

# My Beloved Son

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. (Hebrews 1:1-2 NIV)



It might feel a bit early to talk about Advent and maybe even worse to talk about Christmas, but at the end of November we'll be starting our Advent course called "My Beloved Son" using the booklet pictured, so I wanted to give you just a taste of what we'll be doing in the hope that you'll want to join us.

I take it our services and our Bible studies are always focused on Jesus. We are, after all, *Christians!* That's because we believe Jesus is the centre of history. The whole of human history has led up to Jesus. From Genesis 3:15 where God says to Satan:

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:15 NIV)*

we're waiting for the one who will crush Satan and all evil. Jesus is the one who comes and does that on the cross. The book of Hebrews puts it another way. Every time we read of a prophet in the Old Testament a bit of God is revealed to us. But finally, God sent his own Son to speak to us. It's like the prophets were a little foretaste, almost an historical warm-up act, for the real deal. That's what I mean when I say Jesus is the focal point of history.

The book of Hebrews spells out for us just how important Jesus is by showing us how he fulfils what was promised in the Old Testament, for example being the ultimate prophet. While our services hopefully always point to Jesus, Advent is traditionally the time when we specially prepare to remember the first coming of Jesus in Bethlehem and when we look forward to his second coming. That makes Hebrews a perfect book to look at over the advent period.

If you want to join us, the study booklet includes short daily Bible readings, reflections and prayers put together by Bishop Michael Baughen. It's a wonderful resource to use in Advent and maybe to kickstart your daily Bible reading and prayer if that's got a bit lost recently. There are also weekly studies which we'll be doing together as part of our Sunday evening services.

Hebrews tells us:

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV)*

and meeting together on a Sunday evening will be a great chance to fulfil those verses. It would be great this year, if we were ready for Christmas and ready for the Day when Jesus returns, because we were encouraged in our faith in him and spurred on in love and good deeds serving him. I hope that this course will enable us to do that. Booklets will be available soon!

Stephen