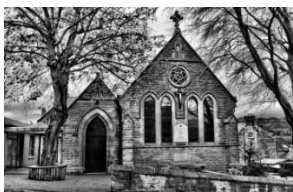


# Second Sunday of Advent 2023

The Catholic Community of  
All Saints Catholic Church, Hassop, and  
Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Church, Matlock



## Emmaus Hub

*Every Moment Matters  
As You Serve*

Bakewell, Hassop & Matlock



**Lucinda Watson**  
Hub Administrator

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email: [info@matlockcatholic.org](mailto:info@matlockcatholic.org)  
telephone: 01629 582 804  
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday  
Available - 8:30am - 12:30pm



**Fr Robbie O'Callaghan MA VF**  
Parish Priest  
Dean of the Peaks

email: [priest@hassopcatholic.org](mailto:priest@hassopcatholic.org)  
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**Parish Deacon**  
Rev Richard Walsh  
c/o Emmaus

## Newsletter



The Prophet Isaiah addresses the people, proclaiming the end of the Exile in Babylon and the return to Jerusalem. He prophesies: "A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord... Every valley shall be lifted up'. The valleys to be lifted up represent all the shortcomings of our behaviour before God, all our sins of omission. One shortcoming in our life could be the fact that we do not pray or that we pray little. Advent is thus a favourable time to pray with greater intensity, to reserve to the spiritual life the important place it deserves. Another shortcoming could be a lack of charity for our neighbour, above all toward people most in need of help, not only material, but also spiritual. We are called to be more attentive, closer, to the needs of others. Like John the Baptist, in this way we can open the ways of hope in the desert of the barren hearts of many people.

We must take on attitudes of meekness and humility, without reproach, to listen, to speak with meekness and thus to prepare for the coming of our Saviour, He who is meek and humble of heart.

The Saviour whom we await is able to transform our life with his grace, with the power of the Holy Spirit, with the power of love. The Holy Spirit, in fact, infuses our hearts with God's love, the inexhaustible source of purification, of new life and freedom. The Virgin Mary fully lived this reality, allowing herself to be 'baptized' by the Holy Spirit who inundated her with his power. May she, who prepared for the coming of Christ with the totality of her existence, help us to follow her example and may she guide our steps to the coming Lord.

*Pope Francis, Saint Peter's Square  
Second Sunday of Advent, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017*



**Matlock  
Christmas Carol Service  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

7:00pm



**Hassop  
Christmas Carol Service  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

6:30pm



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

5:00pm Vigil - Matlock



**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

10:00am - Matlock



**Christmas Eve Vigil  
(Sunday) 24<sup>th</sup> December**

3:45pm - Matlock

Gathering Christmas Music  
4:00pm - Matlock - Christmas  
Eve Family Mass

5:45pm - Hassop - Gathering  
Christmas Music

6:00pm - Hassop - Christmas  
Eve Family Mass



**Christmas Day Morning  
(Monday) 25<sup>th</sup> December**

9.00am - Matlock - Mass

10.30am - Hassop - Mass



**Year B - Cycle II - Advent I - Euch. Prayer III - Psalter: II**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Weekday of Advent**

10:30am - 11:30am - **Hassop** - Confessions

4:30pm - **Matlock** - Rosary - Joyful Mysteries

5:00pm - **Matlock** - Mass - Caroline O'Shea RIP (O'Shea Family Matlock)

John & Bridget McLarkey RIP (John McLarkey & Family)

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00am - **Hassop** - Mass - Deacon John Hague RIP Ann. (Family)

11:00am - **Matlock** - Mass - Oscar age 3yrs RIP & Family (Clare Parker)

5:30pm - **Matlock** - Mass - People of God

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Weekday of Advent**

No Mass/Service

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December - Weekday of Advent**

No Mass/Service

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr**

11:00am - **Matlock** - Requiem Mass - Robert Hilton RIP

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Weekday of Advent**

9.30am - **Matlock** - Rosary - Mysteries of Light

10.00am - **Matlock** - Mass - Holy Souls

12:00pm - **Hassop** - Mass - Holy Souls

7:00pm - **Matlock** - Adoration & Benediction

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Weekday of Advent**

(\*\*6:00pm - **Matlock** - No Friday Evening Mass \*\*)



**Matlock - Christmas Carol Service**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm**

**ALL WELCOME**



**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Weekday of Advent**

10:30am - 11:30am - **Matlock** - Confessions

4:30pm - **Matlock** - Rosary - Joyful Mysteries

5:00pm - **Matlock** - Mass - Holy Souls

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Third Sunday of Advent**

9:00am - **Hassop** - Mass - Thomas, Dorothy and John Hague RIP

11:00am - **Matlock** - Mass - Ambrose & Margaret Holland (Dad's Birthday)

Brian Hodgson RIP Birthday Ann (Family)

(\*\*5:30pm - **Matlock** - No Sunday Evening Mass\*\*)



**Hassop - Christmas Carol Service**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm**

**ALL WELCOME**



**Safeguarding Representative  
Anthony Howlings**

Anthony.HowlingsPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk

‘As a Christian Family, we will **meet** and **celebrate** the Holy Eucharist on the first day of the week. We will **care** for and **support** each other.

We will strive to be good examples of our Christian faith and show our **commitment** to that **faith** in our daily lives. In **love** we will **support** and **participate** with other Christian Churches in and around Bakewell.’

Make a donation to Hassop



Subscribe to the Joint Newsletter



**100 CLUB NOVEMBER WINNERS**  
*congratulations*



- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £50.00  
Anthony Howlings
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £35.00  
Will Fell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £30.00  
Christine Waddington
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £20.00  
Terry Allsop
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize £15.00  
Rosemary Greaney

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME please speak to

Michael Allsop after Mass

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES  
RENEWAL NOTICE**

It's time to reorder your numbered boxed set of envelopes. A lot of parishioners have chosen to change from envelopes to standing order.

**Each set costs us £4.38 to produce, therefore, to save money will only be renewing box sets if you have given an envelope donation within the past 12 months.**

However, should you wish to still have a box set but have not given via envelope over the past year, but intend to in the next financial year then please let me know and I will be happy to arrange this for you.

Lucinda.watson@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Thank you in advance, *Lucinda*

**Hassop & Bakewell - News for the Pews**



**Hassop Christmas Fair**



We say a **BIG THANK YOU!** to all who came to help or support the Christmas Fair. It is looking like will have raised over **£1,400**. If there are any donations still to come in, they would be very much appreciated.

**The main raffle winners were:**

Fr Robbie; Marie Hopkinson; Chris Franklin; Fiona K-G; Margaret Trend; Chris Waddington; Virginia Hope; Mary Franklin; Mickey Etchells; Mick Allsop; Nicky Freeman; Michael Ward and Lily Dathan

**Sick and Housebound** - Thoughts and prayers for: Marie Hopkinson; Maria Hutchinson; Peter Peel; Annalise & Shirley Plant; Mary Howlings; Henry Coleman; Gerry Carlton and all our sick parishioners and friends

**Christmas Flower Collection - This weekend.** Let us be as generous as possible so that our church looks beautiful. Please return your envelope next weekend. **Thank You - The Flower Team**

**Hassop - Christmas Carol Service**  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm  
**ALL WELCOME**

**Sunday Evening Mass**

**5:30pm - Matlock - A MASS FOR THE BUSY CATHOLIC**

The word “**Advent**” comes from the Latin word adventus, which means “coming.” Advent in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> century was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians. Christians would spend 40 days in prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration that accompanied the baptism of new believers. Even when things feel chaotic we can find peace in Jesus. Advent is a chance to focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in his son Jesus who stepped down from heaven and took the form of a man so that we might believe.



The second candle, also purple, represents Faith. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

**December - Groups and Regular Events - All welcome**

Choir Practice		Tuesdays at 3:30pm
Matlock Friday Bible Study Group		Fridays at 11am
<b>Rotas</b>	<b>Adv Wk Two - 10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Adv Wk Three - 17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>
Sunday Wardens - Close	Volunteers	Volunteers
Welcome - Sunday	Caroline	Margaret H
Readers - Sunday 9am	Ken Heap	A & J Howlings
Sun Eucharistic Minister	C Allsop	Mickey Etchells
Sunday Morning Coffee	Helen & Liz	Caroline & Volunteer
Sunday Bidding Prayers	C & M Hambleton	P Coleman
Sunday Flowers	No Flowers - Advent	No Flowers - Advent
Wednesday - Reader	Liz	Marie

**Hassop/Bakewell - Thank you so much for supporting Your Parish**

**Loose SNOW    Env SNOW    S/O £408.92    Total £408.92**

**Christmas Fair Total £1,400.00**

**Safeguarding Representative  
Caroline Rodgers**

Caroline.rodgersPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Our parish community is called to build the Kingdom of God.

We gather for **WORSHIP** to strengthen our Christian unity; also included are our various ministries where you can **SERVE** those most in need with love and dignity, and opportunities to **GROW** your faith in the truth of life that Jesus provides us. We appreciate and are open to your willingness to **GIVE** of your time; treasure and talent.

We want you to know, furthermore, that it is here that you have a place to **BELONG**: there is always a pew for you!

This beautiful building belongs to you.

Cherish your time here, as God the Father cherishes you.

**Make a donation to Matlock**



**Subscribe to the Joint Newsletter**



**St Joseph's Winter Warm Space**

The parish hall was available as a Winter Warm Space for the first time last Monday, and we welcomed members of the community to enjoy the facility. Thanks to all who have volunteered to run the hall each Monday. We plan to be open the next two Monday's **11/12** and **18/12**, closing on **25/12** and **1/2**, then open again every Monday until 25/3.

If you would like to support our Winter Warm Space you can do so in several ways: **To volunteer** to help run the session on a Monday – contact Therese Smith on theresem.1@btinternet.com to offer your services

**Support with grocery donations or financial contributions** would be much appreciated now and over the coming months.

**To donate to the grocery store** – contact Jill Langley on jlangley4@icloud.com To make a donation to help support the running of the Warm Space – either use the 'hole in the wall' at the back of church or give your donation direct to Fr Robbie. If you are aware of anyone who might benefit from our facility, please encourage them to come along.

**Matlock - News for the Pews**

**Sick and Housebound** - We prayer for: Lily Chapman; Imelda Hanlon; Ann Holland; Anna Thompson; Peggy Flynn; Kath Dyson; Linda Houghton; Greta Carne; Olga Black, Eileen Bermingham, Sr Francis Otiano, Maria Huk, Shirley Smith and Cilia McLarkey.

**Christmas Flower Collection - This weekend.** Let us be as generous as possible so that our church looks beautiful. Please return your envelope next weekend. **Thank You - The Flower Team**

**Vestments** - Thank you to all those who donated in memory of their loved ones. The vestments are very beautiful, thank you so much. **Fr Robbie**

**Robert Hilton RIP** - It is with great sadness that I let you know of the passing of Bob, our beloved parishioner and choir master, who passed away last Saturday. His **Requiem Mass** at Our Lady & St Joseph Church, Matlock on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00am**, followed by committal at Winster Cemetery at 12:15pm. Please keep his family is your thoughts and prayers at this sad time. Requiescat in pace. **Fr Robbie**



**Advent crib collection** - During advent there will be a collection point for **Baby Basics** in the Lady Chapel. Needed most are: toiletries - for both mum and baby, maternity pads, breast pads, Moses basket sheets, baby towels, nappies and wipes. They currently have plenty of clothes, so these are not needed. If you would like to donate any of these things just place them in the collection box and we will deliver them to Baby Basics in Chesterfield at the end of Advent. No electrical items please.

**Sunday Evening Mass**

**5:30pm - Matlock - A MASS FOR THE BUSY CATHOLIC**



**Parish Christmas Hamper Raffle**

**£1.00 per ticket**

**£5.00 per strip**

All funds raised go to the maintenance of the parish  
**Good Luck**

**12 Prizes of Christmas to be won!**

**December - Groups and Regular Events - All welcome**

<b>Matlock Friday Bible Study Group</b>		
	<b>Fridays at 11am</b>	
<b>Rotas</b>	<b>Adv Wk Two - 10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Adv Wk Three - 17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>
Welcome - Saturday	Denise & John	Monk Family
Readers - Saturday 5pm	J Carter & E Cruise	P Cruise & M Rhodes
EMHC Saturday Vigil	A Hodgkinson	J Gilbert
Sat Vigil - Tea & Coffee	TBC	TBC
Sunday Welcome	Sheila & Volunteer	Sheila & Volunteer
Readers - Sunday 11am	C Johnson & B Everett	K McCluskey & I Pasteur
EMHC Sunday 11am	Sheila Sheppard	Pat Gallon
Reader - Sunday 5:30pm	Anne Marie Wilson	Sheila Sheppard
Church Cleaners	Bernard & Shirley	Marie & Janice

**Matlock - Thank you so much for supporting Your Parish**

**Loose: £425.47 Env: £65.00 S/O: £764.38 Total: £1,254.85**



# Bakewell area asylum seekers and refugees network



**November 2023**

**In this newsletter you can read:**

1. How to contribute to **Hospitality days** for refugees.
2. A thank you for October's **clothing collection** for refugees and asylum seekers.
3. A review of the **late David Clark's book** 'Meeting the Global Challenge (2023)' *by Paul Wilding*
4. Up-to-date information on aspects of the **current refugee situation** in four short articles:
  - The broader context *by Sue Clark*
  - We can do a much better job of welcoming those seeking sanctuary *by David Winder*
  - Public opinion and why language matters *by Gill Tishler*
  - Key NGO's *by Paul Wilding*

## **How to contribute to Hospitality days**

*The Bakewell Society of Friends donate money to a monthly charity. This December their chosen charity is the work of our refugee network's Hospitality group and we have thus decided to open the appeal to you as network members.*

A group of Bakewell people – many of them affiliated to local churches, offer a day out in Bakewell for refugees and asylum seekers. We pay for the bus to bring them here and take them back to where they are currently living, we provide a lovely lunch and afternoon tea, and we also organise indoor and outdoor activities for them. The most important thing we offer is a warm, respectful, and tactful welcome. The appeal is for money to pay for the bus and for craft materials. We would also welcome donations of beads and re-usable picture and photo frames for our craft activities. We plan to host three of these hospitality days in 2024.

- We invite you to join in responding to this appeal by giving cash or sending a cheque made payable to Bakewell Quaker Meeting and clearly marked 'for

Refugee Hospitality Days' to me: Sue Clark, Hill View, Burton Close Drive, Bakewell DE45 1BG.

- Please email Sue Hepworth if you are able to donate beads or frames [sue.hepworth@gmail.com](mailto:sue.hepworth@gmail.com)
- If you would like to help by cooking delicious food, and/or coming to volunteer on the day, please contact Sue Hepworth [sue.hepworth@gmail.com](mailto:sue.hepworth@gmail.com)

## October's clothing collection for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

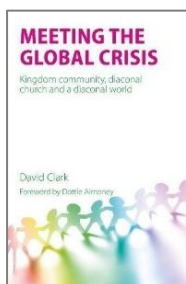
A big thank you to all who donated clothes for refugees and asylum seekers on October



24th. The clothes filled the boot and back seat of my car to overflowing (see photos). Thank you also for so diligently and carefully selecting, bagging and labelling the clothes you brought. This preparation came as a great relief to City of Sanctuary Sheffield where the clothes were

taken. Their 'bank' of donated clothes is open every Wednesday afternoon for refugees and asylum seekers living in the Sheffield area.

## 'Meeting the Global Crisis: Kingdom community, diaconal church and a diaconal world' by David Clark ( Sacristy Press, 2023)



David Clark, the founder of the Bakewell refugee network and previous editor of this newsletter completed this book just two weeks before his death in May 2023. The book was published in October this year and is reviewed here by network member Paul Wilding.

Many of those involved with the Bakewell Asylum Seekers and Refugees Programme will be familiar with David's deep concern with Community. I first came across his work in this area in 1973-4 when he wrote an important article in the Sociological Review. This book is a summary and distillation of the thinking he has done over many years – his sociological and theological Testament if you like. Sadly, it was only published a few weeks after his death. It is not always an easy read. The issues David addresses are complex and hugely important and the book is tightly argued. But it amply repays the effort it demands. What I want to do here is just to pick out some of the ideas which spoke to me.

(1) The centrality of Community to the contemporary world. The emphasis of the Christian gospel has always been on what it means to and for the individual. David argues very forcefully that the Gospel also has a powerful message about Community and sets out what it can offer to understanding and building Community.

(2) The only way to meet the global crisis of wars, terrorism, the climate crisis and competition for limited resources, David argues, is for the world to become a global community of diverse communities. The book explores what the Christian faith has to offer to our understanding and practice of living in community.

(3) The problem for us in the UK and for much of the world is that we have lost any significant set of shared beliefs and values – what David, following two distinguished sociologists, calls our ‘symbolic universe’ - a set of reference points which implicitly and explicitly guide how we live. It was Christianity which historically gave the western world that underpinning but the framework it gave to us has seriously weakened.

(4) The Church could, however, offer much to the creation of such a global community of communities. There are five possible gifts the Church could bring to community building – the gift of life, the gift of liberation, the gift of love, the gift of learning and the gift of servant leadership spelled out in detail on pp30-31

(5) This means that the Church has to change to save itself and to save the world from itself. It has to become what David calls a ‘kingdom community’ and embrace the quest for community. It has no future unless it changes direction and emphasis and offers a new understanding of how the world can be saved and come to live in community. To be true to the Gospel it must adopt this new emphasis and move on from its individualised and privatized approach to the Gospel– and its future depends on doing so.

(6) The future for the Church lies in this quest for community and by becoming what David styles ‘a diaconal church’ a term which will not mean much without some serious unpicking. This is a Church – to put it rather crudely - geared to serving the world and saving it from its self destructive instincts rather than saving souls (whatever that means!) and serving the world means essentially building community.

(7) In Chapter 9, David sketches a new diaconal church order of bishops, presbyters (priests) and deacons. Presbyters are concerned with inspiring and guiding the people of God and servicing and maintaining the institution of the Church. Essentially their focus is on assuring continuity. Deacons are what David calls ‘an order of transformation’ and their concern is with driving forward change so the church can pursue its role of service to the world. That essentially means community building in the broadest sense.

(8) The Church is not on its own in this drive. David has a lot to say about a wide range of non church bodies which are essentially concerned with building and rebuilding community

in many different ways in many different settings. The Bakewell Asylum Seekers and Refugees Programme is discussed (p.216) as one such organisation.

This rather bald summary of some aspects of the book can't do it justice.. You need to read it slowly and reflectively chapter by chapter and ponder its message. Is it realistic in its ideas and proposals? I don't think so - but nor was the message Jesus proclaimed. In the Church and the state alike, we have had rather too much realism and conservatism. A crisis brings opportunities by forcing people to think about where we are and where we might and need to go. The book is visionary. Visions are what the world needs. Realism has failed us. 'Where there is no vision the people perish says the Book of Proverbs – and we are dangerously close to doing just that. *Paul Wilding*

***David's book is available on Amazon for £16.99 (£7.99 for Kindle version)***

## **Aspects of the current refugee situation**

**The following four articles were written by the network's Advocacy group and cover the broader context, government policy, public opinion, and the work of key non-governmental organisations (NGO's).**

### **1. The broader context**

**It is important to see the UK's Refugee and Asylum Seekers problem as just one part of an increasingly huge movement of global migration.**

In our world today a massive number of people are on the move from one country to another. There are two main driving forces of this migration. One of these, a relatively recent one, is man-made climate change – more about this later.

However, the migration issue that is our main concern here derives from a different source, also man-made. I am referring to the conflict and civil wars that exist in many countries and the effect of these on those unfortunate people who are caught up in them. Conflict and civil war bring violence and persecution as well as poverty. Furthermore, civil wars are very often of longstanding. Think Syria (11 years) Lebanon (15 years) Afghanistan (40 years).

To make matters worse, in recent years richer countries have reduced their financial aid to such countries, and the political support of international institutions such as the UN to help resolve their internal conflicts has weakened.



### What happens to those people who are caught up in such dreadful situations?

Roughly 55 million of those who are forced out of their homes find shelter elsewhere *within* their own countries. These are the people whom the media refer to as “internally displaced”. However, others (roughly 35 million) see no option but to look for safety – to seek asylum - elsewhere. It is this group, who we call refugees, that we are concerned with.

The term ‘refugee’ was defined after the second world war under the UN Convention of 1951, and this definition is still internationally recognised today. It states that a refugee is someone who is:

*‘unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion’*

The crucial point here is the refugee’s well-founded fear that their own country is no longer safe for them.

Most refugees seek safety in neighbouring countries where they are largely accommodated in enormous, but very basic camps. These are not short-term stays. Many 20-year-olds were born and have spent their whole lives in such camps.

Others try to reach security in the richer countries of the West. Of these only a very small proportion come to Europe.

### So, what of those who come to the UK?

Two important reasons why some refugees seek safety in the UK, is because they can speak English or because they have relatives here.

However, our government seems to want to pick and choose those refugees who are allowed to stay here. For example, the government has granted visas to hundreds of people from Ukraine and Hong Kong, while simultaneously claiming that we will be swamped by that relatively small proportion of new arrivals who cross the Channel in small boats.

The truth is that those refugees from **other** parts of the world such as Syria or South Sudan to seek asylum here have a real dilemma: for them, *legitimate* means of obtaining a UK visa are almost non-existent so their only hope is to try to enter the country without a visa. This is what puts them into the hands of people smugglers.

The irony is that the great majority of those who do manage to get here are found to have perfectly legitimate claims for humanitarian protection under international law.

### The likely impact of climate change.

It is very likely that the world is facing an increasing migration of humanity – not the hundreds or thousands of refugees we have been talking about, but more than a billion of us. As countries around the equator become uninhabitable people will be forced to move to the more temperate zones, both North and South. This flow of humanity has already started and will only increase over the coming decades.

It is therefore important to see the UK's Refugee and Asylum Seekers issues as just one part of a massive movement of global migration, ultimately requiring not only a local but also a global solution. *Sue Clark*

## **2. We can do a much better job of welcoming those seeking sanctuary**

**Keeping abreast of the aims and developments in Government policies and monitoring analysis and assessment of their impact and implications is crucial.**

Faced by a steady flow of boat people crossing the channel to seek asylum and an upcoming general election the government has moved further in making it difficult for those in need of humanitarian assistance to obtain it. The focus of current policy is to reduce the overall number of refugees who are given the right to remain here.

**The government's major actions to achieve this aim are as follows:**

- 1) The passage of the Illegal Immigration Act which amongst other provisions denies the rights of any person to apply for asylum in this country if they have not entered by a "legal route".
- 2) Place those denied entry in detention centres pending return to their country of origin.
- 3) Announce that those denied the right to apply for asylum in this country would be sent to a third country (Rwanda being the most frequently mentioned) for processing

**Some problems with the Government's approach**

- 1) This policy denies people their basic rights to apply for asylum under international law (The UN Convention on the Rights of Refugees of which the UK is a signatory)
- 2) Places children at risk of being trafficked by placing them in hotels with inadequate protection measures. The government is unable to say how many children have been placed in hotel accommodation and how many children have gone missing.
- 3) Places people in unhealthy environments (e.g. barges and former military camps). One of the barges also posed a fire risk to occupants.
- 4) It subjects asylum applicants to long delays in the review process causing suffering and anxiety to those affected. At the moment there are 175,000 asylum seekers awaiting a decision.
- 5) On November 15th this year the Supreme Court unanimously ruled the government's plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda as unlawful. This supports the position of the European convention on human rights. The Supreme Court agreed that there was a real risk of asylum claims being wrongly determined in Rwanda resulting in people being returned to their country of origin to face persecution (this is termed "refoulement").

Responding to this decision, which rules out one of the central measures of the government's policy to prevent small boat Channel crossings, Sunak said he would propose new legislation which would enable the deportations to happen. The Bar Council warned that passing a law to reverse such a ruling "would raise profound and important questions

about the respective role of the courts and parliament". It is very unlikely that such legislation would pass. It is also unlikely that the UK would block the ECHR and the UN Refugee convention in UK law.

*Comment: The Government has already paid Rwanda some £140m to get the scheme up and running. The Rwanda Government has wisely spent the money so there is no money to be returned!*

The Supreme Court's ruling means that the Illegal Immigration Act is now essentially dead in the water and tens of thousands of people who have entered the country since the law passed should have their cases heard.

### **What are some of the effects of the new hard-line policy?**

- 1) The legislation denying people the right to apply for asylum has not, to date, significantly deterred channel crossings in small boats or eliminated human trafficking.
- 2) All those thousands of detained refugees waiting to have their asylum claims assessed need housing.
- 2) The government has failed to identify suitable detention facilities in disused military camps and barges, faced by community opposition and health issues.
- 3) Asylum seekers continue to be placed in hotels and those who are sent to community settings are often allocated inferior and overcrowded accommodation by government contractors. Limited support services are provided.

Some alternative community- based housing schemes have been tested in local authorities such as Bedfordshire, with the provision of affordable housing. Unfortunately, they have been discontinued despite positive reviews by organizations such as UNHCR.

We join with other NGOs in advocating for a welcoming, workable and humane asylum system which gives all applicants a fair chance of proving their right to remain in this country.

### **A humane asylum system would include:**

- 1) The provision of safe and legal routes for those seeking asylum in this country.
- 2) Provision for a timely review of their application, legal aid, if required, and the right to appeal. This would require an increase in the number of trained Home Office case workers.
- 3) Emphasis on family unification
- 4) Protection of refugee children by local authorities or NGOs
- 5) Provision of safe accommodation with adequate services in welcoming communities. Institutional accommodation would not be used.
- 6) The right for people to work whilst their applications are being reviewed. This would mean they are contributing to our society.

Such an asylum system would be costly, but we need to invest in a system which is fair and welcomes those with a legitimate claim and which can cope with increasing numbers. "Fortress Britain" and talk of "immigrant invasion" is definitely not the way forward. We want a system which we are proud of. *David Winder*

### 3. Who is my neighbour? Public opinion and why language matters

**It is important to try to understand public attitudes and how the use of language by Government ministers attempts to shape opinion.**

Research by the British Red Cross in April 2022 found that the UK public is in favour of welcoming refugees from around the world.

- 74 per cent of the UK public had sympathy towards refugees and asylum seekers.
- A further 71 per cent of people said that situations like the war in Ukraine highlight exactly why we need to make safe routes, like resettlement schemes, available before conflicts happen.
- 65 per cent of the UK public think the UK should have a safe route in the form of a resettlement scheme always open for when people need to flee war or persecution
- 62 per cent of the UK population agree that the UK should welcome refugees fleeing war or persecution from across the world with the same percentage thinking the UK has a moral duty to welcome its share of the world's refugees.

#### **Ipsos survey June 2023**

An Ipsos Mori survey in June 2023 presented not quite such a generous picture but, even so, it's perhaps more positive than we are led to believe by mainstream media and politicians.

- 56% of Britons believed refugees make a "positive contribution".
- 84% agreed with the statement that "people should be able to take refuge in other countries, to escape from war or persecution".
- The proportion of Britons who agreed that the UK must close its borders to refugees "entirely" stood at 37%.
- Over eight in ten Britons believe that refugees currently in the UK should be allowed to stay, and half of Britons support the establishment of more legal routes for refugees to enter the UK.

We need to change the narrative from hostility and recognises how much they can enrich our society if they are properly supported. However, this is dependent upon providing the tools and opportunities for refugees to fully integrate – the most obvious and effective way is through allowing refugees to work.

A British Futures survey in 2022 found that public attitudes remain more nuanced on immigration than people might expect, with no blanket views on either side. For example, while there is little demand for increases in immigration overall, there is support for allowing more workers across a range of sectors where the public sees a need, while dissatisfaction with the number of channel crossings is combined with sympathy for the refugees themselves.

This regular tracking research helps us understand these views and how they are changing – as well as highlighting misperceptions among the public themselves. In particular, most people think their fellow citizens have become more negative towards immigration over the last few years but in reality attitudes have become more positive since before the Brexit referendum.

There are gains for all of us in reaching out to refugees and helping them to rebuild their lives as part of our communities. *Gill Tishler*

#### 4. Key Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

**Keeping in touch with key voluntary organisations is crucial to keeping in touch with events and policy developments.**

There are many organisations large and small involved in work with Refugees and Asylum seekers – eg. Save the Children, Red Cross, City of Sanctuary and even the RNLI and small ones like the Jesuit Refugee Service but there is a small number for which Refugees and Asylum seekers are their central concern. Here is a quick rundown.

##### UNHCR

- The UN Refugee Agency
- The leading international organisation



##### Refugee Council

- Set up in 1951 and in some ways the lead UK organisation to which the media turn for comment.
- Offers advice and support and practical help to individuals and to other organisations.
- Produces reports and educational and publicity material. It lobbies politicians and the media to publicise the issues and needs of Refugees.



##### Refugee Action

- Perhaps more explicitly a campaigning organisation than the Refugee Council but covers quite a lot of the same ground
- Offers advice and support to individuals and organisations,
- Campaigns on specific issues eg. language teaching



##### Together with Refugees

- A coalition of over 300 groups and organisations – grassroots and international development agencies.
- Its central concern is to promote a more coordinated and compassionate approach.
- Hospitality not Hostility is its watchword, and you may well have seen its symbol of the orange heart.



##### Safe Passage

- Has a specific focus – unaccompanied child refugees campaigning on their behalf and working to reunite them with their families in the UK
- It has legal teams in a number of European countries
- It offers general support and free legal representation.



### Migrants Rights Network

- Different in that it is largely led by former and second generation migrants.
- Its aim is to strengthen the voice of migrants.



### Lift the Ban

- Set up in 2018 with the specific aim of securing the lifting of the ban on Refugees and Asylum seekers doing paid work
- Some 260 member organisations business groups, the TUC as well as organisations specifically concerned with refugees.



Keeping abreast of debates and developments in this highly charged and rapidly changing area would be extremely difficult without these organisations and the flow of information and analysis which they provide. In turn, they also depend, as does anyone involved in this field, on the **Oxford Migration Observatory**, the key source of up to date and reliable data. *Paul Wilding*



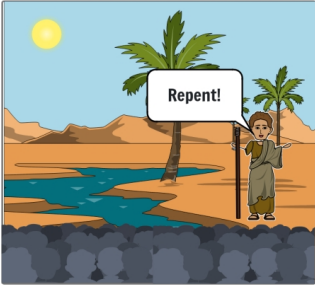
Sue Clark (Advocacy Co-ordinator) email: [sueclark588@gmail.com](mailto:sueclark588@gmail.com)

Second Sunday of Advent



...the word of God came to John son of Zachariah, in the wilderness.

Second Sunday of Advent



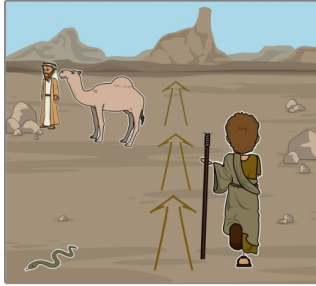
He went through the whole of the Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of Isaiah:

Second Sunday of Advent



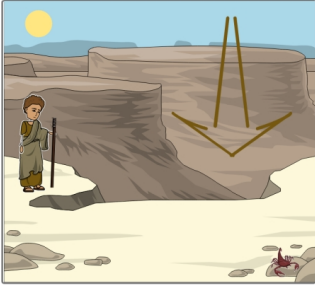
A voice that cries out in the wilderness; prepare a way for the Lord...

Second Sunday of Advent



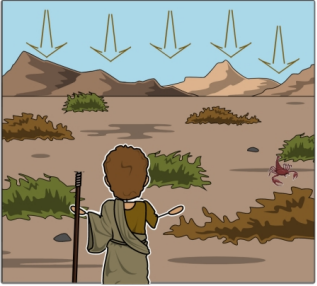
...make his ways straight.

Second Sunday of Advent



Every valley will be filled in...

Second Sunday of Advent



every mountain and hill be laid low...

Second Sunday of Advent



winding ways will be straightened...

Second Sunday of Advent



...and rough roads made smooth.

Luke 3: 1-6



And all mankind shall see the salvation of God

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## Second Sunday of Advent

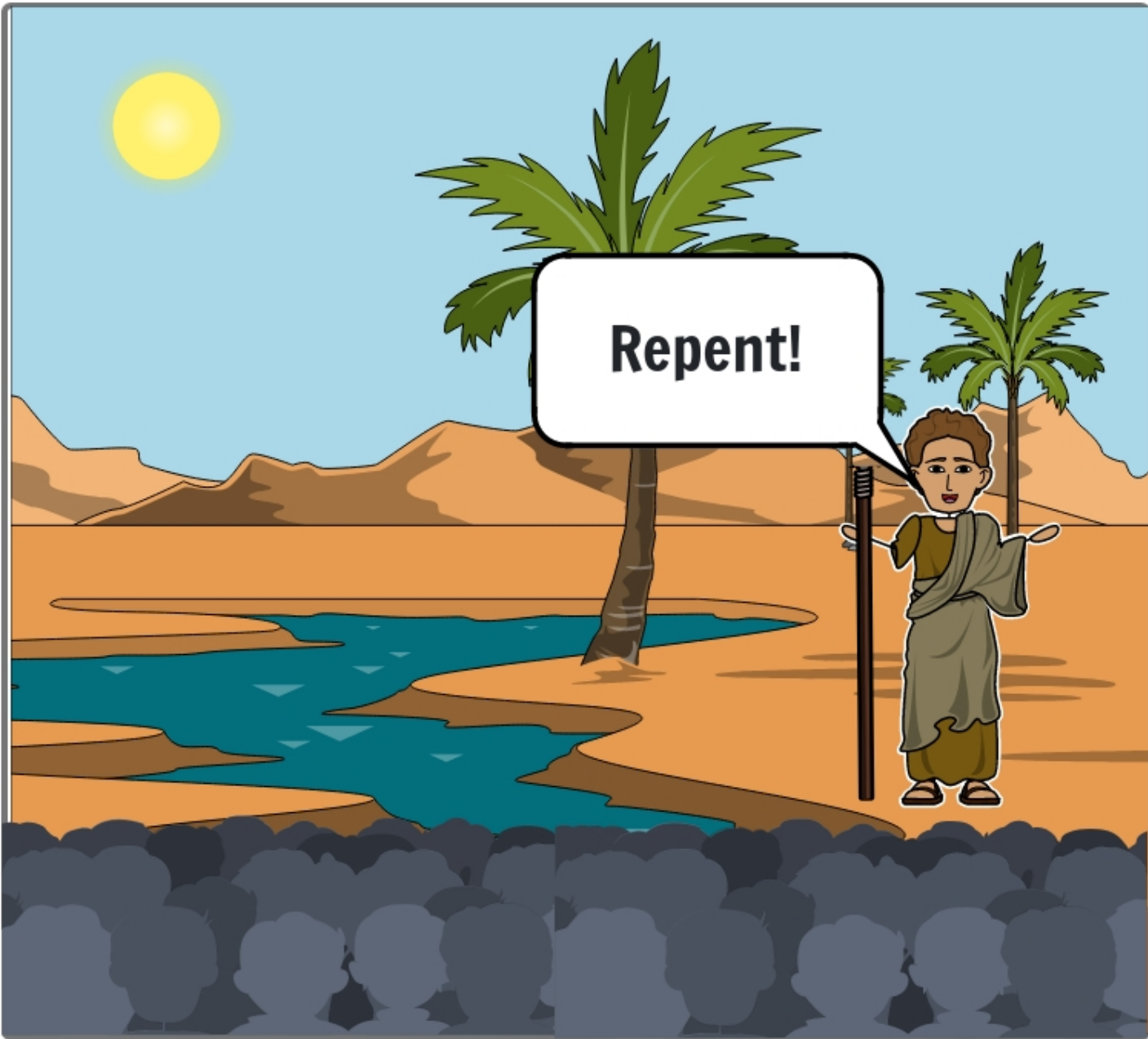
קול קורא --- במדבר,  
פנו דרך יהוה; ישרו,  
בערבה, מסלה,  
לאֵלהינו.



...the word of God came to John son of Zachariah,  
in the wilderness.



## Second Sunday of Advent



**He went through the whole of the Jordan district  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins,  
as it is written in the book of the sayings of Isaiah:**

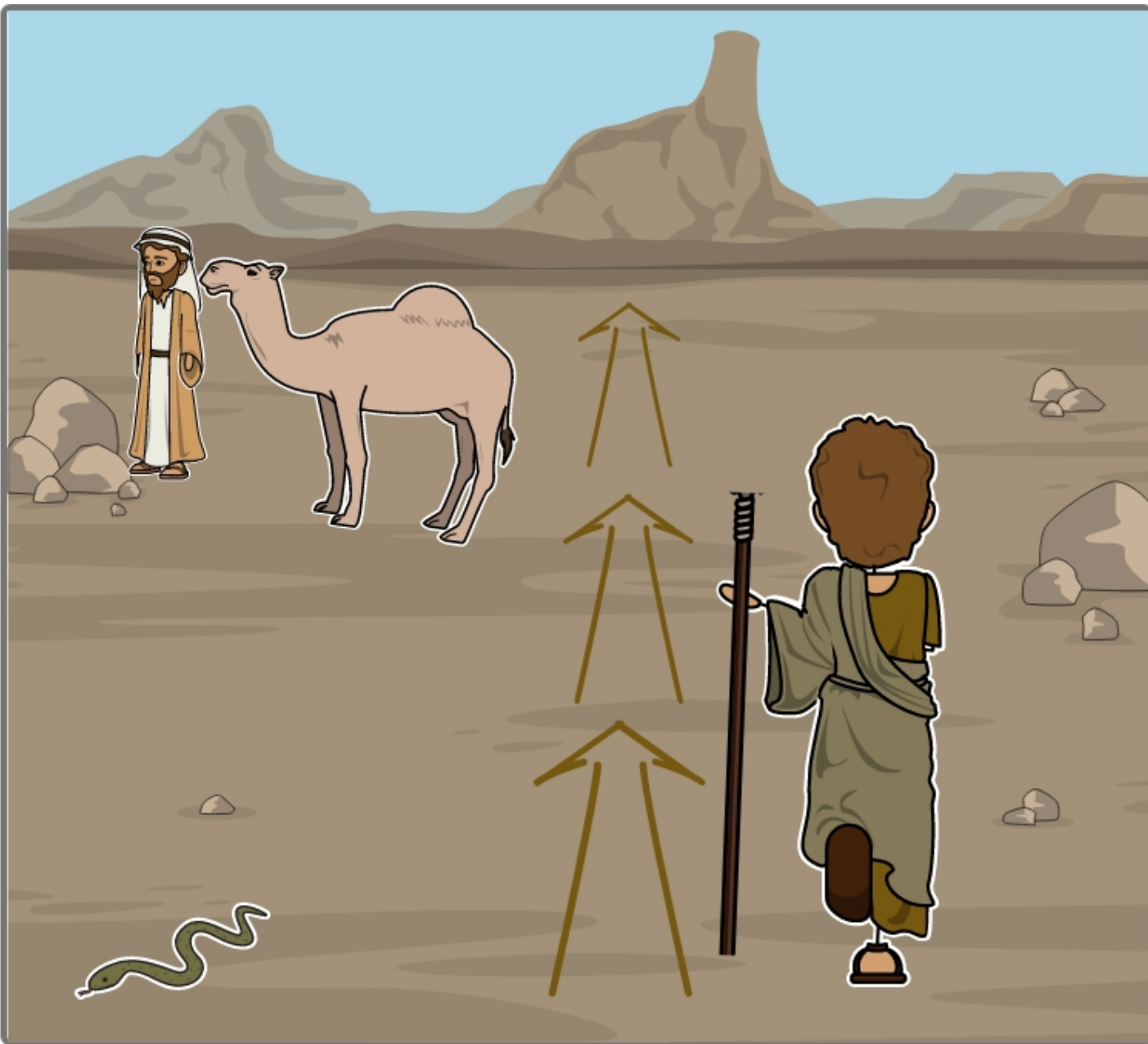
## Second Sunday of Advent



Here I am Lord!

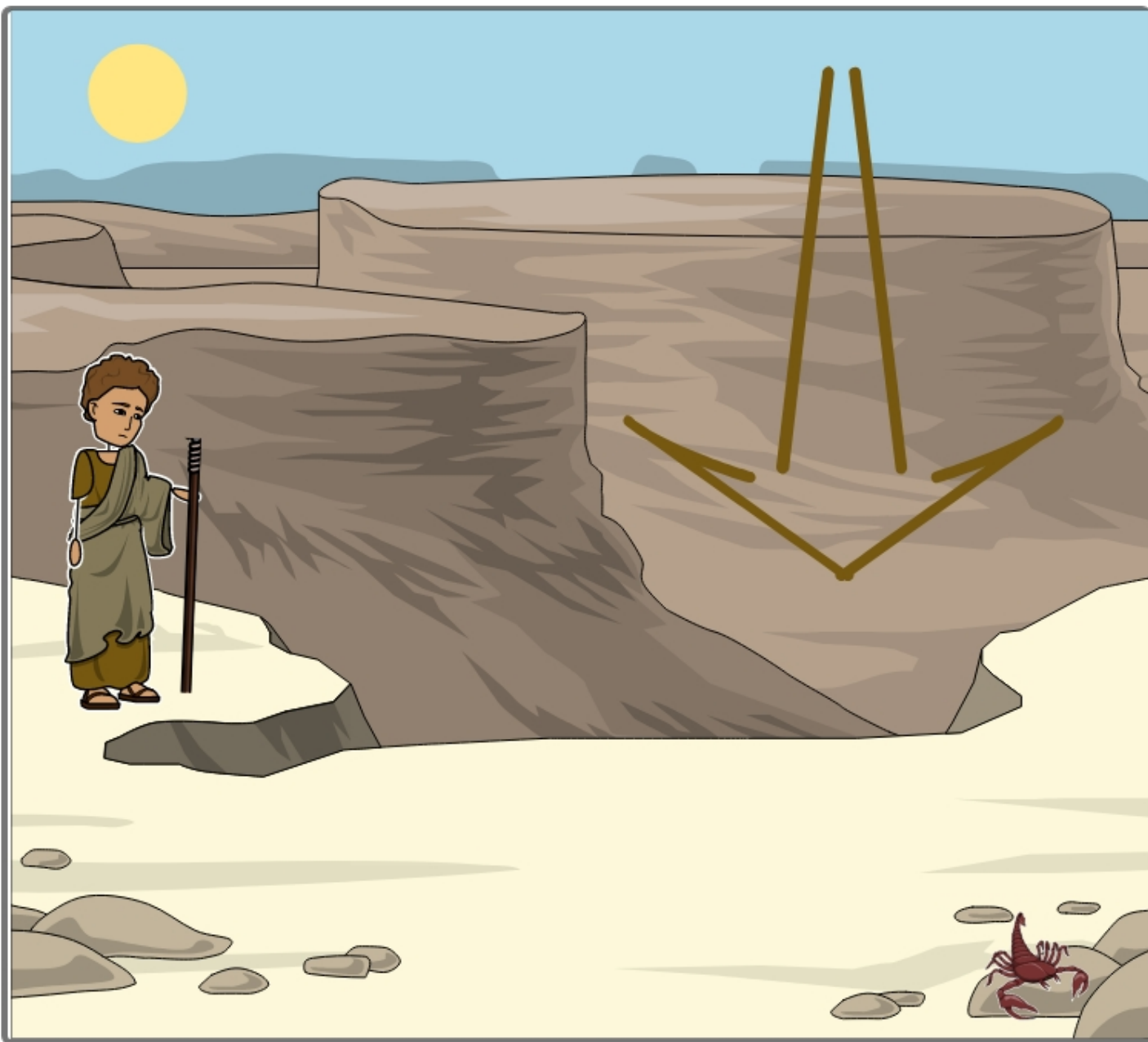
**A voice that cries out in the wilderness;  
prepare a way for the Lord...**

## Second Sunday of Advent



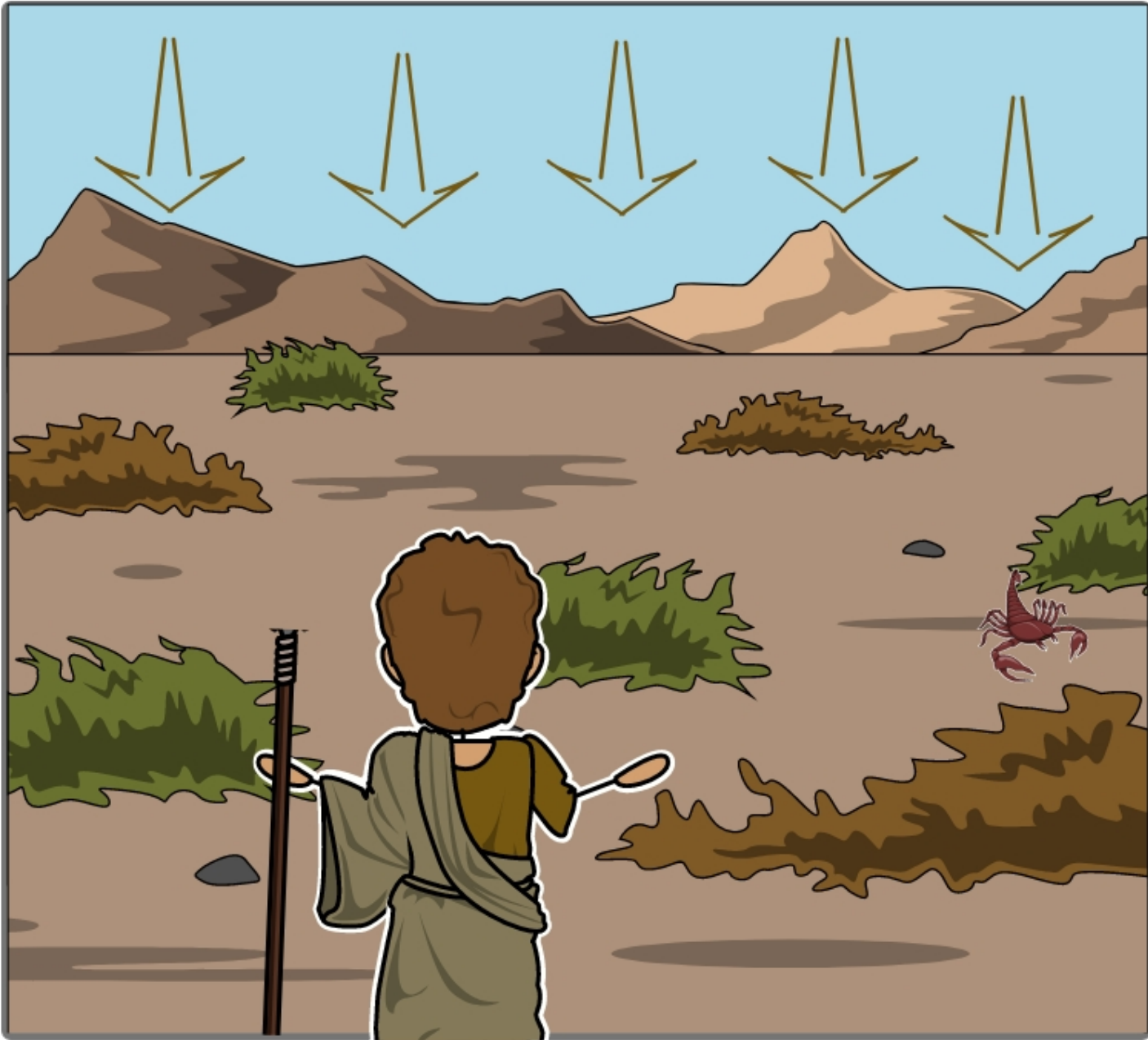
**...make his ways straight.**

## Second Sunday of Advent



**Every valley will be filled in...**

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**every mountain and hill be laid low...**

## Second Sunday of Advent



winding ways will be straightened...

## Second Sunday of Advent



**...and rough roads made smooth.**

## Luke 3: 1-6



**And all mankind shall see the salvation of God**