



IT'S A GIFT

Dear Friends,

As I'm writing this, I realise that I have no idea what the state of play will be in our different countries by the time you are reading it! Will we be free to roam or will we be facing new restrictions? Will the latest version of the virus be a step in the right direction or will the evidence be pointing to a different conclusion? We should be getting very used to answering these questions with at least a healthy dash of uncertainty!

However, I am pretty certain of one thing - a new year will be beginning and I want to look forward to it! This isn't because I am naive or insensitive to the deep challenges we find ourselves needing to deal with; nor is it because I am an incurable optimist who thinks that every day will be just perfect! Looking back over the last 12 months there were some very difficult moments and I know that some of us faced great sadness at times.

But... I do know that the coming year is, before it is anything, a gift. A gift from our Lord who wants to walk through it with us, teach us more of His grace and hope and see us grow a little more into His likeness.

And the truth is, that whatever happens, whatever we face... this will be the underlying foundation for the year. So, I want to look forward to it.

There are a few things I am really hoping for! I hope that we will be able to see more of our families... more of each other... I hope that the Logos Cafe happens and we can launch into a new phase of ministry and mission... I hope my left hand improves on the piano... I hope I

lose some of that lockdown weight! But, again, one thing is for certain; we can place unshakable hope in the promises that God gives us that whatever we face, He will give us the fruit of the Spirit when we seek them and that all things will work for good for those in Christ Jesus.

Whatever life surprises us with.

I would love to have seen the expressions on the face of the Magi as they neared the end of their journey. Riding in their finery down the narrow paths of the Judean countryside towards Bethlehem, double checking that they were in the right place, following the right star as they took in the simple town ahead of

them... and finally dismounting with excitement as the star revealed their final destination. And then

to come into the presence of the new king being held in his mother's arms. A young woman, simply dressed. The

older man looking on - assessing the situation with an air of understanding. Not what they might have expected. But more than they could have hoped for as they are overcome with one desire... to worship the King of kings and

Lord of lords. Their wisdom, their learning, their insight... all

brought to its knees before Emmanuel.

The promises of God fulfilled in their experience.

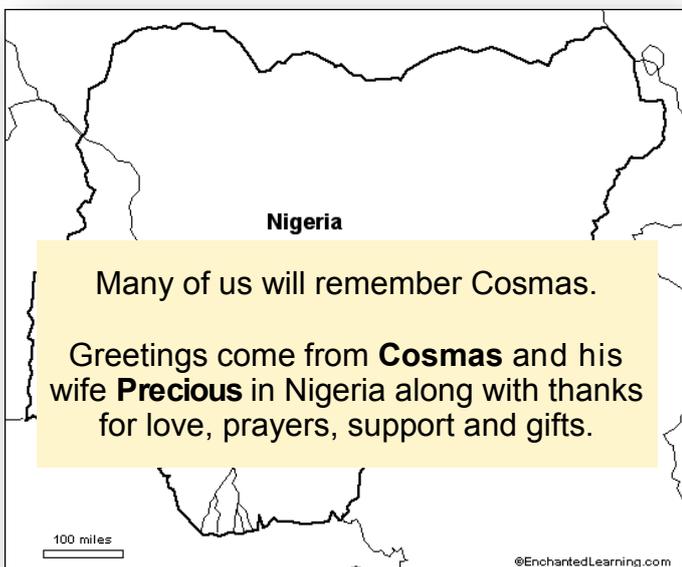
And this is our real hope for the year ahead; that whatever does unfold with the passing of the seasons, whatever surprises us(!), we will recognise the presence of the Lord in our situations, be thankful for Him and worship.

Praying for a blessed, peaceful and joy filled year for us all.

Jules.



ADVENT IN THE SUNSHINE



PULSE PRAYERS



When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. (Mathew 2.10-11)

As we enter into a new year, we enter into your presence with thanksgiving and praise and our hearts bow down to you in adoration.

We give thanks to the Lord for his faithfulness in leading us through this difficult season. For prayers answered and all the good things accomplished for His glory in the past year. As we go through this transition of waiting in hope for the refurbishment and Café Logos. We especially pray for refreshing physically and spiritually in this new year for our Chaplain Pastor Jules, Reader Jackie, Wardens - Pauline and Anne, Tech team, Pulse editor, international helpers and all the faithful servants who though wearied have so joyfully and tirelessly made everything possible. Bless all who give their love and time in such a variety of ways. Holy Spirit descend on us all and fill us with your love, compassion, wisdom, discernment and vision, in the hope, joy and love of Jesus.

We thank you for our families, old and young, and pray that you will protect and guide them. Call them close to you. Set those alone with no family as members of your loving family and bring them friendship and support. You are close to the brokenhearted and comfort those who mourn, comfort them and bring support to them and their carers. Lead us Lord to come alongside them.

So many are suffering in body, mind and spirit. Touch them with your healing and bring support to those watching loved ones suffer. Let us be your hands and feet.

We thank you for the charities in the island. Lord bless them. We pray every provision and joy for The Hellenic Red Cross, The Special needs vocational school, Sabina in Yemen and Irise in UK and Uganda. Thank you for our friendship with Catholic Evangelical and Orthodox churches. May the week of Prayer for Christian unity bring even more desire to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace, so that others may see your love.

***How wonderful it is, how pleasant for Gods people to live together in harmony (Psalm 133)
Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one other on towards love and good deeds. Hebrews. (10 23-24)***

Use us Lord, extend our outreach to Your praise and glory
Your Kingdom come. Amen



TWO WAY

"Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven" .Mathew 5.16

Sometimes it is good to let the right hand know what the left hand is doing. It is encouraging to each other to see some of the things HTC is getting up to...

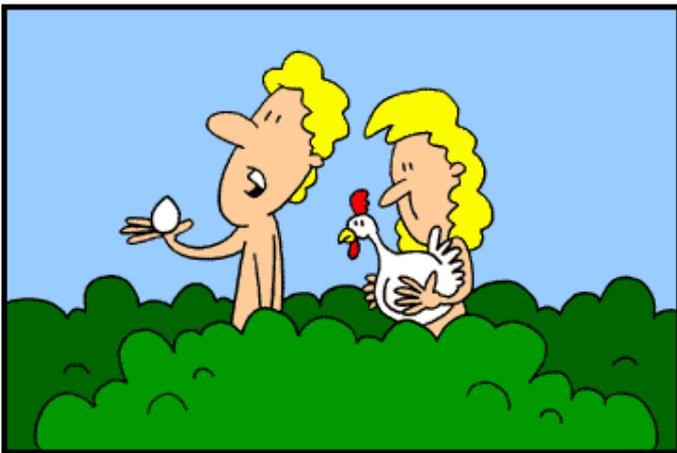
Like the "Shoe Box" gifts to the residents of the old peoples home, the collections and donations to the Hellenic Red Cross for 20 poor families and The Special Needs High School and Lykeio.

At Christmas, we put together little gifts from HTC including a card with love, thoughts and prayers from HTC.

Jules and the Pastoral team then deliver them to those we know of in our church family and in the community who are recently bereaved, sick or have gone through tough times. It's amazing what cheer this little action can bring. People really are touched and cheered up by the love shown and that we have thought of them. It's a two way blessing!

As Jesus says, **"It is more blessed to give than to receive"** Acts 20.35

Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



01-07-1999

HEY GOD ... WHICH CAME FIRST?



12-25-1998

HEADS UP FELLAS, I THINK WE GOT TROUBLE

 **Links** 

	https://europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary
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WHAT'S ON at HTC

Keep up to date with what's on at Holy Trinity Corfu by visiting our website calendar.

<http://holytrinitycorfu.bravesites.com/whats-on>

OR



We always welcome contributions to our publications; however, we will not publish any material which infringes copyright. When sending in items for inclusion please state your source and the name of the author.

We are happy to accept prayer requests for inclusion in Pulse or in the morning service. If you are requesting prayer for someone other than yourself please make sure you have their permission to be mentioned publicly.

*Please remember the submission **deadline for PULSE is 25th of each month**. Articles, news, information etc. received after this time may not be included and will be carried over to the next edition if appropriate. Thank you.*

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