



St Botolph's Church, Colchester

18th December 2020

Dear Friends,

A Christmas greeting to you all, whilst most of us cannot remember a Christmas when we were, as a nation, so concerned about meeting, eating with, and greeting friends and relations in person. Thankfully however we are generally able to communicate by email and telephone. If you feel that you need to isolate yourself physically, do call someone for company on Christmas day. Providing that we keep safe ourselves, we will be able to look forward to the hugs and kisses once the vaccination programme expands.

This week we have been informed that the new Bishop of Chelmsford is to be the Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani', her current post is Bishop of Loughborough. We wish her well in this new post.

In the newsletter at the end of November, we thought of praying for all nations alphabetically through Advent, and we gave you a challenge for 22nd December, 'X' being the letter. Well thanks to Mary Tayler's thoughts, we can include a massive region of China that is seeking independence. Xinjiang has been in our news of late because the Chinese authorities are trying to suppress and control millions of Uighur Muslims in re-education camps and now we learn, slave labour picking cotton. Do give them a moment in your prayer on the 22nd.

Chris Kidd-Stanton has offered some STARtling information. The Bethlehem or Christmas Star may be seen on Monday 21st Dec for the first time in 800 years when Jupiter & Saturn will appear as one star just after sunset.

This Sunday, 20th December our 'Christmas Celebration in words and music' will commence at 10.30 am. If the weather permits, we will be able to sing a couple of carols suitably distanced in the Priory after the service.

Christmas Eve, at 6.00 pm. our Christmas Communion will be led by Rev. Peter Evans.

Our Red Bucket charity this Christmas is the RLNI, supporting those who volunteer to staff our LIFEBOATS

Cannon Paul Norrington, has invited us to log into the on-line worship at Christchurch. A range of options are available, please have a look at colchesterchristchurch.org.uk

Castle Methodist Church have also invited us to visit their online worship at <https://www.youtube.com/Colchestermethodists>

Lord of Light

Light of truth, light of hope, light of life, light of trust, light of peace,

Lord of Light, shine brightly in our lives this week. Amen

Collect for the 4th Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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