

“Be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” Psalm 27:14

We are already approaching the season of Advent. As I get older, it seems that time goes by faster and faster. It still feels like a new year, if I'm honest.

Advent recalls a time of waiting. Waiting for the coming of the Messiah. Of course, for many many years it has been, for most children, a time of waiting for presents, or for adults a time of waiting for a bit of tie off work, and for families a time to be together.

How much of our lives is dedicated to waiting? How many of us have our hopes vested in some future event? We believe that everything will change for us when we win the lottery, get a raise, meet the right person, get a new job, retire or move house. It will all be different when the weather improves, when we get a new government, or how about when the pandemic is over and we can get back to normal? In the meantime we are dissatisfied, impatient and even angry.

But of course we will feel like that if our lives do not conform to the idea we have in our minds about the way things ought to be. We can shape our personal worlds, and even the people in them, according to that idea, but it takes a huge amount of effort and control, and even if we succeed to some degree, there is the niggling insecurity that we might lose our grip on some aspect of our lives. It is not always wise to make our happiness dependent on being in full control of every single thing that might affect us.

The key to contentment is to have the courage and patience to wait for what God will do. He has a plan for all our lives and every situation within them. The bible is filled with instances in which God seems to have left it too late to act. Sometimes, in those situations, people have given up waiting taken events into their own hands.

When we do that, we may bring some resolution to a situation, but I can guarantee that it is not the best that God has for us, that we would have enjoyed had we had the nerve and courage to hold out, waiting expectantly, actively and hopefully for God's answer.

Of course, as Christians we are still waiting for something. We are waiting for the return of Jesus. The bible tells us that we are citizens of heaven and we eagerly await a saviour from there. That is the hope of the Christian faith; that God has an ultimate answer for this damaged and hurting world in which we live.

Prayer.

Father, I know I get impatient waiting for the things that I feel my life lacks. Thank you that your plans for me are to prosper me and not to harm me, to give me hope and a future. Help me, please, to wait patiently and in anticipation of your way forward for every aspect of my life, and, as I wait, to live in obedience to you. In Jesus' name, amen.

*All these devotionals can be found on our website [inghamitechurch.org](http://inghamitechurch.org) on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.*