

ARE YOU READY YET?

Do you ever get asked whether you're ready yet? Are you ready for work? Are you ready for school? Are you ready to go out? Are you ready for the meeting? Are you ready for the performance? Are you ready for those visitors? Are you ready for Christmas? Are you ready yet?

Some people seem to have been ready for Christmas for months: presents bought, cards made or bought and written, food planned if not already bought and put in the freezer ... Others take a delight in telling you that they've done nothing yet – "still a week to go" they say. And they're right there's plenty of time for all those things (- isn't there?)

But that's not really what I mean. We can be as ready as we like for the celebrations. We may be able to tell people that all the practical preparations are done well in advance and still be caught out when Jesus comes.

The season of Advent as we look forward to the celebrations of Christmas is not just about practical preparations. It is also a season of spiritual preparation. Preparing Spiritually is about being ready to meet with Jesus when he comes again as King and Judge. An event that is not in the calendar. It means being ready as if he were here already. Because he is!

That means being the sort of people he wants. Putting aside attitudes of resentment, anxiety, greed (yes even at Christmas!), and superiority. Christmas will be a good time to meet with the attitudes that reflect the way he came to us in joy, peace, humility and love.

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