

Dear Friends,

It is a bit late to wish you a happy new year but here are some of you that I haven't seen yet, so I wish you every blessing for 2019.



Looking back, Advent and Christmas seem so long ago but what a blessed time we had. I would like to thank Julian and the choir for all their hard work during December, along with those who sang in our 'scratch choirs' for Midnight and Christmas Day. Thank you to Patricia (the church cat) and Megan for their help with the Crib Service. A wonderful event with over 120 people in church. I think that number was down to all of you who delivered publicity booklets to the local area during December – 1000 printed and taken – many thanks.

I must thank Gavin for decorating the tree and everyone who helped with the Christmas flowers; absolutely beautiful.

As I said, a blessed time because we are a blessed church, with many gifted people willing to give their time and energy to our church. Thank you all and thanks be to God.

At the beginning of this new year, I have decided to remind you all of the weekly and monthly events and services that happen at St. Cuthbert's. You will find notices publicising them all later in the magazine. Feel free to share them with friends and family.

Shortly we will approach the season of Lent which begins on March 6th - Ash Wednesday. During this season, when we remember Jesus's time in the wilderness and his journey to the cross, we will have opportunities to journey together through the Wednesday prayer group, Pilgrim on a Monday afternoon and all our usual services. Holy Week will be marked with additional services but they will feature in the March edition of The Sign.

Sadly, there has not been enough interest in a church retreat this year, so this will not be happening. My apologies to those who gave me names. Maybe we could look at a church away-day or quiet day in the summer?

In recent weeks we have sadly lost three of our congregation; Elspeth Illingworth, Sally Hempson and Mary McLennan. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Please keep their families in your prayers.

With love and blessings.

Nicki