

# Letter from the Minister

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Dear Friends,

*This month the magazine letter has been written by one of our Elders, Steve Baker. Thank you Steve.*

*With best wishes for the month ahead.*

*Eddie*

I wonder if you have a favourite worship song that has a special meaning for you. Mine is Spafford's famous old hymn "It is well with my soul". If you don't know the story behind this hymn then look it up on the internet or ask me -you won't be disappointed. One part of the hymn is: "*when troubles like sea billows role whatever my lot You have taught me to know it is well, it is well with my soul.*"

After 40 years at sea I have seen plenty of "sea billows". They simply come one after the other. Each one hits the ship's bow and the ship shudders as the bow lifts up and then the wave passes and the bow goes down again only to encounter the next wave and rise again. This is obvious for the ship is designed to operate in this environment and the force of the ship's buoyancy lifts it through each wave.

The Bible deals in reality and makes it clear that we will not have an easy life. God created us to operate in this environment, made us in His own image (Genesis 1:27) and equipped us with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:12) to enable us to rise up and ride out the storms that life throws at us. I often think of the Holy Spirit as the buoyancy in the ship, without it the ship would be overwhelmed by the waves. I am so thankful that God lifts me up where otherwise I might fall. He holds fast to me when life is challenging and is patient with me when I fail. I hope that you also know His presence and power so that it will help you ride out the storm.

*"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."* Zephaniah 3:17

*Steve Baker*