

## The Advent Prayer Garden – December 2024



Advent. Every year I try to think of something a little different to help me live through the liturgical season well.

Yes, we know Advent is a time of waiting. But it is also the first part of the word ADVENTURE. What adventure are you preparing to have, this Advent? What are you hoping to do differently?

It has become popular in recent years to go on Advent Wreath Making Courses – and TikTok and various Facebook pages do give ideas for making the season a little different. It was on social media where I found this beautiful idea! An Advent Garden - a centre piece for the kitchen table. A garden which although tiny, encourages conversation and acts as a reminder.

Heidi Haverkamp's 'Advent in Narnia' says this about C.S.Lewis:

*"Lewis, by placing Christianity into another world, makes it unfamiliar again. He gives us the chance to feel a newfound wonder at the depth of God's love, the power of Christ's grace and the totality of his sacrifice and the wonder of a world infused with the Holy Spirit".*

Making Advent unfamiliar again!

I wonder if part of our Advent reflections could be to look for the unfamiliar. What does waiting and watching (and weeping) look like - a story of cousins (Jesus and John), of old and young, of light bearers and step-dads.

Why not have some fun and create your own little garden. Write words on the stones, words

that mean something to you. I wrote: **Love - Joy - Hope - Peace – Gratitude.**

It offers me a focus. It isn't just something to look at though – you can pick up the rocks and feel them. You can put your hand in the soil. You can trace shapes around the plants (whether real or silk... or even plastic!).

It is just another example of entering the story.

I would definitely recommend you becoming Advent Gardeners!

Have a Peace filled and Love filled Christ-mas

Jo

For more on 'contemplative gardens see: <https://christandcascadia.com/2022/11/17/advent-gardening/>