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GREETINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR OF 2024

I have been reflecting on the last year and my response to its happenings, both in my personal and communal life and on the importance of listening and discerning as to the Lord's paths and purposes for me and others in the coming year. So as a start I am seeking to see the goodness and kindness in our world, amidst the violence, conflict and poverty.

SO HERE IS GOOD NEWS FOR THIS WEEKS J and P NEWS:

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

We have just celebrated Christmas.
The light has come into the world.
So we are people of hope, called to bring a spark of that light and hope to those we meet every day.

NEW LIFE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

A few days ago, I met the Syrian family who we first met several years ago here in Falmouth. After a long and difficult time, the family were sent to Plymouth and were eventually granted settled status. It was heartwarming to see them again. Three of the young people are now at university. The oldest daughter, a dentist, who came more recently from Syria is working as a dental nurse and taking the necessary steps of preparation to work as a dentist here. The father, who has a Doctorate is working at Exeter University and the mother attending a centre two days a week to learn English. The youngest girl is doing well at secondary school. They all looked well.

FALMOUTH TOWN FAIR TRADE

Has just had its Fair Status Renewal accepted. This has to be accredited every three years. (Three of St Mary's RC church members are the steering group for this).

AN ANGEL FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOMELESS

Margaret (name has been changed) has 30 caravans in a field at her home. These are

designated for homeless people, some of whom are referred by Cornwall County Council. Their location is in the wilds of the countryside a few miles outside the town. Residents have considerable needs.

Our church SVP group quietly and confidentially helps those in need. Gas Cylinders have been given to two of the residents with no heating in their caravan. At the recent annual appeal, over £1000 was given as the story of Margaret's kindness was told. 12 bags of warm clothes, duvets and blankets were donated and the Lord's Pantry, a big basket for weekly food items now goes to Margaret and we are glad to know that all this has made a difference to the residents at Christmas. Margaret is indeed an Angel who brings good tidings.

OUR JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

Has now been going for 9 years. We are blessed to know each other, for each member brings inspiration, ideas and practical action to the group. Each person is indeed a Godsend. We hope that in 2024 we will be able to welcome new members.

CREATION

We have had a very stormy and rainy end of year (today I would have been blown over except for my walking pole). The sky has been dull and very grey. Just before I started doing this week's news, I looked out of the back porch window and there behind the huge bare leaved oak tree was a patch of bright light. I also picked my first camellia today and a couple of Iris bulbs came into flower. Nature brings great joys in small ways if we have eyes to see. We are so blessed to be able to wander freely in the countryside and look for the small miracles each day brings (though I am not quite so keen on the slugs that have been invading my porch. How did they get in ???)

Send us your thoughts and ideas. We would like to hear from you.

Blessings for 2024.

Mary Bradley