**Living with Margins – Jan/Feb 2021**

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**Do you live life with margins?**

**Or do you plough right up to the edges…. With your time, money and relationships?**

As we start this New Year, considering what we have learnt from our period of enforced rest during the COVID 19 Pandemic, we felt it would be good to revisit some basic biblical principles about how to live wisely and well as human-beings in relationship with God, one another and creation. The book of Deuteronomy was written for God’s people preparing to enter the Promised Land. Here they were called to establish a just society which would be a pattern and example to other nations. We will be starting here and picking up its themes in the New Testament.

*“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.*

*I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”* (Matthew 11:28-30, The Message)

**Preaching Series: Living with Margins - 2021**

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| ***Week and date*** | ***Old Testament*** | ***New Testament*** | ***Theme and notes*** |
| 1. Jan.3rd
 | **Deut.4: 5-9** | *Heb. 11:1-3, 23-29,* *12:1-2* | Looking back in order to go forward: “Taking Stock” on the border if the Promised Land. They were looking back to Sinai; we look back to the cross.  |
| 1. Jan 10th
 | **Deut. 6:4-9, 20-24,** *The Shema* | *Matt.6:5-13* | Margins of Time 1: A Daily Rhythm: bringing our faith and prayers into the routine of daily life and conversation. |
| 1. Jan 17th
 | **Ex. 23:10-12, 14-17***Deut. 16: 1-2,9-10,13-17*  | *Mark 2:23-28*  | Margins of Time 2: Sabbath and Sabbatical: weekly and annual rhythms, acknowledging need for days and periods of rest and refreshment, also ‘festivals’ of worshipping and learning together. |
| 1. Jan 24th
 | **Deut. 15:12-18** | *John 5:1-15* | Margins of relationships: Generous living. Giving others room to grow and prosper. Freedom from ‘owing/indebtedness’ |
| 1. Jan 31st
 | **Benefice Service**  |  | Dementia friendly church |
| 1. Feb 7th
 | **Deut 14:22-29** or *Deut26:1-15* | *2 Cor.9:6-11* | Margins of money: Generous giving. Tithes and use of tithes to facilitate equality in community and celebration. |
| 1. Feb 14th
 | Lev.25:1-7 | *Lev. 19:9-10* | Margins of production: care for the environment. |