Welcome to the 9th weekly prompt on **Gladness and Generosity**.

The end of the year invites us to reflect on the last 12 months.  How has it been for you?  What generosity, large and small, have you received?  What has made you glad?  How have you been generous?  What lessons will you take into 2019?

Hymn writers express the feelings we often have at the turn of the year:

‘Thy providence hath brought us through another various year….’ (Charles Wesley)

‘Lord for the years, your love has kept and guided…..’ (Timothy Dudley-Smith)

Looking back, they are thankful.  Can we too be glad for whatever has happened this year?  Can we see the hand of God in both good and bad?  To bless us with the good times, and to sustain us in the bad times?

Looking ahead, how do we feel?  Personally, do we expect good news and happy days?  Or are we fearful of failing health and declining powers?  Many say there is more concern for us as a nation than for years – more people in Britain are hungry than any of us can remember, cuts to our public services are biting deep, there is uncertainty regarding the economy and Brexit, and political disarray.  It is clear that we need God individually, as a church, as a nation, and on the world scale.

Can you join with the 18th century hymn writer Joseph Hart, author of one of the best and shortest hymns (it is only 55 words), in saying

‘We’ll praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that’s to come’?

Whatever happens in 2019 we pray you will be aware of God’s presence and peace.

*Produced by Daphne and John Wilkins on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*