

## **As one door closes another opens**

### ***Thought for the Day***

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The last few weeks have heard much turning of pages, with a literal changing of the guard, not only at Buckingham Palace, but in Downing Street and Whitehall too, not to mention the unfolding horrors of the situation in Ukraine. And this coming weekend will see another page turned by Jewish people throughout the world, as we celebrate the end of one year and the start of another.

It is, of course, a cliché that as one door closes another opens, but I – and I’m sure most people – have been more than usually conscious of that during the past few weeks. First we saw one Prime Minister depart, followed by the appointment of a new Prime Minister and a new Government, promising a new direction. Then, no sooner had the Queen performed her constitutional duty of appointing that new PM, than sadly the door closed on her own remarkable and historic reign, and simultaneously a door opened to the new King.

I’m old enough to remember the Queen’s first official visit to Glasgow, when to describe me as knee-high would have been an exaggeration, and I had the honour and privilege to be invited to her final leave-taking in St Giles last week. The atmosphere was remarkable – here we were simultaneously saying farewell to one monarch and welcoming another. I have never better understood the Roman metaphor of Janus, who gives his name to January, facing both ways at once.

So, to paraphrase the prayer with which many communities begin the first service of the new year, may all the challenges of the past year pass away with the old, and may the new year bring only positive opportunities for us all – for the new King, the new Prime Minister and her government, for all of us and our communities, and let us hope and pray that it should be an era of health, peace, and compassion for all around the world.

*Shanah tovah* to you all.