



## Thoughts from Turnpike Cottage

As I sit and write this piece, Nigel and the Ministry Team are busy planning for Vision Week which will have been launched on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January; the Vision Day will have been held on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> January, and we are all hoping and praying that it will be a positive experience for everyone.

By the time you read this we are trusting that God will have shown us how we are to move forward in our parishes and benefice and how to reach out to our communities in sharing our faith. Each parish works differently, has its own personality and I hope that we will have learned from one another.

Some folk have been a little concerned that this initiative might have negative connotations, such as a church or churches being closed; on the contrary – it was to bring our Benefice together and to look at the many ways in which we can share the love and Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8 v. 28:** *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”.*

This was a text I was given many years ago, when things were less than positive for me. I have found it a wonderful text by which to live. God certainly worked for the good of all who invited and encouraged members of their communities to join in with the celebration of our Saviour’s birth. Over the Christmas period there were many Carol Services and Advent Celebrations, and there was a lot of love shared on those occasions and the churches were very well attended.

How wonderful it would be if our churches were well attended all the year round – but attending church is not the main aim. The aim is to show that each church is the centre of each parish and as such it shows the love of Christ to all – by sharing love, concern, compassion, empathy and care to every member of the community – whatever their religion, or of no religion.

We – the Ministry Team, the P.C.C’s and every church member – have all been called according to God’s purpose: I hope and pray that the beginning of this year will prove to be the start of a revival in this Benefice. May Nigel’s enthusiasm and faith spread to touch us all and may our churches become as beacons of light to each and every one in our communities.

Every blessing, **Lynda.**