



## January 2022

The Church of England runs its accounting year from 1<sup>st</sup> January. This have meant that as well as everything else we have had to do and prepare at Christmas I have been making sure that our treasurers have all the information they need to begin finalising the accounts and that all invoices and payments I deal with are in order before the end of the financial year.

I have also recently had a fairly significant birthday. All of this has led me to reflect on the nature of time and its influence in our lives. From one moment to the next we can become a year older, a teenager, middle aged, a pensioner, an octogenarian. On the stroke of midnight things move - and suddenly it is next year and we are looking back on last year; or tomorrow and we are reflecting on yesterday..

During these past two years, time has developed a strange quality. It can be difficult to remember a time before the pandemic, we feel the length of time since we have seen loved ones, home schooling and working from home seemed to go on forever, yet time spent with each other can pass in a flash and we are looking forward to the next meeting

We read in the Bible about there being a time for everything and God putting eternity in the hearts of human beings. We also read in Peter's second letter "*But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.*" For God, living, outside of time, there is a completely different perspective. He looks on the considerable anxiety and trouble of our current situation but to him it will pass in the blink of an eye, equally something that passes in a flash for us takes on longer significance in God's eyes.

At Christmas we celebrated the birth of Jesus, who came to earth as a human being at a specific point in history. Theologians talk about us living in the end times and looking forward to the end of time when all of us will stand before God and 'meet our maker'. This thought can be a joyous one or equally quite sobering.

New Year is a time when many of us make resolutions about what we want to achieve or how we want to change ourselves or what we do in the year ahead and it can be a very good thing to reflect and decide what direction we want to go in in the coming year; what our priorities and purpose should be. As Christmas and the message of God's love for us echoes in our ears this is a good time to consider what place God has in our lives. Is he important to us? Do we know anything about him? Do we want to know more about him?

I am very much hoping that in the Autumn we will be able to run another Alpha Course where we can meet together in a relaxed and informal setting (often in a local pub) to ask questions about God and what we believe. It can be good fun and it can really help us to decide what things are important to us and the way we live. There is a saying that always helps me: It is not so much about counting time as about making time count. My prayer for all of us this coming year is that we will make time count. With best wishes for the year ahead. Angela

Revd Angela Melaniphy

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