

## Rector's Letter December 2018

Dear Friends,

Well here we are about to begin Advent and I'm not really sure where the last year has gone. What I am sure of, is that a lot has happened in our church and it couldn't do so without all the help given, so thank you to everyone who has a role in the life, work and witness of St. Cuthbert's. There will be more said and shown about this at the AGM on December 9<sup>th</sup> following the service.



During November a lot of people worked hard so that we had a fitting tribute for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War. We began by lighting up red for Poppy Scotland. It was fantastic to have the bells rang to begin the street party (my thanks to Barbara Bell from St. Mary's Cathedral for this). At the party we enjoyed wonderful catering and entertainment. It was lovely to welcome Padre Richard Begg, the new Padre at 3 Rifles and his family, along with the 2IC Major Alec Fick.

Remembrance Day itself was marked with an Act of Remembrance during the service and then Prayers for Peace in the evening with the Parish Church, when we joined others throughout the country in the 'Beacon of Light' movement.

Sadly, the war to end all wars did not succeed in its task, however while we remember those who died for our freedom, we remember the one who died for our sins, the Prince of Peace, and continue to pray for peace in our homes, our nation and our world.

As is becoming normal, there is a lot going on throughout December, so please look through the magazine, as I wouldn't want you to miss anything.

We say 'goodbye' to the Diocesan Play Church at the end of November but we have received donations and suggestions for making our own, so please let me know if you can help with this, as we are keen to go ahead.

Sadly, we will also be saying goodbye to Mary Moffatt after nearly 21 years. Mary is on leave until the end of November and then retires, as she needs time to care for her mother. She will return for an official farewell when she is ready. In the meantime, please keep Mary in your prayers and give her the peace she needs to care for her mum.

So here we are, about to begin the season of Advent, a time of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ.

As we begin Advent, I would like to request that the Vestry is not used as a common space on a Sunday morning please. As in Advent we prepare, every Sunday I prepare, along with others who are leading worship with me, and recently we have not had the peace and quiet to do this. If you have any business in the vestry, could you please make sure it is completed by 10.15am. After that, the vestry will be a quiet place for leaders of worship and entry will be restricted until after the service. I hope you appreciate the need for quiet before leading a service and respect this request please.

As we journey through this season of Advent together, praying 'Maranatha', our Lord, come, I hope and pray that the Holy Spirit works among us, as we continue our journey together and that we all pray for love, respect, unity and growth within our church family.

Love and blessings.

*Nicki*