw, clwyfy ngweddi. Gwell gen i sefyll ger drws tîf fy Nuw, na loetran yng nghartrefi pobl ddarwg.*

Heddiw ydy diwrnod cyntaf o dridiau sydd wedi'u neilltuo fel un o'r Dyddiau Cydgordiau. Mae'r gair Saesneg (Ember), sef marworyn neu golsyn, fel arfer yn dynodi darn bach o bren neu lo sy'n parhau i losgi wedi i'r fflamau ddiffodd; mae'r gair yn dod yn dod o'r gair yn yr Hen Saesneg am ludw. O fewn yr Eglwys, fod bynnag, mae'r gair yn dod o'r Lladin am 'bedwar tymor' neu'r Hen Saesneg am 'cylchol neu gyfnodol'. Gwahanol ddiffiniadau, ond mae'r ddau yn gymorth inni wrth inni barhau trwy'r tymor Adfent hwn.

Ar y dyddiau Cydgoriau hyn ceir pwyslais ar weddi dros bawb sydd wedi'u galw i wasnaethu Duw trwy'r weinidogaeth ordeiniedig a lleyg - sy'n golygu pob un ohonon ni! Efallai ein bod yn teimlo fel Jeremeia: wedi'n gorlethu braidd o feddwl am bopeth mae Duw wedi'n galw i'w wneud. Does ots faint o esgusodion mae'n eu gwneud, does dim dianc rhag gwaith Duw. Mae Duw wedi rhoi iddo'r doniau, a'r geiriau fydd ei angen arno.

### Gweddi

*Dduw'r cynhaeaf,  
mae cymaint i'w wneud yn d'enw di;  
helpa fi i ddarganfod beth all ai ei wneud.  
Llefara d'eiriau i'm calon;  
rhoi ddewrder imi i geisio fy ngweinidogaeth,  
beth bynnag fyddo hynny, a'i gyflawni'n fodlon.  
Amen.*



[View full Prayer Calendar](#)

## Wednesday 12 December

# Ember Day (1)



### Psalm 84

*How lovely is your dwelling place, O God; even the sparrow finds a home there. My soul longs for you, and I sing with joy because my strength is in you. My heart follows the pathways to your courts; O God, hear my prayer. I would rather be a doorkeeper in your house, O God, than dwell with the wicked.*

Today is the first of three days set this week as an Ember Day. An ember, as usually understood, is a piece of wood or coal that continues to burn after the flames have disappeared; the word comes from the Old English term for ashes. Within the Church, though, the word 'ember' is taken from the Latin for 'four seasons' or the Old English for 'recurring or periodic'. Different definitions, but both are helpful to us as we continue through this season of Advent.

On these Ember Days there is an emphasis on prayer for all who have been called to serve God in ordained and lay ministries – which means all of us! There is a particular ministry which is ours to do. We may feel a little like Jeremiah: somewhat overwhelmed at all God is calling him to do. No matter how many excuses he makes, he can't get away from doing God's work. God gives to him the gifts, and the words, he will need.

Jesus speaks about the harvest being ready but too few labourers to bring it all in. There is too much for the few to manage. Without the help of all, very little can be achieved as the few become tired and overworked. We can probably relate to the well-known story where Somebody thought Someone Else would do it but in the end Nobody did what Anybody could have done! We all have a part to play in the life of the Church and the sharing of the Good News.

**How can you help more in the life of your church and how could you encourage others to help?**

**What is your ministry?** This includes making refreshments, tidying up the hymn books, praying for others, and so on.

You may wish to write on your Prayer Calendar some areas in need of harvesting, and pray for more people to offer help to those who are already a part of the harvest work.



### Prayer

*God of the harvest,  
there is so much to do in your Name;  
help me to discover what I can do.  
Speak your words into my heart;  
give me courage to seek out my ministry,  
whatever that may be, and to do it willingly.  
Amen.*

[View full Prayer Calendar](#)

Dydd Iau, Rhagfyr 13

## Listening



### Salm 145

*Dyrchafaf di, fy Nuw, a bendithiaf dy enw byth bythoedd.  
Molianna'r naill genhedaeth wrth y llall dy weithredoedd nerthol.  
Fe wnaf di'n hysbys i'r holl bobl a bydd dy holl waith yn dy fendifithio, O Arglwydd.  
Daw pawb i wylod am dy ffyddlondeb a'th deyrnas dragwyddol.*

Pa mor hawdd ydy hi i wrando ar Dduw a chlywed y geiriau 'Paid ag ofni, yr wyf fi'n dy gynorthwyo?' (Eseia 41:13). Fe gawson nhw'u llefaru amser maith yn ôl, ond i ninnau heddiw y maen nhw wedi'u bwriadu. Roedd y geiriau hyn i bobl Israel yn addo y byddai Duw'n dod i gynorthwyo'r tlawd a'r anghenus; fe fasen nhw'n cael eu dyrchafu, eu cefnogi. Mae hon yn addewid y mae Mair yn cynnwys yn ei Chân (Luc 1: 46-55), cân o ryddid a rhyddhad i bawb sy'n ceisio'r Un Sanctaidd, Duw, Emaniwel.

Fe all gwrandio ar Dduw yn ddwfn yn ein calonnau achosi inni fod yn 'ofnus' gan na wydden ni'n union be fydd Duw'n ei ddweud wrthon ni neu'n gofyn ohonon ni. Daeth Mair i wybod hynny ac fe ddywedwyd wrthi am 'beidio ag ofni'. Mae hi bob amser yn bwysig gwrandio ar Dduw yn y distawrwydd wrth inni geisio teithio'n bellach yn ein perthynas ag O ac i deall mwy am ein ffydd Gristnogol

*Pwy sy'n gwrandio arnoch chi pan fo angen  
ichi rannu neu ddirlnad geiriau Duw a'ch  
bywyd gweddi?*

### Gweddi

*Helpa fi, O Dduw, i beidio ag ofni  
ond i ddod a gwrandio arnat ti gyda chlustiau, a chalonnau, agored.  
Bydd gyda mi yn nhawelwch gweddi  
ac yng nghanol bwrlwm y dydd.  
Helpa fi i wrando'n fwyl astud arnat ti,  
ac i eraill y dydd hwn,  
ac yn y gwrandio hwnnw, canfod fy mod innau'n cael gwrandawiad hefyd, mewn cariad.  
Amen.*

Thursday 13 December

## Listening



### Psalm 145

*I shall extol you, my God, and bless you and praise your name for ever.  
All generations shall proclaim aloud your mighty acts.  
I shall make you known to all peoples, and all creation shall bless you.  
All shall know of your faithfulness and of your everlasting kingdom.*

How easy is it to listen to God and hear the words 'Do not fear, I will help you'? (Isaiah 41:13). They were spoken so long ago, but they are meant for us now in this age too. These words to the people of Israel promised that God would come to the aid of the poor and needy; they would be lifted up, supported. This is a promise Mary brings into her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), a song of liberation and freedom for all who seek the Holy One, God, Emmanuel.

Listening to God deeply in our hearts may cause us to become 'fearful' because we never quite know what God will say to us or ask of us. Mary discovered this and she too was told 'Do not be afraid'. To listen to God in the quietness is always important as we seek to journey further in our relationship with him and to understand more about all that is our Christian faith.

**Who listens to you when you need to share or discern the words of God and your life of prayer?**

It can be difficult to find someone who will listen unconditionally to you. (See the end of this book to discover what spiritual direction is and whether this may be of help to you.) Are you someone others come to because you listen well?

On your Prayer Calendar you may wish to write the name (or draw a stick person) of the one who listens to you.

Jesus says 'Let anyone with ears listen!' as he reveals that John the Baptist, the messenger sent to prepare his way, is actually more than 'just' a prophet, but is Elijah. People also wondered who Jesus was, even though they listened to all he taught. When we listen properly with our ears open, we too will come to discover more of the truth of the One we wait for during this Advent time.



### Prayer

*Help me, O God, not to be afraid  
but to come and listen to you with ears and heart open.  
Be with me in the quietness of prayer  
and in the noise of the day.  
Help me listen more attentively to you,  
and to others this day,  
and in this listening find that I too am listened to with love.  
Amen.*

## Dydd Gwener, Rhagfyr 14

# Dydd Cytgor (2)



## Salm 122

*Fe ddog yn fodlon i dy dŷ, O Dduw, i sefyll o fewn dy giatiau, O Jerwsalem.  
Fe roddaf ddiolch i Dduw a gweddio am dangnafedd o fewn dy waliau, O Jerwsalem.  
Er mwyn pawb rydw i'n eu nabod, gweddiâf 'Boed tangnafedd o'ch mewn'.  
Er mwyn tŷ Dduw, fe geisiafi dy ddaioni di o'm mewn lilo allan er lles eraill.*

Ar y Dydd Cytgor hwn, edrychwn ar sut rydyn ni'n rhannu gwaith Duw a ph'un ai ydyn ni'n barod a disgwylgar ar gyfer dyfodiad Duw i'n plith. Diffiniad mwyaf cyfarwydd o 'golsyn' neu 'farworyn' mae'n siŵr ydy gweddillion Tân sy'n mudlosgi, ond sy'n parhau â'r gallu i ailynnau ar unrhyw adeg.

**Sut fasech chi'n disgrifio lle rydych chi arni ar daith eich ffydd gyda Duw ar hyn o bryd?**

**Ydych chi'n danllwyth o fflamau yn llosgi'n angerddol, neu'n hytrach yn golsyn gwan sy'n colli'i wres?**

Does dim posib inni, wrth gwrs, fod yn llawn egni a llawenydd trwy'r amser. Roedd hyd yn oed Moses yn sylweddoli nad oes yn gallu cyflawni'r gwaith i gyd ei hun; roedd yn rhaid iddo rannu i wybodaeth, a rhywfaint o'r ysbyrd a roddwyd iddo gan Dduw, a dirprwyo! Fe ddaw amser i bob un ohonon ni pan fo'n rhaid inni ddweud y gair 'Na', sy'n anodd iawn i wneud; cyfaddef na allwn ni wneud mwy. Bryd hynny, priodol ydy rhannu ein gwybodaeth gyda rhywun arall a all barhau'r gwaith neu'r swydd i'r dyfodol.

## Prayer

*Dduw cariad,  
rwyt wedi fy ngalw i dy ddilyn di mewn ffydd.  
Boed imi fod yn ymwybodol o bopeth y gallaf ei gynnig a'r adegau pan fo angen imi dynnu'n ôl.  
Fe geisia i wneud popeth alla i, ond yn cydnabod fy nherfynau fy hun,  
ac fe wna i fy ngorau i annog y doniau sydd mewn eraill.  
Amen.*



## Friday 14 December

# Ember Day (2)

## Psalm 122

*I come willingly to your house, O God, to stand within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
I will give thanks to God and pray for peace within your walls, O Jerusalem.  
For the sake of all whom I know, I pray 'Peace be within you.'  
For the sake of God's house, I will seek your goodness to flow from within me.*

On this Ember Day, we look at how we share the work of God and whether we are ready and watchful for God's coming among us. The definition of 'ember' that we are probably more familiar with is the smouldering remains of a fire, which still contains its power to burst into flame once more.

**How would you describe where you are on your journey of faith with God at this moment?**

**Are you filled with flames of fire, or are you an ember struggling to remain alight?**

We cannot of course be full of joy and energy all of the time. Even Moses realised he couldn't do all the work himself; he had to share his knowledge, and some of the spirit bestowed upon him by God, and delegate! There comes a time for all of us when we have to say that very difficult word 'No' when we can do no more, and a time when we too have to share our knowledge with someone else who can carry the work or job into the future.

**What do you feel about delegation?**

**What may you need to delegate at this moment?** (Maybe some of the Christmas preparations!)

To do this calls for faith. It calls for us to be watchful and to search out those in our congregations who seem to have the gifts the Church is looking for. These include being 'dressed' with faith and ready for action, being dressed with the presence of God around us and of the Holy Spirit.

**How could you (gently) encourage other members of the congregation to become more active in the life of the Church and discover their own ministry?**

You may wish to write on your Prayer Calendar the people you see around with gifts to offer.



## Prayer

*God of love,  
you have called me to follow you in faith.  
May I be aware of all I can offer and the times when I need to withdraw.  
I seek to do all I can, but acknowledge my own limitations,  
and I will do my best to encourage the giftedness of others.  
Amen.*

## Sadwrn, Rhagfyr 15

# Dydd Cytgor (3)



## Salm 134

*Fe ddog ac fe’th bendithiaf, O Dduw, oblegid ceisiaf dy wasanaethu bob amser.*

*Fe ddog liw nos gyda gweddiāu o ddiolchgarwch.*

*Fe godaff y nwylo i ti, O Dduw.*

*Boed i’r holl greadigaeth wybod am orfoledd dy fendith.*

Down at ddiwrnod olaf Dyddiau Cydgoriau'r Adfent hwn a darganfod, fel ag y gwneae8th awdur llyfr y Pregethwr, 'nad oes unrhyw beth newydd dan yr haul!' (Pregethwr 1:9). O fewn yr esgobaeth, mae inni sawl gweinidogaeth ordeiniedig lle bydd unigolion o blith ein cynulleidfaeodd yn ymgymryd â hyfforddiant ac yna'n cael eu comisiynu i'r rôl benodol i'w ymarfer o fewn yr Ardal Weinidogaeth. Efallai mai rhan o dîm ymweld bugeiliol neu fel Arweinwyr Addoliad fyddai'r rhain, er enghraifft. Pa weinidogaethau ordeiniedig sydd yn eich Ardal Weinidogaeth? Ydych chi'n rhan o un? Efallai yr hoffech eu hychwanegu at eich Calendr Gweddi heddiw.

Mae'n bosib eich bod yn ystyried y rhain fel gweinidogaethau cwbl wahanol a newydd, gan gynnwys cynnal gwasanaeth a litwrgi arbennig i gomisiynu'r rhai hynny yn yr amrywiol dimau. Ac eto, wrth edrych ar lyfr Numeri yn yr Hen Destament, fe ddarganfyddwn nad oedd cael eich comisiynu yn beth newydd o gwbl! Yma fe

ddarllenwn am 'gomisiynu' Josua cyn iddo fedru ymgymryd â'r gwaith roedd Duw wedi'i alw i wneud.

Yna fe anfonir y rhai a gomisiynir allan i'r cynhaef a fedi'r hyn sydd eisoes yno ac i hau hadau a ddaw yn gnwd y bydd eraill yn ei gynaeafu.

Wrth i'r Nadolig nesáu, mae'n bosib mai'r weinidogaeth y gallwn ni ei chynnig un o weddi dros y rhai hynny a fydd yn arwain y gwasanaethau; i estyn llaw o groeso i'r rhai hynny sy'n anghyfarwydd ag eglwys ar yr adeg yma o'r flwyddyn; i gynnig gwêr ac ateb parod pan fydd rhywun yn holi gwir ystyr y Nadolig.

### *Beth allwch chi ei wneud yn yr amser sy'n arwain at y Nadolig?*

Rydyn ni i gyd i fod i hau hadau ac yn ein gwahanol ffyrrd i fynd allan i'r cynhaef a medi canlyniadau gwaith caled, ffydd ac ymroddiad y rhai hynny a aeth o'n blaen.



## Prayer

*Dduw fy ngalwad,*

*Rhodda ffydd wrth imi roi o'm gorau wrth dy wasanaethu di.*

*Fe af allan a hau hadau ffydd yr Adfent hwn.*

*Fe wna i sgwrsio am fy ffydd a dyfodiad Iesu.*

*Fe ddog atat ti mewn gweddi am fwy o bobl i droi atat ti ac iddyn nhw glywed dy alwad di yn eu calonnau.*

*Amen.*

## Saturday 15 December

# Ember Day (3)



## Psalm 134

*I shall come and bless you, O God, for I seek to serve you always.*

*I shall come in the night time with prayers of thanksgiving.*

*I shall lift up my hands to you, O God.*

*May all creation know the joy of your blessing.*

We come to the last of this Advent's three Ember Days and discover, as the writer of Ecclesiastes tells us, that 'there is nothing new under the sun'! (Ecclesiastes 1:9). In the diocese, we have a number of commissioned ministries where individuals from our congregations undergo some training and are then commissioned to a particular role to exercise within the Ministry Area. These may be a pastoral visiting team or Worship Leaders, for example. What commissioned ministries are there in your Ministry Area? Are you a part of one? You may wish to add these to your Prayer Calendar today.

We may look at these ministries as something very new and different, including having a service and a special liturgy to commission those in the various teams. Yet, when we look in the book of Numbers in the Old Testament, we discover that to be commissioned is not something new at all! Here we read that Joshua is 'commissioned' (the word used in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible) before he can undertake the work God has called him to do.

The people who are commissioned are then sent out into the harvest to reap what is already there and to sow the seeds that will become the crop that others will come along to reap. We may not all have a commissioned role, but we all do have a ministry.

As Christmas approaches, it may be that the ministry we can offer is one of prayer for those who will be leading the services; to offer a hand of welcome to those who are unfamiliar with church but who come at this time of year; to give a smile and a willing answer when someone wonders what Christmas is all about.

### *What can you do in the lead-up to Christmas?*

We are all to sow seeds and we are all in our various ways to go out into the harvest to reap the results of the hard work, faith and commitment of those who have gone before us.



## Prayer

*God of my calling,*

*I give my answer as I serve you as best I can.*

*I shall go out and sow seeds of faith this Advent time.*

*I shall speak of my faith and the coming of Jesus.*

*I shall come to you in prayer for more people to turn to you and for them to hear your call in their hearts.*

*Amen.*

**16 Rhagfyr  
16 December**

The Third Sunday of Advent  
Trydydd Sul yr Adfent

---

**Dim Lle yn y Llety  
No Place in the Inn**



## Gweddi'r Gannwyll

Wrth inni hon, y drydedd gannwyll, boed iddi ein hatgoffa  
i fod yn barod i dy Groesawu Di ymhob cyfarfod yn ystod yr wythnosau Adfent hyn.

**O Dduw,**  
wrth imi syllu ar y gannwyll hon, dwi'n gweddio,  
helpaf i rodio ffordd y ffydd a, gyda thi wrth f'ymyl,  
i geisio cyflawnder a rhyddid a heddwch i'r holl bobl.  
Arwain fi i fod yn berson o groeso ac i gofio  
bod popeth rydw i'n ei wneud a'i ddweud yn a thrwy  
yr Un y mae disgwyl amdano rŵan, Iesu Grist.  
Amen.



## Salm 146:5-10

O Dduw, ti yw fy nghymorth ac ynot ti rwy'n gobeithio;  
gan mai ti greodd y nefoedd a'r ddaear, y môr a phopeth sydd yn dyn nhw.  
**Rwyt yn cadw'n ffyddlon trwy'r oesoedd.**

O Dduw, ti yw fy nghymorth ac ynot ti rwy'n gobeithio;  
dyro gyflawnder i'r rhai a orthymir a rhyddi i'r rhai sy'n gaeth,  
bwyd i'r rhai newynnog a golwg i'r rhai sy'n ddall.  
O Dduw, ti yw fy nghymorth ac ynot ti rwy'n gobeithio;  
cwyd y rhai hynny sydd wedi'u darostwng  
**a rho Dy gynhaliaeth i bawb sy'n teimlo'n unig.**  
O Dduw, ti yw fy nghymorth ac ynot ti rwy'n gobeithio;  
**paid gadael i'r rhai drygionus orchfygu**  
**achos rydw i'n trystio yn dy gariad di a fydd yn teyrnasu'n dragwyddol.**



## Gweddi

Mae'r dydd yn dod pan fydd Duw'n datguddio'i hun ar ffurf ddynol:  
**Disgwyl ydyn ni i ti ddod i'n plith, Emaniel,**  
**rŵan ac am byth.**  
Amen.



## Candle Prayer

As we light this third candle, may it be a reminder to us  
to be prepared to welcome you in all who meet during these weeks of Advent.  
**O God,**

*as I look upon this candle, I pray,  
help me to walk the way of faith and, with you at my side,  
to seek out justice and freedom and peace for all people.  
Guide me to be a person of welcome and to remember  
that all I do and say is in and through  
the One now awaited, Jesus Christ.*  
Amen.



## Psalm 146:5-10

O God, you are my help and in you I hope;  
**for you made both heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them.**  
**You are faithful throughout all ages.**

O God, you are my help and in you I hope;  
**bring justice to the oppressed and freedom to the prisoner,**  
**food to the hungry and sight to the blind.**  
O God, you are my help and in you I hope;  
**lift up those who are bowed down**  
**and give your care to all who are alone.**  
O God, you are my help and in you I hope;  
**do not let the wicked prevail,**  
**for I trust in your love which will reign for ever.**



## Prayer

The day is coming when God will be revealed in human form:  
**We await your coming among us, Emmanuel,**  
**now and always.**  
Amen.



## 'A Bydd yn Cael Ei Alw'n Emaniwel'

Mae'n henwau ni'n cael eu dewis droston ni, a thros y blynnydoedd, efallai caiff ei fyrhau, neu o bosib ddefnyddio enw arall. Fodd bynnag, trwy'r enw penodol hwn y cawn ein hadnabod gan eraill; mae'n rhan o'r hyn rydyn ni, ac felly'n rhan o'n hunaniaeth.

Mae ambell arwyddocâd negyddol ynglwm â'r geiriau 'ei alw' sydd i'w gweld o'n cwmpas ym mywyd pob dydd. Gellir llefaru'r geiriau gyda gwatwar neu mewn modd dirmygus, neu mewn perthynas â grŵp neilltuol o bobl (sy'n galw i gof Sul cynta'r Adfent).

### Darleniadau

Os oes amser ganddoch chi, ceisiwch ddarllen trwy'r darnau yn llawn:

**Seffaneia 3:14-20** Wedi'r holl sôn am dralod a chosb, mae'r proffwyd Seffaneia cyflwyno cân o lawenydd i'r bobl. Mae'n cyhoeddi y bydd Duw'n camu 'mlaen i ddelio â'r gorthrymwyr ac y daw buddugoliaeth; fe gesglir pawb ynghyd a'u tywys adref. Fe fydd yn amser pan fydd llwyddiant yn cael ei adfer.

**Philipiaid 4:4-7** Cân neu weddi Paul o lawenydd. Yr alwad ydy i orfoleddu gan fod Duw yn agos. Rydyn ni i ddangos tynerwch; dydyn ni ddim i boeni, ond dod â phopeth at Dduw mewn gweddi, a phob amser gyda diolchgarwch. Yna, fe gawn ni ymdeimlo â thangnefedd Duw, sydd y tu hwnt i'n deall ond a fydd yn diogelu ein calonnau a'n meddyliau.

**Luc 3:7-18** Mae gan Ioan Fedyddiwr eiriau cryf i'w cyhoeddi ochr yn ochr â'i alwad i edifarhau, ac mae'n sôn am y ffrwythau y byddwn yn eu dwyn os ydy'n edifeirwch o ddifrif. Rydyn ni i ddelio'n deg â phawb, gan gymryd dim ond yr hyn sydd ei angen arnon ni. Mae Ioan yn cyfeirio at yr Un a ddaw i fedyddio â than yr Ysbryd Glân.

---

*Beth sy'n dod i'ch meddwl wrth ddarllen y darnau hyn, a beth allwn ni ei ddysgu ohonyn nhw am y gwahanol ystyron tu ôl i'r geiriau 'ei enwi'?*

---



---

*Beth mae'r darleniadau hyn yn dweud wrthyn ni yn ystod y tymor Adfent hwn?*

---

## 'They Shall Name Him Emmanuel'

Our name is chosen for us, and over the years we may shorten it, or use a different name. However, it is through this particular name that we are known to others; it is a part of who we are, and so a part of our identity.

There are negative connotations attached to the words 'name him' which we see around us in everyday life. A name may be spoken with derision or contempt, or in relation to belonging to a particular group (which takes us back to the first Sunday of Advent when we looked at 'they/them').

### Readings

If you have time, read through the passages in full:

**Zephaniah 3:14-20** After the talk of desolation and punishment, the prophet Zephaniah brings to the people a song of joy. He says that God will step forth to deal with the oppressors and victory will come; all will be gathered and brought home. It will be a time when fortunes are restored.

**Philippians 4:4-7** Paul's song or prayer of joy. The call is to rejoice because God is near. We are to show gentleness; we are not to worry, but bring everything to God in prayer, and always with thanksgiving. We will then know God's peace, which is beyond our understanding but will guard our hearts and minds.

**Luke 3:7-18** John the Baptist has strong words to say along with his call to repentance, and he speaks of the fruits we shall bear if our repentance is true. We are to deal fairly with everyone and take only what we ourselves need. John points to the One who will come to baptise with fire of the Holy Spirit.

---

*What are your initial thoughts on these readings, and what may we learn from them about the various meanings behind the words 'name him'?*

---



---

*What do these readings say to us in this season of Advent?*

---

## Datblygu'r Thema

Ymhob un o'r darleniadau, mae enw Duw yn datguddio rhywbeth ynglŷn â phwy ydy Duw. O ddyfnderoedd trueni fe fydd y bobl yn llawenhau yn enw a gweithredoedd Duw, ac fe gaiff gormeswyr eu gorchfygu, fel mae Seffaneia'n sôn. Yn yr epistol, mae tangnafedd a chariad Duw i'w gweld yn a thrwy enw Iesu, a thrwy ei adnabod. Mae Ioan Fedyddiwr yn galw ar y bobl i edifarhau ac yn cyfeirio at yr Un sy'n dod: Iesu. Mor hawdd ydy hi inni anghofio bod yr Adfent, fel y Grawys, yn amser inni edifarhau, i geisio maddeuant.

**Pa mor hawdd ydy hi, neu beidio, ichi enwi'r pethau rydych yn ceisio maddeuant amdany'n nhw?**

**Pa enwau neu eiriau fyddwch chi'n eu defnyddio wrth siarad am Dduw, am Iesu a'r Ysbryd Glân?**

Cafodd enw Iesu eisoes ei roi i Mair a Joseff. Roedd yn enw a fyddai'n datgelu rhywbeth o Dduw, ac yn allwedd i hunaniaeth Iesu. Wrth inni ddarllen trwy'r Hen Destament, fe ddarganfyddwn y ffordd barchus roedd pobl yn cyfarch Duw – yn ffurfiol iawn, hyd yn oed wrth alw am ddial ar eu gelynion!

Ceisiodd Iesu ei hun, fel y gwelwn yn yr Efengylau, i gadw Ei 'enw' yn syml. Ceisiodd osgoi cael ei alw'n Fab Duw, yr un eneiniog, y Meseia. Doedd O ddim am i unrhyw statws o enwogrwydd gael ei gysylltu â'i enw; Iesu ydy Ei enw, ac fe ddaeth i fod yn un â ni fel Emaniwel, nid ei 'lordio' hi droston ni ac uwchlaw ni!

**Faint o enwau 'enwogion' rydych chi'n eu gwybod, a beth am faint o enwau pobl sy'n mynd i'ch eglwys neu sy'n gymdogion ichi ?**

**Pa enwau neu eiriau fyddwch chi'n eu defnyddio wrth siarad am Dduw, am Iesu a'r Ysbryd Glân?**

Mae'r enwau a ddefnyddiwn mewn perthynas â Duw'n gallu newid gan ddibynnu ar ein teimladau ar y pryd, p'un ai wrth ddod at Dduw mewn cariad a heddwch, neu mewn anobaith a gwylltineb, neu mewn gweddïau o lawenydd neu weddïau o edifeirwch. Ac eto, fe gawn ein croesawu bob amser gan Dduw, sy'n ein galw, ein nabod, wrth ein henwau personol, unigol. Mae Duw'n gwybod ein henw, p'un ai'r enw a roddwyd inni ar ein genedigaeth, adeg ein bedyddio, neu wedi'i newid ganddon ni ar ryw adeg diweddarach.

Mae llawer iawn mwy inni, wrth gwrs, na dim ond ein henwau. Yn ei lyfr, *Eternal Echoes*, dywed John O'Donohue, 'Cyn gynted ag yr ydyn ni allan o'r groth, mae gofyn inni ddechrau'r broses raddol, ddatguddiol, ansicr yma o siapio'r hyn ydyn ni.' Mae'n mynd yn ei flaen: 'Dim ond lled-agor y drws i roi cipolwg ar eich hunaniaeth mae eich enw, eich wyneb, eich cyfeiriad' (tudalen 147). Mae hyn yn ein harwain i geisio llawnder bywyd, dull holistig a chadarnhaol i enwi a chael eich enwi. Mae popeth fyddwn ni'n ei brofi trwy gydol ein bywydau, nid yn unig yn ffurfiol sut fywyd fyddwn ni'n ei fyw ond hefyd sut fyddwn ni'n siarad am Dduw.

Yn Eseia 43:1, cawn ddarllen: ' Galwaf di wrth dy enw, rwyd yn eiddo i mi', ac yn Eseia 49:16, fe welwn: 'Edrych, rwyf wedi dy gerfio ar gledr fy nwylo.' Dyma adnodaun sy'nadleisio'r salmydd pan soniai am Dduw sy'n gwybod pan fyddwn yn eistedd ac yn codi (Salm 139). Mae datgelu'n henw wrth rywun arall yn agor y drws i sgwrs a pherthynas. Mae hynny'n cynnwys perthynas â Duw.

**Sut fasech chi'n disgrifio eich perthynas â Duw?**

Caiff ein henwau eu plethu i mewn i bresenoldeb a bod ac enw Duw. Sut fedrwn ninnau felly hysbysu – datguddio a datgelu – ein bod yn dilyn Iesu yn ystod y tymor Adfent hwn a thu hwnt?

## Opening Up the Theme

In each of the readings the name of God reveals something about who God is. Out of desolation the people will rejoice in the name and action of God, and oppressors will be dealt with, as Zephaniah writes. In the epistle, the peace and love of God are known in and through the name, and the knowing, of Jesus. John the Baptist calls for the people to repent and points ahead to the One to come: Jesus. It can be easy to forget that Advent, like Lent, is a time we are to repent, to seek forgiveness.

**How easy or not do you find it to name the things you seek forgiveness for?**

**How easy or not do you find it to name your hopes and dreams, your fears and concerns?**

The name for Jesus had already been given to Mary and Joseph. It was a name that would reveal something of God, and be a clue to the identity of Jesus. As we read through the Old Testament we discover the reverent way in which the people addressed God – very formally, even when calling for vengeance upon their enemies!

Jesus himself, as we discover through the Gospels, did his best to keep his 'name' simple. He avoided being called the Son of God, the anointed one, the Messiah. He does not want any celebrity status attached to his name; his name is Jesus, and he came to be one with us as Emmanuel, not over and above us!

**How many 'celebrity' names do you know, and how many names do you know of people who go to your church or who are your neighbours?**

**What names or words do you use when speaking of God, of Jesus and of the Holy Spirit?**

The names we use in relation to God may change depending upon how we are feeling, whether we come to God in love and peacefulness, or in despair and rage, or in prayers of rejoicing or prayers of repentance. Yet we are always welcomed by God, who calls us, knows us, by our own individual and personal name. God knows our name whether it is the one we were given at birth, used at our baptism, or changed by us at some time afterwards.

There is of course more to us than our name. In his book *Eternal Echoes*, John O'Donohue writes that, 'We are no sooner out of the womb than we must begin this precarious unfolding and shaping of who we are.' He continues: 'Your name, your face, your address only suggest the threshold of your identity' (page 147). This leads us to seek a wholeness of life, a holistic and positive approach to naming and being named. All we experience throughout our lives shapes not only how we live out our lives but also how we speak about God.

In Isaiah 43:1 we read: 'I have called you by name, you are mine', and in Isaiah 49:16 we read: 'See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.' These are verses which echo the psalmist when he speaks of the God who knows our sitting down and our rising up (Psalm 139). Revealing our name to another opens up the way for conversation and relationship. This includes our relationship with God.

**How would you describe your relationship with God?**

Our name is interwoven into the presence and being and name of God. How then do we name – make known and reveal – our following of Jesus during this Advent season and afterwards?

Mae Rowan Williams, yn ei lyfr, *Being Human*, yn ystyried yr hyn ydy hi i fod yn berson, gan ddweud fod person 'ydy'r man lle mae'n cydberthnasau'n croestorri, lle gellir gwneud gwahaniaeth a chreu cydberthnasau newydd' (tudalen 32). Mae'n mynd yn ei flaen i sôn am ein hangen, fel Cristnogion, i gofio bod pobl eraill yn rhan o'r ddynoliaeth; ac felly, fel ninnau, mae hawl ganddyn nhw gael eu trin â pharch. Os gwyddwn ninnau ein bod wedi'n henwi a'n caru gan Dduw, yna ein galwad Cristnogol ydy 'ceisio'n syml i adleisio'r agwedd barhaol hon o gariad, sylw, parch, y mae'r Creawdwr yn ei roi i'r hyn a grëwyd' (tudalen 39). Dyma ichi ran o'r hyn ydy hi i fyw ein ffydd o ddydd i ddydd.

Mae inni enw ac felly mae inni werth fel person, fel bod dynol, fel rhan o greadigaeth Duw. Yn yr un modd, gofynnir inni fod yn ymwybodol o werth pob person a ddaw ar ein traws wrth inni fynd o gwmpas ein pethau o ddydd i ddydd. Mae hyn yn ein twys yn ôl at y darlleniedau Beiblaidd sy'n datguddio bod ein galwad nid yn unig yn golygu dod at Dduw mewn gweddi a chariad ond hefyd i drin pawb gyda ac mewn cariad. Os ydyn ni'n cael hynny'n anodd gyda rhai pobl, rhywbeth sy'n anorfad inni fel meidrolion, yna mae hi'n bwysig cofio bod eu henwau hwythau hefyd yn adnabyddus i Dduw.

Mae'r enwau a ddefnyddiwn ninnau, wrth gwrs, i gyfeirio at bobl neu grwpiau arbennig, yn gallu bod yn negyddol neu'n bositif. Yn yr ystyr negyddol, mae 'galw enwau' yn ymddangos yn arferiad sy'n perthyn i'r iard chwarae ymmsg plant, ond yn anffodus, fe wyddwn yn iawn fod oedolion yr un mor euog o hynny hefyd. Yma, mae'r parch y gofynnir ganddon ni i'w gynnig trwy ein ffydd i bawb yn diflannu a gall ddatblygu'n sarhaus, yn enwedig o'i anelu at rai pobl neu grwpiau penodol.

#### **Pwy all y bobl neu'r grwpiau hyn fod tybed?**

Beth mae parchu pawb yn ei olygu i chi, neu'n gofyn ganddoch chi?

#### **Stori'r Geni – 'Dim Lle yn y Llety' (Luc 2:7)**

Mae Mair a Joseff yn darganfod, wrth gyrraedd Bethlehem, nad oes lle iddyn nhw mewn llety. Does ganddyn nhw nunlle i aros, hyd nes eu bod yn cael cynnig stabl. Wedi darllen a dathlu geni Iesu, cawn yr hanes am y Teulu Sanctaidd yn gorvod gadael am Yr Aifft oherwydd bygythiad i ladd y baban Iesu (Mathew2: 13-15). Maen nhw bellach yn ffoaduriaid yn chwilio am loches mewn gwlad ddiarth. Bydd rhaid iddyn nhw fod ar eu gwyliadwriaeth a dechrau dysgu pwy allen nhw'i drystio.

Heddiw hefyd, mae miloedd eto sy'n dal i orfod ffoi o'u mamwlad gan ofn cael eu carcharu neu'u lladd oherwydd barn wleidyddol, academaidd neu grefyddol sy'n digwydd bod yn wahanol i farn y drefn lywodraethol. Yn aml fe fydden nhw'n gadael yn waglaw a chanfod 'nad oes lle yn y llety'. Efallai eich bod chi, neu eich eglwys neu gymuned leol, yn gweithio ochr yn ochr â ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches. Yr hyn sy'n bwysig ydy'n bod ni'n dysgu a defnyddio'u henwau, a rhannu'n un ninnau. Wedi hynny, mae modd i sgwrs a pherthynas ddatblygu.

#### **Beth ydy'ch barn chi am ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches?**

#### **A oes rhywle'n lleol lle maen nhw'n cyfarfod?**

#### **Sut fyddai modd ichi fedru cynnig help a chefnogaeth iddyn nhw?**

Mae gallu rhoi enwi i ni'n hunain yn rhoi ymdeimlad o berthyn, pa mor grwydrol bynnag ydy'n bywydau ni. Fe roddwyd ein henwau i ni ac maen nhw'n dod yn wedd o'n hunaniaeth. Fel y gwelwyd, dim ond un rhan o'n hunaniaeth ydy'n henwau, a'n perthyn. Darllenwn yn Salm 137 am alarnad yr Israeliaid alltud, yn gofyn sut mae modd iddyn nhw ganu cân yr Arglwydd mewn tir estron. Mae iddyn nhw enw, ond mae honno wedi'i chysylltu â'u perthynas gyda Duw a thir gwlad Israel. Ac eto, mae Duw ymhob man, yn 'llond pob lle'. Heddiw, mae inni ddealltwriaeth am Emaniel, Duw gyda ni, lle bynnag y byddwn ni ac i le bynnag yr awn.

Rowan Williams, in his book *Being Human*, considers what it is to be a person, and he says that a person 'is the point at which our relationships intersect, where a difference may be made and new relations created' (page 32). He goes on to write of our need, as Christians, to remember that other people are a part of the human race; and so, like ourselves, they deserve to be treated with respect. If we know ourselves as named and loved by God, then our Christian calling is 'simply the search to echo this permanent attitude of love, attention, respect, which the Creator gives to what is made' (page 39). This is part of living out our faith day by day.

We have a name and therefore we have value as a person, as a human being, as a part of God's creation. Likewise, we are asked to be aware of the value of every person we meet as we go about our day-to-day life. This takes us back to the Bible readings which reveal that our call is not only to come to God in prayer and love but also to treat all people with love. If we find that difficult with some people, which as human beings we inevitably will, then it is important to remember that their name is also known to God.

The names we use, of course, to refer to particular people or groups can be as negative as they can be positive. In the negative sense, name calling may seem to be something that belongs only in a playground among young children, but unfortunately we know it takes place within the adult world too. Here, the respect we are asked through our faith to offer to everyone disappears and can become abusive, particularly when aimed at certain people or groups of people.

#### **Who may these people or groups be?**

#### **What does respecting all people mean to you, or ask of you?**

#### **The Nativity – 'No Place in the Inn' (Luke 2:7)**

Mary and Joseph discover on their arrival in Bethlehem that there is no room for them in the inn. They have nowhere to stay, until offered a stable. After we have celebrated the birth of Jesus, we then read that the Holy Family have to leave and go to Egypt under threat of death for the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:13-15). They become refugees seeking asylum in a foreign land. They will have to be aware of their surroundings and learn who they can trust.

Today, there are still thousands who have had to leave their homeland through fear of death or imprisonment due to political, academic or religious views which go against the governing regime. They leave with nothing and often find there is 'no place at the inn'. It may be that you, or your church or local community, works alongside refugees and asylum seekers. What is important is that we learn and use their name, and share ours. After that, conversation and relationship can grow.

#### **What are your thoughts on refugees and asylum seekers?**

#### **Is there somewhere local where they meet?**

#### **How could you offer help and support to them?**

Being able to name who we are gives to us a sense of belonging, however nomadic our lives are. Our names have been given to us and they are then an aspect of our identity. As we have seen, our name is only one part of our identity, and our belonging. We read in Psalm 137 the lament of the Israelites in exile, asking how they can sing the Lord's song in a foreign place. They have a name, but that is connected to their relationship with God and the land of Israel. Yet, God is in all places. Today we have the understanding of Emmanuel, God with us, wherever we are and wherever we may go.

Mae Philip Sheldrake, yn ei lyfr *Spaces for the Sacred*, yn sgwennu am bobl gyfrin megis Julian o Norwich, a oedd â'r syniad mai 'Dw ydy'n gwlad, ein cartref a'n lle. Ac eto, mae gofyn meddwl am Dduw fel Un sydd ddim mewn un man yn unig ac eto ymhob man yr un pryd' (tudalen 129).

Lle bynnag byddwn yn gorffwys ein pennau, mae Duw gyda ni.

**Beth ydy eich meddyliau ar hyn?**



## Calendr Gweddi

P'un ai ar eich pen eich hunan neu mewn Grŵp Adfent, meddyliwch am un neu ddau grŵp o bobl, digwyddiadau neu faterion y byddai modd ichi'u cynnwys yn eich Calendr Gweddi o'r sesiwn yma.

Cyflwynwch y rhain o flaen Duw yn nhawelwch eich calonnau, neu ar lafar.

## Gweddi

*Dduw holl raslonrwydd,  
sydd â'th gariad yn cofleidio popeth yn dy greadigaeth,  
gwendiaif yn awr dros... Ychwanegwch y rhai hynny yr hoffech weddio drostyn nhw'n benodol.  
Boed i bawb yn y byd deimlo'n gynwysedig,  
ac yn gwybod a phrofi cyflawnder a heddwch, cariad a chroeso.  
Amen.*

## Gweddi i Gloi

*Dy enw di, O Dduw, ydy Emaniwel.  
Rwyt yn fy nal yng nghledr dy law,  
ac yn fy ngalw wrth f'enw.  
Boed imi ddangos parch bob amser i bawb ddaw ar fy nhraws,  
i groesawu a chyfarch pawb mewn cariad,  
fel ag yr wyt ti'n fy nghroesawu a 'nghyfarch innau pob dydd.  
Boed imi fyth anghofio cyflwyno mewn gweddi  
y rhai hynny'n sy'n ffriaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches  
sy'n bell oddi cartref.  
Boed imi geisio gwneud yr hyn allaf drostyn nhw.  
Mewn ffydd, disgwyliaf arnat ti yn yr wythnosau Adfent hyn.  
Gofynnaf hyn oll yn enw Iesu, Emaniwel.  
Amen.*

Philip Sheldrake, in his book *Spaces for the Sacred*, writes about mystics such as Julian of Norwich who had the idea that, 'God is our country, our home and our place. Yet God is to be thought of as both in no place alone and yet in every place at once' (page 129).

Wherever we rest our head, God is with us.

**What are your thoughts on this?**



## Prayer Calendar

Whether alone or at an Advent Group, think of one or two groups of people, issues or events that you could include in your Prayer Calendar from this session.

Bring that to God in the silence of your heart, or aloud.



## Prayer

*God of graciousness,  
whose love embraces all within creation,  
I pray now for... Add in those you wish to pray for particularly.  
May all in this world feel included,  
and know justice and peace, love and welcome.  
Amen.*



## Prayer

*Your name, O God, is Emmanuel.  
You are with me and with all people.  
Be with me in the changing nature of the world,  
so that I may find my place within it  
and may seek to do as you call me to.  
Help me as I say now, 'Here am I.'  
Help me as I say now, 'Let it be.'  
Give me the courage and the faith  
to never waver from your side during this Advent season  
and through each and every day of my life.  
This I ask in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel.  
Amen.*



## Dydd Llun, Rhagfyr 17

# Llwyth Jwda



## Salm 72

*Rho dy farnedigaeth i'r brenin, O Dduw, iddo farnu dy bobl yn gyfiawn.  
Boed iddo ddod â ffyniant i'r holl bobl ac amddiffyn achos y tlodian.  
Dyro hir oes i'r brenin, O Dduw, a rhoi maeth i'r greadigaeth.  
Boed iddo ddod â chyflawnder i deyrnasu, ac i heddwch amliau yn dragwyddol.*

Rydyn ni'n parhau yn yr Advent, ond mae cyfri'r dyddiau at y Nadolig yn dechrau gyda darlleniad o'r Efengylau na chlywir ei darllen yn aml! Mae pennod gyntaf Mathew'n agor gydag achau Iesu, yn olrhain ei linach nôl at Dafydd ac yn bellach fyth at Abraham, Isaac a Jacob, a mab Jacob, Jwda. Y broffwydoliaeth a'r addewid a roddir ydy mai o lwyth Jwda y bydd teyrnwialen a gobaith Duw yn tarddu. Mae'r llinach yn parhau hyd nes cyrraedd 'Mair, a roddodd enedigaeth i Iesu, a elwid y Meseia' (1:16).

*Faint wyddoch chi am eich achau a'ch hanes teuluol?*

*Faint wyddoch chi am hanes yr Eglwys a'ch ffydd Gristnogol?*

Roedd treftadaeth deuluol a pharhad yr hil yn bwysig tu hwnt i bobl Israel. Fe greden nhw mai trwy'r llinach a goroesiad yr enw teuluol y byddai Duw'n cofio amdanyn nhw a'u cadw

mewn perthynas gyfamadol. Os digwydd i ach y teulu ddod i ben am ba bynnag reswm, eu cred nhw oedd y byddai Duw'n anghofio amdanyn nhw.

Wrth edrych ar adeg y Testament Newydd a geni Iesu, fe ddaw perthynas newydd gyda Duw i fod. Bellach dydy'n perthynas ninnau gyda Duw ddim yn ddibynnol ar dylwyth, llinach deuluol na pharhad yr enw. Trwy Iesu a thrwy ein ffydd mae i bob un ohonon ni gyfle i nabod Duw a chael perthynas â fo.

*Beth ydy bod â pherthynas bersonol â Duw yn ei olygu i chi?*

Wrth i'r Nadolig nesáu, gall yr amser hwn o fod yng nghwmni aelodau eraill y teulu arwain yn aml at hel straeon a dwyn i gof Nadoligau'r gorffennol – amseroedd sy'n aml yn cael eu hanghofio. Efallai yr hoffech nodi atgof arbennig yn eich Calendr Gweddi.



## Gweddi

*Dduw'r storïwr mawr,  
pletha ar fy nghof stori Iesu,  
pletha ar fy nghof stori fy mywyd,  
pletha ar fy nghof stori fy nhreftadaeth.  
Ac o blethiad y straeon hynny,  
helpa fi i'w rhannu'r Nadolig hwn.  
Amen.*

## Monday 17 December

# Tribe of Judah



## Psalm 72

*Give to the king your justice, O God, to judge with righteousness.  
May he bring prosperity to all people and defend the cause of the poor.  
Give long life to the king, O God, and may he nourish creation.  
May he bring righteousness to flourish, and peace to abound for evermore.*

We are still in Advent, but the countdown to Christmas begins with a Gospel reading we don't often hear read out! The first chapter of Matthew opens with the genealogy of Jesus, taking his family line back to David and further back to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and Jacob's son Judah. The prophecy and promise is given that it is from the tribe of Judah that the sceptre and hope of God will come. The family line continues until it reaches 'Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah' (1:16).

*How much do you know about your family line and history?*

*How much do you know about the history of the Church and of your Christian faith?*

Family heritage and the continuation of the family line were extremely important for the people of Israel. They believed it was through the family line and the continuation of the family name that God would remember them and keep

them in the covenant relationship. If the family stopped for whatever reason, they thought that God would forget them.

When we come to the time of the New Testament with the birth of Jesus, a new relationship with God comes into being. No longer does our relationship with God depend upon our ancestry, our family line or the continuation of our name. Through Jesus and through our faith we can each know and have a relationship with God.

*What does having a personal relationship with God mean to you?*

As Christmas approaches, this special time of being with other family members can often become a time of storytelling, of remembering Christmas times of the past – times we can easily forget. You may wish to note a special memory on your Prayer Calendar.



## Prayer

*Storytelling God,  
weave within my memory the story of Jesus,  
weave within my memory the story of my life,  
weave within my memory the story of my heritage.  
Out from the weaving of these stories  
help me to share them this Christmas time.  
Amen.*

Dydd Mawrth, Rhagfyr 18

## Cangen Dafydd



### Salm 72

*Rho i'r brenin, O Dduw, ddealltwriaeth i roi cymorth i'r tlodian.  
Boedd iddo roi terfyn ar ormes a thrais.  
Rho i'r brenin, O Dduw, enw sy'n para hyd byth.  
Bendigedig fyddo Dduw Israel, fo yn unig sy'n gwneud rhyfeddodau.*

Mae'r ffocws yn symud yn yr Efengyl heddiw at Joseff, a'r dilemma mae yntau'n canfod ei hun yn ei chanol hi. Mae ganddo benderfyniad anodd iawn i'w wneud: beth i'w wneud ynglŷn â Mair?! Ei dro yntau ydy hi i dderbyn ymwelliad angel a neges gan Dduw. Fel y cafodd Mair neges i alw'r babi roedd am ei geni yn 'Iesu', dywedir wrth Joseff mai 'Emaniwel' fydd ei enw.

Cyn iddo dderbyn yr ymwelliad hwn mewn breuddwyd, mae'n ddigon posib mai diwedd perthynas rhngddo yntau â Mair fyddai hi wedi bod. Gall bei chiogiad Mair y tu allan i briodas fod wedi golygu ei llabyddio. Mae'n amlwg, fodd bynnag, bod Joseff yn âr o ffydd. Gwnaethpwyd y penderfyniad ar ddeffro... ac mae'r gweddill, ys dywedan nhw, yn hanes!

*Pa mor hawdd neu anodd ydy hi ichi pan fyddwch yn wynebu gwneud penderfyniad anodd?*

*Sut fyddwch chi'n mynd o'i chwmpas hi yn ceisio dirnad beth sy'n iawn i'w wneud?*

### Gwiddi

*Dduw cyfiawnder,  
helpa fi i gadw fy ngwreiddiau'n gadarn yn fy ffordd,  
ac i beidio â chrwydro o'th ymyl di pa fo bywyd yn brysur,  
neu pan fo gofyn gwneud penderfyniadau anodd.  
Bydd yn ddoethineb imi a'r unig Un sy'n f'arwain.  
Amen.*



Tuesday 18 December

## Branch of David



### Psalm 72

*Give to the king, O God, understanding to help the poor.  
May he bring to an end oppression and violence.  
Give to the king, O God, a name that endures for all time.  
Blessed be the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.*

The focus moves to Joseph in today's Gospel, and the dilemma he finds himself in. He has a very difficult decision to make: what to do about Mary! It is now his turn for a visit and a message from God. As Mary is given the name 'Jesus' for the baby she will bring to birth, Joseph is told the name will be 'Emmanuel'.

Before this visitation in a dream, it could easily have been the end of the relationship between Mary and Joseph. Mary's pregnancy outside marriage could have meant that she was stoned to death. Joseph, though, is obviously a man of faith. The decision is made on waking... And the rest, as they say, is history!

*How easy or difficult do you find it when faced with making a difficult decision?*

*How do you go about discerning what to do?*

Joseph would have known the prophecy spoken to Jeremiah about the Branch, the Lord of Righteousness who would come to save Israel. He would have understood the promise from the scriptures that God would be with the people as Emmanuel, the name spoken by the prophet Isaiah and by the angel to Joseph.

The imagery of a tree in the passage from Jeremiah is evocative, especially when we look at it with prayerfulness. The roots are deep, as our faith needs to be, and its branches are wide and so embrace us all. This season of Advent can help us to care for our roots so that they continue to be deeply grounded in God, as it is so easy as Christmas creeps nearer to be too busy to come to God in prayer.

*How deeply rooted is your faith in God?*

You may wish to write on your Prayer Calendar how you would like God to help you to pray at this time, or about a decision you need to make.



### Prayer

*God of righteousness,  
help to keep me rooted firmly in the ground of my faith,  
and not to stray from your side when life is busy,  
or when difficult decisions are to be made.  
Be my wisdom and my guide.  
Amen.*

Dydd Mercher, Rhagfyr 19

## Llwyth Lefi



### Salm 72

*Ynot ti, Arglwydd, y ceisias loches; na fydded cywilydd arnaf byth.  
Bydd yn graig noddfa imi ac yn amddiffynfa gadarn.  
Gwared fi o law'r drygionus, o afael yr anghyflawn a'r creulon.  
Oherwydd ti, f'Arglywydd yw ngobaith, f'y maddiriedaeth,  
ac fe'th folaf di bob amser.*

Roedd Sechareia yn rhan o'r urdd offeiriadol a oedd yn ddisgynyddion teulu Aaron, aelodau a oedd i wasanaethu Duw yn y Deml. Mae'n mynd yngylch ei waith bob dydd pan fo popeth yn newid: caiff ei gonffryntio gan angel sy'n dweud wrtho yntau a'i wraig Elisabeth am gael mab, a hynny yn eu henaint. Caiff Sechareia tipyn o fraw yn clywed hyn, i'r graddau nad oedd yn credu'r peth i ddechrau; fel canlyniad, mae'r angel yn ei wneud yn fud hyd nes geni'i fab, a roddwyd yr enw Ioan.

Fel y gwelson ni ddydd Llun, roedd parhad enw teuluol yn allweddol bwysig i Israel ac felly, roedd y ffaith nad oedd Elisabeth yn medru cael plant wedi ennyn tosturi pawb o'i chyd nabod. Fel y dywed Elisabeth, wedi iddi feichiogi, 'tynnodd Duw ymaith y gwarth a ddioddefais ymssg fy mhobl' (Luc 1:25).

*Beth a dybiwch chi sy'n achosi ymdeimlad o warth neu gywilydd mewn pobl heddiw?*

### Gweddi

*Dduw sy'n derbyn mor gariadus,  
cynorthwya fi i wybod ac i drynstio nad ydy dy gariad tuag at a  
yn ymwneud â'r hyn sydd gen i ond pwys ydw i.  
Helpa fi i fyw fy mywyd yn ffyddlon o ddydd i ddydd,  
i dderbyn popeth sydd gen i ac i beidio â cheisio'r pethau hynny nad oes mo'u hangen arnaf.  
Helpa fi i fyw, yn syml, yn dy gariad  
a gyda't ras yn gorffwys arna i.  
Amen.*

Wednesday 19 December

## Tribe of Levi



### Psalm 72

*I take refuge in you, O God; let me never be put to shame.  
Be to me a rock of refuge and a strong fortress.  
Rescue me from the wicked and from the hand of the unjust.  
For in you, O God, I trust, and I will praise you all the day long.*

Zechariah is a part of the priestly order descended from the family of Aaron, whose members were to serve God in the Temple. He is going about his work when everything changes: he is confronted by an angel who tells him that he and his wife Elizabeth will have a son in their old age. Zechariah is somewhat taken aback and does not quite believe the words of the angel, so is struck dumb until after their son is born and given the name John.

As we saw on Monday, the continuation of the family name was vitally important in Israel and so the fact that Elizabeth could not have children brought upon her the pity of all who knew her. As Elizabeth says, after she becomes pregnant, God 'took away the disgrace I have endured among my people' (Luke 1:25).

*What do you think causes a sense of disgrace in people today?*

In a world dominated by named brands – often expensive – there is a sense that if we are to get on in life, it is important to be seen owning an item from a named brand. This may, perhaps, be more openly seen in our schools where having the 'right' bag or shoes, for example, brings inclusion for a child or the security of not being bullied; but purchasing such items can also cause families to fall into debt. If you have teenagers, think about how many Christmas presents you have bought – or have been asked to buy – that come with an expensively priced named brand attached to them.

*How can the Church, and our faith in God, help us to know that it is who we are as a person that is most important and not what we have? Perhaps this is something you could write onto your Prayer Calendar.*



### Prayer

*God of loving acceptance,  
help me to know and trust that your love for me  
is not to do with what I have but who I am.  
Help me to live my life faithfully day by day,  
to accept all I have and not to seek those things I do not need.  
Help me to live, simply, in your love  
and with your grace upon me.  
Amen.*

**Thursday 20 December**

## The Birth Foretold



### Salm 24

*Eiddo'r Arglwydd yw'r ddaear a'r moroedd a'u llawnder.*

*Pwy, felly, a esgyn i fynd yr Arglwydd?*

*Y glân ei ddwylo a'r pur o galon – fe dderbyn fendith gan yr Arglwydd.*

Mae'r darleniad o Eseia yn ei dwyn yn agosach fyth at y Nadolig gyda'r broffwydoliaeth am y ferch ifanc a fydd yn geni mab a'i enwi'n Emanniwl. Heddiw mae'n darleniad allan o Luc yn sôn am ymwelliad yr angel Gabriel â Mair. Mae'n aml yn cael ei alw Y Cyfarchiad (neu gyhoeddiad), gan gyfeirio at eiriau Gabriel at Mair.

Bu Gabriel yn brysur yn cyfarch Elisabeth gyda'r newyddion y byddai hithau'n esgor ar fab; bellach mae'n sefyll o flaen Mair – fe dybir mai yntau oedd yr angel a welodd Joseff yn ei freuddwyd. Gabriel ydy neges yd Duw ac yn ei gyflwyniad i Sechareria, mae'n datgan cyhoeddi 'Myfi yw Gabriel, sy'n sefyll gerbron Duw' (Luc 1:19). Doedd cyfarfod Mair ddim am fod yn waith syml i Gabriel, foddy bynnag. Roedd gan Mair gwestiynau a phethau i'w hystyried cyn penderfynu gwneud ei hymateb enwog 'Dyma fi' a 'Boed imi yn ôl dy air di' (Luc 1:38). Dim ond wedi hynny y gadawodd Gabriel, unwaith iddi roi ei hateb.

*Beth sy'n mynd trwy'ch meddwl chithau o ddarllen y darn o Luc a'r ffordd y bu i Mair ymateb?*

### Gweddi

*O Dduw, trwy'r oesoedd  
rwyt ti wedi anfon dy neges fel bod pobl yn cael clywed dy Air.  
Boed i minnau glywed dy Air yn cael ei lefaru wrtha i,  
ac ymateb a'm holl galon, 'Dyma fi.'  
Bendithia fi gyda'r ffydd i was'naethu fel rwyt ti wedi fy ngalw i wneud,  
ac i ymateb gyda'm holl galon, 'Boed i hynny fod.'  
Amen.*

**Thursday 20 December**

## The Birth Foretold



### Psalm 24

*God has founded the earth and the seas and everything in them.*

*Who, then, shall ascend the hill of the Lord?*

*Those who have clean hands and pure hearts – they will receive the blessing of God.*

The reading from Isaiah draws us ever closer to Christmas with the prophecy of the young woman who will have a son and will name him Emmanuel. Today the reading from Luke tells us of the visitation of the angel Gabriel to Mary. It is often called the Annunciation ('announcing') and refers to Gabriel's words to Mary.

Gabriel has been busy announcing that Elizabeth would have a child, and is now standing in front of Mary; he is also probably the angel who visited Joseph in a dream. Gabriel is the messenger of God, and in his introduction to Zechariah he says, 'I stand in the presence of God' (Luke 1:19). Meeting Mary wasn't going to be a simple job for Gabriel, though. Mary asks questions and thinks things through before making her well-known response of 'Here am I' and 'Let it be with me according to your word' (Luke 1:38). Only then did Gabriel leave, once her answer had been given.

*What are your thoughts on this passage from Luke and the way in which Mary responded?*

In some of our Christmas carols Mary is described as being meek and mild. Although the passage from Luke may give the impression of a submissive Mary, is she really like that? We don't, of course, have the full or complete story, or Mary's own inner thoughts. She would have known that having a child who was not Joseph's could bring disgrace and death. Yet, she says 'Here am I' and 'Let it be'. She had the strength of trust and faith – and there is nothing meek and mild when it comes to following God! (See Advent Sunday.)

*What part does Mary play in your journey of faith?*

*How do you feel about saying to God, 'Here am I, let it be'?*

You may wish to write on your Prayer Calendar about something in your life that currently needs strength of trust and faith



### Prayer

*O God, throughout all ages  
you have sent out your message so that people can hear your word.  
May I hear your word spoken to me,  
and respond with all my heart, 'Here am I.'  
Bless me with the faith to serve as you call me to,  
and to respond with all my heart, 'Let it be.'  
Amen.*

## Dydd Gwener, Rhagfyr 21

# Y Mynydd-dir



## Salm 33

*Llawenhewch, chwi rai cyflawn, a molwch yr Arglwydd.  
Mae'r ddaear yn llawn o ffyddlondeb yr Arglwydd;  
y rhai sy'n disgwyli wrth ei ffyddlondeb, ac yn ymddiried yn ei enw sanctaidd –  
fe waredir eu heneidiau rhag marwolaeth.*

Mae geni disgwyliedig Iesu'n agosáu, diwrnod wrth ddiwrnod. Mae'r proffwyd Seffaneia'n canu cân o lawenydd am y Duw sydd yn ein mysg a bod y dydd yn dod pan gawn ein hadnewyddu mewn cariad gan Dduw. Dyma gariad sy'n dod i ni ar ffurf faban newydd-anedig, a gyda'r enedigaeth hon daw cyfamod, a pherthynas, newydd â Duw.

Mae Mair yn ymweld ag Elisabeth ym mynydd-dir Israel. Fe glywn y darn hwn ar ddydd Sul fel y darlleniad o'r Efengyl ar gyfer pedwerydd Sul yr Advent. Mae'r ymwelliad hefyd yn destun cân o orfoedd rhwng y ddwy wraig a'r babanod maen nhw'n eu cario, ac fe geir ymdeimlad o adnabyddiaeth yn llamu o un groth i'r llall.

**Sut ydych chi'n adnabod cyffyrddiad Duw, Iesu, yn eich bywyd chi?**

**Sut wnewch chi geisio cadw 'cân o lawenydd' och cwmpas chi wrth ichi ymweld ag eraill neu pan gewch chi ymwelliad gan rywun ar yr adeg hon?**

## Gweddi

*Dduw pawb a phopeth, gyda diolchgarwch am Mair,  
cynorthwya ni i weddio wrth inni edrych arni:  
'Henffych well, Mair, llawn o ras;  
yr Arglwydd sydd gyda thi;  
bendigedig wyt ti ymhliith merched,  
a bendigedig yw Ffrwyth dy groth di, Iesu.'  
Dduw pob dim, gyda diolchgarwch am dy faddeuant,  
helpa ni i weddio:  
'Sanctaidd Fair, Mam Duw,  
gweddia droson ni bechaduriaid yr awr hon,  
ac yn awr ein hangau.'  
Amen.*



## Friday 21 December

# The Hill Country



## Psalm 33

*Rejoice, you righteous, and give to God your praise.  
The earth is filled with the steadfast love of God;  
those who hope in this love, and trust in God's holy name –  
their souls will be delivered from death.*

The anticipated birth of Jesus is getting closer and closer. The prophet Zephaniah gives us a song of joy about God who is in the midst of us and the day coming when we shall be renewed in love by God. It is a love that comes to us in a newborn baby, and with this birth comes the beginning of a new covenant, and relationship with God.

For Mary, there is a visit to Elizabeth in the hill country of Israel. This passage is one we will hear on Sunday as the Gospel reading for the fourth Sunday of Advent. The visit is also a song of joy between the two women and the babies they each carry, and a sense of recognition leaps from one womb to the other.

**How do you recognise the touch of God, of Jesus, in your own life?**

**How will you try to keep a 'song of joy' around you as you visit others or they visit you at this time?**

Elizabeth cries out to Mary, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.' These words, over the centuries, will become a part of a prayer known as the Angelus. The words of the prayer are taken from those of Elizabeth and the angel Gabriel. It is a prayer seeking the intercession of Mary for us before God. It is a prayer that many find helpful because the language is not male-dominated.

**Do you know this prayer, and could you use it in your own prayer time?**

Sometimes praying in a different way can bring to us a new or different insight into the God who is in the midst of us.

On your Prayer Calendar, write the name of someone in need of God's blessing.



## Prayer

*God of all, with thanksgiving for Mary,  
help us to pray as we behold her:  
'Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.'  
God of all, with thanksgiving for your forgiveness,  
help us to pray:  
'Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
now, and at the hour of our death.'  
Amen.*

## Sadwrn, Rhagfyr 22

# Cân Mair



### Salm 113

*Bendigedig fyddo enw'r Arglwydd o hyn allan a hyd byth.  
O godiad haul hyd ei fachlud,  
mae enw'r Arglwydd i'w foli.  
Yr Enw sy'n codi'r gwan o'r llwch  
ac yn dyrchafu'r anghenusr o'r domen.*

Ychydig ddyddiau'n unig sy'n weddill i gael gorffen y siopa 'Dolig a phrynu'r holl fwyd ar gyfer pwy bynnag ddaw i ymweld. Cofiwch wneud nodyn i'ch atgoffa i dynnu'r twrci o'r rhewgell i'w ddadmer! Mae'n siŵr bod y goeden Dolig eisoes yn sefyll yn ddel ei phriod-le ers dyddiau a'r cardiau Dolig yn addurno'r pentan. Lle mae'r amser yn mynd deudwch... a chymaint o waith eto i'w wneud?

Yn llyfr cyntaf Samuel, daeth yr amser i Hanna gymryd Samuel at Eli i ddechrau ar waith ei fwyd o wasanaethu Duw. I Mair, hefyd, mae'r amser esgor yn nesáu, gen i'r byd Fab Duw, a fydd hefyd yn cysegru'i fwyd, mewn mwyn agun ystyr, i wasanaethu Duw Ei Dad a'r ddynoliaeth.

### Prayer

*Fe ddyrchafaff'enaid i ti, o fy Nuw,  
ac mae f'ysbryd yn llawenhau dy fod yn edrych gyda ffaf arna i.  
Fel yr edrychaist ar Mair a'i bendithio hi, bendithia finnau hefyd  
er mwyn imi geisio datgelu dy gariad a'th drugaredd yn y byd hwn.  
Boed imi weithio gyda thi, O Dduw,  
yn codi'r rhai isel eu stad a chwalu'r balch ei ffordd;  
wrth fwydo'r newyngog a thro'i'r cyfoethog ymaith;  
ac i ddod ag anghenion bywyd i'r rhai hynny sydd mewn angen.  
Fel ag y gwnest trwy'r holl genedlaethau, O Dduw,  
yn dy drugaredd cofia dy bobl  
a'r addewid a wnaed ag Abraham.  
Mewn ffydd, mae f'enaid yn mawrygu dy Enw Sanctaidd, rŵan ac am byth.  
Amen.*



**79**

## Saturday 22 December

# The Song of Mary



### Psalm 113

*Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and for evermore.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised.  
The Name who raises up the poor and needy.*

There are only a few more days to go to finish the Christmas shopping and buy in the food to feed whoever visits. Maybe make a note to take the turkey out of the freezer to defrost! The Christmas tree has no doubt been up for a while, as well as the Christmas cards. Time may feel as though it is running by far too quickly and there is still so much to do.

In the first book of Samuel, the time had come for Hannah to take Samuel to Eli to begin his life dedicated to serving God. Mary, too, is drawing closer to bringing into the world God's Son, who also will have a life dedicated to serving and doing the work of God.

The time is coming for us to celebrate the birth of Emmanuel. Before that day, and in the midst of last-minute busyness, now could be a time to have a 'time out', to take a deep breath and be still and quiet with God.

**How can you ensure that you have time with God today and in the following few days?**

Mary brings to us a song of praise, her Magnificat, which is sung or said now at Evening Prayer. Read her words in the Bible, the prayer book, or from the more personalised version below. Is there a word or a phrase that you can write onto your Prayer Calendar?



### Prayer

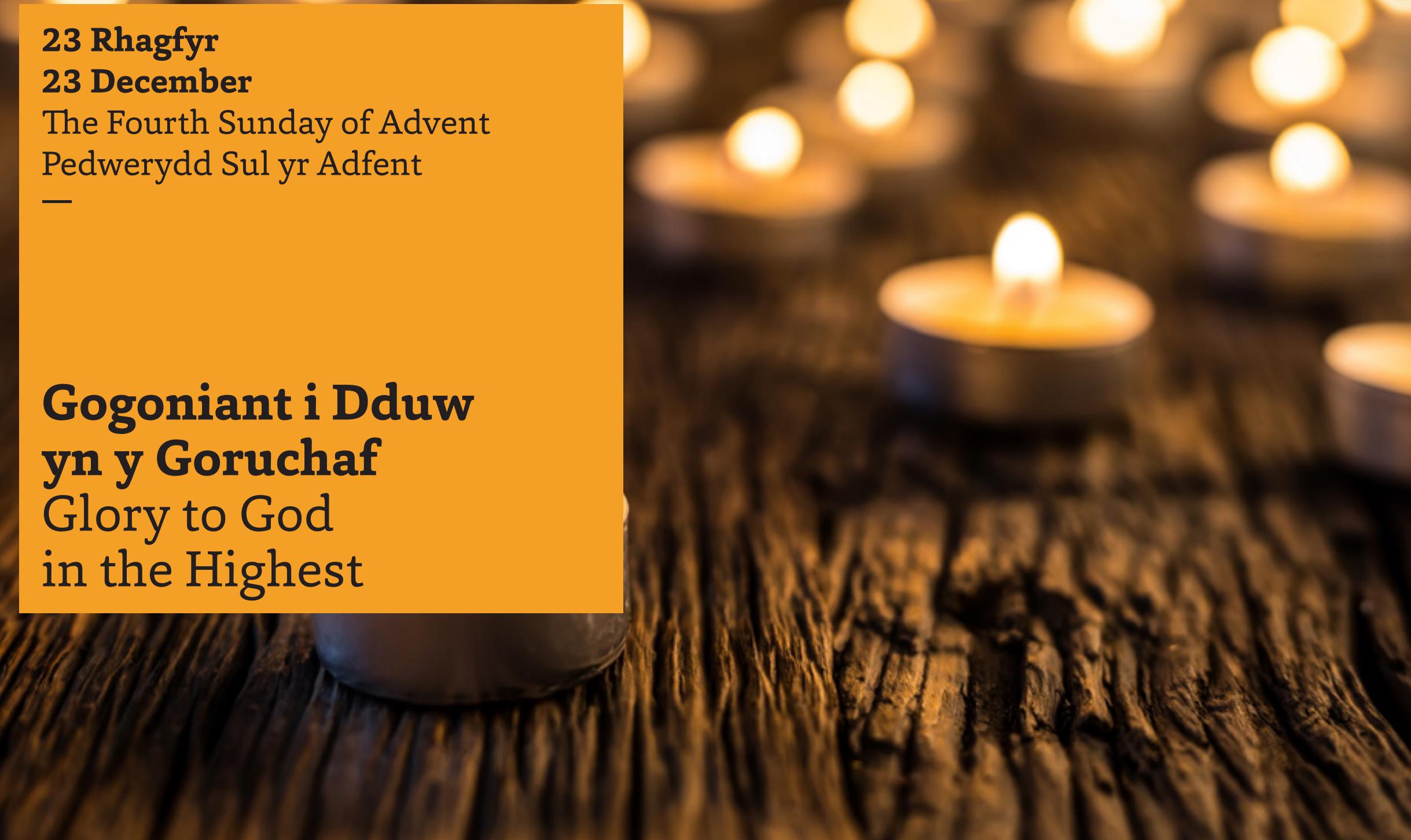
*I lift my soul to you, O God,  
and my spirit rejoices that you look with favour upon me.  
As you looked upon Mary and blessed her, bless me too  
so that I may seek to reveal your love and mercy in this world.  
May I work with you, O God,  
in the lifting up of the lowly and in the scattering of the proud;  
in the feeding of the hungry and sending the rich away;  
and to bring the necessities of life to those in need.  
As you have done throughout all generations, O God,  
in your mercy remember your people  
and your promise made to Abraham.  
In faith, my soul magnifies your Holy Name, now and for evermore.  
Amen.*

**23 Rhagfyr  
23 December**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Pedwerydd Sul yr Adfent

---

**Gogoniant i Dduw  
yn y Goruchaf**  
Glory to God  
in the Highest



## Gweddi'r Gannwyll

Wrth danio matsien ar gyfer y bedwaredd gannwyll, boed inni gofio i fod yn barod, yn ysbrydol ac yn weddigar, yn ystod yr wythnosau Adfent hyn.

**O Dduw,**  
wrth imi syllu ar y gannwyll hon,  
llonyddafy nghalon i fod yn barod ar gyfer dy ddyfodiad,  
deffrafy nghalon i fod yn barod i ganu dy glodydd,  
dyfnhafy ffydd i fod yn barod i weld d'Oleuni.  
Boed imi fod yn barod i gerdded gyda Mair a Joseff  
i ganol dirgelwch a rhyfeddod dy ddyfodiad i'n plith,  
Emaniwel, heddiw ac yn dragwyddol.  
Amen.



## Salm 80:1-7

Gwranda, O Fugail Israel,  
Ti sy'n arwain Joseff fel praid!  
**Adfer ni, O Dduw,**  
disgleiria arnon ni a'n hachub.  
Rwyti ti, O Dduw, wedi d'orseddu uwchben y ceriwbaid,  
disgleiria arnon ni, dangos dy nerth;  
tyrd a'n hachub ni.  
**Adfer ni, O Dduw,**  
disgleiria arnon ni a'n hachub.  
Paid â bod yn ddig bellach, O Fugail Israel,  
a phaid â gadael i'n gelynion wneud hwyl am ein pennau.  
**Adfer ni, O Dduw,**  
disgleiria arnon ni a'n hachub.



## Gweddi

Mae'r dydd yn dod pan fydd Duw'n datgeli'i hun ar ffurf dyn:  
**Fe ddisgwylwn iti ddod i'n mysg, Emaniwel,**  
heddiw ac am byth.  
Amen.



## Candle Prayer

As we light this fourth candle, may it be a reminder to us to be prepared spiritually and prayerfully during these weeks of Advent.

**O God,**  
as I look upon this candle,  
quieten my inner being to be ready for your coming,  
awaken my heart to be ready to sing your glory,  
deepen my faith to be ready to see your Light.  
May I be ready to walk with Mary and Joseph  
into the mystery and wonder of your coming among us,  
Emmanuel, now and for evermore.  
Amen.



## Psalm 80:1-7

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
**Restore us, O God,**  
and let your face shine and save us.  
You, O God, are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
shine forth upon us, stir up your might;  
and come and save us.  
**Restore us, O God,**  
and let your face shine and save us.  
Be angry no longer, O Shepherd of Israel,  
and do not let our enemies scorn us or laugh at us.  
**Restore us, O God,**  
and let your face shine and save us.



## Prayer

The day is coming when God will be revealed in human form:  
**We await your coming among us, Emmanuel,**  
now and always.  
Amen.



## 'A Bydd yn Cael ei Alw'n Emaniwel'

Fe ddown at y gair olaf yn nheitl y Llyfr Adfent: Emaniwel, sy'n golygu 'Dyw gyda ni'. Pan edrychwn ar y Beibl, fe ddown ar draws sawl enw gwahanol y gellir eu defnyddio wrth siarad am Dduw, Iesu a'r Ysbryd Glân hefyd.

Roedd i Dduw fod gyda ni fel Emaniwel yn golygu gwisgo mantell gnawdol dyn. Roedd yn gofyn Iddo gael ei'n fabi bach i'n byd ni. Roedd yn golygu mai Mair gafodd ei dewis i gario Duw yn ei chroth, ei eni a'i fagu.

### Darlleniadau

Os oes amser ganddoch chi, ceisiwch ddarllen y darnau'n llawn:

**Micha 5:2-5a** Mae'r proffwyd yn llefaru am yr Un a fydd yn dod o Fethlehem i lywodraethu ar Israel. Fe ddaw i fwydō'i braidd; fe fyddan nhw'n ddiogel ac fe ddaw yntau â heddwch.

**Hebreaid 10:5-10** Mae'r awdur yn ein hatgoffa o'r aberth a wnaeth Iesu er ein mwyn, a hynny trwy ei gorff ei hun, unwaith ac am byth. Ni fydd angen aberthau nac aberthu mwyach dros bechodau, gan bod maddeuant yn cael ei gynnig inni trwy Iesu.

**Luc 1:39-45** Mae Mair yn ymweld â'i chyfnither Elisabeth draw yn y mynydd-dir. Mae'r plentyn yng nghroth Elisabeth yn neidio wrth gydnabod y plentyn mae Mair yn ei gario, ac mae Elisabeth yn datgan, 'Bendigedig wyt ti ymystg merched, a bendigedig ydy ffrwyth dy groth.'

*Beth sy'n eich taro chi yn y darnau hyn ar y darlleniad cyntaf, a beth y gellid ei ddysgu oddi wrthyn nhw ynglŷn â'r amrywiol ystyron i'r enw 'Emaniwel'?*

*Beth sydd gan y darlleniadau hyn i ddweud wrthon ni yn nhymor yr Adfent?*

*Faint o enwau fedruch chi feddwl amdanyn nhw sy'n cael eu defnyddio wrth siarad am Dduw, Iesu a'r Ysbryd Glân?*

## 'They Shall Name Him Emmanuel'

We come to the last word in the title of this year's Advent Book: Emmanuel, meaning 'God with us'. When we look in the Bible we will discover many different names that we can use to speak of God, and of Jesus and also the Holy Spirit.

For God to be with us as Emmanuel meant taking on earthly human flesh. It meant being born into the world. It meant that Mary was the one chosen to be the God-bearer.

### Readings

If you have time, read through the passages in full:

**Micah 5:2-5a** The prophet speaks of the One who will come from Bethlehem to rule Israel. He shall come to feed his flock; they shall live in safety and he shall be One of peace.

**Hebrews 10:5-10** The writer reminds us of the sacrifice Christ made for us all which was through his body, once and for all. Sacrifices will no longer need to be offered for sins committed, for forgiveness comes to us through Jesus.

**Luke 1:39-45** Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth who lives in the hill country. The child in Elizabeth's womb leaps in acknowledgement of the child Mary is carrying, and Elizabeth proclaims of Mary, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.'

*What are your initial thoughts on these readings, and what may we learn from them about the various meanings behind the word 'Emmanuel'?*

*What do these readings say to us in this season of Advent?*

*How many names can you think of to use when speaking of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit?*

## Datblygu'r Thema

Dim ond deuddydd yn unig sydd ar ôl rhwng y Pedwerydd Sul hwn o'r Advent a dathliad geni Emaniwel, Duw gyda ni. Heddiw, fodd bynnag, rydyn ni'n parhau ar ein taith trwy'r Advent, gan deithio gyda Mair i ymweld ag Elisabeth; dyma'r darn y buon ni'n edrych arno ddydd Gwener. Teithio rydyn ni hefyd, yn feddyliol felly, gyda geiriau proffwydol Micha ac edrychwn ymlaen trwy eiriau awdur yr Hebreaid. Bydd yr Un a ddaw yn bwyd'o'i braidd ac yn dod â heddwch, ac yna, trwy aberth Ei gorff, newid holl ddealltwriaeth yr hyn ydy maddeuant pechodau – mai dim ond Emaniwel yn Iesu all faddau beiau.

Mae hyn oll yn cyflwyno cryn dipyn inni ystyried a chnoi cil arno! Fe welwn ni hefyd y cysylltiadau rhwng yr Advent a'r Grawys, Nadolig a'r Pasg. Gwelir fod geni a marwolaeth, y preseb a'r groes, cariad a gobaith... pob un wedi'u cwmpasu yn Emaniwel. Fedrwn ni ddim â theithio i Fethlehem os na wnaeon ni'n siwrne at y groes yn nhymor y Grawys. Medrwn ddathlu geni Iesu adeg y Nadolig os ddathlu ni hefyd atgyfodiad Iesu adeg y Pasg. Gyda'i gilydd fe gawn ein hatgoffa am yr addewid y daw Iesu drachefn.

### **Beth ddaw i'ch meddwl wrth fyfyrion ar hyn?**

Mae hi'n ddiddorol cyn lleied o hanes gawn ni gan awduron yr Efengylau ar adegau! A deithiodd Mair ar ei phen ei hun at Elisabeth? Fu Joseff yn gwmni iddi ar y daith a mynd i'w hebrwng hi'n ôl dri mis yn ddiweddarach? Pwy a wyr? Ond os aeth Mair ar ei phen ei hun, yna dyna ichi engraiiff arall o'i dewrder – yn barod i fentro y tu hwnt i ffiniau confensiwn a disgwyliadau cymdeithasol. Meddai Andrew Jones yn ei lyfr, *Mary*, 'Mae Mair yn fwy na dim ond merch ostyngedig, wylaidd ac ufudd... mae hi'n fam sy'n gweithio, â'i phrif gonsyrn oedd cynaeafu'r deyrnas – mae hi'n aelod gweithgar mudiad y tlodian' (tudalen 64).

Dydy'r natur wyrdroadol, gwrth-ddiwyliau hwn, fel y gwelson ni rhwng dydd Iau a'r Sadwrn, ddim yn dod gan ferch addfwyn a thyner – gwan a gwasaid – ond gan un a safodd yn y bwlc'h a dweud 'Iawn' wrth Dduw. Fe â yn ei blaen i droi'r drefn gymdeithasol ar ei phen yng ngeiriau ei Chân, y Magnificat (Luc 1: 46-55), sy'n chwyldroadol, heriol. Hyd yn oed cyn ei eni, dyma Mair yn disgrifio ei weinidogaeth, yn weinidogaeth y bydd ganddi hi ei rhan ynddi hefyd.

A oedd y geiriau hyn eisoes yn ddwfn oddi fewn i Mair, fel ag yr oedd geiriau Elisabeth yn ein darlleniad o'r Efengylau heddiw? Ai dim ond aros oedden nhw am ymdeimlad y cyswilt dyfnach hwnnw, y berthynas glos honno â Duw, cyn cael eu mynegi? Nid pyped ar linyd ydy Mair - mae iddi ei meddwl ei hun! Mae'r geiriau mae hithau ac Elisabeth yn eu llefaru yn rai proffwydol na ellid mo'u llefaru heb ysgogiad Ysbryd Duw o'u mewn. Roedd y ddwy'n gallu sgwrsio, dynes wrth ddynes, am Emaniwel, Duw gyda nhw, ac maen nhw hefyd yn llefaru yn erbyn anghyflawnderau cymdeithasol eu cyfnod, ac am y trais a oedd yn amgylchynu eu byd. Fe wyddai'r ddwy, fel gwragedd, eu bod yn fregus ac yn agored i ymosodiadau a chamdriniaeth; yn anffodus, mor wir ydy hynny i lawer merch trwy'n byd i gyd heddiw.

### **Pwy arall, yn eich tyb chi, sy'n bobl fregus yn ein byd y dyddiau hyn?**

Yn sgwennu am heddwch yng nghyd-destun taith yr Advent, meddai Mary Grey bod y Cyfarchiad yn datgelu 'sut bod Mair yn hanfodol i'r angerdd hwn am gyflawnder perthynol. Os daeth Iesu i fod yn ymgorfforiad o gydymddibyniaeth mewn perthynas, yna gan ei fam y cafodd ddysgu'r ysbrydolwydd hynny gyntaf' (*The Advent of Peace*, tudalen 45). Fe geisiodd Mair, a Iesu, y tangnafedd hwnnw a fwriadwyd i'r greadigaeth o'r cychwyn cyntaf, gan geisio hefyd ffordd iachâd, cymod a chyflawnder.

## Opening Up the Theme

This fourth Sunday of Advent is only two days away from the celebration of the birth of Emmanuel, God with us. Today, though, we are still on our Advent journey and travel now with Mary to visit Elizabeth; this is the passage we looked at on Friday. We travel too with the prophetic words of Micah in our minds, and we look ahead with the words of the writer to the Hebrews. The One to come will feed his flock and bring peace, and then in the sacrifice of his body change the whole understanding of forgiveness of sins – that only Emmanuel in Jesus can forgive sins.

This gives us a great deal to consider and ponder over! We also see the connections between Advent and Lent, Christmas and Easter. Birth and death, the manger and the cross, love and hope ... all are encompassed in Emmanuel. We cannot make our journey to Bethlehem if we do not also make the journey to the cross in the season of Lent. We can celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas if we also celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at Easter. Together we have the reminder and promise that Jesus will come again.

### **What are your thoughts on this?**

It is interesting how little the Gospel writers tell us at times! Did Mary travel alone to the home of Elizabeth? Did Joseph accompany her there and collect her three months later? If Mary did go on her own, then again we see a courageous woman not afraid to step outside the boundaries of social convention and expectation. Andrew Jones, in his book *Mary*, writes, 'Mary is more than simply a humble, lowly and obedient woman... she is a working mother concerned primarily with harvesting the kingdom – she is an active member of the movement of the poor' (page 64).

This subversive and counter-cultural nature, as we saw on Thursday to Saturday, does not come from a meek and mild woman – weak and subservient – but from one who stood up and said 'Yes' to God. She then goes on to turn the social order upside down in the words of her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), which are world-changing, world-challenging. Even before Jesus is born, Mary is describing his ministry, and it is one she will share in.

Were these words already deep within Mary, as were the words of Elizabeth in today's Gospel reading? Were they waiting for that extra depth of connection and intimate relationship with God to be felt before they could be expressed? Mary is no puppet on a string – she has a mind of her own! The words that she and Elizabeth speak are prophetic words which could only be spoken as prompted by God's Spirit within them. The two cousins also talk, though, woman to woman, about Emmanuel, God with them, and they speak out against the social injustices of their time, and of the violence that surrounded their world. They both knew that as women they were vulnerable and open to attack and abuse; unfortunately this remains true for many women throughout the world.

### **Who else in the world would you say are vulnerable people?**

Writing about peace in the context of the Advent journey, Mary Grey says that the Annunciation reveals 'how Mary is integral to this passion for relational justice. If Jesus became the embodiment of mutuality-in-relation, then it was from his mother that he first learnt this spirituality' (*The Advent of Peace*, page 45). Mary, and Jesus, sought out the peace intended for creation at the beginning, and sought out too the way to healing, reconciliation and justice.

*Sut fedrwn ni, a'r Eglwys, fod yn rhan o'r ceisio, y chwilio yma, am gydraddoldeb, cyflawnder a heddwch trogyddol? Beth all hyn ofyn ohonon ni a ganddon ni?*

Mae bod yn ymwybodol bod Duw gyda ni, fel Emamiwel, yn galw arnon ni i geisio llwybr cyflawnder a heddwch, llwybr shalom a diwedd ar drais. Mae'n ein galw i gyfranogi tuag at ddileu ymraniadau ac anghydraddoldeb ymhob modd y'i mynegir. Mae hefyd yn galw arnon ni i ffydd sy'n dyfnhau yn Nuw. Mae'n alwad i 'nabod' ein hunain, yn ogystal, os ydyn ni am 'nabod' Duw'n well.

Mae deall beth sy'n gwneud inni droi, gwybod a nabod popeth amdanon ni'n hunain, y da a'r hyn sydd ddim cystal, yn effeithio ar y ffordd fyddwn ni'n sgrwsio â Duw, ac amdan Fo. Bydd y modd rydyn ni'n gweld ac ystyried ein hunain, yn gadarnhaol neu'n negyddol, yn cael effaith ar sut rydyn ni'n gweld ac ystyried Duw, a fydd, yn ei dro, yn effeithio ar ein gweddio a'r ieithwedd a'r geiriau a ddefnyddiwn am Dduw, sef Emamiwel. Mae'n taith trwy wythnosau'r Advent (a'r Grawys) yn gymorth inni ddarganfod mwyn am Dduw gyda ni; felly hefyd, mae ein bywyd cyfan yn un o ddod i nabod yr hunan ynon ni... a Duw.

Dywed Rowan Williams yn ei lyfr *Being Human*, 'y pwyt ydy bod rhyddiaith amrwd ein dynoliaeth, yn cael ei droi, gan Dduw, yn farndoniaeth trwy'r awydd cyson hwnnw i dyfu'. Rydyn ni'n ymgryraedd i dyfu mewn ffydd 'oherwydd mai Duw ydy Duw a ninnau ydy'r hyn mae Duw'n ei wneud a'i garu ac yn gweithio arno' (tudalen 92). Efallai'n wir nad oes ganddon ni mo'r awen i gyfansoddi fel ag y gwnaeth Elisabeth a Mair, ond sut bynnag yr edrychwn arnon ni'n hunain, darn o gelfyddyd neu gerdd anorffenedig yn llaw Duw ydyn ni wrth iddo Fo barhau i weithio'n gelfydd a thyner mewn amser sy'n dderbyniol i ni.

Tuag at ddiwedd ei lyfr, sgwennai Williams fel hyn (tudalen 104-5):

**Gadael i Dduw fod yn Dduw rydyn ni, ac yn y broses honno, yn caniatáu i'n hunain ddod yn fwy dynol, gan fod, yn economi anghyffredin y nef, Duw yn Dduw trwy fod yn Dduw i ni, a ninnau'n ddynol trwy fod yn ddynol i Dduw; ac unaith y down i gydnabod hyn, daw holl lawenydd a chyflawnder yn agored inni.**

Mae geiriau Elisabeth a Mair yn mynegi Duw o'u mewn, a chyda gorfoedd mawr.

#### *Eich meddyliau ar hyn?*

*Sut ydych chi'n mynegi Duw, Emamiwel, gyda gorfoedd?*

#### **Y Geni – 'Gogonian i Dduw yn y Goruchaf' (Luc 2:12-14)**

Mae'r angylion yn canu eu cân i'r bugeiliaid ar y llethrâu ac mae gweithred chwyldroadol bydnewidiol Duw unaith eto ar waith. Dyma ichi gân sy'n cyhoeddi gogonian Duw, Emamiwel bellach, yn ogystal â bod yn gân heddwch a thangnefedd. Daeth tangnefedd i'r ddaear ym mherson Iesu – tangnefedd sy'n parhau i fod yn angen ynon ni.

Gan symud ymlaen o eiriau Elisabeth a Mair, fe glywn rŵan y geiriau a lefarwyd i awyr y nos uwchben y bugeiliaid. Fel y gwragedd, roedd bugeiliaid yn fregus. Yn fregus gan eu bod yn gweithio yn yr awyr agored, ond hefyd am eu bod, yng ngeiriau Mary Grey yn The Advent of Peace, 'yn cael eu cydnabod yn gyffredinol fel rhai aflen ac anones' (tudalen 61). Efallai fod hyn yn ymddangos braidd yn od i ni heddiw wrth inni ddarllen sawl delwedd Feiblaidd o Fugail wrth gyfeirio at Dduw, ac Iesu hefyd yn galw'i hun yn 'Fugail Da' (Ioan 10:11). Od, hefyd, gan ein bod ninnau yn yr esgobaeth hon yn byw mewn ardaloedd lle ceir bugeiliaid lawer sy'n rhan annatod o'n cymunedau a'n heglwysi ni

**How can we, and the Church, be a part of this seeking for equality, justice and peace? What may it ask of us and from us?**

Knowing that God is with us, as Emmanuel, calls us to seek out the path of justice and peace, of shalom and the end of violence. It calls us to participate in ending division and inequality in all the ways it can be expressed. It calls us, too, to a deepening faith in God. It calls us to 'know' our own self, as well, if we are to 'know' something more of God.

Understanding how we tick, knowing the whole of ourselves, the good and the not so good, affects how we speak to, and of, God. How we see ourselves, positively or negatively, will have an effect on how we see God, which in turn will affect how we pray and the language and the words we use for God who is Emmanuel. Our journey through the weeks of Advent (and Lent) helps us to discover more about God with us; so too our whole life is one of getting to know our self and God.

Rowan Williams says in his book *Being Human*, 'the point is that the bare prose of our humanity is, by God, turned into poetry by that constant urging to grow'. We seek to grow in faith 'because God is God and we are what God makes and loves and works on' (page 92). We may not be able to find poetic words to say or write as Elizabeth and Mary did, but however we look at our self, we are a piece of art and poetry to God that God continues to work on with gentleness and at a pace we are happy with.

Towards the end of his book, Williams writes (pages 104-5):

**We're letting God be God, and in the process we're letting ourselves become more fully human, because, in the extraordinary economy of heaven, God is God by being God for us, and we are human by being human for God; and all joy and fulfilment opens up once we recognise this.**

The words of Elizabeth and Mary express the God within them, and with great joy.

**Any thoughts on this?**

**How do you express God, Emmanuel, with joy?**

#### **The Nativity – 'Glory to God in the Highest' (Luke 2:12-14)**

The angels sing their song to the shepherds on the hillside, and the world-changing action of God is present once more. It is a song that proclaims the glory of God, now Emmanuel, as well as being a song of peace. Peace has come to earth in the person of Jesus – a peace we still need.

Moving on from the words of Elizabeth and Mary, we hear now the words spoken into the night sky above the shepherds. Like the women, shepherds were vulnerable. They were vulnerable because they worked out in the open, but also because they were, as Mary Grey writes in *The Advent of Peace*, 'widely regarded as unclean and dishonest' (page 61). This may seem strange to us today as we read of the many biblical images of the Shepherd in reference to God, and also Jesus is called the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). Strange also as in this diocese we live among shepherds who are very much an essential part of the community and of our churches.

**How would you have reacted if you had been in that field with the shepherds when the angels sang?**

God surprises us by revealing the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, who are then the first to visit the manger and the Holy Family. The social order has been upended once again. This social reversal is also the surprise in the prophecy of Zechariah after the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:67-79). And it is contained too in the song of Mary after meeting Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55).

Is this our song? Is this the song of our Christian faith and discipleship? In the life of Jesus we see all of their words put into action, and these are words that we as the disciples of today are also to put into action.

*Sut fasech chi wedi ymateb petai chithau wedi bod yn y caeau hynny gyda'r bugeiliaid pan ymddangosodd yr angylion?*

Mae Duw'n ein synnu ni trwy ddatgelu geni Iesu i griw o fugeliaid, a nhw yd'y'r cyntaf i ymweld â'r preseb a'r Teulu Sanctaidd. Dyma olygfa sy'n troi'r drefn gymdeithasol ben-isa-ucha unwaith eto. Mae'r gwrrhdroad cymdeithasol yma i'w weld ym mhroffwydoliaeth Sechareria wedi geni Ioan Fedyddiwr (Luc 1: 67-79). Ac mae'n cael ei gynnwys hefyd yng nghân Mair wedi iddi gyfarfod ag Elisabeth (Luc 1:46-55).

Ai dyma'n cân ninnau? Ai dyma gân ein ffydd Gristnogol, bod yn ddisgybl? Ym mywyd a thrwy fywyd Iesu, fe welwn wireddu a gweithredu eu holl eiriau, a dyma'r union eiriau y mae gofyn inni hefyd, fel disgylion heddiw, eu rhoi ar waith.



## Calendr Gweddi

P'un ai ar eich pen eich hunan neu mewn Grŵp Adfent, meddyliwch am un neu ddau grŵp o bobl, digwyddiadau neu faterion y byddai modd ichi'u cynnwys yn eich Calendr Gweddi o'r sesiwn yma.

Cyflwynwch y rhain o flaen Duw yn nhawelwch eich calonnau, neu ar lafar.



## Calendr Gweddi

*Dduw holl raslonrwydd,  
sydd â'i gariad yn cofleidio'r greadigaeth oll,  
gweddiaf y funud hon dros... Nodwch y rhai hynny sydd ar eich meddwl i weddîo drosdyn nhw.  
Boed i bawb yn ein byd deimlo eu bod yn perthyn,  
a gwybod beth ydy cyfiawnder a heddwch a chroeso... ac adnabod cariad.  
Amen.*



## Gweddi

*Dy enw, O Dduw, ydy Emaniwel.  
Bydd yn gryfder a dewrder imi i dy ddilyn di yn ffyddlon.  
Bydd gyda mi o ddydd i ddydd ac o nos i nos.  
Bydd fy noethineb a'r geiriau i'w llefaru dros gyfiawnder a heddwch.  
Bydd gyda mi wrth imi fentro rhoi fy ffydd ar waith.  
Bydd fy ngobaith a'm cariad i estyn croeso i'r bregus.  
Bydd gyda mi'n gwmni yn llawenydd a gogoniant y dyddiau sy'n dilyn.  
Mewn ffydd fe ddisgwyliaf arnat ti yn nyddiau ola'r Adfent hwn.  
Gofyn hyn rydw i yn enw Iesu, Emaniwel.  
Amen.*



## Prayer Calendar

Whether alone or at an Advent Group, think of one or two groups of people, issues or events that you could include in your Prayer Calendar from this session.

Bring that to God in the silence of your heart, or aloud.



## Prayer

*God of graciousness,  
whose love embraces all within creation,  
I pray now for... Add in those you wish to pray for particularly.  
May all in this world feel included,  
and know justice and peace, love and welcome.  
Amen.*



## Prayer

*Your name, O God, is Emmanuel.  
Be my strength and courage to follow you faithfully.  
Be with me day by day and night by night.  
Be my wisdom and words to speak out for justice and peace.  
Be with me as I seek to put my faith into action.  
Be my hope and love to welcome the vulnerable.  
Be with me in the joy and the glory of the coming days.  
In faith I shall wait upon you in these last few Advent days.  
This I ask in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel.  
Amen.*

## Dydd Llun, Rhagfyr 24

# Noswyl Nadolig



## Salm 89

*Dwi'n datgan y caiff dy gariad ffyddlon ei sefydlu ac y bydd dros byth.  
Bydd dy law gadarn ar dy eneiniog Un ac fe gaiff d'enw ei ddyrchafu.  
Bydd yr Un sy'n dod yn galw allan, 'Fy Nuw a Chraig fy iachawdwriaeth!'  
Bydd dy gariad yn ei amgylchynu a'th fraich yn nerth iddo.*

Mae adnodau yn 2 Samuel yn codi'r cwestiwn am leoliad preswylfa Duw. Mae Sechareria, yn Luc, yn sôn am yr un a fydd yn paratoi ffordd i'r Arglwydd ddod. Ond ymhle mae Duw'n preswylio? Heddiw, a hithau'n Noswyl y Nadolig, fe wyddwn un peth, sef nad oedd lle i Dduw aros ym Methlehem, heblaw stabl ddi-nod yng nghwmni'r anifeiliaid. Gyda geni Iesu, Emaniwel, daw preswylfa Duw'n fwy personol: yng nghanawd person dynol. Ac wrth i'r hanes barhau i gael ei ddatgelu, gwelwn fod Duw'n preswylio, yn byw, oddi fewn i bob un ohonon ni.

**Beth mae'n ei olygu i chi bod Duw'n preswylio oddi fewn i bob un ohonon ni?**

Ar y Noswyl Nadolig hon, mae llawer eto'i wneud i baratoi i ddatlhu 'Duw gyda ni'. Dyma'r amser brynu'r anrhegion munud-olaf a'r bwyd, amser cwblhau lapio'r anrhegion i gyd, paratoi'r llysiau cinio mawreddog fory, a pharatoi'r twrci i'r popty. Ond dyma, hefyd, yr amser i gymryd ail enyt a cheisio'r Duw sy'n preswylio o'n mewn.

## Prayer

*O Dduw, rwyt yn galw allan yng nghanol bwrlwm a brys y dydd hwn.  
Helpa fi i glywed y llais hnwnw wrth imi geisio cyflawni'r hyn sydd angen ei wneud.  
Yn y prysurdeb yma, rho gymorth imi gofio'r geni sydd ar y trothwy, geni dy Fab,  
a chanfod amser i fyfyrion dawel ar dy bresenoldeb yn preswylio ynoffi,  
a dy gariad, sy'n dragwyddol, Emaniwel.  
Amen.*



## Monday 24 December

# Christmas Eve



## Psalm 89

*I declare that your steadfast love will be established and live for ever.  
Your hand will be upon your anointed One and your name shall be exalted.  
The One to come shall cry out, 'My God and the Rock of my salvation!'  
Your love will be around him, and your arm to give him strength.*

The verses from 2 Samuel raise the question of where is the dwelling place of God. Zechariah, in Luke, speaks of the one who will prepare the way for the coming of God. Where does God dwell? On this Christmas Eve we know that God found no place to stay in Bethlehem except for a small stable with the animals. With the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, the dwelling place of God becomes more intimate: in the flesh of a human being. And as the story continues to unfold, God dwells within each one of us.

**What does it mean to you that God dwells within us all?**

On this Christmas Eve there is much to do as we prepare to celebrate 'God with us'. Now is the time for last-minute purchases of presents and food, the time to finish wrapping the presents, get the vegetables prepared for the dinner tomorrow, the turkey ready for the oven. Now is the time to take a deep breath and seek out the God dwelling within.

## Prayer

*O God, you call out in the noise and the busyness of this day.  
Help me hear your voice as I work at all I need to do.  
In the busyness help me remember the coming birth of your Son,  
and find time to quietly reflect on your presence dwelling within me,  
and your love which is never-ending, Emmanuel.  
Amen.*



## Dydd Mawrth, Rhagfyr 25

# Dydd Nadolig

### Gweddi'r Gannwyll

*Mae'r Goleuni wedi gwawrio ar y ddaear:*

**Haleliwia!**

*Ganwyd Iesu i Mair:*

**Haleliwia!**

*Fe ddaw eto mewn gogoniant:*

**Haleliwia!**

*Wrth oleuo'r gannwyll wen ganolog hon, boed iddi fod yn fodd inni gofio  
mai Duw ydy Emaniwel, gyda ni, wedi'i eni fel un ohonon ni.*

**O Dduw,**

**gwawriodd y dydd bendigedig hwn o'r diwedd.**

*Wrth imi syllu ar y gannwyll hon, fe lawenhaf yn dy ddyfodiad*

*fel babi bach bregus,*

*a fydd yn arllwys cariad i mewn i'n byd*

*ac yn llefaru geiriau o dangnefedd i bawb.*

*Arwain fi ar hyd llwybrau cariad a heddwch  
trwy'r Nadolig hwn ac am byth.*

*Gweddiaf hyn yn Nuw, sef Emaniwel.*

**Amen.**



### Salm 96



*Canwch i'r Arglwydd gân newydd, yr holl ddaear, canwch; a bendithiwr Enw Sanctaidd Duw.*

**Dyweddwr wrth bawb am y rhyfeddodau a wnaeth ein Duw; a bendithiwr Dduw'r cread.**

*Anrhyydeddwch Duw gydag addoliad a mawl; a bendithiwr Enw Sanctaidd Duw.*

**Llawenheuwr, yr holl ddaear, a rhued y môr ruo; a bendithiwr Dduw'r cread.**

*Dyweddwr wrth y ddaear i gyd bod Dduw gyda ni oll; a bendithiwr Enw Sanctaidd Duw.*

**Canwch i'r Arglwydd gân o wirionedd a gorfoedd; a bendithiwr Dduw'r cread.**

### Gweddi



*Daeth y dydd pan ddatguddir Duw yn ein plith ar ffurf ddynol:*

**Ti ydy'r Un y bu'r hir aros amdanol, Emaniwel,**

*heddiw ac yn dragwydd.*

**Amen.**



## Tuesday 25 December

# Christmas Day

### Candle Prayer

*The Light has dawned upon the earth:*

**Alleluia!**

*Jesus is born of Mary:*

**Alleluia!**

*He will come again in glory:*

**Alleluia!**

*As we light this central white candle, may it be a reminder to us  
that God is Emmanuel, with us, born as one of us.*

*O God,*

**this most wonderful of days has arrived.**

*As I look upon this candle I rejoice in your coming  
as a small and vulnerable baby*

*who will pour love into our world*

*and will speak of peace to all.*

*Guide me in the paths of love and peace  
this Christmas time and for evermore.*

*This I pray in God who is Emmanuel.*

**Amen.**



### Psalm 96

*Sing to God a new song, all the earth, sing; and bless God's Holy Name.*

**Declare to all the wonders God has done; and bless the God of creation.**

*Honour God with worship and with praise; and bless God's Holy Name.*

**Rejoice, all the earth, and let the sea roar; and bless the God of creation.**

*Say to the world that God is with us all; and bless God's Holy Name.*

**Sing to God a song of truth and joy; and bless the God of creation.**



### Prayer

*The day has come when God is revealed among us in human form:*

**You are the One long waited for, Emmanuel,**

*now and always.*

**Amen.**

## Nadolig Llawen!

Mae'r Adfent drosodd. Daeth ein taith at y preseb i ben – am eleni beth bynnag. Parhau a wnaeon, foddy bynnag, i rodio gyda Duw, ein Emaniwel, gan nad ydy hynny byth yn gorffen a byth yn dod i ben.

Heddiw, beth bynnag, ydy'r amser i fwynhau ac i ddathlu, yn yr eglwys ac ar yr aelwyd. Ar yr un pryd, mae angen inni gofio'r rhai hynny sy'n am ei chael hi'n ddiwrnod anodd iddyn nhw, a'r rhai hynny a fydd yn ei dreulio'n gweithio.

### **Sut ddiwrnod fydd o i chi heddiw – beth wnewch chi a lle'r ewch chi?**

Ar y dydd hwn y gwireddir proffwydoliaeth Eseia ar ffurf baban bach newydd-anedig, sy'n Dywysog Heddwch. Fel mae Paul yn sgwennu at Titus, ar y diwrnod hwn fe welwn ni eni'r ffaith 'yr amlygwyd gras Duw, i ddwyn gwaredigaeth i bawb' (Titus 2:11). Yn Luc, fe gawn stori geni Iesu a rhannu'r newyddion gyda'r bugeiliaid.

Fe'n gwahoddir i glywed y Newyddion Da yma, ac i'w rannu. Heddiw mae rhywbeth newydd wedi'i ddechrau, ac un wedd o'r newydd-deb yma, yr enedigaeth hon, ydy'r hanes sy'n agor pennod newydd, un sy'n hollogynhwysol. Mae'n dod â realaeth gymdeithasol newydd yn ei sgîl. Cyfrifwyd y bobl trwy gyfrifiad gan lywodraethwyr y cyfnod, ond doedd ganddyn nhw ddim rheolaeth o gwbl ar rym y cariad a ddaeth i'n byd gan Dduw, a'i eni yn Iesu.

Wedi'r wythnosau hir yr Adfent a'r prysurdeb ynglwm â'r tymor dathlu hwn, a oes ganddon ni'r egni i ymwned mewn gweddi a gweithred â Duw yn y dechrau newydd hwn, yr ymwybyddiaeth newydd o Dduw gyda ni, Emaniwel?

Dywed Walter Brueggemann, yn ei lyfr, *The Prophetic Imagination*, mai dim ond oherwydd mai o Dduw y medrwn gael mynediad i'r dechreuaed newydd hwn. Meddai fel hyn: 'Iesu o Nasareth ydy cyflawniad a hanfod y traddodiad proffwydol. Fo ddaeth â mynegiant cyhoeddus i'r newydd-deb a roddid gan Dduw' (tudalen 97). Daw hyn â syndod a rhyfeddod yn ei sgîl gan mai rhan o'r newydd-deb hwn ydy cân yr angylion i'r bugeiliaid allan yn y meysydd. Eto, fe ddywed: 'Gobaith yn unig ydy'r enedigaeth, ond y weinidogaeth ydy lle mae gofyn i bosibiliadau gobaith ymwned o ddifrif gyda byd o anobaith' (tudalen 9).

### **Beth ydy eich meddyliau ar hynny?**

Mae'r byd yma o anobaith y sonnir amdani'r un mor berthnasol i bobl yng Nghyfnod Iesu a oedd dan ormes a goresgyniad ag i'n byd ni'r dyddiau trallosus hyn. Yma hefyd fe geir yr egni a'r gobaith a fynegir gan Mair a'r alwad i godi'r isel rai, a chan Sechareria, fe gawn y ple am drugaredd a maddeuant. Yna fe ddown at yr angylion â'u cân o orfoledd yn atseini trwy'r wybren yn nyfnder nos i gynulleidfa o'r rhai mwyaf distadl mewn cymdeithas, y bugeiliaid. Unwaith eto, mae prawf ar realaeth gymdeithasol wrth i'r bugeiliaid godi, gadael eu preiddiau, a mynd ar eu hunion i weld yr Un a fysai'n Fugail go iawn iddyn nhw.

Mae'n ffydd ninnau i wneud yr un, fel y gwelson ni dros yr wythnosau Adfent diwethaf. Mewn ffydd rydyn ni i ddod at Dduw, dod at y Crist-blentyn i gael ein hadfer a'n hadnewyddu, fel y gallwn fynd allan drachefn gyda geiriau Mair a Sechareria yn ein calonnau. Rydyn ni i fod i allu mynd allan a chanu gyda'r angylion: 'Gogoniant i Dduw yn y goruchaf'.

## Happy Christmas!

Advent is over. Our journey to the crib has come to an end – for this year. We continue, though, our walk with God, Emmanuel, for that is never over and never comes to an end.

Today, though, is a time to enjoy and to celebrate, in church and at home. At the same time, we need to remember those for whom this day is a difficult one, and those who will spend it at work.

### **What does your day look like today – what will you be doing and where will you be going?**

On this day the prophecy of Isaiah is revealed in a newly born baby who is the Prince of Peace. As Paul writes to Titus, on this day we see brought to birth the fact that 'the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all' (Titus 2:11). In Luke we have the story of the birth of Jesus and news being shared with the shepherds.

We are invited to hear this Good News and to share it. Today something new has begun, and one aspect of this newness, this birth, is the story that opens up a new chapter, one that is all-inclusive. It brings with it a new social reality. The rulers of the day counted the people in the census, but they had no control over the power of love which came to earth from God, born in Jesus.

After the long Advent weeks and the busyness surrounding this season, do we have the energy to engage prayerfully and actively with God in this new beginning and new awareness of God with us, Emmanuel?

Walter Brueggemann writes in his book, *The Prophetic Imagination*, that we can only enter into this new beginning because it is of and from God. He writes: 'Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfilment and quintessence of the prophetic tradition. He brought to public expression the newness given by God' (page 97). This brings with it amazement and wonder because a part of this newness is the song of angels to the shepherds in the field. He continues: 'The birth is only a hope but the ministry is where the possibilities of hope must seriously engage the world of despair' (page 9).

### **What are your thoughts on this?**

This world of despair and in need of hope speaks to the occupied peoples of Jesus' time as well as to our own world. Here too we have the energy and hope expressed by Mary and the call to lift up the lowly, and from Zechariah the plea for mercy and forgiveness to be shown. Then we come to the angels' triumphant song in the night sky to the lowest of the low in that society, the shepherds. Once more, social reality is being tested out as the shepherds will leave their flock to visit the One who will be their Shepherd.

Our faith is to do the same, as we have seen over these Advent weeks. In faith we are to come to God, come to the Christ-child to be renewed and energised, so that we may go out with the words of Mary and Zechariah in our hearts. We are to go out and sing with the angels: 'Glory to God in the highest'.

Ar y Dydd Nadolig hwn derbyniwn lawenyd a chariad Duw a'r holl lu nefol, a derbyn yn bennaf rhodd fwyaf gwerthfawr Duw, cariad yn Iesu. Mae'r hyn a ddewiswn wneud gyda'r rhodd hon o gariad, Iesu, a'r ffydd sy'n tyfu o'n mewn yn llwyr yn ein dwylo ni.

Mae gofyn agor y rhoddion a'r anrhegion rydyn ni'n eu rhoi a'u derbyn heddiw; rhaid rhwygo'r papur er mwyn datgelu'r cynnwys. Mae Duw, y dydd hwn, wedi symud y llen oddi ar y cuddiedig, gan ddatguddio inni synau a chyfaredd corff babi newydd-anedig. Babi sydd angen gofal, angen llaeth ei fam,

## Gweddi

*O Dduw, Emaniwel,  
a anwyd o Fair,  
a siglwyd yn y preseb  
yng nghlyw synau'r anifeiliaid,  
Ti ydy'r un a gofleidiodd fy mreuder innau  
a rhoi imi holl anghenion dyddiol fy mywyd.  
Am hyn, rhoffy niolch i ti.  
O Dduw, Emaniwel,  
a anwyd o Fair,  
dan lygad gofalgar Joseff,  
bydd gyda mi a'r rhai fydd yn fy nghwmni heddiw  
a thyrd â thangnefedd a sicrwydd llawenydd yn y galon.  
Am hyn, rhoffy niolch i ti.  
O Dduw, Emaniwel,  
a anwyd o Fair,  
sy'n tanio'r byd ag egni  
gobaith newydd a bendith,  
bydd gyda mi wrth imi geisio dechrau newydd  
a thudalen lân ar siwrne ffydd.  
Am hyn, rhof ddiolch i ti.  
Yn enw'r hwn a bu'r disgwyl yn hir amdano,  
Iesu, Emaniwel.  
Amen.*



angen dillad i'w gadw'n glyd a chynnes, angen y cariad hwnnw sy'n allwedd i dyfiant. Angen, hefyd, teulu a chyfeillion, i rannu holl brofiadau bywyd, a phan ddaw'r amser priodol, clywed y gwirionedd am yr ydy O yn y bôn, gwirionedd Duw. Dyma ichi Ddydd Nadolig.

Ar eich Calendr Gweddi, efallai yr hoffech lunio nodyn o 'ddiolch' i Dduw. Gellwch hefyd enwi'r rhai hynny a fydd yn eich cwmni'r diwrnod hwn, neu sôn am anrheg annisgwyl a gawsoch chi.

On this Christmas Day we receive the joy and love of God and all the heavenly host, and we receive the most precious gift that God can give to us, love in Jesus. What we do with this gift of love, of Jesus and the faith which grows from it, is up to each one of us.

The gifts and presents we give and receive this day have to be opened up, the paper torn off them to reveal what is inside. God, on this day, has taken away the veil of hiddenness and is revealed in the sounds and the body of a newborn baby. A baby in need of care, in need of his mother's milk,

in need of clothing to keep warm, in need of love in which to grow. In need, too, of family and friends, to share all he experiences in life and, when the right time comes, the truth of who he is, the truth of God. This is Christmas Day.

On your Prayer Calendar you may wish to write a 'thank you' to God. You could also name those you share this day with, or a gift you have received that was a wonderful surprise.

## Prayer

*O God, Emmanuel,  
born of Mary,  
cradled in a manger,  
with the sounds of the animals around,  
you embraced my vulnerability  
and all of my daily needs.  
For this, I thank you.  
O God, Emmanuel,  
born of Mary,  
watched over by Joseph,  
be with me and those I share this day with,  
and bring to my home your peace and joy.  
For this, I thank you.  
O God, Emmanuel,  
born of Mary,  
energising the world  
with new hope and blessing,  
be with me as I seek a new beginning  
and a new page in the journey of my faith.  
For this, I thank you.  
In the name of the One long awaited,  
Jesus, Emmanuel.  
Amen.*



# Dyddiau'n dilyn y Nadolig

Mae'r diwrnodau wedi'r Nadolig sy'n arwain at yr Ystwyll, gan gynnwys y Calan, yn medru bod yn un mor brysur â'r rhai cyn dydd Nadolig. Yn lle myfyrdod i'w ddarllen a'i ystyried, ceir awgrymiadau yma am wahanol ffyrdd o ddod at Dduw mewn gweddi, a chyd nabod Duw gyda ni, Emaniwl. Rhai wedi'u sgwennu'n syml a chryno a geir yma. Mae digon o lyfrau i'w cael sy'n cynnig ffyrdd i brofi llonyddwch mewn gweddi gyda Duw ac sy'n egluro'n fanylach sut i weddio.

Ffurfiau ar weddïau ydy'r rhain y gellir, wrth gwrs, eu gweddio ar unrhyw adeg o'r flwyddyn, er bod rhai wedi'u llunio er mwyn tynnu ar y meddyliau a'r myfyrdodau y buoch yn eu hystyried yn y llyfryn hwn. Does dim angen ichi ddefnyddio'r holl ffurfiau gwahanol os nad ydych yn dymuno; fe gewch chi weld bod rhai yn 'gweithio' i chi ond nid felly eraill.

## Gweddi

*O Dduw, Emaniwl,  
gad imi ymdawelu  
er mwyn imi allu ceisio dy bresenoldeb yn ddyfnach,  
teimlo cyffyrddiad tyner dy gariad yn agosach,  
adnabod a dirnad yn gywirach dy air wrth fy nhywys,  
ddydd wrth ddydd.  
Amen.*

## Gweddi

*O Dduw, Emaniwl,  
Fe ddof atat ti gan ddeisyf am obaith,  
fe ddof gan geisio maddeuant,  
fe ddof atat ti am ddoethineb,  
fe ddof gan geisio cyfeiriad.  
Fe ddof atat ti am gariad,  
fe ddof gan geisio tosturi.  
Fe ddof atat ti am arweiniad,  
fe ddof gan geisio disgylblaeth.  
Fe ddof atat ti, O Dduw, Emaniwl.  
Amen.*

Mae gweddi'r un mor amrywiol a rhyfeddol a phob un ohonon ni, a thrwy eu cyfrwng, mae'n perthynas gyda Duw'n dyfnhau. Mae'r ffyrdd o weddio a ffurf y gweddïau yn rai y gallwn eu defnyddio ar ein pen ein hunain. Maen nhw'n bersonol a phreifat i ni ac yn gymorth ymateib i'r alwad ddfon yr Ysbryd o'n mewn i ddod at Dduw. Hyd yn oed os nad oes synnwyr na threfn yn ein carblwch o eiriau weithiau – fe fydd Duw yn deall ac yn eu deall.

### Sut ddowch chi at Dduw mewn gweddi?

Ar ddyddiau prysur ym mwrlwm y byd a'i bethau, mae'n dda dod o hyd i ennyd fach o dawelwch.



# The Days after Christmas

The days after Christmas leading up to Epiphany, and including New Year, can be just as busy as those before Christmas Day. Offered here, instead of a reflection to read and ponder over, are some suggestions on different ways of coming to God in prayer, and acknowledging God with us, Emmanuel. They are written simply and briefly here. There are many books available to buy that offer ways to experience the quietness of prayer with God and will explain in more detail how to pray.

These are ways of prayer, which can of course be prayed at any time of the year, although some are written to draw on your thoughts and reflections gathered throughout this book. You don't need to use all the different ways if you don't wish to; some you will find 'work' for you and others won't.

Prayer is as varied and wonderful as each one of us, and through prayer we deepen our relationship with God. The ways of prayer and praying are ones which we can enter into alone. They are personal and private to us and they help answer that deep call of the Spirit within to come to God. Even if our thoughts and words do not seem to make any sense to us, they will to God.

### How do you come to God in prayer?

In the busy and noisy days it is always good to find a little time of quietness.

## Prayer

*O God, Emmanuel,  
quieten my inner being  
so that I may seek more deeply your presence,  
feel more closely your loving touch,  
know more nearly your guiding word,  
day by day.  
Amen.*



## Prayer

*O God, Emmanuel,  
I come to you for hope,  
I come seeking forgiveness.  
I come to you for wisdom,  
I come seeking direction.  
I come to you for love,  
I come seeking compassion.  
I come to you for guidance,  
I come seeking discipleship.  
I come to you, O God, Emmanuel.  
Amen.*

## Bod yng Nghwmni Duw

Un ffordd o fod yng nghwmni Duw mewn gweddi ydy trwy'r dychymyg neu hel straeon. Mae hanes geni Iesu'n gyfarwydd iawn inni ac felly, os mai dull newydd o weddio fydd hwn i chi, efallai mai haws fyddai dechrau efo stori fel hon.

Darllenwch trwy'r adnодau yn Luke 2:1-7 am stori'r Geni, neu Luke 2:8-20 am hanes ymweliad y bugeiliaid. Da fase eu darllen drosodd ddwywaith, efallai.

Eisteddwch mew man lle gewch chi lonydd a theimlo'n gyfforddus, ac yna caewch eich llygaid.

Cyflwynwch yr amser yma i Dduw.

Ceisiwch ddwyn y stori a ddarllenwyd i gof – un ai trwy ddelweddau neu luniau, neu trwy adrodd yr hanes yn eich geiriau eich hun.

Cymerwch eich amser i weithio trwy'r stori, gan ddychmygu'r olygfa – yr adeiladau, y mannau agored, yr anifeiliaid, y synau a'r arogleuon, y cymeriadau, yr emosiwn a'r teimladau, y geiriau a leferir... ar lafar neu yn y galon.

Camwch i mewn i'r sefyllfa – gosodwch eich hunan mewn rhyw fan cyfleus yn y scenario wrth i'r stori ddatblygu. Beth benderfynoch chi fod – anifail, bugail, perchenog y llety yn dod i weld beth sy'n mynd ymlaen? Ydych chi am symud o gwmpas? Ydych chi am ddweud neu wneud rhywbeth? Neu aros yn llonydd a gwylio?

Sut deimlad ydy hi i fod yno, yn y fan a'r lle yng nghanol stori Duw, Emaniel?

Pan fyddwch chi'n barod, gadewch yr olygfa a dychwelyd at y presennol.

Ystyriwch am ychydig funudau eich profiadau yno - unrhyw beth a gymerodd eich sylw, pethau yr hoffech eu cofio. Nodwch ambell beth o bwys ar ffurf dyddlyfr bach.

Gorffennwch y cyfnod myfyddod hwn trwy gynnig gweddi o ddiolch i Dduw.

## Gwrando Sanctaidd – Cyfarwyddyd Ysbrydol

Gyda phwy fyddwch chi'n rhannu taith Duw a gweddi? Pwy sgynnoch chi sy'n gymorth i ddeall yn ddyfnach presenoldeb Emaniel gyda chi? Pwy sy'n fodlon gwrando arnoch chi?

Mae'n bosib y gall cyfarwyddyd ysbrydol helpu, sef cyfarfod â rhywun sydd â phrofiad o wrando a helpu dyfnhau eich trafodaeth ar fywyd, ffydd a gweddi gyda Duw. Ni dyna i gynnig unrhyw atebion i broblemau maen nhw, ond yn hytrach yn gwmni i droedio trwy ddryswnch ein cerddediat â Duw. Er mwyn cael gwybod mwy, ceir manylion isod am sut i gysylltu â mi.

## Arolwg o'r Adfent a'r Nadolig

Fe allai bwrw golwg ar ein bywyd a'n taith ffydd ddatgelu cyfnodau pan fu Duw gyda ni, a hynny, o bosib, heb yn wybod inni. Mae'n sicr bod y bugeiliaid hynny allan ar y meysydd wedi'u synnu fawr bod Duw gyda nhw, ac eto, nhw brofodd y rhyfeddod a'r faint o fod y rhai cyntaf i gyfarch Duw, Emaniel.

Tasg syml iawn ydy gwneud arolwg o'n bywyd – gall gymryd cyn lleied â deng munud, neu lawer hirach, gan ddibynnu p'un ai ein bod ni'n bwrw golwg ar un diwrnod neu wythnos, mis neu flwyddyn gyfan. Wrth i'r flwyddyn hon dynnu at ei therfyn a gwawr un newydd ar y gorwel, daw'r adeg yma'n aml yn gyfnod i fyfyrion ar bopeth a fu ac weithiau'n adeg i wneud addunedau ar gyfer y flwyddyn sydd o'n blaenau.

Gellir defnyddio'r hyn a welir isod yn gymorth i wneud arolwg diwrnod, wythnos, mis neu fwy.

***Ydych chi wedi defnyddio'r math yma o weddi fyfyrgar yn y gorffennol?***

## Being with God

One way of being with God in quiet prayer is through the imagination or storytelling. The story of the birth of Jesus is very familiar to us and so, if this is a new way of praying, this may be an easier story to enter into prayerfully.

Read through the verses in Luke 2:1-7 for the story of the birth of Jesus; or Luke 2:8-20 for the story of the shepherds' visit. You may wish to read them twice.

Sit in a place where you can be undisturbed, and if comfortable close your eyes.

Offer this time to God.

Bring to mind the story you have read – in images or picture form, or through saying the words of the story in your own way.

Take as long as you like looking at this story, imagining the scene it sets – the buildings, the open spaces, the animals, the sights and sounds and scents, the emotions and feelings, the words spoken aloud or quietly in the heart.

Enter into the story – place yourself at some location within the unfolding scenery. Who are you – an animal, a shepherd, the innkeeper coming to see what has happened? Where do you place yourself? What do you do or say?

What does it feel like to be there in the story of God, Emmanuel?

When you are ready, leave the story behind and start to enter the present moment again.

Take a little time to reflect upon anything that seemed important and how it felt and all you would like to remember. It can help to make a few notes in a journal.

End the time of prayer by offering a prayer of thanks to God.

## Holy Listening – Spiritual Direction

Who do you share your journey of God and prayer with? Who helps you understand more deeply the presence of Emmanuel with you? Who listens to you?

It may be that spiritual direction could help. This is meeting with someone who has experience in listening and helping you to deepen your conversation of life, faith and prayer with God. They won't offer any solutions to problems, but can help you walk the maze that is our walk with God. To find out more, see below for details of how to connect with me.

## Reviewing Advent and Christmas

To review our life and our journey of faith can reveal moments when God has been with us, and maybe at the times we didn't realise it. The shepherds in the field were no doubt extremely surprised that God was with them and yet they had the wonder and the privilege to be the first to greet God, Emmanuel.

To review our life is simple and can take as little as ten minutes to much longer, depending on whether we are looking back over one day or a week, a month or a whole year. As this year draws to its close and a new one dawns, this is often the time when we look back on all that has been and then (sometimes) make our resolutions for the year ahead.

All that is set out below can be used to review a day, a week or a month, or longer.

***Have you used this way of reflective prayer before?***

Mewn amser tawel, penderfynwch pa gyfnod i edrych arno.

Rwan ydy'r amser gorau i fyfyrion ar eich siwrne trwy'r Advent a'r llyfryn hwn – bydd yr adolygiad isod yn help i'ch twyws trwyddo.

Ar ddiwrnod arall, edrychwch yn ôl ar ddiwrnod Nadolig – popeth fuoch chi'n eu gwneud a'r bobl a rannodd y dydd gyda chi.

Ar ddiwrnod arall, meddyliwch am y flwyddyn a aeth heibio a'r un i ddod, gan gynnwys eich gobeithion a'ch breuddwydion.

Dechreuwch trwy gyflwyno'r amser yma o weddi i Dduw.

Yn dawel yn eich calon, gan fod yn onest a geirwir, myfyriwch ar yr amser fuoch chi'n ei dreulio' astudio'r llyfr Advent, p'un ai wrth eich hunan neu gydag eraill.

Beth a'ch heriodd chi? Pa deimladau fu'n cyniwar ynoch? A oedd unrhyw ran a'ch gwnaeth i deimlo'n anghyfforddus? Pa ddiwrnodau wnaethoch eu methu? Beth wnaeth eich taro fel y pethau pwysig?

Myfyriwch ar y rhain am ychydig amser.

A oes unrhyw beth rydych chi'n ei ddifaru? Cyflwynwch y rhain i Dduw gan ddweud 'sori', gan wybod bod Duw gyda chi.

Yn, canolbwytewch ar bopeth a oedd yn fuddiol, er efallai'n heriol. Er enghraift, ceisiwch feddwl am un agwedd, un sylw, un weddi yr hoffech roi 'diolch' i Dduw amdano. Dowch â hyunny o flaen Duw.

Dowch ag amser yr arolwg i ben gyda Gwedi'r Arglywydd, efallai, neu weddi o'r llyfr.

Gofynnwch i Dduw fod gyda chi yn y dyddiau sydd o'ch blaen a'ch helpu i wybod yn eich calon bob amser mai Duw ydy Emanwel.

## Y Flwyddyn Newydd

Dyma amser o'r flwyddyn lle byddwn eto'n cwrdd fel teulu neu ffrindiau, neu o bosib yn swatio'n dawel wrth ein hunain yn y gwely gan obeithio nad oes sŵn tân gwylt a rhialtwch yn styrbio gormod arnon ni! Mae 'na lawer i ddiweddglo a dechreuaed yn ffurffio rhan annatod o'n bywydau, o ddydd i ddydd – dyna'n hanes ni i gyd wrth inni fwrrw golwg yn ôl ar ein hoes, ac ar oriau ola'r flwyddyn hon.

Mae stori Duw, Emanwel, hefyd yn un o sawl diweddglo a dechreuaed wrth i Dduw, a fu'n 'gudd' cyhyd, bellach ddatguddio'i hun. Mae Duw hefyd yn cael ei ddatgelu i holl genhleoedd y byd, fel y gwelwn wrth inni ddathlu'r Ystwyll. Ceir dechreuaed newydd i Dduw ar ffurf cnawd dynol. Mae'n diweddu'r hen berthynas neu'r addewid a welwyd yn yr Hen Destament, gan agor pennod newydd yn ein perthynas â Duw, neu gyfamod newydd y Testament Newydd gyda'r stori sy'n dechrau ar y Nadolig gyda geni Iesu. O'r eiliad honno ymlaen, mae diweddglo a dechreuaed, un ar ôl y llall, yn ymddatod plethiadau cymhlethdod rhyfeddol cynllun Duw. Mae'n ein dwyn at y Grawys ac Wythnos Fawr y Pasg, yna'r Atgyfodiad ac ymlaen at y Pentecost a dyfodiad yr Ysbryd Glân – diweddglo a dechreuaed newydd arall.

***Pa beth(au) fydd yn dda ganddoch chi weld eu diweddu nhw, a pha ddechreuaadau newydd a brofwyd ganddoch chi eleni?***

***Beth ydy eich dyheadau a'ch gobeithion ar gyfer y Flwyddyn Newydd?***

***Sut fyddwch chi'n dathlu Nos Galan?***

***Fyddwch chi'n gwneud unrhyw addunedau, ac os felly, pa rai?***

In a time of quietness decide the timespan to look at.

Now would be a good time to ponder and review your journey through Advent and this book – which the review below will guide you through.

On another day reflect upon Christmas Day and all you did and the people you shared that day with.

On another day reflect upon this year and the one to come, including your hopes and dreams.

Begin by offering this time of prayer to God.

Quietly in your heart, and with honesty and truth, reflect upon your time spent with the Advent Book, alone or with others.

What challenged you? What feelings did it evoke? What were you uncomfortable with? Which were the days you missed? What struck you as being important?

Let these float around within you for a short while.

Is there anything you regret or any days you missed? Offer them to God and say sorry for them and know that God is with you.

Then, focus on all that was life-giving, even if challenging. For example, is there one aspect, one thought, one prayer that you would like to say 'thank you' to God for? Bring that to God.

End the review, perhaps with the Lord's Prayer, or a prayer from the book.

Ask God to be with you in the days ahead and to help you to know always that God is Emmanuel.

## The New Year

This is a time when we gather with family and friends again, or we hope there are no noisy fireworks lighting up the sky and disturbing our sleep! Endings and beginnings are a part of our life story and are numerous when we look back over our life, and over the year now coming to its last few hours.

The story of God, Emmanuel, is also one of endings and beginnings as God is no longer 'hidden' but is revealed. God is revealed, too, to all nations of the world, as we see when we celebrate Epiphany. There is a new beginning for God in human flesh. It ends the old relationship or covenant seen in the Old Testament, and opens up the new relationship or covenant of the New Testament whose story begins at Christmas in the birth of Jesus. From that moment the endings and beginnings unfold. They will take us to Lent and Holy Week and the Resurrection and on to Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit – another ending and new beginning.

***What are you glad to see the end of, and what have been the new beginnings experienced in this year?***

***What are your hopes and dreams for the coming New Year?***

***How do you celebrate New Year's Eve?***

***Will you be making any resolutions, and if so, what will they be?***

Mae'n haddunedau ni'n dueddol o fod yn rhai sy'n canolbwntio ar ein bywydau dyddiol ac yn amlach na pheidio'n diflannu'n ddigon sydyn! Wrth i ni ymlwybro ar hyd taith yr Advent a'r Nadolig, ac ar fin myfyrion ar yr Ystwyll, yr adduned mae Duw'n ein galw i wneud ydy un o ymrwymiad a disgylblaeth. Mae'r enw 'Emaniwel' gyda ni pob eiliad o bob dydd o'n hoes.

**Sut beth fydd eich disgylblaeth – bod yn ddisgybl wrth ddilyn Duw yn eich bywyd – yn 2019?**

**Pa addunedau yn y ffydd fasech chi'n gallu'u gwneud ar gyfer y Flwyddyn Newydd hon sydd ar ddod?**

## Gweddi

O God, Emmanuel,  
ysbrydola fi, a'r Eglwys,  
i adael yr hyn nad oes mo'i angen arna i, o'm hól,  
i weld beth sydd angen ei adnewyddu  
ac i chwilio am y dechreuadau newydd  
rwyt ti'n fy ngalw innau a'r Eglwys atyn nhw.  
**Gweddiaf hyn yn enw'r Un**  
sydd wedi dod aton ni, Iesu Grist.  
Amen.



Mae blwyddyn newydd yn agor drysau i bosiiliadau newydd, ffyrdd newydd o fod yn ddisgybl. Er mwyn cymryd gafael yn hyn, mae gofyn inni nabod ein hunain a cheisio, mewn ffydd, nabod Duw hefyd. Mae angen inni dreulio amser yn dawel ac yn weddigar yn darganfod pwys ydy Duw i ni, trwy weddi, astudio'r Beibl, trwy lyfrynnau'r Advent a'r Grawys, a thrwy sgrusrisiau.

Mae Duw gyda ni, Emaniwel, ond ydyn ni'n ymwybodol o hyn mewn gwirionedd... go iawn? Beth allwn ni ei wneud, fel unigolion, ac fel eglwys yn ehangach, i wneud Duw yn fwy gwybyddus yn ein bywydau ac yn ein cymunedau?

Our resolutions tend to be focused on our everyday living and often disappear very quickly! As we have made our journey through Advent and Christmas, and are soon to reflect upon the Epiphany, the resolution God calls us to make is one of commitment and discipleship. The name 'Emmanuel' is with us every single moment of every single day.</bt>

**What may your discipleship – your life following God – look like in 2019?**

**What faith-centred resolutions can you make for this New Year?**

A new year opens the door to new possibilities, new ways of being a disciple. To engage with this we need to know ourselves and seek, in faith, to know God as well. We need to spend time quietly and prayerfully discovering who God is to us, through prayer, Bible study, through the Advent and Lent books, and through conversation.

God is with us, Emmanuel, but are we really aware of this? What more can we do individually, and as a wider church, to make God known in our lives and in our communities?



## Prayer

*O God, Emmanuel,  
inspire me and the Church to leave behind  
all that is no longer needed,  
to see what needs to be renewed  
and to seek out the new beginnings  
you call me and the Church towards.  
This I pray in the name of the One  
who has come to us, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*

## Sul, Ionawr 6 The Feast of the Epiphany

### Gŵyl yr Ystwyll

#### Gweddi Agoriadol

*Cod! Disgleiria! Mae dy olau wedi dod,  
ac mae ysblander yr Arglwydd wedi gwawrio arnaf.  
Codaf y dydd hwn i ddilyn d'Oleuni,  
a gosod o'th flaen y rhoddion a gefais yn fendith gen ti.  
O Dduw, Emaniwel,  
yn natguddiad dy Bresenoldeb yn ein mysg,  
fe agoraist dy Air i'r holl bobloedd.  
Cymorth fi i glywed dy Air yn llefaru i 'ngalon,  
i gofio'r bedydd lle ces fy ngalw'n anwylyd gen ti,  
a'r rhyfeddod a'r dirgelwch o gael fy mhorthi yn y Cymun.  
Gweddiâf hyn yn enw'r Un sydd Emaniwel, Iesu Grist.  
Amen.*



#### Salm 72:10-15

*Bydded i frenhinoedd Tarshish a Sheba a Seba a'r Ynysoedd  
ymostwng o flaen Duw a chyflwyno eu rhoddion o aur.  
**Oherwydd mae Duw'n gwaredu'r anghenus ac yn cynorthwyo'r tlawd a'r gwan.**  
Mae Duw'n achub y bobl rhag trais a gorthrwm  
ac mae eu gwaed yn werthfawr yn Ei olwg.  
Hir oes fo Iddo i glywed ein gweddïau  
a rhodded Iddo fendith bob amser.*



#### Prayer

*Fe ddaeth y dydd pan ddatguddir Duw i ddieithriaid o bell:  
Ti ydy'r Un y bu aros cyhyd amdanat, Emaniwel,  
heddiw ac ar hyd amser.  
Amen.*



## Sunday 6 January The Feast of the Epiphany

### Opening Prayer

#### Opening Prayer

*Arise and shine for the Light has come,  
and the glory of God has risen upon me.  
I arise this day to follow your Light,  
and lay before you the gifts you have blessed me with.  
O God, Emmanuel,  
in the revelation of your Presence among us,  
you have opened up your Word to all peoples.  
Help me hear your Word spoken into my heart,  
to remember the baptism through which you call me beloved,  
and the wonder and mystery of being nourished in the Eucharist.  
This I pray in the name of the One who is Emmanuel, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*



#### Psalm 72:10-15

*May the kings of Tarshish and Sheba and Seba and of the Isles  
bow down before God and offer their gifts of gold.  
**For God delivers the needy and helps the poor and the weak.**  
God saves the people from oppression  
and precious is the blood, shed in faith.  
Long may God live to hear our prayers.  
May blessings be offered for God all the day long.*



#### Prayer

*The day has come when God is revealed to strangers from afar:  
You are the One long waited for, Emmanuel,  
now and always.  
Amen.*



Deuddegfed diwrnod y Nadolig ydy'r amser i hel yr holl addurniadau a'u rhoi heibio yn y llofft tan fis Rhagfyr nesaf a chofio ailgylchu'r cardiau... a'r goeden 'Dolig! Mae'r preseb yn cael aros hyd 2 Chwefror, sef Gŵyl Fair y Canhwyllau, pan gafodd Iesu ei gyflwyno yn y Deml. Mewn rhai gwledydd, er enghraift Sbaen, heddiw ydy'r dydd pan gaiff anrhegion 'Dolig' eu rhoi a'u derbyn.

Er bod y Doethion (neu Sêr-ddewiniaid neu'r Tri Gŵr Doeth, fel y'i gelwir weithiau) i'w cael ger y preseb yn arddangosfa stori'r Geni ers y dechrau, heddiw ydy'r diwrnod y dylid eu gosod yn yr olygfa. Mae Gŵyl yr Ystwyll yn dathlu dyfodiad y teithwyr hyn o'r Dwyrain, fel y gwelir ym mhroffwydoliaeth Eseia.

Mae'r dydd gŵyl hwn hefyd yn dathlu cymaint mwy. Mae'n dathlu datguddiad Duw yn Iesu i'r holl fyd.

#### **Beth mae hyn yn ei olygu i chi?**

Fel soniai Mary Grey yn ei llyfr *The Advent of Peace*, 'Craidd y stori ydy bod dyfodiad y Crist-blentyn nid yn unig yn rhodd i Dŷ Israel, ond i'r byd yn ehangach, yn nhermau Beiblaidd – y Cenhedloedd' (tudalen 111). Dyna ichi'r bugeiliaid, sef yr iselaf rai mewn cymdeithas, yn ymwelwyr cyntaf â'r babi, a'r ymwelwyr nesaf, yn ôl a ddarllenwn, ydy'r Doethion – y Cenedl-ddynion, nid Iddewon. Mae Duw'n estyn llaw o groeso a chynhwysiant.

#### **Beth allwn ni a'n hegwlwys i ddysgu o hyn?**

Yn y dechrau, roedd y dydd hwn o ddathlu hefyd yn gysylltiedig gyda bedydd Iesu yn Afon Iorddonen, achlysur a gofnodir ymhob un o'r Efengylau (Mathew 3:13-17; Marc 1:9-11; Luc 3:21-22; Ioan 1:29-34). Wrth ei fedyddio gan Ioan Fedyddiwr, clywir llais Duw'n cyhoeddi 'Hwn yw fy Mab' - datguddiad o Duw sy'n weithredol yn a thros y byd. Mewn un ystyrr, dyma gydgyfarfyddiad a datguddiad y Drindod, Tri Pherson y Duwdod. Mae Duw'n llefaru, Iesu'n cael ei fedyddio, ac mae'r golomen, symbol yr Ysbryd Glân, i'w weld yn disgyn ar Iesu.

Ceir datguddiad pellach i gynefin a chydnaibod lleol Iesu yn y briodas yng Nghhana (Ioan 2:1-11) lle mae Iesu'n

arddangos gwyrth troi'r dŵr yn win. O'r foment honno mae ei weinidogaeth yn dechrau, ac fe ddaw'r rhai hynny o'i gwmpas, ei ddisgyblion yn bennaf, yn dystion i lawer amlygiad o Dduw trwy Iesu'n dysgu, iacháu a gwneud gwyrthiau.

Ystwyll ydy datguddiad Duw i'r byd, ond hefyd, i ninnau, yn gyfarfyddiad, yn ddolen-gyswllt, yn ymuno â'r weithred hon gan Dduw, Iesu a'r Ysbryd Glân trwy ein bedydd, ein ffydd, y derbyn o'r sacrament adeg y Cymun, ynghyd â'r doniau a roddwyd inni.

#### **Beth a gofiwch o'r bedydd a beth mae'n ei olygu ichi heddiw?**

#### **Beth mae'n ei olygu ichi ddod a derbyn bara a gwin y Cymun?**

Dilynnodd y Doethion y seren a'u harweiniodd at y Crist-blentyn, ac eto fe ddargyfeiriwyd eu taith heibio palas Herod, gan ddisgwyl, siŵr o fod, mai yno y genid 'brenin' eu holl chwilio. Fel ag yr oedden nhw i'w ganfod, nid dyma'r fan, y lle na'r dull y datguddia Duw ei hun. Mae'r datguddiad, yr epiffani, yn dod i fod mewn stabl dlawd gyda phâr nad oedd yn gyfoethog yn ariannol ond eto'n gyfoethog mewn ffydd a phresenoldeb Duw. Dydy Duw ddim yn hidio am statws; ffydd sy'n bwysig iddo Fo. Mae'r Doethion yn profi eu epiffani eu hunain, eu sylweddoliad eu hunain o bwy oedd y plentyn hwn. Ydyn nhw'n sylweddoli, tybed, beth fyddai'r plentyn hwn yn ei olygu i'r byd a'r modd y bydd yn ceisio llwybr cariad a thangnefedd? Anodd credu eu bod yn meddwl felly ar y pryd!

Bwlch arall yn ein hanesion Beiblaidd ydy'r hyn a ddigwyddodd nesaf i'r Doethion. Fe wyddon ni eu bod wedi gadael rhoddion digon od o aur, thus a myrr - pob un yma eto'n symbolau arwyddocaol o ddatguddiad Duw yng Nghrist. Fe wyddon ni hefyd iddyn nhw ddychwelyd am adre gan gymryd llwybr gwahanol, ond a fuon nhw'n pendroni a thrafod popeth a ddigwyddodd ar eu taith i Israel, a dweud wrth eraill? Mae'r bard T.S.Eliot yn cnoi cil ar eu profiad: ai tystion i enedigaeth neu farwolaeth fuon nhw, yn ddechreua yn ogystal â diweddglo? Dim ond dyfalu fedrwn ni'i wneud a fu iddyn nhw rannu'u stori, a'u profiad o gyfarfod â Duw.

The twelfth day of Christmas is the time when all the decorations are packed away until next December, and Christmas cards are thrown away or recycled. The crib, though, can remain until 2 February, Candlemas, when Jesus is presented at the Temple. In some countries, for example Spain, today is the day when 'Christmas' presents are given and received.

Although the Magi, sometimes known as the Wise Men or the Three Kings, are to be found in our cribs at Christmas and are a part of the Nativity story, it is really today that they should be placed into our cribs. The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the arrival of these travellers from the East, as seen in the prophecy of Isaiah. The feast day also celebrates so much more. It celebrates the revelation of God in Jesus to the whole world.

#### **What does this mean to you?**

As Mary Grey writes in *The Advent of Peace*, 'The kernel of the story is that the coming of the Christ-child is not only a gift for the House of Israel but also for the wider world, biblically speaking – the Gentiles' (page 111). The shepherds as outcasts in society were the first visitors, and the next visitors, as we read, are the Magi – Gentiles, non-Jews. God is reaching out the hand of welcome and inclusion.

#### **What can we and our churches learn from this?**

Initially, this feast day was also associated with the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, an event which all the Gospels relate (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34). At his baptism by John the Baptist the voice of God is heard proclaiming 'You are my Son' – a revelation of God who is active in and to the world. This is, in a sense, the coming together and a revelation of the Trinity, the Three Persons of the Godhead. God speaks out, Jesus is baptised, and the dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit, is seen descending upon Jesus.

A further revelation to the local world of Jesus is seen at the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11) where Jesus reveals the miracle of turning water into wine. From this moment his ministry begins, and those already around him, his disciples, will come to witness more manifestations of God in Jesus' teaching, healing and miracles.

Epiphany is the revelation of God to the world but it is also, for us, an encounter, a connection, and a joining in this activity of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit through our baptism, our faith, our receiving of the sacrament at the Eucharist, and our giftedness.

#### **What can you remember of your baptism and what does it mean to you today?**

#### **What does it mean to you to come and receive the bread and wine of the Eucharist?**

The Magi followed a star which guided them to the Christ-child, yet their journey took a diversion to Herod's palace, where they no doubt expected a king to be born. As they were to discover, this is not the way in which God is revealed. The revelation, the epiphany, comes about in a lowly stable and with a couple who are not monetarily wealthy but who are rich in faith and the presence of God. Status is not important to God; faith is. The Magi experience their own epiphany, their own realisation of who this child is. Do they realise what this child will mean for the world and the way in which he will seek out the pathway of love and peace? Probably not at that time!

Another gap in our Bible stories is what happened next to the Magi. We know they left strange gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, all again symbols of revelation of God in Jesus. We know too that they left for home taking another route, but did they ponder over all that had happened on their journey to Israel, and tell others? The poet T.S. Eliot speculates about their experience: did they witness a birth or a death, a beginning as well as an ending? We can only assume that they did share their story, their experience of meeting with God.

Beth mae hyn i gyd yn ei ofyn ganddon ni?  
 Wrth sgwennu am heddwch, mae Mary Grey yn awgrymu y gall 'Epifffani, felly, weithredu fel seren dwyws yn ein dwyn yn bellach at wneud cysylltiadau gwerthfawr dros heddwch' (*The Advent of Peace*, tudalen 113). Ydy hyn yn rhwzbeth y mae gofyn i ninnau ymwneduf fywydwy â hi?

Chwilio a cheisio, yng nghwmni Tywysog Tangnafedd, ffyrdd i ddatguddio heddwch ydy'n galwad ninnau ac yn cwmpasu popeth y buon ni'n ystyried ac yn gweddio amdano yn y llyfrynn hwn. Rydyn ni i fynd allan gyda

chroeso yn ein calonnau a lletygarwch tuag at bawb. Rydyn ni i fynd allan a bod fel yr oedd Iesu,- gwrthddiwyliau wrth ddatgelu cariad a heddwch i bawb. Fe'n gelwir i wneud hyn trwy ein bedydd, trwy ein ffydd wedi'i atgyfnerthu trwy'r Cymun a chymuned yr Eglwys, a thrwy nerth yr Ysbryd Glân.

#### ***Sut fyddai modd ichi wneud hyn?***

#### ***Sut fyddai modd i'ch eglwys wneud hyn?***

## **Prayer**

*O Dduw, Emanniwel,  
 agor fy mywyd i epiffani dy gariad  
 fel y gallaf innau fyned allan a byw mewn heddwch gyda thi,  
 gyda mi fy hun, a chydag eraill.  
 Helpa fi i dy ddatguddio di trwy bopeth a wnafac a ddywedaf,  
 trwy fy ngweithredoedd a thrwy fy ngweddiau.  
 Arwain fi trwy gyfrwng d'Oleuni  
 a'm dwyn yn ôl pan fydda i'n colli fy ffordd.  
 Cyflwynaf i ti, mewn gwasanaeth ffyddlon a disgylblaeth,  
 y rhoddion a fendithiaist i mi,  
 a pha mor ddi-nod neu sylweddol fy rhodd,  
 fe'i cynigiaf gan wybod dy fod yn ei chroesawu gyda llawenydd a chariad.  
 Gweddiaf hyn yn enw Iesu Grist, Emanniwel.  
 Amen.*



What does all of this ask of us? Writing about peace, Mary Grey suggests that 'Epiphany can thus act as a beckoning star drawing us further towards making valuable connections for peace' (*The Advent of Peace*, page 113). Is this something we are being asked to further engage with?

To seek out, with the Prince of Peace, ways to reveal peace is our Christian calling and encompasses all we have looked at and prayed about in this book.

We are to go out with a welcome in our hearts and with hospitality to all. We are to go out and be as Jesus was, counter-cultural in revealing love and peace to all. We are called to do this through our baptism, through our faith nourished in the Eucharist and church community, and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### ***How may you do this?***

#### ***How may your church do this?***

## **Prayer**

*O God, Emmanuel,  
 open my life to the epiphany of your love  
 so that I may go out and live in peace with you,  
 with myself and with others.  
 Help me to reveal you through all I do and say,  
 through my actions and through my prayers.  
 Guide me by your Light  
 and draw me back when I lose my way.  
 I offer to you, in faithful service and discipleship,  
 the gifts you have blessed me with,  
 and no matter how big or small my offering is,  
 I offer it knowing you welcome it with joy and love.  
 This I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.  
 Amen.*



## Beth Nesaf?

Mae'r Ystwyll yn dwyn i ben holl dymor y Nadolig, o'r Adfent i'r Ystwyll. Ar adeg yr Ystwyll, rydyn ni'n dechrau troi ein sylw o eni Iesu tuag at ei farw ar y groes.

**Haelioni ac Etifeddiaeth y Grawys** ydy teitl llyfrynn y Grawys ar gyfer 2019. Mae'r llyfrynn hwn eisoes wedi'i gwblhau ac fe gaiff ei ddarllen, ei ystyried a bydd gweddi drosto ledled yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, nid yn unig ein hesgobaeth ni.

---

*A wnewch chi ymrwymo i roi amser i Dduw wrth ddarllen a gweddi Llyfr y Grawys?*

---

### Gweddi

*Boed i Dduw fod gyda chi  
ym mhøpeth byddwch yn ceisio'i gyflawni nesaf  
ar eich taith o ffydd.  
Amen.*



## What Next?

Epiphany draws to an end the whole of the Christmas season, from Advent to Epiphany. At Epiphany we begin to turn away from the birth of Jesus to his death upon a cross.

**Generosity and the Inheritance of Lent** is the title for the 2019 Lent Book. This has been written and will be read, pondered and prayed with through the whole of the Church in Wales, not only our own diocese.

---

*Will you commit to giving time to God in reading and praying this Lent Book?*

---

### Prayer

*May God be with you  
in all you seek to do next  
on your journey of faith.  
Amen.*



# Nodiadau

## Notes

Tŷ Deiniol, Clos y Gadeirlan,  
Bangor LL57 1RL  
01248 354 999  
[bangor@eglwsyngnghymru.org.uk](mailto:bangor@eglwsyngnghymru.org.uk)  
[bangor.eglwsyngnghymru.org.uk](http://bangor.eglwsyngnghymru.org.uk)

---

Tŷ Deiniol, Cathedral Close,  
Bangor LL57 1RL  
01248 354 999  
[bangor@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:bangor@churchinwales.org.uk)  
[bangor.churchinwales.org.uk](http://bangor.churchinwales.org.uk)



**Esgobaeth  
Bangor**  
The Diocese  
of Bangor

*Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*  
The Church in Wales