

Thank you to the Parish Council and it's Councillors.

I would like to thank the Parish Council and our councillors on behalf of our community in Mortimer and the surrounding areas for the provision of the beautiful Christmas tree on the Fairground. It gets better each year.

The Christian community is delighted to share its preparations for Christmas with the lighting of the Advent Star, heralding the birth of our Messiah on Christmas Eve. Several years ago, TiM (Together in Mission) our local Christian Charity, in collaboration with Churches Together in Burghfield, Sulhamstead and Mortimer, established the tradition of a Christmas Tree (donated by the Englefield Estate) for our local community on the fairground. We were delighted when the Parish Council adopted its provision.

We are particularly grateful of the council members who supervise the provision of electricity and the switching on of the lights, which will bless our village until decorations traditionally come down on Twelfth Night (5th January).

Advent is a time of reflection that helps us to see past the commercialism and materialism that can if we are not careful dominate our celebrations. As Fr Paul said when he blessed the tree, whether we are people of faith or not, we all long for a better world. Our time out for reflecting on how we are living our lives, what we are getting right and what we are getting wrong, we hopefully enable each of us, in our own way, to build a loving, caring community, serve the common good and hasten a better world.

Wishing everyone the hope and joy of Christmas,

Rev. Deacon, John Foley,

Chair of Churches Together in Burghfield, Sulhamstead and Mortimer.