

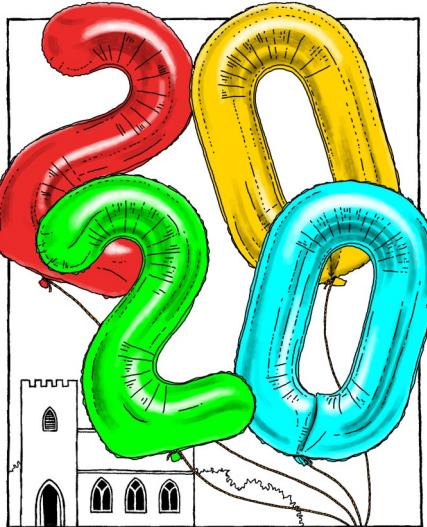
# CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

As you read this we will have moved not just into a new year but also a new decade. To be honest it doesn't seem that long ago that we were getting all excited about the new millennium – and wondering whether life as we know it was going to grind to a halt because of the computer bug.

I wonder, can you remember what you were doing twenty years ago and how you celebrated the end of 1999?

Memories of that evening spent with family in Hildenborough are still very fresh in my mind. No doubt, like most people, we all had great plans for the new millennium. A lot has happened since then, there have been highs and lows, challenges and chances, we have welcomed new people into our lives and sadly bade farewell to others. Some of our plans have come to fruition while others have not. On a very personal note, the one main plan that I had – to offer myself for training for ordination – not only happened, but ultimately resulted in our lives taking on a whole new direction that



we could never have foreseen as we watched the fireworks welcoming in the year 2000. The last twenty years have been a real rollercoaster for the Haskett family as I'm sure it has for many of you as well.

Looking back and taking stock of what has happened in the

past is a really important activity. Obviously we can learn from our mistakes and be encouraged by our successes, but the passage of time also gives us the opportunity to look back dispassionately and appreciate just how we managed to achieve the seemingly unachievable or get through the really difficult or painful times in our lives. A true appreciation of the past makes an invaluable foundation on which to build the future. I for one, have learnt the importance of having the right people alongside me at times like these, which means I think I know who I would turn to for help in the future. And just in case there was any doubt in my mind, it has definitely shown me the importance of knowing God and appreciating his influence on

my life – guiding me when I didn't know where to go, encouraging me when I felt like giving up, comforting me during the dark times and helping me to truly appreciate the good times. None of us knows what the next ten years will hold for us, but I'm sure we all have plans for things that we

would like to achieve during them and some idea of how we will put them into practise.

As your vicar I am only too happy to hear about your plans for the future



and help in any way that I can to see them through. However, I am very much aware of the fact that there are often times when our plans don't work out. Once again, please remember that I am always available if you need my help to deal with or come to terms with such situations.

In the mean time however, I wish you all a very happy and peaceful new decade.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane". It is written in a cursive style with a small flourish above the name.