



Dear all,

What do you hope 2021 will hold for you? For most people, 2020 was the year when the best made plans came to nought as Covid-19 turned lives upside down in ways never seen before in living history. Even now, with Vaccines starting to be rolled out (which is good news), the reality of the world settling back into a recognisable rhythm of life is still several months or even a couple of years away.

In the midst of the continuing challenges, we need to learn how we can best adapt to the changing seasons of life we find ourselves in. We cannot go back to what has been – we need to go forward and reimagine what the future could look like.

This was the case for Ezekiel, who ended up in exile at the young age of around 25, before being called into a prophetic ministry aged 30. God is more than able to work his plans out in our lives, irrespective of the circumstances we find ourselves in. The question is do we believe this?

As a church, I believe our live-streaming ministry developed over the past few months is here to stay and has huge potential to grow significantly over the forthcoming months and years. This style of ministry has brought us into contact with so many more people than we could ever have imagined – for which we give thanks to God for! Are we willing though to reimagine how God could use us at the start of this new year? Food for thought!

Church News:

- **Church Services**

In light of the current lockdown, the leadership felt it was important to close our church building to people attending (other than participants). This decision will be reviewed regularly. Meanwhile, do remember you can watch our live-stream service on YouTube or Church Facebook Page (no accounts needed) live every Sunday morning at 10am, or through the website after each service ([Click here](#))

- **Sunday 17 January**

This Sunday will include Holy Communion, so do get ready for this. Do Join us on Zoom for 'Zoffee and Zea' at 11.45am after the service. We'd love to see you! Do contact me for the link.

- **Used Stamps**

St Mary's World Mission Team collects used stamps to send to the Leprosy Mission a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Working across 28 countries through partnering with governments, churches and other organisations to defeat leprosy and transform lives, the money raised from the stamps supports their work.

Please keep all your Christmas cards and Letters stamps. Collection arrangements will be made known after the current lockdown ends.

- **St Mary's Bible Project**

Early 2020, we launched a project to update all our Church Bibles. This was put on hold due to 2020's events, however in December we had the opportunity to purchase these at a reduced cost, saving over £1000 on the expected cost. If you would like to contribute to this project (a great way to start 2021!), please [click here](#). Bibles cost £10 each and we have bought 145 for Church use.

- **Bringing Hope into lives through prayer**

In December we launched a new online initiative for St Mary's – a virtual Prayer Wall. Here you can leave prayers for people to pray and light a virtual candle. Do visit this page by [clicking here](#).

Under Aslan's paw,
Tim - Vicar, St Mary's Eaton Socon