

A village was in crisis. The elders didn't know what to do so they sent for the wise woman. She asked them a question. 'Do you know what I'm going to tell you?' The elders replied, 'No. ' 'Ah, then I can't help you, ' she said, and returned to her home. The village elders got together and decided that they would call her back but this time, they would give her a different answer. The wise woman asked them the same question, 'Do you know what I'm going to tell you?' This time the elders said, 'Yes. ' 'Ah, ' she replied, 'then you don't need me. ' And she returned to her home. The village elders were a bit frustrated by this and they still didn't know what to do about their crisis, so they asked her back one last time. As on the previous occasions, the wise women asked them her question. This time some of the elders said, yes and some said, no. The wise woman smiled and said, 'Talk to each other.'

Often, we imagine that the wisdom exists beyond ourselves, that somehow, someone will know better. There are times when this is true, but we sometimes underestimate our own resources. Bishop Stephen has challenged all of us to raise the spiritual temperature. In order to do this, to dig deeper and discover what the Holy Spirit inspires in us, we start by listening to the wisdom of each other.

Last year, we enjoyed producing the Advent Anonymous Calendar so much, we thought we would do it again.

These are the voices of ordinary members of the congregation and the ministry team sharing their thoughts and prayers about the watching and waiting of Advent - the journey from darkness to light. I hope you find something within this calendar that speaks to you and inspires you this Advent.