

## **Kettle & Fish News – January 2014**

A new year, a new start. We'd all agree, I'm sure, that it's great to have the opportunity to do new things, to indulge in new adventures, to undertake new challenges, and for the Christian January is the most appropriate time to go for a 'spiritual check-up', to measure our spiritual state, areas we have grown in, others where we may have slipped backwards.

The standard by which we measure ourselves is always going to be the life of Jesus, as recorded in the biblical accounts. His was a life lived in close relationship with God, the life of God the Son on earth approved of by God the Father in heaven. The prayer of those of us involved in *Kettle & Fish* is that we may have the grace to follow His example.

A new year, a new start, so they say. But I can't help thinking that that is only part of the story. We can't divest ourselves of our past; we don't start a new year from zero. 2014 is a continuation of 2013, which was a continuation of ... ! There is continuity from one day to the next, regardless of year changes. Our appearance changes over time – bits drop off, others grow on - and our behaviour and attitudes can be quite unpredictable and not always to our credit.

If there are things in our past lives that give us cause for concern, the great thing is that our God is a God who loves to sort us out, a God of renewal, the God who said in ***Revelation 21.5***, ***'I'm making everything new'*** ***Such a promise takes your breath away.***

Malcolm Offord