



Ramblings from the Rector - September 2026

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" — Isaiah 43:19

I love Autumn. It's one of my favourite seasons. There is something beautiful about the changing colours, the crispness in the air and the sense that the year is entering a new chapter. Yet, as the evenings draw in and the nights become darker, Autumn also reminds us that change can bring its challenges. Autumn also anticipates Spring and reminds us that change requires patience.

Perhaps that is a helpful picture for us as we begin this new season together. I want to start by saying thank you for the very warm welcome you have given me. It is a real privilege to be your Rector, I look forward to having lunch together on the 13 September, and I am excited about what God might have in store for us.

I am particularly conscious of the opportunities before us. There is enormous potential to reach our community — young and old — with the good news of Jesus.

But I am also aware of the challenges we face, particularly around finances and the maintenance of our buildings. These are important things that will require wisdom, generosity and good stewardship. And, as with so many things, they will also require patience.

Yet, ultimately, the thing that matters most to God is changed lives. And changed lives are something only God can do. We can plan, organise, invite and serve, but only God can change hearts. That is why prayer is so important.

I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas, but I suspect my first response will often be: *"Have you prayed about it?"*

As we head into Autumn, I want to encourage us to be a praying church — praying for our community, our children and young people, those who are yet to discover Jesus, and for one another. Let's pray expectantly for God to do a new thing among us.

And perhaps Autumn gives us another wonderful reminder: endings are never final in God's kingdom. Every bare branch is a promise of a new beginning yet to come. What may look like an ending can, in God's hands, be the beginning of something new.

So, as we journey into this new season together, let's trust the God who says, ***"See, I am doing a new thing."***

With every blessing,



Rector - St Nicholas Sutton