



# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## 2020

Another year has flown by ever so quickly; indeed I can't believe that we've already entered the third decade of the 21st Century! As the ancient saying goes, "Time and tide wait for no man". Traditionally it's a time of reflection on the things that have been, and a lot has certainly happened in the last year let alone the last decade!

It's always interesting to hear people's different and contrasting interpretations of past events, and it's just as interesting to participate in conversations regarding these interpretations. However, Solomon was surely right when he said, "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Sadly the German philosopher Georg Hegel was right when he said, "We learn from history that we do not learn from history". There will always be different and contrasting opinions regarding the events of history. It was Mark Twain that said, "The very ink with which history is written is merely fluid prejudice". However, everyone must surely agree upon this, if history proves anything, it proves that the world is far from perfect.

The Bible tells us that the reason for this is 'The Fall' which we read about in Genesis chapter 3. To say that the 'The Fall' has far reaching consequences is a massive understatement. It has affected every one of us and every aspect of our lives. Indeed, it has separated us all from God, and the eternal consequence of that is truly terrible.

However, there is good news. Yes, the Bible tells us how we became separated from God and the terrible consequences of that separation; but it also tells us how we can be reconciled to God and how we will enjoy the amazingly wonderful consequence of "God and man reconciled" (Wesley).

In the Welsh carol "Wele'n gwawrio ddydd i'w gofio" (Meiriadog) we find the words, "Hen addewid Eden odiaeth, Heddiw'n berffaith ddaeth i ben", which means that the promise God gave in Eden has perfectly come to pass. Astonishingly, in Eden, when God was proclaiming judgment, he promised a Saviour (Genesis 3:15). The Christmas season reminds us that God has kept his promise. God has provided a Saviour, his own Son Jesus Christ. Even more astonishingly, despite being tempted to sin in the same way as we are tempted, Jesus lived a life of total obedience to

God (Hebrews 4:15). Where Adam and all of Adam's children failed, Jesus succeeded. This means that when Jesus died on the cross, he did so for us. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The clear message of the Bible is that if we turn to God just as we are in simple faith and sincere repentance, confessing our sin and asking for forgiveness in Jesus' name, then it is freely given and we are forever, reconciled with God. That is God's promise, and God always keeps his promises. He also gives us the Holy Spirit as a gift to help us know God and how best to serve him.

Siloam is here to try and help people discover the living Jesus Christ, and to try and help those that have found him to grow in their relationship with him. We worship twice every Sunday (11am & 6pm). The welcome and fellowship is warm, and all ages are welcome. There is a Bible Study every Tuesday (7:15pm) and Wednesday (10:30 am); and a Prayer Meeting every first Wednesday at 7:30 pm. Again all are welcome. There is a Kids Club every Tuesday (3:30 – 5pm – see below for further details). If you need a visit, just phone, text or email me, or have a word with me on Sunday, and I'll be with you ASAP. There are regular Ladies Circle meetings, weekly Wednesday and Thursday 'Forget Me Not Dementia Day Club' meetings, Tuesday morning working party and monthly Saturday coffee mornings (Please check the 'Link' or website for details).

The first Prayer meeting of this year will be on Wednesday the 8th (7:15pm). If you can't make it but have prayer requests, please let me know. The new Kids Club term will start on the 14th. The Kids Club is for primary school children, but under 5's must be accompanied by a guardian (The Kids Club leaders have been DBS checked). The new Bible Study term begins on the 14th and 15th. This term we will be following the footsteps of the Apostle Paul in the Book of Acts.

There is a Welsh hymn by T.J. Prichard which was written as a prayer for the beginning of a new year. In it he says he doesn't know what the coming months will bring, and he doesn't want to know. Whether it be a journey full of sunshine, or a journey full of dark stormy nights; he is content if, on the journey, he can cling to God's hand. Whatever this year brings us, let us be like Enoch, and walk every step with God (Genesis 5:24).  
Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

Heini