

**The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.** *Isaiah 9:2*

'This Advent, everyone is waiting. Alongside Christians waiting expectantly to celebrate the birth of the Saviour, the world waits to be saved from COVID-19. Both forms of waiting use the same language: of 'light breaking through'. When the first promising signs from vaccine trials emerged, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England offered a metaphor of light in the distance:

'This... is like a train journey where you're standing on the station – it's wet, windy, it's horrible – and two miles down the tracks, two lights appear and it's the train. And it's a long way off. We're at that point now.' The message was clear: even if we are still currently in darker times, we can see the first signs of hope and light to come. Similarly in Isaiah 9:2, we find the prophecy of the greatest light, transforming the lives of those walking in darkness. This verse features in Christmas readings but...there are layers to this future promise. Some interim answers come through human kings and rulers, but the full brightness of Isaiah 9 is supremely fulfilled in Jesus. If the birth of Jesus represents the light dawning, his life, death, and resurrection add more brightness. When Jesus returns, the brightness will be unmissable and unmistakable, and all forms of darkness will have passed away. In the meantime, we wait, but not passively. From our vantage point, today, we have seen enough to trust, even in dark times. Whilst we wait, whilst everyone is waiting, may we brighten the places where we find ourselves. May we reflect the light of Jesus in our everyday contexts such that others might see and believe.'

Ken Benjamin, Director of Church Relationships, LICC

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Please note! Items for 7/52 should be given to **Sally** by **midnight THURSDAY** on 641305 or email: ian.pratt5@btopenworld.com

7/52 @ RBC

6 December 2020
Second Sunday of advent



Prayers for Ryde continue every Monday for 15 minutes at 7pm. Join in using the link at **[Pray for Ryde – Continuing in Prayer](#)**
This is followed by our own prayer meeting using the usual link

Check out our website at **www.rydebaptist.xyz** for general updates, sermon notes and suggestions for reading and study.



What's On

Worship at home with Premier Radio **10 am Sunday**.
BBC1 10.45 am Sunday morning live; Songs of Praise **1.15 pm**

Pam Rhodes on Premier Radio for Sunday Live at 6 pm, followed by Prayer of Hope from Churches Together at 7 pm.



Prayer broadcast with BU General Secretary Lynn Green at **7 pm** on Wednesdays. See https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338268/Prayer_broadcasts.aspx

Prayer broadcasts.aspx

CAROLS WITH COMPASSION VIRTUAL CAROL SERVICE
Tonight at 8pm on TBN UK (Freeview channel 65). A blend of contemporary Christian music and traditional carols, as well as readings and a message of hope.

THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 5-8 PM 'MERRY AND BRIGHT'
- a Christmas trail around Ryde organised by the New Carnival Company with Ryde Town Council and Ryde BA. Giant lanterns, and pop up dancers, singers and storytellers, including at the George St Centre frontage. Late night shopping under distancing rules. For more info, see the map and Q code on the front window of the GSC and around town.

Be part of BMS's mission this Christmas by committing to pray for 5 minutes a day for projects in Asia at <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/news/christmas-prayer-campaign-2020/>

Watch a short video of Pam Rhodes' visit to Bangladesh with the Leprosy Mission at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcrbBc1A1J4&feature=youtu.be>

Read about OM's work in a refugee camp on the Serbia/Croatia border at <https://www.uk.om.org/blog/a-descendant-of-refugees>

The song 'The Blessing' has been nominated for a Grammy award. Listen again to the original live version at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp6aygmVzM4>

PLEASE NOTE!

As per Kerry's email last Tuesday– because of the current restrictions, **PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS TO OUR GEORGE STREET BUILDING – WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SORT OR DISTRIBUTE THEM THIS YEAR.**

If you have email, why not send an email card to your church friends? Try www.jacquelawson.com for some beautiful animated ones.

Christmas Gift Boxes.

To bring joy to a care home resident with no friends or family, you can donate toiletries and toilet bags, bed socks, tissues, puzzle and colouring books, games, pens, pencils, crayons, small teddies, craft materials, or make a cash donation at carehome-friends.org.uk/giftbox. For more info contact rebecca@embracingage.org.uk or **07419 338066**.



Second Sunday of Advent

Some topical articles this week:

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/Why-Christians-need-to-say-yes!-to-a-Covid-vaccine>

Are you planning to see or visit family at Christmas?

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/The-biblical-case-for-not-seeing-family-this-Christmas>

Thank you for your continued financial support of the work of the Church. If you are able to give by standing order, PLEASE do so!

**RBC Barclays current account number 20731102
sort code 20–60– 55**

*If you usually give by cash or cheque, contact **Jim** on **810991** to arrange delivery or collection*

We are currently running at a deficit as follows:
- £13292.56. This is due to the loss of letting fees for the GSC and the continuing need to pay utility bills and repay loans.