

From the Manse: A Thought for the Week

Sunday 12th October 2025

Dear friends,

The rhythm of the seasons has always shaped human life. Even in our modern world of electric lights, supermarkets, and central heating, we still feel the pull of creation's rhythm — the slow shortening of the days, the coolness in the air, the quiet sense that something is changing.

Autumn, in particular, invites us to pause and pay attention. The trees begin their beautiful surrender — letting go of what once gave them life. The vibrant greens of summer fade into the fiery golds and russets of autumn before drifting gently to the ground. It's as if creation itself is teaching us about grace — about how to let go beautifully, and how to trust that death and dormancy are not the end, but part of a deeper rhythm of renewal.

In nature, we learn that nothing stays the same forever, and yet there is a pattern — a promise — that life continues. The bare branches of winter are not a sign of failure, but of rest. The soil that lies cold and still is quietly preparing to bring forth life again.

So too in our lives of faith. There are times of abundance and growth when we feel alive with God's presence, and there are times of quietness or loss when faith seems fragile or dormant. Both are holy. Both belong.

The Church year also carries us through a spiritual rhythm — from the anticipation of Advent, to the joy of Christmas, the reflection of Lent, the sorrow and triumph of Easter, and the Spirit's fire at Pentecost. Then come the long "green weeks" of Ordinary Time — the steady, faithful season of growth. These rhythms remind us that faith is not static; it moves, breathes, and changes shape, just as we do.

Change can be exciting — full of new beginnings — but it can also be painful. We may mourn what was, or fear what lies ahead. Churches too

go through seasons: times of flourishing and times of pruning, times of building up and times of letting go.

It is tempting to cling tightly to what feels safe and familiar. Yet autumn reminds us there is beauty in release. The tree does not resist the turning of the year; it trusts the wisdom of the seasons. Could we do the same? Could we trust that God is still at work, even when things seem to be falling away?

The psalmist writes, “Be still, and know that I am God.” Stillness is not passive — it is an act of faith. It is the quiet confidence that God holds us through every season, and that even in the cold and dark, life is being renewed beneath the surface.

Perhaps this is what it means to live faithfully: to be rooted in God’s love, whatever season we find ourselves in. When joy blooms, we give thanks. When grief falls like autumn leaves, we bring it to God’s gentle care. When winter comes, we wait and trust. And when spring dawns again — as it always does — we rejoice in resurrection.

Today, take a moment to notice what season your life is in. Are you planting, growing, letting go, or resting? Whatever the answer, know this: God is with you in it. God’s love is constant through every change.

As a church, we too continue to move through our seasons — learning, adapting, and being renewed. The same Spirit that hovered over creation still moves through our world, inviting us to trust the slow, sacred work of transformation.

So let us not fear change. Let us walk gently through the seasons, open to what God is doing in us and around us, confident that the One who created the rhythm of time will lead us through it with grace.

With every blessing

Rev Jade.