



**St Mark's Church, Reigate**

January 2025

**Letter from the Vicar, Father Martin Colton**

Dear Friends,

January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany; the twelve days of Christmas are over, the decorations have mostly gone, and we remember the three men, variously called Kings, Magi, Wise Men. Those who came from the East, following a star which led them to the infant Christ before whom they knelt down in homage, and by offering their best gifts revealed just how special the child was.

Thinking about the three men reminded me of words from the Old Testament book Ecclesiastes: "A threefold cord is not quickly broken." The verses which contain those words begin: "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil, for if they fall one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up". In other words, we need each other. Those three men would have needed one another on their long journey, for mutual encouragement and protection; they may have huddled together for warmth, perhaps one kept an eye on the star whilst the others slept.

As we enter this new year, with the uncertainty of what the year will bring, we all need more than ever to journey with each other and look out for each other. We could call in on friends and neighbours. We can signpost people to the Foodbank to help them on their journey, and also regularly contribute food and toiletries. Maybe even encourage people to join a local group or organisation to find friendship and fellowship.

Wherever we find ourselves and whatever our circumstances, the beginning of a new year is a way point in our journey through life; so let's be thankful for the cords of friendship and fellowship which bind us together on our journey. At the same time not forgetting those who, for whatever reason, find themselves seemingly adrift without anyone or anything to hold on to – that this may be the year when they find a lifeline to hold on to – a cord which will not quickly be broken.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and every blessing