

Letter from the Minister

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Dear Friends,

This month the magazine letter has been written by one of our Elders, Kevin Thatcher. Thank you Kevin.

With best wishes for the month ahead.

Eddie

Recently, while having some difficulties printing out a document from my computer I was reminded of the joke: How many computer programmers does it take to change a light bulb? None, it's a hardware problem.

Change is something that is inevitable in our lives. From a personal perspective I have had some changes in my life over the last year, some of which have been good and some apparently less so. Change can be good, "a change is as good as a rest", as the old saying goes, but also unsettling and worrying. The phrase "May you live in interesting times" almost seems to have been written to describe the days we live in. We live in a time of political uncertainty both at home and worldwide, while advances in technology have revolutionised and changed our lives beyond measure over the last few years. It is very easy in the face of all this to feel bewildered or lost but as Christians we have been promised something eternal and unchanging to hold on to. Hebrews 13 v 8 says this: "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*"

I really like Hebrews 13. It comes at the end of a fairly extensive letter and contains all the little reminders and exhortations that didn't fit in anywhere else. In amongst them is this reminder that God's love for the world expressed by his son Jesus Christ remains constant. No matter how we, as Shakespeare put it, "*suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune*" we can depend on God's love for us and his concern for our lives. Change can be good and is often essential. I guess why we are here and part of a church is a desire to change, to become more like Jesus, to grow as Christians to be more loving and forgiving and to let the world know what Jesus has done for us. The chorus of a favourite song of mine says this:

*You are God with us,
You're victorious,
You are strong and mighty to save.
For your word stands true,
There is none like You,
And when all else fades You remain.*

Change is an inevitable and necessary part of life. Though we may change, though circumstances may change, Jesus does not. He is the same yesterday, today and forever and we have the assurance that whatever life throws at us, we face it secure in the knowledge of God's unchanging love.

Kevin Thatcher