

Rudgwick

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From the Vicar

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Dear Friends

Are you all ready for Christmas? Christmas cards sent, presents bought and wrapped, turkey ordered and sorted who is sleeping where? Working at Christmas, family have to come to us – this year we should just squeeze everyone in, but if plans change we may be breaking out the air beds! Mary and Joseph did not have a choice that first Christmas – they had to go to Bethlehem for the census and, unlike the Vicarage, no one could fit them in, so they “*laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*”

It isn't just in Bethlehem. There is no room at the Inn by the Church in our Village – not because of a census but because it's closed and for sale. I know people are talking about its future and a number are wondering if the Church should buy it. This is something the PCC (the Parochial Church Council) have been pondering and continue to consider. We have been for a viewing, had the Church architect survey it (there is much that needs attention) and even put in an offer – which has not been accepted. Some of you will also be aware that it has been re-marketed with a two thirds uplift on the asking price!

One of the stumbling blocks is that we do not have the funds to buy it and whilst we are in the miracle business (as we are reminded this month as we celebrate Immanuel - God with us) sometimes we need to step out in faith and trust God, other times he is closing the door as it were. It takes discernment to tell one from the other!

In the coming months I hope to share more about how the Church might use it and ask if you would contribute. But for now, can I ask for your prayers for wisdom for the PCC and for God to firmly open or shut the door?

All that said, I'd like to reassure you that the door of the Church is very much open this Christmas – you will find details of our services in the calendar and elsewhere in the magazine and I hope to see you later in the month.

Every blessing

Martin King

Cover photo: Rudgwick in the snow, by Martin King