



Looking back, Looking ahead

I can hardly believe that this is now 2015, and a whole year has gone by. When you look back, how was your year?

Were there nasty surprises or welcome events? For some it may have been the start of a new relationship; a marriage, a birth— others may have lost a loved one or experienced some other trauma. I was intrigued by the selection of events identified by the BBC as the 'Big Ideas of 2014'. Here are some:

Uber taxis

If you are a cabbie, you will know about this and it will probably still loom large: an unexpected competitor has invaded the market using a phone app.

Capital in the 21st Century

An even more unexpected 'big idea' is a book by a French man., Thomas Picketty. But whether or not you have read his book, many of you will know from first hand experience the pain or the gain relating to property prices in the South East.

UKIP and EU

Our part of London was probably one of the less impacted by UKIP-fever, but the fact remains that our political temperature

is changing and the election in May is likely to bring out some interesting and probably painful debates.

The return of the Cold War?

Civil war in Ukraine and the annexing of the Crimea may sound like something out of the history books, but it was only last year, and marked the start of sanctions against Russia.

Fighting the Islamic State

A picture is developing. It is yet another case of 'us' and 'them', with terror and mistrust at its heart.

I don't know how real the threat was in the so-called 'Trojan horse' schools in Birmingham, but undeniably dreadful acts both here and overseas contribute to the fearful reactions at home.

Going forward

So what can we do? It would be easy to feel defeated: there are threats and big movements going on around us which are way beyond our control. I can only offer two suggestions. One is to believe that God is in control, despite the forces of evil and greed in our world. The second is to entrust your life to him and ask for strength to cope, whatever 2015 may bring.



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