

# Rudgwick

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# From the Vicar

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Dear Friends

Will you be making a News Year's resolution? Perhaps to give up smoking, or to join a gym and get fit. Perhaps it's more momentous – to write that novel you always wanted to author, or to make that big trip to some far-flung corner of the globe. Maybe it is just to eat a few less mince pies next Christmas!

According to the wonders of Google's AI powered search, people first started making New Year's resolution 4,000 years ago in ancient Babylon. While there is nothing special about making them at the start of a New Year, it is a moment to take stock and reflect on the year that has gone and ponder the one ahead.

One of the things that it is good to consider, is how we are treating the beautiful world God has given us. David writes in the Psalms that "*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it*" and Genesis reminds us that we are to take care of the earth, yet we've made quite a mess of it. The Bible has a simple world for this ignoring of God's commands – it's called sin.

Many people are realising that we need to improve looking after our planet. As a Church we have obtained the Silver level of the EcoChurch awards (A scheme to help Churches take practical action on caring for God's earth). But there are small things we can do individually as well, such as flying less, eating less meat or keeping our smart phone a little bit longer before upgrading. On their own they do not seem much, but (to borrow from Dr Michael Mosley), if we all do 'just one thing', across a country that's 68 million things! Just something to ponder as you think about News Year's resolutions.

Every blessing

Martin King