

Tony Thinking Aloud xxxv

Have you made your Christmas pudding yet? It should at the latest be made this week. The prayer for the week from the Book of Common Prayer begins 'Stir up', traditionally taken as a reminder to 'Stir up' the Christmas pudding. A great family occasion when everyone has a stir and a wish. The pudding should have thirteen ingredients one for Jesus and each of his disciples.

So it is Advent Sunday this weekend – Advent means coming, a time to look forward to Christmas. A window of the Advent calendar to be opened each day.

Advent calendars have branched out, Google offers 64 different Advent calendars! Harry Potter is still very popular, and I found a 24 sleeps Calendar!

An Advent calendar is to help reflect on the celebration of the Birth of Christ each day of the Advent season. Christmas – the Holy Communion or Mass to celebrate Christ. Celebrated by thousands who take the meaning seriously and others to whom it has no real meaning. Yet the mega celebration of this religious festival by millions, however it is done, has had to be acknowledged in the way it is observed in this pandemic.

Hopefully a vaccine is coming and life will be more normal again. We have a more restricted celebration this year. An opportunity to pause and think about it all.

A season of Peace and Goodwill. It is a time when many think about others, perhaps even more so this year. We should be thinking about those we know who may feel more lonely than usual and find a way to contact and support them. There are many charitable ways of supporting those who are lonely that are less personal, support to food banks being one. The message of Christmas, Jesus came into the world to help us understand more about the things of God. Peace and goodwill a message for everyone.

