

Happy New Year!

Time is a strange thing – sometimes it goes faster, sometimes slower; sometimes it dominates us – we don't have enough time; and sometimes it loses its grip on us as we lose ourselves in the good and enjoyable things of life.

Time is what happens between our birth and death – before the one there is non-existence; after the other, there continuing existence but no time.

Time is the currency we used to live our lives. We can waste time, just as we can waste money; we can spend time on things that are important; we can carelessly lose time and if so, we shall not find it again as we cannot make any more of that. However, unlike the money in our bank account, we never know how much time we have got left

Not knowing our span is an incentive to be more aware of our limits. Time brings all tyrants to an end, it humbles everyone and puts us all on the same footing. What matters is not how much time we have, but what we do with it – how we share it with others. Perhaps one day we shall be asked to account for our use of time – what did we do with those days and months and years?

New Years can be a kind of dress rehearsal – an opportunity to reflect on the use we make of our time and opportunities open to us in the year ahead. That is why we may make a New Year resolution – we recognise some aspect of our lives that has not been particularly well spent and we resolve to try to put time to other better uses in the year ahead.

For St Andrew's there's an exciting year ahead as we seek to make the best use for the parish of the new facilities that we shall very shortly have. No doubt for many, 2012 will be a difficult year with job losses and little money to spare. But there will be no less time to use than the year before

I hope that this will be a year in which there will be more and more sharing of time together, across all the differences that make our neighbourhoods so a richly diverse.

Guy Wilkinson, vicar