

EDITOR'S CHOICE



Questions and answers

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As 2016 draws to a close, many of us will be processing the events of the year and thinking about what lies ahead. Whatever your political persuasion, the changes we have seen this year mean that we face 2017 with a sense of challenge and uncertainty.

The nature of the year is reflected in the mix of papers in this Christmas issue of *The BMJ*. The festive issue of the journal usually contains much mirth and light heartedness, but this year we find a rather more reflective collection of articles. Some take on weighty issues, such as war, inequality, evidence, and compassion, and pose important questions.

We also get some convincing answers. In an editorial on “post-truth” society (doi:10.1136/bmj.i6467), Tracey Brown

cautions that we abandon facts at our peril, but she adds that we must use them to empower people and provide “the means by which the less powerful can call the world to account.”

We have not forgone the mirth and light heartedness entirely. Elsewhere in our Christmas articles you’ll find answers to a different set of searching questions. Do academics like spam (doi:10.1136/bmj.i5383)? How might millennial doctors behave in hospital (doi:10.1136/bmj.i6607)? And does being naughty or nice affect whether you’ll get a visit from Santa (doi:10.1136/bmj.i6355)?

As always, we also have our Christmas appeal (doi:10.1136/bmj.i6425). Do spare a moment of reflection for this year’s charity, Orbis, and support it with your usual generosity.