

Yn Agglish Haasilagh ayns Mannin

The Methodist Church
in the Isle of Man



Twinned with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone

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To the Methodist People of the Isle of Man.

Dear friends,

Along with this letter you will have received, Manx Methodists at Service Together (MMAST) sheets for the 6th and 13th of September. These sheets have a dual purpose. If you are connecting with the recorded services on our YouTube channel at www.methodist.org.im they will help you to follow the service. If you are not able to do this they act as a stand-alone resource to assist you in your devotions. New versions of MMAST are added each Sunday and can be accessed at any time. I am grateful to all those who are doing the work necessary to make this possible.

Happy New 'Methodist' Year, is a greeting you won't hear on everybody's lips but nevertheless one that makes sense to us. September marks the beginning of a new year for us, as ministers take up their new appointments all over the Connexion and people within the local church take on new responsibilities.

One of the few things I really miss from my time as a teacher was that ability to start all over again in September. The previous year having been signed off, we were presented with new classes, new exercise books and the feeling that this year was going to be the one in which we got everything right. I remember the same feeling as a pupil. The new exercise book in which everything would be perfectly recorded. No blots, no crossings out and all the right answers. That feeling usually changed by page two when the first mistake slipped in.

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The truth is we need a fresh start from time to time but need to accept that perfection is something to be strived for but is very rarely achieved.

We mustn't let our imperfections get us down though. Jesus, who spoke about not breaking bruised reeds or snuffing out smouldering wicks, understands our weaknesses but chooses to use us anyway.

If you are starting on some new adventure this month then God Bless you as you offer of your best. If you are not, then please pray for those who are. Particularly pray for those who should have been making a fresh start this month but are prevented from doing so by the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Pray also for those who are doing their best to keep things on an even keel. Pray that they will have the peace of mind to know that if we offer what we can do then we can leave the rest to God.

The President and Vice President's theme as they begin their year in office is a timely reminder in this particular year. Whatever may come our way "The best of all is, God is with us..."

God Bless.



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