

# NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS, SCRAPTOFT & NETHERHALL - JANUARY 2019

## New Resolutions....

The trouble with us human beings is that we often tend to 'aim for the sky' when we haven't yet got wings - in other words, we easily set ourselves targets that are at best unrealistic and at worst impossible. I count myself very much as someone in this camp and each New Year brings the nudge of pressure to set a goal I need to reach. More often than not it focuses on my weight - cut out the crisps, the beer, the wine, or whatever is contributing to my expanding girth.

However, if I'm honest, I don't think I have ever kept a New Year's resolution in my life - not right through until the next New Year. In fact, my attempts usually last an appallingly short amount of time before I'm back where I was and I'm left with nothing more than another dose of guilt.

If you do a bit of 'googling' on the topic of New Year resolutions one thing consistently comes up in the advice - 'choose something that's manageable/achievable'. Well that sounds great - it sounds like good, solid advice. But after a little thought, it occurs to me that what might seem feasible in the optimistic glitz of New Year's Eve might not be so easy in the light of the often cold and dreary first three months of the year. Again, choosing something 'manageable/achievable' might not be so easy.

Then to our rescue comes the Gospel reading for Advent 3 in which we heard John the Baptist saying to the tax collectors: "Don't collect any more than you are required to." To the soldier he replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." Basically he was saying to those who asked about being righteous and awaited the coming of God, 'live good, clean, honest lives.'

Maybe this is the sort of resolution more of us need to make this New Year- nothing dramatic - just a resolution not to join in with the anger and selfishness society seems to embody so much, and to concentrate on being 'good, honest' people: people fit to be called Christian.

We might find this just as hard as other resolutions, but I reckon it's well worth trying and will reap huge benefits if we are successful. Happy New Year to you all.

Father Tom

# Calendar - January

- 2nd 7.30pm NO Eucharist
- 6th **THE GLORIOUS EPIPHANY**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 9th 7.30pm Eucharist  
7.30pm Deanery Synod
- 13th **EPIPHANY 2**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 16th 7.30pm Eucharist
- 19th 10.00am Coffee Stop
- 20th **EPIPHANY 3**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 23rd 7.30pm Eucharist
- 26th 10.00am Flower Group  
12.30pm Concert
- 27th **EPIPHANY 4**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 30th 7.30pm Eucharist

## A New Year's Prayer

Dear Lord, please give me...  
 a few friends who understand me  
 and yet remain my friends.  
 A work to do which has real value,  
 without which the world  
 would feel poorer.  
 A mind unafraid to travel,  
 even though the trail be not blazed.  
 An understanding heart...  
 A sense of humour.  
 Time for quiet, silent meditation.  
 A feeling of the presence of God,  
 and the patience to wait  
 for the coming of those things,  
 with the wisdom to know them  
 when they come.

## Daily Inspirational Bible Readings

One of the main ways God communicates with us is through the Holy Scriptures. These short passages give us a chance to connect with them every day, even when things are mega-busy. Perhaps you could put your Bible next to your bed, or next to your favourite chair, along with this list, and you can keep in touch each day.

- |      |                       |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1st  | 2 Corinthians 5:17    |
| 2nd  | Psalm 90:12           |
| 3rd  | Titus 2:11-12         |
| 4th  | Micah 6:8             |
| 5th  | Isaiah 1:16-17        |
| 6th  | 1 Peter 1:13          |
| 7th  | Ephesians 5:1-2       |
| 8th  | Amos 5:14-15          |
| 9th  | Matthew 6:19-21       |
| 10th | 1 Peter 1:15-16       |
| 11th | Psalm 118:5-6         |
| 12th | Galatians 3:26-28     |
| 13th | 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 |
| 14th | 1 John 4:20-21        |
| 15th | John 8:31-32          |
| 16th | Galatians 5:16        |
| 17th | Philippians 2:14-16   |
| 18th | 1 Corinthians 10:13   |
| 19th | Matthew 7:12          |
| 20th | James 1:2-3           |
| 21st | Galatians 6:7-8       |
| 22nd | Matthew 7:7-8         |
| 23rd | James 1:5             |
| 24th | Galatians 6:1         |
| 25th | Philippians 4:8       |
| 26th | James 4:10            |
| 27th | Ephesians 6:12-13     |
| 28th | John 4:24             |
| 29th | Mark 9:35             |
| 30th | Ephesians 4:2         |
| 31st | Psalm 86:5            |