



1ST DECEMBER 2019

Phil Trout writes...

I love this time of year. Yes, it is Christmas, a time of great joy and celebration. Elaine and I have our birthdays in December, but that's not it. For me it's a time of reflection on the year passed and taking everything, I've learned and grown into - into the year ahead. It's a time when I expect God to speak into the past year - to show what He was doing in me, to prepare me for the next year, and let me glimpse into what He intends for that. THAT'S exciting - it's an adventure into new uncharted water to learn more of His character and to grow mine.

I find this walk with God to be like that every year, it's a real adventure, something I never tire of, it's all about perpetual growth to the fullness of Christ. To be honest, I doubt any of us really make it to the fullness of Christ in this life, but we're on a journey of discovering more of who He really is for us and becoming more authentic in who we really are - and what we truly have faith for.

I don't really go for the 5 goals for 2020 thing, or making New Year resolutions, but I do believe that in every circumstance we faced in the past year, there was an opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge of God. The biggest question for reflection now is how we have fared in the challenge of working out our salvation. Not that we're not saved by faith already - but that we are growing in faith hoping to attain the mind Christ and growing in godly character.

I need to ask my wife if I've really grown in character this year, she'll no doubt read this - so I'd better have that discussion soon! I can say I have grown in faith. Elaine and I faced some very big challenges this year as she was positively diagnosed with cancer, underwent an operation, but when everything that was removed was tested - it was negative for cancer. The specialist was apologetic, as it was inexplicable - I was jubilant - I knew what God had done!

So, what of the 'small' things? (I suspect not so small to God!). Have I given time to those that needed it and honoured them in our conversations, have I served our leadership well, have I grown in grace and love and forgiveness, am I more selfless and more submitted to the Holy Spirit's prompting? Well... I don't know, I'll have to ask Father God about that!

Ask me in January, I might know more then.

In the meantime, happy holiday season - bringing peace and goodwill to all. I hope and pray we grow in these, along with faith and love - even more this coming year!

Every blessing, Phil

Notices



CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY 7th

DECEMBER 4-6PM

SIGN UP SHEET ON

CAFÉ COUNTER IN

CHURCH

NEXT MEETING ON

SATURDAY 12TH

DECEMBER AT ECB

10-12PM



NEXT MEETING AT

ECB ON SATURDAY

14TH

DECEMBER 10AM

ROTAS: If you need to check rotas please log on to Church Builder. If you need help with this or any other information about events, groups or who's who then please contact the church office. Details overleaf.

ECB DIARY

SUN 1st DECEMBER	10.30am	Informal Worship, Preparing for revival Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Clive Collier
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Preparing for Revival Leader: Phil Trout Preacher: Ian Biscoe
TUES 3rd DECEMBER	9.00am	Prayers
	7.00pm	Prayers
WED 4th DECEMBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
THURS 5th DECEMBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
FRI 6th DECEMBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
	7.00pm	Prayers
SAT 7th DECEMBER	4.00pm	Christmas Party
SUN 8th DECEMBER	10.30am	Café Church– With love from God to you Leader: Ian Biscoe Preacher: Erika Biscoe
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Preparing for Revival Leader: Dorothy Williams Preacher: Nigel Crook

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday