

Dear Friends in the faith,

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

My favourite Psalm is "The Lord is my Shepherd" This Psalm has been my "Prayer friend" throughout my faith journey with Christ since 15th May 1975, when I gave my life to Him. Again, Psalm 23, has been a companion to every service I take. I silently recite it before bed and when I wake up. Take time to read, digest it and know its effectiveness in this life of loneliness, anxiety, worry and disappointment.

Psalm 23 is a poem about God as our Shepherd. It is all about how God knows what is best for us. He knows who we are and the paths we should walk in life. Because He is our Shepherd, He also is our Protector, guarding us from evil.

At the end of Psalm 23, there is a promise for us. For those who follow God and listen to His guidance, the writer says that goodness and love will follow us.

What does it mean that God's goodness and love will follow us?

It doesn't mean that life will go according to our own plans. It also doesn't mean that life will be free of pain and problems. Psalm 23:4 tells us that we will still have to walk through dark valleys in life.

Here is what it does mean: God will always be with us. God will always be good to us. Life may not always be easy, but God promises to always be good.

It also means that nothing can take God's love from us. God's love will always be there, just like Paul says in Romans 8:38-39. We don't have to live in fear of disappointing God or losing Him. He promises to never take His love and goodness away from us.

Because of these truths, the writer of this Psalm says that his desire is to be with God in God's house forever. We ought to desire the same thing as well. It's because of God's goodness and love that we will one day join Him in heaven to be with Him forever.

Take some time today to consider God as your Shepherd, who cares for you and protects you. Thank Him that His goodness and love will never end, but will follow you every day of your life.

It also means that nothing can take God's love from us. God's love will always be there, just like Paul says in Romans 8:38-39. We don't have to live in fear of disappointing God or losing Him. He promises to never take His love and goodness away from us.

Because of these truths, the writer of this Psalm says that his desire is to be with God in God's house forever. We ought to desire the same thing as well. It is because of God's goodness and love that we will one day join Him in heaven to be with Him forever.

May God continue to bless our Circuit.

Praise God!! Enjoy the New Year. All the Best. Thank you.

Faithfully Yours,

George

### **Resources/Good News**

#### **Pudding & Praise, Sunday 14 January at Walton-on-Thames**

Walton Methodist Church are hosting Pudding and Praise on Sunday 14 January.

This one is rather special as the church's young people are organising it and presenting it.

Puddings are at 4.00pm and praise is from 4.30pm.

All are welcome and it would be lovely to have lots of support for our young people.



There is parking at the Day Centre in Manor Road, KT12 2PB.

#### **Organist / Piano Players**

#### **Merrow Methodist Church**

Merrow Methodist Church is looking for organist/piano players to join their Sunday rota. There are two evening services (usually 2nd and 4th Sundays each month) and weekly morning services.

Please contact Gillian Varley [gillianbrierley13@gmail.com](mailto:gillianbrierley13@gmail.com) for more details.