

## A Brand New Year

I'm sure there are many different reactions to the approach of another New Year. Here are a few examples:

Goodness me I've only just become used to writing 2024.

I wish those few days of Christmas festivity and company could last a little longer.

I'm glad that I will be reminded less of those I so dearly miss.

It's a relief not to have to pretend to get on with Uncle antagonistic and Auntie particular! I'm so excited about all the new opportunities and adventures that await me.

All of the above are honest reactions and I'm sure many more that those of faith, some faith or no faith share, but might there be a uniquely Christian response to the arrival of a New Year? Surely the answer must be there are many and I offer one below.

"How well have I invested the resources of my gold, frankincense and myrrh in 2024 and what are my investment plans with the same for 2025?!"

My gold? Have my finances and time that I have control over, been shared generously with my King, so that I've seen Him help me with my needs even if I have had to turn away from some of my wants?! What might I change in 2025?

My frankincense? Has my Maker daily heard my voice in prayer and song? Have I shared my shining little light with Him and my fellow travellers on Sundays? And 2025...

My myrrh? Am I prepared to follow in the footsteps of Jesus even if it means I might find myself on a path that discomforts me? (See John 21: 18 - 19). Remember it is often in the small things of life that we are invited to die to ourselves! And 2025...

## January News and Notices

- ♥ Sunday Services As always unless notified otherwise, these are in church at 9:45am.
- ▶ 3 C's meetings begin again in January on Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm.
- ▼ CAMEO: 2-4pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January Beetle Drive!
- ▼ Sunday School We have a Younger Sunday School, during our Sunday morning services in the Lounge (except the first Sunday of the month, when parents can use the lounge with their children, some resources will be provided to use). There is also an Older Sunday School (8-12 years old) on the first Sunday of each month (please note not in January).
- ▼ The Parish Youth Group (for 11-14 year olds) meets every Friday at St Mary's Hall, except for the last Friday of the month when it is at St James for sports.
- ▶ A big thank you to everyone who donated to the Children's Society at our Christingle Service, a total of £145 was sent to them.

Would you like to know more? Then take a look at our website: https://bushburyteamministry.co.uk/st-james-church-fordhouses

Or A Church Near You: <a href="https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4198/">https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4198/</a>

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