

## **Thought for the day – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022**

### **Revd Kit Gunasekera**

#### **Parties**

I was struck by Bishop Joanne's suggestion that parties, along with prayer could be an important way for us to start coming out of the pandemic. Parties, have been very much in the news over the last few weeks! Clearly there are times when it is wrong and inappropriate to have them! However, whether or not we are extroverts or introverts, more and more of us are hoping and looking forward to attending some form of them over the coming weeks and months.

A party is "a social gathering of invited guests, typically involving eating, drinking, and entertainment." There are plenty of parties in the bible. Some of them did not go so well, such as in Daniel 5! Jesus had a great deal to do with parties. His first miracle was to turn water into more than enough of the best wine in John 2. He, in contrast to John the Baptist came "eating and drinking" in Luke 7:34. He attended parties with people from all different parts of society, including "tax collectors and sinners" There is no evidence that He always went to parties to preach the gospel, indeed this seems to be the criticism levelled against him by the Pharisees, Jesus actually seemed to just enjoy being in the company of those they considered sinners.

Of course, Jesus did not sin. Jesus also spoke about parties in many of his parables, both as a celebration of people turning back to God (The prodigal son) and as a warning (the foolish bridesmaids). The bible ends with the "party (feast) of the Lamb"

I am an introvert, so I like and need to have time to my self, on a regular basis. However, I miss our bring and share lunches at church! It was lovely to be with people at the Film Afternoon on Saturday, and I love how we interact with each other at the end of the service each Sunday. It has been lovely to go to meals at friend's homes again. I look forward

to having more occasions when we can come together and enjoy being with each other.



