



Trinity Methodist Church



*Trinity*  
*News*  
**SPECIAL EDITION**

**MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE**

as we start to think of  
**NEW YEAR 2022**



**Mission Statement:**

**Our Mission is to proclaim the love of God,  
in Jesus to all people**

Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2XB  
Tel. 01245 269079  
email: [trinitymethodistchelmsford@btconnect.com](mailto:trinitymethodistchelmsford@btconnect.com)  
[www.trinitymethodistchelmsford.org](http://www.trinitymethodistchelmsford.org)  
Charity No: 1144617

## New Year Greetings

*Received from Mark  
15th December 2021*



I've been thinking about what it means to say 'Happy New Year'. In particular I'm contemplating what will be 'new' about the year that stands before us. As I write, the Omicron variant is being described as a 'tsunami' coming our way and there is considerable uncertainty about whether more severe restrictions will be placed upon us in coming days.

Our usual greeting hailing the change in our calendar could all too easily be dismissed as hollow words by some... but... (I cannot help but insert a 'but' here!)... we are reminded that God promises to make all things new.

In the uncertainty and confusion of times like this, I'm drawn to words right at the end of the Bible and at the end of Revelation (Ch 21). After all the trials and tribulations of the last days have been presented in a vision to the writer John, a proclamation of a new heaven and new earth is announced:

*Then the one who sits on the throne said, "And now I make all things new!" He also said to me, "Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted."*

Such words, inspired by the resurrection, are the basis for our Christian perspective of hope, even in the face of the worst that can be encountered.

Dwelling on the idea of faith in the face of adversity brought to mind the words of Minnie Haskins. I first encountered these words in the moving film *The King's Speech*; they were spoken by George VI in his Christmas 1939 broadcast to a country facing the uncertainty of war. Minnie Haskins was involved in the Methodist mission in Lambeth and in 1907 she departed for Madras with the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society. To raise funds for

the work, she published a small volume of poetry ,*The Desert*, in 1912 which included the poem *God Knows*. The words that are often referred to as 'The Gate of the Year' are in fact a preamble to her lesser known poem. I've included the full poem for you to read later on another page. For now, I pray you will find these words, and those from Revelation, give you strength, as they do me, to be able to speak of a Happy New Year:

*And 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."  
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.  
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

Mark  
~



**'God Knows'**

*by Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957)*

So heart be still:  
What need our little life  
Our human life to know,  
If God hath comprehension?  
In all the dizzy strife  
Of things both high and low,  
God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will  
Is best. The stretch of years  
Which wind ahead, so dim  
To our imperfect vision,  
Are clear to God. Our fears  
Are premature; In Him,  
All time hath full provision.

Then rest: until  
God moves to lift the veil  
From our impatient eyes,  
When, as the sweeter features  
Of Life's stern face we hail,  
Fair beyond all surmise  
God's thought around His creatures  
Our mind shall fill.

Editor: Anthea Tayler  
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