



## What is Advent?

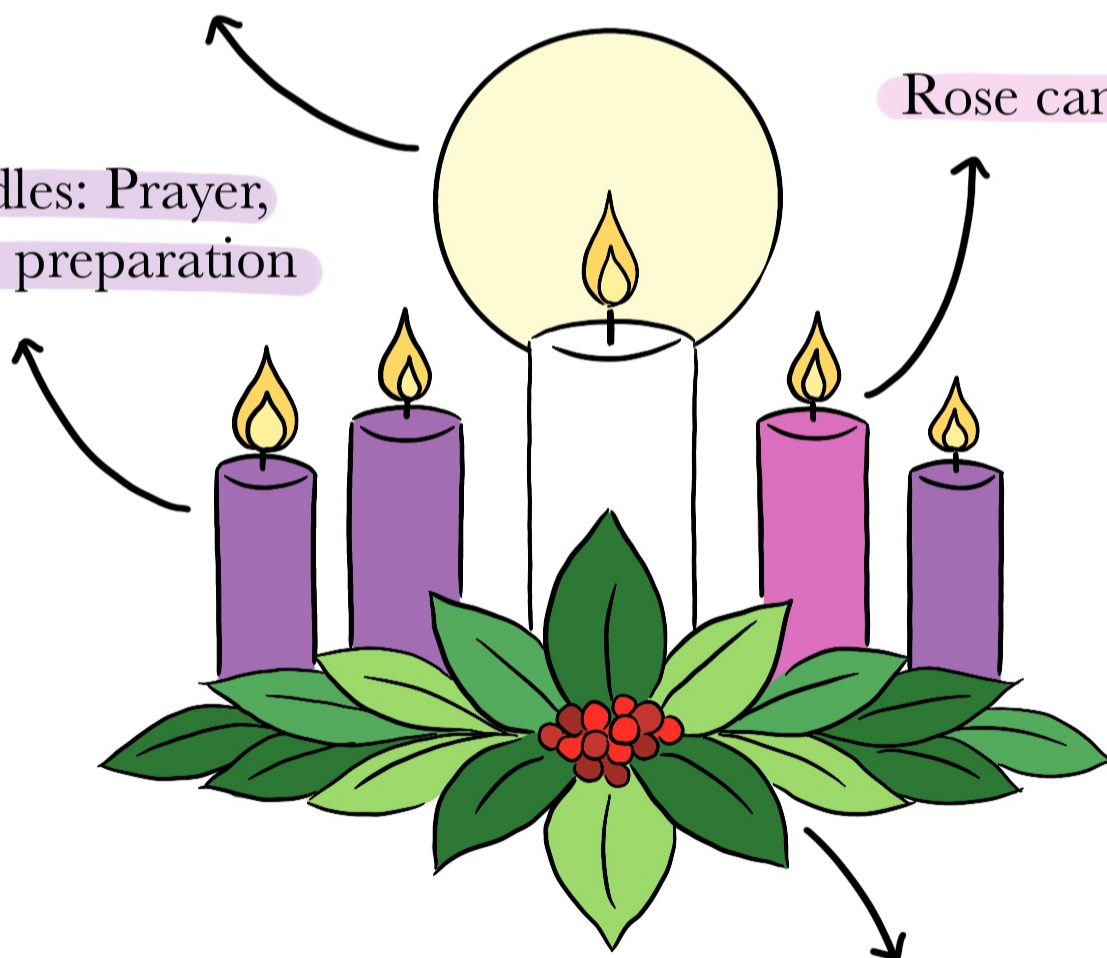
Advent is an important part of the Church calendar meaning 'coming' and is the period before Christmas which celebrates the birth of Jesus. Advent starts on the Sunday nearest to the 30th of November and is all about preparing for Christmas Day.

During Mass, you likely will have seen an Advent wreath/Advent crown like the one displayed on this page. This symbolises the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the Liturgical calendar. The crown is an evergreen wreath consisting of four candles, and often a fifth white candle in the centre. On the first Sunday of Advent, the lighting of the first candle can be accompanied by a Bible reading, devotional time and prayers. Following this, a further candle is lit every subsequent Sunday until all four are lit. Some advent wreaths include a fifth Christ candle in the centre which is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The layout of the wreath and its meanings are displayed below:

White candle: Jesus is the light of the world

Purple candles: Prayer, penance and preparation

Rose candle: Rejoicing



Circle: Eternity of God  
Evergreen wreath: Life and immortality

# BVS News



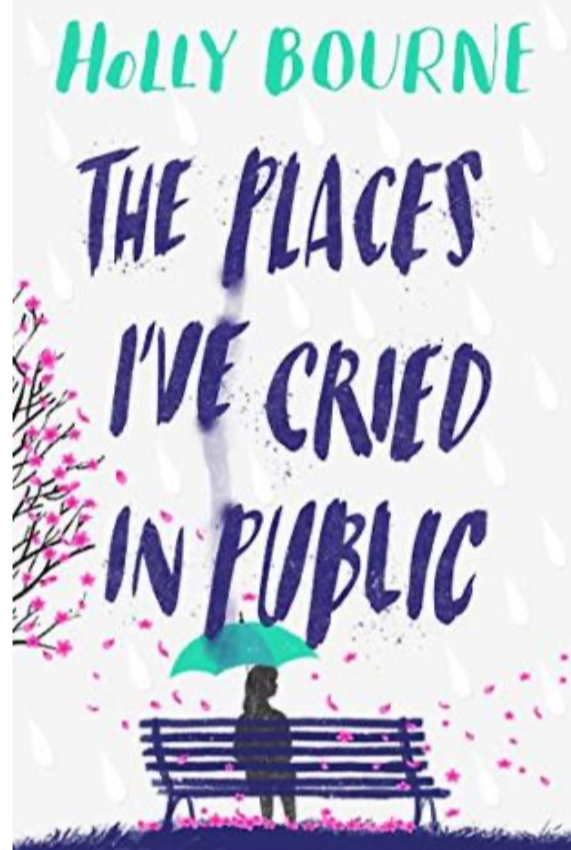
During the Autumn term, pupils and staff at Bishop Vaughan have been working exceptionally hard to create a virtual Christmas concert for all to enjoy. In usual circumstances, our annual Christmas concert would be held in St Joseph's Cathedral or the Main Hall, however this year called for some innovation and creativity which students and staff certainly delivered.

Whether it be through expert editing and compilation, preparation and organisation or presentation and delivery, everyone involved did an excellent job at working together (despite social distancing restrictions) by combining their talents and presenting a wonderful outcome that helps to spread some joy, optimism and Christmas cheer at such a difficult time. Students and staff at Bishop Vaughan have definitely showcased their resilience and adaptability in facing new challenges, acting as inspiration to us all in finding new ways to achieve similar outcomes. A big well done and thank you to all involved for using your God-given talents to spread some Christmas spirit.

Show your support by watching the Concert on the Bishop Vaughan YouTube channel!



# The Places I've Cried in Public: A Spoiler Free Review by Liberty Saleh



Originally published: 3 October 2019

Author: Holly Bourne

Genre: Young adult fiction

**Quick Stats:**

- Overall: 5/5 stars
- Characters: 5/5
- Setting: 5/5 stars
- Writing: 5/5 stars
- Plot and themes: 5/5 stars
- Review in a nutshell: This book is an amazing eye opener and conversation starter into some really important and serious topics that we shouldn't be shying away from.

FOR READERS 15+

//Content Warning: references to abuse, gaslighting, depression, anxiety, emotional trauma and flashbacks, manipulation

Within the last few pages of the book, multiple resources are provided you can go to if you are going through something like Amelie does in the book which are included at the end.

What is *The Places I've Cried in Public* about?

It looked like love. It felt like love. But this isn't a love story.

Amelie loved Reese. And she thought he loved her. But she's starting to realise love isn't supposed to hurt like this. So now she's retracing their story and untangling what happened by revisiting all the places he made her cry. Because if she works out what went wrong, perhaps she can finally learn to get over him.

**My thoughts and feelings:**

Wow. Just wow. This book was amazing, and it so easily can get you into the mind of the main character and feel all her feelings and what it's like to be young and confused and figuring out what being in love is. I had read another Holly Bourne book before this one with some familiar themes about how hard relationships can be and this book did not disappoint. Holly is known for writing books with strong feminist themes to help empower young girls and grown women everywhere, no matter what situation they may happen to be in.

As if moving and leaving everything and everyone you've ever known behind, including your sweet, caring and loving boyfriend isn't hard enough, times can be hard. Then throw in a boy that seems head over heels for you who your new friends just happen to warn you about...

I loved the writing in this book. It's like Amelie is telling the reader her story while simultaneously talking to Reese. We flash from past to present to see how everything happened and Amelie's thoughts and feelings within that moment while also flashing back to the present to see how it has affected her in the long run.

Although this book deals with a lot of heavy themes, there's still some light-hearted moments that shows you, just because you're in a dark place, does NOT mean you have run out of light.

There are some sweet moments between Amelie and her parents too!

*"I mean, he's a YORKSHIREMAN. There isn't any problem that can't be solved by pretending it doesn't exist and having a cup of tea."*

This book also strives to teach that you should never hide or feel ashamed of your emotions. If you feel something, there's most likely a reason behind it. There are also multiple times in the book where Amelie talks about not trusting her gut and wishing that she did and that she had allowed herself to really feel what she needed to feel.

*"Crying is a very obvious sign that something isn't going right in your life. You should not ignore tears."*

The writer also explores the importance of recognising abuse and only doing something if you want to, without the influence of manipulation and guilt tripping.

*"Abuse is also when your personality is attacked, not just your body."*

If you are going through anything at all like this, just know that you are not alone and there's always someone there, waiting for you to join them again in the light.

**DON'T FORGET THAT EVERYONE'S ROAD TO RECOVERY IS DIFFERENT, THERE'S NOT ONE PERFECT WAY. TAKE YOUR TIME, TRUST YOUR GUT AND STAY STRONG.**

**Resources:** Make sure to reach out to a parent/guardian, teacher or trusted adult if you are ever in need of help. Below are some other services you can use:

Samaritans are available around the clock, every single day of the year. You can talk to them any time you like, and in your own way. They are completely free to contact. Call: 116 123 Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

Visit, find your nearest branch: [Samaritans.org](http://Samaritans.org)

The Mix are here to help under 25's get to grips with any challenges they face. Anywhere and anytime, online, over the phone or via social media. Helpline: 0808 808 4994 Website: [the.mix.org.uk](http://the.mix.org.uk)

# Space and Surveillance

## Category: Science/Technology

### Starship SN8 test successful despite rapid unscheduled disassembly

On Wednesday the 9th of December, SpaceX tested their Starship spacecraft prototype named SN8 at Boca Chica, Texas. SN8, computer controlled and around the size of a 12-storey building, climbed to 12,500m after launch and turned around to land back on the landing pad. The descent was perfect, but just above the landing pad the fuel tanks lost pressure. The engine exhaust was a bright green colour. Despite being one of the many prototypes to be destroyed, Starship SN8 was the first prototype to launch with a nosecone, reaching an altitude of 41,000 ft. According to Dr Hugh Grant, a reader in Engineering Dynamics and Vibration at the University of Cambridge, the explosion was anything but a disaster, involving a six and a half minute flight, the involvement of groundbreaking technology and manoeuvres and the attraction of a great deal of attention overall.

- Ioan Phillips



## A Possible UFO Sighting

### By Gregory Williams

It was a night to remember... On Friday 27th of November, my family and I (4 of us) were leaving my Grandmother's house. It was around 6 o'clock in the evening. The sky was moonlit and the stars were visible so we looked up for a bit before entering the car. There was one 'star' that we all saw, except it was brighter and bigger than the rest so I assumed it was one of the planets, Venus perhaps, but then it began to move. At first I thought it must be an aircraft or helicopter but there was only a single white light with no red lights on the side like there should be. It was also completely silent and moved more smoothly than any aircraft I've seen and it seemed too close to have been a satellite. Maybe it was a drone then? The light was too bright and it moved in a perfectly straight line. There was no way it was a lantern, it had no flickering flame.


It crossed right overhead. However, as it moved further away the light turned red and got smaller before reaching a cloud bank and seemingly disappearing completely! So what was it? It could have been a trick of the light but it was far too consistent and we all saw the same thing. My Dad claims he saw an extra detail: a dark shape which the light was part of with legs poking out from beneath.

I suppose I'll never know what it was. Since we don't know what it was and it was flying, that literally makes it an Unidentified Flying Object! In the meantime, it makes for an interesting tale to tell.


# New Year's Resolutions

Make some resolutions for the new year ahead using the following template!

**2021** Resolutions

A new skill I'd like to learn: 

5 things I hope to achieve by the end of the year:



A book I'd like to read: 

Some good deeds I will do:

- 
- 
- 

Something I will continue to do:

Something I want to improve on:

A person I'd like to be more like: 

# Positive Quotes and Affirmations Board

PERHAPS  
THIS IS WHAT  
THIS SEASON IS ALL  
ABOUT: TRUSTING IN  
THE UNKNOWN, FINDING  
GOLD IN THE LITTLE  
THINGS, TRADING FEAR  
OF WHAT'S UNCERTAIN  
FOR FREEDOM TO  
THRIVE WITHIN  
IT. -MORGAN  
HARPER  
NICHOLS



**every day is  
a fresh start**

You would be surprised  
at who is watching  
your journey and being  
inspired by it.  
Don't give up.

