

## **A message from Rev Canon Jeremy Dussek**

Advent Greetings of Light and Hope from the Shropshire/Welsh Border! I've just received the wonderful pictures of the *Lights in the Night* in the City at St Peter's and this creativity excites me as I prepare to move and join you in Wolverhampton next year.

It's been a very long wait for the appointment and announcement of a new Rector for St Peter's and St John's; that *waiting* will continue for a little longer as we finalise dates to say farewell to the 5 churches here and then be licensed sometime in the Spring. Waiting at times is frustrating and something that many of us want to avoid – *I want it and I want it now* is a phrase that's so commonly used by a society that expects life to be like an Amazon delivery – here in an instant with the next thing arriving tomorrow! The writer Paula Gooder however reminds that it's often in the *waiting* that we are given space to turn to God as we pray and prepare to plant a seed that God calls us to grow and be nourished. In Advent, the Church focuses on Mary as someone who makes space to ponder what God's angel is calling her to give birth to.

This Advent we can perhaps use this waiting period to consider what direction God may be calling us to journey together; as we hear those famous words of the prophecy of Isaiah *In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God* how we can prepare the path to go forward in 2026. That way may begin perhaps by spending a few seconds each day in prayer, in thought or by opening the doors of a *Christian* Advent Calendar with its pictures and message unfolding the story as a window into heaven. May our waiting help us to look forward and prepare for the coming of the birth of the light of Christ this Christmas, and in the time ahead that we will share together soon.

*Creator God, help me create space for you in the midst of my waiting and busyness. May this Advent season draw me closer to you. Amen.*