

## Greenways Group of Churches

*Loving as Jesus loves.  
Praying as He prays,  
and Growing in Christ to make Him known*



### Clergy Report – for January & February 2020

Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> 

**Thank you all for all you have done during 2019.**

**You are very much appreciated.**

**I thank God for you and your ministries among us and our community of Chippenham.**

**Thank you too for sharing with me, the Gospel, over the Christmas season, with our community.**

#### 1 Benefice; 3 worship centres:

Plenty to keep talking about as we continue to learn & develop a way forward together. Opportunities to work together; support each other; complement each other. Much to aim for and be excited about, and to be involved in. The pressures of maintaining 3 worship services at the same time each week remain.

#### Leadership Team:

Let us remember in prayer before our Lord, those members of our leadership team struck by mid & long-term illness. We of course pray in Jesus name for fullness of healing. We also pray for peace, comfort and resilience, in the endurance.

#### A brief Epiphany thought for you:

There is no mention of 3 kings in Luke's Gospel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas. In Matthew they are Wise Men/Magi. And neither Mark nor John cover them at all. However, the 3 gifts from the Wise Men/Magi that are mentioned (from where the idea of 3 people came from), give us 3 natural points on which to reflect on 3 of the aspects of Jesus' Calling:

*Gold, for King; Frankincense, for priest; Myrrh, for sacrifice.*

1. Jesus' calling to be our King... our King... but also everybody else's King.
2. Jesus' calling to be our Priest (the high priest as he is called in Heb ch5).
3. Jesus' calling – to be our Sacrifice (the shadow of the cross over the crib and prophesied in Is ch53).

#### ***Reflecting upon these... What might be our response for 2020 be?***

2019 had its joys for us all. I would like to say that 2020 will be exactly the same and more! But I cannot truthfully know.

2019 also had its challenges for us all. I would like to say that 2020 will not be quite the same, that there will be less challenges for each one of us. But I cannot truthfully do so.

However, what I believe and what I can say, is that whatever you & I may face; joy and/or celebration, or indeed pain or struggle. **We can all Rejoice & Endure by God's Grace, & with the gifts He bestows on us. For He is our King, our Priest & our Sacrifice.**

**Hallelujah! Praise the LORD!**

**Come Holy Spirit...**

**Thank you, Jesus...**

*"I want to be a God-Gazer" – from the book Risk Taker Malcolm Duncan*

*"Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ" Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

*"Whatever happened to the Gospel" RT Kendall*

*4ming Disciples who make Disciples.*

*"SO What"?! – a phrase to journey with daily, as intentional Disciples of Jesus Christ*

Yours in Christ *Si*