

## ***Dear Friends***

A very happy New Year to everybody. May it be blessed and fulfilling for all! Also I do hope Christmas was for you a happy time both in the spiritual sense of going deeper with God in the miracle of Jesus' birth, and also in the secular celebration of the reunion of families and friends.

For the record, my New Year's resolution is to slim down to a more healthy sixteen stone. I am a weak willed and easily tempted person, so I will need your help to achieve this. No cakes when I visit, please!

In January also, I will be starting an Enquirer's course for adults. It will meet of an evening at a time and day of the week negotiated to suit the greatest number of people. I will be writing to quite a few people from my lists about it, but do please feel free to phone me or send an e-mail to express interest.

The course will be for people who want to dip a toe into the water to see if Christianity speaks to them. What I am saying is that the tentative and unsure are as welcome as those who feel sure in their faith. The course might lead on to Confirmation in June in Liverpool Cathedral for those who wish to make that commitment; but equally, it is for those who just want to check Christianity out and see if it rings bells. The invitation is to taste and see – of it's not for you, then no hard feelings! Do get in touch if you are interested.

## **Gift Day**

Also, I would like to let people to know that we are planning to have the first **Gift Day** for All Saints for quite a few years, on 28<sup>th</sup> March. More details about this in following issues – but just to say a few words now. A Gift Day is an opportunity to say thank-you to God for the gifts he has given you – your health, strength and the love you share with others. Why the Church? Well, because keeping the church going for the whole community is a very expensive business (it costs near enough £3000 per week on average). All Saints is supported faithfully by its worshipping congregation and the weekly giving of others, but it needs to raise funds from the whole community to keep going. Perhaps on this Gift Day, if you are not a regular giver to Church, you might like to thank God for the place where you came to celebrate a wedding, or to attend a funeral or baptism. If you attend one of our sister Churches, you might wish to send a gift there.

So I will be sitting in the lychgate (weather permitting) on the day, to receive your thanksgiving to God, and to pray with you if you wish.

## **Please Note:**

No service on Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.

For the 10.30 service on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, as it is Christian Unity Week, we will all go and join in with the URC church that morning.

God bless you,

***Stephen***