

# Epiphany News

The magazine of Holy Epiphany Church

October/November 2020



**“The Sovereign Lord is my strength;  
He makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
He enables me  
to tread on the heights.”**

*Habakkuk 3:19*

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## Who we are: more information on our website [www.epiphanychurch.co.uk](http://www.epiphanychurch.co.uk)

### Churchwardens

Following the retirement of Rev. David Thompson, the parish is in an interregnum.  
Please contact the churchwardens for any issues relating to the parish, services or occasional offices.



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**There is a loop system available in church.  
Please adjust your hearing aid to the relevant setting**

### From the Editor

This issue of our magazine is available in printed form and at our website online.

A donation towards printing costs is welcome.

Contributions by **10 November** please, for the December/January edition,  
to be published on 29 November.

***Disclaimer: Views expressed in Epiphany News are those of contributors, not the editor or the ministry team.***  
***We reserve the right to edit or shorten articles or hold them for a later edition. Mary Hogg, Editor***



## A letter from Rev Paul Canon Harris

**On my fortieth birthday my mother sent me a card with the words,  
“The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!”**

I remember thinking at the time that although I knew she meant well it was a bit premature to be quoting John Keats's words to me. All the more so, since my favourite poem remains, “I am on the kids' side in the war against adults” by Steve Turner.

Autumn is upon us, the nights have drawn in, jumpers and coats have been greeted like old friends – soon the clocks will change. When I was young, I felt a sense of sadness at the passing of summer. These days I appreciate the change of seasons more and am grateful that we experience four distinct seasons. A belated sign of maturity on my part?

The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians describes his experience of growing up like this,

*“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.” (1 Cor.13.11).*

Age brings experience and occasionally even wisdom. God expects us to mature generally and, in our faith, specifically. I confess to retaining a somewhat childish sense of humour. I bet St Paul never inflicted whoopee cushions on his co-workers! I have been reflecting on my reactions to the challenges, trials and disappointments of this Covid-ravaged year. The process is salutary. It is not easy to resist the pervasive sense of pessimism is it? I want to show that my faith in Jesus makes a difference. I want to be a hopeful encourager of others. This is a sign of Christian maturity.

Friends of ours have a family motto – “Choose your attitude.” They are a big family who have faced significant challenges over the years. For them maturity is to choose a positive attitude. They inspired me to write the poem “Choose your attitude” which you can see below.

So as the season changes can I encourage us all to focus on the positives and to thank God for his blessings – count them – name them one by one if you wish!

### ***Choose your attitude***

*This glass is neither half full nor half empty.  
It is the glass in my hand today,  
the one I can enjoy  
or pour away.  
I can sip and savour  
or neck it,  
down it in one.*

*Make it last or drink it fast,  
I'm easy either way.*

*This is not ambivalence,  
simply a taste of reality,  
a dose of common sense.  
Life is seldom wholly good  
rarely totally grim,  
no point choking on my beer  
for fear of what may come my way.*

*This glass is sufficient,  
the one in my hand today,  
the one I can enjoy  
or choose to pour away.*

*Over the last month Paul Harris has had some health issues. He has decided to cut back on the amount of work he does which includes up-front church services. He hopes to come to one of our services very soon, so we look forward to seeing him and Cathy.*

*In the meantime, both Roy Matthews and David Thompson have agreed to cover the Holy Communion Services that Paul was going to be taking.*

# The Bishop of Winchester Academy - by Alan Hogg, Chair of Governors

A group of local headteachers of Christian primary schools, led by Hugh Waller of Moordown St John's, had for many years desired to see a Christian secondary school within Bournemouth. The Borough Council was doubtful, but like the importunate widow and the unjust judge in Luke's Gospel, eventually the Council tired of saying no and in 2003 the group was given the opportunity to take charge of Summerbee School in Mallard Road.

Summerbee served a challenging area of the town, little money had been spent on it and many of the buildings were in a poor state of repair. The exam results and numbers of pupils were both low. It always seems to me that God is uniquely interested in education and church schools invariably succeed. So it proved.

Winchester Diocese gathered together a group of governors and we took charge in 2003. Tobias Elwood, MP came to be part of a working party to repaint the school prior to its opening.

The school's new name was chosen by the pupils themselves. The then Bishop of Winchester, Michael Scott Joynt, not only opened the school, but took a strong interest in it for many years afterwards.

A new headteacher, Paul Mackeown, was appointed and very slowly things turned round. With the help of Tobias Elwood, £15 million was obtained to rebuild much of the school and the new facilities were opened by Princess Anne in 2015. At the same time a sixth form was opened. All through the intervening years results have been improving and with them, the Ofsted ratings, "This is a school which changes lives" – (Ofsted 2017).



The school's catchment area has not changed. Some pupils may come from disadvantaged backgrounds where books and education are less valued and many Christian parents have chosen to send their children to the school.



Today we are a multi-cultural school with a Christian environment. We have Eastern European, African, Asian and Middle Eastern children. Some are Muslim. Muslim parents appear to value a school with firm religious beliefs. In Bournemouth as a whole, East Asian children of Chinese, Japanese or Korean background attain highest marks at examinations, and we see this also at TBOWA.

You always remember a good teacher and the strength of a school is dependent on its teachers. Bournemouth is an expensive area in which to buy a house and recruitment can be difficult.

I believe that Christian schools do well because God guards them and they attract good teachers, many of whom are Christians. Good teachers teach well, and the academic attainment of children increases. So, over nearly twenty years, this has been the story of the Bishop of Winchester Academy.

## Our Academy Prayer

Lord Jesus thank you that  
we are uniquely created  
and loved by you  
May we have the courage  
to be wise, discover our talents,  
share your light in the world  
and know life in all its fullness. Amen

# Go forth in the world as disciples - a poem by Marion Richards

This poem was inspired by the great commission Jesus gave to His disciples, sending them out with His authority, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

This commission is just as valid today as we go out in His name spreading the good news of salvation in Christ. I wrote it to show that God has appointed us for His glory and witness but He does not leave us to face the big wide world alone. He gives us the seed to plant, but we can't successfully do that without the Holy Spirit's help, preparing us and preparing the way. We are the channels but it is God in Christ who is in control. He promises to go with us wherever we go and His key of love, His grace and His gift of faith will open the door to closed hearts.

And of course, it doesn't end there. He gives us more seed which He calls us to plant and the cycle continues to be passed down throughout all generations.

The great commission serves to give us confidence to step out in faith and to reach out in evangelism.  
If God is with us who can be against us, what can man do to us!  
The harvest is plentiful, ripe for the picking, but the labourers are few!

**Go forth in the world as disciples**

**And plant new seed in the ground –  
I will nurture with water  
And nourish the roots that abound.**



**In my name, plant righteousness  
With Christ-like obedience and love –  
And I will pour out my blessings  
From my Father's Kingdom above.**

**When the new crop ripens  
And the fruit is ready to reap,  
Then harvest well the produce  
Which I will safely keep.**



**When all the harvest is gathered  
Go forth and plant more seed –  
I will supply the equipment  
To meet your every need.**



**Go forth in the world as disciples,  
Plant my word and my promise is sure:  
That wherever you go I'll go with you -  
And my key will open the door.**



*"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

*Matthew 28: verses 18-20*

**Currently, Sunday services are being held, but there are no other events in church.**

We will let you know as things change following Government and Church of England advice.

<p><b>10.00am Weekly</b></p>  <p><b>Services here</b></p>		<p>We thank God that we are able to open for a simple short service with a talk, on Sundays at 10.00am with social distancing in place. This includes Holy Communion services on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.</p>
	<p><b>Home Groups</b> – friendly groups who meet fortnightly to share fellowship, study God's word, and pray. Meetings are on hold, but new members will be welcome when we can meet again. Please talk to Alan Hogg for dates and venues when we can re-start</p>	
<p><b>PRAYER</b> <small>changes things</small></p>	<p><b>Prayer Meetings</b> are taking place, currently weekly via Zoom, mostly on Wednesdays from 6 – 6.40pm – all are welcome. Please contact Mark Vincent on 07788 316749 for details of how to join.</p>	
	<p><b>Epiphany Bright Stars</b> – parent/carer and toddler group on Tuesday mornings in term-time at 9.30am in the church and Jubilee Room. Contact Jodie Burge on 01202 776270 or keep an eye on the church website for details of when we are able to restart.</p>	
	<p><b>Messy Church</b> – family fun for parents and children followed by a shared meal. Games, craft activities, biscuit or cake decorating, Bible stories and buffet tea. Usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month but meetings are on hold. 3.00 – 5.00pm in the church. Contact Mary Hogg on 01202 511759 <b>There are ideas for sessions of Messy Church at Home at</b> <a href="https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resources/messy-church-home-ideas">https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resources/messy-church-home-ideas</a></p>	
	<p><b>Men's Breakfast</b> – Meetings are on hold at the moment All men are welcome, so why not come and join us? Full English breakfast served at 8.00am. For catering purposes please contact Andy Renton directly if you plan to attend on 07484 203076 or andy.renton56@gmail.com.</p>	
	<p><b>Muscliff Care Home Service:</b> – monthly on Mondays at 2.30pm While we are unable to visit please remember the care home residents in your prayers</p>	

	<p><b>Epiphany Pre-School</b> meets Monday - Friday in the church hall during <b>term-time</b> from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Please check dates with the pre-school staff. Phone 01202 612337 for more information</p>		
	<p><b>Tea Cosy</b> – tea, coffee, and chat from 9.45 - 11.30am. Meetings are still on hold.</p>		<p><b>Choir practice</b> - please contact Susan Bright for up to date information.</p>
	<p><b>Lunch Club</b> – On hold at the moment. Coffee at 10.30am followed by games and social time. Lunch is served at 1.00pm and is prepared by ‘Crumbs’. A 2-course meal costs £4 and (pre-booked) menu choices are available. There is a short service of Holy Communion at midday once a month. Enquiries to 01202 516712</p>		
	<p><b>Pie and a Pint</b> – an opportunity for men to chat and ‘put the world to rights’. 7.00pm Wetherspoon’s in Winton. Meetings are still on hold. Contact Alan Hogg on 07963 706907. All men welcome, no need to book.</p>		
	<p><b>Hymns and Cake</b> – Join in with some favourite hymns, learn a little about them and afterwards enjoy tea and cake. The next meeting will be arranged when it is possible to do so. Contact Joanne Davis on 07906355271.</p>		
	<p><b>Beavers</b> Jacqui Elena jacqui.elena15@gmail.com <b>Cubs</b> Jan Kingsland 01202 517627 <b>Scouts</b> Simon Blake 07500 901 561</p>		<p><b>Brownies</b> Sam Pattimore 07930 581851 <b>Guides and Rainbows</b> Sandra Coomber 07712 129445</p>



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

**The Church of England's 'Daily Hope' phone line**  
If you have no access to the Internet you can listen free, each day,  
to a hymn with an encouraging talk and a prayer,  
lasting about 20 minutes.  
**Telephone number 0800 8048044**



**WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL**

**Live-streamed Sunday services and regular evening prayer**

Up-to-date details can be found at

<https://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/worship-and-music/our-services/service-listings/>

Reflections from Winchester Cathedral to listen to, and resources for prayer at home,  
can be found here

<https://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/home-worship/>

# What are local and national churches doing?



## Live streamed events

Churches across the country are live streaming events such as services, Bible studies and prayer meetings. Join a service or event wherever you are from one of our 16,500 churches.

### Services

There are lots of services being “live-streamed” locally and nationally each Sunday on YouTube.

To see what’s available go to

[https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live\\_stream](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live_stream)



In the bottom right hand corner of a YouTube screen, the symbol on the far left turns on subtitles and the one on the far right enables you to see full screen.

Or you can listen to HopeFM on radio (90.1 FM) or via [www.hopefm.com](http://www.hopefm.com)

## Harvest Festival

**Sunday 4 October  
10.00am**

*Come and give thanks for our food and all the good gifts God gives us*

Please bring tinned food which can be passed on to those in need (see below)



**Remembrance Service  
with Holy Communion  
10.00am  
Sunday 8 November**



## Winton Salvation Army Christmas Toy and / or Food Appeal



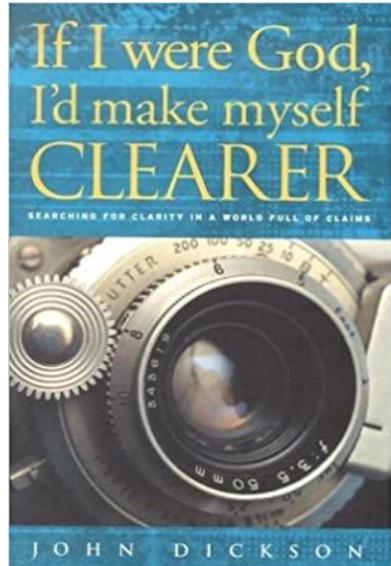
“We know that this is a very difficult time for everyone. As the Covid-induced recession starts to bite, more and more of our neighbours are reaching out to their local churches (or corps) for help.

This year, we expect Christmas toy requests from social workers and health visitors for vulnerable families in the BCP area to increase.

In addition to helping to feed the homeless, we are also helping some local vulnerable people with food parcels and a range of other supports.”

**Holy Epiphany will support this appeal at our Harvest Festival and at our Toy Service on 6 December**

## "If I were God, I'd make myself clearer" – a book review by Mary Hogg



'Searching for clarity in a world full of claims' is the subtitle of this very readable book by an Australian, John Dickson.

He explains, "*The title of this book reflects a sentiment not of my own invention but one which arises regularly in conversation with people who wouldn't normally call themselves 'religious'. They say something to this effect: 'If the creator of the universe were the least bit interested in our devotion, he or she would surely do something 'concrete' to grab our attention, something we could all assess for ourselves and from which we could draw our own conclusions. Surely, he would make himself clearer!'*"

If people say something like this to you, or you have thought the same yourself, this would be a great book to read. I borrowed it from a friend but have bought my own copy – ask me if you would like to look at it

John Dickson writes from a Christian viewpoint about the claims of different religions and kinds of spirituality – and how they contradict each other. We feel there is more to life than material things but how can we find out what to believe? It is important not to take the easy option of assuming that all paths lead to the same place and equally important to treat each other with tolerance and respect – and it is good to look at which religions seem to be based on claims that can be shown to be true.

Dickson, J. (2002). If I were God, I'd make myself clearer. Matthias Media £5.99

## Pray around the Psalms – Psalm 65: A harvest psalm



***You crown the year with your bounty,  
and your carts overflow with abundance.  
The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;  
the hills are clothed with gladness.  
The meadows are covered with flocks  
and the valleys are mantled with grain;  
they shout for joy and sing.*** (verses 11-13)

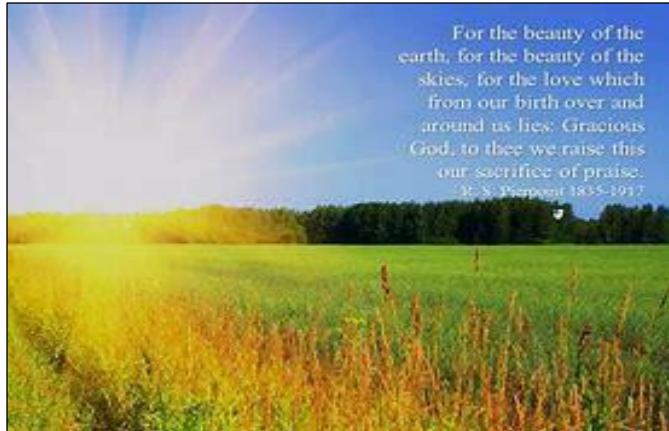
In this harvest-like song of prayer and praise we are hearing King David tell of God's goodness to His people, to the whole world and to us, through His creation and care. We see a different David, one who seems to have left behind the conflicts in his life. But although this psalm does not dwell on David's failure to live up to God's standards, he tells us that trusting the grace of God's forgiveness still needs to come first, as we see in verse 3:

***"When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions"***

The Psalm builds up to a magnificent ending in verses 11-13 above, by presenting us in picture-language with a joyful, beautiful description of God's blessings. Beginning with Jesus' death for us, let us too sing about His blessings in our hearts, even though we cannot sing with our voices in church at the moment!

We can meet together for prayer by Zoom, so please  
get in touch with one of our pastoral volunteers Mark, or Joanne, if you have a prayer request.  
Contact details are on the first page

## "For the Beauty of the Earth"- a reflection by Joanne Davis



As we cannot have Hymns and Cake at the moment, I thought I would share with you a hymn that we sang last year at our Harvest Hymns and Cake Afternoon.

### "For the Beauty of the Earth"

This hymn was written by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint in 1864 when he came back to Bath, his hometown, in his late 20s after studying at Cambridge University. He was moved by the views of the surrounding hills and lush grassland tumbling down towards the River Avon. Sometimes we don't appreciate what's around us until we move away and miss it.

*For the beauty of the earth  
For the beauty of the skies  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise  
  
For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night  
Hill and vale and tree and flower  
Sun and moon and stars of light*

*For the joy of ear and eye  
For the heart and brain's delight  
For the mystic harmony  
Linking sense to sound and sight  
  
For the joy of human love  
Brother, sister, parent, child  
Friends on earth and friends above  
Pleasures pure and undefiled*

*For each perfect gift of thine  
To our race so freely given  
Graces human and divine  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven  
  
For thy Church which evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love*

But this hymn isn't simply an outpouring of praise for God's glorious creation. Folliott perhaps also hadn't realised how much he missed and valued his home life too because the following verses are full of other reasons for which he wanted to give thanks. He considers the intricate and awe-inspiring design of his own body and saw God's hand in it. He thought about the love of his family and friends that surrounded him and marvelled at it. And he cherished the fellowship of his church and the divine gifts it brought him. It was as if the glory of that springtime scene sent him into an appreciation and contentment for all the blessings he saw and sensed around him.

Moments like this can be so healing. When our own life is in disarray, with problems affecting our sense of peace and well-being, it is very reassuring to have such a graphic display of God's power and goodness putting everything in perspective.

*Psalm 121 "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."*

May God bless you all this Harvest time.

## Holy Epiphany Annual Church Meeting 2020

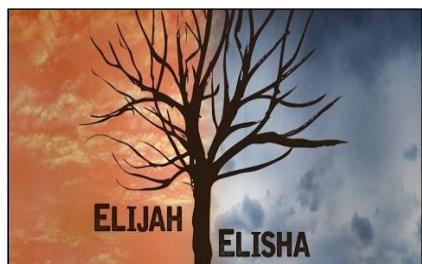
**This will take place after the morning service in the church  
on October 18<sup>th</sup>**

# Elisha prayed; 'Oh Lord open his eyes that he may see'

2 Kings 6:17

There are times in our Christian lives when we feel frail and tired and we struggle with all that is going on around us. It can be difficult to stay close to God and we allow our problems to become magnified instead of allowing the greatness of God to be magnified in our lives.

It is often these times that we need Godly people around us to support and encourage us. Elijah and Elisha are great Old Testament examples of this - they both were there for each other. Elijah was the role model for Elisha. To try and follow in the footsteps of someone we really admire is never easy, in fact it is probably impossible. We are unique and are not designed to be a carbon copy of someone else. But we can learn from wise Godly people in the way that Elisha learnt from Elijah.



Elijah was singled minded in his commitment to God; his attitude is a challenge for most of us. He was sent to confront and not to comfort the people of Israel. At that time, in the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC, Israel had a series of Kings who followed idols and false gods, not the God of the Old Testament. God's chosen people were being led astray.

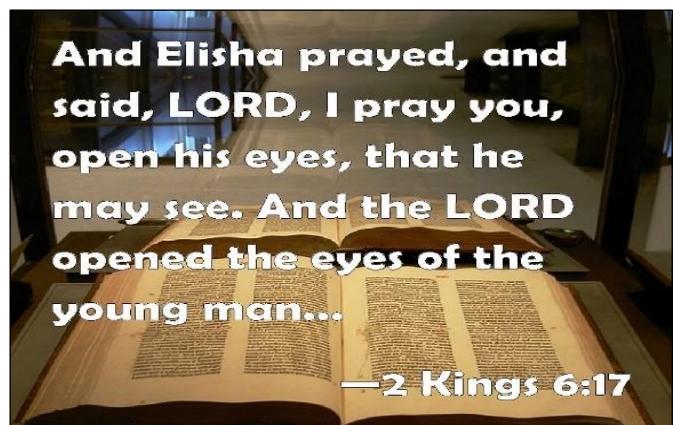
It was Elijah who was sent by God to put them straight and warn them not to turn their backs on God. Elijah, like all of us, got tired at times but, (1 Kings 19:1-3) despite his weaknesses and frailties, God greatly used him and helped him to be a wonderful mentor to Elisha.

Elijah shows us that we don't have to be perfect to be a Godly and positive role model to others.

Elisha eventually became Elijah's replacement as God's prophet to the nation of Israel. Elisha was a humble farmer (1 Kings 19:16 - 19) but he apparently knew what it meant when Elijah found him and threw his cloak around him - he simply said goodbye to his parents and followed Elijah till the day God took him away (1 Kings 19:21).

Both prophets were committed to God's purpose. Before Elijah was taken away (you may remember that he simply was taken up to heaven 2 Kings 2: 11), Elijah asked Elisha what he could do for him. Elisha replied, "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," (2 Kings 29). Elisha was a man of integrity; he did not ask this so that he would seem to be better than Elijah, but to accomplish more for God. He put his trust fully in God.

As they faced the threat of battle, Elisha asked God to open the eyes of his servant, to take away his fear and show him that it was God in control. How wonderful to have a friend like Elisha - someone who asks God to help us to see Him more clearly, to know that the battles belong to the Lord and to trust and not to fear.



We need to be positive, Godly friends like Elijah and Elisha - friends whose relationship with God spurs us on to help and support each other and to be positive role models to each other. 1 and 2 Kings may not be Old Testament books many want to read, but if we don't read them, we miss out on gems like Elijah and Elisha.

*Lynley Wilkes*

# Family Page – Living for ever



When I was small there was a funny song we often heard on children's radio programmes, which went like this,

*"There once was an ugly duckling with feathers all stubby and brown.*

*And the other birds said in so many words, 'Get out of town'.*

The 'ugly duckling' turned out to be a young swan, not yet grown into its adult white feathers – a bit like the patchy-looking young swans on the Stour. In the song, the young swan finally grows its splendid new feathers, and everyone is happy.

Did you know that the Bible says that when we follow Jesus, we can trust that He will come back to Earth one day? Then, we are told in the Bible, we will get - not new feathers - but new bodies, new clothes, and a new place to live – the city of God. You can colour in the picture of the city, below.

## How do we know about this?

We can read it in the last book of the Bible, Revelation, written by John, who was one of Jesus' friends and was the same person who wrote John's gospel. As an old man he wrote this to Christian churches in what is now Turkey. It wasn't easy being Jesus' followers and they needed to keep trusting God –just like we do.



John saw a new heaven and a new earth. He heard Jesus say, "I am coming soon!" John answered, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

In Revelation 21 verses 3-5, John describes the city of God, with a great river running through it, with walls made of pure gold and jewels, and with gates made of pearls.

Then he says, *'And I heard a loud voice from the throne. The voice said, "Now God's home is with men.*

*He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God.*

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone."*

*The One who was sitting on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted."*