

Autumn is a truly wonderful time of the year. The scenery changes, and the leaves fall from the trees in anticipation of the next season, the nights darken, crisper mornings, and the logs are gathered in readiness for winter fires.

This is something I look forward to every year with my family, and it deepens my faith when I consider the enormity of God's plans and the sheer size of his responsibilities, with all life and the changing of seasons and what happens every year.

Throughout the seasons, it's important to remember to thank our Lord for the harvest, the warmer weather we have experienced this year, and all those who work tirelessly so that others may enjoy the food that we eat, drinks of all kinds, and a roof over our heads. With the many changes and problems going on in the world, I feel it it's imperative to remember how lucky we are for the basics needs of life, which are provided to us by our Lord Jesus.

We have a number of events coming up at the church in the near future, including Little Explorers every Tuesday afternoon at the Rectory from 3.30pm (except the first Tuesday of the month). This is a joyous gathering with the children and parents from the local schools, with games for the kids and a cuppa for the adults and a chance to chat, and meet other parents.

We have a family café style service on the first Sunday of every month with an opportunity for a croissant or pastry and cuppa, live music and a chance to chat with our church family. The service starts at 10am, with breakfast from 9.30am, and there is a craft activity for children. All are warmly invited. We also have Messy Church for primary school children on the first Tuesday of most months at the Village Hall, starting at around 3.30pm. Please come along if you would like to.

I'd like to personally invite anyone looking for friendship, faith, a cuppa, or even those just curious about our faith, to join us at our beautiful churches, where you will be warmly welcomed. There are two other events happening soon, both of which are featured in adverts in this magazine, organised by the Friends of St John the Baptist Church. Firstly there is a Quiz night in the Village Hall with a Fish & Chip supper on 21st November, and Carols by Candlelight on 13th December in Findon Church, with the Mistletones, a professional choir, mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets available from Parham's Butchers.

Finally, our thoughts and prayers are with our recently retired Associate Vicar Revd Colin Cox at this very sad time.

Dom Timms

Family worker for Findon, Clapham & Patching