

# CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

Well here we are – 2019, another New Year, with all its hopes, expectations and resolutions laid out in front of us. Many of us already have a large number of entries in our diaries – others few if any. Among those entries may well be some very important family occasions, the expected birth of a new baby, a wedding or an important anniversary, or perhaps more personal milestones and achievements such as starting a new job or direction in life or leaving home for university or work for retirement. All things which, with the strike of the clock at midnight on 31

December, change from being distant dreams to much closer realities. And with that change comes the need for full out preparation to take the place of the more laid back planning.

Of course there will be other things that happen throughout the year which we don't see coming and which we therefore cannot plan or prepare for. Some will be good and we will happily take them in our stride, others not so



"I must say, I can't wait to see our vicar bunji-jumping off the church tower with the bride and groom!"

good and we may struggle to deal and come to terms with them. As I look back over past years I can think of many such occasions which have happened to me or others I know and in each and every case, the good times have been even better when shared with others while the support of those around us makes the bad times far more bearable.

None of us really knows what the New Year holds – either for ourselves individually or for our churches corporately. There are many things that I hope for: that we will find a way of restarting Stay and Play and Mini Messy Church, that we will be able to

install new glass entrance doors in memory of Joan Perrin at Sutton Valence and that we will also be able to sort out the Lych Gate, I also hope that we will be able to replace the carpet at Chart Sutton and that all three churches will continue to be regularly used for concerts, special events and other community activities. But I suppose my greatest hope is that each and everyone of you within our villages will appreciate how much St Mary's, St Michael's and St

Peter & St Paul's are truly "your" Churches, that each and every one of you will feel they are places where you can go at any time to find comfort, peace and God's healing touch.

However, as I have already said, these are hopes – just some of my hopes, they may or may not be achieved, they may even be exceeded, I don't know as this time of looking forward is a time of looking into the unknown. However, there is one thing that I hope we can all be certain of. No matter what happens during the next twelve months, there will always be help and support readily available for all who need and want it. Support from those of us within our own villages and churches and also, more importantly, from the God in whose name we serve you all. This is help and support that is



freely offered and comes with no strings attached so please do feel free to contact any me or any other member at any time.

Finally, as I look back over the past year, I feel that I should also make an apology, there are quite a

few people within our villages who I know I should have visited but, because of the many other activities I was involved in during this busy year, did not. I can only apologise and promise to try and do better next year. However, please do bear in mind that I will always pop round in response to a request or invitation and am happy to drop everything in case of emergency.

With every blessing for 2019.

*Hone*

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