

Minister's Letter

It is said that January is the most depressing month of the year. It's the month that has the shortest days, the worst weather and the financial debts of Christmas. The lack of sunlight can make us feel lethargic and depressed, and the lack of exercise and the fact that we are cooped up in a stuffy, centrally-heated house can make us feel edgy, irritable and stressed. In fact the third Monday of January, so the experts have worked out, is said to be the most depressing day of the year!

Now I don't know about you but I haven't found January depressing at all! For a start there are all of those good memories of Christmas still fresh in my mind. There were the excited children from Marshside Primary school crowding into the front porch ready to sing for thought for the day. Then there was the fun we all had as we joined together to worship God through the nursery rhyme nativity, who can't forget the innkeepers song? And then there was the carol service as young and old alike led by the organ and the choir and the Salvation Army band came together to remember the story of God coming to earth in human flesh. And of course there were the more moving times of worship, the shoe boxes for children in other countries, the advent calendars for the food bank and the appeal for Christmas presents for the children of the food bank. I was deeply moved as I stood at the front of church as person after person after person came and heaped up presents for the children under the tree; thank you.

Then there is so much for us to look forward to as a church this month and indeed in the coming year. We are hoping that the hall will be finished after the February half term. Doesn't it look so good already? A big thank you to all who have worked so hard to make it happen. Once we get the new floor down we won't know ourselves! We have the recommencement of all of all regular groups, all of which seem to be growing especially the parent and toddler group! I think they had 37 babies the first week back! The brigades are flourishing since they have joined together on a Wednesday evening and I know that the members are loving being together. I think that there is a really good feeling about our church at the moment and we are far from depressed.

The circuit have noticed how much work we do with children and young people and have offered to fund us for a Pais worker next year. What an encouragement for us all. For those of you that don't know the Pais project is a bridge between churches and schools. The young people engaged with the project are placed in a church for a year and, in Southport, work with the Schools work trust. They also work with their placement church and get involved with the youth work going on within that church. What a bonus that will be to our youth leaders! We just need to accommodate them for a year. Please if there is anyone out there who feels they can offer a room and meals to a young person for a year would you please get in touch soon?

Of course the best of all is that we have another year in which to look forward to worshipping our amazing God and seeing what God has in store for his church at Marshside this coming year. I for one think it's going to be the most spectacular year yet!

Rev Jan