

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Sunday, 9th January 2022

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone is keeping well and had a great Christmas. I wish everyone a very happy New Year. Judy and I had a good time. Despite all, where people were able, we enjoyed some wonderful, special services together around Christmas weekend. We then had the rare treat of our family together. We shared the secrets of Santa with new family members and sang Auld Lang Syne with folk new to this tradition. We did well but didn't quite manage 'first footing'!

It is easy to let one day flow into the next and miss the change that's going on both around us and within us. I like New Year because it provides an opportunity to take stock of where I am. To remember the many, many things I have to be thankful for and to reflect on the things I should perhaps have done differently. To check I'm going in the right direction and, if necessary, to alter course – for example, in my relationships, how I use the time and resources God has given me and the priority I give to God in my life.

A VERSE FROM A FAVOURITE HYMN

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.



One way of thinking about the priority I try to give to God in my life is by reflecting on the promises that were made at my baptism. Promises to reject evil, to turn to Christ, to trust him and to follow him forever. And then remembering God's incomparable promises to us as expressed in the prayer at the end of the baptism service – to touch us with his love, to be with us in joy and sorrow, to be our guide in life, and to bring us safely to heaven.

PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to remember and to try to aim to be true to my baptism
– the promises made and the hope you promise
Amen.

This Sunday's reading (Luke 3.15-17, 21-22), one of the first Sunday readings in the New Year, is about the Baptism of Jesus. It not only encourages us both to think about our baptisms but also reminds us that Jesus is God, Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. It also encourages us to open ourselves up to God changing us into the people he created us to be. At its deepest level baptism is about new birth, our starting afresh, our being born again.

VERSE FROM A FAVOURITE HYMN

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

This isn't just theory. It's about how we use the time and resources God has given us in our daily lives to love him and to love our neighbours. It's about our giving generously from what God has given us. The New Year provides us with an opportunity to review and reset our lives. To aim once more to try to put God first. To try to be true to our Lord and the promises we have made to him. To try to love God and people and to embrace the hope we have in him



FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work”.



JANUARY SERVICES

2nd January

Christ Church 9:30am Sunday Communion
St Michael's, Foulridge 11:00am Sunday Worship
- Morning Prayer
St Mary's, Trawden 11:00am Sunday Worship - Epiphany

9th January

St Michael's, Foulridge 9:30am Sunday Communion
with Rev Canon Grant Ashton, Assistant Archdeacon
Christ Church, 11:00am Sunday Worship - All age

16th January

St Mary's, Trawden 9:30am Sunday Communion
St Michael's, Foulridge 11:00am Sunday Worship - All Age

23rd January

St Michael's, Foulridge 9:30am Sunday Communion
Christ Church 11:00am Sunday Communion

30th January

Christ Church, Colne 9:30 Said Holy Communion

Baptism Services **Christ Church** 11:00 and 13:00,
St Michael's 14:00 and 15:00 **St Mary's** 12:00 and 16:00

If you can, do join us at one of our services this week, Sunday 9th January.

9:30 Sunday Communion at St. Michael's, where the preacher is Canon Grant Ashton, the Assistant Archdeacon. This is a traditional communion service for all, with organ led hymns.

11:00 Sunday Worship (All Age) at Christ Church, led by our Music Group

PRAYER

God of Hosts, rebuild your Church on lives of thankfulness and persistent prayer.

As always I am thinking and praying for folk. If there is anything you need please call. If you have special prayer requests please let me know. I love to pray each day and if you are happy for us to do so, we pray for folk each week at compline.

With love and blessings, Rev John

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A TRADITIONAL PRAYER

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

A FAVOURITE HYMN

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

