

## **A few words from the Vicar ....**

So, a New Year begins. Happy 2017 everyone!

I shall resist the temptation to make a few predictions. Not least because 2016 was full of surprises, both on a personal basis and nationally / internationally.

For example, this time last year I had no idea that I would soon be discovering first-hand how good the NHS is.

And then there was the Brexit vote! I am not going to tell you how I voted, although I am sure some of you will have guessed by now! On this one, unlike some clergy who are still banging on about the referendum result, I have tried my best to maintain total 'radio silence' on social media.

I take the view that most of the electorate are mature adults who are more than capable of seeing through the claims and counterclaims bandied about during any campaign. With that in mind, it would be wrong of me as your vicar to either tell you how to vote and / or keep banging on about it if the result was disappointing personally.

So, life is full of surprises and I have no intention of setting myself up as a hostage to fortune by making a few predictions for 2017.

Well, no matter what life and the world (or the EU for that matter!) has in store for us over the next 12 months, we are assured of Jesus' love. No matter what life chucks at us, he will never forsake us nor will he ever stop loving us.

The lyrics of the old hymn by Priscilla Owens (1829-1907) come to mind:

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,  
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?  
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,  
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,  
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,  
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.*

Let us hold the sentiments expressed by those lyrics close to our hearts in the months and years to come.

Every Blessing

*Dave*