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2023 Church Text: "And He made known to us, the mystery of His will, to bring everything together in Christ" Ephesians 1:9 & 10

Sunday 31st December 2023

Sunday 31st December

10.30am

Rev Andy Gore



Psalm 96:
'The Once and Future King'

All Age Service

Tuesday 02nd January

Table Tennis 10.00 – 12.00

Thursday 04th January

Coffee Pot 10.30 – 13.00

Communion 11.00

Places of Welcome 13.00 – 15.00

Saturday 06th January

School's Out Dad's

About 09.30 – 11.00



Sunday 07th January

10.30am

Rev Andy Gore

Hebrews 12:2
'Looking ahead – Looking to Jesus'

All Age Service

6.00pm

Healing Prayers

A Prayer for the New Year

***Lord, whether I leave behind a year
of joy or of trials & difficulties, I
pause to give thanks.***

***Thank you for being with me every
day of every year. Thank you for
making all things new and for
giving me the grace of fresh starts
and new beginnings.***

***Remind me of your presence in the
days to come, even when I feel
rushed and pushed by busyness.***

Be glorified in my life this year.

Amen

The notices for **January & February**
will be typed by Gilli Gore,

Please send by Wednesday. Thank you.

Gospel for the week

Monday (1st January)

John 1 verses 19 - 34

Tuesday (2nd January):

John 1 verses 35 - 42

Wednesday (3rd January):

John 1 verses 43 - 51

Thursday (4th January):

John 2 verses 1 - 12

Friday (5th January):

John 2 verses 13 - 25

Saturday (6th January):

Matthew 20 verses 1 - 16

"Eat this book"

"What do you think John and Matthew are saying to you today?"



URGENT: Unfortunately, the crisp packet recycling stream is no longer available to us from 20th December. **Please do not recycle anymore crisp packets in the porch after this date.** Your crisp packets can be taken to the recycling points at Sainsburys, Co-op or Aldi.

Thank you for your support of this, hopefully the scheme may start again in the future. For any queries, please contact Margaret Keen

BMS boxes

If you have a BMS box, please pass it on to Marilyn or place it in the porch on any Sunday this month for our half yearly count and submission to the charity's work.

It will be returned to the porch for your collection. If anyone would like to start using a box, please just ask.

Many thanks Marilyn Fenn



Job of the Week

Church Flowers

Currently, there are four people in the Flower Team. **If you would like to join us or know more, please see Linda Brennan.** No floristry training needed, especially as now we use vases to display the flowers.



Thought for the week - Don

Stand your ground

"The mighty oak is only a little nut that stood its ground". A simple quote used by many motivational gurus and preachers - including in my Bible reading notes. A simple quote that says so much and certainly has relevance to Christians trying to live a Christ-like life.

Increasingly what Paul said in his second letter (chapter 4:3) to Timothy warning of the dangers of drifting from the Truth and God's revelation in His Word is a current issue. Christian standards, once the backbone of the British legal system and a marker for behaviour, are increasingly being relegated to just another opinion as valid as anyone else's.



Sunday Rotas - The new rotas for the next six months have been sent out. If you have not received yours, please let me know. Chris Turk

Society is continually challenging us to conform to their standards. Legal good intentions like Equality and Anti-discrimination laws are being used to push minority agendas. Media have reported incidents of Christians standing their ground and then being taken to court or penalised by those with different views and an agenda to promote.

Christians have a continual battle summed up in the old saying "if you always do what you've always done, you'll always be in the same place". How do we distinguish between listening to the Holy Spirit telling us to move and the chaos of change for the sake of change? For a Christian, standing our ground is safeguarding who Jesus is, His teaching and the importance of God's Word, whilst at the same time being constantly open to the Spirit prompting changes to ensure relevance and meaning to the world we live in.

Paul gave Timothy some sound advice in his first letter to Timothy (also in chapter 4) to encourage him and protect him and us from the pressure to conform and compromise.

Don't be complacent. Continue to actively mature in your relationship with Jesus (4:7)

Practice what you preach (4:12). Live a life that honours God.

Does it contradict what we know is true from God's Word and the example of Jesus' life? (4:16)

If in doubt our role model is Jesus. He never took the easy or popular option if it meant compromising His teaching. He always kept in tune with God's plans by His prayer life. He lived out what He preached.

We stand our ground as we engage more with Jesus, so enabling us to introduce others to Him and thus enrich our community. Wonder where I've heard that before?

Verse for Today - *"For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather round them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear."* 2 Timothy 4:3 NIVUK

Church Life

The Pastoral Team: The pastoral team is here for you and members are happy to help. Please make sure that we are made aware of anyone's needs. Do tell us, we really don't mind if more than one person contacts us.

Prayer Chain Contacts: If you would like to join the prayer chain or have a request that you would like us to pray for, please contact any of the following so that the message can be passed on to prayer chain members.

Alison Bygrave

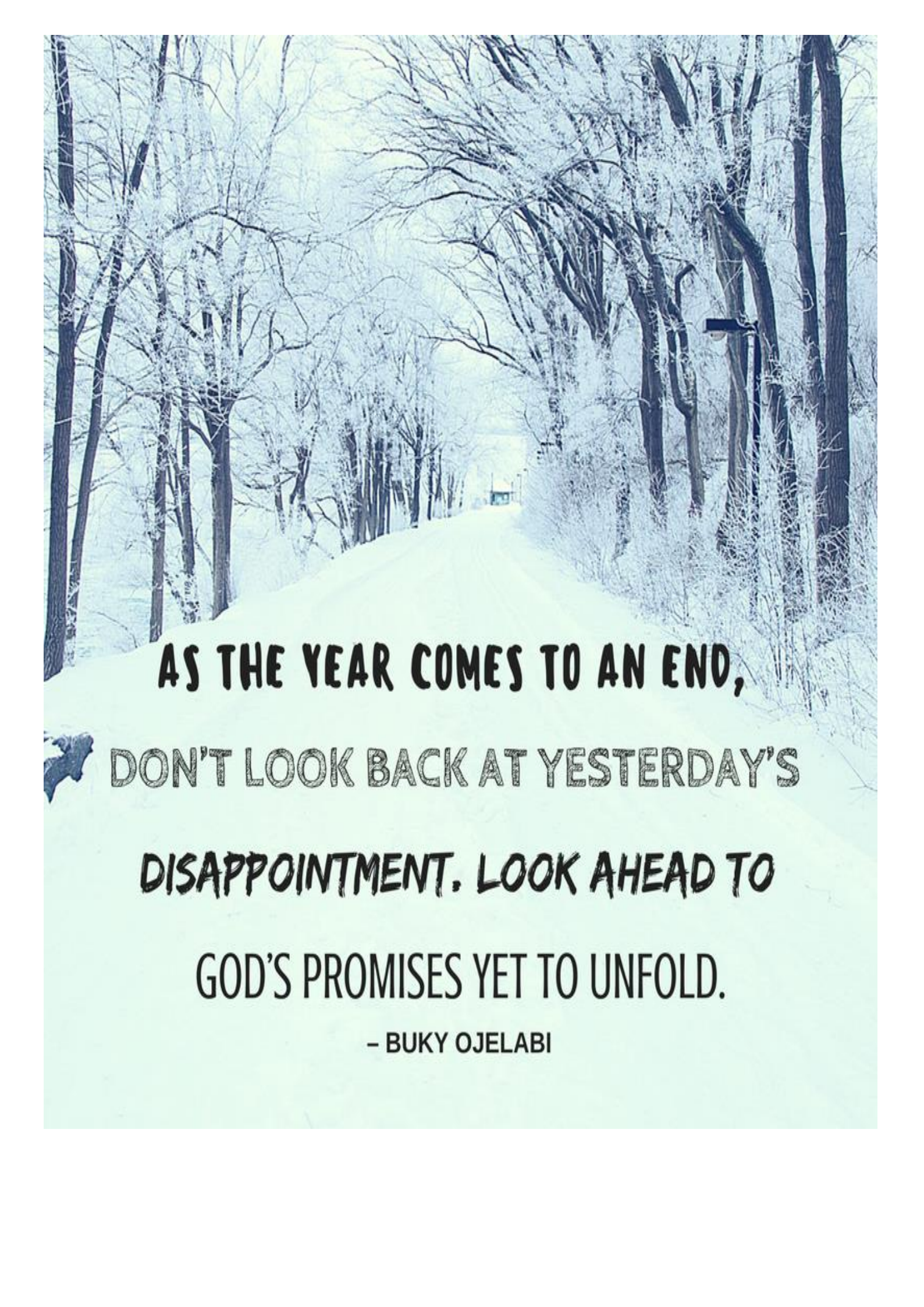
Gill Smith

How are we doing?

The black letter box in the porch is for your feedback on church life.



It's important to know how things are affecting you, if we are to discern and fulfil God's vision for DBC and shape our future ministries together.



**AS THE YEAR COMES TO AN END,
DON'T LOOK BACK AT YESTERDAY'S
DISAPPOINTMENT. LOOK AHEAD TO
GOD'S PROMISES YET TO UNFOLD.**

- BUKY OJELABI