



## The Bishop of Lincoln

### Christmas 2025

Every year, the bishops send a Christmas card to lots of people across our Diocese of Lincoln. We choose a theme and invite people to share pictures, photos 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 theme was from a Bible verse. When God created the world, he says 'let there be light!' (Genesis 1.3) Light is part of the Creation story, and it's also at the heart of the Christmas story. Christmas is about the birth of God's own Son, Jesus Christ. Just like that verse from Genesis, St John's Gospel describes this wonderful Christmas story like this: 'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'

Our Christmas card this year shows the image of the Nativity, the manger in which the baby Jesus was laid, shining with bright light.

This Christmas, I ask you to think about 'the light shining in the darkness.' There is lots of darkness in our world – there is war, fighting, anger, hate and suffering. Christmas reminds us that in the darkness, there is light that shines. There is joy, hope, love, kindness, forgiveness and peace in our world, to name a few.

Ask yourselves: where can I see light shining in the darkness? Where can I see good things happening in the world? Where can I see people loving each other, just as Jesus asked us to?

Of course, it can be difficult to see these good things in our world. Sometimes the darkness feels like too much. If you're struggling to *see* signs of hope, love and peace, then you might consider *being* those signs instead. Ask yourselves: how can I be the light shining in the darkness? How can I make a difference in the lives of my family, my friends, my school, my home?

This Christmas, God says to us '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 Conway". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway  
Bishop of Lincoln