



## Bulletin 25

### **‘Our Lord is good when the world is not.’**

You will probably be aware of the now famous poem of Minnie Louise Haskins entitled ‘The Gate of the Year’, the opening of which Kings George VI used in his Christmas address to our nation as World War Two was about to break out.

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.

This month we step into what we all hope and pray will be ‘a better year’, yet the cloud of the virus still hangs over us and, as I write, a Brexit deal is still up in the air!

I guess what we aspire to will determine whether we judge the coming year to be a success or not. Speaking of the resurrection and gaining eternal life in chapter 3, Paul writes to the Philippians to focus their earthly aspirations. Saying to them,

*I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

One of the Royal Marine’s mantra sayings is the challenge to ‘triumph through adversity’. We’ve done that as a church in 2020 as we have travelled together with Christ at our head. I love the line, of a similar sentiment, in one of the Rend Collective songs we have been listening to at 9.00am prayers:

### ***‘Our Lord is good when the world is not.’***

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, ‘the pioneer and perfecter of our faith’, is what will yield us our confidence, joy and peace this coming year. And alongside that, I am sure we will also see life gradually returning to normal. I just can’t wait to sing and celebrate together again!

So, let’s keep our cool, focus on the King and the coming Kingdom, and wait on our Lord with the ‘patient endurance’ of Revelation 1:9. This time next year will look very different! Let’s keep to our earthly mandate, to go and make disciples and hold people in the sure and certain grip and grace of Christ.

Oh, and by the way, if you’re looking for a book of daily personal Biblical devotions for the coming year, you’d be pressed to do better than ‘Bringing us to Glory’ by David Gooding. It’s what I’ll be using. Let’s walk well together with the Lord this coming year.

Praying every blessing in Christ upon you!  
Rev Karl