

# **Meditation**

**St Mark's Anglican Church  
South Hurstville**

**Advent Readings and Carols  
2 December 2007**

**Preacher  
The Reverend Chris Albany  
Rector**

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## **Advent Meditation**

Yesterday was World Aids Day; it's when we think about people with HIV and aids across the world, and that challenges us at a very, very important level to think about why AIDS matters; why people suffering from AIDS matter, why people orphaned by AIDS matter. Today is the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - estimated some 27 million are enslaved today – a day to think about why people trafficking and slavery matter, why people who are not free as we are free matter.

Rowan Williams says, “Christmas is the Christian’s Christmas present to everybody else. Christmas, for a Christian tells us why people matter. They matter because God took us seriously, seriously enough to get involved with our lives to suffer with us and change things. That’s what I believe, that’s what Christians believe and Christmas exists because of that belief. You may or may not believe that; you may think people matter for other reasons, but never mind; that’s what we’re saying and that’s our present, that’s our gift to the rest of the world.”

So think of this time (of preparation for Christmas that we call Advent), as a time to recall why people matter; the people with AIDS and HIV that was the focus of yesterday, people caught up in people trafficking and slavery that is the focus of today, the people who are under threat in Pakistan, whose lives are at risk there and in other parts of the world, the people devastated by floods in Bangladesh and PNG, the people here around us who need love and attention and care, they matter and it matters how we react to them.

Rowan Williams says, “I’ve got an answer I think to why they matter, it may or may not be yours, but I’m glad to be able to share it with you on behalf of the Church.” I echo his words and say, “I wish you all the very best, have a great Advent and the most Blessed Christmas you could possibly have, because you matter too.”

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