Happy New Year and we pray together that 2021 will be full of good news and a hopeful future.

Our worship for this week is online only and the service which has been produced for Sunday can be accessed with this link. <https://youtu.be/4CoI4ClXmU0>
Gordon Randall speaks on the theme of 'Grace and Truth' based on the Bible passage - John 1: 1-10. Ruth Randall reads the passage for us and Fiona Micklefield leads us in the prayers all interspersed with some good hymns and songs. I encourage you to watch the service which will be available from early Sunday morning.

Philippa and Ellie our wonderful Parish Administrators have had valuable time off this week so there isn't a Parish Matters news sheet but I do attach January's edition of Sunrise - the monthly magazine.

I also attach the Methodist Worship Sheet which I know some of you find very useful.

Thank you to you all for the ways in which you celebrated Christmas with us - it was good to see so many of you in various ways and see the wonderful Advent windows. As we move through January we will not be holding 'in building' worship or private prayer - a decision made with deep concern for everyone's safety and good health. My thanks to the Churchwardens and Ministry Team members who gathered online with me this week to talk all this through. Rest assured that all our online activities will continue and there may be additional resources available for you.

The Parish and The Kings Arms are sharing a Youth Work intern for the first half of the year. Landry is from Cameroon and is now here in England and has been staying with his family over the Christmas break. We have accommodation available for him from March onwards but still need someone to offer a room and food for January to March - there is a small allowance available. If you can be of help to Landry then would you please be in touch with Martha Lloyd (our Youth, Children and Family Worker) on martha@potr-alton.co.uk It would be good to know this is arranged and sorted.

In my email during the week I asked that you pray that this international pandemic will be subdued, that vaccines will be effective for our safe futures and that God’s light and grace will shine out across the world, into our community and individual lives. Please do use these intentions daily - remember to light your candles in windows at 6pm - join us if you can for Morning Prayer (9am) and Night Prayer (8pm) on Facebook Live.

It is important at this really difficult time to keep a focus on the hope we have in Jesus Christ. He has come into the world. He is with us. His light shines constantly and encouragingly in all the darkness. He cannot be extinguished. HIs grace and truth rule and reign across the world.

With love and prayers
Andrew