

From the Chaplain...

As we approach the close of Advent, it is surely worth asking what fruits we have gleaned from this season of watching and waiting. In lighting the Advent wreath and recalling successively the role played by the patriarchs, the prophets, John the Baptist, and the Virgin Mary in the story of salvation, we are reminded that our waiting is never about the coming of a single day but of a whole new way of being. We express in terms of a particular season in the Church year an abiding sense of anticipation that has been shared by faithful people throughout history. At the same time, we cultivate this sense of expectation, even as we know in advance that what we yearn for – the presence of God in our midst – has already been accomplished. In this respect, Christians always live in a constant tension between what God has already achieved and what God has yet to do.

This Sunday, Hector and Hamish Adamson will enter the joy and tension of Christian life when they are baptized during our 11.00am Sung Eucharist. The Revd Faith Wakeling will preach and preside at this service for the final time as our Assistant Chaplain. Everyone is invited to join us after the service for a reception in the Undercroft, where we will celebrate Faith's service at the Chapel over the past 6½ years. Please come along and raise a glass to Faith as she begins a new chapter in her ministry as a chaplain in our local NHS Trust.

Finally, please note that we will celebrate the Great Feast of the Nativity at the Chapel with a Sung Eucharist at 11.00am on Christmas Day. Although most of the ORNC site will be closed, special access will be possible for those wishing to attend this service. The East Gate (off Park Row) will be open from 10.30am. If arriving on foot via the West Gate, please ring the pedestrian bell for entry to the site.

Yours faithfully,
Robert

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