

Dear Grayshott,

January 2021

2021 has arrived... at times last year we thought it never would. After the enormous impact of the pandemic on almost every part of society, things have changed for family life, business, the economy, employment, to say nothing of the disruption to education, the arts, and the pressure on the NHS. The idea of turning the clock back, and returning to 'how it was' seems like it is not an option. The outlook for the environment is bleak, and for some industries, and for particular businesses the landscape is changed forever. Navigating a new relationship with Europe is yet another challenge. What we all need now is hope.

New Year resolutions are a subject raised in conversation and on radio programmes, and we use the 1st of January to draw a line in the sand, put the past behind and start something new. This is a kind of self applied grace! The challenge for us all is to work out what will truly make a difference for the better. This echoes the Biblical idea of Jubilee, where debts are forgiven and property gets liberated, and returns to its original owners, and idea that bred hope in a whole society.

I heard a phrase that said, "coronavirus has hit the reset button on society". We have all had to look at ourselves, and work on re-calibrating our priorities. Hope is often referred to as 'light at the end of the tunnel'. It is important, because it breeds confidence and optimism. Nelson Mandela said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". It creates opportunities and opens doors. He is referring to general education, but lessons in life are the key to living well.

Jesus said "Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest, walk with me, and learn from me, and I will give you rest." St Luke's is learning more about what walking with Jesus looks like, and we want to help everyone to find that 'soul rest'. If 'weary and burdened' describes you, and you are looking for a way forward, hope and light at the end of your tunnel. Come and join us on our learning adventure, find us on-line, and in person in church, and learn with us what God is saying to you. Happy New Year to you all, and be blessed in 2021.

Our love,
Jeremy and Claire,

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