

Rudgwick

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From the Vicar

Tel: **822127**

Email: **vicar@rudgwickchurch.org.uk**

Dear Friends

I wonder what this year holds in store? Perhaps a significant celebration in your family, a change of job, retirement even; maybe moving house or a combination of these things and others. I hope it will not be a year of sorrow for you. In the wider world, could this be the year Emma Raducanu wins Wimbledon; your team wins the FA cup, or England finally get a grand slam in the 6 nations? I will be praying that during the year the war in Ukraine will end and that energy prices come down, easing the cost of living.

At this time of year, I often find my mind goes to Minnie Louise Haskins's poem, *God Knows* (often referred to as *The Gate of the Year*) quoted by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas Broadcast:

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".

Whilst the year ahead of us is unknown, God has made himself known in the person of Jesus. No matter what happens in the year ahead, He is trustworthy and will not change. So, whatever you face, let me encourage you to face it with Jesus. If you have never thought about putting your hand in the hand of God, the Alpha course – starting on Tuesday 10 January – is a great way to do that. You can find details about it in this magazine and on the Church website.

Happy New Year and every blessing

Martin King