

Letter from the stewards...

05th January 2022

Hello friends,

On behalf of the stewards, although a little late, a Happy and Healthy New Year to you all. We also hope that the year will be more peaceful for all and that some old-fashioned sense will come to the fore.

The service on Boxing Day was cancelled but Ron Morgan was welcomed on Sunday 2nd January and gave a very good sermon.

Hymns were all from Mission Praise:

20: All people that on earth do dwell

393: Joy to the world

828: Lord for the years

488: O breath of life and 460: May God's blessing surround you each day.

460: May God's blessing surround you each day

Brenda read Luke 2: 21 - 38.

Ron began by stating how the Magi are reported as arriving at the stable with gifts but this may not be as it actually happened. They were however committed to finding the baby Jesus and delivering gifts.

The Luke reading was about Jesus being taken to the Temple by his parents and the involvement of both Simeon and Anna. Ron raised questions for consideration about the expectation of Simeon and the involvement of Anna. Ron referred to God calling different people to different roles and asked how we can make the church grow. Asking a busy person with other responsibilities to do the job is not the answer.

The challenge was - What is the Lord calling us to do as a church?- We all have a part to play, maybe not what we want or expect, but he asked us to consider what part we may be able to play.

I was not at this service but according to my fellow stewards, this was an excellent and challenging message, especially as we are in the situation where help is needed to ensure that SMC continues to welcome a Christian congregation and to further our Lord's work in the community of Swanmore in the future.

Next week, we have our Covenant Service led by our minister Rev Phil with Holy Communion.

Although we have relaxed our rules on Covid restrictions we do ask that you continue to safeguard yourselves and others by using hand gel, wearing masks and as far as possible socially distancing, in order that we can continue to worship as comfortably as possible.

Sunday 16th will be led by Peter Castle

23rd by Nicky Gibert

30th by Grace Westerduin

If you have any needs or know someone who needs prayer, please contact us.

We look forward to a successful New Year and hope to grow our church in our community.

Blessings

Carol, Jill and Kathy