



“The Months and days are the travellers of eternity. The years that come and go are also voyagers.” Matsuo Bashō. *Oku no Hosomichi* (1689)

Back to school, old hands and new.

September brings with it a new school term and all the hustle and bustle that it comes with. It is with feelings of trepidation and excitement in equal measure as some of our young people begin at secondary school for the very first time. We will begin to see new parents at the school gate as some of our very youngest roll up for reception in their brand-new uniforms (still a little big for them of course). It is a time for thankfulness as we see the children and young people growing up, as we shake the sand from our toes and put our holidays clothes away we can thank God for their journeys and for our own.

Harvest Time.

This month and next, at our churches in the Mease Valley we will be giving thanks to God for the Harvest Time. For the crops safely brought in, and for all of the hard work and labour that the farmers have put into making our lives fruitful in so many ways. Look out for special school services and church services in your area. Saying thankyou for the small things in our lives encourages us to remember to be thankful our whole life through. Remembering Harvest Time also reminds us to make provision and to have fought for the future.

Ask, Search, Knock.

Over these last few months our church bells have rung as we have celebrated with many couples' starting their married lives together, making solemn vows before God. And sadly, we have also had many funerals take place, as we have lost loved ones from within our midst. It is in these times when our senses are heightened, and our feelings run high that we invite God to draw near to us. The challenge for us now, is to look for our maker in the 'every day' and in the ordinary times. 'the back to work' and the 'daily grind', the morning paper, our morning prayers, our daily bread. Jesus says in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 6, verse 7 "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." It is our responsibility to seek him out while he may be found. To invite him to come and eat with you. Jesus also describes himself in John's Gospel chapter 6 as being "The Bread of Life". I invite you this month, and all months, to 'taste and see that the Lord is good'. To look for him earnestly while he may be found.

“To Strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield”

Alfred, Lord Tennyson 'Ulysses' 1842