

From Old to New

Nationally 2022 may go down in history as the year of the Revolving door, the Lettuce and the Downing Street cat... ..though those of us who respect and value the constitutional monarchy may prefer to remember it as the 70th year of committed service of Queen Elizabeth II.



Globally 2022 has been a year of pandemic political, social and economic and environmental turmoil... ..though we may prefer to remember 2022 as a year when MU across the world brought hope and opportunities to many women & families; glimpses of glory in a changing, unpredictable world.

As we face the coming year, we may wonder what to think, what to pray for, how to live – **‘for things will not be as they were before’**... not as they were before the pandemic, before the climate crisis, before the conflict in Ukraine...

Words from Northumbria Community’s ‘Eata Liturgy – in times of change’.

Teach us, dear Lord, to number our days.
Call out in us a willingness
to love and to serve.

When days seem dark,
and we feel lonely and discouraged,
then give us glimpses of your glory
to sustain us.

We stretch out our hand and throw,
and many, many seeds we sow.
In truth we do not know where they will go,
which will take root,
or when the unlikeliest ground
will return glimpses of gold.

Sowing in times of tears,
persisting through the years,
come harvest-time,
each one’s work will yield what it may yield.

Let us embody your ready kindness in our day...
...for things will not be as they were before.

The Northern Saints like Cuthbert & Eata lived through times of challenging conflicts and also the plague. Does it sound familiar?

Jesus also lived in turbulent times and in subsequent years ‘things were not as they were before’.

Through trauma, new life is born and new harvests reaped. We have lived through bleak times before... when the old normal was replaced by a new normal.

As we embrace another new normal, we can draw comfort and hope from the countless examples of human courage, compassion and creativity which bless each ‘square mile’ of earth, not least through the work and prayer of the Mothers’ Union.