



LOOK OUR NEW LOGO!



The **Methodist** Church 

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PASTORAL LETTER – DECEMBER 2020

Dear Friends

What do you remember most about Christmas & New Year? For me the most memorable Christmas's have been when something different has happened. I remember once my great aunt spending Christmas Day with us....she was in her eighties and wore a huge bouffant wig, a very revealing dress and a number of stories to match her appearance!!!

I also remember vividly some of the presents we got as children...Super flight deck, Escape From Colditz, a new racing bike but also family, a daughter born at 4pm on Christmas Day, the first Christmas for the second born, Christmas games and assembling toys, the mad dash to find batteries and taking them out of the door bell so that the latest present could actually work.

Not all memories of course are so sweet....but I wonder what sort of memories we will have of this Christmas. It might be different this year with restrictions in place but now more than ever we have an opportunity to come to the story of Jesus birth with fresh insights. He comes to be the "light of the world" and we also know that no matter how dark things get, the darkness can never put out the light (this is an absolute fact!!).

When we experience a time of darkness our heads go down and we look ever more inwardly. So, beginning this Christmas.....let us seek the light, look out for it in the coming of Jesus. He comes to be our guide, our source of direction and a place of refuge and hope. Let us also shine that light outwards – there are people in our community who are in need – you can be part of shining the light of Jesus to them. Come and be part of our January Light initiative that seeks to spread a message of hope in acts of kindness and visible signs of light an love.

ALSO – can I urge you to pray. We need to be praying that the light of Christ will illuminate our way as we seek a new start in our renovated building. Please pray for this light to shine on us and in us, pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon us that we might know HIM as we seek to reach out in worship and mission. Please pray for renewal as we seek to witness both online and in person over the next few months. I have a picture of the waters of new life being held back and waiting to be released – pray that we will know when and how this will happen.

SO I WONDER.....What will you remember this Christmas? Read and listen to the story again and allow it to become real. But allow your understanding to grow, for Jesus grew too, allow a deeper awareness of who he is to develop. This new year make an extra effort to read of him in the gospels and pray that the Holy Spirit will come to give us a renewed vision and purpose....FOR WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF SOMETHING NEW, PERHAPS WE WILL REMEMBER THAT THIS CHRISTMAS WAS JUST THE BEGINNING.

Have a great Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Nick

PS – Cannot wait as we will be back in the church for worship on Sunday 10th January at 10.30am – great news!!