

## February 2025

Following the storms late last year the first few weeks of 2025 have seemed thankfully rather quiet on the weather front, here in Northamptonshire anyway! Since the light snowfall at the beginning of January – enough to build a snowman and enjoy a short session of sledging – most days with a few exceptions have just been grey, dull and dreary. The quiet of the rural landscape at this time of year offers an opportunity for reflection and renewal. It often brings with it a slower pace and although the snowdrops are starting to appear, the promise of spring is still some months away. It's a good time to take stock of life and prepare for the year ahead.

The season also reminds us of the beauty and purpose of creation, even in the cold and dormant months. In the Bible we are reminded; “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...” These words remind us that, like the seasons of the year, our lives have the same rhythms of growth, rest and renewal.

During winter it's easy to feel as though life has slowed down but just as God is at work in the quiet months of the year, he is at work in our lives. Though the days may be shorter the light of Christ is still shining, reminding us that he is always with us, guiding us through every season of life.

As we face the last cold, dark days of winter let's remember the warmth of God's love and look forward to a spring of renewal in our hearts and villages.

God Bless

Revd Sue

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