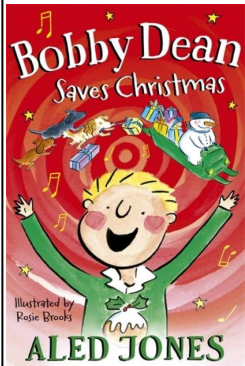


### This weeks Book Preview.



#### **Bobby Dean saves Christmas Aled Jones.**

Sent off to school for the first time in his life, nine year old, Bobby Dean is making new friends., learning lines for the Nativity play and

trying not to laugh at the Head Teachers terrible jokes. But then Bobby discovers that when he sings magical things can happen! From rescuing kidnapped dogs to helping Santa, and even travelling back in time— Bobby Deans first term is going to be one of wonder, adventure and magic of song!

*Bobby Dean saves Christmas* is a magical and fun packed adventure for kids, highlighting the importance of friendship, loyalty, accepting differences and, above all, being yourself. Perfect to read aloud or children to read for themselves.

Price £7-49. Available from Aslan Books  
[aslanchristianbooks.com](http://aslanchristianbooks.com)

#### ***First Sunday of Advent Readings:***

### **Hope**

[Isaiah 9:2, 6-7:](#)

### Andover Food Bank

Dates for the closure of both the **12 Days of Christmas** and **Gift Boxes** have now expired. If perchance you have or are preparing either, please see Gordon today and he'll see if we can get it into the Foodbank Office.

#### Pray for Christmas this weeki

Continue to pray for the plans for Christmas. This year will be a little different but does offer a fantastic opportunity of sharing the message of Christmas, or at least to invite a friend or neighbour to one of our events. Christmas time is the one time people 'outside' of the Church are likely to be more sympathetic and offer a 'listening ear' so let's grasp this opportunity with both hands, put aside our prejudices and fears and 'go for it'!. You know it's not that difficult One of our church family shares that by simply having a neighbour round for a cuppa it was THEY who asked when our Carol Service was!! We didn't even have to introduce the subject!! — and yes, they are coming! It doesn't need a shedful of courage, just some prayer and opportunity and you'd be bowled over by how simple it is to invite someone or even share your faith story. This is 'church growth' - *adding souls to the Kingdom* !

Minister: Rev Jack Walker.

Secretary: June McCaughren

Treasurer: Laura Ivey

Leadership Team: Adam Stacey. John McCaughren. John Hadley.

## Whitchurch Baptist Church

# Sunday November 28th



**Reading: John 14 v 15-21**

**'God gives us a helper'**

***Rev Jack Walker's penultimate message in  
the series on John's Gospel.***

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

A Time To  
Remember The  
Future With Hope



## What's on this week:-

**Monday 10.30am** Ladies Coffee & Chat

**Wednesday 8pm** Mid week study

**Sat Dec 4th** Decorate church for Christmas

**Sunday Dec 5th** '2nd Sunday in Advent'

John 14 v 1-14 Jack Walker speaking on final message in series on St Johns Gospel  
'Preparing to die'

## Dates for your diary

### Advent & Christmas plans:

**Dec 12th No 1 Advent. Matt 1 v 18-24**

*'Joseph tries to do things right'*

**Dec 13th 12.30 Christmas Lunch.** see below

**Dec 19th No 2 Advent. Matt 2 v 1-12**

*'God speaks to those outside the flock'*

**Dec 22nd** \*[See below]

**Dec 25th 10.30am Christmas Day Praise**

**Dec 26th. No service today.**

**Wednesday \*Dec 22nd**

**'Carols in the Car Park' 6.30pm**

*Carols in the open-air followed by hot chocolate, coffee, mince pies and mulled wine  
Your opportunity to invite your friends and neighbours! We have a 'free gift' for each of our Guests too!*

*Invites will be available for you to use!*

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**Christmas Lunch on Monday Dec 13th at 12.30pm at WBC. Booking is essential as numbers are limited. Look out for details of how to book in the next week or two. Followed by a 'Christmas Sing-a-long' to get you in the mood! See June for info!**

## How the Bible speaks today.

'Psalm 23 is important to me because, about four years ago, we were living in London and my husband wanted to move. But we were part of a big church and the children were in a lovely school, so I didn't want to move. Something had to budge. 'We were part of a home group and they prayed for us. After that, I woke up in the night with the verses, "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters," in my mind. We came to look for a house and I had these words in my mind. 'The house is in green pastures and beside still waters, beside a lake. The words from Psalm 23 became real. That was so helpful. It was like the Lord was leading us there and had gone before us. So, I could trust that that was where we were meant to be. That made the move out of London OK. 'Now, I'm really thankful for the move, which I can't believe I'm saying. We look out of the house and see creation, sunrise and sunset. We see God all around. It's lovely. We can see green pastures all around us and, from our bedroom window, we can see the lake. It's so healing.

'I go back to Psalm 23 all the time, and I've got it in the kitchen, above the Aga. It's very real for me. I struggle to remember Bible verses, but no one can take these verses away from me.'



## Hymns and their stories

### "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

In 1844 a young Irishman, Joseph Scriven, had completed his college education and returned home to marry his sweetheart. As he was travelling to meet her on the day before the planned wedding, he came upon a horrible scene—his beautiful fiancée tragically lying under the water in a creek bed after falling off her horse. Later, Scriven moved to Canada and eventually fell in love again, only to experience devastation once more when she became ill and died just weeks before their marriage. For the second time, this humble Christian felt the loss of the woman he loved. The following year, he wrote a poem to his mother in Ireland that described the deep friendship with Jesus he had cultivated in prayer through the hardships of his life. The poem was published anonymously at first under the title, "Pray Without Ceasing." Ten years later, he finally acknowledged this well-loved text had been written by him and his friend, Jesus

In 1868, attorney Charles Converse set the text to a tune and renamed it "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Ken Osbeck tells the story in his book [101 Hymn Stories](#).

Instead of thinking God was punishing him, Scriven cherished God's friendship through all of this hardship—a friendship he discovered in prayer.

May we learn that our relationship for each of us with God will grow the same way—in prayer. *During Dec we will be looking at Carols and their stories.* --

### The persecuted Christians & Church

A Nigerian Christian journalist has been arrested and imprisoned for reporting the attacks against Christians in Nigeria's Middle Belt.

The mother of a 12 yr old Christian girl in Punjab India has raised fears that she will be forced to marry her captor and convert to Islam. Through Barnabasfund Afghan Christians, both those who had gone to neighbouring countries, albeit Muslim dominated, and those still left in Afghanistan are very grateful for support from Christians around the world.

**Celebrating our  
359th Church  
birthday!**

**November 21st  
2021**

