

PRAYING GOD GIVES YOU A

year of favor

FULL OF HIS UNENDING LOVE.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us...
PSALM 90:17a



January 2018 Newsletter

Message from Sarah Bingham

Good Resolutions?

The coming of the New Year every January commonly sees a raft of good resolutions made by many. Give it a few weeks, and by then end of the month, many of those resolutions have been broken or abandoned! We perhaps should not be surprised by this. We often feel an impetus for change or improvement. Sadly, our will alone is rarely strong enough to sustain that desire. That's why the NHS has clubs to help people stop smoking, or those attending groups to help with weight loss are frequently more successful than individuals trying to diet – having support, encouragement and people in front of whom you do not wish to fail gives the extra incentive required.

Our Christian life can often feel the same. God calls us to change; to put off the old life and put on the new. Yet this can be as much of a struggle as keeping New Year resolutions. I think there are two main reasons for the struggle. The first is that unlike slimmers, who are willing to be weighed in front of each other and admit their failings and celebrate their successes, in church we rarely admit our challenges, struggles and failures or successes with temptation. Perhaps we are embarrassed, or think people won't like us if we admit we still struggle with sin? BUT church is a community of sinners who God loves and has called to be His friends!

The second reason for struggle is that too often we think the battle is ours alone – that we have to exert our will power to bring about change in our self. This is where Paul's message to the church in Philippi can encourage us. Paul tells them to 'work out your salvation in fear and trembling' but then goes on to say 'for God is at work in you'. The change God calls us to is a cooperative work between individuals and God, made easier by having others around to whom we can be accountable, and who can encourage and cheer us on. So make resolutions if you want to, but I would also encourage you to reflect with God in prayer about what change He might be calling you to...

Mend-It Christmas Day Dinner.

This year we hosted our seventh year of the Christmas Day Dinner for the local community and the homeless. We catered for 78 people from the start, then at 1:45pm a further 4 turned up bring the total to an impressive. 82 heads.

We provided a three course meal with live entertainment from Brian Roberts and a Christmas quiz to get people into the festive mood with Christmas music playing in the background. All this would not have happened without the support from Natalie, Jess and myself Robert driving it forward. Can we say a big thank you to all the volunteers who turned up to serve or who supported in the kitchen, all of you played a vital part. Also thanks to any one who contributed towards the event in any way.

The organisations that donated products are, Co-Op, Sainsbury's, Tesco, B&M. and ASDA.

Robert Silvera

Christmas Fayre

Our thanks to all those who contributed in any way to the success of the Christmas Fayre in November. The final total was £1336 (inc. £104 of copper coins collected throughout the year) for the Church Development Fund.

If you do not already save 1p and 2p coins for us please think about starting now so that we can increase the amount saved this way by the time of the Christmas Fayre in 2018. When you have saved £1 of 1p's or £1 of 2p's please hand them to Jean White for banking.

Thank you

John Jenkinson

