

Dear Grayshott,

January 2020

A very happy last few days of Christmas, and New Year to you all. As I write I don't know the outcome of the election, and still we all wait for the outcomes of many things. However, we can still invest in, and build our community locally and consider what this new decade holds for us. 2020 sounds fresh, and also has the ring of the old way of referring to perfect 20/20 vision.

Vision is a word we use in business, in church life and for our own lives, which refers to different things, high level vision is about describing or defining a 'mark on the horizon' at which we are aiming. More practically it can be a plan, or even a dream of something that we would love to see come to pass. Personally, I have a vision associated with my calling to ministry, to which I refer periodically, and it gives me a steer on my priorities and can help to give me confidence about the direction we are travelling in as a community here at St Luke's, and more widely.

Many of us are encouraged to think about a new decade in terms of goals, 'new year's resolutions' suddenly become 'new decade resolutions' ... scary! All the classic studies of peoples' ability to stick to a resolution are well publicised; but it is much more helpful to think about who we are than what we will do. In a radio programme about will power the news reader Louise Minchin said that thinking of herself as a Triathlete was when she was able to overcome the inertia that resisted training. As a child having failed grade 3 piano, I believed I couldn't play the piano, so never persevered. In my 30's, inspired by Bill Murray in the film Groundhog Day, I set myself a ten year goal. 'To be able to have fun sitting at the piano.' I had one rule. Never to judge myself as a failure, every mistake became a lesson in how not to do it. I never left the piano with a negative emotion. I just kept going. 26 years later I can indeed sit at the piano and play by ear, simple songs and improvise.

In life we tend to judge ourselves and disqualify ourselves from things. Let's change all that, and have a go in 2020. We at St Lukes' see ourselves as Grayshott's church, where anyone can come in, and start where you are spiritually. Come and learn, about God, about worship, about prayer, about yourselves. The Gospel of Jesus, is good news for everyone. You are invited to just come and 'be' with no pressure and no judgement. Come and learn with us.

Make 2020 a new adventure.  
Jeremy and Claire

Rev. Jeremy Haswell  
Vicar of St Luke's, Grayshott