

Letter from the Vicar

Friday 11 December

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Yesterday I was overcome with joy as, for the first time in 9 months, I heard a choir of children singing in church. The choir of Boxmoor Primary School were singing for their annual Carol Service. The joy and innocence in their voices was beautiful in and of itself, but there was something else... a level of excitement to be singing for family and friends knowing that they couldn't join in with the singing at the moment. This was the first school Carol Service of the year and it was a delight to be able to welcome parents and families to St John's and accommodate them in a safe and socially distanced manner. I now have the habitual ear-worm of the catchy modern song *Unto us a child is born* rattling through my head.

Christmas is definitely coming and plans are gathering pace. The concrete moulds for the outside trees have been put in place ready for the trees which will be delivered and put-up on Monday. Tickets are flying out of the door with the Christingle services on Christmas Eve fully booked and other services not far behind – there are still tickets available so if you would like to, and are able to join us physically this physically this Christmas, please do visit our website to get your ticket(s). Orders of Services are nearing completion ready for printing. Readers have been invited – this year those reading at both the Festival of Lessons and Carols will be Key Workers in a small token of appreciation for all their sustained work throughout this difficult year. Singers are being lined-up for the appropriate services and repertoire rehearsed. And this is just events and services in church. Personally, Emma and I have written all our Christmas cards and presents have been wrapped. It really feels like I have been using this season of preparation – Advent – to prepare for Christmas.

Spiritually, our preparation is to welcome the coming Light of Christ. But this Advent it feels like we are preparing to welcome another light too – the light of freedom from this horrible virus as the vaccine starts to be administered. Although there is a long way to go the dawning light of returning to some kind of normal is rising in the sky – much like a return to lighter days is coming after 21 December. The vaccine programme is coming we just need to be patient and maintain our vigilance for just a little longer as we wait our turn.

As always I trust you are all well and keeping safe. I hope to see many of you physically over the coming days and weeks. But for now I leave you with my prayers for each of you; keep safe; and remain secure in the knowledge of our God who loves us, cares for us, and enfolds us in his arms.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

The Reverend Michael Macey

Vicar

01442 243258

vicar@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

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