



## Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 42

Sunday 27th December 2020

For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord  
Plans to prosper you and not harm you  
Plans to give you HOPE and a future

Jeremiah 29 verse 11

As I write we have just been told that we are in Tier 4. We have survived two lockdowns and certain restrictions since March but with Christmas almost upon us we have more restrictions to cope with as the number of positive cases identified by testing is growing rapidly, as are the number of people who have died.

I don't know if you receive letters from your friends/family in their Christmas cards. They tell you of all the things they have been doing in the past year. We have received a number of letters already and they all start in a similar way this year 'we hope you have stayed safe and well during this very strange year'.

So how have you coped in the past 9 months? At first I quite enjoyed having time to do all the jobs on my 'to do' list –sorting cupboards, clearing out my wardrobe but my enthusiasm soon waned and I lacked motivation. I began to forget what day it was as every day seemed the same. I do like to plan ahead but it was not possible to do that because things were constantly changing. It was our golden wedding anniversary in April and we had planned a buffet lunch for family and friends. Three times we changed the date but eventually gave up.

I had never watched a funeral of a friend on an iPad before. We were unable to attend as numbers were limited. Sunday morning services were streamed as we were not allowed in the church. Everything we had taken for granted –meeting friends for coffee, enjoying a meal with family or friends was no longer possible. Life was very different and some of our friends who live alone found it difficult to cope with the isolation. We tried to keep in touch by phone but many just longed to get out. Some did make an effort to walk every day but others became quite depressed.

There were times when I questioned where God was in all of this chaos. He had promised never to leave us but where was He now when we needed Him? My answer came quite quickly through a friend who contacted me and reminded me of a great chorus we used to sing. I am sure some of you will remember this –

God is still on the throne  
And He will remember His own

‘Tho trials may press us  
And burdens distress us  
He never will leave us alone  
God is still on the throne  
And He will remember His own  
His promise is true  
He will not forget you  
God is still on the throne

He is in control. He has the plan. He knows what we need and He has given us HOPE.

As we look back over 2020 I am sure we do so with mixed emotions. Sadness - because we were unable to see family and friends.

Confusion - because the rules kept changing.

Loneliness- I could go on!

There were however many times when I needed to say ‘thank you Lord’ because He answered prayers.

‘Thank you’ for wonderful neighbours who included us in their on line shopping for many months.

‘Thank you’ for good health. ‘Thank you’ for the telephone used to keep in contact with elderly friends.

I am sure you could add to my ‘thank you’ list.

By the time you read this Christmas Day and Boxing Day will have come and gone! It promises to be a very different Christmas this year but the reason for the season remains the same. As Christians we are remembering the coming of Jesus, God’s Son, and we thank God for His great gift to us all.

Now we look to the New Year about to begin. It looks as though there will still be many restrictions on our lives but we trust God to see us through. He has the master plan and, as we read earlier, plans to give us HOPE and a future.

This week I read a short ‘Thought for the day’ written by one of our church members but it really challenged me as we step out into a new year. The wise men followed a star and it led them to Jesus. The person writing the ‘Thought for the day’ asked if we were ready to be stars in 2021 – ready to lead people to Jesus.

As we approach a New Year I am reminded of the Gate Of The Year written by Minnie Louise Hoskins. ‘I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year ‘Give me light that I may tread safely into the unknown.

He replied ‘ Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way’.

So let us be reassured, as we start a new year, if we trust in God we need fear nothing for He is with us. He has a plan for each one of us and He gives us His peace in these times of uncertainty.

John 14 verse 27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you, I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid

So as we step out into 2021 we should not be afraid. Immanuel - God is with us.

In Christ alone my HOPE is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all,  
Here in the love of God I stand



Recordings of Services at  
The Parish Church of St  
Peter & St Paul at Kimpton  
are available on the website:  
[www.kimptonchurch.co.uk](http://www.kimptonchurch.co.uk)

