

WEOLEY HILL CHURCH NEWS

From the Minister's desk

January 2008

Dear friends,

Happy New Year!

Once again we come to the turn of the year and I am unable to believe that the last one has flown past so quickly. Perhaps it's because I try to fit too much into it. Whatever it is, I am going to have to get used to writing 2008, whenever I have to date anything. Not that I expect to have too much trouble remembering the date at the beginning of the year. It's later on, when I have stopped thinking about it, that I'm likely to slip into writing 2007 by mistake.

I had a similar problem whilst driving once. I'd been abroad on holiday and had no problem with driving on the 'wrong' side of the road, whilst I was on the continent. However, shortly after I came home, I was driving on narrow roads up in Scotland. I'd been driving for some time along a single track road, and when it widened out again, I realised that I didn't know what side of the road I should be driving on. I had to stop the car for a moment, until I realised that I could tell from the position of the steering wheel where I should be.

The problem seems to come when I get so used to doing something that I begin to take it for granted and stop thinking about it. That's when the mistakes can creep in. Familiarity can cause problems in other ways too.

It is far too easy for us all to take our situations in life for granted. We forget our reliance on God and on all those who have helped us along the way. We begin to feel entitled to the good times and to lose sight of those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

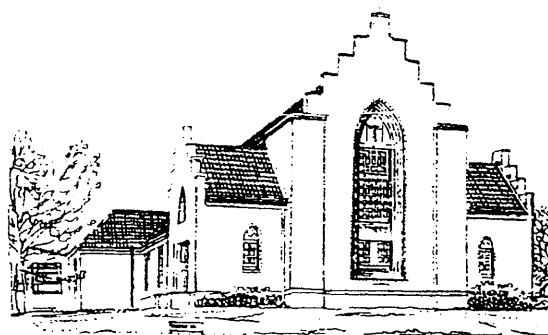
We can also get to the stage of taking people for granted. We are used to having our family and friends around us, and so we don't appreciate how

much they mean to us or how much they do for us. Sometimes we can even stop making the effort to be considerate to those nearest to us and even to treat them in a way that we would never dream of treating strangers.

So let's take the opportunity this New Year to take a good look at ourselves and our lives. Let's thank God for all the good things in our lives and for all the wonderful people that we are privileged to call family and friends and then let's make a resolution never to take them for granted. Let's resolve instead to be sure to treat each of those close to us as the special person that they are.

May God bless us all and our families and friends in 2008,

Jacky



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