**Advent Waiting – Life Group Reflection week 3**

**‘Waiting on God for fresh revelation’**

We continue to encourage you to wait on God in your groups as we look at the verses set aside for this week.

**Opening Prayer**

Holy Spirit of God, we wait for you.  
Speak to us with your still small voice of calm.  
Renew our strength,  
restore our faith,  
refresh our vision.  
Help us to wait for you  
through these weeks of Advent,  
to make space,  
to welcome the Word made flesh,  
Jesus the child who is to come.  
Amen.

**This week’s verses: Habakkuk 2:1-3**

I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts;  
I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

### The Lord’s Answer

**2**Then the Lord replied:

“Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets  
    so that a heraldmay run with it.  
**3**For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end  
    and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come  
    and will not delay.

* **Have a look back to Habakkuk 1. What is the context for these verses? What is Habakkuk waiting for?**
* **What do you think it meant for Habakkuk to ‘stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts’ in answer to his question to God?**
* **What do you notice about God’s response? What encouragement and challenge can we receive from these verses about our waiting?**
* **Have you got any stories of waiting for God for revelation or in answer to our prayers? Share them with each other. What have you learnt from them?**

**Waiting on God:**

We continue to seek God as a church for His vision for us. As part of the Deanery transformation process we particularly seek vision for how we work with and support other churches across our town in the future, particularly in the light of Rev Lynne Sparkes retirement in January at St Mary’s.

Just as Habakkuk asked questions of God and waited for his revelation and his timing, we want to do the same in this season. This week we encourage you to wait on God together in response to the following questions:

* Who is God calling us to ‘be’ and ‘do’ as St Andrew’s & All Saints in this next season?
* What is God wanting to say to us currently about future vision and priorities?
* How is God calling us to serve and be a blessing to our community (and other local churches) in this season?  Who are we particularly called to partner with?
* What is God saying to us about new staffing roles? What are the priorities? What is the right time?

Take some time to sit in silence and reflect on these and share anything that comes out of your waiting. You might like to play ‘God I look to you’

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEubLmNPxwg ) to lead you into at time of waiting.

Then pray together for these things.

Do feedback anything that comes out of this to the leadership.

**Final Advent Prayer**

*Father in this season of Advent we prepare our hearts for your coming.*

*You are the vine, we are the branches.*

*Come and tend us, prune us, clean us.*

*Discard in us everything that does not bear fruit,*

*Nourish in us everything that bears much fruit.*

*As we celebrate your coming as a vulnerable baby*

*Our hearts await your glorious return as the eternal King.*

*Nurture in us expectant hearts, O Lord.*

*Cultivate in us a deep longing for more of you.*

*Until that Day when you burst through the heavens,*

*And flood our horizons with your glorious splendour.*

*For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, throughout all ages and generations. Amen.*

**Our Questions in our Waiting:**

Father God, what do you want to do in me this Advent?  
  
Father God, show me what you want me to pray for our church.  
   
Show me where you are at work amongst us now?   
  
Is there something you want to encourage us in?   
  
Is there anything you want us to change? Or something new you are calling us too?  
  
Who are you calling us to be and what are you calling us to be passionate about in this season?  
  
How are you calling us to serve and be a blessing to our community (and other local churches) in this season?    
  
Is there something you want to prepare us for?   
   
Is there something you want to reveal to us about your character?

**Life Group Leaders – please encourage members of your group to share anything they feel God is saying, either within the group or afterwards. Please then make sure that this is passed on to one of the Church Leadership Team.**