

# Christ Church Freemantle

## Christmas Eve

We are finally at Christmas Eve, at the end of a long and hard year. We've had to adjust and change so much of our usual lives this year, not least in the church where we cannot sing the old carols together at the carol service as we usually do. However, when I sat in the church last Sunday afternoon, with candles all around us, I felt not as if I was missing anything but that I was hearing some of the readings anew. And it was the last reading, the prologue of John's gospel that really struck me the most.

*'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'*

Those beautiful words of light and hope are probably what we most need to hear at this time. We light candles to bring light into the darkest days of the year but also as a sign of hope; that the light of Christ continues to shine in the

darkness of our world. This Christmas may be rather different to the usual one for many of us, we may be missing loved ones we cannot meet with or be struggling with illness, we may feel the loss of many things. Wherever we are



this Christmas, whether with family or alone, God is always with us. As Julian of Norwich wrote *'All shall be well. For there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go.'*

Liz Coe