

## Happy New Year!

It feels strange to be writing Happy New Year in November (magazine deadlines being what they are!), as if I have skated past Advent and Christmas, missing all the fun, festivities and family time.

But, is that really so different to how we are prone to living our lives anyway? Our minds are so often elsewhere, rather than being fully present to each moment of our lives and the things happening around us.

How often do we find ourselves absorbed in a screen, oblivious to what is going on in 'real life'? How many times do we realise we have not really been listening to what someone else is saying, as our minds drift off or get caught up in what we want to say, rather than really hearing what the other person is trying to tell us?

We live in a connected society where people communicate non-stop in online spaces, and yet, it seems we are increasingly disconnected from one other. Human beings are designed for real, live relationships; without these we become increasingly fragile, lonely and limited.

Connection or 'communion' is at the heart of the Christian church. We believe that however fractured a person or situation, connection with a community that is grounded in love for God and each other, can help to remind us that we are worth something; we are loved and valuable, and that each of us have the ability to live rich and satisfying lives through relationship with each other.

The church is far from perfect, but there is still something uniquely wonderful about a group of disparate people, inspired by love, trying to make a difference in the world – stumbling, failing often – by simply being together, accepting each other, offering friendship and maybe a helping hand when needed.

Maybe your New Year's Resolution could be to commit more time to real life connection? If you are looking for a real life community, we would love to welcome you to any of the churches in the Savernake Team, [www.savernaketeam.org.uk](http://www.savernaketeam.org.uk)

God bless,

Revd Sue Hart