



September News

Time is, of course cyclical. But that said, there are several points in that circle that can be seen as the beginning of a new year. The first of January is called New Year's Day, but in the dark depths of winter it doesn't feel new. The church's year begins on Advent Sunday – December 1st this year – and we start a new liturgical year. For many though, September is a new year. So many are affected by the academic world, as the new school/college/university year begins. There is a real feeling of "here we go again!"

For many it is exciting to begin a new stage, for some it is rather scary. In some ways it feels as if we are at the top of a slope that will have us hurtling towards Christmas. In the last newsletter, Fi wrote movingly about 'sabbath time' – time spent in quietness and reflection. I hope you managed to find some space for that over the summer. I hope, too, that you can find time out as we begin this new season.

It is almost impossible not to get caught up in the rush of keeping up – or ahead. Life does push us on so quickly. Before the school holidays began, we were being urged to get ready for "back to school". As soon as September starts shops will be full of Halloween. The first Christmas trees appear earlier and earlier and as soon as we reach Christmas day shops are full of Easter egg displays..... We never seem to reach our destination; we are always rushing towards the next thing.

There is something important about living in the moment, about valuing each day as it comes. However much we might plan, we don't really know what might be round the corner. I was lucky enough during my sabbatical some years ago to spend a few days on the west coast of Scotland. I came across a statue of a man standing leaning on a fence, gazing out to sea. Beside him was a quotation from that poem: "What is this life, if full of care. We have no time to stand and stare." A real danger is that we don't find time for ourselves, for others and for God. We read of Jesus taking himself off, away from everyone. I'm sure this was often to pray, but I think too that it was just to be still in the midst of a hectic life.

So, I hope that at this busy time you will find time "to stand (or sit!) and stare."

Every blessing

Edith

Regular events

Monday (term time only) Family Church 3.40pm in church – all welcome

First Wednesday of month Walking group 9.30 am at the Croft.

Church Poetry Group at 7pm.

Because off a lack of interest during the summer, Pub Church will not take place until later in the year.

Third Thursday of month 2pm Mothers' Union in the Croft

Upcoming Events

Sunday 1st September Eucharist 9.00 am Orchard service (all age) 10.15am

Sunday 8th September Eucharist 10.15am

Saturday 14th September Coffee Morning for McMillan. Details below.

Sunday 15th September Eucharist 10.15 am

Sunday 22nd September Eucharist 10.15 am Disability Awareness Sunday

Sunday 29th September Eucharist 10.15 am - note this is our Patronal Festival, St Michael's Day

Thursday morning 10.15am Eucharist at St Johns 5th, 19th. St Michaels 12th, 26th.

Two messages from Cheryl

Saturday 14th September we will be holding a charity coffee morning in aid of Macmillan. By 2025 it is predicted that there will be 3.5 million people living with cancer in the UK, with 1,100 new cases diagnosed every day. Please come along from 10am to help us raise money for this wonderful charity

Following the success of the afternoon teas we offered at the Summer Fair we have decided to offer these again! Would you like to join us for a selection of sandwiches, savoury pastries, cakes plus a scone with jam and cream?

On **Saturday 5th October** we will offer two sittings at 1pm and then at 2.30pm. We aren't offering Prosecco but you are welcome to bring your own wine or Prosecco. Cost is just £13 per person or £50 for a table of 4. If you would like to book please email cheryl.leach.jen4@gmail.com.

St Michael – who is he?

29th September is St Michael's Day, and he is the saint to whom our church is dedicated. He is mentioned in the Bible in the book of Jude and in Revelation ch 12. Michael is described as an archangel, the strongest and chief of all the angels. The passage in Revelation describes him fighting with a dragon and eventually throwing the dragon (who is Satan) out of heaven. St Michael is the patron saint of sick people, of soldiers and of the police. I'm sure we will learn more in church on the day!

Please do consider writing something for this newsletter – the more contributors we have, the more interesting it will be!

Items for the next newsletter to be sent to: Revd Edith Disley edithdisley@hotmail.com by Sept. 22nd