

WEEKLY SERMON

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An event worth waiting for

One of our daughters presented us with a slate about 9 months ago to countdown the number of weeks until the expected date of her child's birth.

As time went on and the numbers got smaller we were told the sex of the child (a boy) and then given progress on his weight and size until finally ... a rush into hospital for the baby to be induced only to discover she was already in the early stages of labour.



Then she had such a long labour the baby eventually had to be delivered with the aid of forceps. But the wait was worth it – a new bundle of joy for these first-time parents. And now, as any parent knows, the real work begins.

Advent Sunday (coincidentally the First of December this year) is the start in church of the not-so-long wait for Christmas Day. Of course, the shops are there ahead of us with Christmas advertising starting even before Halloween (or All Hallows Eve as the church would call it).

In many churches the Advent Candles will be lit, one more for each of the four Sundays as we prepare to celebrate again the birth of the one who changed the world (and how we count the years). As we open presents and meet with family and friends, we feel the wait was worth it, although we are glad when it is all over!

But wait! The season of advent is not only about the wait for Christmas Day, it is also about the wait for Jesus' return.

Christians believe Jesus will come back, because he said he would. The trouble is no-one knows when that will be.

“So you also must be ready because the Son of Man (the way Jesus usually referred to himself) will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” (The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 24, Verse 44).

Just like waiting for a new baby, Jesus expected his followers to get themselves ready for when he comes. The main complication is not knowing when that will be.

So, Christians reckon it is best to be always ready – by believing and trusting in Jesus now, and working together to see his kingly rule in our lives and in our world.

One thing is for sure – when Jesus' kingdom comes it will have been worth waiting for.

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Area Dean of Accrington