



## The Bishop of Lincoln

### Christmas 2025

Every year, the bishops send a Christmas card to people around our Diocese of Lincoln. We choose an idea and ask people to share pictures and paintings with us. Bishop Nicholas and I have spent hours signing these cards by hand because we want God's people to know we are praying for them at Christmas.

This year our idea for the Christmas card came from a Bible verse. When God created the world, he says 'let there be light!' (Genesis 1.3) Light is also a big part of the Christmas story. Christmas is about the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Just like the words from Genesis, St John's Gospel describes the wonderful Christmas story like this: 'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.'

Our Christmas card this year shows the Nativity scene, the manger in which the baby Jesus was laid, and a bright light shining.

This Christmas, I want you to think about 'the light shining in the darkness.' There is lots of darkness in our world – bad things like war, anger and hate. Christmas reminds us that when it is dark, there is a light shining. There is happiness, kindness, love and peace in our world.

Where can I see light shining in the darkness? Where can I see good things in the world? Where can I see people loving each other, just as Jesus wants us to?

It can be hard to see these good things around us. Sometimes the darkness feels like too much. If it's hard to see signs of love and kindness, then can you *be* those signs instead? How can you be the light in the darkness? How can you make a difference in the lives of your family, friends, school, and home?

This Christmas, God says 'Let there be light.'

As we get closer to Christmas, I ask you to be lights for Jesus, shining in the darkness, bringing hope to a world which needs it.

Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Lincoln". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway  
Bishop of Lincoln