

Dear friends,

In what has been a very challenging year, I decided to focus on positive words that sum up 2020 for me:



I studied Daniel Defoe's classic at school.
I never thought I would live through one ...



- **Resourcefulness** - making meals from stores in my Hobbit larder; harvesting and eating wild garlic, stinging nettles and dandelions; bottling fruit, jams and chutneys; growing vegetables; baking bread (oh, happy day when I found flour and yeast for sale in a little bakery in Bournville!)
- **Creativity** - with Christian Music Ministries, The People's Orchestra, and my church, St Germain's, Edgbaston: lots of new skills and technology to learn in order to make vocal and instrumental recordings and videos, and to replace a diary-full of cancelled live gigs with some on-line remotely-recorded ones
- **Kindness and appreciation** - I have been so glad to see how we have honoured and thanked people this year - the NHS, bin-men, carers in homes, paramedics, police. We have learned afresh how important kindness is. My recycle bin-men now get chocolate biscuits every fortnight; it's so nice to see their smiling faces and to know I've been a bright spot in a dull week!
- **Gratefulness** - for John's companionship - we decided to be a 'household' even though we don't live together. We eat together every evening, and have been so good for each other's mental health and well-being; for my dear colleagues at CMM; for good health; for the life-group on creative prayer with three other friends from church
- **Stress-relievers** - ballet in my bedroom at least twice a week; walks and bike rides with John; lots of creative work to do - including a new Christmas musical by Roger Jones: Three Wise Camels; edifying TV programmes - Grand Designs, Repair Shop, David Attenborough, Escape to the Chateau
- **Life on zoom** - the 'new normal' - team meetings for work, prayer groups, church services, ballet classes, choir rehearsals, catch-up 'sofa dates' with friends





Preparing for a zoom meeting



and what happens if you don't ...



However this year has been
for you, I do pray that this
Christmas may be filled
with light and hope.

Annie x



John 1:5