

North Wingfield team

St Lawrence Church, North Wingfield - St Bartholomew's Church, Clay Cross - St Barnabas Centre,
Danesmoor - St Mary's Church, Pilsley – St John's Church, Tupton

1st December 2020

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Dear Friends,

TEAM RECTOR'S COVID LETTER TO THE CHURCHES OF NORTH WINGFIELD TEAM – 01/12/20

As we emerge from another Lockdown, it seems remarkable that we have lived under the effects of Covid 19 for more than 8 months now. Covid has changed our way of life in Britain and it has changed our way of life as churches. It is still my belief that God will use this challenging time to shake us up as Christians and lead us into a renewed relationship with him.

With Christmas on the horizon, we will be thinking about how to celebrate the coming of Emmanuel under Tier 3 restrictions. I am sure you will respond to this challenge just as you have to past months of Lockdowns and restrictions.

Many will be aware that Richard Law has retired, and we wish him and Gillian a long and happy retirement. This, of course, prompts the question, 'Who will look after St. Bartholomew's?' I am pleased to take this opportunity to introduce Amanda Marshall. Amanda is a curate from Ashbourne who will be part of a recently introduced scheme which allows curates to spend 6 months in another church to get more experience before they go on to be vicars. Amanda will take responsibility for St. Bartholomew's from 1st January. We look forward to having Amanda as part of the clergy team.

Every Christmas I hear Christian people express regret that the true meaning of Christmas gets lost in the commercialism and secularisation of British society. I share that regret. However, as we face a Christmas like no other with the Covid pandemic, perhaps this is an opportunity for us to refocus. Could I suggest we approach Christmas attempting to, 'Keep it simple and keep it safe'? As we see fewer people and do fewer things this Christmas to minimise the risk of being infected, it might provide an opportunity to draw

close to Emmanuel, God with us, in a new way. In keeping it simple, we can keep safe. In keeping safe, we will keep it simple.

May God bless you, your family and this community this Christmas 2020.

With love in Christ,

COLIN COOPER