

Vicar's Letter for January 2017

Dear Friends

With January comes the welcoming of a new year, albeit with a lot of uncertainty in our world: a still-quite-new prime minister for us in the UK and a new president for the United States. The Middle East is in ferment. The refugees from troubled parts of the world still need care and welcome. The implications of the Brexit vote have yet to make themselves clear - but what is clear is that everything is in flux. There is a lot of anxiety around because the future seems uncertain. But as Christians we 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.

With that knowledge, let me share with you some other things that will be taking place this month which are exciting, forward looking and full of hope.

We will be holding our **Parish Away Day on Sunday 22nd January** 10-3pm. Due to various factors it will now be held locally, at St Clement's Urmston Branch Church on Humphrey Lane. There will therefore be **NO 10am service** in Church that day (there will be our 8am Holy Communion service as usual). Our Parish Away Day will be led by Revd Andy Salmon as part of our Mission Action Planning. Andy is an inspiring, energetic speaker and will help us to plan for the future. Already the Steering Group are working on the programme, and as you will have seen there are things up in Church for us all to engage with and contribute to. Please do put this date in your diaries and make this a real priority. And do put your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of Church.

There will be a new **discipleship course** in January and February which Revd Luke Maguire from All Saints' Church will be running with Simon and myself. This will be a six-week course called 'Moving On' and will be a joint course for both parishes held at All Saints' Church on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. The dates for this course will be: January 17th, 24th, 31st and February 7th, 14th and 21st. Do put these dates in your diary.

I'm sure that is enough dates for now to put in your diaries! May we continue to pray in faith and love for our world, our country, our community and parish and ourselves, that God's light in Jesus may shine bright.

With every blessing
Kate