

The Word was God

Short reflections
for Advent

Andy John

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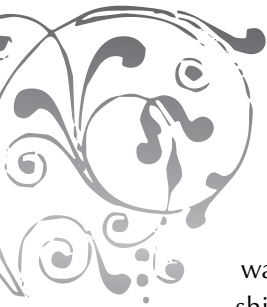
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The Prologue to John's Gospel is unlike any other part of the New Testament. In just a few verses it contains the mystery of the incarnation—how God became human. The same verses outline the fulfilment of all God's plans for his creation and provide the foundation for Christian hope.

In these short Advent reflections, one for every day between 1 December and Christmas Eve, we trace a journey through this extraordinary piece of writing. As you read and reflect on the words, let them call forth wonder and worship of the God revealed in his Son Jesus.

*Gracious God, speak again, so I may hear afresh what things
both great and small you wish me to hear.*



IN THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not understood it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light, he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of

God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, 'This is the one I spoke about when I said, "He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me."') Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

JOHN 1:1-18



IN the beginning was the Word...



We cannot understand what God is doing now
without looking back to the beginning...

... and from the very beginning God has spoken
and revealed himself.

*If you can, step out into the night and look up at the stars.
The light you see has been travelling for countless years;
God's eternity stretches back further still.*





... and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He was
with God in the beginning.



The Galilean would not be another prophet
in a long line of holy people.

He would be nothing less than God, speaking
God's words, doing God's works.

God stepped into human life; how might you step into the life of God?





Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that
has been made.



God's full and unimpeded Lordship is revealed
over all creation through his Word.

Every moment, every breath, every heartbeat
is birthed in God's own being.

*Lord of all, as you spoke life into existence,
speak into the smallness of our lives, so that we may
know more of your infinite greatness.*



Here is a gentle way of walking through the busy days leading up to Christmas.

Here is encouragement to slow down and savour the words of one of the best-loved of seasonal Bible readings.

Here is refreshment for heart and soul as well as inspiration for sharing the good news of Jesus' birth with others.

Andy John has been Bishop of Bangor since 2008 and is a contributor to BRF's *New Daylight* Bible reading notes.



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