

Minister's Musings December 2019/January 2020

Dear Friends,

As I write it's only twenty-three days to.....The Election! Well it's certainly a different slant to the other much anticipated event celebrated in December and at first glance difficult to see what they might have in common. But many of you will be reading this on Christ the King Sunday (also stir-up Sunday, but that's a different story!) and it is this picture of Christ the King that puts political debate, Christmas shopping and all else that will occupy our thoughts in these coming days into perspective. It is not that such things are unimportant but rather that Christ as King inhabits them all and much else beside.

We remember this in Advent when we reflect on Christ the King coming to the world in judgement and proclaiming His kingdom of righteousness and peace...and if that doesn't speak into the election, I don't know what does! This year we are delighted to welcome Revd Phil Nightingale as the preacher at our **Advent morning service on December 1<sup>st</sup>**. As well as being a curate in Rushden, Phil is Over 35's British Squash Champion and will have been the Guest speaker at the New Day Dawns Sports Quiz the night before. Later that day the Circuit Service will be at Deepings at 4.00pm when the speaker will be Revd Tim Alban Jones. Chaplain to the Bishop of Peterborough. Both these services – and all others in Advent – will I trust help us all to 'prepare a throne' for the coming King.

And then at Christmas we remember Christ the King coming to us and pitching his tent among us, feeling for our sadness, and sharing in our gladness so that we might have reason for hope, whatever our present circumstances. So we shall worship in wonder and thankfulness at our **Carol Service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.00pm** and again on **Christmas Day at 10.00am** (please note change of time from previous years) and all are of course very welcome including family and friends who you may like to invite.

And then in the New Year we remember Christ the King coming and calling us to follow Him again as he called the disciples of old. And in The Methodist Church we do that through our **Covenant Service on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10.45am** when morning and evening congregations come together and we welcome as our guest preacher Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, Superintendent Minister of Methodist Central Hall Westminster. Then the following **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10.45am** we shall remind ourselves that Christ calls us together to follow Him we shall welcome Mr. Vyv Wainwright from All Saints and in the evening join in the United Service at St Joseph's during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. And because Christ calls us to follow Him in serving others we shall mark Leprosy Mission Sunday as one expression of that and welcome again Mr. Alistair Du Plessis to lead worship at our **1045am service on January 26<sup>th</sup>**.

So we welcome Christ the King not just on one particular Sunday of the year but whenever and however He comes that we might proclaim His kingship in every part of our lives. In these uncertain times, may each of us find in Him our strength and security.

Charlotte joins me in sending Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Greetings!

With love, Leo