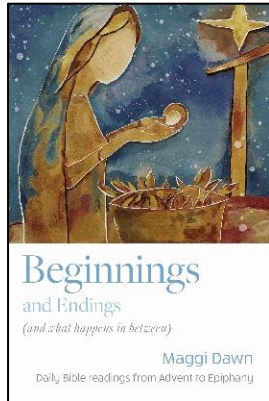


19 September 2025



## Beginnings and Endings (and what happens in between)

**Maggi Dawn**

Pb, ISBN 978 1 80039 510 7, £9.99

We're delighted to publish a new edition of Maggi Dawn's popular Advent book, *Beginnings and Endings (and what happens in between)*, 20 years after it began life as a blog. These daily Advent reflections focus on the four traditional Advent themes of patriarchs, prophets, John and Mary, while also looking at the gospel writers and those who met the infant Jesus. The

focus on beginnings and endings means that we don't just look at the birth of Jesus, but at his whole life through to his death, and what that means for us today. Our everyday lives are full of beginnings and endings: births, deaths, marriages, careers, house moves and so on. How do the grand-scale beginnings and endings of Advent help to guide us as we seek to follow Jesus in the 21st century?

### From the author's Preface to the new edition

'This book began life as a blog, way back in the early 2000s. In the two decades that have elapsed since then, my life has mirrored the themes of the book, taking me through a host of endings and new beginnings of my own. So it is that, revising the readings for this new edition, I have found that while many details of language and cultural context needed updating, the overall truths of Advent remain the same. Every year we await the celebration of Christ's first coming, an event in the past that marked the beginning of a new era of faith.

'The world now feels more violently polarised in political opinion than it was when I first wrote the book; we seem to be living increasingly on a knife-edge over environmental concerns, and the future seems more uncertain than ever. But those timeless truths remain: the story of salvation had a beginning, and we still place our faith in an ending of future hope. This year, next year, and for years to come, we continue to live between beginnings and endings as the stories of our own lives unfold. The great Advent promise is that Christ will come, as surely as day follows night, and therefore the future beckons us with hope, not despair.'

### About the author

Maggi Dawn is a priest in the Episcopal Church, USA. She was principal of St Mary's College at the University of Durham, where she still teaches theology. Previously she was associate professor of theology and literature and associate dean of Marquand Chapel at Yale Divinity School. She is the author of several hymns and contemporary worship songs. More information [here](https://www.brf.org.uk/author/maggi-dawn).

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