

## **Yorkshire Rising**

Yorkshire puddings are the one element of my occasional involvement in the Sunday roast. I love them and I'm not really bothered what the roast is. I take the position that if something's being roasted, it probably needs Yorkshire puddings and gravy. Mum recently said to me that they seem to come out best if they are hand-whisked (there is a long history of varied sizing and shape for them in the Hall family). The thing that I still want to work on is the rising. I've not done a great deal of research into the best temperature or length of time - they simply go in the oven when there is space and come out when they are done! They taste amazing whatever the appearance, but the range between flat and a bit squashy to massive, light and crispy is quite extensive.

I say all that first to make you hungry and secondly to start us thinking about faith. It's only early in 2015, but I have a growing suspicion that new levels of faith are going to be called upon in each of us in this New Year. Is your faith feeling flat and squashy, or massive, light and crispy? What can each of us do in this New Year to change the way we rise?

From now until a little after Easter, we are going to take some time with the book of John and in particular the stories within his Gospel that are called "signs", those selected miracles which point in some way to Jesus and God. There will be lots to say about each individual moment, but I want us all to hold onto the wider theme of rising faith.

John didn't select the stories because they seemed nice or because he had a hunch they'd sell well in a book, but because he wanted people to know Jesus and to put their faith in Christ.

I would love 2015 to be a year of rising faith. I hope we can help ourselves in that journey by ticking off a few jobs, completing some objectives and giving ourselves more freedom to listen. But at the end of the year, should we consider ourselves successful or not, I pray that we can see everything and perhaps everyone in an enriched light, the light of faith.

**Andy Hall**