

Dear Grayshott

December 2019

This is the month when every publication summarises the year. There are so many things to celebrate in the life of the village.

Of special note is the work of Grayshott Concerts, with the recent premier at St Luke's, and a new collaboration between Grayshott School and Grayshott Concerts where professional musicians visit to inspire our children. Also a new Dementia Choir started by Linda Booth from Moorlands Lodge.

There are great initiatives, organisations, businesses, groups and clubs showing the wide variety of interests and the creativity of so many, in all the events and activities that take place. We have drama, the arts, crafts, music, sports and gardening, and there is provision for young people in sports, the uniformed organisations and youth clubs. All our venues for hospitality, the Social club, Fox & Pelican, British Legion, tea rooms, cafés and restaurants all contribute, and the rich variety of businesses are at the heart of village life. Seeing the village come together for Remembrance Sunday, honouring our past is a symbol of our community, and I am so grateful for the team at St Luke's led by Helen Williams, producing this magazine, connecting people and informing us of so many of these activities.

As your Parish Church, we at St Luke's appreciate all our links with the village, Schools, businesses and the Care Homes, and in my role as your Vicar, it is a privilege for me to play my part wherever I can. Grayshott working together is wonderful to see, and we want to be a blessing to you and do pray for you.

Despite the commercial Christmas starting earlier and earlier, in the Church calendar, Christmas is the 12 days between Christmas Day and Epiphany (6th January, when we celebrate the arrival of the three Kings at Jesus' stable) and December, up to the 25<sup>th</sup>, is the season of Advent. Advent Calendars suggest it is the countdown period to Christmas. The theme of Advent is waiting and preparation, and Archbishop John Sentamu has written a book, "Wake Up to Advent!" using four aspects of getting ready: "Wake up! Clean up! Feed up! Grow up!" Sometimes it is hard to see beyond the trappings and pressure of Christmas, to the heart of the message: Jesus is "Emmanuel" God come to be with us.

We hope you will join us at our Christmas services, when we will celebrate the arrival of Jesus in the world, to demonstrate the essence of God's love. It is good to take stock, and review, even clear the decks, so we can really see what Christmas is about. Have an exciting advent, and a Happy Christmas.

With our love.  
Jeremy and Claire

Rev Jeremy Haswell  
Vicar of St Luke's, Grayshott