

A short reflection

In the hustle and bustle of this festive season, I thought it would be good to reflect a little on the current state of our Shellrock Benefice.

Our Christian Fellowship, that bond that binds us all together, has successfully survived a near three year interregnum thanks to the efforts of our ministers, Revd Sue Strutt and Carol Bennett, all members of our PCCs, our musicians, the choir and our wonderful congregations. We have also had some help from the Hingham Ministry Team for which we are truly grateful.

Whilst we could become somewhat depressed by what is happening in the wider church, we can look forward with some degree of optimism. We now have a new Priest-in-charge, Revd Tori Venmore-Rowland, who together with her husband, Luke, and her three children, appears to have quickly settled into the new Hingham rectory and who has been busy getting to know us all. There is still a long way to go and lots to do but we hope, as always, that God will enable us all to not only survive but to grow. We wish Tori and her family a Very Happy, Joyous Christmas.

I am sure we can all recall the smiles and tears that we have experienced within our churches this past year. The hard work we have put in to even just stand still sometimes feels like we are struggling against the tide. But there have been some notable successes, such as the Rocklands Remembrance service, and maybe we all need to take heed of what does and what doesn't work within our own communities. The world needs that 'Light of Christ' as much now as it did all those years ago. That is now our task; what appears to sometimes elude is the 'how'!

To everyone who reads this (mostly!!) weekly communiqué, thank you for your support throughout this past year and I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas. This will be the last Ramblings for 2024 so 'see' you in the new year.

Happy Christmas.

CT

Events this week

Friday 20th December

5.00pm Santa's journey starts in Little Ellingham, goes around the village, then on to Rocklands, visits the Youth Club and finishes at the White Hart!

Sunday 22nd December, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: *Micah 5.2-5a* *Psalm 80.1-8*
Hebrews 10.5-10 *Luke 1.39-45[46-55]*

10.30am Rockland St Peter Benefice Holy Communion
5.00pm St Peter, Little Ellingham Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve

11.00am Carols at Rocklands Community Shop in aid of EACH
3.00pm Rockland St Peter Light of the World
10.00pm Rockland All Saints Midnight Mass
11.30pm St James, Great Ellingham Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day

10.30am St Peter, Little Ellingham Christmas Day Holy Communion

Sunday 29th December, First Sunday of Christmas

Readings: *1 Samuel 2.18-20,26* *Psalm 148*
Colossians 3.12-17 *Luke 2.41-5*

10.30am St Peter, Little Ellingham A Celtic Morning Prayer

Sunday 5th January 2025, Second Sunday of Christmas

Readings: * *Jeremiah 31.7-14* *Psalm 147.13-21*
Ephesians 1.3-14 *John 1.[1-9]10-18*

10.30am St James, Great Ellingham Morning Prayer
10.30am Rockland St Peter Holy Communion

* These are the readings for the Second Sunday of Christmas. If celebrating Epiphany then use:
1 John 4 v 19 – 5 v 4; Psalm 147 v 13-end; Luke 5 v 12-16

Looking forward.....

A bit of peace and quiet!?

If you have an event planned and wish it to be advertised, please let me know.

Contacts

Ministry Team

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Thursday is Tori's usual day off

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