

## From our Rector

How do you sit and write a joyous Christmas message of love as unthinkable atrocities unfold in the city of Paris, in Beirut, in Kenya, in Syria, in Iraq? How can we convey the Christmas message of peace and goodwill when there is so much anger, so much horror and devastation in the world? How do we as parents protect our babies from the dangers in the world whilst raising them to have compassion for everyone regardless of their race, their flaws, their beliefs?

So many big questions, and we feel so helpless, so inadequate living with the knowledge of terrorism and poverty but we still live, we still laugh, we still go to the pub, we still enjoy life because we have no choice.

2000 years ago, Mary and Joseph fled from their home with their young son, they fled away from political leaders who senselessly took lives in fear of a new religion based on love. The first Christians were in the minority, their world was led by greedy, corrupt, selfish people who had no concept of community. This Christmas, our country will have given refuge to 1000 families who have also fled from their homes, fled for their lives. The balance however has changed; today, the majority of the world are good; caring for their neighbours, their communities, spreading peace, goodwill to all whilst weeping equally for a life lost next door, or a life lost in an act of terrorism many thousands of miles away.

I make no apology for a Christmas message that is not full of humour and fun, because our world is scary and we must stand up straight in the face of everything that is wrong. More than ever, we need to love, more than ever we need to forgive, more than ever we need to stand together as a community, as a nation, as a world against the minority that are in desperate need of guidance, love and forgiveness. So I bless you for your compassion in our communities, I bless you for weeping just as God does when humanity shows failures, weakness and so much wrong, and I bless you for the joy I hope you will express this Christmas and New Year, for we have so much to be thankful for.

Revd Chloe Kingdon

15<sup>th</sup> Carol Service Aisholt 6.30pm

16<sup>th</sup> Carol Service Spaxton School, Spaxton 6pm

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

	AISHOLT	ENMORE	GOATHURST	NETHER STOWEY	OVER STOWEY	SPAXTON
Thursday Christmas Eve	No Service	Crib Service 4.00pm Holy Comm 9.00pm	Carol Service 7.00pm	Carols at the Cross 5.30pm	Holy Comm 11.30pm	No Service
Friday Christmas Day	Holy Comm 11.00am	No Service	Holy Comm 9.30am	Holy Comm 11.00am	No Service	Holy Comm 11.00am