

Thought for day – Thursday 1st December 2022

by Revd John Ohen

Advent Walk.

As we walk towards Advent and Christmastide. We can be easily overwhelmed by the many things we have to do and lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, - which is the baby born in a manger, God made man, the world made flesh.

Just before Covid 19 most of the Churches in Clapham Park got together and we met in a local “PUB” to sing Christmas Carols to believers and non-believers and people with no faith. Surprise, surprise, it went down very well. More so when the musicians turned up the volume, the atmosphere was electric. We are in the process of organising another one.

So, we are making moves to reach out to everyone and to remind them that Christmas - the baby born in a manger, God made man, the Word made flesh is with us again. A chance to have an encounter with Jesus, the eternal word. Since the beginning, Advent has been a season in which we reflect on the first coming of Christ, but also to prepare for Jesus’ return. The deepest longing of the Holy Spirit is expressed in the cry “Come”. Which the Spirit gives to the Church. The prayer of both the Spirit and the Church is “Come Lord Jesus come”. We stand today at the beginning of Advent joyfully anticipate the celebration of Christmas. Our pilgrimage invites us to revisit and partake in the events surrounding Jesus’ first coming, his birth and entry into human history when the word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Advent, then, is the time to grow in holiness through repentance and the forgiveness of sins. “Behold, now is the acceptable time spoken by the Spirit, the day of Salvation, peace, and reconciliation. This is the time eagerly awaited for by the patriarchs and the prophets. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery.

Bible Passage: [Luke 21: 25 – 28](#)

Prayer:

Lord we are not worthy to receive you, but we know that if you say the word we shall be healed.