**Daily Prayer & Encouragement – Monday 30th November**

*(John 1:5)*

*“The Light shines in the darkness,*

*and the darkness has not overcome it”*

I have a confession to make…I put our Christmas tree up on the 15th November, the earliest EVER in the Nicholls household! As much as I would like to put this down to super efficiency, the truth is I really wanted to bring some more light into our daily lives. When the daylight hours lessen and the metaphorical darkness of a “difficult winter” looms, is it any wonder that we seek to lighten the darkness?

As beautiful as Christmas lights are, we all know how temperamental they can be – but Jesus, The Light of World, is constant and will never fail. His light shines in the darkness of our troubled world and “turned-upside-down” lives – and the darkness will never overcome His light.

I would like to share a memory with you of an Advent service. The whole church was plunged into darkness. After a few minutes a candle, representing the Light of Christ, was brought in from the back of the church and one by one we lit our candles from that single source of light. Soon the church was bathed in the most beautiful light – all just from us taking light from that solitary candle. Jesus, the “true light that gives light to everyone” went on to teach us, “You are the light of the world…let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father” (Matthew 5:14, 16). Just as that one candle lit all the candles in the church, so Jesus passes His light to us, to shine brightly in the darkness of this world and to share His light with others.

Who can we be a beacon of light for today?

***Prayer:***

*Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Light in our darkness. After this dark year, we pray that all will be drawn to the light of Your love, mercy and salvation. When we see the Christmas lights may we be reminded of our great privilege of being Your light bearers – Your glory carriers. Help us to shine brightly for You. Amen.*

With love and blessings

*Tracey Nicholls*