



From The Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is very little for me to add to what my colleagues have said overleaf! Perhaps a word or two of perspective and aspiration.

Stewardship. We call it “Stewardship” because in so doing we recognize and remind ourselves that at best in this world, we rent. We are mere temporary stewards of that with which we have been blessed. There is no such thing as a “self-made” man or woman. We all have everything we have through the grace of God and his Son Jesus.

All that we have is **ROOTED IN ABUNDANCE**. The abundance that is all around us. In nature. In those we love and those who love us. In blessings we receive even when we are at our worst, and nothing seems possible – and another reaches down and lifts us up. “For as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto me.”

AND, **ROOTED IN ABUNDANCE**, to extend those blessings to others through the community of faith that has sustained Christians around the Litchfield Green for 228 years.

It is my hope that we can build, in 2024, on the solid foundation of prudent spending and generous giving we have experienced in 2023 to:

- ◆ Expand our musical offerings in both quality and quantity, both in church and from our Bell Tower
- ◆ Preserve our failing and ancient stained glass and beautify our North Transept with a new design (already in hand!) illustrating the works of the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Increase in a pro-active way our service to the hungry, the cold, and the addicted, building on the small ways we have begun this year.

We can do that, and continue our ministries of praise, pastoral care, education, and fellowship, only if you, in thanksgiving for that with which God has blessed you, offer a portion of that and pledge it in support of St. Michael’s ministry. I will personally be increasing my pledge by 10% this year. I invite you to pray and respond to God’s call to pledge as generously as you are able.

The Reverend Ian Bruce Montgomery,

Priest-in-Charge

Advent & Christmas Events

Sun. 12/3 – Choral Evensong – 4pm

Sun 12/24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent 8 & 10am

Christmas Eve

4pm Blessing of Crib and Holy Eucharist with Choir

10pm Holy Eucharist with Music

Christmas Day

10am Holy Eucharist with *a cappella* singing

12/26 – Boxing Day Rectory Open House – 4-8pm