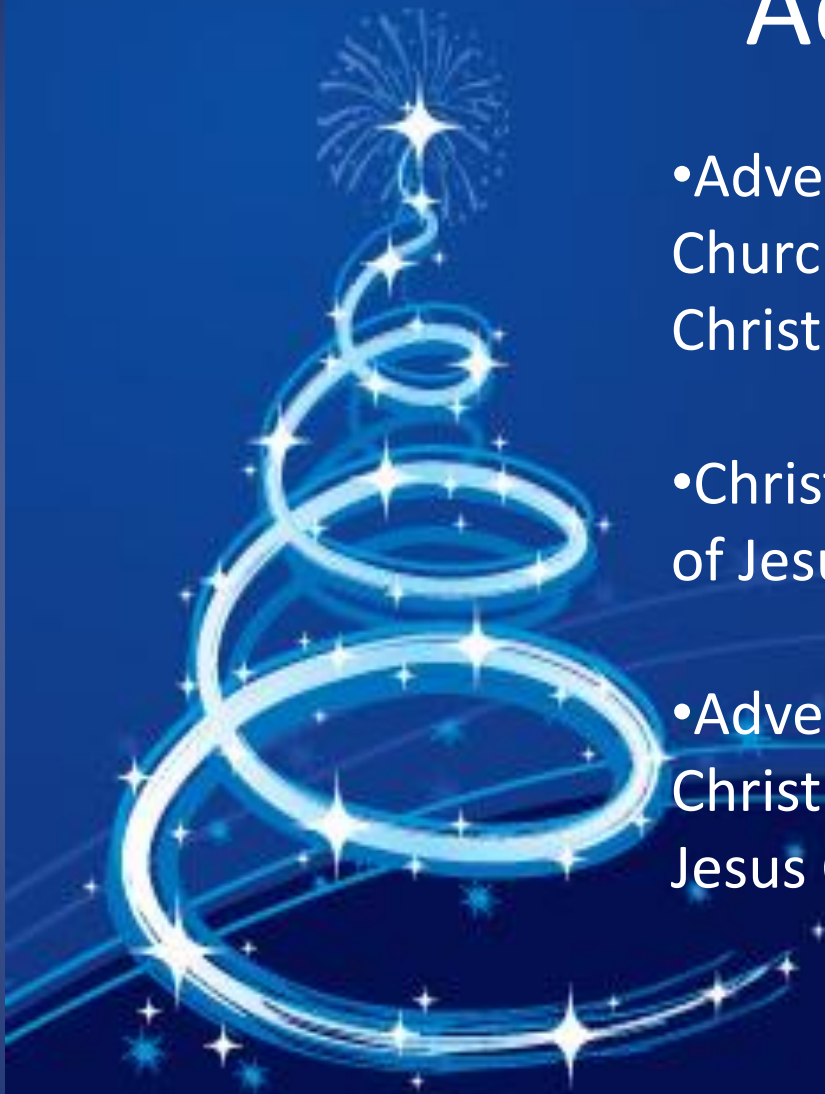


A stylized, glowing blue Christmas tree composed of concentric circles and stars, set against a dark blue background with a rainbow and stars.

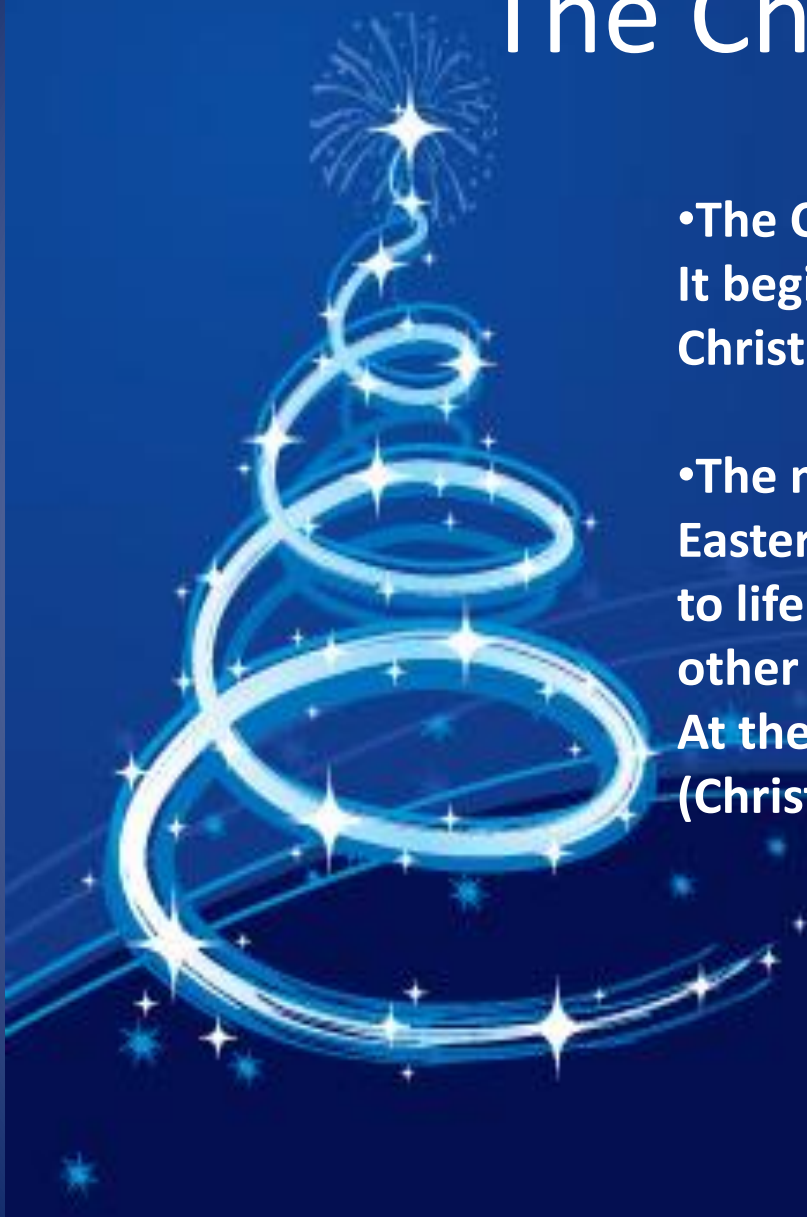
What is Advent?

Advent is...

- Advent is the new year of the Christian Church and the church season that leads to Christmas Day
- Christians prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus
- Advent means 'coming' or 'arrival' and for Christians, this means the coming of Jesus Christ




The Christian Year



- The Christian Year follows the life of Jesus. It begins with Advent Sunday - which is the Christian church, is 'New Year's Day'

- The most important day of the year will be Easter Sunday, the day on which Jesus came back to life – but before that festival, there will be other special days to look forward to. At the end of Advent, there will be Jesus' birthday (Christmas Day).

What happens during Advent?



- During the season of Advent, Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the arrival of the Lord into the world through the birth of his Son Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness. It is also a time to look forward to when Jesus will come a second time.

- The beginning of Advent is when the preparations for Christmas really begin – the festive menu is planned, gifts are chosen and wrapped, carols sung, cards are written and posted and houses decorated.

The Advent Wreath

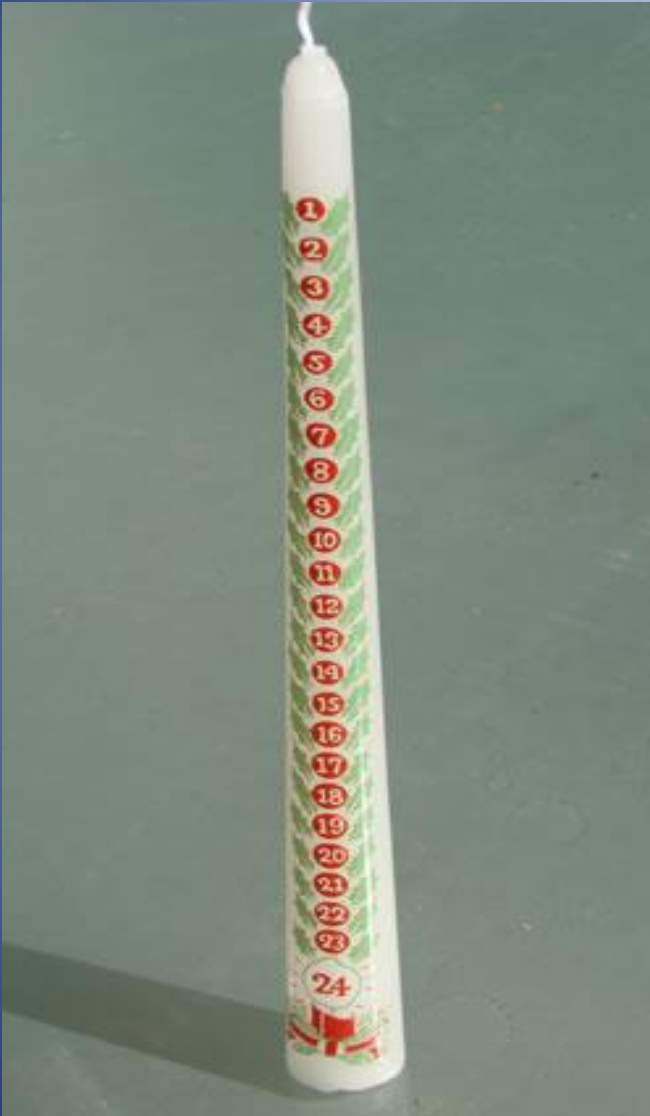


Every Sunday for 4 weeks the Church lights a candle, this is to show the light of Christ.

There is a candle of hope, peace, love and joy. The middle candle represents the birth of Jesus Christ. The flame reminds Christians He is the light of the world and to follow him means never walking in darkness.



Advent Candle



An Advent candle is also burned during December leading up to Christmas Eve, the night before Jesus' birthday which is Christmas Day.

Advent Calendars

During Advent, some people make or buy Advent Calendars as a way of counting the days to Christmas. Usually these calendars have twenty-four 'windows'



Advent Calendars

Traditional calendar windows open up to show a picture of something linked with this time of year. One may show an angel or one of the shepherds who visited baby Jesus. Others may show pictures of Christmas presents, a candle or anything else to do with Christmas. The last window to be opened usually shows himself, lying in a manger.



Advent Calendars

Popular advent calendars today usually have chocolate hidden behind each window.

