



**St Mark's Church, Reigate**

January 2021

**Letter from the Vicar, Father Martin Colton**

Dear Friends,

A New Year! As ever we wonder what the new year will bring but perhaps this year more so than in previous years. I am sure that most of us are more than happy to see the back of 2020. However, no doubt, in the future we will look back at the Year of Covid-19 through the rose-tinted glasses of hindsight and remember some of the positive aspects of it. Clapping for carers brought neighbours together, as did looking out for the lonely and vulnerable. Carbon emissions dropped as we stayed at home to work, and instead of driving all over the place to attend meetings, we sat in our homes and "Zoomed". We appreciated our friends and families more when separated from them – absence makes the heart grow fonder. Hopefully, we shall learn some lessons as we look back on the year, appreciating those small actions that we previously took for granted: a handshake, a hug and a chat over coffee. We will probably decide to carry on with some aspects of the restrictions, continuing to Zoom meetings (other platforms are available!), appreciating those we take for granted, and being kinder to those around us.

It is interesting, and part of our necessary development, to look back, but we should also, at the change of the year look forwards. Thanks to the work of scientists and volunteer testers, we should have the ability to vaccinate against the virus in the first half of the year. I know that as soon as I get the call, I shall be there with my left sleeve rolled up! Life for all of us will then return to something approaching normality and I look forward to resuming activities again. Going on holiday, meeting family and friends, meeting properly in church without the need for masks, social distancing and being allowed to sing!

I hope that we can look upon 2021 with confidence. We do so with the added understanding that we have not been and will not be alone as both the Church and its Creator are with us at all times whether good or bad.

With best wishes for the coming year.