

RECTOR'S LETTER FOR DECEMBER 2018.

Dear Friends, to my annoyance the first Christmas card I received was at the end of October I felt I was rushed and hurried to think of Christmas even though Advent season is still to come when I will certainly prepare my self for Christmas. Well I was wrong since the shops are already getting the Christmas things to sell already on the shelves.

But if the Church is to be attractive to today's and future generation then old traditionalists like I have to think carefully to find new ways that the message of the Gospel must be relevant. The Community of Faith must never stand still but advance to new heights of discovery through the guidance of the Holy Spirit of course.

The retirement of a Bishop, Priest or Minister of the Church is good news for both the one who is retiring and the Community she or he serve as it brings a clean break from too much attachment to one style of working and brings in new hope and direction through a new incumbent that she or he will bring to Community of Faith. God will always raise new leaders of His choice and not ours.

Sadly, our human nature takes a good hold on to our inward looking and we are anxious about the future of the Church. Christian Communities like our own have been through these process and they survived until our day. Scripture said, "Look to Jesus" He is our leader, He is our High Priest, He is our Lord, He is our Saviour, He is our Master, He is our God.

The future security and investment of any Community of Faith is in knowing that we belong to a God who own ourselves and the whole world. Let us trust in the promises of God's love that He cares for and knows our needs. But in order for us experience this dependence on God's promises it requires our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus's words of hope that our future is secured.

Having been in U.K. over twenty years I begin to understand a little of the Faith of our early Missionaries that drove them with the desire to spread the GOOD NEWS of JESUS CHRIST through out the whole. And if asked whether I have learnt any thing in U.K. my answer would be a lot of goodness in people.

I am immensely proud to testify that it is here that I have experienced and learnt the Love God and the Grace of God through the Diocese I serve, the Parishes and Communities i live. And I pay tribute to the many comrades and friends who are longer with us but have taught me the love of God and the Grace of God.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in the Parishes of Gawsworth and North Rode. Thank you for being my brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for your Christmas greetings. My wife Kate and the children join me in wishing you all a Blessed, Holy and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2019.

May the Joy and Peace of the Birth of Our Lord be yours.

Your Fellow co - Worker in the Gospel,

+ WAP.