

Dear Grayshott,

December 2020

Perhaps this year has been the strangest year in many of our lives. But we will all have a unique perspective on it depending on our circumstances. For many it has been stressful, but it has also been remarkable to see how our community has risen to the challenge.

I want to note our Grayshott Primary School's, Sharon Pritchard and her staff for their tireless work to support key worker children then all their pupils since the schools opened. They have with the private schools had to re-invent education on the hoof, shifting to online provision, bubbles and restrictions un-imaginable just 12 months ago. Then our care homes who have been under incredible pressure, and have weathered the eye of the storm with skill, fortitude and dedication. Also our Covid-19 Grayshott and surrounding villages Community Support Group, have transformed the life of so many by deliveries, and care, led by Phylcia André and Rachel Lewis and their amazing team. They have been nominated for a Police and Crime Commissioner "Exceptional Contribution during the coronavirus pandemic" Award, to be announced this month. All are examples of resilience and courage and a beacon of hope in the midst of the gloom that has been cast over the world.

What it has all done, is polarise. Some have been working beyond capacity for months, others have had nothing to do, for others it has been financially, socially, polarising, the margins have increased. I've been really blessed, through the generosity of many to my relief fund, to have been able to help some financially through this time, lifting heavy burdens. We have all had to look at ourselves, and assess our priorities. We have faced fear, uncertainty and separation from friends and family, while being forced to look at our inner lives.

Christmas is about light coming into our darkness, Jesus the Son of God bringing hope of a way through the bleakest of times. While unable to make promises about Christmas provision, Please look online for our notices about Christmas and what we are able to do nearer the time, and please be in touch with us if you are alone. Our video services for adults, and youth, are on our St Luke's Grayshott, YouTube channel.

Our love,

Jeremy and Claire,  
Rev. Jeremy Haswell, Vicar of St Luke's