

I'm still wondering whether I can get a refund on my 2020 year planner – it's not been very useful, as I'm sure many of us have experienced. Often at interviews people are asked 'where do you see yourself in 5 years time' – no-one who was asked that in 2015 got anywhere near the answer! As we begin 2021, with a vaccine on the way, will our plans for 2021 be any more realistic, I wonder?

Minnie Haskin's poem 'The gate of the year' made famous by King George VI in 1939 shortly after the outbreak of war begins 'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

The original title was 'God knows' - maybe that's worth reflecting on as we possibly make plans for the year ahead; putting our hand into the hand of God, letting him lead us into the darkness rather than looking for false dawns of light. The next few months are still not going to be easy – we're not sure if church services can continue in person or return to being online, but whichever, we welcome you to join us as we hold God's hand in worship and support for each other. Doing this might help us discover what it is that God knows, and his will for us. Jesus Christ, whose birth we have just celebrated didn't just teach God's will, he lived it. His loving acceptance of all, his challenge to those who tried to oppress others, his offer of healing and wholeness to the needy are signs of God among us, and he calls each and everyone who considers themselves to be Christian to become like him.

One way we can discover more about Jesus and following him through the darkness into light is through a short course called 'Christianity Explored' which answers the question 'what's the best news you've ever heard?' by looking at Jesus through the eyes of St Mark – this course is now available online and I'd love to help you discover more about Jesus through it. Contact me to find out more. For some this might lead to a commitment to follow Jesus in a special service of confirmation being led in Cudham Church on Sunday 21st November at 11am – I know this seems a long way in the future, but why not make a New Year's resolution to step out into the darkness and discover Jesus the light of the world for yourself?

Rev John Musson