

Thursday 10th December 2020 Reflection by Revd Gerry

Light....

The slightest sunlight breaking through can warm and cheer us. It's as though the branches of this tree are turning to reach out towards that sunlight.



Light.....

As many switched on their Christmas lights early, they said, “we need the Christmas lights at the end of this dark year”.....

Take a look at this picture of St Mary's. Our huge thanks to Paul and Joe who put up the lights which first lit the church tower at the Easter lockdown, to penetrate our darkness. Huge thanks to Roger, who always puts the star,

which also resembles a cross, on the front of the church, symbolising the light of Jesus shining out, capturing our attention.



What is it about light that makes such a difference to us?

Darkness can be experienced on every level of our being. Physical darkness can be disorientating. It can bring fear and uncertainty. Emotional darkness can descend on us through all kinds of pain and anxiety. Spiritual darkness is often referred to as a wilderness experience, a dark place.

**When we trust in God,
we experience that he can shine light into any kind of darkness.**

The special Collect for today says: “Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light”.

The Evening Prayer captures where the light comes from:

“Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of light and darkness, to you be glory and praise for ever. As evening falls, you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence.

May your Word be a lantern to our feet and a light upon our path, that we may behold your coming among us. Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness and free our tongues to sing your praise”.

The phrase "God is **light**" appears in 1 John 1:5. The apostle John explains the message we have from **Jesus Christ**, is that God is **light** and there is **no darkness** in **Him** at all. **Light** is the nature and character of God. He is not a **light** or a kind of **light**; He is **light** itself. All **light** comes from **Him**.

At this time of Advent, when we look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ, heralded by the star shining over the Bethlehem stable and the heavens filled with the light of angels singing praise, may we increasingly look to that ‘Light of the World’. This Light can never be put out, because it lives within us. It infuses our physical, emotional and spiritual being when we reach out and allow ourselves to turn towards the Son’s light.....

“Creator of the stars of night, thy people’s everlasting light, O Jesu, Saviour of us all, regard thy servants when they call.” Amen. May the Light of Advent shine on us and in us ever more brightly, as we call and as we wait.....