



SOUTHGATE SNIPPETS



January 2018

I've often heard my father say, 'the older I get the faster the years seem to pass by'. I used to think that was nonsense. However, I'm now discovering how true that expression is after another year has passed. Although I have more time available to me because I've retired from secular employment, I've discovered that time flies by, all too quickly.

It seemed like only yesterday I was at School, trying to pass exams and prepare for a career. Most days were filled with some kind of sporting activity, as well as the joy of making new friends. I'm thankful to God that he has blessed me with a good education, career and a family. Out of his great love and mercy he has blessed me in such ways which I often take for granted. I still need to be reminded to give thanks to God for such blessings. There are many around the world who will not enjoy the benefits that you and I have!

Looking forward, the new year will no doubt bring its challenges. We used to talk about making new year's resolutions. Simple things like eating less, or working harder or being more tolerant. Rarely do I hear of such resolutions or 'new starts' these days. I wonder if they have gone out of fashion because most of us who ever made a new year's resolution would often give up on them before the end of January.

It's wonderful to know that we have a Saviour who offers us a 'new start'. In this context, I find the following verse comforting: 'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me' (Psalm 51 v10). What is even more amazing is he offers us many 'new starts' when we come to Him for forgiveness and refreshment?

Maybe you need to make a new start. If so, may you experience the Love of Christ as you step out into 2018 and seek to dedicate yourself to His service.

R. Jones.