



January 2019

Dear Friends,

A new year, a new start. I wonder whether you have made any New Year resolutions this January. And what they relate to, in your life.

Christmas is a very special season, tinged with nostalgia, when everything seems heightened in our hearts and minds as we try to live up to this season of goodwill and bonhomie to all! Not always easy. For some the period between Christmas and New Year will come as a welcome relief from the business of everyday life yet for others it can take on a rather gloomy aspect as the year draws to a close. I don't know whether it's that the days are short and there is more darkness with the weather generally colder as winter beds itself in. I wonder if it would be different if we lived the other side of the world and it was summer?!

With January comes the welcoming of a new year, albeit with a lot of uncertainty in our world: the implications of Brexit, the uncertainty in the United States due to Donald Trump, Middle East in ferment and the refugees from troubled parts of the world still needing care and welcome - but what is clear is that everything is in flux. There is a lot of anxiety around because the future seems uncertain. But Christians remind ourselves that our stability is not in this world. We know that our stability rests on God's promises. There will be trials and tribulations in this life but in this Christmas season (yes, it is still Christmastide for us until the beginning of February!) we hold on to the promises of God in the birth of Jesus. In the words from St John's Gospel - 'The Word was made flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory'.

In the coming of Jesus we are reminded that God can bring good out of evil, light out of darkness and hope in the midst of fear. All we need to do is to remain faithful, pray and not give up that hope.

Let us each make one New Years resolution - to be the light that shines in the darkness for others around us - through our thoughts words and actions. If we all do this just think what a difference it would make! Let us together be the light that defeats the darkness and brings light and hope to this coming year.

Happy New Year!

*Rev'd Nicki*