

From Ian, The Rural Dean and Marion, The Lay Chairperson

Greetings as we all move through Advent and now prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Lord once again. A very special time. We have all been through a very difficult year and there has been and is much pain and loss but again and again we know the light of hope shines through very brightly in the lives of those who have brought hope and comfort and strength to us all. Let us all pray that 2021 will be the year when we will start to feel the opening up of life again as the vaccine is given out.

There are going to be changes in our parishes very soon in that as you will know The Revd Georgina Watmore is leaving Tarporley, Eaton and Cotebrook and so on all our behalf I thank Georgina for all she has done for the deanery and for being a most valued member of Chapter and our deanery. “ we will all miss you Georgina and wish you and Ian and all your family well for the future”

The Revd Christopher Deakin is retiring from Hargrave at the beginning of February and so we also want to wish Christopher and Diana and all their family well as Christopher and Diana prepare to move to the next phase of their lives. “Thank you so much Christopher for being a most valued member of Chapter and the deanery”. We will all miss you very much”

Whilst writing I (Ian) want to let you know that I will be retiring from full time ministry on the 30th April next year. This was announced yesterday in Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton. It has been a privilege to serve in the parishes and a great privilege to serve as Rural Dean and to have the fellowship of both clergy and laity across the deanery.

It is our intention to have a zoom Synod after Christmas and then hopefully meetings in person will begin in the summer of next year.

In the meantime this comes with our very best wishes, prayers and blessing in this season and for 2021. Ian and Marion.